

Minutes of the North Island Riders' Meeting

Friday 26th February 2021, 7.45 PM

Held in Hunt Room – Taupo NEC during Waikato Premier League Show

Chair: Jody Hartstone

Minutes: Kiernyn Walton

Meeting opened at 8.10pm

Present: Jody Hartstone, Kiernyn Walton, Sachleen Kaur, Georgia Kennedy-Jarman, Michelle Hickman, Jill Pederson, Chelsea Callaghan, Jacquie Thompson, Michelle Middleburg, Susan Tomlin, Liz Hutson, Paula Brown, Amy Sage, Lucarne Dolley, Christine Weal, Sarita Kennedy, Gaylene Lennard, Peter Barke, Debbie Barke, Ottalie Upsall, Toni Drinkwater, Bridget Quinn, Sally Linton, Piper Crake (13 years), Misty Craike (parent), Grace Purdie (13 years), Nikki Williamson (parent), Nicola Smith, Nicole Kildare, Lisa Crawford, Kris Newcombe

Apologies: Jacinda, Claudia and Olivia Younger, Alicia Zee, Emma Dickons, Vicki Gibbs

Jody Hartstone moved the apologies be accepted, seconded Paula Brown.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: These have been circulated on Facebook Page

These were taken as a true and correct record.

Matters arising from minutes:

- 1) Remit on Jackets was a "partial pass"
- 2) Remit for Evidence of Age for Young Horse Classes "passed"
- 3) Remit for Hoof Boots "passed"
- 4) Who can attend and vote at Rider Meetings – **to be discussed in General Business**

Nomination for Riders Rep: Jody Hartstone stepped aside to call for nominations, there were no further nominations therefore Jody was re-elected unchallenged.

General Business:

- 1) Unauthorised Assistance Rules – Jody spoke to the rule that was made at the last agm that has seen too many people eliminated for being "helped" past something scary on the side of an arena, and those riders with a caller can walk beside the horse, so not that fair. A discussion was held. **Outcome: Jody to format a remit to allow outside assistance until the bell is rung, with exceptions being allowed to be made at shows such as HOY main arena or any indoor arena at Nationals etc.**

2) Use of bitless bridles – a discussion was held re whether this something we want brought into the rules and if so at what levels? Riders felt it would be ok if there was a separate class for bitless, but the current test sheets called for “acceptance of the bit” and we do not have the authority to change the wording of the tests as they are copyright to USDF etc. **Outcome: To leave the rule as is**

3) Young Dressage Horses classes – ideas to get more entries, are tests suitable, whip rules, sitting trot etc – perhaps look at a National Final with all disciplines such as at the Bunderschampionate in Germany. Thoughts from the meeting were: Trot should be rising, NZ should have its own tests, whips should be allowed, and the developing horse classes are not working as they are perceived as unfair when the 4yo’s have to go against the 5yo’s etc ** Please also see attached **Appendix 1** correspondence on this matter from Alicia Zee ** **Outcome: To form a working group of interested stakeholders such as breeders and riders to discuss issues and put forward ideas.**

4) Amateur Rules – some of the PL shows now only have very small Open Classes but HUGE entries in the Amateur. Should riders regularly scoring over 68% be Amateur at any level? Should Amateurs be able to rider 2 levels below their Category? Hard to police when ESNZ records are not up to date and when is it taken from – The close of entries or on the day? Not something OC’s should have to spend time on. **Outcome: That Jody puts forward a remit restricting Amateur’s classes to riders who have never scored grading points in any grade above the one they are currently riding in.**

5) Schoolmaster downgrade stand down period – this was discussed at length, and was decided to leave as it is. It was also discussed that the Youth Championships should be classed once again as a National Championships and the standdown period for this show should be reinstated. **Outcome: that Jody puts forward a remit that gets the Youth Championships reinstated as a National Finals.**

6) At Nationals there were over 25 Champions awarded – apparently a nightmare for the organisers. What if we move to having an Amateur nationals, and YR and Ponies have their own as well? This was discussed at length with Debbie Barke making some good points around the fact that we made these amateur classes to increase participation and entry levels – it seems bizarre that we are now wanting to go back on this when it has worked so well to do what we had wanted it to do. **Outcome: To leave as is**

