

Dressage NSW Inc Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Held at Windsor Bowling Club

Windsor NSW

Tuesday, 4 December 2018

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present

Helen Lawson	Sue Cunningham	Julie Jones	Petra Keranen
Tracey Lesslie	Andree Wheeler	Toni Venhaus	Jan Geary
Kathy Shelley	Gail Benson	Michelle Becchio	Earle Olaisen
Jocelyn West	Pamela Bice	Karen Lever	Zanna Northam
Lauren James	Jacqui Winspear	Jules Van Dyke	Mary Houghton

2. Apologies (*Proxies received)

Franz Venhaus*	Lizzie Wilson-Fellows	Marjolyn Thomas
Kaye Spence	Louise Cairns	

3. Confirmation of the Annual General Meeting Minutes, 5 December 2017

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as correct.

Moved: Tracey Lesslie **Seconded:** Toni Venhaus

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. President's Report

2018 has been a busy and productive year for our committee and one of major achievements for Dressage NSW (DNSW) and the NSW riders.

2018 saw the continuation of our successful Senior squad program with a record 9 combinations named on the High Performance (Big Tour) squad and 13 on the Development Squad. Riders enjoyed regular fully-funded squad clinics, including a 2-day clinic with USA retired 5* judge and trainer Lilo Fore in February. NSW riders Brett Parbery and Alexis Hellyer represented Australia with distinction at the World Equestrian Games in Tryon and NSW teams scooped the pool at the National Dressage Championships at Boneo Park. These exceptional results showcase both the quality of and the depth of talent across NSW at all levels and is in part a testament to our successful squad program.

The Young Rider Development and Squad Programs continue to be hugely successful with over 65 combinations registered and 20 of those being named on the YR Squad. Riders attended three clinics over the year, receiving two lessons per clinic and a wide range of off-horse educational activities, thanks to Mandy Jones and her young rider subcommittee. The Young Rider leaderboard continued to be popular and later this week, our young riders have the amazing opportunity to attend a 2-day clinic with British Olympian Spencer Wilton. The Young Riders subcommittee also ran a very successful State Youth Championships which included a PE qualifier for the Tryon WEG team.

The 2018 Sydney CDI was hugely successful both in terms of competitor numbers and financial outcomes. The CDI had the largest ever entries and thanks to increased sponsorship and grant funding, made a substantial profit. The Black Horse Spectator judging app was again available and for the first time in Australia, Clip My Horse partnered with EQ Life to livestream the GP classes. Thank-you to outstanding

Event Director Toni Venhaus and her volunteer organising committee, many of whom are on the DNSW committee, for another superlative job.

The State Championships were a huge and inclusive event, with Open, AOR, Pony and Para-Equestrian divisions across all levels. Event co-directors Toni and Marjolyn Thomas ran another polished and highly successful Championships which again showcased the strength and depth of talent available in dressage in NSW. It would not be possible to run these major events without the dedication and hard work of the army of volunteers and officials who turn up year after year and for that we express our deepest gratitude. Of course, the longstanding support of our loyal sponsors is also a major contributor to the success of these major events - your ongoing support is never taken for granted and is greatly appreciated. Without everyone working together, these volunteer-run shows simply could not happen.

Clarendon has had another busy and successful year providing well run, friendly competitions across all levels on well-maintained surfaces as well as many valuable opportunities for judge education and training. Luckily, there was only one weather-related cancellation and this was reflected in a more positive financial outcome in 2018. A submission for stage one of a two-stage NSW Government tender process was prepared and lodged by Andree Wheeler and included a proposal for significant arena and facility upgrades at our grounds - we look forward to hearing the outcome in 2019. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by Kathy, Gail, Karen, and their tireless Clarendon subcommittee is unflagging and I congratulate them on their continued success.

NSW regional clubs were supported with \$6,000 towards Regional Dressage Festival events and regular information bulletins were produced for clubs and committees delegates by Pamela Bice. There were \$6000 of funds distributed for various upgrading and infrastructure projects across the state. I would like to thank the regional delegates, Pamela, Kaye, Marjolyn, Louise, and Michelle for all their hard work over the past year. Their contribution and enthusiasm in advocating for our vitally important regional clubs and grass roots competitors, as well as keeping clubs informed, bringing regional issues back to the DNSW committee, and regularly travelling long distances to attend our committee meetings, is very much appreciated.

