

Dressage NSW Inc - Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Held at Windsor Bowling Club
Tuesday 23 November 2010

Meeting opened at 7.05pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present

| | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Prue Spurrett | Toni Venhaus | Judy Wilson | Jan Geary | Jenny Rapson | Beth Turner |
| Kathy Shelley | Cathie Drury-Klein | Karen Lever | Helen Lawson | Gail Benson | Trevor Klein |
| Jenny Carroll | Stuart Drysdale | | | | |

2. Apologies (* Proxies received)

*Franz Venhaus * Wendy Cooper Helen Zimic Rachael Sanna

3. Confirmation of the Annual General Meeting Minutes, 17th November 2009

Motion That minutes be accepted as correct

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

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. President's Report

Like any report card, the one for 2010 contains a mixture of successes and 'can do better' for Dressage NSW.

Some of the latter were administrative items beyond our control - rule changes and the ongoing limbo that riders were placed in regarding downgrading were in the hands of the ADC.

Wet weather in the first few months threw many competition plans into chaos, especially for those clubs holding Championships as well as us. Any cancellation of competition at Clarendon impacts immediately on our bottom line and with the biggest calendar of competition of any state, it's almost impossible to slot in an alternate date.

The successes however - the CDI***, the State Championships, the 2010 Young Rider Championships, the Pony Dressage Championships and the Bates Australian Dressage Championships were all of our own making and thanks to the dedication and hard work of members of our committee and their support teams.

The 2010 Sydney CDI*** and the Bates Australian Dressage Championships are the flagships for Australian Dressage and congratulations to Event Director Toni Venhaus and members of the Organising Committees. This year's CDI had the added edge of selection for WEG, ensuring a full house and a profit for Dressage NSW, despite having a budget in excess of \$300,000. Toni's guidance makes the CDI the dressage 'must do' event of the year. I would also like to thank Toni for her support as Hon Secretary. This role encompasses more than was ever expected in the early years as administrative issues have come to dominate our business. I am well aware that this unfortunately has at times stifled more creative discussion concerning our sport.

All our Australian riders made us proud at WEG, but special mention must go to our home based riders - Brett Parbery and Rachel Sanna. Although Brett and Carolyn Lieutenant made the decision to base 'Sam' in Europe in the lead up months, both Victory Salute and Bev Edward's JB Alabaster have thrilled us with their power and presence as we've watched their graduation to Grand Prix on our own grounds at Clarendon and at SIEC. Lyndal Oatley and Hayley Beresford are likewise great ambassadors and deserve the successes they are achieving in Europe. Congratulations to everyone involved in the WEG campaigns.

The 2010 Brighton Saddleworld Young Rider Championships were an outstanding success in every way due to the exceptional sponsorship campaign undertaken by Gloreen Goldin. This ensured a record profit for this event and will be looking at ways we can best turn part of it into a specific Young Rider development project in 2011. As Event Director, I thank Gloreen Goldin, Karen Lever and Peter Rocca for their hard work and support in the lead up and throughout the event.

Congratulations also to Cathie Drury-Klein and her Organising Committee for staging a second successful NSW Dressage Championships at AELEC. Weather seems to dog our Championships wherever they are held but once again we saw the top horses in the state on show at one of the best venues.

Some question why we hold the 'States' out of Sydney at times - these same people should be privy to the workload of the committee and especially those members involved in the major event programme. Holding these Championships regionally not only spreads the workload, but it gives dressage exposure to a regional audience of supporters and gains blanket multi media coverage we can only dream of in Sydney.

We undertook to review our Business Plan this year, but this has been late eventuating - it must be a priority in the New Year for us to have clear direction for the next 3 years. Ongoing issues such as sourcing volunteers and additional funding

remain 'on the books' and we need to make progress here. On the other hand we've had success in the way we communicate with our members with Facebook and our web page growing in popularity and hits.

