

Canterbury Dressage Group

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 19 February 2014

Time: 7pm – Racecourse Hotel, Upper Riccarton

Present: Robin Haberfield (Chair), Trish McKeown, Aubrey McRae, Jude Greenslade, Gael Kofoed, Nicki Ford, Linda Warren-Davey and Ena Graham.

Apologies: Judith Mackenzie, Mandy Blokland, Pat Ydgren, Ken Wilson, Andrew Bruce, Kerry Sutherland, Charlotte Mooney, Miranda Luddington, Anthea Gunner, Chris Lovelady.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2014 were confirmed as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising:

Dressage at Canterbury A&P Show

With Robin not yet having contacted Sally Goldsmith to advise that Canterbury Dressage will no longer be involved at the Canterbury A&P Show, Linda offered to do so. Linda to ask Sally if the trophies presented at the show could be transferred to Canterbury Dressage.

With no longer having a presence at the Show, CDG will now offer a November competition day.

Correspondence:

No inwards or outwards correspondence tabled.

Officer's Reports:

The meeting agreed that it was great to get the Agenda and reports sent out in advance, but asked if the calling for reports could be earlier and the Agenda and reports be sent out by the Monday prior to the meeting.

- Finance
Trish presented her report and agreed that accurate financials covering the Canterbury and South Island Champs will be presented at the next meeting.

- Event Manager
The South Island Sub-Committee had met for a de-brief following the Champs and had produced a comprehensive report which is attached to these minutes. With lack of time to visit all the points noted in the report, it was decided that the committee review it in detail and come back to the next meeting with any points to be discussed.

The Sub-Committee was thanked for producing such a comprehensive report.

Future SI Championships were discussed and Nicki Ford is to contact all South Island delegates and invite representatives from each area to become a member of the organising committee.

It was also decided that there should be a Statement of Intent to run the South Island Champs, with a standardised schedule to be observed by those areas hosting the Champs.

- Judges Officer
With the March day clashing with the Nationals and a shortage of List 2 judges, Lyn Fox from Southland had been invited to judge the higher level classes.
- Riders Liaison
Report attached.
- Training & Development
Report attached.
- Office Convenor
Report attached.
- Scorer
With Donald Thompson having left the NEC, Ken was concerned that there would be no wireless connection for the computers to run our competition. The internet connection will be purchased from Donald by the NEC Committee, subject to approval from the
- Training Squad
The training squad was thanked for its input into the South Island Champs, especially for the Saturday night BBQ watching the advanced horses, which attracted many compliments, and for running the Silent Auction.

The training squad has offered to run the Winter Series (June and July), which is to be sponsored by Ken Wilson and Rangiora Saddlery.

The training squad has funds through until April with lessons booked with Christine Weal. Unfortunately not all squad members are making the trip north to the Nationals, however the squad will be represented by Thomas Oldridge and Joy White.
- NEC
Report attached.
- Conference
Robert was asked to produce a report for the next meeting of what plans are in place.

The above reports which were submitted to the meeting are attached to these minutes

General Business:

- **Office Bearers for 2014/15 with the resignation of:**
 - Chairman
 - Draw coordinator
 - Treasurer
 - Judges Boards
 - Points Prize coordinator
 - Minute Secretary
 - Training & Development coordinator

The above roles were discussed. Robin advised that he has received offers for the Chairman, Draw coordinator and Treasurer roles, with hopefully the rest being filled prior to the AGM.

Robin is to contact the outgoing office bearers for a brief description of their roles.

- **AGM**
The AGM will be held on Wednesday 14 May, McLeans Island at 7.00 pm. Drinks and nibbles at 6.30 pm. Please bring a plate for supper.

A meeting of the new committee will be held the following Wednesday, 21 May at the Racecourse Hotel.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Next Meeting: 19 March 2014 – Racecourse Hotel

Committee Reports – 19 January 2014

Finance – Trish McKeown

Report attached at the end of these reports.

