



Dressage NSW Inc. Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Held on at Windsor Bowling Club

Tuesday 17 November 2009

Meeting opened at 7.09pm

Welcome and Apologies

Present

Toni Venhaus	Cathie Drury-Klein	Trevor Klein	Gail Benson	Rozzie Ryan	Stuart Drysdale
Kathy Shelley	Jan Smith	Beth Turner	Jenny Carroll	Louise Cairns	Jan Geary
Judy Wilson	Prue Spurrett				

Apologies (* Proxies received)

*Helen Zimic	Robyn Targa	Flora Freeman	Wendy Cooper	Franz Venhaus	John Geary
John Spurrett	Pip Tonkin	Sue Baker			

Confirmation of 2008 Meeting

Motion That minutes be accepted as correct

Moved: Judy Wilson

Seconded: Prue Spurrett

Motion Carried

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- o There was no business arising from the minutes.

President's Report

Our first meeting of 2009 included a 'Future Initiatives' session, aimed at identifying areas within our control to change or improve and set goals for the coming 12 months. The year settles in, we get on with the business of running our sport and by the time our annual report card comes around we may have taken for granted some of the achievements and initiatives we've made. The down side is there are always areas in which we 'can do better' and targets still to be met. In 2010 we need to revisit our 3 year Business Plan.

This year saw secretarial changes in that we split 'Administration' and 'Clarendon Competitions' and welcomed Jeanne Brown as Administration Secretary. We sincerely thank both Karen Lever and Jeanne - they are invaluable members of our team and their support is vital to our committee.

Communication is the name of the game and many of the initiatives we introduced in 2009 were aimed at accessing our members more promptly and more importantly, giving them the means to access us. We started the year with a Message Board, which evolved into DNSW Facebook and Twitter. All of this allows members to communicate amongst themselves and give us direct feedback – and they're working! NSW is the trendsetter with these and our website which is constantly being updated - that takes good management, thanks to our Hon Secretary, Toni Venhaus.

After much consultation at National and State level and amongst our squad riders, we introduce the position of High Performance Co-ordinator and subsequently Jenny Carroll was appointed to liaise with squad riders on training opportunities and athlete support services. Whilst there are still some unresolved issues between us as an SDA, the National HP Programme and changes in the way support is distributed from NSWIS, recent discussion has improved communication and I am hopeful this will continue to more inclusive over the next 12 months.

Also in response to our members we re-visited the role of Riders Representative and welcomed Rozzie Ryan to the Committee in that role. This is the riders' link to the committee and thanks to Rozzie's presence we now have a better flow of information. This committee exists to serve one purpose - to develop and nurture our sport of dressage and we can't do that without the direct input of our main stakeholders.

Centreline went bi monthly but expanded into a magazine format with more feature articles and our web continues to be the most direct source for up to date information.

However our challenge is always to maintain NSW as a dominant presence on the national scene through the quality of our riders and the quality of events we produce. Locally our Clarendon Grounds Committee headed by Kathy Shelley, and nationally our Major Events Director Toni Venhaus ensure our athletes have the best conditions and opportunities to put their training into performance.

Clarendon continues to be regarded as the benchmark for competition in NSW and Kathy oversees the ongoing maintenance and improvements that ensure consistently good conditions for all levels of riders and horses. Through dogged persistence she has also managed to get an Official of the Day roster in place - an achievement in itself.

The CDI*** and the Australian Dressage Championships are the principal showcases for Australian dressage - the proof of success is when the standing room only signs come out. All successful events have a good director co-ordinating an

experienced team and we are fortunate to have Toni in that role. This year's Australian Championships was a highpoint for atmosphere for competitors and spectators alike but it is always a year in planning and as one ends, the process is already underway for the next.

I would like to thank you, my co-workers on the committee of Dressage NSW for your dedication and your commitment. There is a depth of experience on this committee which ensures we keep our focus on our members and their horses, the best interests of our sport and DNSW at the forefront of national debate and innovation. Many of you have an individual committee responsibility which spreads the workload and is much appreciated by the rest of us.

This year we welcomed Sue Baker onto the Committee and Sue still maintains her role as Metropolitan Delegate. However, we farewell from Committee Flora Robson, Pip Tonkin, Adrian Howie, Alex Schebesta and Sue Scaysbrook.

All have been long time Committee members and their contribution has been invaluable as each has undertaken particular responsibilities during their terms – Flora as Young Rider Co-ordinator, Pip on Clarendon Grounds Sub-Committee Adrian with legal, constitutional and planning matters, Alex joined us just out of Young Riders and was our youngest Committee member and Sue as Central Western Delegate. Thank you all – and although some of you will continue to contribute to Dressage NSW we will miss your at our meetings.