This year we farewelled Sue Baker from both the Committee and as Metropolitan Delegate. We thank Sue and hope to see her return once work duties allow more time. Unfortunately, this delegate position remains unfilled to the detriment of our metropolitan clubs.

Clarendon is one of our biggest investments and debate this year has been around our continuing presence there or a full relocation to SIEC. In a nutshell, relocation would have a major cost impact on our budget and competition scheduling would be competing against a variety of other established interests, most of which have their dates booked several years in advance. This committee has agreed to continuing at Clarendon for the foreseeable future and continuing the maintenance programme and improvements, which are being undertaken by Kathy Shelley. Thank you Kathy, your diligence has seen you out on the grounds in all weather meeting with contractors and/or making sure conditions are right for our riders and their horses. Your efforts are much appreciated both there and at SIEC for our majors. Whilst on Clarendon, thank you to Gail Benson for overseeing the judges hospitality throughout the year and to Pip Tonkin for continuing to source our judges.

I know I speak on behalf of all the committee when I express thanks to our Hon Treasurer Judy Wilson for her continued guidance of our finances. Thanks to Judy, we have 'on call' financial information and projections, good governance and sound advice on any spending decisions made in committee and her expertise at preparing budgets at short notice for special programmes is something that has made me eternally grateful.

Our thanks to Jan Geary for implementing our highly successful judges education programme - we have a steady stream of judges upgrading through the levels although the demand continues to outstrip supply, as the dates on our calendar show and new clubs continue to come on line. Jan's column and online reports are required reading for every judge trying to keep on top of a constant stream of changes, amendments and requirements. We also congratulate Jan on several prestigious Para-equestrian appointments this year, including WEG.

We thank our Advisors, Flora Freeman (Young Horse) and Flora Robson (Young Rider) for their valuable contribution in these areas, Rozzie Ryan, who ensures our riders' issues are well presented and discussed and Jenny Carroll who oversees our squad programme and does all the clinic work behind the scenes on our behalf.

Deb Hennessy has been the well-known face of Pony Dressage, and her presence on committee has assured it a place on our Agenda. Deb's input has been highly valued, as has her general contribution, especially her PD column in Centreline and as Event Director for our Pony Dressage Championships. We will miss her and thank her for her knowledge and good representation of pony issues.

I thank you, my colleagues on Dressage NSW for your commitment, good humour and dedication to the development of our sport. I have said before that the depth and variety of experience on this committee ensures our focus doesn't stray from our riders and their horses. We are a committee that ensures our rider's interests are well represented in national debate and dedicated to providing the best opportunities for their horses to develop their full potential.

Last, but most importantly, thank you to my husband John for his continued support and understanding of my love of our wonderful sport.

Prue Spurrett
President

6. Honorary Secretary's Report

I am pleased to report that from an administrative point of view, the day-to-day affairs of DNSW have settled down to a more manageable level with the competent assistance of Jeanne as our Admin Secretary and Karen looking after the Clarendon competition side of things. The split in roles has proven to be a very successful change in operation for DNSW. We have had a few Committee changes since the last AGM with the resignations of Pip Tonkin, Alex Schebesta and Sue Baker. Thank you, all three ladies, for your contribution to the Committee over a number of years.

Helen Lawson and Jenny Rapson filled casual vacancy positions early this year and Karen Glendenning took over the Delegates role for the Central Western Districts replacing Sue Scaysbrook.

For some time we have been looking at reducing the size of our Committee to a more appropriate level and changes for our Constitution will be put to this meeting tonight.

The Committee spends a considerable amount of time at our meetings considering rule changes and other proposals put forward by the ADC and the ADJC. Keeping on top of rule changes is a challenge for all of us and we acknowledge the impact this has down the line. A new rule book is due for release in January and I – as well as many others - will be pleased to start the year with a fresh new rule book that is not full of changes and sticky notes...

