



DRESSAGE

Minutes

65th Annual Dressage NZ AGM & Conference

Saturday 16 July 2022

Rydgges Latimer Hotel – Savoy Weest Room – Christchurch

1. WELCOME / ROLL CALL / APOLOGIES

Wendy Hamerton (Sport Manager) welcomed attendees on behalf of the Chair owing to flight delay)

Present: Dressage NZ Board:

Scott McKenna (from 11.45), Sarah Hazlewood, Suzanne Inglis. Alicia Cameron, Judith Cunningham

ESNZ: Sue Hobson (President) Lynda Clark (Chair) Julian Bowden (CEO)

In attendance:

Wendy Hamerton (Sport Manager/Secretary)

Amanda Condon (Partnerships Facilitator & Minute Secretary)

Todd Astle (Presenter from InnerSpin – afternoon session)

Voting Delegates Registered				Members / Observers Registered	
1	Betty Brown	Auckland-Manukau	28	Lynda Clark	ESNZ Chair
2	Diane Wallace	Marlborough	29	Julian Bowden	ESNZ CEO
3	Genevieve Quin	Northern Hawke's Bay	30	Helen Hughes-Keen	HP Selector
4	Andrea Fuehrer	Waitemata	31	Amanda Condon	DNZ Partnership Facilitator
5	Wendy Jeffery	Wairarapa	32	Linda Warren-Davey	Canterbury
6	Anna Gale	SI Riders Rep	33	Christine Latch	Waitemata
7	Laura Hayes	Otago	34	Christine Lovelady	Canterbury
8	Leonie Coker	Bay of Plenty	35	Tracey Cooper	Wairarapa
9	Becky Corlett	Taranaki	36	Mel van der Pol	Canterbury
10	Lois Andrewes	Northland	37	Jen Sim	Auckland
11	Margs Carline	Waikato	38	Robin Savage	Canterbury
12	Rachel McCallum	Steward General	39	Jane Robertson	Canterbury
13	Mary Davis	Southland		Jonathan Paget	ESNZ High Performance
14	Robin Friend	Wellington		(via Zoom)	session only
15	Sally Goldsmith	Canterbury			
16	Cushla Cain	Sth Cant/Nth Otago			
17	Sue Harris	Gisborne			
18	Susan Tomlin	Central Districts & Taihape			
19	Angela Valentine	Nelson			
20	Sue Hobson	Sth Hawke's Bay			
21	Glenda Jones	Ashburton (SI NEC Rep)			
22	Scott McKenna	Board			
23	Sarah Hazlewood	Board			
24	Suzanne Inglis	Board			
25	Alicia Cameron	Board			
26	Judith Cunningham	Board			
27	Olivia Ballantyne	Board			

Apologies: Peri Scrivenor (Ashburton), Tania Simmons (Southern Hawks Bay), Bernice Frost (Taihape) Sally Linton (Waikato) Jos Gresham, Stuart Bishell (South Canterbury/North Otago), Seija Parkkali-Glew (Ashburton), Sarah Waddell (Ashburton), Lucarne Dolly (Youth Council Chair), Ashleigh Kendall (North Island Riders Rep), Mura Love (Canterbury), Andrea Raves (Coach Rep Performance Cte)

That the apologies be accepted

Moved: Rachel McCallum
Seconded: Margs Carline

CARRIED

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of the 2021 AGM of the 64th Annual Dressage Conference, held on Saturday 31st July 2021 at the James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel, Wellington, having been circulated, be confirmed as a true and correct record

Moved: Gen Quinn
Seconded: Susan Tomlin

CARRIED

Matters Arising:

No matters arising from the minutes.

3. COMMITTEE 2022/23

Area Delegates, Riders Representatives, Steward General:

The following have been submitted by ESNZ Dressage Area Groups & Island Riders Rep Nominations, Board Appointment for confirmation by the Conference.

