

Anke Van Grunsven and Tineke Bartles

Headline CDS Clinic

Annual meeting a resounding success

by Erin Gilmore

The CDS Annual Meeting attracted exceptional speakers and clinicians to the gathering held at Rancho Murieta in Sacramento from Feb. 6-8. Attendees had a unique opportunity to observe world-class riders Anke Van Grunsven and Tineke Bartles. Anke, the most successful female dressage rider in Holland, winner of the World Cup Finals four years in a row and silver medal winner

in two Olympics, and Tineke, an Olympian herself and recognized author and speaker, worked with horses and riders of all levels. In addition, the weekend began with experts in their respective fields educating the audience



Anke (left) and Tineke's humor and charm captivated the audience throughout the weekend. Photo: Sheri Scott

on working within the circle of influence for optimum success. Nutritionist Karen Walters, rider psychologist Seana Adamson, veterinarian Heather Mack, Tineke, farrier Erin Simmins and saddle fitter Danny Kroetch all centered their talks around the circle of influence.

Karen Walters emphasized the importance of supplying the horse with the correct balance of nutrients from the womb through all stages of life. Seana Adamson spoke about the importance of extending your awareness to all parts of the body, and not focusing on elements out of the riders control, such as the judges score. "Ride from a feeling point, rather than a thinking point," she said. Dr Heather Mack was an audience favorite, speaking candidly about equine dentistry and the influence bad teeth can have on all aspects

of the horse's performance. Tineke spoke about team building between not only horse and rider, but all people contributing to the rider's success in competition. She emphasized the importance of grooms and managers. Tineke's humor kept attendees chuckling. "Be smart. Marry good manager," she said in a reference to her own husband Joep Bartle, a leading international dressage organizer and horseman. Farrier Erin Simmins covered hoof issues and solutions, and spoke of preventative shoeing. "The horse has four feet, and so is four times as likely to encounter problems throughout its lifetime," he said. Rounding out the speaker roster, saddle fitter Danny Kroetch from DK Saddlery spoke about saddle fitting and disputed old saddle fitting "rules." He said that despite what most people may think, the saddle is not supposed to lie flush down the horse's side. Kroetch said when the horse is in motion, its muscles move and bulge from when they are standing still, and a saddle that lies all the way down the horse's side will cause discomfort.

Despite the February chill, dressage enthusiasts proved their mettle by showing up in droves for Saturday and Sunday's



Rider Mette Rosencranz showed Grand Prix movements under Anke's eye. Photo: Sheri Scott

symposiums. Well known riders, including Hilda Gurney, Christiane Noelting and Chelsey Sibley participated in the clinics, bringing their talent under scrutiny by Anke and Tineke. The clinics covered elements of training at all levels, with Anke and Tineke switching off and working with two riders at a time. Each session ended with lively question and answer sessions between the clinicians and the audience. From the unique opportunity to interact with these two world class riders to the trade fair packed with horse equipment and beautiful artwork, the meeting was a resounding success. If you missed it, start making plans now for next year's meeting in Los Angeles!