

Dressage NSW Inc Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Held via Zoom

Tuesday, 7 December 2021

Meeting opened at 7.02pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present

Mandy Jones	Sue Cunningham	Julie Jones	Jo Gunn
Kay Barney	Kathy Shelley	Gail Benson	Earle Olaisen
Michelle Becchio	Zanna Northam	Kirsteen Dixon	Pamela Bice
Toni Venhaus	Mary Houghton	Vireena Peacock	Jean Still
Helen Batson	Bruce Farrar	Cathie Drury-Klein	

2. Apologies

Dee Vodden, Marjolyn Thomas, Irene Bakels-Noreen, Franz Venhaus

No proxies were received

The Chair (Mandy Jones) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Confirmation of the Annual General Meeting Minutes, 1 December 2020

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as correct.

Moved: Toni Venhaus **Seconded:** Sue Cunningham

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. President's Report

Thanks to covid, and inclement weather leading to cancelled events, 2021 has certainly been a challenging year for our sport - thank goodness we had the Olympic Games to distract us during lockdown!

The Dressage NSW Committee has seen some changes in the past year, detailed in Jo Gunn's Honorary Secretary's report. We also farewelled Petra Keranen as President and Treasurer, and Mary Houghton as Honorary Secretary and thank them for steering Dressage NSW through the onslaught of covid in 2020. We welcomed Dee Vodden and Kirsteen Dixon to fill casual vacancies and Alycia Targa as the NSW Riders Representative. I am most grateful to all committee members individually and collectively for their dedication navigating the challenges we have faced over the past year. Their dedication and commitment is tireless, and I personally would like to thank each of them for their contribution to the organisation, and to the sport.

We welcomed Vireena Peacock as our new Clarendon Event Secretary. Vireena has settled into the role marvellously and is doing an excellent job. Clarendon was able to hold 5 events over the past year, although most were cancelled part way through the event due to rain or heat. As anyone who has organised an event will know, the disappointment and frustration of having to cancel an event is very real. However Vireena keeps bouncing back with renewed enthusiasm!

The calendar has been severely affected in 2020 and 2021 due to fires, floods, heat, rain, not to mention our seemingly ever-present foe, covid-19. Nationals, States, Youth Champs and many Clarendon events were cancelled. Dressage NSW committee members took the opportunity to focus on new initiatives and ideas.

The highlight for Dressage NSW was the Sydney CDLite that saw entries comparable to the large entries in 2018 and 2019 CDIs, a tremendous result especially considering the limited opportunities riders had to compete and qualify. The standard of competition was very high, and some excellent scores were achieved. High Tea on the Terrace was the place to be and sold out well before the event. Exhibitors relished the opportunity to meet their customers again in person, and after months of online shopping the trade stands were filled with people enjoying a personal shopping experience. Thank you to outstanding event director Toni Venhaus and her team of volunteers, many of whom are committee members. The freestyle workshop held at the conclusion of the CDLite was very popular and informative.

The limited events able to run severely impacted judge education and re-accrediting/upgrading opportunities. Notwithstanding these challenges, we managed to hold a number of workshops, seminars and courses. To complement these Sue Cunningham, chair of the judge sub-committee is holding Zoom theory sessions in the week leading up to a super Judges Seminar at SIEC on 4 December catering for G, E, F, C and D level judges.

Kay Barney and Julie Jones with the assistance of Equestrian NSW, are working on a Learning Management System pilot for judge education. This exciting initiative will dramatically improve judge education and record keeping. It is hoped that when this is up and running it can be rolled out by EA to other states, disciplines and officials.

Pamela Bice has taken the lead on a working group to look at the Nominate platform, with a group of Super Users, liaising on behalf of Clubs and Riders with Nominate and EA for improvements to the system, and creating resources to help Clubs, who are often infrequent users, make the most of the platform, including using the online scoring suite

We held a very popular Club Forum via Zoom in January 2021 and are planning for another forum in person in early 2023.

Ridden high performance activities were necessarily scaled back and, in their place, Zanna Northam held regular Zoom sessions and presentations, which were well received by our Squad riders.

A very successful Young Rider clinic was held in April at Salt Ash, and in response to requests for a similar program for Amateur Owner Riders, the clinic welcomed a number of AORs. Thank you to the new Young Rider Program coordinators, Shayne Trotter and Michelle Ellis.

Kathy Shelley, Gail Benson, Michelle Becchio and their team on the Clarendon sub-committee continue to manage the Clarendon grounds and facilities and consider options to improve the arena surfaces.

A sincere thank you to Mary Houghton who supports the members, the committee and sub-committees with true dedication.

As the year draws to a close the committee will enjoy a well-earned break, returning with renewed vigour in the New Year as we look forward to the return of major events, including the National Amateur Owner Rider Championships, which is being held in NSW for the first time.

I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all out competing in 2022

*Mandy Jones
President
Dressage NSW*

6. Honorary Secretary's Report

As we all know the last twelve months has been a difficult period for everyone including for the DNSW Committee as we continue to manage the sport on behalf of Equestrian NSW.