We thank Flora Robson for her guidance of Young Riders throughout the year and for directing the Australian Young Rider Championships. Our Young Riders are now regularly appearing on our Leader board and witness some of the results at the Horseland Australian Dressage Championships, the CDI*** and in Young Horse competition.

As a Committee we are well aware that demand for competition outstrips supply of officials and volunteers to service it. We received a number of emails from clubs this year expressing frustration at not being able to secure sufficient judges to run official classes – thus disadvantaging riders who had entered in good faith to compete for annual awards or for event qualification. We have been forecasting this for several years and whilst new judges are entering the system and upgrading, the NOAS takes time and the reality is that clubs must review their own calendars and where clubs are close neighbours, look at more combined events.

No-one wants to limit the opportunity for grass roots competition, but is it now a question of quality over quantity. Bigger is better if a combined effort delivers a guaranteed standard of competition – no matter where the event is held. I know this is controversial in some quarters but comforting to hear reports from delegates that some clubs are either doing this or seriously considering it for 2010. We thank our delegates who are our conduits to our base support – your feedback determines policy.

We thank Jan Geary for co-ordinating our judges training and for the highly successful workshop programme held throughout this year. Just under 400 people attended our workshops and seminars, and we graduated 13 new judges from Novice through to FEI. We thank Jan's sub committee for their assistance throughout the year; their help ensures the smooth running of the workshops and also the monitoring of the NOAS at the lower levels. This is vital to encourage beginner judges through the initial phases.

Flora Freeman has continued to oversee a successful Young Horse programme and we join Young Horse owners and riders in thanking Flora for her work in consolidating this area into our calendar.

Deb Hennessy's Pony Dressage columns are great reading and the dedication of Deb and her sub committee is finally paying off with a gradual increase in pony numbers and the successful stand alone 2009 Pony Dressage Championships. The Pony Dressage sub committee must sometimes feel that every time they turn a corner they face another challenge as debate about Pony Dressage rules seems ongoing. Suffice to say that we are lucky in NSW that Pony Dressage is part of regular competition and is represented on our committee. It is not the case in other states and we respect and appreciate the advice we receive from this sub committee when formulating responses to the ADC on these issues.

We must also congratulate Cathie Drury-Klein for her appointment in 2009 as Steward General for Dressage – thus adding another element of experience to our committee.

On re-reading the Planning & Policy meeting in February, there are still items outstanding to be carried forward to next year – sourcing, increasing & keeping volunteers is ongoing as is the ever-challenging search for more funding and financial sponsorship for squad training and rider and official development. Federal, State and EA funding opportunities are frequently successful, but we still lack a co-ordinator or a sub committee to take ownership of this and as a result it is still adhoc.

All of the above depends on us maintaining a core financial buffer against lean times due to cancellation of Clarendon events and/or unforeseen events. The fact that we do so is due to the diligence of our financial controller – our Treasurer, Judy Wilson. DNSW runs tight financially and we thank Judy that on her watch, we have up to date financial information, good governance and advice when making spending decisions.

We congratulate Tamworth Dressage Club for hosting the highly successful 2009 NSW Dressage Championships. AELEC is outstanding and all the planning and hard work of the Club's Committee was rewarded by the queues that formed to see the GP Freestyle on the Saturday evening and a full audience in the VIP section. The local media, press, radio and television publicised this event in a way that we can only dream about in Sydney.

Dressage NSW wishes to thank the Board, the Chief Executive and the staff of Equestrian NSW for their ongoing support throughout 2009. This support underpins our operations and they are major sponsors of Dressage NSW. We thank our loyal commercial sponsors whose support ensures the success of our major events and our wonderful band of volunteers – you are our secret weapon.

My final thanks to my husband John for his continuing support, almost limitless patience, and intrinsic understanding of my deep love of my chosen sport.

Prue Spurrett
President

Honorary Secretary's Report

2009 has been a year of change with a re-structure of our administration roles. Due to the heavy workload we split our Admin Secretary role into two parts with Karen Lever taking on the role of Clarendon Events Secretary and Jeanne Brown is looking after the day-to-day administration for DNSW. Both ladies have settled down into a routine and I believe the split has been beneficial for us and over time will enable a better understanding of what is required for us to operate as well as identify what it costs us to run the various parts of our sport.

We have seen an increase in the number of Clubs this year with several new metro clubs starting up. Finding calendar dates for all the Clubs continues to be a problem. Several Clubs have had to cancel events due to lack of judges which is a trend we hope will turn around as more judges come in to the system.

Our Judges Committee under the guidance of Jan Geary has been active providing Seminars/Workshops and exams at all levels. As a result we have seen an increase in the number of judges coming in to the system.

