



## DRESSAGE

### Minutes of the Dressage NZ Committee Meeting held at Sudima Hotel – Auckland Airport Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 8.45am

#### 1. WELCOME / ROLL CALL / APOLOGIES

**Chair:** Welcome & committee procedure/standing orders

**Present: Dressage NZ Board:**

Scott McKenna, Michelle Zielazo, Sarah Hazlewood, Linda Warren-Davey

**In attendance:**

Wendy Hamerton (Sport Manager/Secretary) | Celine Filbee (Partnership Facilitator) | Jos Gresham (Series Points /Calendar) Judy Collin (Minute Secretary)

**Apologies:** Sue Hobson (Judges Officer - Board), Andra Mobberley (Technical - Board) Nicola Sim, Suzanne Halligan, Bernice Frost, Janine van der Horst, Juliet Iremonger

Voting Delegates		Observers	
Steward General	Jane Robertson	Anne Watts	Auckland-Manukau
Ashburton	Peri Scrivenor (subst)	Christine Weal	Waikato
Auckland-Manukau	Betty Brown	Zoie Gray	Waikato
Bay of Plenty	No delegate present	Rosemary Carter	Auckland-Manukau
Canterbury	Nicki Page	Karen Shields	Auckland-Manukau
Central Districts	Susan Tomlin	Christine Latch	Waitemata
Gisborne	Sue Harris	Vicki Reid	Waikato
Marlborough	Diane Wallace	Helen Young	Waikato
Nelson	Suzanne Inglis	Amber McGovern-Wilson	Wellington (until 10.45am)
Northland	Lois Andrewes	Andrea Raves	Wellington
Nth Hawke's Bay	Genevieve Quin	Christine Hartstone	Waikato
Otago	Laura Hayes	Alicia Zeludko	Auckland-Manukau
SI Riders Rep	Jude Nickolls	Christine Lovelady	Canterbury
Southland	Rebecca McKee	Judy Alderdice	Auckland-Manukau
Sth Ctby/Nth Otago	Marty Pow		
Sth Hawke's Bay	Sharon Field		
Taihape	Susan Tomlin (subst)		
Taranaki	Linda Huitson		
Waikato	Debra Cowen		
Wairarapa	Ian Childs (subst)		
Waitemata	Heather Hilder		
Wellington	Rosanne Rix		

## 2. MEETING ADMINISTRATION

### 2a: Conflicts Relevant to the Agenda

No conflicts relevant to the agenda were notified

### 2b: Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting 29/30 March

2c:

That the Minutes of the previous meeting as included in the agenda be confirmed as a true and accurate record

**Moved:** Jude Nickolls

**Seconded:** Debra Cowen

**CARRIED**

### 2d: Matters Arising

- i. **Additional WEG accreditations:** Lynda Clark advised in response to B Brown query at the April Planning meeting that only one full additional WEG accreditation was paid for by ESNZ. Other accreditations able to be distributed were those issued by WEG and whereby not all days were used by one individual and could be re distributed
- ii. **WEG 2018 Fundraising:** The Sport Manager referred to the table and notes in the agenda which detailed funding and fundraising income, and WEG Campaign expenses as requested by the April meeting
- iii. **Voting for Riders Rep**  
The Sport Manager s confirmed with ESNZ that it should be possible to set up an on line voting system, but the criteria / eligibility to vote would need to be compatible with data on the database, noting that there are no unique dressage members of ESNZ, and that some members pay causal starts without a dressage annual start for their horse  
It was agreed in principle that online voting be implemented. An Annual Island riders meeting will still take place, and members at the meeting also supported more frequent meetings which can be held at any time. The current Bylaw requires 12 weeks' notice of an Annual Island Riders meeting this meeting.
- iv. **Breakdown of Event Costs**  
Refer to Agenda Item 4
- v. **Correspondence to FEI re permitted gear**  
The Sport Manager noted no response received from FEI re lock up snaffles rationale at this point

### 2e: General Business Not on the Agenda

Correspondence to be discussed noted by J Hartstone

## 3. Correspondence

Jody Hartstone advised she wished to read a letter from a few of the top riders noting concerns about the WEG selection process, funding and fundraising.

The Chair gave permission for this letter to be read with no identification of the writers.

