

## Dressage NSW Inc Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Held at Windsor Bowling Club

Tuesday, 10 December 2013

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

#### Present

Prue Spurrett	Toni Venhaus	Judy Wilson	Gail Benson	Kathy Shelley	Cathie Drury-Klein
Jan Geary	Louise Cairns	Denise Rogan	Helen Batson	Earle Olaisen	Sue Lewis
Suzanne Doyle	Tracey Lesslie	Helen Zimic	Trevor Klein	Lauren James	Michelle Becchio
Beth Turner	Jenny Rapson	Jenny Carroll			

### 2. Apologies (\*Proxies received)

Robyn Targa	Sue Baker	Karen Skimmings	Suzie Cunningham*	Mary Houghton
Franz Venhaus*				

### 3. Confirmation of the Annual General Meeting Minutes, 11 December 2012

**Motion:** That the 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

Welcome to our 2013 DNSW AGM.

I wish to open my report by thanking my co-workers on Committee for your commitment to the planning and development of our sport and for always being readily accessible when issues arise that need urgent consideration.

I think this year in particular has seen an increase in email traffic between us by about 100% - there has been so much happening from EA Membership changes at both State and National level and the ongoing and at times daily liaison with the ADC and other SDA's throughout the year that our membership has well and truly got value for money out of their committee this year. If the ABC is '8cents a day' - this Committee is voluntary and I stress to our membership how on call we all are and how united we are on so many of the big issues that come before us. I take the opportunity here to thank ENSW Chair Judy Fasher for her availability at all times and for representing NSW's interests so strongly at National Board level during sometimes difficult negotiations.

Our delegates are an integral part of Dressage NSW - Your reports are our direct link to our clubs and thanks to your commitment, we do know 'what's going on in the country'. Club members need reminding through us of the time you spend on the road representing your clubs - it's one thing that is often on my mind as I travel home after a meeting - I know that many of you will still be on the road long after I pull into the garage.

We thank our Hon. Secretary Toni Venhaus for the fact that we have the most pro-active website in the country, the one our membership goes to first up for information, quite often you 'hear it first' on our Facebook.

We also congratulate Toni in her role as Event Director for the success of our two 'majors' for the year, the Sydney CDI and the Saddleworld Australian Dressage Championships and Para Equestrian Championships. I

think we all rightly take pride in our involvement in the Sydney CDI 3\* - it is the showcase for Australian Dressage— that's not parochial, its plain fact. The buck stops with Toni in staging these 2 events and producing successful outcomes year after year. I know how heavily the responsibility at times can weigh - and amongst all the planning is the day to day enquiries and admin duties of a Hon. Sec. As President, on behalf of the Committee, thank you Toni.

One of our most valued team players, Judy Wilson has stepped down as Treasurer – Judy, you have been this Committee's 'wise voice' on so many occasions over the years, and your role as Treasurer has kept us in the black through the toughest of times, and you have set a very high standard to follow. Helen Batson has stepped effortlessly into your shoes but I know Helen and all of us are thankful that you will still have a presence on our Committee.

Likewise a fond farewell to Jenny Rapson who also leaves us at this AGM – thank you Jenny, always the voice of experience.

Christoph Hess returned to SIEC in July and another wonderful clinic including Eventing and Para Equestrian. Christoph's message is always simply put - correct training and the 'wellness' of the horse will always win out. Thank you to all who helped with the workshop, to Equestrian NSW for their financial support and to EA High Performance Manager Chris Webb – EA's contribution was very welcome.

This year saw the integration of Para equestrian under our Dressage NSW umbrella, and like Pony Dressage we look forward to watching its growth and development over the coming years. 2013 certainly gave it a head start.

Our thank to Bruce McVey and the team at Alexander Park Dressage Club for taking on the 2013 Brighton Saddlery Australian Young Rider Championships and Pryde's Easifeeds Australian Pony Dressage Championships. Bruce is a true 'local hero' and well deserved the 2012 NSW Volunteer of the Year award. Congratulations to all involved for bringing us another successful Young Rider event.

