

London 2012 Analysis

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1. Competition Schedule:

The 2012 London Olympic Games took place from August 4th to August 8th. For horses that qualified for all rounds to make it to the individual final, 5 rounds were completed (and potentially more if they were involved in jump offs). Therefore, the first important consideration is the large number of rounds completed in a short window of time. This is unique to major games, as a typical competition week maybe contains three rounds for a horse; with at least one of the rounds being below 1.60 m. Below the schedule for the Olympic Games is outlined.

Day	Time of Day	Event
Thurs Aug 2 nd	16:00	Horse Inspection
Sat Aug 4 th	10:30-14:20	Qualifier 1
Sun Aug 5 th	11:00-14:30	Qualifier 2 (Individual) / Team Jumping 1
Mon Aug 6 th	14:00-17:00	Qualifier 3 (Individual) / Team Jumping 2
Mon Aug 6 th	16:37-17:07	Team Jumping Jump-Off
Wed Aug 8 th	12:00-13:40	Final Round A (Individual)
Wed Aug 8 th	14:55-15:45	Final Round B (Individual)
Wed Aug 8 th	16:03-16:08	Final Jump-Off (Individual)

When developing and training a horse for an Olympics, the training cycle at some point should attempt to replicate the competition schedule, to learn the strengths and weaknesses of a horse when faced with this demanding competition schedule. Or, at the very least, the strengths and weaknesses of a horse must be considered with regards to expected performances at a major competition. For example, there are horses that seem to always need to have a rail early in the week, but after having the rail adapt well and jump well for the rest of the week. So for these horses, a rail or two early in the competition should not be viewed as negatively as a horse that is more spontaneous in when it has rails. Also, building training programs that prepare the horse for the types of activity during competition will prepare the horse's body for the stresses it will face. For example, a weekly training program to prepare a horse for the 2012 Olympics may be:

Monday -easy flat
Tuesday -work
Wednesday -work
Thursday -work
Friday -rest
Saturday -work x2
Sunday -work

The second important consideration when developing a program leading up to the games is adapting the training program to ensure the horse's sleep / awake cycle matches with the demands of the competition. For example, when competing indoors, classes are typically scheduled in the evenings, so this is when

horses need to be on top form. Conversely, at the Olympics competition typically occurred at late morning / early afternoon. Therefore, leading up to the games, horses should be worked most often at this time of day, so the body adapts to being active at this time.

The final consideration is the usage of therapies (e.g. massage, physio, ice, etc.) and how each therapeutic treatment will work within the competition schedule. For example, between rounds A and B on August 8th, each horse will likely have ~ 2.5 hours between rounds. So having a solid plan of how to regenerate the horse between these rounds is vital to ensure the horse can rebound and perform to its highest potential for both rounds.

2. Interesting Descriptive Statistics from the London Olympics:

- The average age of riders was 37.9 years old, females were on average 35.5 years old and male riders 38.4 years old. Ian Millar was the oldest rider (65), and Reed Kessler was the youngest (18).
- KWPN was the most popular breed (27 % of horses), followed by BWP (16 % of horses) and SF (9 % of horses).
- 37 geldings, 22 stallions and 16 mares competed at the Olympics. The average ages for each sex were 11.3 years old (geldings), 11.8 years old (stallions) and 11.1 years old (mares). The average result for a gelding was 38th, for a stallion was 39th, and for a mare was 34th. Only two female riders competed on stallions (Katharina Offel and Penelope Leprovost).
- Average weights for riders were 54.9 kg (females) and 73.6 kg (males). Average heights were 1.67 m (females) and 1.78 m (males). *Note that these were self reported heights and weights.
- Nabab de Reve, Carthago and Baloubet du Rouet each sired three horses at London.
- Only 6 of the top 20 horses from 2011 (as determined by the FEI combination in jumping rankings) competed at the 2012 Olympics. For example, Nick Skelton's Carlo 273, Jeroen Dubbledam's Simon (recently purchased by Beezie Madden) and Richard Spooner's Cristallo were all ranked in the Top 5 but were absent.

3. Individual Scores

On the next three pages, individual scores throughout the rounds are shown. Interestingly, horses that won medals were not clean throughout the competition. Instead, they performed well enough to make it through qualification rounds, and then performed very well on the final day. Said differently, these horses 'peaked' after they had already completed 3 rounds of jumping.