The letter raised a number of queries about the prior performances and soundness of one of the dressage horses selected for WEG and the process that was in place for ensuring horses selected were fit to travel and compete. Riders feel that this matter had not been sufficiently discussed publicly.

That it was felt there should be a public debrief. That this letter was not about the rider in question, but about protecting riders going forward.

Lynda Clark noted a comprehensive debrief had been undertaken by ESNZ High Performance. That two reports had been made available to the ESNZ Board and that all aspects of the HP contract had been honoured. That in respect of the issues raised this report is largely confidential. Rosanne Rix expressed the view the document should be public. Lynda undertook to determine if any parts of the report could be released

It was noted there was a separate Dressage agreement with riders re the Dressage NZ grants and this did not include any agreement that the horse/s would return to NZL

The Chair noted that ESNZ High Performance structure is changing which should enable a closer collaboration between the disciplines and HP. That the situation of a top-level horse going into an event with an issue is not uncommon, especially with eventers. That the team works to manage this.

It was asked what happened to funds that were raised privately by riders for campaigns, but then the horse does not compete for any reason. The Chair responded that Dressage can work with riders around transparency, but it is ultimately an agreement between the funder and the rider over which Dressage has no control

The Sport Manager spoke to the funding details on page 3 of the agenda, noting that no cash was handed to riders. That all funds were used to pay invoices incurred by riders. It was noted that the 20K grant from Dressage funds did not even pay the horses' one-way trip to the USA. That as horses were not funded to return to NZL, there was no agreement that they would.

No personal expenses were paid during the campaign in the US leading up to WEG. The Sport Manager clarified that the accommodation cost in the table related to WEG as the team had to come into venue prior to the WEG OC paying the accommodation as per the FEI schedule.

As per the notes in the agenda:

- No contribution made to athlete or groom living expenses for duration of campaign
- No contribution to horse agistment, feed, shoeing etc while in USA until on site at WEG
- No contribution made to air freight horses or gear back to NZ: (\$41,700NZD per horse)

It was noted that all NZL based Grand Prix riders benefited from \$6,900 of High-Performance WEG campaign funding which was assigned to the Taupo CDI costs April 2018

## 4. CALENDAR & KEY EVENTS

### Dates / Events Not Confirmed

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#### North Island Championships

As no NI area wished to host the NICH, after a show of hands it was resolved to leave this event in abeyance for the 19/20 season. That the NICH are no longer a unique event run separately from all other Premier League events

#### South Island Championships

Noted that the SI Festival/Championships is a key event for SI riders with NCH and HOY both hosted in the north.

#### FEI Dressage World Challenge 2020 (NI venue).

Noted the Challenge is per calendar year and not aligned with the NZL season. The Sport Manager noted she was undecided if April was the best time of year to run competition. By the time the global results, and Zone results are posted by the FEI at the end of the year, everyone's focus has changed. The event was not well supported by riders in the South in 2019 when it was held in this timeframe for the first time. No particular reason for this was identified. Central Districts could host in conjunction with Central Districts Premier League in Sept 2020 or could consider Wellington in November 2020 at Masterton which would also be relatively accessible for SI combinations. Another venue that could be considered if main arena development goes ahead is Nth Hawkes Bay at Hastings SG

#### NI Festival Future Stars

With the change of date of the NCH and U25CH, a date / format for this event needed to be considered. It was noted that Takapoto is planning a Young Horse show in February 2021 and this would present an ideal showcase for young dressage horses.

Discussion was held about the YDH concept at the NCH with agreement to further explore the best programme for YDH at this event.

The Chair proposed and it was agreed in principle that the SM discuss further with Dressage Taranaki to look at holding this event in conjunctions with Taranaki Premier League mid-January 2020

#### SI Festival Future Stars

This event will be hosted by Dressage Canterbury Saturday 29th Feb/Sun 1 March at McLean Island

### Dates Confirmed

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#### Bates NZ Championships 2020

The financial report from the 2019 event was noted and had returned a small surplus. Noted that Dressage is excited to announce that Bates have renewed their sponsorship for a further term. A saddle has been donated again to support the SI Rider Travel Fund and tickets are being distributed at conference. A raffle may realise more funds than a sale of the saddle if all tickets can be sold

Amber McGovern-Wilson, the 2020 Event Manager was introduced to the meeting. Amber has already begun work and the schedule is being reviewed with the proposal to run the event over 3 days instead of 4, (Thurs-Sat) and hold a master class with FEI 4\* Judge Sandy Hotz on the Sunday finishing early pm