In September it was the turn of Metropolitan Delegate Sue Baker who took on the role of Event Director for the DNSW State Championships, which included the NSW Pony and Para Equestrian State Championships. It's important for us to remember that for many of our riders - their No 1 ambition is to qualify and compete at the 'States' (I know it was always mine) and Thank you Sue and team for making it such a welcoming and successful event.

During the current calendar year our expenses on Championships has been approx.

\$670,000 with a major component being the expenses of SIEC.

We thank Jenny Carroll for her continued guidance of the squad programme throughout the year. The loss of NSWIS funding has and will continue to impact on our bottom line and the overall squad programme.

Maintaining the condition of our grounds is vital to our reputation as a competition provider. Kathy Shelley and all on her Grounds Sub-Committee deserve member's thanks for ensuring high-level competition and a friendly welcome at Clarendon. Mid-week Protocol and training days have proved popular and we intend to increase these in 2014. Arena surfaces must dominate Kathy's life but she is always seeking the best balance between rider expectations and Treasurer's bottom line – and her reports show the diligence which she brings to this role.

We thank Jan Geary for her supervision of our judges training and for the successful workshop programme held throughout this year. 13 seminars/workshops were held across the state and across all levels. We had 12 judges upgrade (from Novice to C level) and five of these seminars were held in regional centres. It is a priority to support our existing judges and to encourage those interested in progressing their judging careers. Demand well outstrips supply these days.

It's important that a Rider's Rep knows they have the backing of Committee to go out to riders and problem solve on the ground and be the direct conduit for DNSW. Denise Rogan has built a level of trust between all parties which we appreciate and value.

Karen Lever's expertise as Competition Secretary is highly valued and we thank her for the assistance she gives to our riders. Graeme Lever also figures in our thanks –Graeme has helped us out on many occasions – from technical expertise to digging trenches for flooded arenas.

Sadly we farewelled Admin Secretary Jeanne Brown, who had become part of our family but we welcomed Tracey Lesslie and look forward to Tracey developing into the role.

Dressage NSW wishes to thank the Chief Executive, the staff and the Board of Equestrian NSW for their ongoing support which underpins many of our major events and development programmes.

My final thanks to my husband John for his continuing support - he rarely gets uptight but has taken to handing the phone over to me with the words: "it's another horse" – but never, mind you, when it's a member of Committee!!

We work well together as a Committee, with good humour and respect for each other and our combined years of experience usually see us making the right decision. It is a pleasure to work with you all and an honour to represent NSW on your behalf at National level.

The last word is to our members and our wonderful horses – I think 2014 is going to be a great year for Dressage NSW with the introduction of the Amateur status - so - let's go, team NSW.

Prue Spurrett  
President

## **6. Honorary Secretary's Report**

This is my tenth report as Hon. Sec and in 2013 we have seen quite a few changes.

We have grappled with the changes to the new EA membership and event structure and the impact that this has had on our members and Clubs. In addition, Equestrian NSW changed its Constitution, which no longer recognises the Discipline Councils in the same way as the previous one, and instead a Relationship Deed was established for the Olympic Disciplines.

In the mix for the year was the Hendra vaccination policy. On 25 July 2013 the Equestrian NSW Board ratified a policy, to be introduced on 1 January 2014, which mandated HEV vaccination against Hendra for EA horses attending high-risk events in NSW. Recently, the Equestrian Australia Board met and resolved to move towards a mandatory vaccination policy, with a target implementation date of 1 July 2014.

Earlier this year Jeanne Brown our Admin Secretary resigned due to ill health. We were very sorry to lose such a reliable and conscientious Secretary and equally we were pleased when Tracey Lesslie took over the role in June 2013.

A summary of attendance at our 2012/13 Committee meetings is attached for your reference.

