



Left: Glen Gough and Rivoli Rex winning Qld Championship Working in 1987

Below Top: As he was best known, Rivoli Rex at the head of a campdraft line-up with Glen on board

Below Bottom: Rex at 24 years



Vale

Article by Joy Poole (OAM)

YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS

With the passing of YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS just short of his 35th birthday, The Australian Stock Horse Society has lost one of its greatest all-round performers. If ever a horse gave credence to the Australian Stock Horse saying, "The Breed for Every Need," it was YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS.

As an all-round performance horse he probably didn't have a peer, being highly successful in eight different disciplines, campdrafting, working, cut out, led, calf roping, dressage, hacking and cutting. The wins in these events were often at the top of the tree.

YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS won 42 Open Campdrafts including the World Championship at Sydney Royal in 1987 and at his only other start in this event at Sydney in 1985 he ran second. He won the Australian Championship in 1984, the Queensland Championship in 1983, three North Queensland Championships, The Golden Spurs at Bowen River and the Open at Mt Isa. He was an amazing Cut Out horse winning 21 Cut Outs in his career.

In working classes Rivoli Rex started 43 times for 43 wins, a faultless record which included Supreme Working at Sydney in 1985. 1987 was the year he also won the World Championship Campdraft. He also won Supreme Working at the Queensland Championships four times.

His led record was also very good, winning the Supreme Led Exhibit at the Queensland Championships once and Reserve Champion three times and at both his appearances in Sydney he was placed.

"Because I was competing on him in campdrafting I probably never had enough weight on him for led," reflects Glen.

In dressage he was at Novice Level and placed third on two occasions in the North Queensland Dressage Championships.

He won many hack classes and was never out of a place. If this was not enough he won five calf roping competitions and was a winner at cutting.

I first met YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS when he was 31 years of age and living with Ros and Paul Ireland at Wongarbron. He had a routine that he had followed for years with Ros and Paul, his own stable, regular feeding times and being put out into his day paddock for a run each day.

"He always does a bit of a workout when we let him out for a pick," said Ros the day I was there.

On that day Ros let him go and at 31 years of age he started the performance with a couple of flying changes in a straight line, then some haunch turns, sharp sprints, stops and turns.

"He is really putting on a performance today," said Ros, "he must know you are here."

"The best luck I ever had in the way of horses was to be cheeky enough to say to Glen Gough, 'When are you going to bring Rivoli Rex down to my place?' " said Paul Ireland.

"When Glen agreed to him coming," said Ros Ireland, "he was 17 years old and we thought we had won the lottery."



Left: Typical action shot of YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS and Glen campdrafting in North Qld
 Below: Rex and Glen Gough winning Qld Championship Working at Dalby 1985
 Bottom: Rex showing his versatility in a calf roping event at a rodeo, Glen tying the calf



On that day when he arrived at Condamine Stud, who would have guessed that he was only half way through his life.

But YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS was more than a performance horse he was a recruitment agent for The Australian Stock Horse Society.

"I first heard about this horse from my brother Vic," said Glen Gough owner and rider of this great horse. "At the time I was breeding Quarter horses and Vic had said what a great type of colt he had seen at Glen Innes. I think they were getting him ready for some big Australian Stock Horse Sale in Melbourne but he cut his pastern on a disc plough and never got to the sale."

YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS's breeder was well known horseman, Gib Bloxsome.

The injury proved a blessing in disguise as YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS went on to be purchased by Glen and Rose Gough who owned him all his life and brought champion horseman Glen into the Australian Stock Horse fold.

The breeding of YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS is also excellent. His dam FLADBURY STUD CRISENA - FM is a Foundation Mare registered by Gib Bloxsome and his sire is the Impact Sire RIVOLI RAY - IS. This branch of the family has a very significant sire line with PETER - FS being a Foundation Sire, his son RIVOLI RAY - IS being an Impact Sire and his son YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS also being an Impact Sire. The only other ASH Family that can boast this triple honour is COMARA ABBEYS CATTLE KING - IS, ABDUL - IS and ABBEY - FS [Oct '05].

Obviously, to gain Impact Sire status YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS proved a very successful sire with 353 progeny registered with

The Australian Stock Horse Society [Sept '09]. This number will increase as during his life Glen collected semen from him and frozen straws are still available to be used.

He produced the winner of the National Futurity in 1992 with HINDES RIVOLI PRIDE, in 1997 with CONDAMINE PRETTY WOMAN and the second placegetter in 1991 with CONDAMINE COVER GIRL and also placed with ROPELEY PARK ASSET in 2002.

He also has three successful sire sons with YALLATUP SIMON, OPHIR REFLEX and TOORAVALE RIVOLIS IMPACT.

YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS lived a long and special life as a top performance horse, as a sire and a great friend to the Gough and Ireland Families for almost 35 years.

In the latter part of his life Ros Ireland said, "The first thing I did each morning was look out the window to see Rex. He lived a very healthy life with the first signs of illness only coming in July this year [2009] when he had colic. In August we knew that his time had come and he was put down before he had any suffering. Glen, Rose, Paul and myself were all upset as we had not only lost a horse but a great friend. We posted his death on our web page and were amazed at the number of emails we got sending sympathy to us on his death."

Horses like YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS don't come along very often but when they do they give so much pleasure and joy to those who perform them, to those who watch them perform, to those who have foals by them and to those that read about them.

Rest well old horse for you, through your performances and offspring, have taken many people on the ride of their life! 🐾