The continued focus on judges and officials training continued in 2018 and has paid significant dividends with 52 x G levels judges currently accredited. The hardworking judge's subcommittee headed up by Sue Cunningham has provided:

- 6 free seminars at Clarendon for judges, riders, and coaches at all levels, attended by over 200 people
- 3 regional club-run seminars (with over 60 attendees) including two-day weekend seminars with a significant number of accredited G level judges as an outcome
- 2 stewards training courses (run and organised by EA Chief Steward Cathie Drury-Klein)
- A masterclass workshop with USA 4* judge Sandy Hotz
- A new rules workshop
- 46 shadow judging and exam opportunities and more than 80 judge sit-ins at Clarendon competitions
- Significant numbers of upgrading judges through to B level

I can't let 2018 end without expressing my gratitude to the extremely hardworking DNSW committee and the many co-opted members who provide endless hours of invaluable support and guidance and always step up when asked. Your encouragement, enthusiasm, and willingness to contribute to our sport is amazing and I'm honoured to have worked with you all over the past 10 years. To our new Admin Secretary, Mary Haughton, you have stepped into a huge role and made it your own with quiet dedication and enthusiasm - I know I speak for the whole committee when I say thank-you, you are wonderful. To Karen Lever, our incredibly passionate and dedicated Clarendon Event Secretary, thank-you also for your continued hard work and the enthusiasm you put into your role. A huge thank-you must also go to Lizzie Wilson-Fellows, our dedicated NSW rider's Representative, who does a fabulous job passionately representing the interests of all riders.

This year also sees the retirement from the committee of several members, including myself and Jocelyn West. I would like to thank Joc for her faithful service to dressage over the past 3 years on the committee, her quick wit and smiling face is always appreciated. And I'm very pleased to welcome new committee member Zanna Northam who was elected to the committee this year and who will take on the responsibility for the senior squads program.

I have personally enjoyed working with everyone on this fabulous committee – it's such a pleasure to work with dedicated, like-minded people who are truly doing their bit in the best interests of our sport. I won't say the role of President has been without its challenges at times, but I'm really proud of what we have been able to collectively achieve in NSW over my last 3 years as President and also over the 10 years I've been on the committee in various roles.

I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all out competing in 2019.

Helen Lawson
President
DNSW

6. Honorary Secretary's Report

It is a little daunting to be writing my first report as Honorary Secretary (Acting) for Dressage NSW. Stepping into a position previously held by Toni Venhaus for over 14 years and managed with such efficiency, left big shoes to fill! Thankfully, Toni remains a co-opted member of the committee and is always available for her advice, for which I am grateful.

A challenge for myself for next year, and I am sure the rest of the committee feel as well, will be missing the guidance and leadership of our President Helen Lawson, who is leaving us following this AGM. Thank you Helen for all you have done for DNSW and dressage, in general, over the last 10 years. Certainly, during my time involved with the committee, we have seen some major steps forward. I am confident that given the framework that you have set for us that DNSW can continue to grow the sport of dressage in NSW.

Leaving us also is Jocelyn West. Thank you Joc for all your efforts over the last 3 years.

Over the last year, Dressage NSW has continued to manage our sport in an efficient and fulfilling manner. We continue to support our clubs through funding for Regional Dressage Festival events and Special Project Funding. Our judges subcommittee continues to provide judge education ensuring our judge base continues to expand. We have also held several Stewards courses to help grow this base, for which we will have a growing demand. Added to this are the major events and also Clarendon events, and it is a huge workload for a volunteer committee. It never ceases to amaze me what this committee is able to achieve.

Eleven committee meetings were held since the last AGM. A summary of attendance is attached to the agenda hand-out.

Earlier this year, I resigned as the Administration Secretary and the position has been taken over by Mary Houghton. Mary is doing an outstanding job and I am grateful for the support that she provides to me.

Managing the dressage calendar is never an easy task but Mary has managed to round up the clubs nicely for a very full calendar for 2019. The recurring theme for clubs appears to be judge availability and sourcing volunteers.