Three nominations were received for the four Committee positions for the 2014-2016 term and as a result a vote was not required this year. Jan Geary is re-elected, Earle Olaisen who filled a casual vacancy during the year is elected and Michelle Becchio joins us as a new Member. Jenny Rapson did not re-stand this year and we thank Jenny for her contribution during her time on the Committee.

Judy Wilson who was our Treasurer from 1998 to 2012 did not re-stand for the Committee. Judy's contribution has been invaluable to this Committee and our Members. Personally, I appreciate the wise council and support she has given to me in my role as Secretary.

After resigning from the Treasurer role Judy continues to support the Committee and our Treasurer Helen Lawson, with our accounts and book keeping, a function she is happy to continue with.

The number of Official/Associate Dressage events (not days) held in NSW in 2013 was 198, a slight increase on the previous year. In addition, Protocol, Training and restricted Member days were held by most Clubs.

DNSW scheduled 9 events at Clarendon in 2013 with a total of 17 days of competition. Towards the latter part of the year we noticed a decline in entry numbers. This is an area we are addressing and hope to reverse the trend in 2014. In addition to the regular Clarendon events, Training and Protocol days were held.

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

A special thank you to all the **Volunteers, Officials and Committees** whose contribution to these and other events make it possible for the sport to survive.

In 2013 DNSW instigated the Regional Dressage Series with the aim to support the development of dressage in the regional areas. Financial support from Equestrian NSW allowed us to contribute \$1,000 to each event and we provided other types of promotional support in Centreline, our website and facebook. The feedback has been positive and we look forward to continuing the series in 2014.

Our **membership** numbers have remained static in the last 12 months and we have discussed the reasons for the decline in previous reports.

Our website continues to be a strong communication source for many of our members and dressage followers with between 160,000 to 230,000 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 over 70,000 page views in peak periods.

The number of our followers on **Facebook** has increased by 1200 (36%) to 4,500. Twitter has also increased by 30% to 1680 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 currently have 166 EA accredited Dressage Judges in NSW compared to 164 at the same time last year.

NSW riders continue to perform well at a State and National level. At the 2013 Saddleworld Australian Championships, NSW riders won six (6) of the Champion titles and featured in the placing's for the other competitions. NSW won the EA Teams Competition and for the first time we missed out by a narrow margin to QLD 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** represent a significant achievement to our members.

138 **performance medals** will be presented this year. 9 Gold (7 awarded in 2011), 40 Silver (22 in 2012) and 59 Bronze (108 in 2012). The reason for the reduction in the number of Bronze medals presented is due an increase in the performance required from 2013 for Novice and Elementary level.

In closing, thank you to our Admin Secretary Tracey Lesslie and 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
- Membership stats

#### **7. Honorary Treasurer's Report (Financial Report 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 attached)**

The papers you have in front of you include the Financial Report for Dressage NSW for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013. I will refer to various pages in this document throughout my report.

The first page is a snapshot of our activity in the financial year. It shows that DNSW incurred a loss of \$37,205 in the financial year 2012/13 against a loss of \$57,697 in the previous financial year. This second year of significant deficit underlines the challenges that the Committee faces in the coming years and the fact that increased emphasis must be placed on both reducing expenses and increasing revenues for Dressage NSW to remain a viable operation.

There are various factors which have placed us in this situation but essentially declining revenue for the majority of our activities and increased costs across the board have meant that the profit trend of previous years has been reversed.

If you turn to the Income and Expenditure Statement on Pages 13 & 14, you can see that some of the loss is due to amortization of the development of the Clarendon Arenas which occurred in 2011 as well as depreciation of plant and equipment and buildings. If we take out these amounts then the loss for the year on our normal operations (income minus expenditure) is \$19,964. This compares with a loss on operations of \$24,800 in the previous financial year.

