

Annual Report: Technical Committee

Presented by: Mandy Illston

As always, first and foremost a very big thank you to each and every one of our officials who turn up week in and week out to ensure the fair and smooth running of our sport. It continues to astonish me just how many people willing give up their weekends on a regular basis, without you we definitely would not have a sport.

Thank you to all those who are on the Technical Committee, each and every one of you are always prompt to respond to any emails, and always have valid input when dealing with any curly issues that have arisen during the season.

FEI upgrades and refresher courses.

Keeping on top of the FEI requirements continues to be an ongoing and expensive challenge for us. We need to maintain a constant flow through the system to ensure sufficient numbers at the top for all of our FEI classes, especially as we sadly lose judges and course designers as we all unfortunately continue to get older. This year the focus was on course designers with a significant number attending a refresher course led by Werner Deeg prior to Horse of the Year show, and then soon after Emma Barker and Gina Moss headed across the Tasman to attend a Level 1 upgrade course in which they both passed successfully. We certainly have some exciting talent coming through the FEI ranks of Course Designers which bodes well for our future. On that note Roger Laplanche needs specific mention for his continual nurturing of young course designers as he takes a very active role in mentoring them.

New National Level Officials.

I believe both Northland and Bay of Plenty areas are the two stand out areas for continually finding new blood within their own areas and encouraging these people to become judges and course designers. This is something every area needs to be mindful of, encouraging anyone who may have the interest, the time and the skills to become involved in an official capacity.

On that note our relatively new Steward General for Jumping, Judy Bowen, is very passionate and pro-active about finding new Jumping stewards. Having stewards attend all of our shows must become the new normal. Having someone in an official role keeping a watchful eye on the behaviour of our competitors outside the competition arena, in this day and age of the immediacy of social media and heightened awareness of animal welfare is a must.

Next year the ESNZ Jumping FEI focus will be on upgrading our FEI stewards and Judy is actively working with Heidi Bulfin to organise a combined course with Dressage.

The planning for our winter seminars is already well underway, and this year again shall have Judges, Course Designers and for the second year a Stewards component to it.

We look forward to seeing many of you there in preparation of another new season. May it be a positive and polite year!