177 official competition days were scheduled in 2018 with a few cancellations (mainly due to the weather). This is slightly down on the previous year. In addition, 38 Closed events were held with some clubs reporting an increase in attendance for this type of club event.

Clarendon events (7) have run well all year with only the January event being cancelled due to hot weather. The introduction of using riders to fill more of the volunteering roles has helped a lot with running the events. The Clarendon subcommittee are looking towards running a few more training days and clinics in between events in 2019. Thank you, Clarendon subcommittee, your tireless efforts are what makes Clarendon events so fantastic!!

Six regional club events were part of the DNSW Regional Dressage Festival series in 2018. These events were in Canberra, Young, Tamworth, Wagga, and Alexander Park. Support from Equestrian NSW allowed us to contribute financially to each event along with providing other types of promotional support.

DNSW membership numbers have remained stable during 2018. A great indicator that members continue to see value in a DNSW membership.

Social media continues to be an increasingly popular way to communicate with our members and other followers. Currently, the DNSW Facebook page has 8,360 followers, Clarendon 1,280, and the Sydney CDI 6,800! Pretty impressive numbers that are continuing to increase. Thankyou Toni & Karen for keeping Facebook up to date and relevant. The Sydney CDI launched the use of Team App, which was embraced by competitors, officials, and fans of dressage. The success flowed on to the State Championships and several clubs have also embraced the App to help with competition communications.

The DNSW website continues to perform well with page views remaining similar to previous years. Interestingly, 63% of views are from a mobile or tablet device! Certainly, a sign of the times.... Thank you, Toni, for providing us with these insights and managing the website so beautifully.

The distribution of the club's newsletter, which is prepared by Pamela Bice following every DNSW meeting, is also proving to be a popular means of communication. Challenges remain with keeping the distribution list current and making sure these messages get to the wider dressage community, however, we continue to look at ways to improve.

Our Annual Awards and Performance Medals represent a significant achievement for our DNSW members.

118 Performance Medals were presented this year, compared with 126 in 2017. There were 8 Gold (13 in 2017), 39 Silver (42 in 2017), and 71 Bronze (71 in 2017).

NSW riders continue to perform well at a State and National level. At the recent 2018 Australian Championships at Boneo Park, NSW riders were dominant, winning most of the Champion titles and bringing home the major awards. Chef, Karen Lever (ably assisted by Gail Benson & Maree Gawley), provided many gatherings for the riders and this added to the comraderie of the riders.

In line with our Constitution, four committee positions are declared vacant to be filled at the AGM. This year Gail Benson, Helen Lawson, Jocelyn West, and Andree Wheeler were up for renomination. Four Nominations were received for the 2019-2021 term. Nominations were received from Tracey Lesslie, Andree Wheeler, Gail Benson, and Zanna Northam. There being no other nominations a vote was not required, and they are elected to the Committee for the coming term.

In closing, thank you to all committee members and delegates for your assistance and support during the past months and during the time I have been the Hon Sec. I have enjoyed working with you and admire your dedication and commitment.

I am looking forward to a new era in 2019 and I am excited by what we can achieve.

Tracey Lesslie,
Honorary Secretary (Acting)
Dressage NSW

Attached to meeting hand-out:

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

7. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Included in the papers tonight you will find the Financial Report for Dressage NSW for the Financial Year 2017/2018 prepared by auditors Ross Fowlers & Co.

As you can see, we had a very good year with a net profit of \$107,046.

All our major events contributed greatly to this profit such as the Young Rider Championships as well as the NSW Championships in 2017.

The 2018 Sydney CDI posted a strong profit not only due to a record number of competitors but also due to increased sponsorship and funding. Part of the CDI profits were rolled over as a start-up fund for the 2019 Sydney CDI and a portion to the 2018 NSW Championships.

Clarendon events also generated a solid profit throughout this financial year with only one event cancelled, as well as running two Winter Festivals this financial year. These strong profits are attributable to the hard-working Event Directors and Organising Committees as well as the many dedicated volunteers.

Our revenue has increased by almost 25% from \$844,386 last year to \$1,053,450 this year.