We have had a few changes to the Committee this year. Flora Robson moved from a Committee member to a co-opted member and Rozzie Ryan was elected as the Riders Representative, a co-opted member position that is a new initiative for us. Sue Scaysbrook recently resigned as Delegate for the Central West region and we hope to have a new Delegate appointed soon. We are still without a Delegate for the North West region. Adrian Howie did not re-nominate for election this year. We thank Adrian for the work he has done in his time on the Committee especially his work in helping with the Constitution and policy issues.

Early in 2009 a new Equestrian Australia logo was launched and as a result DNSW adopted the Dressage logo in the interest of providing a unified face for our sport and closer identity of DNSW as part of EA.

Membership & related: At the time of the AGM our membership is lower than at the same time last year. The financial figures show a small decline in dollar terms. An increase in members is expected when the competition season starts up again but the reduced numbers is still a concern that we need to look into over the next few months. The table and graph provided in the hand out shows an overview of our membership over the last 6 years. A reduction in Centreline subscriptions could be due to fewer issues being produced but I don't think is the reason.

Membership Break-Up Summary (based calendar year not financial)

Category	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Constituent Clubs/Affiliates	56	53	53	53	53	47
Honorary/Hon. Life members	13	14	12	12	12	15
Life members	80	80	79	79	80	78
Junior members	24	18	16	22	17	24
Ordinary members	465	530	522	596	515	569
Centreline Subscribers	90	122	142	146	159	155
Total	728	859	824	908	836	888
Var on previous year	-16%	+ 4.2%	-10%	+8.6%	-6%	unknown

Club Forum

In February 2009 we held the inaugural Club Forum with Clubs from various regions participating. Attendance was smaller than we would have liked but the outcome was very positive and more Clubs are sure to attend the next one as the word gets around that it was beneficial and worth attending. We are planning on holding a Forum of this type at least every two years. Our thanks to Cathie Drury-Klein who did all the ground work and organizing of the Forum and to Trevor Klein who assisted in a facilitator role.

Communication: Our web site continues to grow and provides a "first port of call" for many of our members and others looking for up to date information and developments.

- Stats: Total Pages displayed for the Site are including in the hand out. Visitation increases significantly around big events and young riders frequently visit during the Young Rider championship period checking on results.

Month by Month Stats - dansw

Date	Pages Displayed
2009 November	40830
2009 October	141380
2009 September	123707
2009 August	107780
2009 July	153046
2009 June	124605
2009 May	174479
2009 April	94785
2009 March	85145
2009 February	75566
2009 January	77153
2008 December	55172
2008 November	60628
2008 October	108580
2008 September	74691
2008 August	138320

In 2009 we established a “**Message Board**” page on our web site, which allows all our members, Clubs and the Committee to post messages. It is not a chat forum as such and currently it is used mostly by Committee members and some Clubs. Hopefully in time more members will utilize the facility.

DNSW has a page on **Facebook** with over 640 fans registered. We also are on Twitter with around 110 followers.

After a review of the **Centreline**, the Committee decided to change to a bi-monthly publication. With other options such as the web available to us to communicate with our members, a monthly publication was considered no longer necessary. The Centreline has also had a face-lift in recent months and through a new printer based in TAS we are able to produce a full colour magazine at a lower cost than the old black/white one.

Events and related

We have had a very busy year event wise with monthly events at Clarendon, the Sydney CDI (May) that is always a huge undertaking, the National Young Rider Championships (July), the NSW Pony Championships (September) and the Nationals in October. Tamworth Dressage Club hosted a successful State Championships in September at the wonderful new centre in Tamworth.

Clarendon events and grounds

The split in roles with Karen working on Clarendon events enabled us to put on a few more Clarendon events this year. Regular competition days at Clarendon continue to set the standard for our riders and of late, with many interstate competitors spending time in NSW training and competing for just that reason. This year we did a review of our Clarendon finances, which resulted in an increase in entry fees from January 2010.

The running and management of the Clarendon events is left in general terms to the Clarendon Sub-Committee of which Kathy Shelley is Convenor. Kathy and the team supported by our paid Clarendon Sec, Karen Lever, do a great job in making sure these regular events happen and the grounds are maintained to the satisfaction of our riders – not an easy task given the number of events we conduct.

We along with all Clubs find it difficult to get enough helpers for these regular events. Recently we introduced offering Clarendon volunteers a \$20 fuel voucher and this has been a hit with our helpers.

In the current year we have continued with improvements to the grounds at Clarendon. Through a grant from DSR we were able to install new shelving in the container, doors and walls will be installed in the remaining stables and the fence behind the site office will be replaced with a timber fence soon. On going maintenance and upkeep of the grounds is an issue for us, as we cannot do this on volunteer labour.

Performance medals

This year two Gold Medals will be awarded to Matthew Dowsley on San Jose (Novice) and Kate Taylor-Wheat on World Star (Medium). A total of 54 medals will be presented. Interesting to note that the number of medals being presented over the last few years is declining (2008: 57; 2007: 69; 2006: 86)

In all, another busy and productive year for the Committee and I would like to thank Jeanne, Karen the Committee and Delegates and the Executive in particular for their support over the past 12 months.

