

Annual Report: Show Hunter

Presented by: Lucy Maley

After a break of over four years, we finally got a Delegates/Committee meeting off the ground. We did say that we would not run the meeting unless more than 50% of Delegates committed to attend. In the end, we did have less than the 50%, all the Executive apart from one and Marilyn Vincent as Judge's Advisors representative.

Many thanks to those who did attend – I believe it was time well spent with many good discussions and debates held.

The organisers for Show Hunter at HoY did a fabulous job once again – along with Tracey Lammas and Kirsten Pike who organised the finals function. Once again a happy and inclusive crew. I understand a few minor changes will be made to the schedule for next year to try to encourage some more hack riders – the pony classes being almost over-subscribed and needing no more encouragement.

This year, we are concentrating on getting a Course Design process in place. This was started by holding a clinic run by Peter Holmes in Auckland at the home of Jo Craddock. Thanks to Jo for organising this. Many SH Course Designers have attended clinics with Peter in the past but this year it was not ideal timing due to being in the Christmas/New Year period. However, the clinic went ahead and we sponsored Marilyn Vincent (our most senior Course Designer and the author of the CD booklet currently on the web site) to attend. Our plan from here is to get Marilyn to travel to various areas during the winter and spring to run course design seminars – probably in conjunction with winter/spring competition days – which we feel will be more cost effective than sending folks to one location.

The Course Design upgrade path was discussed at both the Committee meeting and the Judge's Advisors Meeting and will be refined in due course.

The Judges Advisors met again in May and have set the dates and venues for the judges' clinics. These dates have been published by our Judges' Officer, Sue Widdett and, as always, we encourage you to invite interested folks along to learn and set themselves on the journey to becoming a judge. We are very short of judges in some areas and it is important that our pool continues to be strong and growing.

Sponsorship is always a challenge and this season saw the introduction of two new sponsors – CarTown and The Ultimate Egg Company. Both attended the series finals at HoY and overall enjoyed their sponsorship experience throughout the season. Thanks to Connie Hirst and Laura van Velthooven for their efforts in obtaining these sponsors.

I am delighted to announce that we have a new sponsor on board for the coming season – Petticoat Lane Performance Horses. And while I write this report, there is a very strong possibility that Maria has also secured a further sponsor for the coming season. Thanks to Maria Collins for her hard work in obtaining this sponsor after several knock-backs from other potential ones. Only one spot to fill in our Series Sponsor "book" which is a far cry from where we stood a couple of seasons ago.

We will once again come in under budget by around \$20k having over achieved on sponsorship and under spent on a number of other items. We are working to make our budget as realistic as possible within the bounds of our fluctuating spend. A draft of our budget for next season has already been submitted (early May) and this will be refined as we go.

Your Executive has worked very well together this season and I thank them all for their input and support. We have met monthly via teleconference throughout the season which seems to work well for us. Meeting in person at the Committee meeting was a bonus – as was catching up informally at HoY.