As the SDA (State Dressage Authority) we manage the day-to-day administration of the sport throughout NSW. Our responsibilities include:

- representing dressage in NSW with the EADC (Equestrian Australia Dressage Council)
- working with ENSW
- liaising with the EADC with regards to formulation of the rules of the sport
- supporting our dressage squads – both High Performance and Young Rider, as well as supporting the Young Rider Development Programme
- maintaining and approving the NSW dressage event calendar
- conducting seminars and workshops for judges by way of the Judges Sub-Committee
- facilitating and supporting judge's exams by way of the Judges Sub-Committee
- providing annual awards and performance medals for our members

DNSW and the Clarendon Sub-Committee have managed to conduct a few events and training days at Clarendon this year. When Covid wasn't causing cancellations unfortunately the weather was not always kind to us. We ran a very successful CDLite in place of our regular CDI in April which was very well attend and a great success thanks to the efforts of Toni Venhaus and her team. Sadly the NSW Young Rider Championships, NSW Dressage Championships, which were to be held in Tamworth, and the Australian Dressage Championships were all cancelled this year due to Covid lockdowns. We are looking forward to a much better 2022 when we plan to run CDLite in April, NSW Young Rider Championships in July, NSW Dressage Championships in September and National Amateur Owner Championships in October. All these events will be held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre.

Our committee has undergone significant changes since the resignation of Petra Keranen from the position of President and Treasurer prior to the AGM of 2020 and Mary Houghton as Honorary Secretary at the committee meeting following the AGM of 2020.

Mandy Jones was elected to the position of President in December 2020 and Kay Barney took on the role of Treasurer.

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

Managing the dressage calendar is always a challenge. Clubs are increasingly struggling to get high level judges as the numbers of A and B level judges decrease. Our judge numbers at the lower levels are growing thanks to the hard work of Sue Cunningham and the judges sub-committee but it takes time to train judges and again lockdowns have not helped. DNSW limits the number of official events a club can run in an effort to minimise the demand on our judges.

This year we welcomed Vireena Peacock to the position as Clarendon Event Secretary. Vireena is doing an excellent job and has quickly come up to speed with all the demands of this challenging position. We are very grateful for her hard work in managing our ever-popular events.

NSW Membership numbers have decreased slightly this year. A graph of the member statistics is attached for your reference.

Our Annual Awards and Performance Medals qualifying period was changed to cover 2020 and 2021 due to the cancellation of so many events in this period. The qualifying period for 2022 awards and medals is from the September 5th 2021 to September 5th 2022 .

169 Performance Medals were won in the 2020/21 period compared to 173 in 2019. 21 Gold (10 in 2019), 53 Silver (59 in 2019) and 95 Bronze (104 in 2019).

In accordance with the DNSW constitution four (4) committee positions become vacant each year. Two (2) positions were committee members due for re-election and two (2) were casual vacancies. We have received four (4) nominations being from Gail Benson, Zanna Northam, Dee Vodden and Kirsteen Dixon.

There being no other nominations a vote is not required, and the listed candidates will be 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 year which has been a period of change and of progress.

*Jo Gunn
Honorary Secretary
Dressage NSW*

7. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Included in this report are the audited accounts for Dressage NSW for the 2020/21 financial year. These accounts were prepared by the newly appointed auditor, Rod Laws of Tinworth & Co.

A modest surplus result for the 2021 financial year amounted to \$2,069.

This result is not unexpected, given that the Covid 19 pandemic has significantly affected operations of the Association with extended lockdowns throughout NSW over the reporting period requiring cancellation of many planned events. This has resulted in a reduction in revenue of approximately 32% from \$647,692 in 2019/20 to \$437,954 in the current financial year.

Once again, we benefited by financial support received from Equestrian NSW who provided funding for various activities including administrative and officials training expenses and the CDI Lite in May 2021. We thank ENSW for their continuing support.

In addition to the Associations' regular expenses, in the 2020/21 financial year DNSW also spent \$95,889 on improvements to the grounds at Clarendon which included construction of the new judge boxes. Due to the Covid 19 lockdown, it was not possible to count or value the inventory on hand at year end, therefore was written down to Nil and will be revisited when stock counts are permitted in the 2021/2022 financial year.

Thanks to the committee of DNSW for their support during my six-month tenure as Treasurer from January – June 2021 and I also acknowledge the former Treasurer, Petra Keenan for providing me with a handover. Finally, I wish to thank Vireena Peacock who has taken on the role of financial administration support for DNSW in May this year.

*Kay Barney
Hon. Treasurer
Dressage NSW*

Motion: That the Honorary Treasurer's Report be accepted
Moved: Jo Gunn **Seconded:** Earle Olaisen
Motion Carried

Questions to the Treasurer from the Floor

What are the bad debts referred to on page 23 of the Auditors Report (Cathie Drury-Klein)
Treasurer replied that they refer to sales created in MYOB in previous years that had not been written off.

What does "diminution of stock" refer to (Cathie Drury-Klein)

Treasurer replied that due to covid lockdown stock on hand was unable to be counted

Why are certain comparative financial tables dated with 2020 and 2020 instead of 2021 and 2020 (Cathie Drury-Klein)

Treasurer replied that this was a typographical error and the dates should have been 2021/2020

Motion:

a) That the committee resolves that financial report presents fairly the financial position of Dressage NSW Incorporated as of 30 June 2021 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: Michelle Becchio **Seconded:** Julie Jones
Motion Carried

8. Proposed Changes to the Constitution

None

9. Appointment of Auditor

Motion: That DNSW appoint "Tinworth & Co" as auditor for the 2021/2022 financial year.

Moved: Earle Olaisen **Seconded:** Jo Gunn
Motion Carried.

10. Committee Elections

In accordance with the DNSW constitution four (4) committee positions become vacant each year.

Four (4) nominations were received being from Gail Benson, Zanna Northam, Dee Vodden and Kirsteen Dixon.

There being no other nominations a vote was not required, and the listed candidates are elected to the Committee for the coming term.

11. General Business

Bruce Farrar advised the meeting that Office of Sports grants was undergoing a restructure to focus on grass roots sport rather than elite events.

No further general business.

12. Close of Meeting

The President declared the meeting closed at 7.32pm