



DRAFT MINUTES Dressage NZ Planning Forum 2023

Date: 18/19th April 2023 by Zoom

Agenda items

1. Financial Reports YTD February 2023 & Annual Starts
2. Draft Budget 2023/24 - yet to be approved DNZ Board.
3. Fees 23/24
4. Dressage Conference & Awards Dinner 2023 Info
5. Draft Calendar 2023/24
6. Remits
7. Discussion Items
Gold / Silver / Bronze Categories
Event/Series Qualifications
Event Fees
Dressage Tests – 2023/2026 : New three year cycle
Horse of the Year Show qualifications & Classes
Nationals Championships qualifications
National Standards for Protocol Days
Use of 20 x 40m arenas

Apologies:

Alicia Cameron (Board)
Belle Clark (Dressage Taupo)

Attendees:

Sport Manager Wendy Hamerton

Voting Delegates				Attendance	
1	Andrea	Fuehrer	Waitemata	Area Delegate	18/19
2	Angela	Valentine	Nelson	Area Delegate	18/19
3	Anna	Gale	Marlborough	SI Rider Rep	18/19
4	Ashleigh	Kendall	Waikato	NI Rider Rep	18
5	Becky	Corlett	Taranaki	Area Delegate	18/19
6	Bernice	Frost	Taihape	Area Delegate	18/19
7	Betty	Brown	AMDG	Area Delegate	18/19
8	Genevieve	Quin	Nth Hawkes Bay	Area Delegate	18/19
9	Laura	Hayes	Otago	Area Delegate	18/19
10	Lauren	Haig	Canterbury	Area Delegate	18/19
11	Leonie	Coker	Bay of Plenty	Area Delegate	18/19
12	Lois	Andrewes	Northland	Area Delegate	18/19
13	Mary	Davis	Southland	Area Delegate	18/19

14	Peri	Scrivenor	Ashburton	Area Delegate	18/19
15	Pip	Forsyth	Marlborough	Area Delegate	18/19
16	Rachael	Fouhy	Sth Hawkes Bay	Area Delegate	18/19
17	Rachel	McCallum	Southland	Steward General	18/19
18	Robin	Friend	Wellington	Area Delegate	18/19
19	Sally	Linton	Waikato	Area Delegate	18/19
20	Stuart	Bishell	SCNO	Area Delegate	18/19
21	Sue	Harris	Gisborne	Area Delegate	18/19
22	Susan	Tomlin	Central Districts	Area Delegate	18/19
23	Wendy	Jeffery	Wairarapa	Area Delegate	18/19

Board

24	Scott McKenna		DNZ Chair		18/19
25	Judith Cunningham		DNZ Judges Officer		18/19
26	Suzanne Inglis		DNZ Technical Officer		18/19
27	Sarah Hazlewood		DNZ Finance		18/19

Observers

28	Andrea Raves	Wellington		Chair PD Committee	18/19
29	Ann Webster	Wairarapa		Treasurer	18/19
30	Charmaine Racke	Canterbury		Rider	18
31	Cher McCartney	Horowhenua		President	18
32	Christine Latch	Waitemata		President	18/19
33	Christine Weal	Waikato		Coach/ rider	18/19
34	Fiora Au	Auckland Manukau		President	18/19
35	Gill Morley	NHB		Rider/Judge	18
36	Georgia Mullins	Waitemata		Young Rider	18/19
37	Glenda Jones	Canterbury		SI NEC Rep	19
38	Helen Hughes-Keen	Wellington		Judge/selector	18
39	Jane Gorton	Bay of Plenty		President	18/19
40	Jodie Thorne	Tauranga		President	18
41	Jos Gresham	Central Districts		DNZ Points /Calendar	18/19
42	Judy Collin	Auckland Manukau		Event Secretary	18/19
43	Linda Warren-Davey	Canterbury		Judge/Area Cte/AJO	18/19
44	Meila Picard	Nelson		DNZ Youth Council Chair	18
45	Sally Goldsmith	Canterbury		Chairperson	18/19
46	Sarah Holmes	Auckland Manukau		Rider	18/19
47	Sarita Kennedy	Waikato		Judges Officer	
48	Sonja Swale	Southland		Rider	18/19
49	Sue Hobson	Sth Hawkes Bay		President ESNZ	18/19
50	Tracey Cooper	Wairarapa		Committee member	18/19
51	Wendy Butler	Otago		President	18/19

