

Dressage NSW Inc Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Held at Windsor Bowling Club

Tuesday, 11 December 2012

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present

Prue Spurrett	Toni Venhaus	Judy Wilson	Gail Benson	Kathy Shelley	Cathie Drury-Klein
Helen Lawson	Louise Cairns	Sue Cunningham	Jan Geary	Beth Turner	Jenny Rapson
Trevor Klein	Jenny Carroll				

2. Apologies (*Proxies received)

*Robyn Targa	Sue Baker	John Geary	Denise Rogan	Kelly Hattersley	*Franz Venhaus
Helen Zimic	Karen Glendenning				

3. Confirmation of the Annual General Meeting Minutes, 2 December 2011

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as correct.

Moved: Helen Lawson Seconded: Kathy Shelley **Motion Carried**

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

(There was no Business arising from the minutes.)

5. President's Report

Welcome to our 2012 DNSW AGM. It has been another busy year with the Olympics dominating many programmes and plans for riders and OC's alike.

Our year began with the successful weekend Forum for Dressage Clubs in February which drew 45 club delegates across the regions to network over the 2 days. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, confirming these forums are a vital link between DNSW, ENSW, EA and our clubs. Helen Lawson and Louise Cairns take the credit for organising the Forum and can be very pleased at such a successful outcome.

The highlights of our year were undoubtedly the CDI3*, the NSW Dressage Championships returning to SIEC after 2 years at AELEC, the Saddleworld Australian Dressage Championships, the 2012 Young Rider Championships conducted on our behalf by Alexander Park Dressage Club and Pony Dressage Championships, which again included Young Pony. Particular acknowledgement goes to Bruce McVey and his committee at APDC for taking on the role of OC for the Young Rider Championships – the good news is they enjoyed themselves so much they're doing a return season next year to run the Young Rider Nationals.

We thank the Chief Executive, staff and the Board of EquestrianNSW for their ongoing support; it is vital across the board for all our Championships and more so in 2013, with the loss of the NSWIS subsidy and uncertainty with funding to the HP programme. During the current calendar year our expenses on Championships has been approx. \$652,200, with a major component being the expenses of SIEC.

The success of our major events is due to the dedication and hard work of members of our committee, their support teams and a loyal base of volunteers and major sponsors. Congratulations to Toni Venhaus - as Event Director, Toni is responsible for the success of our two 'majors', the Sydney CDI and the Australian Dressage Championships, as well as our State Championships this year. Without Toni as Hon Secretary, Dressage NSW would not run as smoothly and it is a pleasure to work alongside her on the Executive.

At this stage, it is worth reminding members that as well as these major events, our committee also manages a monthly Clarendon schedule of events, including training and protocol days. This on top of our role of managing dressage on behalf of ENSW - we are the only SDA with such an event load and thanks here to Karen Lever, our Clarendon Competitions Secretary, whose organisation is integral to staging these days. We can't acknowledge Karen and her helpers without also thanking Graeme Lever whose technical and hands on support is there whenever needed.

Mention Clarendon and we come to our Grounds sub committee. Our arenas have been under the microscope and we know that our reputation for providing the benchmark for competition is at risk unless we maintain good ground conditions and address rider concerns. We have spent \$98,500 on Clarendon Arena upgrades over the past 18 months and this is in addition to the \$2000 we spend on preparation for each Competition. Our thanks for overseeing this to Chair of Grounds Kathy Shelley, who understands Field of Play better than anyone, and also to Denise Rogan who came onto C'tee as Riders Representative and quickly found herself co-opted into what's probably been the most contentious issue this year.

2012 was a reaccreditation year for the NOAS putting an extra workload on our Judge Education Co-ordinator Jan Geary as credentials needed to be checked and followed up for several month after the deadline. 11 seminars/workshops were held across the state and across all levels, we had 7 judges upgrade (from Novice to B level) and five of these seminars were held in regional centres. Thank you Jan, it's been another busy year for Judge Education and thanks also to our Judge Educators and to Beth Turner, who took on the role of sourcing the judges for Clarendon – a challenge at times.

Our thanks also to our delegates for the time you spend on the road coming to meetings and actively being involved with projects and events. I hope our clubs appreciate how well you keep us up to date with what's going on with the club scene across the state.

We thank Jenny Carroll for her continued guidance of the squad programme throughout the year. Jenny is always sourcing ancillary services for our riders as well as supporting them as Chef d'equip both at home and away. The challenge for us in 2013 will be to chart a programme without the resources and support of NSWIS.

