



THE TOM QUILTY GOLD CUP 2006 BOONAH, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 8 – 12

QUEENSLAND QUILTY SECURES MAJOR SPONSOR

The organiser of the Tom Quilty Gold Cup 2006, Dick Collyer, today announced that the event had found its major sponsor.

Penny, Alexandra and Peter Toft will be the main sponsor of the 2006 Quilty. They join other supporters such as The Boonah Shire Council, CS Energy Swanbank and the Queensland Regional Events Corporation.

Dick Collyer said the Toft family had been a major and very active supporter of endurance events both across Queensland and interstate. "Peter and Penny are strongly committed to developing the sport at all levels –locally, nationally and overseas," he said.

"They are playing a key role in nurturing the sport here in Queensland having sponsored rides all across the State, as well as running the recent Fernvale ride for newcomers."

Peter Toft explained that the reason for the sponsorship was simply that the family wanted the Queensland Tom Quilty to be the best ever.

"Having the Quilty here, locally, is of enormous importance to us. We're proudly and unashamedly Queenslanders and quite naturally, we want it to be the best Quilty possible.

"The sport of endurance in Queensland is going from strength to strength. Six of the eight riders long-listed for the World Endurance Championships in Aachen are Queenslanders and seven out of the eight horses selected are from Queensland.

"The number of people participating in endurance in Queensland has increased markedly. We have had 100 new people join QERA in the first 10 weeks of this year. Almost all of them are new to endurance. We are seeing bigger turnouts to rides than ever before. There is a terrific buzz in the air, up here.

"Importantly, the Quilty isn't just for competitive riders. It's for everybody. There are people locally who have been training for years for this one event.

"It's vital that we develop the sport in the broadest sense. Endurance has the potential to be one of the foremost equestrian sports in the world. It has all the drama and excitement needed to capture the public imagination. People from all kinds of backgrounds and ages can participate and where better to develop it than here in Australia where the long-distance rider is part of our heritage. Of course, we would say – where better than here in Queensland."

Dick Collyer said that planning for the event was "on track", and that the host club, The Fassifern Horse and Pony Club, had received more pre-nominations and camp sites bookings than they expected by this stage. "The cut off date for pre-nominations is the 10 May, and we already have about 150 horses nominated, which is about half of the total we expect. Many of these are from interstate, including entries from WA, Tasmania and SA, and a lot of entries from NSW.

He said another objective was to use the Queensland Quilty to showcase endurance to the broader community. Sponsorship from the Toft family would help make this happen.

Other announcements would be made soon. Two well-know celebrities had been appointed as ambassadors and these would be named shortly.

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