The Chair Scott McKenna welcomed attendees and noted the meeting procedure to be followed. All attendees have speaking rights, committee members have voting rights (Board members, Area Delegates, Steward General, Riders Reps) The zoom chat bar is only to request to speak not to have a discussion.

The GSB topic and Remits would be left to the end of the meeting and transferred to Wednesday if time did not permit discussion.

The meeting was recorded from herein.

1. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Sarah Hazlewood, Finance Officer talked to the Finance Report noting that revenue for Nationals shows all the income, but not all the expenditure as there are still more invoices to come.

The FO is anticipating a year end surplus despite budgeting for an 11k deficit at the beginning of the financial year. DR is returning a greater than anticipated result due the event Grants received (approx. \$70k).

T & D Levies

Betty Brown suggested that the lower T & D Levies were lower due to the number of shows that had to be cancelled due to weather events.

The Sport Manager confirmed that the figures are Actual and not Forecast.

Grants

ESNZ policy is not to budget any unknown income from grants as confirmation of grants is only sometimes only eight weeks prior to the event. This raises some concern as to how DNZ operates in respect of event budgeting as without grants all events would run at a considerable deficit.

Annual starts

Discussion re the trending down of annual starts / registrations at Level 1

Sonja Swale noted that there are less across the board because riders are looking for more "bang for their buck." There are a lot of clashes with PC, A&P shows and ODE's – there are no levies so they perceive there is more value, combined with a short Season in the South Island. As they run shows on grass, it is not feasible to run shows over winter so they have a six month competition window and the cost of ESNZ registration for 6 months is seen as too high.

Jane Gorton, BOP, noted that many are choosing to be unregistered at the lower levels as registration is seen as being too expensive. Riders want to enter the sport at Prelim and Novice and want to progress but see it as too expensive.

It was agreed that finances are key/pivotal, and many members may see this as luxury stuff in a strained economy, so if there were more options to spread the cost, this may help. ESNZ could offer an option to spread the payments/after pay.

Scott asked if this is a problem, that new people are riding unregistered? And how do we transition them from unregistered to registered. It would be useful to have a breakdown by Area.

The SM is working with ESNZ and EvoEvents to gather data around registrations / start levies including new people to the sport or existing/re-registering riders. There will be more investigation around this data before Conference.

Budget 23/24

The Draft budget for 2023/24 was shared via zoom.

DNZ are reliant on Grants to make events viable at the current income from entry fees and sponsorship, therefore it may be necessary increase entry fees to cover the cost of DNZ organised events.

The policy going forward will be to apportion the Partnership Facilitator contract costs to the shows – i.e. salary spent vs sponsorship secure, to get a more accurate measure of actual costs to deliver Events. Anticipated Sponsorship income is included in the budget. However, each event we run, runs at a loss without additional grants.

Questioned if we should trim Nationals back? or increase entry fees?

We do need to run a CDI for our international riders; agreed in principle to increase entry fees alongside grant applications.

A CDI brings with it an extra \$30k (approx.) Nationals costs are greater than Premier League event and we have the top judges/ officials from all over NZ as well as the international judges needed. Many volunteers also secured nationwide. Greater level of presentation expected by national sponsors.

The SM noted that grants were about \$27k which if we didn't have, would work out at an additional \$150 per rider. Through collaboration with ESNZ High Performance, we were able to secure have Isobel Wessels for \$1500, vs \$15K without.

The Chair acknowledged that entry fees are high, so participation is subsidised by grants but this can't continue.