- Change of date to end of March noted which was bought about by Willinga Park (NSW) I CDI 4\* and possible FEI Dressage Forum mid -Feb
- Noted the event secured record external funding exclusive of sponsorship in the for the 2019 event, but it would not be prudent to include this amount in the 2020 budget as Taupo is a high-volume event location and hence there will be pressure on funding in this area.
- It is anticipated there may be a possible increase in numbers and therefore it may be necessary to run some lower level classes on the grass arenas although every effort will be made to put on surfaces where possible. Rosanne Rix noted the grass arenas at Taupo were excellent, and in fact better than some of the other surfaces which were very stony. There was no objection to this concept but it must be advertised in the schedule
- It was questioned if there was a need to limit numbers to mitigate the dust issue experienced at previous events. It was noted that Jon Williamson is the newly appointed dressage Taupo NEC rep and his expertise will be valuable about ensuring good surfaces and watering. Noted As the event is later in the year, dust may not be such an issue
- It was noted how critical sponsorship is to the financial and that some key sponsors have indicated they will not move to Taupo. Celine noted that prize money is the key factor and the one area where savings can easily be made. Noted there is no FEI requirement to offer prize money for the CDI. Christine Weal noted the need for riders to show a return to owners and would not support doing away with prize money
- It was agreed in principle that the event should continue to run a CDI and noted that there is no additional cost to the OC to run a CDI 2\* for Int A/B and CDIY/P, Linda Warren -Davey noting the importance of CDI in the development of the sport.
- Noted that many rosettes were not collected at the 2019 event. While some of these can be recycled, it is not considered respectful to the sponsors or the event.

The SM noted that it was the at the wish of the membership that this event returned to Taupo and hoped that the membership would support the event and the organisation. Noted that national grant funding may not be so easy to attract at Taupo compared with Feilding owing to the large number of other events of all kinds run in the region that also apply for funding. Explained that national funding is often dependent on the funds raised in that area by each trust. A large number of volunteers are required to run this event and that Dressage will be relying on volunteers from many areas.

## **6.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM CONFERENCE**

### **1. Permitted Saddlery: Nosebands**

#### **Article 477 3.1 /3.2**

It was agreed that

3.1 Levels 0 - 4: An ordinary snaffle with an approved noseband

3.2 Levels 5 – 9: An ordinary snaffle or double bridle with an approved noseband.....

#### **Penalties**

##### **Article 480**

If no noseband is worn, there will be a deduction of 2 points per judge

If a non -approved noseband is worn, the penalty will be elimination

### **2. Annual Riders Meetings**

The Chair noted that in the 2020 round of remits that the time frame for notice of the official riders meeting be amended in By-law 17. Suggested 2/3 weeks would be sufficient

That it can be run at any major event. Other riders meetings can be held at any time

## **6.2 BOARD REPORT FROM 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE MEETING**

There were no matters from the Friday Board meeting noted

## **7. STEWARD GENERAL UPDATE RE STEWARDING PATHWAY**

Jane Robertson outlined the revision of the National Stewarding pathway reminding the meeting that the steward motto is to “Help, Prevent & Intervene”, and noted the pathway to becoming a FEI Steward

Jane confirmed that she will support the new Steward General (yet to be appointed)

The importance of stewards feeling confident at their level of officiating was noted

Alicia Zeludko noted the huge personal expense required to become a FEI steward and asked if there was any funding available. Jane noted that some areas assist, events and HOY offer some remuneration

The SM noted there is a FEI proposal that stewards receive the same per diem as the judges.

It was confirmed that if the NCH or other event secure a FEI steward from AUS, then we pay full costs to get them here. Two NZL judges recently went to the Sydney CDI for experience but paid their own air fare.

Jane noted it is advantageous for stewards to attend overseas events as part of their development.

## 8. ESNZ COMPLAINTS & PROTEST UPDATE OC RESPONSIBILITIES

### Complaints and Protest

The Chair introduced the revised ESNZ procedure for complaints / protests

In general terms the fee for a protest or complaint is \$50 and appeal fee \$100. An appeal must be lodged within 60mins of getting the GJ result

The event Ground Jury are in charge of this process, which relieves some responsibility from the stewards. The stewards should take notes, then refer to the GJ to follow the procedure.