Kelly Hattersley had a 'big year' to say the least and we congratulate her and partner Dom on the birth of Cameron. Kelly has continued the good work of building the profile of Pony Dressage and bringing to committee any issues impacting on the sport. Kelly's reports in Centreline are always good reading and I hope she is able to continue in this role as she is an excellent representative of Pony Dressage.

Sadly, our Hon. Treasurer Judy Wilson is stepping down from that role and it is hard to describe the extent of Judy's contribution over the years, her commitment, control of our accounts and plain wisdom have been invaluable to this committee.

Judy, on behalf of everyone, Committee and membership alike, Thank you. It a true pleasure to know you and work with you and we are fortunate that in Helen Lawson we have a talented and equally economically inclined successor who has been in training to take over.

Thank you to our Administrative Secretary Jeanne Brown, whose support is much valued by this Committee and our membership. This has not been an easy year for Jeanne yet she has continued in her role, is a valued member of our team and we wish her all the very best for her ongoing recovery in 2013.

As a point of interest, I list below the Issues and Priorities for 2012 we identified in our Planning Meeting last year. We can be pleased that many are underway, some can be ticked off and others will be a continuing work in progress next year.

My personal thanks to my husband John for his patience and understanding, especially when the phone calls invariably come in right on dinner time. He has been heard to mutter when the phone rings – "It'll be another horse".

This committee works well as a team and there are few differences of opinion when it comes to decision making - we're able to talk through those differences and always the interests of our members and their horses are uppermost when it comes to making the right decisions. It is a pleasure to work with you all and an honour to represent NSW on your behalf at National level.

Prue Spurrett
President, Dressage NSW

6. Honorary Secretary's Report

2012 has been another full and busy year for the Committee and our two part time staff, Jeanne Brown (Admin Secretary) and Karen Lever (Clarendon Competitions Secretary).

The elected Committee remained unchanged this year.

Denise Rogan replaced Rozzie Ryan who stepped down as Riders Representative early in the year, and Sue Baker replaced Tinika Bliss as the Area Delegate for the metro region. Our thanks to Rozzie and Tinika for their contribution during their time on the Committee.

A summary of attendance at our 2012 Committee meetings is attached for your reference.

Four nominations were received for the four Committee positions meant a vote was not required this year. Gail Benson, Helen Lawson, Prue Spurrett and Beth Turner are re-elected for 2013-2015 term.

The Committee is due to review and update our Business Plan for the next three years. This will take place in the early part of 2013. Our financial accounts highlight that we need to address a few areas to ensure a better financial outcome in the years ahead.

The number of Official/Associate Dressage events (not days) held in NSW in 2012 was 190, the same as the previous year. In addition, Protocol, Training and restricted Member days were held by most Clubs. Several Clubs had to cancel events due to wet weather or problems with sourcing volunteers or judges.

DNSW scheduled 12 events at Clarendon with a total of 18 days of competition. Our Clarendon events are well supported with full fields and reserve lists at most events. Our policy is to have whenever possible at least two judges on all Official EA tests and three on the FEI tests. This adds to the cost of our events but we feel it is important and perhaps we should be highlighting this aspect to our competitors.

In addition to Clarendon, the Sydney CDI*** and other State and National Championship events were held all under the umbrella of DNSW.

Our **membership** numbers have declined further with a 10% reduction in the last 12 months and a 25% reduction in overall numbers over the last 5 years, a trend that we are yet to come to grips with and we need to try and find out why members are not renewing. Competitors have more opportunities to compete in Official events in the Sydney area, and this could be a factor in declining membership numbers.

Our website continues to be a strong **communication** source for many of our members and dressage fans with around 200,000 page views each month. This is remarkable when you consider that the page views have increased by over 300% in the last five years. On top of this, the Sydney CDI web site attracts up to 50,000 page views in peak periods.

The number of our followers on **Facebook** has increased by 1000 (43%) to around 3,300 fans. Twitter has also increased by 55% to over 1290 followers.

Centreline remains popular with members but pure subscriber levels continue to fall. It is a sign of the times we live in that people turn firstly to other types of communication to get the most up to date news.

We have had some problems with establishing the new arenas at Clarendon and we are working towards having these issues resolved so that the surfaces meet the expectations of competitors.

We currently have 164 EA accredited Dressage Judges in NSW compared to 197 at the same time last year. 2012 was a re-accreditation year and with this we usually see a drop off in numbers initially. 19 of the judges who are not current are H Level Judges and some will go back on the list once they have fulfilled the requirements, 6 have retired, others have asked to be exempt for a period and some have decided not to re-accredit.