Laura Hayes suggested make the nationals a ticketed event to raise income. (Much like the Extravaganza held the past at Manfeild). However this is difficult at Taupo as there is less quality spectator seating and facilities with the cost of additional resource and security and parking could problematic – so costs could likely out way any benefit.

Ashleigh Kendall suggested if we can increase registration and participation, we don't need to increase entry fees?

The SM noted that for nationals 240 horse entered and this drops to 180. There is 24 – 29% scratchings. People often scratch if they can't get covered yards and other good horse facilities. Scott noted that scratchings are higher in Dressage than other disciplines. Figure for ODE's is around 12%.

Leonie Coker suggested a \$1 levy for each rider at each event for a "CDI Fund" – over the Season this should raise enough money to cover CDI's. Keep National/ YR entries lower. Scott asked if we would be comfortable with "grass roots" riders effectively subsidising the higher levels? Barbara Clarke supports Leonie's idea because raising entry fees will exclude some people.

SM Note to Minutes: Each rider would need to pay at least an additional \$1 per entry/per show, not per event, to cover the CDI cost

Sarah Holmes summarised that we have these two themes:

- 1) Increasing the pool of competitors, Venue challenge for offering a ticketed event (Takapoto?) and FEI cost pushed onto CDI's. Has there been a robust discussion about smaller countries paying less?
- 2) Bridging the gap - Graded vs non-graded, increasing entry fees for NG riders; Partner with Pony Clubs as a source of new riders?

Scott responded that they have tried to negotiate with the FEI, including at Switzerland in May 2022. They don't really understand the challenges and differences between Europe and the Pacific/NZ.

Venue – we use our National Equestrian Centres as we all pay for the development of these through our fees and they won't become better if we don't use them.

We don't have to run a CDI with Nationals. We currently run two per annum – it would be nice to run 4 or 5 – therefore if we ran at other venues it could take the pressure off Nationals. A CDI needs to be at least cost neutral.

Sarah Hazlewood also noted that Areas have to pay for Health and Safety costs which is often added to the entry fees.

Ashleigh Kendall believes Takapoto is too small for Nationals. We need bigger numbers but just increasing the costs is a false economy – that having fewer riders at a higher price point is not the solution. We won't become a high-profile sport if we make it so expensive that the average person can't afford to enter.

We are required by law to provide "access to shelter at all times" – as an animal welfare issue so uncovered yards are not ideal in all cases and especially in the heat. The SM acknowledged that we want to look after our horses and know this is an important issue.

Moving the Horse of the Year CDI to Waikato from HOY cost approximately \$30k. The only dispensation from the FEI was to not charge for the venue and date changes. Adding a CDI to a PL costs \$25k - \$30k because of the international judges – including their travel and accommodation, FEI Vet Delegate and a permitted treating vet (Two roles)

The cost of running CDI events to help get a rider to Paris (Olympics) is \$40k- \$50k – which is why there are funds in the bank - but the Board and the Finance Officer manage this diligently to ensure we have the funds for projects – often at short notice.

Scott suggested we need to find ways to raise the profile of our top riders – into "stars" so people want to pay to watch them and will pay to see them compete (Social/media).

Grass roots riders are always supporting our top riders – need to review how this is done

Sonja suggested we need to carefully market to the riding community as the SI feels very disadvantaged. Kudos and acknowledge the effort of the Board and Finance team for their great work.

Ashleigh – superstars through clever social media marketing, more appealing to all riders; showcasing riders at all levels; volunteers

Scott agrees with rider profiles and not necessarily the best riders.

Fees 23/24

Not in a position to progress yet, as waiting for ESNZ to see what they are doing. Suggestion is that there will be a 5% increase to align with the CPI.

Dressage Conference & Awards Dinner 2023 Info

Notice of Meetings

Rydges Hotel Latimer Square Christchurch Fri 30th June – Sunday 2 July.

The SM advised Accommodation code and registration forms will be sent out next week.