Expenses have only gone up by about 12.6% from \$840,643 to \$946,403 due to careful budgeting by the various subcommittees.

Our current assets have increased by about \$135,000 largely due increased cash reserves.

We received significant funding and support from Equestrian NSW this year, for which we are very grateful.

Besides major event funding we also received significant funding which allowed us to keep investing into officials' education with a number of judges' seminars held successfully throughout the year as well as a couple of Stewards courses.

Further, we received \$12,000 to distribute to our regional clubs and fund special projects.

Lastly, we also received support for our squads to have access to and fully funded lessons with exceptional educators such as Peter Holler and Lilo Fore.

Equestrian Australia provided financial support for the Sydney CDI and the Para Equestrian competitions at the CDI which we also appreciate.

Although we are in a very good financial position, we all know that upgrades to our facilities are costly and, as we have seen in previous years, the weather can reduce profits in no time.

We need to continue to carefully manage our expenses as well as look for new opportunities to increase revenue to ensure DNSW is sustainable in the future.

We also need to identify areas to continue to grow and develop the sport in 2018/19 and allocate appropriate funding.

I would like to thank Helen, Toni, and Judy Wilson for their continued support and guidance throughout the year. It has been an absolute pleasure working with you for the last couple of years, Helen and you will certainly be missed.

Petra Keranen
Treasurer
DNSW

Motion:

a) that the committee resolves that financial report presents fairly the financial position of Dressage NSW Incorporated as at 30 June 2018 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 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.

Moved: Petra Keranen

Seconded: Jocelyn West

Motion Carried.

8. Appointment of Auditor

Motion: that DNSW follow a tender process to appoint an auditor for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Moved: Petra Keranen

Seconded: Toni Venhaus

Motion Carried.

9. Committee Elections

In line with the DNSW Constitution, four committee positions are declared vacant to be filled at the 2018 AGM. Four Nominations were received by the due date for the 2019-2021 term. Nominations were received from Tracey Lesslie, Andree Wheeler, Gail Benson, and Zanna Northam. There being no other nominations a vote was not required, and they were elected to the Committee for the coming term.

10. General Business

Toni Venhaus, on behalf of the DNSW committee and members, thanked Helen Lawson for her enormous contribution to dressage, and for her generosity of knowledge and her tireless enthusiasm for the betterment of the sport. Toni wished Helen all the best in her future.

11. Close of Meeting

The President declared the meeting closed at 7.22pm

DNSW Committee Meeting Attendance Record

Dec 2017 to November 2018

	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18
Elected Committee												
Helen Lawson	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A
Sue Cunningham	A	C	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A
Julie Jones	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Petra Keranen	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Jan Geary	A	C	A	A	A	A	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap
Gail Benson	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Kathy Shelley	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A
Jocelyn West	A	C	Ap	A	A			Ap	A	A	Ap	Ap
Michelle Becchio	A	C	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	Ap		A	A
Earle Olaisen	A	C	Ap	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap
Marjolyn Thomas	A	C	A	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	Ap
Andree Wheeler		C	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Co-opted members												
Tracey Lesslie		C	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	Ap	Ap
Toni Venhaus	I	C	I	I	I	I	I	A	A	A	Ap	Ap
Lizzie Wilson-Fellows	Ap	C	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	Ap
Pamela Bice	A	C	A	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	Ap
Delegates												
Michelle Becchio	A	C	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	Ap		A	A
Pamela Bice	A	C	A	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	Ap
Kaye Spence	Ap	C	Ap	Ap	Ap		Ap	Ap		Ap		
Louise Cairns		C					Ap	Ap				
Sue Bryce	Ap	C	Ap									

Code:

A	Attended		Not on Committee at the time
	Not in attendance	I	In Attendance
Ap	Apology	C	Meeting cancelled

DNSW Membership as at end June 2018

Members	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Ordinary	635	650	596	585	565	512	457	449	452	445	440	455	445
Life & Hon	92	90	91	93	93	94	91	91	90	90	90	83	84
Junior	27	28	27	17	31	32	29	32	33	31	38	69	75
All Members	754	768	714	695	689	638	577	572	575	566	568	607	604