(N) = New delegate

Northland	Lois Andrewes	Wellington	Robin Friend
Waitemata	Andrea Fuehrer (N)	Wairarapa	Wendy Jeffery
Auckland	Betty Brown	Nelson	Angela Valentine (N)
Waikato	Sally Linton (N)	Marlborough	Pip Forsyth
Bay of Plenty	Leonie Coker	Canterbury	Sally Goldsmith
Gisborne	Sue Harris	Ashburton	Peri Scrivenor
Nth Hawke's Bay	Genevieve Quin	Sth Cant/Nth Otago	Stuart Bishell
Sth Hawke's Bay	Tania Simmons	Otago	Laura Hayes
Taihape	Bernice Frost	Southland	Mary Davis (N)
Central Districts	Susan Tomlin	Nth Is Rider Rep	Ashleigh Kendall (N)
Sth Is Rider Rep	Anna Gale	Steward General	Rachel McCallum

Substitutes at the meeting:

Glenda Jones for Peri Scrivenor (Ashburton)
Sue Hobson for Tania Simmons (Sth Hawkes Bay)
Susan Tomlin for Bernice Frost (Taihape)
Margs Carline for Sally Linton (Waikato)
Diane Wallace for Pip Forsyth (Marlborough)

That the Dressage Committee 2022/23 be confirmed

Moved: Christine Latch
Seconded: Susan Tomlin

CARRIED

4. BOARD 2021/2022 (For information)

Chairman (Until 2022)	Scott McKenna	(elected June 2019)
Technical (Until 2022)	Andra Mobberley	(resigned 2021)
	Suzanne Inglis	(appointed Dec 2021 – July 2022)
Judges Officer (Until 2024)	Judith Cunningham	(elected July 2021)
Finance Officer (Until 2024)	Sarah Hazlewood	(appointed July 2021)
Marketing (Until 2023)	Alicia Cameron	(appointed June 2020)
Performance & Development	Christine Weal	(elected July 2020 – resigned 2022)

4.1 APPOINTMENTS & BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES 2022/23 (For information)

Judges Sub-Committee: (As per the JSC Terms of Reference)
Mura Love appointed 2022- 2025 as the only EOI for the position

Performance & Development Committee

Chair to be appointed by the Board following conference 2022

Andrea Raves was appointed Interim Chair of the PD committee by the Board until the new PD Committee is formed following the resignation of Christine Weal

Andrea Raves (Coach rep until 2023), Margs Carline (Chair of Selectors- until 31 August 2022), Kellie Hamlett (Riders Rep Until 2023) Olivia Ballantyne (Board member)

PD Administrator: Sarita Kennedy

Note: Performance Committee has power to co-opt.

NI & SI ESNZ Equestrian Centre Representatives: Jon Williamson & Glenda Jones

ESNZ AGA Dressage Delegates: To be appointed by new Board following Dressage AGM

Island Pony & Young Rider Development Convenors (NI) **Vacant** (SI) Lynda Dann

Appointment of Patron: TBC (no action on the appointment of a Patron)

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There is no AGM correspondence

6. ANNUAL REPORTS

6.1: DRESSAGE NZ CHAIR

Scott McKenna

The Chair report was taken as read in his absence. Members invited to ask questions on his arrival.

6.2: DRESSAGE NZ SPORT MANAGER

Wendy Hamerton

The Sport Manager report outlined the year activity. The decrease in Level 1 registrations was noted

Laura Hayes (Otago) & Betty Brown (Auckland) initiated a discussion around increasing level 1 registrations. Agreed in principle that Performance & Development should potentially be focusing on the development of the sport from level 1 up.

That the Sport Manager report be accepted

Moved: Wendy Hamerton

Second: Christine Latch

CARRIED

6.3 FINANCE OFFICER

Sarah Hazlewood

Sarah Hazlewood FO) presented the Dressage New Zealand condensed statement (unaudited) of financial position for the full year to May 2022, noting despite Covid forcing show cancellations particularly in the Auckland and Waikato areas, income from T & D Levies were not extraordinarily affected.

The cancellation of the National Champs, South Island YR Camp and less than anticipated registrations for the NI Camp attributed to the majority of the variance to budget of income from entry fees and clinic registrations.

The hugely successful Dressage for Denmark Show held in March attributed to the majority of unbudgeted spend, but with reduced expenditure in other cost departments results in an overall surplus of 9k.