This will incorporate the ESNZ Welcome and Hall of Fame / ESNZ of the Year Awards Cocktail Party on Friday 30th June 7pm – 9pm: Separately ticketed ESNZ event at \$30pp. Includes canapes /small plates. Tickets to be paid directly ESNZ.

Saturday:

9am – 4pm: Dressage AGM & Conference plus combined discipline ESNZ presentation streamed to each room. ESNZ CEO will join the meeting for Q & A time.

6.30pm until done: Dressage Awards Dinner

Theme: Paris: Red / Blue

Sunday: Dressage Committee meeting 8.30am – 1pm

Board Vacancies 2023 – 2026

1. **Chair:** Scott Mckenna has indicated his intention to step down from the role. Nominations will be called for the remainder of his term (2yrs)
2. **Training and Development:** Olivia Ballantyne will not seek re-election – Three year term
3. **Marketing and Communications:** Alicia Cameron will not seek re-appointment – Three year term

Other Election: Member of appointment panel

Island Rider Reps (Committee Position)

Ashleigh Kendall will not seek re-election (NI) The Chair thanked Ashleigh for her work as the NI Rider Rep.

Anna Gale will be available for nomination

Notes

Cassie Freeman will be the conference co-ordinator.

A conference dinner & registration form will be available soon as prices are confirmed.

Accommodation should be booked directly with the hotel via the link and code on the registration form.

Draft Calendar 2023/24

Included in agenda as at time of publishing. Any changes must go to Jos Gresham on the Google Form. Noted changes include Waikato PL will be at NEC; 3-4 Feb – SI Dressage Champs

November 23 – 26 Takapoto - Pacific League Final – FEI 5* UK Judge

The goal of this event is to send a NZ Rider to Saudi Arabia with a Show Jumper.

This possibly helps the rider to get to Europe to prepare for Paris 2024

Nelson based Martina Boor is involved with organising the World Cup final in 2024 and the SM hopes to secure as a keynote speaker at the Awards Dinner

3. REMITS & DISCUSSION ITEMS

Remit 1: Breeches

Submitted by: Andrea Fuehrer / Waitemata DG Delegate

Seconded by: Christine Latch / Waitemata DG President

Amend CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: DRESS 479

Jodhpurs Breeches to be allowed being dark colours (black, brown, or grey)

RATIONALE: Allows entry into sport without purchasing specific competition wear, more comfortable for riders. More inclusive and flattering for those not comfortable in white due to body shape; More confidence for riders competing whilst menstruating. Not transparent when wet/riding in the rain.

As per the USEF Dressage Rules : 1.4 Breeches and Jodhpurs. White, light, or dark coloured breeches or jodhpurs are permitted in competition. Bright colours or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed.

Passed / Failed

Poll result - 20 For- out of 28

Remits 2,3 & 3A: Neck Straps

Submitted by: Andrea Fuehrer/Waitemata DG Delegate .

Seconded by: Christine Latch / Waitemata DG Member

Amend CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 477 – Saddlery 8.1.2

2: REMIT: Neck Strap allowed to be used in test above Novice (Level 2)

RATIONALE: Horses at higher levels can still be nervous. A neck strap would be a safety measure for riders who choose to ride with it.

3: REMIT: Submitted by: Stuart Bishell & Rachel McCallum (Technical Committee)

New wording: Neck straps are approved as a safety device for all levels in Nationals classes. A neck strap is a single plain strap fitted in one loop around the horse's neck, can only be used for safety purposes, cannot be used to stabilise the rider.

RATIONALE: Horses of any level can have moments of resistance or spooking, and easier for judges, riders, officials to remember if it's allowed at all levels.

3A : REMIT: Submitted by: Belle Clarke & Lynley Price on behalf of Taupo Dressage Group.

CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 477 – Saddlery 8.1.2 Amend
For safety purpose only, neck straps to be allowed at all levels

Neck Straps: No Decision / - To go to Conference – Poll result: 14 For/14 against

Remit 4: Penalty re Boots

Submitted by: Betty Brown / AMDG Delegate **Seconded by:** Fiora Au / AMDG Chair **ARTICLE NUMBER: 477 5.1**

5.1: **Clarify** where it says any kind of boots are, ~~under penalty of elimination~~, strictly forbidden. We have altered the rule to -2 points not elimination.

This requires an update/typo to correct the Rule book.

Just trying to make the sport more friendly.

The SM suggested we need to decide if we want to align to the FEI rules allowing the rider to start again, from when they were stopped or start the test again from the beginning

Poll: Follow the FEI rule: – re-starting the test after allowing an assistant to remove the boots

National rules: remove “elimination” and give a 2-point penalty

Passed / **Failed**

Remits 5 & 6 : Fly Masks

Submitted by: Betty Brown / AMDG Delegate **Seconded by:** Fiora Au / AMDG Chair

5: Remit: Art 477 5.4

Fly masks are forbidden in competition but may be used when training and in warm-up. Elimination if used in competition.

5.4: Add fly masks are permitted when training or warming up.

6 Remit: Art 477 5.4

Submitted by: Stuart Bishell & Rachel McCallum (Technical Committee)

Fly/sun face masks: fly/sun face masks are forbidden in the Competition arena but may be allowed in warmup and training arenas. Masks cannot be attached to the bridle in any way.

More horses are becoming sun sensitive

Passed / **Failed** *-Poll Result: 20 to Allow/ 6 to not allow*

Remits 7: Ear Hoods

Submitted by: Stuart Bishell & Rachel McCallum (Technical Committee)

Amend: CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: Article 477.3.6

REMIT Add to current wording:

Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband. **RATIONALE:** To bring in line with FEI rules.

Passed / **Failed** *Poll: (1) Status Quo - 4 (2) Align with FEI rules: 24*

Remit 8: Whips

Submitted by: Stuart Bishell & Rachel McCallum (Technical Committee)

Addition: CURRENT RULE/ ARTICLE NUMBER : Article 478.1.3 **Add:** New wording -
For use of whips in Young Dressage Horses classes refer to Annex 7 clause 4 **RATIONALE:** Clarification

Passed / **Failed** *Poll: (1) Status quo - 2 votes (2) Add whips can be used in YDH classes – 26 votes*

Remit 9: Dressage Rules for Administration ESNZ By Law 17

Submitted by: Dressage NZ Board from Meeting 9 November 22

Moved: Suzanne Inglis / **Seconded:** Olivia Ballantyne **CARRIED**

That there be no time limit for Finance Officer on Board owing to the on hands and very specific skill set required. **Note:** The current by-law permits two x three year terms only

Passed / **Failed**

Poll: (1) Status quo – 2 votes. (2) Add extended term for the Finance Officer -25 votes

NB: This will now go to ESNZ for approval

Remits 10,11,12 : Gold/Silver/Bronze

Submitted by: Betty Brown / AMDG Delegate **Seconded by:** Chris Beach / Member

REMIT 10: Replace Gold, Silver, Bronze with Rider Categories for Amateur Pro Am and Open Competitions

Commented [WH1]:

PRELIMINARY-CN to C2 NOVICE-CN to C3 ELEMENTARY-CN to C4 MEDIUM-CN to C5
ADVANCED MEDIUM-CN TO C6 ADVANCED-CN to C7

PRO AM for FEI levels-first season at small, middle, or big tour

RATIONALE: Riders do not have to move out of their comfort zone and are able to compete with their peers. This system worked for many years and is not confusing for riders or OC's, is less of a cost for shows to run and encourages riders to have a go at a higher level.

REMIT 11 : Gold/Silver/Bronze Categories Submitted by: Anna Gale / SI Riders Rep

Seconded by: Laura Hayes / Otago Member

Remove 'in the past 4 years' from the silver criteria and make 'at any time' **RATIONALE:**
Gold/Silver/Bronze

To prevent riders who have more experience, especially those who have ridden at FEI level, from competing in the silver category.