NSW riders continue to perform well at a State and National level. At the 2012 Saddleworld Australian Championships, NSW was outclassed in the EA Teams Competition, and for the first time in many years, we came second to QLD. NSW retained its first place position in the FEI Teams Competition.

DNSW continued to provide some financial support for riders selected to represent NSW at State and National Championships.

Our **Annual Awards and Performance Medals** are appreciated and represent a significant achievement to our members. For the first time we introduced an Award for Pony of the Year in 2012.

138 **performance medals** will be presented this year. 7 Gold (4 awarded in 2011), 22 Silver (22 in 2011) and 108 Bronze (80 in 2011). This is an overall increase of 30% on the previous year. The minimum performance requirements for a Bronze Performance medal will be increased from 2013 for Novice and Elementary level.

This year the presentation for the Annual Awards and Performance Medals took place at the Christmas Pirouettes Party at the end of November and was a great success. We had tremendous feedback and the function is something we will add to

our calendar as a regular feature. Thank you to Gail Benson who came up with the idea of holding an end of year party and for co-ordinating the evening.

In closing, thank you to our Admin Secretary Jeanne Brown who has had a difficult year, to Karen Lever our Clarendon Events Secretary and to the Executive, Committee and Delegates and all our Volunteers for your contribution and support during the year.

Toni Venhaus

Honorary Secretary, Dressage NSW

Attached to meeting hand out:

- Summary of Committee members attendance at Committee meetings
- Summary of membership

7. Honorary Treasurer's Report

You have in your papers the Annual Report for Dressage NSW for the Financial Year 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012.

The first page is a snapshot of our activity in the financial year. It shows that we incurred a loss of \$51,697. That compares with a profit of \$55,521 in the previous year.

I have attached a table, which shows the financial results over the last 16 years. It does show that we do have years of surpluses interspersed with years of deficits. The average profit per year over those 16 years is \$16,000. But if we look at the post Sydney Olympics years - 2002 to 2012 the average is \$19,500. So I do think, that after 3 bumper years – 2009 to 2011, a quieter year was to be expected.

There have been signs for some time that the economic situation – especially in our industry – has been tough. This is reflected in declining revenue for the majority of our activities. On the other hand, costs have increased for the majority of our activities. So we have been hit with a double whammy so to speak.

Pages 2, 3 and 4 set out in more detail the financial situation. The value of our non current assets has increased (on page 2) – non current assets are the arenas, the buildings at Clarendon and the equipment we own. This increase reflects the expenditure on the arenas in this year. Following page 4 are several pages of explanatory notes – relating to the items in the first 4 pages. Turning to the last 2 pages – pages 13 & 14 -

When we take out the cost of amortisation and depreciation – the amortized costs of the new arenas and depreciation on equipment– the loss for the year on our normal operations is \$24,900. We continue to rely on grants from Equestrian NSW, Equestrian Australia and NSWIS to support various activities. In the financial year of this report we have received from Equestrian NSW \$53,500 – including special project funding. These grants have been used to support our state wide administrative activities, the 4 championships and the CDI , judge education, the regional forum and a special grant for Training of Officials. . From Equestrian Australia we have received \$45,500 from the High Performance and ICDF funding. From the New South Wales Institute of Sport we have received \$6000 to support the Nationals and the CDI. Of course NSWIS has also made a contribution to Rider Training but I have no figures for the value of that contribution.

We have traditionally relied on income from our events – Clarendon, Championships and the CDI to pay for the non income earning activities – such as judge education, rider clinics, support for riders and teams, and more recently the appointment of an High Performance Manager. Of the events run during the financial year covered by this report, only the 2011 Nationals Championships resulted in a reasonable surplus – all other events either had small surpluses or ran at a loss. So the impact of declining revenue will be of concern to the incoming committee.

One item of concern which will need to be addressed by the incoming Committee is the rider training programme. This nett cost to us this year is \$12,000 and with the projected loss of NSWIS funding, new arrangements will need to be developed and a cap set on DNSW subsidy. We have already set in train a review of Clarendon entry fees – you will see from the report that Clarendon too suffered a small loss in this year.

It is a delicate balance – to increase fees without frightening people from entering our competitions, becoming members, or subscribing to newsletters.

Another consequence of the current gloomy economic outlook is declining interest rates. This year our income from our fixed deposits is down by \$5,500.