Discussion

- Currently unaudited; audited report will be available at the AGA later in the year.
- Lynda Clarke – congratulations on sponsorship – bumped up by Dressage for Denmark,
- Betty Brown – asked to see a financial report on Dressage for Denmark; The FO confirmed a cost of \$17,000, anticipated cost was \$20,000; Sponsorship for D4D was just under \$14,000
- Coaching Specialist budget – South Island Camps/Clinics didn't go ahead; there were hopes to have an international specialist in attendance which didn't happen.
- Costs of CDI's has an impact, especially with the costs of international travel rising. Nationals in November will not be a CDI as it is not in a qualification period.
- Linda Warren-Davey – positive to see finances are very well managed, especially to allow us to be nimble and create a project at short notice, e.g. D4D

That the Finance Report be accepted

Moved: Sarah Hazlewood

Seconded: Linda Warren-Davey

CARRIED

6:4 TECHNICAL OFFICER

Suzanne Inglis

Suzanne outlined the work on the rule book re configuration
That the Technical Report be accepted

Moved: Suzanne Inglis
Seconded: Anna Gale

CARRIED

6:5 NATIONAL JUDGES OFFICER

Judith Cunningham

Judith acknowledged support from the Chair, the DNZ Board and the Sport Manager over the past year whilst becoming familiar with her new role as Judges Officer. Noted judge upgrading activity and thanked retiring judges

That the Judges Officer Report be accepted

Moved: Judith Cunningham
Seconded: Sue Hobson

CARRIED

6.6 PERFORMANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Andrea Raves (Interim Chair)

Andrea noted she would like to see programs in areas/ regions for all riders and coaches as well as the current initiatives, and thanked Christine Weal for all the work she has put into her portfolio

Moved: Wendy Hamerton (on behalf of Andrea Raves)
Seconded: Anna Gale

CARRIED

6.6.1 ESNZ HIGH PERFORMANCE

The ESNZ High Performance team outlined activity for the year.

The Dressage 4 Denmark CDI qualifying initiative was noted, and the results and upward curve in Grand Prix performances. Unfortunately, not successful in obtaining funding for the Dressage HP Program through High Performance Sport NZ, though will continue to keep them informed of the ongoing development in the Dressage HP space in the hope that we may be able to obtain funding in the future.

The ESNZ High Performance Report was taken as read

6:7 MARKETING

Alicia Cameron

Alicia noted important to focus on all the positive aspects despite the covid craziness and congratulated John, Melissa, and Gaylene for gaining some amazing qualifying scores at some very competitive shows. She also commended the introduction of the Youth Council and was confident there would be more excitement in the new season

Moved: Alicia Cameron
Seconded: Leonie Coker

CARRIED

6:8 SELECTORS REPORT

Margs Carline (CHAIR)

Margs noted the inspirational performances of Melissa Galloway in Europe and John Thompson and Gaylene Lennard in Australia and the National Squads of training opportunities put together for them by Christine Weal. Sadly, and for a variety of reasons (many around Covid) several squad members have had little competition this season. There has also been a high attrition rate of squad horses leaving few combinations still actively competing. Thanked fellow selectors for their support. Noted DNZ has advertised for expressions of interest for inclusion onto the various squads.

Discussion:

Noted the 74% score for High Performance squad eligibility is based on the international stage, not what is the best in NZ, i.e., podium finishes or contribute to a team podium finish, that's the international benchmark, and this is what government funding from High Performance Sports NZ is based on.

It was noted some applicants didn't meet the criteria of the performance squads as they were at the lower levels. Is there a gap here to encourage these riders to develop to the higher level? It was agreed there possibly is, however there is currently no further funding available, and often the transition from novice to medium can be too much for some horses. This is a gap that could be filled by the performance and development pathway, and training at regional level.

That the Selectors Report be accepted

Moved: Margs Carline

Seconded: Linda Warren-Davey

CARRIED

6:9 DRESSAGE STEWARD GENERAL REPORT

Rachel McCallum

Rachel congratulated the OC on their resilience to keep running events under challenging covid conditions. Steward Training has again been limited due to restrictions. Zoom sessions run regarding various topics and in house rules quizzes to engage with each other. Some Stewards who look after our Para athletes took part in an FEI online session. Continue to pair up new Stewards with our more experienced Stewards at shows, this helps us grow our knowledge base and give vital support to the new Stewards to become confident in their role. Gained three new Stewards who have joined the list as Trainee Stewards and another four who have been promoted to National Steward level. FEI Stewards had to sit their annual CES Exams and were all successful. It is hoped to run an FEI Maintenance Course in NZ towards the end of the year. The changes to helmet tagging noted

That the Stewards Report be accepted

Moved: Rachel McCallum

Seconded: Margs Carline

CARRIED

Amanda outlined event and series sponsorship and funding for the year which had been successful in a difficult year and congratulated Dressage Waikato for North Island Championships and their fantastic trade village!! Noted that one of the most satisfying parts of her role is working with the sponsors and ensuring Dressage NZ is supporting them as much as possible, and shared feedback our sponsors recent testimonials:

"We do feel we get good support from sponsoring this series, good recognition from these riders in general that are often in this series."