London Final Result	Rider	Horse	Qualifier 1	Qualifier 2	Qualifier 3	Final Round A	Final Round B
1	Steve GUERDAT (SUI)	NINO DES BUISSONNETS	0	4	8	0	0
2	Gerco SCHRÖDER (NED)	GLOCK'S LONDON N.O.P.	0	4	8	1	1
3	Cian O'CONNOR (IRL)	BLUE LOYD 12	0	8	20	0	1
4	Kamal Abdullah BAHAMDAN (KSA)	NOBLESSE DES TESS	1	2	7	1	2
5	Alberto MICHAN (MEX)	ROSALIA LA SILLA	0	0	9	4	4
5	Scott BRASH (GBR)	HELLO SANCTOS	4	8	8	0	4
5	Nick SKELTON (GBR)	BIG STAR	0	0	0	0	4
8	Richard FELLERS (USA)	FLEXIBLE	0	0	8	5	5
9	Ian MILLAR (CAN)	STAR POWER	4	4	8	4	8
9	Marc HOUTZAGER (NED)	STERREHOF'S TAMINO	0	0	0	4	8
9	Ben MAHER (GBR)	TRIPPLE X III	0	0	4	4	8
12	Olivier GUILLON (FRA)	LORD DE THEIZE	4	8	16	0	9
12	Cassio RIVETTI (UKR)	TEMPLE ROAD	0	5	17	5	9
12	Doda DE MIRANDA (BRA)	AD RAHMANNSHOF'S BOGENO	0	0	8	4	9
12	Marcus EHNING (GER)	PLOT BLUE	1	5	5	0	9
12	Pius SCHWIZER (SUI)	CARLINA	8	8	8	1	9
17	Paul ESTERMANN (SUI)	CASTLEFIELD ECLIPSE	0	0	8	5	10
17	Luciana DINIZ (POR)	LENNOX	8	8	12	1	10
19	Simon DELESTRE (FRA)	NAPOLI DU RY	0	6	14	4	12
20	Daniel BLUMAN (COL)	CONCONCRETO SANCHALIS	0	1	5	4	13
20	Edwina TOPS-ALEXANDER (AUS)	CEVO ITOT DU CHATEAU	0	0	4	4	13
22	Rodrigo PESSOA (BRA)	HH REBOZO	1	4	10	4	17
23	Jos LANSINK (BEL)	CAVALOR VALENTINA VAN 'T HEIKE	0	4	8	8	
23	Meredith MICHAELS-BEERBAUM (GER)	BELLA DONNA 66	0	8	9	8	
23	Henrik VON ECKERMANN (SWE)	ALLERDINGS	0	0	16	8	
26	Hrh Prince Abdullah BIN MOTEB ...	DAVOS	0	0	4	9	
26	Jens FREDRICSON (SWE)	LUNATIC	0	8	12	9	
26	Dirk DEMEERSMAN (BEL)	BUFERO VAN HET PANISHOF	0	8	20	9	
29	Ramzy Hamad AL DUHAMI (KSA)	BAYARD VAN DE VILLA THERESIA	2	2	6	12	
29	Gregory WATHELET	CITIZENGUARD	4	8	12	12	

	(BEL)	CADJANINE Z					
29	Mclain WARD (USA)	ANTARES F	0	4	12	12	
29	Eric LAMAZE (CAN)	DERLY CHIN DE MUZE	0	1	9	12	
33	Taizo SUGITANI (JPN)	AVENZIO 3	0	4	12	14	
34	Kevin STAUT (FRA)	SILVANA HDC	0	4	8	16	
35	Julia HARGREAVES (AUS)	VEDOR	0	8	13	17	
36	José María (jr) LAROCCA (ARG)	ROYAL POWER	4	8	20	20	
37	Maikel VAN DER VLEUTEN (NED)	VDL GROEP VERDI TN N.O.P.	0	0	0		
38	Rolf-Göran BENGTSSON (SWE)	CASALL ASK	0	0	8		
39	Werner MUFF (SUI)	KIAMON	0	4	16		
39	Abdullah ALSHARBATLY (KSA)	SULTAN	6	10			
39	Jur VRIELING (NED)	VDL BUBALU	0	8	16		
42	Jill HENSELWOOD (CAN)	GEORGE	5	9			
43	James PATERSON - ROBINSON (AUS...	LANOSSO OOO	4	8	21		
43	Janne Friederike MEYER (GER)	CELLAGON LAMBRASCO	0	4	21		
43	Reed KESSLER (USA)	CYLANA	1	9			
43	Björn NAGEL (UKR)	NIACK DE L'ABBAYE	4	8	21		
47	Nicolas PIZARRO (MEX)	CROSSING JORDAN	4	8	28		
48	José Roberto REYNOSO FERNANDEZ...	MAESTRO ST LOIS	0	5	50		
49	Philippe LE JEUNE (BEL)	VIGO D ARSOUILLES STX	0	8			
50	Jillian TERCEIRA (BER)	BERNADIEN VAN WESTUUR	1	9			
50	Penelope LEPREVOST (FRA)	MYLORD CARTHAGO*HN	1	9			
52	Karim ELZOGHBY (EGY)	WERVEL WIND	5	10			
53	Rodrigo DIAZ (COL)	ROYAL VINCKENBURGH OF HERITAGE	1	11			
53	Federico FERNANDEZ (MEX)	VICTORIA	5	11			
53	Tomas COUVE CORREA (CHI)	UNDERWRAPS	6	11			
56	Carlos MILTHALER (CHI)	A S HYO ALTANERO	4	12			
56	Billy TWOMEY (IRL)	TINKA'S SERENADE	4	12			
58	Katharina OFFEL (UKR)	VIVANT	4	16			
59	Samuel PAROT (CHI)	AL CALYPSO	8	17			
60	Jamal RAHIMOV (AZE)	WARRIOR	5	18			
61	Rodrigo CARRASCO (CHI)	OR DE LA CHARBONIERE	5	22			
62	Ahmad Saber HAMCHO (SYR)	WONDERBOY III	1	30			
63	Peter CHARLES (GBR)	VINDICAT W	10				
64	Christian AHLMANN	CODEX ONE	15				