7) Possible change of bylaws surrounding Riders Meetings – how to vote for Rider Reps, who may attend (currently anybody) and who may speak (currently have to be over 18 and a current Full ESNZ Member). It was decided that online voting for the riders rep could happen before AGM, not necessarily at the rider’s meeting. Talk of the Rider’s Meeting being held via Zoom but people like the face to face meetings such as this which seem to have had higher attendance in the last few years. Children under 18 should be allowed to speak and their parent / guardian if speaking on their behalf should not have to be a member. **Outcome: Jody to put forward a remit to change the ESNZ General Bylaws for Dressage to allow under 18 year olds to speak for themselves and for a parent / guardian speaking on their**

behalf to not need to be a member of ESNZ. And a remit to allow for online voting for the Rider's Rep prior to the AGM.

8) From Jacinda Younger - Children under 12yrs should be allowed callers at every show in every non MFS test at every show including Nationals and HOYS. This was discussed but the children at the meeting felt they were more than capable of remembering the Super 5 tests and did not want this rule changed. **Outcome: To leave rule as is**

9) From Jacinda Younger - Children and ponies competing are slowly increasing in numbers especially at regional champs. Perhaps there should be a pony class split off in levels 1-3 at all regional champs now, no prize money just a ribbon. It means so much to them!! This was discussed and was decided this is better to be left to the discretion of the organising committee – at NI Champs there were very small pony entries even with championship rugs on offer. **Outcome: To leave rule as is**

10) From Jacinda Younger When children turn 17yrs, and can't ride ponies anymore, they should revert to C2 status. Reality is, but then a lot of them might be on hacks competing higher than that anyway. But it protects a kid doing say level 4 or 5 on a pony and then getting their first hack which might be a young horse or back at level 1 or 2. Having them then in the open class seems absurd. Maybe the better way is that they can't be classed as an open rider until they're 18yrs old? This was discussed but the feeling of the meeting was that a child riding level 5 on a pony still made that pony rider more "advanced" than an adult that had only ever ridden level 1. **Outcome: To leave rule as is**

11) Betty Brown would like that riders can choose when it is "wet enough" to wear a raincoat over their jacket, the same way that they can now choose at local shows when it is "too hot" to wear a jacket. **Outcome: Betty Brown to put forward a remit for this and also for colour of breeches**

Jody Hartstone thanked everyone for their attendance and meeting closed at 9.30pm

Appendix 1 – Correspondence from Alicia Zee re Young Dressage Horse classes.

What is the purpose of the Young Horse Classes? The FEI definition is "The basic idea of the young horse competitions is to introduce 5, 6 and 7- year-old horses to dressage competitions to help them gain experience in the dressage arena and to give them the opportunity to compete against each other in the same level of test. A primary concern is to evaluate the correct training of young dressage horses, to encourage the development of national breeds and the interest in international competitions involving young horses"

Given that none of the above relates any "need" for placings and results, could we look to take away the competition element from the Young Horse Classes?

I feel that a barrier to entries is the perception that if you are not placed, then you do not have a good young horse. Many times I have heard from participating riders that their horse has done well in the Prelim/Novice but "only got" 5th in the Young Horse so I'm not going to bother with that again.

I also hear a lot that this class is "only for the breeders" – but I do think that the breeders get so little in New Zealand (compared to overseas), that if we don't foster our breeders, what incentive is there for them to continue.

Can we consider a proposal that;

- The results from Young Horse classes are not publicised / made public (perhaps the winner could be, but all others remain confidential to the rider).
- That we do use it as a showcase for breeders who most of the time are breeding and selling these horses to us New Zealand riders for less than what they cost. Otherwise what reason is there for breeders to keep breeding, when we as a discipline over them very little? This is an entire pool of stakeholders we could foster as future owners and sponsors.
- That we encourage areas to use the developing young horse classes at local days, and the restricted age classes at Premier League. Rationale being that the developing young horse classes are easier, therefore more combinations will enter, and therefore we have a greater pool of riders receiving constructive feedback on their young horses training and development. Ultimately isn't this the goal? That we all start training our horses as best we can, with the flow on effect having better upper level combinations.