Event Manager – Andrew Bruce

South Island Dressage Champs 2014

Notes from the South Island Sub Committee De-Brief meeting

Scheduling:

- Taking out of the days in the schedule was good to trial, but for 2015 put them back in.
- Close entries a week earlier – one month out from tournament start date
- Look at the options for dates in both 2014 & 15. Perhaps 6, 7, 8 February 2015 (*now not an option*)
- Run Arena 6 & 7 on the grass in Hampton Oval.
 - Advertise that a certain level will be on the grass in the schedule.
 - Using the grass arenas will keep the atmosphere to for people to feel involved and make it less disjointed.
- Publish the official duration of the event – start time and end time.
 - Wednesday 5pm – Sunday 5pm – duration of event is 4 nights.
- If arriving prior to “official” date then you need to make camping arrangements with NEC
- Arenas all close at 5pm Thursday night
- No set familiarisation time – wasn’t utilised this year.
- Do we still offer an option of no musical?
 - The numbers for 2014 didn’t justify a whole arena, only 6 entries; days of having alternates may have passed.
- The splitting of 6/7 8/9 needs to be carried out at a national level. Canterbury to put a remit to Wendy Hamerton. That would avoid the two tests on Sunday with tight timeframes also prevent higher level people riding in the lower levels – so place the condition that if you have over 30 in the higher of the two grades, you cannot ride in the grade – ie 31 points in level 7 no riding in level 6.
- Map of the Trade Stands to be included in the Arena Plan

Office:

- Online system on the whole worked really well. John is looking to make further improvements over winter the programme.
- Ask John to establish a check on the system that registrations are still current by the end date of competitions – if someone’s registration isn’t current that their entry will not be accepted until they are financially current.
- Under 16 Riders Disclosure – can we tighten this up on the online system (applies to all competitions)
- Rider Bags – worked well for sponsors and for riders

Sound Systems:

- Improve Sound System for the weekend.
- Invest for new CD player for PA system, repair Amp system in Caravan and investigate the cost of new wiring/logistics of a sound system. Charlotte to talk to Sound System Services about this.
- Pre-record sponsors messages in between set songs

BBQ:

- BBQ and Grand Prix worked well – great entertainment and the food was fantastic.
- Wristband system worked
- Look at the bar - do we charge more and make it an open bar?
- Squad members – need to sort out the drink tickets situation and make sure these are issued in advance
- Better Signage – Drinks \$5
- State that there will be a bar operating in the programme
- Need some post Grand Prix Entertainment to keep the “party” going ‘til dusk

Prize Giving:

- Challenge and accumulator results to be worked out on the Saturday evening.
- Having split prize giving between Saturday and Sunday worked well
- Ken needs to have more help Saturday Evening and Sunday morning
- Riders departing after they get their prize was very rude – reverse the order. One solution Grand Prix down to Level 1.
- Sort the structure – running order out; then advertise the order in the programme.
- 3 x 3 marquee for 'prize giving office' in Hampton Oval to stop the foot traffic clogging up the office
- Sponsors name to be put on the results
- Quality presentations – get the rosettes and prizes sooner.

Volunteering for tasks:

- Poor uptake and carrying out of tasks

Conqueror Village:

- Mini Marquees worked well, great atmosphere
- Make it bigger next year; make sure we can place the results boards in the village area, more seating and tables.
- Keeps the 4th side so that sponsors can lock their marquees up
- Look at the layout and use of the clear sides.

Scoring:

- Ken to sort out a suitable system to establish the Teams score
- Accumulators and challenge tests to be worked out on Saturday Night.
- Shift the caravan to adjacent to Arena 1 – investigate establishing strong internet connection
- Have the Grand Prix scores up by the end of the test after

General:

- Facebook – coverage on there was fantastic!
- Needs to be clearer direction from Nicki's meeting as to where to form here.
- Who runs this in future – is a group that travels to each location?
- Memorandum of Understanding – further discussions need to be held around this

Food for thought....

- Look in to grants
- Making a spectacle of the Grand Prix
- Build the Young Horse Section
- International element – rider, trainer, guest judge.
- Build in master class.
- Adjust the weekend – Thursday, Friday, Saturday – BBQ becomes a bigger event and the Prize Giving. Travel home Sunday.

Area Judges Officer - Jude Greenslade**South Island Champs**

From a judging perspective there was a lot that was good about SICHs. We had plenty of judges due to having the use of three para judges full time instead of just here and there as had been anticipated.

I do think it is good for both the riders and the judges to have 4 or 5 judges on Levels 6-9 where possible and 2 or 3 judges on levels 1-5 at a competition of this significance.

Unfortunately quite a number of 'Discrepancy' forms had to be filled in and sent to Sue Hobson due to 8% or more differences in judges' scores. While the discrepancy forms are causing some angst in their present format, this procedure does ensure that judges discuss their differences and does show riders that we as judges are being held accountable.

Some of the scheduling upset a number of our visiting judges as well as some of our own as there had been insufficient time allocated for some of the breaks – particularly on the Friday. Twenty minutes is just not enough to get to the Hall, have lunch or a cuppa, get to the toilet (sometimes involving waiting in a queue), then get back to the arena. The problem is exacerbated if the class is running at all late, and some of our very senior and competent visiting judges had difficulties keeping to time.