Membership

Our **membership** numbers continue to trend downwards: There was a decrease of 2% in 2010 compared to the previous year and a 12% reduction in overall numbers over the last 5 years. Membership numbers do tend to fluctuate over time but our aim is not to lose members so this is an area we need to look at in the future. A summary is attached in the hand-out.

Judge Education

Judge Education and support continued to be a focus for the Committee and Jan Geary has had a full and productive year organising Seminars, Workshops and exams at all levels. As a result, our retention rate of judges appears better than in other states.

Member Communication

Our web site continues to be a strong **communication** source for many of our members and the wider dressage community with 90,000 to 130,000 page views each month. On top of this is the Sydney CDI web site with a peak in April of close to 50,000 page views. A copy of the statistics is included in the hand-out.

The number of our fans on **Facebook** has more than doubled over the past 12 months to nearly 1,600 fans. Twitter has also jumped to close to over 400 followers.

Centreline changed to a bi-monthly publication in July 2009. As a result we have seen savings in expenditure (-27%), some loss of revenue (-16%) and subscriber numbers has decreased (-10%). This outcome is pretty much in line with what was expected and once you add in a portion of membership fees towards Centreline the publication is performing well.

Events and Competition

We have had another full-on year as far as events go. 197 dressage events (not days) were conducted throughout NSW in 2010 (190 in 2009). Rain affected many events this year. Several Clubs (including DNSW) had to cancel events due to wet weather.

DNSW held regular competitions at Clarendon— some covering 3 days to accommodate all the tests we wanted to hold. In total, we held 17 days of competition at Clarendon with 3 days cancelled due to wet weather.

In addition to Clarendon, the Sydney CDI (April-May), the NSW Young Rider Championships (July), the NSW Pony Championships (September), the NSW State Championships in Tamworth (September) and the Nationals in October were held all under the umbrella of DNSW. This is quite an undertaking on top of our role of managing the sport of dressage on behalf of Equestrian NSW.

Clarendon Grounds

This year we have spent a considerable amount of time looking into our options for improvements at **Clarendon**. This will continue over the next few months and plans are in place for some changes in the New Year. The Clarendon Committee (and the entire Committee) has been mindful of the fact that our arenas needs upgrading and we have working closely with our maintenance crew in order to provide better riding surfaces.

In 2010 we finished off the work started in 2009 (fencing near site offices and stable improvements), we upgraded the timber seating stands, purchased a new tiered seating stand and a quad bike to use with the new arena rake that we had donated by Greystone.

Downgrading

Downgrading has been a topical issue this year and we have seen a rise in applications for downgrading with 14 to date this year. 11 were approved, 3 were not.

The new grading system scheduled to start in January 2011 should reduce the need for downgrading.

International Competition

DNSW provided **financial support** to riders taking part in International events in 2010, namely Brett Parbery at the World Cup Final, the World Equestrian Games Dressage Team (Brett Parbery, Rachael Sanna, Lyndal Oatley and Hayley Beresford) and Para-Equestrian rider, Nicole Kullen.

Australia finishing 7th as a Team at WEG is a great result and Brett on Victory Salute finishing 9th in the World is a wonderful achievement and a real boost for the sport here in Australia. It is worth noting that 3 of the 4 WEG dressage team members are members of DNSW.

Rider Development

A number of clinics have been held under the NSWIS banner throughout the year, co-ordinated by Jenny Carroll. DNSW subsidised some of the costs for our Squad members who attended these clinics.

Unfortunately several of the young rider clinics scheduled this year had to be cancelled.

DNSW has also provided some financial support for riders selected to represent NSW at State and National level.

This year 84 riders are eligible for **performance medals**. 1 Gold (awarded to World Star at Medium level), 16 Silver (3 in 2009) and 67 Bronze (49 in 2009). An overall 50% increase on 2009, which indicates a rise in performance across the board and perhaps suggests we need to review the performance requirements.