"We love working with Dressage NZ and only wish the other disciplines could take a leaf out of your book in regards to the excellent communication etc. The series certainly gets hype from those involved and we know this creates extra players for involvement in Dressage competitions which supports NZ Dressage on the whole."

That the Partnership Facilitator Report be accepted

Moved: Amanda Condon

Seconded: Glenda Jones

CARRIED

6.11 South Island Rider Representative Report**Anna Gale (Committee)**

Anna commended all officials, volunteers and event organisers that continued to have events, plus create the occasional new one to suit everyone's needs during the year. Was able to foster the need to run SIDC as a SI area combined event which was a successful venture. The SI riders meeting was held via zoom – this compared to the previous year's riders meeting was down on numbers.

YDH – 7yo test needs a revamp to be more in line with NZ standards.

Rider Categories: Felt that the new Bronze/Silver/Gold needed another year. And as SI doesn't have such a huge number of riders that they felt Bronze/Gold is sufficient for SI.

That the SI Riders Rep report be accepted

Moved: Anna Gale

Seconded: Angela Valentine

CARRIED

6:12 North Island Rider Representative**Jody Hartstone (Committee)**

It was exciting to see the Gold Silver Bronze rider categories that the subcommittee worked so hard on last year, adopted by many shows. The feedback from riders was great. Disappointing not to be able to move ahead with the plans for the Young Horse classes presented at last year's conference. Hoped that that Dressage NZ continues to be the discipline that leads the way in terms of proof of age and pedigrees for young horse events.

The North Island Riders meeting was held via zoom for the first time ever in March. Attended by around 25 riders. No remits put forward. Noted this was her final term as NI Riders Rep. Thanked the Board and all who volunteer their time to make the sport of Dressage in New Zealand what it is today.

Moved: (taken as read) Wendy Hamerton (on behalf of Jody Hartstone)

Seconded: Rachel McCallum

CARRIED

Jon's report outlined NEC fee changes and developments including 16 additional boxes private funding support, Landcorp arenas were upgraded with a fibre surface and irrigation - show jumping contributed \$50k to the funding, Fee committee established to discuss fee increases. Staffing at NEC - new assistant has been secured for NEC Manager. Water supply - need to secure a more robust/sustainable supply for the arena irrigation. Bore and pond being considered, but not top priority; Future plans - more talk of need for new stables being led by other committee members

That the NI NEC report be accepted

Moved: (taken as read) Wendy Hamerton (on behalf of Jon Williamson)

Seconded: Rachel McCallum

CARRIED

6:14 McLeans Island Equestrian Centre DNZ Representative Report**Glenda Jones**

Glenda's report outlined developments in her first year as the SI NEC rep. Arenas 3,4,5 been upgraded with Treadlite. Work has started to add a new competition area over on what was known as the black sand and a warmup area which have been combined. Other developments included extra planting in key areas New open yards have been built and there are more in the plans for more. Identified that that a new sound system at the centre would benefit all disciplines. Work underway of system installation.

Many passionate people put hundreds of man hours into our sport and this fantastic facility.

That the SI NEC Report be accepted

Moved: Glenda Jones

Seconded: Chris Lovelady

CARRIED

7. BUDGET 22/23 ESNZ APPROVED

The Admin / Operations budget showing a surplus of **\$65,622** which had been approved by ESNZ was presented by the Finance Officer and accepted by the meeting

7.1 Dressage Fees for 2022/23

As advised at the Planning Meeting, DR Annual start fees will not be increased for the 2022/23 year

TD Levies: To Increase by 50c from 1 July

\$4.00 per start for TE & LE, \$4.50 per start RE (Incl PL), National Events

TD Levies are payable by all competition events Graded & Non-Graded

Departments Budget total approved by the Board totaled \$77.050 which would result in a deficit for the 22/23 year of -\$11.428.00

Main points

1. No allowance has been made for potential grant funding for events or other projects
. Grants will be applied for but are not included in budget as per ESNZ & Dressage policy
2. A conservative series budget has been presented
3. Increase in international tours budget

8.ELECTIONS

As nominations did not exceed vacancies there were no elections

8.1 Chair

There was one nomination for the position of Chair

Nominee: **Scott McKenna**

Nominated by: Sarah Hazlewood

Seconded by:

