



Annual Report: Riders Representative

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Riders Meetings

One of my goals as Rider's Rep was to increase attendance at the Rider's Meetings and to make them a positive experience. North Island meetings were held at Hastings in October, Taupo in December and Horse of the Year in March. Knowledgeable and inspirational speakers were organized for these functions which proved to be insightful for those who attended. Meanwhile, in the South Island, Rider's Meetings were organized by Zoe Shore at Waimate in September and at the Nationals in February.

Pony Riders Meetings

Three informal Pony Rider's Meetings were organized at Foxton, Dannevirke and the Series Finals in Masterton. This proved to be a great forum for young riders to be given reminders and let them have an opportunity to ask questions. Young volunteers and cheerful riders were highlighted and rewarded with spot prizes.

Series Flags and Sponsors

I would like to thank all the riders and Area Reps who helped to transport and erect these flags at over 50 shows during the season, in particular Zoe Shore and Sarah Forman. I have had great feedback from sponsors who have been grateful for letters of thanks that were received from riders. This professionalism from riders is really helping to raise the profile of the sport.

The Groom of the Year

Votes were collected at the five Riders Meetings throughout New Zealand. The top six finalists were announced at the Horse of the Year Show and Mavis Liley was named the 2019 Groom of the Year. It was pleasing to see that a lot of riders took the time to acknowledge the people who support them.

In conclusion

The 2018/19 season has been jam packed with many great performances internationally, at national level and at the grass roots. After hours, ring-side and online behaviour has been a focus and I believe riders (and their supporters) are acting with more respect for others. Naturally the aim is to raise the standard of our riding, but we all have a duty to protect the integrity of the sport, and maintain a safe and supportive environment.

Thanks to the people who have supported me in my role as Rider's Rep and I look forward to next season.