For your interest, in 2009 54 medals were awarded, 2008 – 57, 2007 – 69 and 2006 - 86.

Conclusion

Prue has mentioned in her report and Judy will highlight in hers, that the size and scope of our operation is considerable and comparable to a small business. We should remember that a volunteer Committee manages it and feel proud of our achievements.

In closing, thank you to Jeanne, Karen, fellow Execs and the Committee for your efforts, enthusiasm and support over the past year.

Toni Venhaus
Honorary Secretary

7. Honorary 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, 2010
I have a few comments.

The first page is a summary of the financial activity. Last year I commented that 2009 was our highest level of activity ever. Well we set a new benchmark this year – and that was without having a State Championships in our accounts.

This overview also shows that our nett profit was \$80,239 or just under 9% of revenue.

The next page sets out our current assets and liabilities and following that is some detail about our operations. Then there are several pages of the notes to the accounts.

Would you now turn to the last two pages where the income and expenditure is detailed. The headings are the same as those on our Monthly Statements.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support we receive from our parent bodies and from Government Departments. We received grants this year from Equestrian Australia, Equestrian NSW, and Communities NSW (the old Dept. of Sport). Besides supporting all our Championships, Equestrian NSW provided grants for judges training, regional Seminars and Workshops, and an Officials Grant which assists people to travel to extend their training. This mainly goes to regional Judges but Event Officials have also taken advantage of this grant. NSWIS continues to assist with Adult Rider Training. And Equestrian NSW provides support for administrative activities. These are all important contributions to our operations.

We also received a Capital Assistance Grant from Communities NSW to allow us to upgrade the stables, finish the fencing and install shelving in the Container at Clarendon

This year we hosted the CDI, the National and Young Rider Championships with the Pony Championships being held separately. A high proportion of our revenue comes from the two major events – the CDI and the Nationals. This year the figure is \$565,279 or 63% of total revenue - of course our expenditure is correspondingly higher.

We did a detailed analysis in this financial year of the costs of Clarendon competitions and, when taking all factors into account, we were just breaking even. Knowing that significant improvements were needed for the Clarendon complex, and with the introduction of paying judges by the hour, it was decided to increase the cost of entry. It is worth keeping in mind that the expenditure shown for Clarendon does not include overheads such as insurance, licenses, rental, bank fees, and some printing, telephone and postage charges.

Toni has already commented on Membership and Newsletter subscriptions.

It is pleasing to see that our term deposits are earning a reasonable income for us.

On the expenditure page I draw your attention to the category "Rider and Team Support". There has been a welcome expansion in this category - \$2000 in 2008, \$3,500 in 2009 and \$15,300 in 2010. (Financial years not calendar). This category includes the payments to the High Performance Manager, who was appointed in this Financial Year.

On the down side is the reduction in Young Rider Clinics – we held one in October 2009 and another in January 2010 but nothing since then – although a couple have been planned but cancelled due to lack of interest. This is perhaps an issue the new Committee will wish to take on board.

As mentioned by Toni, your committee has been working on plans to significantly improve the arenas and facilities at Clarendon. This work is of high importance and urgency and will be funded from reserves. Consideration is being given to just how much we need to keep as reserves for the "unexpected" and how much we can afford to spend on Clarendon.

Finally in this calendar year (i.e.2010) we have held 4 championships in the 2nd half. I suggest that the committee might consider whether this workload would be more evenly spread if one of these championships was held in the first half – perhaps the Pony Championships.

Judy Wilson
Honorary Treasurer

8. Motion: To use D Scott and Associates as Auditors for the 2010/2011 Financial Year

Moved: Judy Wilson Seconded: Helen Lawson **Motion Carried**

9. Changes to the Constitution

1. To change all reference in the Constitution of "Equestrian Federation of Australia" to "*Equestrian Australia*"
To change all reference in the Constitution of "E.F.A." to "*EA*"

Motion: To accept the changes to the constitution

Moved: Toni Venhaus Seconded: Jan Geary **Motion Carried**

2. Appointment of Committee (deletions are crossed out and additions are in italics)

18 (a) Members shall elect by ballot ~~fifteen~~ *twelve* committee members. These ~~fifteen~~ *twelve* members shall appoint annually from among them a President, two Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Treasurer and an Honorary Secretary.