	(GER)						
65	Jaime AZCARRAGA (MEX)	GANGSTER	12				
66	Aleksandr ONYSHCHENKO (UKR)	COMTE D'ARSOUILLES	18				
67	Tiffany FOSTER (CAN)	VICTOR	8				
68	Alejandro MADORNO (ARG)	MILANO DE FLORE	9				
69	Vladimir TUGANOV (RUS)	LANCERO	10				
70	Ibrahim HANI BISHARAT (JOR)	VRIEDA IMPERIO EGIPCIO	12				
71	Reiko TAKEDA (JPN)	ARI 55	22				
75	Carlos Eduardo MOTTA RIBAS (BR...	WILEXO	42				
75	Lisen FREDRICSON (SWE)	GDE MATRIX	42				
75	Matt WILLIAMS (AUS)	WATCH ME VD MANGELAAR	42				
75	Elizabeth MADDEN (USA)	CORAL REEF VIA VOLO	42				

4. Projected Results Based on FEI rankings

We can look at FEI rankings, to determine if those riders and horses ranked highly executed to their expected levels. For riders, FEI rankings as of July 31st 2012 were used. For horses, the FEI 'Combination in Jumping' ranking system was used, which accounted for all results from January 1st to December 31st 2011.

Based on FEI rider rankings:

Gold- Rolf-Goran Bengtsson (actual result 38th)

Silver- Nick Skelton (actual result 5th)

Bronze- Steve Geurdat (actual result Gold)

Based on FEI horse/rider combination rankings:

Gold- Beezie Madden & Via Volo (actual result 75th)

Silver- Ian Millar & Star Power (actual result 9th)

Bronze- Rolf-Goran Bengtsson & Casall Ask (actual result 38th)

Based on FEI Rankings, the Top 3 'Over-achievers' who placed higher than they should have based on FEI rankings were:

- 1) Alberto Michan (MEX) placed 5th at the Olympics, ahead of 45 riders listed above him on the FEI rankings
- 2) Kamal Abdullah Bahamdan (KSA) placed 4th at the Olympics, ahead of 38 riders ranked above him on the FEI rankings
- 2) Julia Hargreaves (AUS) placed 35th at the Olympics, ahead of 38 riders ranked above her on the FEI rankings

Based on FEI Rankings, the Top 3 'Under-achievers' who placed lower than they should have based on FEI rankings were:

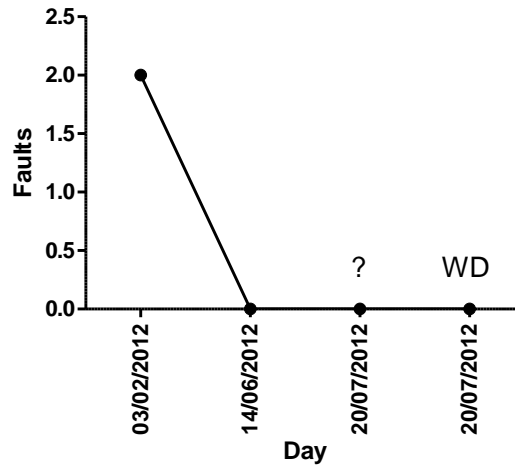
- 1) Beezie Madden (USA) placed 75th at the Olympics, behind 66 riders listed below her on the FEI rankings
- 2) Christian Ahlmann (GER) placed 64th at the Olympics, behind 59 riders ranked below him on the FEI rankings
- 3) Penelope Leprevost (FRA) placed 50th at the Olympics, behind 39 riders ranked below her on the FEI rankings

5. Competition Histories

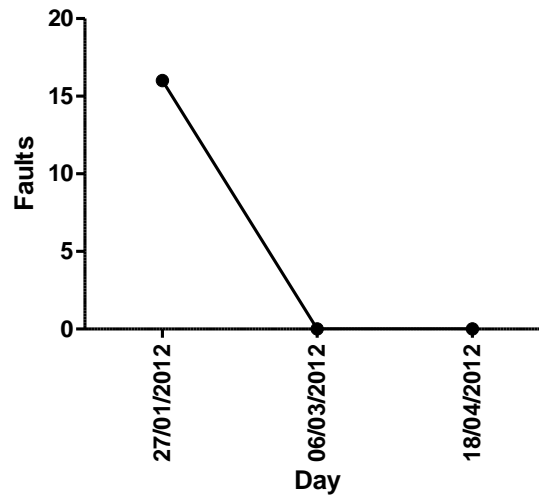
Below are the competition histories for the top 10 horses that completed in the Olympics for 2012 (January 1st up to the Olympics). This gives insight into competition scheduling and results leading up to the games.

