



Summary of Business of the meeting of the Australian Dressage Committee

Friday 22 May 2015

Membership Review and status of Elementary level and Participation Membership - update.

Grant Baldock CEO was present at the meeting and updated the committee on several issues. He stated that further follow-up is required with the State Branch Chairs and CEOs.

Dressage Trust Fund

Since the ADC February 2016 meeting, the Australian Dressage International Travel Fund (ADITF) has been established under the auspices of the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF). This will be operable before the end of the financial year.

<https://asf.org.au/organisation/australian-dressage-international-travel-fund/>

The ADC discussed the establishment of a second tax deductible fund under the auspices of EA/ASF being a "Domestic Dressage Development Fund".

The objectives of this fund are still to be determined but the proposal should be finalized before the end of 2015.

HP Update to RIO

Chris Webb, HPM and Julia Battams the Dressage/PE National Performance Director were in attendance. An in depth report of the pre-RIO planning was given. Selection policies are still to be finalised by the Board and also budgets approved. The RIO test event is 6th-9th August 2015. Australia is not sending any horses over to the test event (due to quarantine requirements & security risks) however we will be sending observers. All other nations are in the same position i.e. not sending horses.

It is most likely that all Australian equestrian teams will travel from Europe base to RIO and back. This is the most efficient in terms of quarantine costs.

Re PE, for Australia to qualify to compete in the Para Olympic Games, we need to post a team score in 2 events. We are fortunate in that we posted a team score at Boneo CDIPE in January 2015. The intention is to send a team of PE riders to Hartpury England 6th – 10th July and compete on a mix of borrowed and own horses to achieve the second team score. If needed, we can use Boneo CDIPE in January 2016, so are confident that we can post team scores to qualify for RIO.

Domestic CDI competition importance

Julia Battams raised the importance of all dressage stakeholders working together to create an environment for success in dressage at international level. This particularly includes supporting organisers of the CDIs in Australia to provide judges who are likely to be judging FEI WEG or OG in the next cycle and to be aware that there is ICDF funding available (once a year) to support the considerable cost of importing those judges to Australia. The schedules also need to be coordinated so that they provide the best outcomes for the bigger goal of providing international experience (albeit home based) to the majority of riders.

National Event Calendar 2015/16

Tabled the current calendar and reiterated that it is important that States forward all State Championship dates once known- including YR, YH and also PE.

Very few 2016 dates are in as yet and ADC encourages states to start planning ahead sooner. Ideally all 2016 dates should be in by end of 2015.

National forum at Australian Dressage Championships October 2015

It is proposed that the HP clinic prior to the Nationals will be expanded to be open to those of the public who are interested in attending the sessions provided especially for the HP squads.

FEI Forum Lausanne April 2015

Grant Baldock provided a comprehensive report of the session related to dressage matters. (The official FEI reports have been published on the FEI website). The FEI is following this up with a questionnaire to each National Federation. ADC will be involved in answering this questionnaire on behalf of dressage.

Proposed Rule Changes for 2016.

Considerable time was spent on discussing proposed rule changes for 2016. These will be finalised the SDA- ADC meeting at end of August and hopefully be approved by the EA Board meeting in mid-September.

The proposed rules will be sent to the State Dressage Committees by mid-June so that they have plenty of time to consult with their members. Some major issues that were tabled

- Changes to the Judges Table for Competitive competitions to make it easier for organising committees to obtain judges.
- Changing the Australian Young Rider Championships to a more inclusive Australian Youth Championships.
- Pony rider spur rule and whether they need to be grouped together in normal official competitive classes.
- Fast Track rules for judges – making them more inclusive

Judge Education matters- ADJC

Reports were tabled by the NEM and ADJC on the outcomes of the recent reaccreditation process. Emails have been sent to each State Judges sub Committee/Taskforces stating the results and also the names of judges who have been extended as long as they meet certain criteria by end of June 2015. The state JSCs were also provided with names of those judges who had not responded at all since the previous reaccreditation cycle. It is up to the State JSCs to follow up on these judges.

Sue Cunningham reported on behalf of the working party established immediately to review the current national power points with the view to implementation of agreed revised formats to enhance educational outcome, to report in time for release in 2016.

Progress is good and cooperative committee – will be at least one new PowerPoint (probably D-C) available in 2016.

Equipment Committee Report and web page

Report tabled. Resolved to change the processes of the equipment committee in the light of the overwhelming number of inquiries coming from riders, stewards and manufacturers. It is important that we continue to follow up the FEI with respect to equipment permissions but they appear to be faced with the same challenges as us. Resolved to:

- Obtain clarification from the FEI on the pass/fail criteria for snaffle bits – particularly as it relates to “straight lines between the rings” and angle of ports. Attempt to articulate these guidelines in the rules.
- Accumulate queries and have a monthly review only –this may assist with consistency.
- Continue to update the equipment page, including dates of amendments but monthly.
- Direct stewards to the equipment page and rules so that they may be facilitated to arrive at their own conclusions on bit suitability

Note that ADC Equipment page on EA website at http://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/Dressage%20equipment%20annex_1.pdf

Australian Dressage Championships 2015

The schedule will shortly be issued.

The ADC supports an EOI process for the Australian Dressage Championships on a 2 year cycle from 2016.

Para Equestrian Report

Sue Cunningham reported on her attendance at the FEI PE Forum and also the FEI PE meeting. A PE Judges clinic was conducted by Wendy Barker in Victoria in April and several new PE judges have been added to the national list which is available on EA website at

http://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/PE%20Judges_1.pdf

Sue Cunningham is currently working on new FEI PE tests with Anne Prain, FEI PE5*.

All states are encouraged to conduct **PE Judge Education** accreditation seminars to support PE events and competitions in their own state.

Syndication of Ownership of Dressage Horses

ADC is developing a document/brochure designed to encourage and assist interested parties to develop syndicates to buy and own top dressage horses. There are many successful examples in equestrian sport (especially eventing, jumping), in dressage in UK and USA and also of course racing. A draft document will be presented at August 2015 ADC meeting.

Template document to assist clubs to obtain sponsors

The ADC is facilitating the development of templates and other materials that could be used by clubs when seeking sponsorship either for the club generally or for competition. There are several examples around, but a single base document could be a good service to clubs.

Cultivating a Culture of Philanthropy..

Deborah Carr gave a half hour presentation to the ADC on how to develop an environment of philanthropic giving in a sport situation. The Committee were most impressed with this and it created a lot of enthusiastic discussion. It is clear however that a human resource is needed to develop and manage such a program, otherwise it is likely to fail. It will be on a future ADC agenda. Thanks to Jenny Carroll for her assistance here.

Next Meetings

ADJC 28 August

SDA-ADC 29 August (All rule changes for 2016 to be finalised)

ADC 30 August

Mary Seefried

Chair – Australian Dressage Committee