In addition, the Committee shall include up to ~~eight (8)~~ *six (6)* regional delegates appointed annually by members of Constituent members of their respective regions, with rights to vote except in the appointment of office bearers, and who may be replaced by alternate delegates. The regions will be defined by the Committee and must include one covering the Metropolitan Area of Sydney. All Committee members must be financial members of the ~~E.F.A.~~ *EA*.

Motion: To accept the changes to the constitution

Moved: Toni Venhaus

Seconded: Judy Wilson

Motion Carried

10. Committee Elections

The following nominations for the Committee have been received:

Judy Wilson, Jan Geary, Jenny Rapson, Helen Lawson, Rachael Sanna, Gloreen Goldin.

The number of committee positions declared vacant at the 2010 AGM is 8 thereby the six nominations are accepted and an election was not required.

This now leaves 13 members on the Committee up to the 2011 AGM when it will reduce to 12 members to be in line with the Constitution that was passed at this meeting.

Confirmation of the 2011 Committee: Gail Benson, Cathie Drury-Klein, Stuart Drysdale, Jan Geary, Gloreen Goldin, Helen Lawson, Jenny Rapson, Rachael Sanna, Kathy Shelley, Prue Spurrett, Beth Turner, Toni Venhaus, Judy Wilson

11. General Business

There was no general business to report.

Close of Meeting

The meeting was declared closed at 7.32pm

DNSW Committee Meeting Attendance Record

December 2009 to November 2010

| | Dec-09 | Feb-10 | Mar-10 | Apr-10 | May-10 | Jun-10 | Jul-10 | Aug-10 | Sep-10 | Oct-10 | Nov-10 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Elected Committee | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prue Spurrett | A | A | A | A | Ap | A | A | A | A | A | Ap |
| Cathie Drury-Klein | Ap | A | A | A | A | Ap | Ap | A | Ap | A | A |
| Jan Geary | Ap | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | Ap | A |
| Toni Venhaus | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Judy Wilson | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | Ap |
| Gail Benson | Ap | A | A | A | A | A | A | Ap | A | A | A |
| Kathy Shelley | Ap | A | A | Ap | A | A | Ap | A | A | A | A |
| Beth Turner | A | A | A | A | Ap | A | A | A | Ap | Ap | A |
| Stuart Drysdale | A | A | Ap | Ap | A | A | Ap | Ap | A | Ap | A |
| Sue Baker | A | Ap | Ap | | | | | | | | |
| Helen Lawson | | | | | A | A | A | A | Ap | A | Ap |
| Jenny Rapson | | | | | A | A | A | A | Ap | Ap | A |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Co-opted members | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rozzie Ryan | Ap | | A | Ap | Ap | A | Ap | A | | | |
| Deb Hennessy | Ap | A | Ap | A | A | Ap | A | Ap | Ap | A | Ap |

Delegates

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Louise Cairns | A | A | A | A | A | A | Ap | A | Ap | A | |
| Helen Zimic | Ap | A | A | A | | A | Ap | A | Ap | A | Ap |
| Robyn Targa | A | A | Ap | A | A | Ap | Ap | A | Ap | Ap | A |
| Jane Bruce (Alt) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anna O.Keppel | | | A | A | | | | | | | |
| Jan Smith | Ap | | Ap | A | Ap | | | | | Ap | |
| Karen Glendenning | | | Ap | Ap | Ap | Ap | Ap | A | | Ap | Ap |
| Sue Baker | A | Ap | Ap | Ap | Ap | Ap | A | Ap | Ap | Ap | Ap |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

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