Nino Des Buissonnets (GOLD)

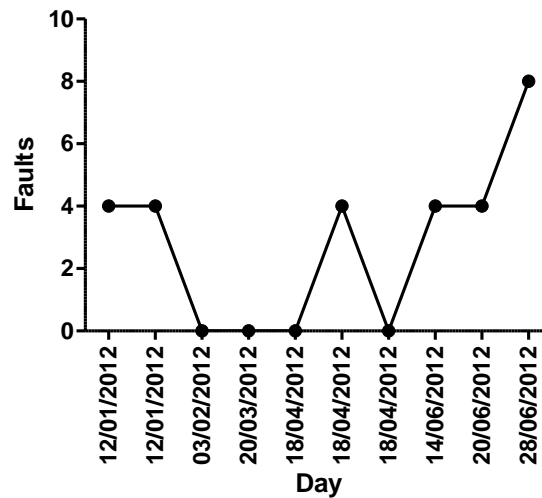
NINO DES BUISSONNETS 1.45



NINO DES BUISSONNETS 1.50

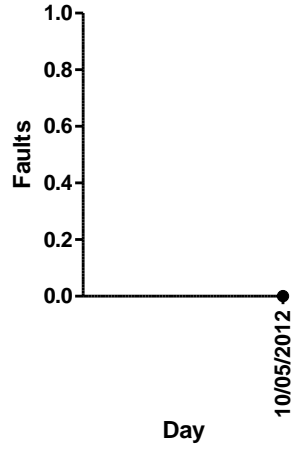


NINO DES BUISSONNETS 1.55 or 1.60

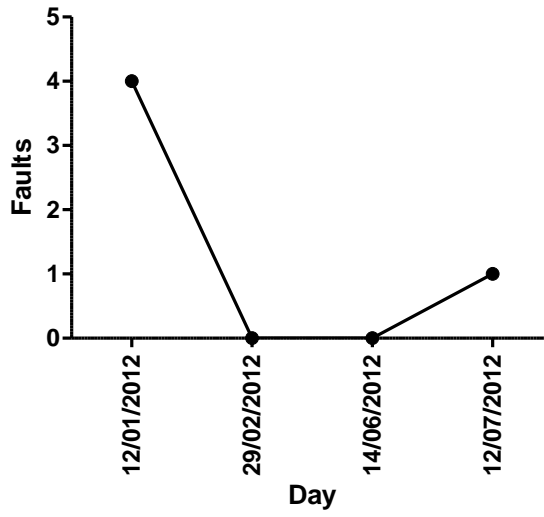


Glock's London (SILVER)

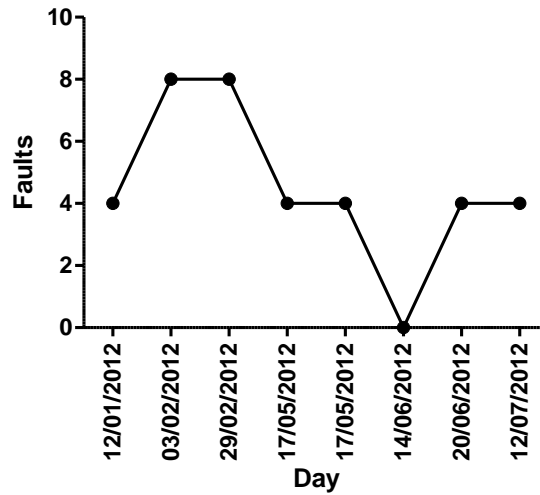
Glock's London 1.45



Glock's London 1.50

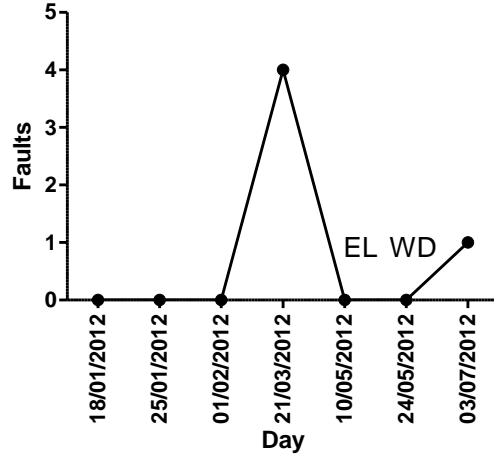


Glock's London 1.55 or 1.60

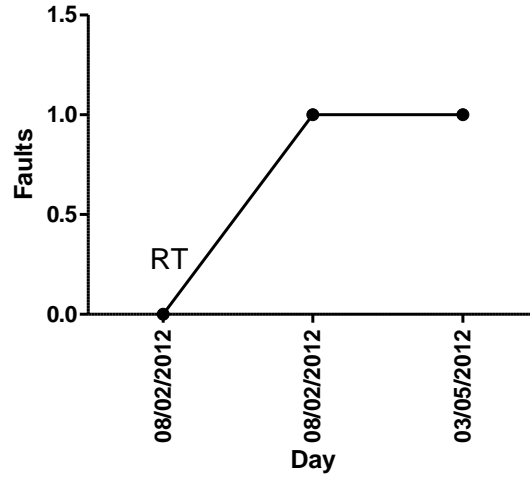


Blue Loyd (BRONZE)