Judith Cunningham

Moved: Christine Latch

Seconded: Suzanne Inglis

CARRIED

8.2 Performance & Development Board Member

Nominee: Olivia Ballantyne (Waikato)

Nominated by: Scott McKenna

Seconded by: Fraser King

Moved: Susan Tomlin

Seconded: Laura Hayes

CARRIED

8.2 Election of Committee Representative to Appointment Panel

It was agreed to defer this item to the committee meeting

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

CEO & ESNZ High Performance Presentation

Julian Bowden and J Paget (in attendance via Zoom)

CEO Update

Considered it is an exciting time for Dressage, it is currently sitting as the equestrian discipline with the most potential.

The last year has been a year of just getting through, as covid had a big impact on the ability to run events. There were opportunities for all disciplines to come together online and share ideas which was positive. Many members didn't register due to the impact of covid.

Board strategy work was completed in December, not widely distributed.

New database launched; the results part has been slow to launch. 27 years of data from 6 different platforms that has been merged, so errors are to be expected.

A couple of new roles created - membership services, and manager of community participation.

Continue to develop relationship with Sport NZ, received funding to support ESNZ through covid, and create a participant survey.

Financially, the ESNZ Board has committed to investing in the NECs.

Sponsorship deal with Land Rover, focusing on development across all disciplines.

Focus on getting Dressage on the world stage and in the spotlight and bring it to the attention of High-Performance Sport NZ, with the aim for funding to be allocated

Social License to Operate – equestrian sport is under the spotlight. How well does the rest of the public view as the sport being acceptable and that the horses are well maintained and looked after. The FEI has taken the lead on this work.

Strategy – Pony to Podium. Collaborating with all organisations providing equestrian experiences. Equestrian sports into the schools winter sports calendar for 2022, will use this as an opportunity to get feedback from the young riders on what they think about the sport.

Measures to track outcomes, research will help set a baseline.

Jock Paget - High Performance overview.

High performance strategy is now a whole sport strategy meaning all 3 disciplines are utilising one HP system and leveraging the efficiencies this creates. The overarching purpose of the strategy is to succeed at the Olympic Games.

HP Olympic criteria is based on the NZ Olympic committee's selection criteria of the combination being capable of a top 16 performance.

Hope for the future is for the Dressage HP programme to be fully funded through external funders so the athletes can focus solely on performance.

Acknowledgement of the Dressage Board and Sports Manager, especially for providing a Dressage for Denmark, a CDI 3* competition in New Zealand to assist with qualifications for Herning.

Qualifications for Paris discussed – different requirements for team and individual riders, these are set by the NZ Olympic Committee. These requirements do not currently appear to be assisting in the development of the sport.

10.REMITS

10. REMITS

Remits from Dressage NZ Planning Meeting 4 May 2022

Remit 1 Re: DRESS |Jackets & Tailcoats

CURRENT RULE /ARTICLE NUMBER : 479

Amendment

Add: Tailcoats are permitted at levels Advanced to Grand Prix.

Yes: 26

No: 0

Passed

Remit 2: Re Outside Assistance Around Arena

Remit: Art 451.2.5 Unauthorised / Outside Assistance

If necessary, a horse may be assisted in the area directly around the arena by a single handler on foot who may not have physical contact with the horse or the equipment, but once the Judge's bell has been sounded any further assistance will be considered unauthorised / outside assistance.

An associated Rule 451 1.17 was noted:

Resistance:

Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test longer than 20 seconds will result in elimination. However, resistance that may endanger the athlete, horse, officials, or the public will result in elimination for safety reasons earlier than within 20 seconds.

This also applies to any resistance before entering the dressage arena or when leaving the arena

DISCUSSION

- What about coaches who can control the horse without touching it ?
- Betty Brown – likes 'at the judge's discretion'
- Leonie Coker - all judges are different then unfair and puts a lot of pressure on the judges. Has to be clear cut rule
- Anna Gale – what about at OC discretion?
- Sue Hobson – from riders and judges fair play this has to be a very clean-cut rule
- Linda Warren-Davey suggested include 'only at a training level only'
- The DSM noted there is a rule which allows for starting within the arena. Could be a role for a riders rep at every event to be a liaison between riders and OC if there are concerns about arena placement
- Margs Carline – judge has their discretion to help the combination if the horse is negatively impacted by an outside influence

The remit was put to the vote:

