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Sydney International Horse Trials goes hi-tech

Spectators and eventing enthusiasts all over the world will be able to enjoy a free virtual guided course walk of the upcoming Sydney 3* cross country course using an exciting Australian developed iPhone app.

Imagine standing at a fence on the 6km cross country course and at the touch of a button, listening to one of the world's leading course designers, Mike Etherington-Smith talk about the challenges he has set, and former Olympic coach Wayne Roycroft explain how the riders will approach the fence and where valuable seconds will be gained or lost.

The Ultimate Spectator Tool

Spectators can plan where to watch, find their way around the course with GPS, then stand at a jump and listen to the commentary on their iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch, as they would an audio tour in an art gallery. If they hear that horse and rider have had a problem at a jump, they can click on the map to see the jump from different angles and learn why it might have happened.

The full virtual guided course walk will be available on iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. An interactive map will be available to all smartphone or desktop users.

Touch Screen Monitors

Computing giant HP will provide their latest touch screen monitors for the Information Centre and VIP tent to make the digital course maps and superb satellite imagery even more accessible and fun for all spectators.

An expert in your pocket

"Guided cross country course walks are very popular with our spectators as they gain more insight into the course design and the challenges faced by horse and rider", said Event Director Rose Read. *"Now a far wider audience will have the opportunity, thanks to Cross Country App, to experience the course walk with Mike and Wayne virtually, their own personal tour of the course with expert commentary at their finger tips"*.

Because of its Olympic heritage (Sydney International Equestrian Centre was home of the Sydney Olympics equestrian events), the lead up to the World Equestrian Games in August 2014, and the

involvement of British course designer Mike Etherington-Smith, there will be intense global interest in the cross country course. Exciting new jumps are being kept tightly under wraps. CrossCountry App overcomes technology hurdles and tight timescales to enable Sydney International Horse Trials to deliver a unique infotainment experience to thousands of spectators on course and around the world.

How to get it

Download CrossCountry Lite free from the App Store, then download courses and virtual course walks from all over the world. The real afficionado can see times and minute markers and add their own photos and video memories with the full version. The 2013 virtual course walk is available now and the 2014 course will be available on Thursday 24th April.

PC and other smartphone users will be able to view an interactive map on the website sydneyeventing.org.

Sydney International Horse Trials takes place 25 - 27 April 2014

More information at crosscountryapp.com and sydneyeventing.org

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Ends