An FEI rider is deemed not amateur or inexperienced, they have ridden to a high level so are experienced enough to ride open on any level horse.

A rider that has ridden FEI level must compete in Gold or Open section regardless of if they are riding a Young Horse or not.

REMIT 11: Gold/Silver/Bronze Categories

Submitted by: Pip Forsyth / Marlborough Area Delegate **Seconded by:** Amanda Scott-Bates / Marlborough Treasurer

That the GSB system be discontinued and that the Amateur system be used

Rationale: That the GSB system is too complicated and administering the additional costs for organising committees running events is becoming expensive and cumbersome |

Topic deferred to Planning Forum Part 2 on Wednesday 19th

TOPIC 2 : Event/Series Qualifications

Submitted by: Andrea Fuehrer / Waitemata DG Delegate

Seconded by: Christine Latch / Waitemata DG President

Alignment between required percentages to qualify for Nationals and HOY as well as percentages used in Gold/Silver/Bronze classifications.

Agreed: The way forward may become clearer once the review of GSB is completed. No action or decision at this meeting.

TOPIC 3 : Event Fees:**Proposal for Setting a Baseline Fee Structure for all DNZ Local/Regional Competitions**

Submitted by: Anna Gale / SI Riders Rep

Seconded by: Laura Hayes / Otago Member

Proposal: That there be a baseline fee structure proposed that controls some fixed costs such as entry fees, admin fees and a day rate vs. event rate for stabling etc (1 or the other)'. Levies are already fixed, as are all EE fees. Stabling, yard, ground fees are at the discretion of each area due to varying ground hire and stabling charges not in the control of area groups.

Rationale: To help prevent costs spiralling out of control and give transparency of where fees are going.

Discussion

- Delegates from BOP and Taihape commented that this is not feasible as different Area's have different costs which affect entry fees. And entry levels vary by Area – i.e. some are smaller than others.
- Further discussion also cited the increase in travel costs (petrol/flights), number of arenas per show therefore how many judges are required; first aid/H & S costs.
- Sally Linton suggested a standard "officials" rate to help with overall transparency.
- Perhaps ESNZ/DNZ could negotiate a "National rate" for supply of services, such as First Aid, so smaller areas/shows with lower entries can run, as otherwise it becomes too expensive.
- The Chair noted that the Board is open to suggestions such as giving smaller Areas "dispensation" for levels of Judges – eg the need to an A judge /mentor on some classes .

Action: it was agreed a standard fee is not practical

TOPIC 4 : Levels of Tests

Levels of Tests: Report and recommendations from a meeting held 6/4/23 re possible tests levels revisions / aligning nomenclature with Australia, noting that NZL has signed up for a further three-year cycle of the USDF tests which have some changes (not extensive) from the 2019 version. A new test book will be produced and new test pads. It is not permissible under the terms of our contract with USDF to continue to use 2019 version

** The working group of riders, judges & coaches recommends that the current levels 1-9 and the naming of the grades be retained with a review of some of the movements in Level 1 and 4 to facilitate more precise judging to be undertaken by 1st May

DNZ has an extra level (Medium) which Australia and US don't have. These are being reviewed to make small changes – mostly to how they are judged i.e. judging each movement vs groups of movements.

Action: No further action

TOPIC 5 : Horse of the Year Show 2024 qualifications & Classes offered

This event has not been held for 3 years (covid/cyclone) and members feedback is sought on format, duration etc. Note that Hastings Council now own the grounds and are committed to improving the infrastructure and including removing the old yards. This is an issue of horse welfare and needs improvement.

Discussion:

Barbara Clarke (BOP) noted that we should retain qualifying as it is a prestigious event. And there was much support for keeping Preliminary classes included in this event.

Laura Hayes noted that from a spectator perspective, HOY is great for the high levels in the Oval but noted that the grass/Polo Grounds for the lower levels had no “dressing” and didn't feel as “special” and can be hard to find for first-timers. Others agreed it could look better, but the young riders especially, love being at HOY and enjoy it.