Yes: 4 votes No: 22 votes

Failed

This means there is no change to the current rule

11. GOLD/SILVER/BRONZE

Notes & Recommendations presented to Planning Meeting /Conference

1. Deleted in last 4 years from all bronze sections with the aim to make bronze for combinations with less experience. **Yes: 26 No: 0 Carried**
2. Amended to clarify the number of scores required to move up a level - changed for all levels - **Yes: 26 No: 0 Carried**
3. Remove freestyle exclusion clause and increase score numbers to more than 10 (i.e. 11 or more) to overcome identified issue of riders restricting number of tests they ride at an event (perceived manipulation)
Remove freestyle exclusion **Yes: 25 No: 1 Carried**
4. **Increase number of scores to 11 (from 9) or more across the board with freestyle included:** **Yes: 23 No: 3 Carried**
5. Lowered the threshold for Prelim and novice to move to silver: **Yes: 25 No: 1 Carried**
6. Make Gold an Open Division – open to any level of rider if run as a separate class. Riders from lower classifications who enter the separate Gold/Open class will not be able to receive bronze/silver awards as a result
Yes: 0 No: 26 Failed

12. CALLING IT OUT

1. Overview of Current ESNZ Complaints Procedure

Preamble: The 2022 Planning Meeting considered the formality and cost of the current complaints procedure is not conducive to calling out behaviours which either are currently, or can escalate to harassment and bullying. Complainants do not always feel supported and will back away for fear of further behaviours or in some cases perceived to detrimental to their own future in the sport as an athlete or official.

What is the answer ??? Despite a variety of ESNZ policies and programmes including Change the Rein, Member Protection, social media policy, Athlete & Officials Code of Conduct, and Conflicts of Interest, there is evidence that to vary from these policies goes unchecked for a number of reasons

2. PRESENTATION & PANEL DISCUSSION

Dressage NZ welcomed Todd Astle from Innerspin to begin the discussion about the effects that inappropriate comments and communications can have on any participant in our sport – how the love of the game can be affected.....

PANEL DISCUSSION - NEXT STEPS with Todd Astle, Julian Bowden (CEO), Scott McKenna (Dressage Chair), Olivia Ballantyne (Board Performance & Development & HR Advisor People & Performance for Mercury Energy), Anna Gale (SI Riders Rep)

Todd Astle presented a very powerful video focusing on the harmful influence of social media, and also talked about the emotional pressures on athletes

Anna Gale – SI Riders Rep provided a comprehensive summary of this session:

Calling out bad behaviour in our sport. Whether it is unintentional 'talking about someone' at a scoreboard, bullying of not only riders - but judges, stewards and OC and harassment. These can come in many formats - in-person, online via social media either public or private message.

Much of this behaviour also prevents riders, judges, support persons calling out bad behaviour towards one another or towards horses in fear of further behaviour or in some cases perceived to detrimental to their own future in the sport as an athlete or official.

We all have to change our mindset, and ask a few questions of either one another or of ourselves to why we do this? We are all in a sport we love, we are all passionate of the sport and why we do it.

We have to think:

If there is no riders/horses - there are no shows

If there are no organising committee - there is no show

If there is no judges - there is no show

If there is no stewards - there is no show.

If we cannot respect one another and either break the cycle of bad behaviour or play nicely we are just in the naughty corner of no show. Playing in our own arenas, in our own lockdowns.

On the whole, areas are struggling for numbers whether its volunteers, judges, stewards and even riders. Registrations are down, volunteers are down and some might say its rising fuel costs, and rising costs of everything - but some stage it's the culture of our sport.

It's easy to shrug your shoulders and say, 'that's not me', or putting it down to 'being honest', or I just 'speak the truth'. You may perceive it as the truth, but what you may think is truthful is not to others - whether they are riders, judges, or OC. Without others there would be no sport.

Ask yourselves - why do I do dressage. Each and every person has their own path - some may want to go to the Olympics, some do it to spend time away from their kids, others just want to progress their own training on their own path and for some its spending time with their horses..... everyone is different. Let's encourage this - it is not your business to talk about 'so and so', how bad their test was and how could they ride like that.

What is the answer.

ESNZ has many policies and programmes on their website, including Change the Rein, member protection, a social media policy, Athlete and Official Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest and there is evidence that to vary from these policies goes unchecked for a number of reasons.