We have traditionally relied on our large events and Clarendon competitions to pay for our non-income earning but none-the-less very important functions such as rider support and training clinics, judge education and repairs and capital improvements. This is the second year in a row that Clarendon has run at a small loss (\$2316). In 2013, the Clarendon sub-committee has placed significant focus on reducing expenses wherever possible without compromising arena quality. Looking forward, it is hoped that the introduction of the Amateur owner/rider scheme in 2014 and the associated Leaderboard competition will attract grass roots members and amateur riders back to Clarendon and in turn boost revenue. Entry fees were also increased in July 2013 so the impact of this will be seen in next year's accounts.

Of the major events held during this financial period, only the 2012 National Championships made a significant profit (\$9741) in a non-Equitana year. The Young Rider Championships, Pony Championships and Sydney CDI all broke even or made a small profit. Importantly, it is becoming harder to attract sponsorship for major events and this will make it even more difficult for these events to break even in future years. The impact of declining revenue will be a significant challenge for our committee to address.

We continue to rely on grants from Equestrian NSW and Equestrian Australia to support our various activities. In the 2012/13 financial year, we received \$46,000 from Equestrian NSW including \$9000 of special project funding for the Regional Dressage Festival and judge education. The balance of these grants was used to support our state-wide administrative activities, the various major events and championships, and the Christoph Hess clinic. From Equestrian Australia we received \$25,892 in grants which was used to support the National Championships and Sydney CDI.

One significant area of loss which will need to be addressed in the future is the cost of rider clinics. In 2012/13 the net cost (loss) of holding these clinics was just over \$12,000 following on from a net cost of just under \$12,000 last financial year, amounting to a \$24,000 cost to DNSW over both years. The loss of NSWIS funding has impacted this program and in its current form and given our financial position, this programme may not be sustainable.

Both revenue and expenditure for judges seminars and workshops were significantly increased this year as a result of the CDI workshop and the Christoph Hess clinic and workshop with only a small (\$500) loss being sustained due to support from Equestrian NSW (Christoph Hess) and good attendance at the CDI and Hess clinics.

Finally, if you turn to pages 2, 3 and 4 and the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement, you will see that as a result of the loss this financial year, the balance of equity for Dressage NSW has declined by an amount of just over \$37,000 from the previous year to \$296,914 with a decrease in our cash at bank of \$25,759.

Looking forward, there are significant financial challenges for Dressage NSW on the horizon and we must be prepared to meet them by reducing costs wherever possible and looking for opportunities to increase revenue to ensure that our organization is sustainable in the long term.

**Motion:** a) (page 10) that the committee resolves that financial report presents fairly the financial position of Dressage NSW Incorporated as at June 30 2013 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

b) 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.

**Motion: To use D. Scott and Associates as auditors for the 2013/14 financial year.**

The meeting discussed the cost of the audit and its value comparative to other organisations of a similar size.

Moved: Helen Batson

Seconded: Toni Venhaus

**Motion Carried.**

## **9. Committee Elections**

Four positions on the Committee were declared vacant. Two outgoing members chose not to re-stand.

Three nominations were received, and there was no need to hold an election for the 2014 Term. One position remains vacant and nominations from the floor were called for.

Suzanne Doyle was nominated and as no other nominations were received Suzanne Doyle was elected to the committee (Moved: Prue Spurrett, Seconded: Jenny Carroll and all in favour)

Confirmation of the 2014 Committee: Gail Benson, Sue Cunningham, Cathie Drury-Klein, Jan Geary, Helen Lawson, Kathy Shelley, Prue Spurrett, Beth Turner, Toni Venhaus, Earle Olaisen, Michelle Becchio and Suzanne Doyle

#### **10. General Business**

Judge Recognition Awards

Two judges are eligible for 25 year service awards at this AGM.

The two recipients are Jenny Edwards and Helen Kempton.

The committee will contact the judges with their award and a letter of recognition

The committee will discuss the inclusion of this award at the Dressage NSW Awards night in the future.

Michelle Becchio congratulated the committee for the inclusion of lower levels at Dressage NSW in 2014.

Prue Spurrett then presented Judy Wilson with a gift and thanked her for her years of support and guidance.