GJ will need to be available up until 60 mins after the event.

Refer to ESNZ GRs Article 139....

The GJ can deal with something immediately without a protest being lodged.

The start point of the procedure is the protest as the first safety net. The second action is to advise the Steward or GJ. The ESNZ CEO can refer a matter to the ESNZ judicial committee, includes matters during and outside the event.

It was agreed in principle that GJ needs to be upskilled, and across discipline training should be available

### Notes

- At a three-day show event, GJ has jurisdiction 60 mins before start time of event as defined in the schedule ( GR Art 139) until 60 mins after the event; conclusion of the last competition
- OC's - Really important that every show appoints an event Ground Jury
- Appeals Committee – don't need to have been appointed prior but need to arrange if needed.
- Karen Shields asked if there could be a Q & A /Scenarios document be made available plus the value and means of having online discussion forum for officials
- Noted that ESNZ are hosting a session around "difficult conversation" for officials in conjunction with the AGA in September

### Actions

- Agreed that Dressage confirm what is the definition of the official end time of an event.
- Agreed that Dressage will send further guidelines and a help sheet to groups which will also include support phone numbers. This will be posted on the website
- That Regional training opportunities be considered

## 9 PONY & YOUTH COMPETITION DEVELOPMENT

This topic created a lot of discussion, the underlying focus that pony and young riders want to compete more regularly on equal terms with their peers.

### Comments and Ideas

- Alicia Zeludko (AMDG) questioned if we are selling our sport in the right way. When pony unreg and reg classes are offered in Auckland, there is generally poor uptake. We need to go to Pony Clubs to talk with them and offer it. Why is that? It is our responsibility to contact them.
- Ian Childs (Wellington/Wairarapa) Area runs U12 and other age group divisions incl lead rein which are well supported. The young ones have a cute factor.
- Suzanne Inglis (Nelson) Took training days to Pony Clubs. For PC teams qualification they have to come to Nelson winter series.
- Sue Harris (Gisborne) – Prix Caprilli popular. Numbers gone up. Also, as intro to music riders can dress up to match their music.
- Introduce a mentor situation starting at lead rein through to higher levels
- Offer equitation tests where the judging focus is slightly different
- Area groups offer demo days showing musical freestyles
- Offer separate warm up area for pony and young riders so they are not intimidated. Safety issues for lead rein competitors
- Need to offer something to capture the younger riders and then make it fun for them
- Heather Hilder (Waitemata) Is it possible with careful scheduling at events so only ponies and young riders competing at same time?
- It is not fair or appropriate for younger riders to be competing directly against the likes of Jody Hartstone & Christine Weal
- Debra Cowen (Waikato/U25CH Manager ) Also need to capture the parents as feed back from u25 indicated parents only wanted to come to the age restricted shows
- We need to work out a way to overcome these issues for younger riders for the future whilst understanding the additional pressures on OC's
- Chris Lovelady (Canterbury) Offers has separate pony classes. Not massive classes. Separate championships. They are growing slowly. Up to level 4 for ponies.
- Karen Shields – need to better inform which tests can be called and which cannot



**Ideas:**

Create a Super 5 based on age groups

Create a pony band within the lower levels

Opportunity to attract / include showing people (under 17yrs) using Facebook groups

Base competitions around experience of riders similar to UK system Gold, silver, bronze ?

**Age Groups**

Ideally should be age groups / equitation classes. Perhaps from 15 yrs are more comfortable competing in usual grade test

**Top Ten Leagues**

Already offering some distinction between YR/Pony Amateur & Performance

**Premier League schedules**

Suggestion that – prelim to medium clearly splitting ponies out in schedule. We've got to be seen to making it fun and with their mates.

**Debra Cowen** – Suggested at PL to offer Amateur , Open and Youth U17 –but riders can only be eligible for one championships

It was suggested a Youth subcommittee be formed .

## 10 2019 / 20 SPONSORS, LEAGUES & SCHEDULES (C Filbee)

**Celine Filbee** gave background re the strategy of creating schedules and having them approved. A watertight schedule with no ambiguity makes it easier for organisers and officials.

Draft Schedules will be updated in the Dropbox and will include guidelines for ponies and young riders.