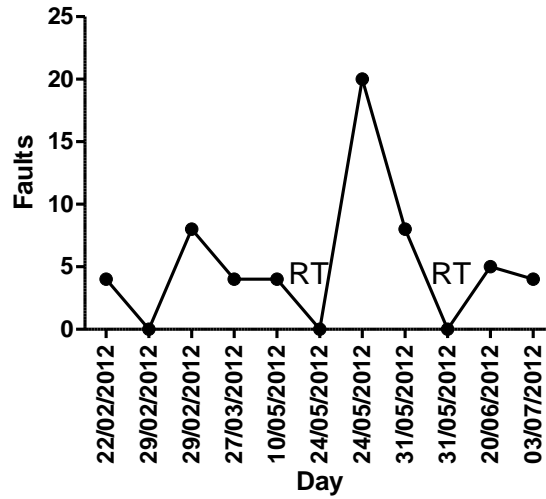
Blue Loyd 1.45



Blue Loyd 1.50

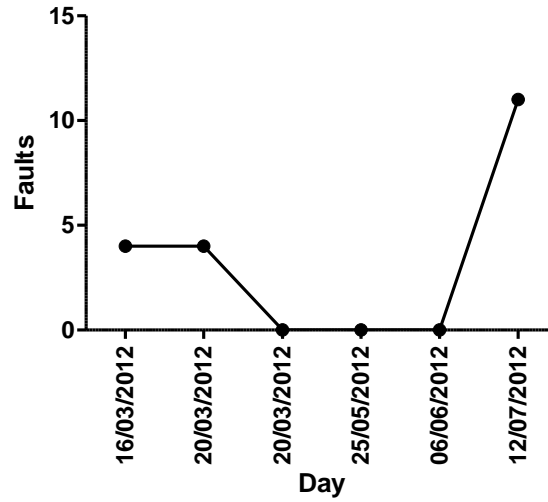


Blue Loyd 1.55 or 1.60

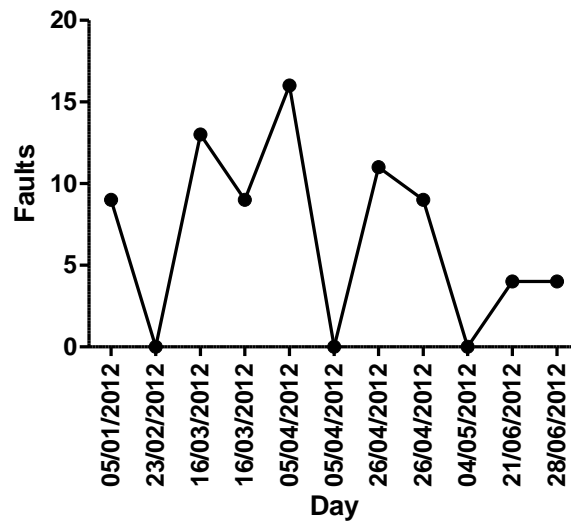


Noblesse Des Tess (4th)