#### **Close of Meeting**

**The meeting was declared closed at 7.36pm**

# DNSW Committee Meeting Attendance Record

December 2012 to November 2013

	Dec-12	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13
<b>Elected Committee (AGM)</b>											
Gail Benson	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	Ap
Sue Cunningham	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cathie Drury-Klein	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	Ap	A	A	Ap	Ap	A
Jan Geary	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	Ap	Ap
Helen Lawson	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A
Earle Olaisen			A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Jenny Rapson	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A
Kathy Shelley	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Prue Spurrett	A	A	A	A	Ap	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	Ap
Beth Turner	A	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	Ap	A	A	Ap	Ap
Toni Venhaus	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Judy Wilson	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	A
<b>Co-opted members</b>											
Denise Rogan	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap	A
<b>Delegates</b>											
Louise Cairns	A	A	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	Ap	Ap	A
Sue Baker	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	Ap	Ap	A
Lesley Gillis			A							A	Ap
Karen Skimmings	Ap		Ap			A	Ap	A	Ap	Ap	Ap
Robyn Targa	Ap	Ap	A	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A
Helen Zimic	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	Ap	A

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

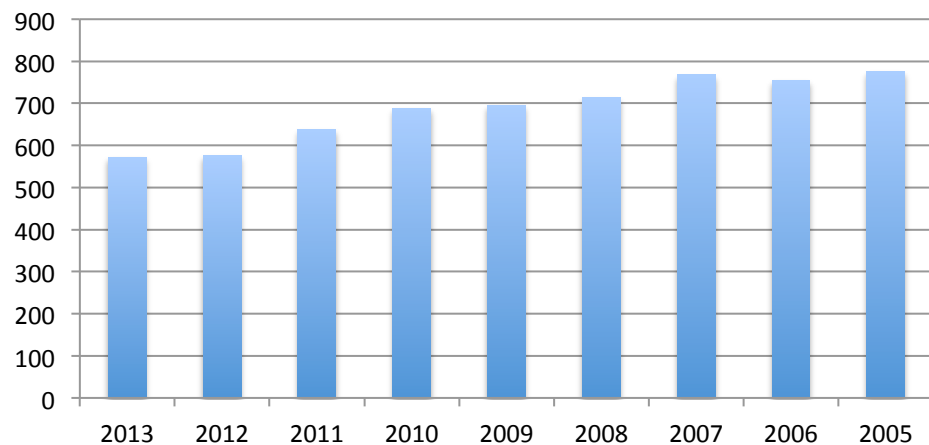


## DNSW Membership Comparison

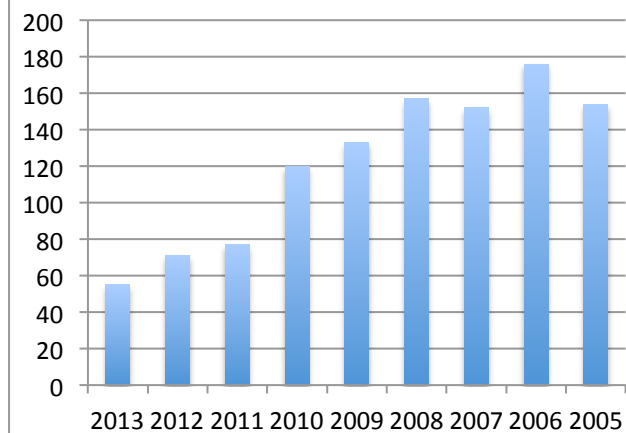
As at June

Members	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Ordinary members	449	457	512	565	585	596	650	635	639
Life & Hon Members	91	91	94	93	93	91	90	92	92
Junior	32	29	32	31	17	27	28	27	44
<b>All Members</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>775</b>
Affiliated Clubs	53	55	54	55	53	53	53	52	52
CL subscribers	55	71	77	120	133	157	152	176	154
<b>Total</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>981</b>

### All Members



### CL subscribers



### Notes

Overall members: -20% over last five years