Excited to announce a new sponsor for the Premium League – Kiwi Arena Rakes (Nigel McCoard & Lucy Collings) replacing Back on Track who have moved to the Advanced Medium Super 5 League

Masters Top Ten League is looking for a sponsor to replace Flying Horse NZ Ltd. Value approx. \$2,500  
Betty Brown noted that Grand Prix horses are virtually excluded from the Masters owing to the high % that can be recorded by Level 4 combinations. Suggested to review and implement a sliding scale of marks up the grades

The SM noted cross over for Pony & Young Riders between the Equizee Amateur and AMS Performance League. These are both being reviewed. AMS league under review as under new ownership. Looking to move away from saddle prize to a number of vouchers and offer separate pony and young rider performance leagues to be entered on Equestrian Entries.

Prestige Futures still to be confirmed

The SM noted that if schedules are offering Amateur championships eligibility needs to be aligned with national rules. An Amateur rider is up to C5. If further eligibility restrictions are to be applied then these may be scheduled as Restricted classes.

The SM also requested that the definition "Unregistered" not be used as there is no clear definition . Does it mean horse/ rider / ESNZ/ Dressage Annual start or something else ? These classes should be called Non-Graded (Restricted) . OCs can decide who is eligible, but it must be clearly stated in the schedule.

National Amateur titles will gain be held at the Nationals. Info will be included in Premier League Schedules. Sponsors are confirmed for three of the four levels. The value of one of these AM NCH is \$2,000

Betty Brown advised the AMDG PL will not include separate YR and AM but these will be held at a separate show. Considers better for riders and will not competitors away from the PL open show.

**Recordings of sponsor info:** It was agreed that this will be produced. Sponsor feedback indicated shows were not using the current information over the PA

**Programme printing:** The high cost of printed programmes was noted, and also noting any draw in a printed programme is quickly out of date. C Filbee urged OC to produce a programme and maybe print smaller number with some also online. The programme is brand exposure as agreed with sponsors. Noted that Equestrian Entries has the facility to include logos and this should be maximised  
Debra Cowen noted a link to a digital programme could be sent via the entry system and also go ESNZ website online for maximum exposure. Updated entry lists are available at the event and online  
Confirm if EE could add a link for programme as well as schedule  
Jody Hartstone suggested that the link to a digital programme could be sent to riders via EE after the show. Agreed that national sponsors advts will be reproduced in a digital or hard copy programme. That OC have the discretion how may to print

**Sponsor feedback:** One national sponsor noted only two riders had been contact after events last year

**Test Sheets:** Betty Brown asked if test sheets could be printed with the sponsor logo. The SM advised that we must meet our copyright agreement and show the USDF/USEF logos. That this facility will not be in place for this year. Noted that score sheets only are printed from the entry system – do directives

## 11 NEW TEST IMPLEMENTATION (Sport Manager)

The SM updated changes agreed by Test Review Cte since the Planning Forum  
Leaving arena – same terminology used across all test: Free walk on a long rein  
Test with working canter pirouette amended to approx 3 metres (AUS 2m)

Tests will be published online by the end of the coming week. Areas groups have been invited to purchase books in bulk price \$20 in GST. Diagrams included up to Advanced (Level 6). Test books will be available shrink wrapped in packs of 10 at \$200 per pack.

A large write off of 2013 test pads will occur in next financial year. Amount TBC.

Printing of test blocks – double sided and inclusion of all directives. Est \$10 block single sided, \$17 a pad excl of freight organised through same printer as Test Books. Can order in bulk from printer, glued into pads

Areas will also be able to print their own. Suggest area seek sponsorship from local print / copy shop..  
Some licence issues to work through for non-area groups. Process for access to the test pads for affiliated groups and organisations is being worked through. Possibly a password protected file on a private page on the website. The website currently replicates what is in the test book without the diagrams. The diagrams are available online on the [dressagedirectory.com.au](http://dressagedirectory.com.au) site

The SM to look into the cost of an app for the future. Australia don't have a licensed App.

### **Super 5 League Tests Small Tour and GP**

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that:

The FEI Int I would be the Level 7 Super 5 test and the Grand prix will be the Level 9

The PSG should be offered as an additional alternate test and riders may choose to compete across levels 6 & 7 as they move towards the FEI levels

At three day shows the PSG can be offered on the first day and a Grand Prix Special can be offered at Level 9. The PSG will not count for Super 5 pts.

**The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.58pm.**