At the NICH there were 'catch up' gaps left in most classes – a slot left free every so often just in case things were running a bit late. This worked really well and I think it would be well worth implementing at our competitions. No one wants arenas sitting empty with big gaps while judges do nothing but it is important to make the job not too stressful and pressured or judges do not judge so well and will not be willing to continue. As in all things – important to keep looking for the right balance.

General

For our March day we are very short of List 2 and above judges, with Jill Husband being the only one still about and she may well be riding.

As we have Levels 7, 8 + 9 in the schedule we need at the very least two list 2s. I have had to ask Lyn Fox to come and judge, and Jill Husband has agreed to be available to judge those 3 levels with Lyn. We will need to schedule around Jill to facilitate her riding if she is doing both. Also Lyn needs to be at the airport by 3:45 pm so she will have had to sign off her classes by about 2:30 if she is to wait the mandatory minimum half hour before leaving the grounds.

Many Canterbury judges will be involved at the Nationals (the reason why we are so short for our local day!).

Robin will be present as a selector.

Gill Usher, Linda Warren-Davey and I will be judging.

Jan Mitchell, Effie Deans and Anne Moore will be involved sitting in and writing at appropriate levels to further their experience (funded by the Judges' Training Fund)

We will all be attending a Musical Freestyle Seminar conducted by Katerina Wust – and International 5* judge. All this has to be good for the standard of judging in Canterbury.

Karen and I plan to organise DVD evenings over the next few months for watching and discussing the Stephen Clarke judging DVDs.

Riders Liaison - Kerry Sutherland

Firstly, congratulations to the South Island 'sub-committee' for the fantastic running of the Champs this year. I didn't have a single person through the weekend come to me with any problems at all which certainly made my life a little easier. I heard VERY good things from the riders about the Saturday night BBQ and would like to see this continue to really create that great environment.

On the prize giving front there were still some difficulties this time, and some areas which can be worked on to ensure that we all have a smooth Sunday afternoon.

Firstly, I was very disappointed to see the riders leave after they had collected their ribbons. It was particularly frustrating as we had many of our level sponsors present for the prize giving, and to be awarding the Grand Prix Champion with only 2 horses remaining in the oval was embarrassing at best. Yes, the weather wasn't the best, but the majority of the horses out there had rugs on, and it certainly wasn't cold. Some of those that left early actually missed out on sponsors gifts as a result of this poor sportsmanship (and consequently left Miranda with more work to do to send their prizes out).

Secondly, the accumulator calculations presented some difficulties. My suggestion would be to calculate the accumulator standings on the Saturday, so that if there are any equal placings, these can be referred to Wendy Hamerton to sort out. It also relieves a little stress on the Sunday afternoon when level Champions are being organised.

I will be unable to make tomorrow's meeting (my birthday).

With so many people resigning after years of great work on the committee, firstly I say thank you (on behalf of the riders). Secondly, I am happy to stay on the committee as Riders Rep if wanted.

Training & Development – Mandy Blokland

Jeremy Steinberg arrives tomorrow night (Wednesday) for another two days of training (20/21 February) ...this time to be held at Selwyn Equestrian Centre on Kivers Road, Burnham. The lessons are \$220 each plus an arena fee of \$25. (The lessons are cheaper than normal ... previously \$245, I'm guessing that the US dollar is more favourable for us). The spectators cost is \$20 as usual. Registered Canterbury judges are paid for by the Judges Training Fund.

We had a fairly good turnout of 13 Canterbury riders to watch the lessons, plus the following judges; Anne Moore Karen Daniel and Jude Greenslade. We would dearly love more Canterbury judges to attend ... but obviously life is busy for all of us and getting busier.

The weather looks awesome for the lessons ... please come along if you get a free moment....you would be very welcome!!! It is so inspiring to watch the rider/horse combinations develop throughout the clinic and Jeremy is so easy to understand. His expertise is honed by continual exposure to USA's best riders and superb horses. But he truly manages to improve every horse and rider within the lessons. So informative...he never stops talking to the rider, always encouraging more from them.

The lessons are not being held at Brugs/Tonys property as Brugs is heading north for the Nationals and the last thing she needs is all of us descending on her and interfering with her preparations for a big trip. Jeremy is staying at our place this time but the lessons will return to Brugs/Tonys on the next visit.

Regarding the AGM...I am stepping down from the committee as for me the meetings interfere with my teaching commitments (after school/work pupils making the most of Summer evenings) so I am unable to attend dressage meetings which means you lose the thread of what is happening...and also most of Jeremy's visits down to the South Island seem to be on a Wednesday so obviously he needs to be picked up from the airport and delivered to Brugs and the pickup time tends to coincide with meeting times. Happy to help in other ways though.