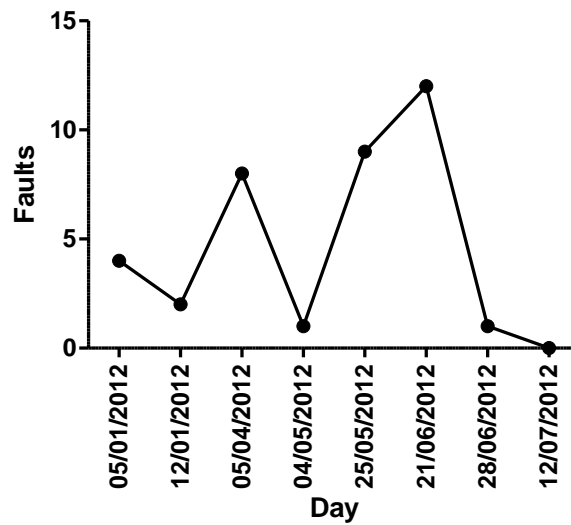
Noblesse Des Tess 1.45



Noblesse Des Tess 1.5

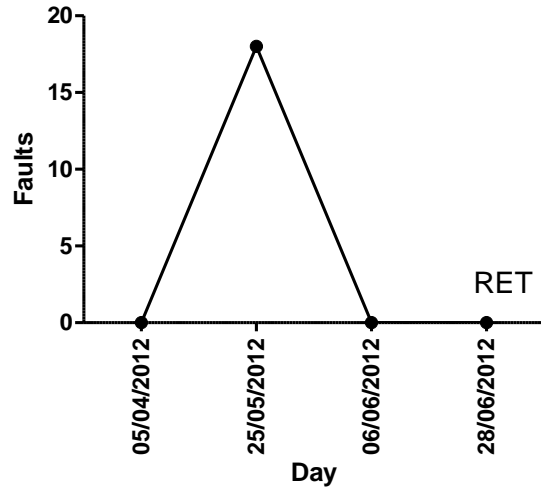


Noblesse Des Tess 1.55 or 1.60

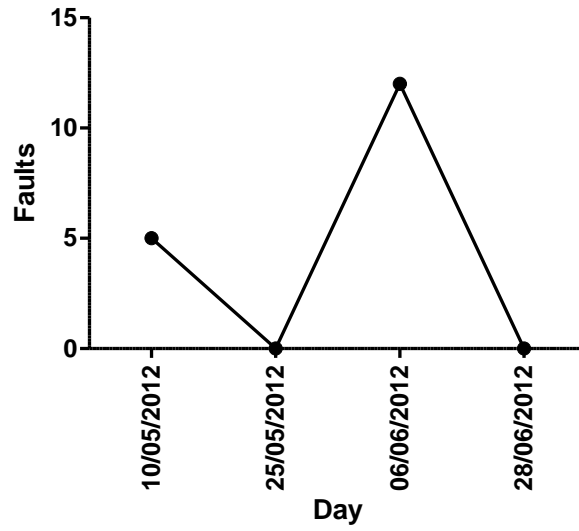


Rosalia La Silla (5th)

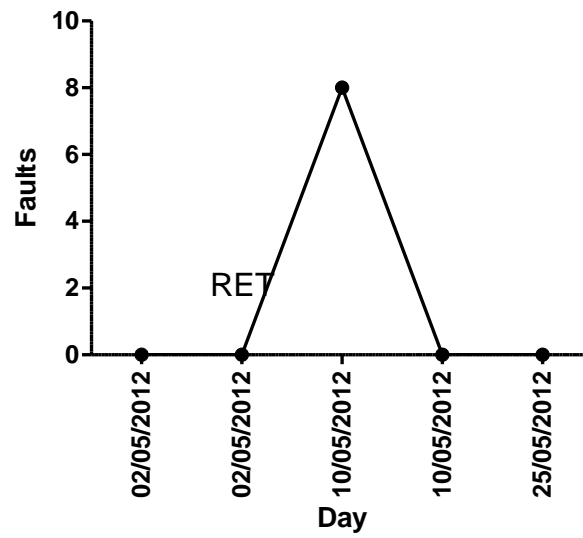
Rosalia La Silla 1.45



Rosalia La Silla 1.50

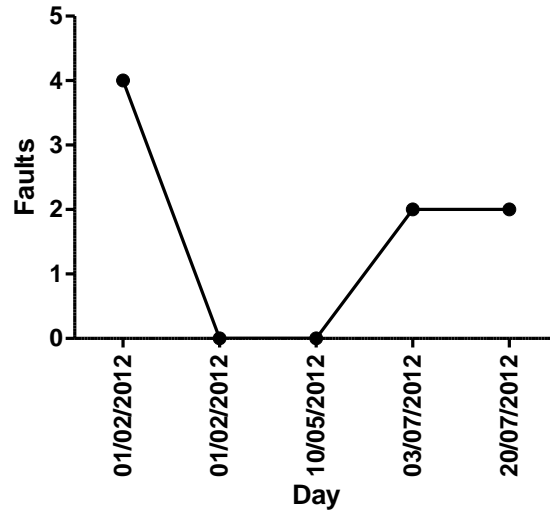


Rosalia La Silla 1.55 or 1.60

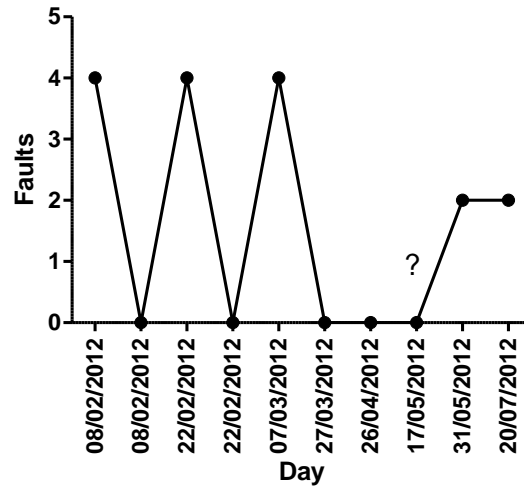


Big Star (5th)