The major expenditure in this year has been the upgrade of the Clarendon Arenas. We have paid just under \$100,000 – this figure does not appear as expenditure as such as the cost is spread over the expected life of the arenas and only a

portion is recorded as amortisation. Work on the arenas at Clarendon is an ongoing task as we endeavour to achieve and maintain quality riding surfaces for our Competitors.

We also purchased a new container to house the equipment used to maintain the arenas.

Looking ahead there are projected changes, which will affect Dressage NSW. Still to be determined is the impact of the loss of NSWIS funding and whether there is likely to be some funding for rider training from other sources. There are questions about the level of AOC funding for Equestrian sport, the impact of which is not known to us. On the brighter side all the Championships we have conducted in current financial year have been profitable.

It is a challenging year ahead.

Judy Wilson
Honorary Treasurer

DRESSAGE NSW FINANCIAL RESULTS 1999 TO 2012

Years	Income	Expenditure	Profit/Loss	Assets	
1997	\$325,029	\$324,982	\$48	\$91,227	
1998	\$377,085	\$328,012	\$9,073	\$100,300	
1999	\$387,905	\$374,098	\$13,807	\$114,100	
2000	\$514,563	\$485,069	\$29,494	\$143,601	Olympics
2001	\$222,721	\$232,941	-\$10,189	\$133,412	
2002	\$517,423	\$495,328	\$22,095	\$155,507	WEG
2003	\$512,141	\$505,787	\$6,354	\$161,861	
2004	\$572,367	\$563,522	\$8,847	\$170,708	Olympics
2005	\$610,908	\$563,090	\$47,818	\$218,526	
2006	\$677,602	\$666,243	\$11,359	\$228,885	WEG
2007	\$738,291	\$744,355	-\$6,064	\$223,821	
2008	\$527,221	\$517,737	\$9,484	\$233,305	Olympics
2009	\$811,991	\$781,020	\$30,971	\$264,276	
2010	\$895,687	\$815,448	\$80,239	\$344,515	WEG
2011	\$960,487	\$905,267	\$55,221	\$399,536	
2012	\$905,883	\$957,580	-\$51,697	\$348,039	Olympics
Total profit over 16 years		\$256,860		=\$16054 average per year	
Post Olympics		\$214,627	\$19,511.55	average profit per year	

8. Motion: to use D Scott and Associates as Auditors for the 2012/2013 Financial Year

Moved: Judy Wilson

Seconded: Toni Venhaus

Motion Carried.

9. Committee Elections

Four positions on the Committee were declared vacant. Four nominations were received. Gail Benson, Helen Lawson, Prue Spurrett and Beth Turner were re-elected to the Committee for the 2013-2015 Term.

10. General Business – there was no general business

Close of Meeting

The meeting was declared closed at 7.30pm

Handouts circulated at the AGM

Issues and priorities identified for 2012

The main focus for this meeting is to address any issues and establish priorities for the coming year and beyond. Business plan to be used as reference.

Discussion topics included: Calendar, Events, Clarendon, Financial, Officials/education, Clubs, Volunteers.

- Clarendon Competition dates for 2013 – at present offering one event/month (except in months when major events are held). To target Eventers, offer mid week competitions - do a trial. Offer more Protocol test opportunities. To encourage Judges to come on Friday, offer accommodation to carry over Judging on Saturday. Also, target Young Riders. It would be beneficial for a Committee member to take on Young Rider co-ordinator role. Promote sale of Rule Books at Clarendon.
- Review Treasurer's role – already discussed.
- Club Forum – happening this year.
- Membership – membership fluctuates.
- Clarendon facilities – upgrade continuing
- CDI – Call for Expressions of Interest for people who would like to “understudy” running CDI.
- Dressage NSW convene National Championships 2011 and 2012. Need to train people for 2013.
- NSW State Championships – Helen Lawson to work with Toni, and every member of the Committee will need to take on a role.
- Pony Championships – continuing under Kelly Hattersley.
- Club Events – support for Club organisers – review after Club Forum. Propose using Club affiliation fees – offer Clubs the opportunity to tender for money to pay a coach, if a Clubs runs a Clinic – possibly only 2 Clinics/year. Subsidise regional riders to come to Clinics held in Sydney.
- Review High Performance Role.
- Provide training opportunities for all riders up to 4, NSWIS and YR Clinics.
- Support is given Squad Riders.
- Need more volunteers. Promote a position for “Volunteer co-ordinator”.
- Recruitment drive for new judges – happening.
- Conduct seminars/workshops at each level with exams – happening.
- Training sessions for stewards – awaiting FEI syllabus.
- Three specific committee meetings for Delegates – Note to be put in CL advising Clubs should support their Delegate by subsidising travel costs incurred by their delegate when attending committee meetings.
- Committee members were also asked to supply Judy with their kilometres and toll costs so that guidelines can be drawn up on what could be claimed when a Committee members attends a meeting.