Toni Venhaus
Honorary Secretary, Dressage NSW

Motion: That the Secretary's Report be received

Moved: Cathie Drury-Klein Seconded: Jan Geary **Motion Carried**

Treasurer's Report

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

The audited accounts for the year are among your papers. They refer to the financial year ending 30th June, 2009

I have a few comments.

The figures under the heading 2008 refer to the financial year ending June 2008. This was the year of the Equine Influenza Outbreak. So when comparing the activity across the two years not surprisingly there are some substantial differences.

The first page gives a snapshot view of the financial activity.

This is our highest level of activity ever. It was a year when we hosted the CDI, the Nationals, State and Young Rider & Pony Championships. 2007 was the last time Dressage NSW hosted all 4 major events, then our gross revenue was \$738,000. This year, as you can see, it is almost \$812,000. Half a million dollars (or more than 60%) of our revenue comes via the CDI and the Nationals – this gives a glimpse of the workload involved in those events. Of course most of what comes in goes out as well!

This overview also shows that our nett profit was \$30,971 – a substantial increase on the previous year but, as I say that was the year of EI. This profit figure is equal to 3.82% of gross revenue. A very modest result.

We continued to receive support from both the Federal and State Equestrian bodies and the Dept. of Sport for our big events. Equestrian NSW Special Project Grants supports Judges Education and Young Rider Training. The New South Wales Institute of Sport continues to assist with Adult Rider Training. And Equestrian NSW provided support for administrative activities. All these are grants are vital to our ongoing activities. There is some paper talk that the Federal Government is considering refining its grants to sporting bodies and this would be of concern to us if it happens.

In my report last year I said that we had made application for \$5,000 government assistance to support Volunteers. Unfortunately that application was not successful.

Capital expenditure in this year included a lap top for Jeanne and continuing of the Stable Upgrade.

If we can now turn briefly to the last two pages where the income and expenditure is detailed under headings which you will be familiar with from our monthly statements. Clarendon competition and expenditure in this year increased substantially because of reasons already mentioned. Another factor – which is not fully reflected in these accounts – is that we are now able to track costs much more accurately. This is the result of splitting the administrative job and now all Karen's wages and ancillary costs can be charged to Clarendon Competition Expenses. This happened (in these accounts) from about April this year.

Membership figure are from memberships paid in July 2008 – so the decline highlighted by Toni will be reflected in next year's accounts.

You can see from these detailed figures that the Premier Events – the CDI and the National Championships are a major source of revenue for us.

We have over the years spent considerable amounts of money upgrading facilities at Clarendon. We have almost finished the upgrade of the stables and the fencing, the arenas continue to be worked on. I think it is now time that we turned our attention to the buildings. They are all looking rather dilapidated and it is in our own interests to maintain their fabric. At the same time we could look at redesign of the spaces to make them more usable.

I would recommend that the new Committee consider using some of the reserves we have built up to look improvements to the facilities at Clarendon.

Judy Wilson
Honorary Treasurer, Dressage NSW Inc.

To complete the audit of the financial records it is now necessary for us to pass the following resolution, which I will now read out:

Motion: In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 9:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Dressage NSW Incorporated as at June 30, 2009 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Dressage NSW Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Moved: Judy Wilson

Seconded: Jan Smith

Motion Carried

Motion: To use D Scott and Associates as Auditors for the 2009/2010 Financial Year

Moved: Judy Wilson

Seconded: Kathy Shelley

Motion Carried

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be received

Moved: Judy Wilson

Seconded: Cathie Drury-Klein

Motion Carried

Committee Elections

Nominations for the term 2010-2012 Committee: Prue Spurrett, Kathy Shelley, Gail Benson, Stuart Drysdale and Beth Turner. No election was required and these members are subsequently elected to the Committee.

Five vacant committee positions remain. With no further nominations from the floor the remaining positions shall remain on the books as casual vacancies.

Confirmation of 2010 Dressage Committee: Sue Baker, Gail Benson, Cathie Drury-Klein, Stuart Drysdale, Jan Geary, Kathy Shelley, Prue Spurrett, Beth Turner, Toni Venhaus, Judy Wilson.

General Business

- There was no general business to report.

Close of Meeting

- There being no other business the meeting was declared closed at 7.40pm

Dressage NSW Membership/Centreline subscriber breakdown

Type	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Constituent Clubs/Affiliates	56	53	53	53	53	47
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2008 October	108580
2008 September	74691
2008 August	138320
2008 July	86148
2008 June	72363
2008 May	108255
2008 April	78498
2008 March	55781
2008 February	54270
2008 January	42975
2007 December	33821
2007 November	29147