Action: Delegates are requested to take this Topic back to Areas and send feedback to the DNZ Board to pass on to the HOY Board.

TOPIC 6 : National Championships Qualification 2024

For the two previous events there have been no qualifications. If classes were oversubscribed a wait list was implemented. This seemed to work well and resulted in a very inclusive event for all members

Discussion: Generally agreement that Nationals is a pinnacle event and should be made as inclusive as possible. The Chair noted that some people don't go as they don't think they are good enough, so lower/more achievable qualifying scores may encourage great participation.

Removing as many barriers as possible to entry is important and the suggestion that riders have to attend 2 or more PL events would be difficult for many. Travel distances/cancellations can impact ability to attend.

Laura Hayes would like to see entry slots allocated for SI riders as much more planning is required for them to get to the NEC. Whilst this was agreed in principle, the SM noted that the key is to enter early!!

Ashleigh Kendall (NI Riders Rep) suggested there be more marketing around Nationals and making it an experience for riders/ encouraging them to participate

Part II: Dressage NZ Planning Forum 2023

Date: Wednesday 19th April 2023 by Zoom: 7pm

Attendees: Refer to Pages 1 & 2

TOPIC 7 : National Rules / Standards re protocol days with Judges

The current rules are not clear on this re judges & potential conflict

The most important factor is perceived fairness and how protocol days are viewed in relation to the current **Rule 440.4**

Noted In Australia a Protocol Day is considered an extension of what judges do if they are judging a test.

Discussion points:

Conflict of Interest – often perceived fairness vs actual fairness. At what point is it not fair for a judge to give advice to a rider, before judging at a test?

Judith Cunningham, National Judges Officer, noted that there is no requirement to declare conflicts except at Regional/Premier shows (PL) and Nationals.

Andrea Raves – Development Squads – have training before shows and we don't want to restrict this but it needs to be fair.

Leonie Coker advises her judges to only give pointers regarding weaknesses vs training, and Judith added "arena craft"

Betty Brown shared AMDG's format for their Protocol days

Sonja Swale asked if there is a set format for running Protocol Days as there seems to be variations?

The NJO advised that there are Guidelines and she will send to the AJO's for dissemination and updates.

The Chair added that Judges need to know what they can and cannot do, i.e. more verbal than what is written in a test. The rider's trainer needs to give the "instruction" – pick up where the judge can't go. Linda Warren-Davey says she always has a trainer present so the Judge has the rider at arms-length.

Sally Linton noted that they have been holding these days for years in the Waikato and never had any issues, they are well supported and offered once per month. Good for young horses and riders.

The Chair noted that we all agree they are good, we need to make them "risk free."

Clarifying the rules is needed. Currently 6 months for Nationals and 3 months for Regionals therefore judges need to keep track of/monitor who they have helped and then their judging assignments. This is to protect riders **and** judges from perceived unfairness.

Action: Discuss further at Conference

TOPIC 8 : USE OF 40 X 20M ARENAS

Renate Barrack recommended that to support development of new riders to the sport that diagrams for 40 x 20m test patterns be published and that these arenas could be used more often

Discussion:

There is nothing in the rules to prevent 40 x 20m arenas being used, for tests that permit it. It is especially useful for lead rein classes and arenas are shortened for some Para classes.

The challenge can be the time needed to make changes and the disruption to other arenas and the timetable.

Bernice suggested that these arenas should be set up prior to the event if there is room and equipment, and weather permitting.