Office/Entries - Miranda Luddington

SI Champs

Several riders had difficulties with the on line entry system, the new website had just been launched which was part of the problem, John and Vicki were made aware of the issues.

The majority of riders returned the Event Check List with Stable/Yard requirements and date of arrival/departure. This made considerably less work for me than at Canterbury Champs. However, Kevin Bowden was unhappy with the very early arrival of some competitors in terms of fees paid. It would be helpful if NEC could clarify "duration of event" as it could then be made clear on our schedule that arrival before this time would incur extra camping/ground fees etc.

Removing the days from the schedule was not popular with the riders and with the advantage of hindsight I feel possibly made the scheduling of Classes more difficult.

Many thanks to Kay Boon for helping out in the office between tests.

Autumn Series

We have 65 riders for the first day. Unfortunately we still have riders paying entry fees late and the usual lack of offers to assist.

I am unable to run the Office on 2nd March but Trish McKeown has very kindly offered to step in, assisted by Kay when not riding.

Not part of my report but talking to Ken this morning (he won't be at the meeting) Rangiora Saddlery would like to sponsor the Winter Series. I am happy to keep doing the Office over the winter as it would be good to work with whoever will be doing the draw, before the competition season starts again. John and Vicki Lawson are planning to travel around over the winter doing training sessions which again would fit in well.

Sponsorship – Aubrey McRae

South Island Champs

No report to hand.

Scorer – Ken Wilson

Well yet another South Island champs has raced by with an almost faultless display by those who helped out with the scoring, thanks to you all.

We did however have a few outside problems that need to be reported. Yet again far too many papers arriving in either not signed or with scores missing. This is by far the biggest frustration for all in the scoring room, we can handle the missing signature with just a few harsh words but missing marks means stopping that paper, getting someone to chase it up and restarting on another paper!

I personally was quite disappointed that I sat around waiting to get the Grand Prix scores out quickly and no papers were brought into the caravan. I had to go out and collect them myself! The only way to get results out quickly is to get the sheets in quickly.

There was a small hitch with the teams where I set up the system to go up to 15 places for levels 1 to 3 but only 10 places for the rest so the scores were messed I had to do this manually. I do however feel the present way of scoring the teams is flawed. If you select from the higher level class and or the pony classes where there are only a limited number of competitors then you will win every time. This happened at both the Canterbury and South islands! In my opinion the best way to score a team's competition is to work out highest average %, in both these competitions we would have seen different team winners.

As instructed we went to 15 places in levels 1, 2 & 3. Thankfully this provided us with 22 & 21 qualifiers. But again we had the silly situation where only 4 people entered the level 2 musical and two of these were level one riders? In competitions like this where a championship is involved, if the number of entries is say less than 10 or something then they should not count towards the championship? I note also that level three that had more than 20 entries but we did not limit them as we did for levels 1 & 2, why not?

Writers – Charlotte Mooney

South Island Champs - Writers

Getting writers did turn it to a bit of a nightmare due to the scheduling changes, but that is all good, these things happen! All was well in the long run thanks to some magnificent work from Ena, Linda, Miranda and co. Thank you!

Training Squad - Jude Greenslade

Unfortunately funding was not forthcoming for selected members of the Squad to travel and compete at the Nationals in spite of Aubrey's hard work to obtain this. Clearly this is a real disappointment as one of the aims of the squad was to foster Canterbury riders' participation in National events. Hopefully Aubrey can speak to this at the meeting.

On the other hand I am **so impressed** with everything this squad has done both to support Canterbury Dressage and to generate funds. The Bar-B-Qs at Canterbury Champs and SICH were huge successes, as were the silent auctions. The Twilight Dressage days have also been an enormous success and have generated significant income – once again Aubrey can speak to this. Their popularity really means that they are something that we as a group need to look at long term – no doubt much discussion needs to occur and there needs to be general buy-in and people willing to organise and judge.

There has just been another weekend where Christine has been down working with the squad members to continue with their development.

What a shame a squad team cannot be sent up to the Nationals, but how positive their achievements as riders and as a Canterbury Squad.

NEC

The meeting with Coffey Group was postponed due to conflicting events. This will be held soon to discuss final positioning of future developments.

The Saddlery /Feed Barn at the NEC is no longer in operation.

Conference Report – Robert Kofoed

All in hand. Robert intends to arrange a meeting with the Conference sub-committee on his return from Perth.