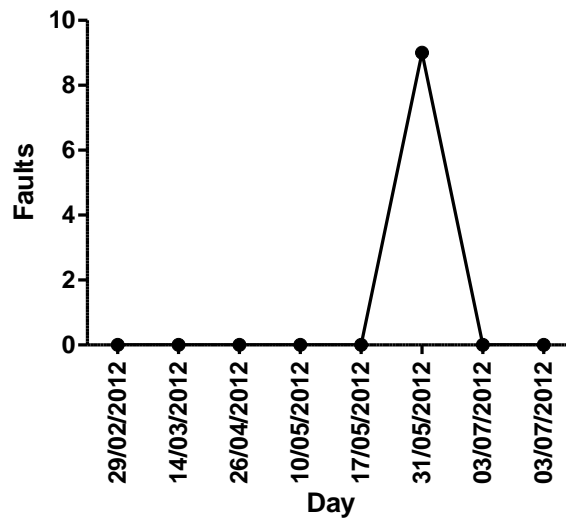
Big Star 1.45



Big Star 1.50

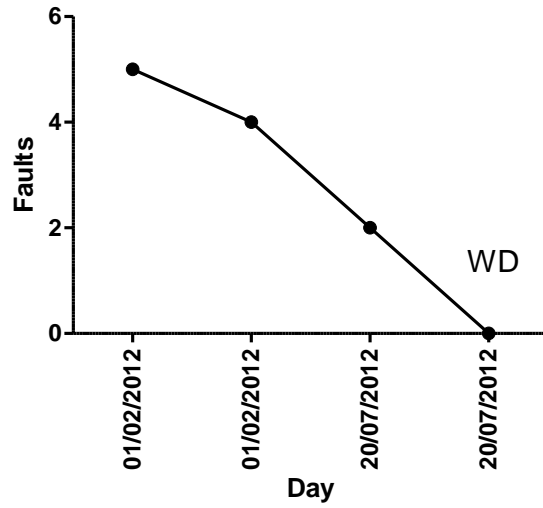


Big Star 1.55 or 1.60

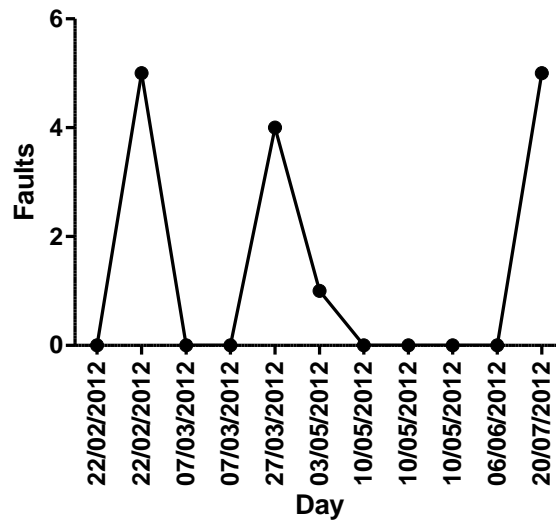


Hello Sanctos (5th)

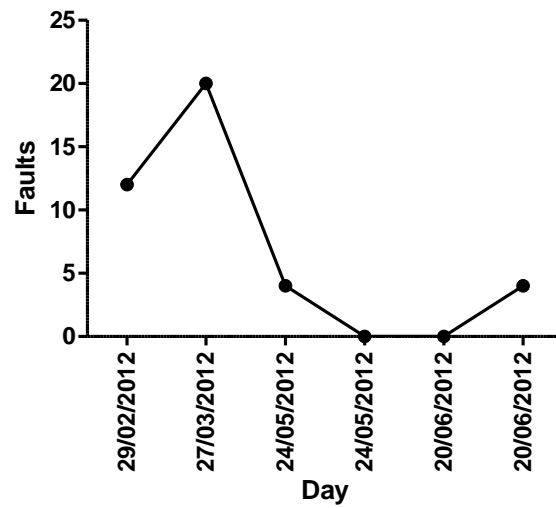
Hello Sanctos 1.45



Hello Sanctos 1.50



Hello Sanctos 1.55 or 1.60

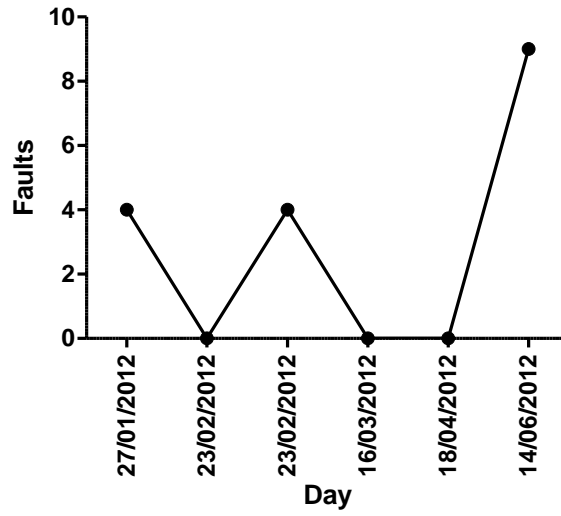


Casall Ask (38th)