Dressage to investigate the diagram possibility

Discussion Items

Topic 1: Gold Silver Bronze Classification

A number of submissions **were** received from groups identifying issues they had experienced with the system and suggestions

- Auckland- Manukau preferred to revert to Amateur definitions connected to rider categories currently in place. B Brown supported the concept paper distributed by the Sport Manager
- Waitemata concerned system not transparent and riders have no reference point as to their correct classification
- The Chair noted there are big entry numbers in Bronze and Gold, but not so much in Silver. It has been a useful exercise but perhaps not so effective in NZ?
- Laura Hayes/Anna Gale – they do not run Silver in the SI – just Bronze & Gold
- At Nationals, some were eligible to be in Silver, perhaps given the time they had been out with new horses – but they were not amateur riders.
- Love Bronze level, but not enough riders in Silver to offer it.
- Pip Forsyth reiterated that the BSG system is difficult, expensive, and cumbersome to run (as per the remit). Dressage Waitemata agreed with the points and reasons already mentioned which is why they are keen for change.
- The SM agrees with all points made - Is there one level too many? Agree, but where do we draw the line as we seem to have three clear divisions of riders. Bronze is for true grass-roots, amateurs who don't want to be in Silver – then “middle earth.” The Silver riders are doing pretty well but don't want to compete against the Gold riders
- How do we make the system motivating for riders to progress and where do we draw the line?
- The Chair noted we need some system that split the levels – to separate the grass roots from the gold/pro riders. The higher up the grades riders go, the less relevance there is however as the sport grows, this will become more important as is happening in Europe.
- Sonja Swale asked if we have the numbers to have such a widespread? What are the motivations for people riding? Ribbons, to improve scores, social? Can we afford the extra cost for more ribbons?
- Betty Brown referred to the history for the trial because some riders didn't like to be called Amateurs and were looking for a way to create a level playing field – but believes GSB does not achieve this.
- Sally Linton of Dressage Waikato was on the GSB Committee and is herself a Bronze level rider. Waikato supports the system and would like to see it retained as believe it is positive. The old system looks at the Rider only, not the combination. Some riders have gone up the levels quickly and we should celebrate that – perhaps an email from DNZ?
- Dressage Waikato are happy to talk with other areas, could be some tweaking. Issue is that riders can't see what level they are at, but OC's can via Evo. Sally feels we could lose bronze riders if we drop this system.
- Leonie Coker feels BSG needs more time and the whole issue needs more discussion. She agrees with Sally however, the old system allows people to stay in bronze forever. Suggest Bronze and Open – similar to SM Concept paper – as riders should be competing against your peers.

- Laura Hayes likes the idea of recognising the move up a level and giving recognition for this. She sees merit to BSG and would like to see the good work continue. They give ribbons to first place only and would like to more access to the data.
- Rachel Fouhy - Southern Hawkes Bay: Costs \$150 to run an extra class – Gold and Silver/Gold so 2 classes. With BSG people move up so there are no Bronze riders.
- Jane Gorton, BOP: run one registered show a year – everyone is competing together with no issues. Premier League show they give B, S, G rosettes but only prize money to the overall winner. They run them as individual classes as clearer for riders. Riders may find they go up a level without realising – they have the option to ride up a level.
- Sally Linton clarified the level applies the evening prior to the event starting, same way as grading applies at evening prior.

Poll

- 1) Retain current Amateur levels and delete GSB 22%
- 2) Retain GSB and delete the Amateur levels
- 3) Retain the current GSB but adjusted 78% (or 21 out of 27 votes)

The SM showed the meeting how riders can check grading your points on the ESNZ database. This information will be shared more widely/marketed to members.

SM Note to Minutes: The grading points system sharing /marketing is deferred until results on the site are updated

Scott McKenna put forward a Motion:

“That a subcommittee make amendments to the GSB and submit their suggestion in four weeks for circulation to Areas to come up with a Remit”

Seconded: Christine Latch

The Subcommittee nominated:

Anna Gale	SI Rider Rep and Chair	Angela Valentine	AD Nelson
Sonja Swale	Rider - Southland	Laura Hayes	AD Otago
Andrea Fuehrer	AD Dressage Waitemata	Meila Picard	DNZ Youth Council Chair/ Nelson
Sally Linton	AD Waikato	Jane Gorton	President, BOP
Bernice Frost	AD Taihape	Jos Gresham	Points Coordinator
Georgia Mullins	YR / Dressage Waitemata		

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.07pm