



## **Annual Report: Steward General**

**Presented by: Judy Bowen**

The season had the usual number of incidents for Stewards to sort out and with the addition of Blue Cards to be given, it kept us all fairly busy.

The Blue Card system started with a few wrinkles but seemed to iron itself out by the end of the season with everyone understanding the roles they had to play in giving & receiving them.

They are a good thing.

Six World Cup and three FEI 1\* jumping classes were held over the season.

These are a great introduction for riders to FEI requirements, like compulsory boot checks, trot-up's & horse ID just a few things, a learning curve for some. Plus, they are a good start before stepping up to World Cup level.

However, in order to run these classes, we need more FEI accredited Stewards & Officials.

We have a shortage of FEI Stewards so it has been my mission to encourage Candidate & National Stewards to progress with FEI promotion in mind. In 2020 a Stewards course for FEI upgrade will be held in NZ, a great opportunity for us here.

For the first time there seems to be a slight shift in the acceptance and need for Stewards, certainly at higher level shows.

I have been approached a number of times by riders/owners etc, about clarity of rules, been made aware of various potential issues and had more positive reactions when dealing with problems.

Not all by any means.

It is my hope that riders will feel Stewards are approachable to ask for help & advice on various things.

This however needs to start at grass root level – not just the top end.

There has been a certain amount of “self-policing” - where riders are informing one another of rules or equipment not allowed or advising to have a Steward check.

This is great as long as it does not become vindictive!

I'm still amazed at how few riders consult the rule book but am happy to say I have sold a few hard copies and they all sold out at HOY!!

Hind Boots are now something just about every rider is aware of – what the rule is, is another matter – with many in certain classes choosing to wear none.

Any changes that have been made are to keep in line with FEI rules and not to be difficult – as some have said!

Six Judging & Stewarding seminars were held, three in each Island at the beginning of last season. These are to up-date everyone on rule changes and as a learning session. They are open to all.

They were a huge success with good feedback and many questions asked.

I have enjoyed this past year in my role as Steward General.

I would like to thank all Stewards & Officials for the hard work, time and support given throughout the season, without which shows would struggle to run.