DNSW Committee Meeting Attendance Record

December 2011 to November 2012

	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12
Elected Committee (AGM)												
Gail Benson	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sue Cunningham	Ap	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A
Cathie Drury-Klein	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	Ap	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap
Jan Geary	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Helen Lawson	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Jenny Rapson	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A
Rachael Sanna	A	A	A	A	Ap	Ap	A	A				
Kathy Shelley	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A
Prue Spurrett	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	Ap	A	A	A
Beth Turner	A	Ap	Ap	Ap	A	Ap	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A
Toni Venhaus	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Judy Wilson	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A
Co-opted members												
Kelly Hattersley	A	A		A	Ap	A		Ap			Ap	
Denise Rogan				Ap	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	Ap
Rozzie Ryan		Ap	Ap									
Delegates												
Louise Cairns	Ap		A	A	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	A	A	A
Sue Baker				A	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	Ap
Lesley Gillis	Ap		Ap	A							A	
Karen Skimmings	Ap		Ap			Ap	Ap	Ap		Ap	Ap	Ap
Robyn Targa	Ap	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A		A	A	Ap
Helen Zimic	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A
Tinika Bliss	A	Ap										

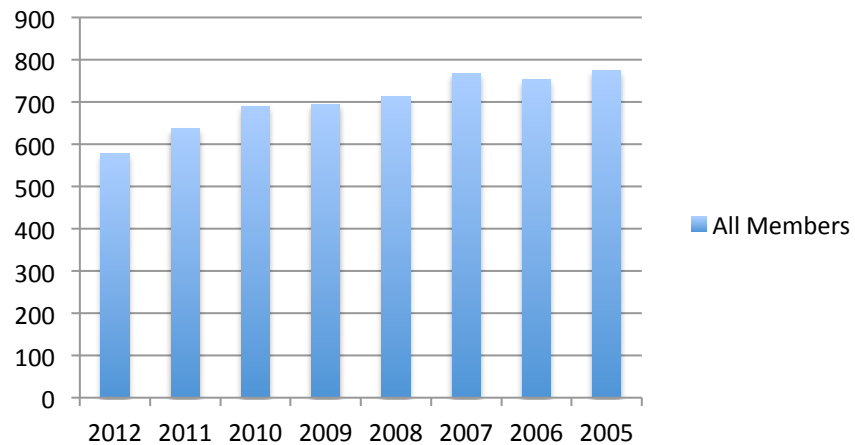
Code: A A Attended Ap Apology
 Not in attendance Not on Committee at the time

DNSW Membership Comparison

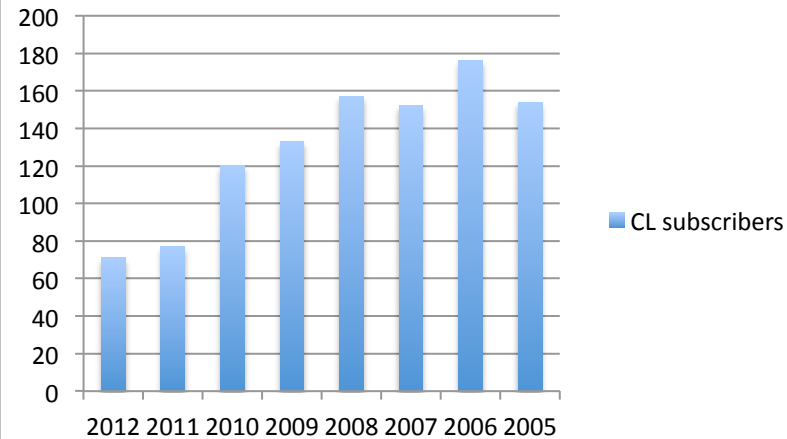
As at June

Members	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Ordinary members	457	512	565	585	596	650	635	639
Life & Hon Members	91	94	93	93	91	90	92	92
Junior	29	32	31	17	27	28	27	44
All Members	577	638	689	695	714	768	754	775
Affiliated Clubs	55	54	55	53	53	53	52	52
CL subscribers	71	77	120	133	157	152	176	154
Total	703	769	864	881	924	973	982	981

All Members



CL subscribers



Notes

Overall members: -25% over last five years

Subscribers: -53% over last five years