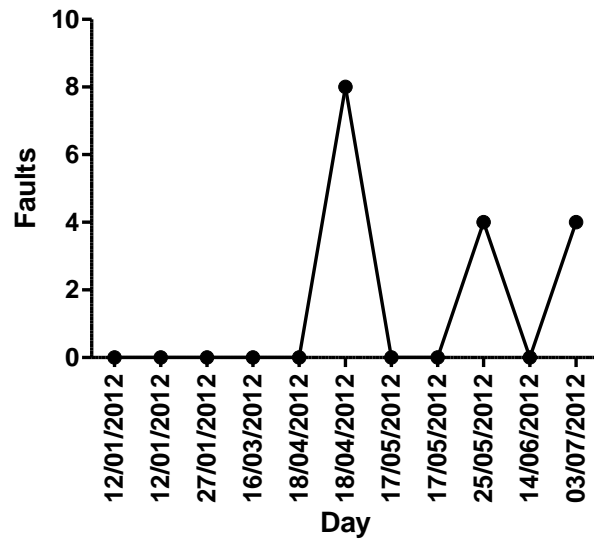
Casall Ask 1.45



Casall Ask 1.50

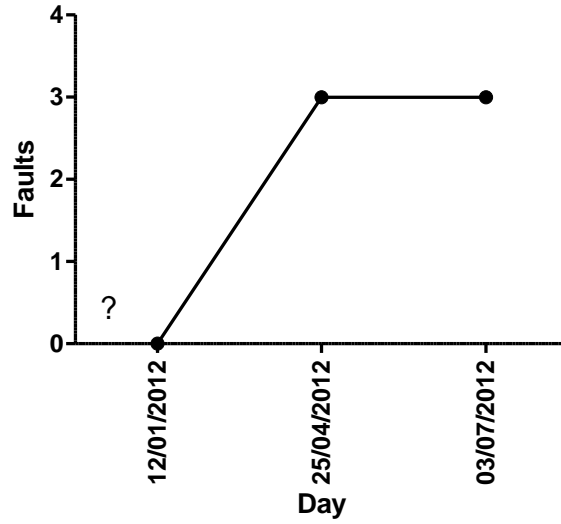


Casall Ask 1.55 or 1.60

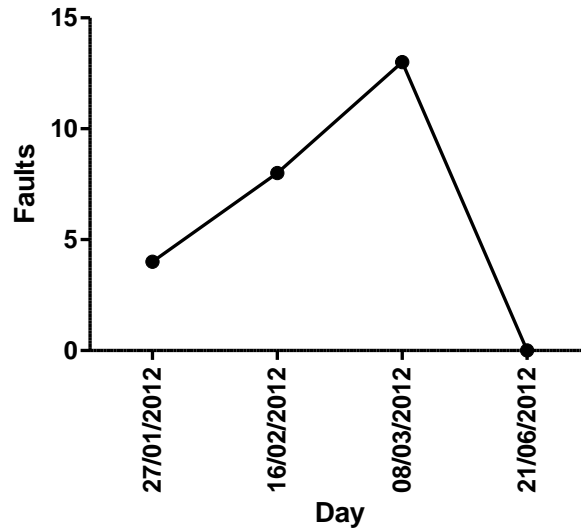


Codex One (64th)

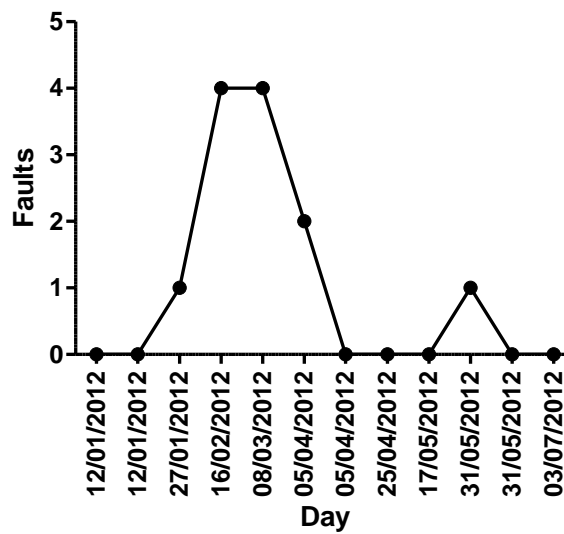
Codex One 1.45



Codex One 1.50

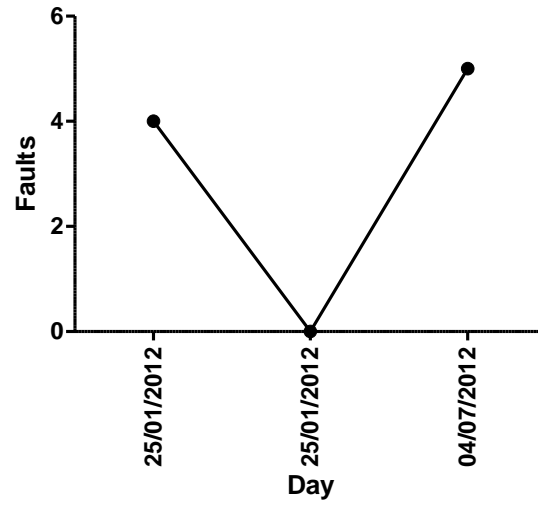


Codex One 1.55 or 1.60

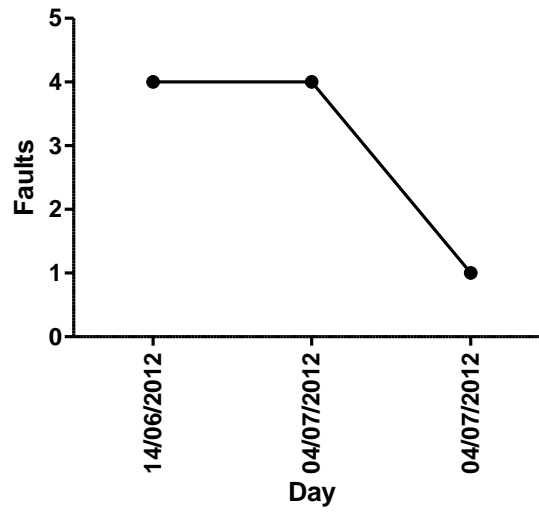


Via Volo (75th)

via volo 1.45



Via Volo 1.50



Via Volo 1.55 or 1.60