One thing is we need to change our culture of our sport – it's not about sitting around at the end of the day and holding hands singing "kumbaya". It's as simple as saying well done to the person in the ring before you, or good luck to the person after. It's about seeing that person in the warmup with a pig of a horse and riding over and saying 'well done for staying on and a pat on the back' as in five minutes she is going to go in the ring. It's about taking five minutes when you write that Facebook post blaming the judges for your poor marks and taking a deep breath, walk away do something and come back and reread it - even delete it and remember that its horses and shit happens. Congratulate that rider that has been lucky enough to obtain a schoolmaster - schoolmasters aren't easy and you actually have to ride a live animal and get it to perform! Humans have 60,000 thoughts a day, and 77% of them are negative. Use the other 23% at horse shows, that is one way to break the cycle... changing the mindset - encourage one another - pat one another on the back - thank your stewards, judges, OC and other riders as without them the dressage world would be a different place.

Also - remember people talk. You might think that the moan at the truck may not go any further than the group you are with, BUT that 77% negative in someone's brain does take it further. They take it and tell another rider, they take it and tell someone that is friends with the OC, they take it and tell someone who is the judge and they screen shot.... Whether a screen shot of a post, a screen shot of a private message or text.... human nature takes over.... That old childhood game of Chinese whispers.

Look after the grass roots, play nicely and for those senior riders - it starts at the top and filters down. Remember that when you leave a ring and if you have had a bad ride - there will be someone watching who will think that your ride was magic - regardless to what you felt/thought and will be inspired watching a senior rider. Kids, remember that parents drive you and spend a fortune on you and they say what you perceive as a 'dumb' comment - just smile, count to 10 and don't bite back. If you see someone arrive, look lost - go and introduce yourself and maybe take them over to meet your delegate, your president or your rider rep. Everyone starts somewhere, and we need to foster those people in our sport and encourage them to stay on by our behaviour.

Calling it out.

We had a presentation by Todd Astle about the negative effects that inappropriate comments, actions and communications can have on any participant in our sport and how the love of the game can be affected.

He shared this simple video with us <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmQ8nM7b6XQ>, and now I am sharing it with Riders....

Also, thanks to our DNZ Chair Scott McKenna we now have a 'Barry' in dressage, not a 'Karen' - a 'Barry' - let's call Barry out and bring the enjoyment back into Dressage for everyone.

13. Rules Review Concepts

Progress Overview with Suzanne Inglis – Technical Officer

About a year ago, the process of a rules review was started. This started with about 10 people on the review working group, now Suzanne Inglis is the third technical officer, with 4 others involved in the rules review. The group has looked at other formats from other countries, compared our rules to FEI, and concluded that our rules overall were fine, but needed to be in a more logical flow, and just needed a good tidy up.

The Aims:

- Make the rule book more user friendly
- Have better layout with more logical flow
- Tidy up duplicate rules
- Fix some contradictory rules
- Fix grammar and typos
- Goal, to get more people to pick it up and use it!

4 MAIN SECTIONS

- Getting started in Dressage
- During the competition
- Officials and Organising committees
- Movements and Paces

14. Squads 22/23

Announcement of Dressage NZ Squads & Performance Pathway

Chair of Selectors – Margs Carline

Youth Squad

Becki Williamson – Bon Jovi MH

Jorja Dann – Donatello MH

Amy Sage – HPH Furst Welcome & Sinatra SW

Lucarne Dolley – Ardmore & HPH Sir Wolkentanz

Meg Johnston – BL About Time

Madison Schollum – Kinnordy Golda

Samantha Belsham -Dolcetto

Development Squad

Sophie de Clifford – Riverrock Nigella

Julia Fraser – Fandango

Vanessa Way – NSC Furst Rock DW & NSC Jolie DW

Sandy Fryatt – La Peregrina

Penny Pearce – Just a Spark

Philippa McLeod – Donneregal

Ottilie Upshall – Mistadobalina

Susan Tomlin – Dance Hit SW

Sandy Houston – Southwell Razzmataz

Small Tour Squad

Kathryn Corry – Anuschka PSH

Medium Tour & Grand Prix Squad

Vanessa Way – NSC Timbermill Prequel

Wendi Williamson – Don Vito MH

ESNZ HP Futures Squad

Melissa Galloway – Windermere JObei W

Gaylene Lennard – Jax Johnson

John Thompson - Chemistry

Vanessa Way – NSC Andreas

4.30 Conference Concludes

Draft approved 5/10/22