

## 2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Friday 8 August 2025

**Time:** 19:00

**Venue:** Zoom Online Meeting Platform

*Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of Dressage Tasmania Incorporated.*

1. **RSVP:** Alana Fazackerley, Alison Hall, Judy Atkinson, Penelope Moore, Tania Hay, Linda Smink, Suanne Lawrence, Jill Suban, Wendy Asman, Lisa Buckby, Teresa Darcy, Kerrie Swan Bates, Bernadette Gibson, Nicole Wells, Jody Rybarczyk, Heather Stewart, Sue Lamont, Gill Von Bertouch, Suzan McDermott, Suzanne Betts

- 1.1 **Attendance:** Alana Fazackerley, Tania Hay, Judy Atkinson, Jill Suban, Alison Hall, Sue Lamont, Gill Von Bertouch, Linda Smink, Suanne Lawrence, Wendy Asman, Kerrie Swan Bates, Lisa Buckby, Pene Moore

- 1.2 **Confirmation of Quorum** – 13 attendees, Quorum requiring 13

- 2 **Apologies:** Suzan McDermott, Suzanne Betts, Teresa Darcy

- 3 **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:**

Moved – Alana Fazackerley      Seconded – Jill Suban

- 4 **Business Arising from 2024 Minutes**

Nil

- 5 **Chairpersons Report for 2024-25**

Another positive year for dressage in Tasmania and I'd like to thank the committee who have supported me in my role as Chair. It's been a very constructive group and everyone has contributed.

The work on financial oversight, grant application and much more outside of the Treasurer's role by Alison Hall has been massive and much appreciated.

Alana Fazackerley has again put in endless work as Secretary and in particular putting together presentations on the Participation Strategy and Strategic Plan both of which are now complete and ready to guide dressage into the future.

Thanks also to Bernadette Gibson for running the truly inspirational Jayden Brown, Jenny Gehrke Masterclass. This was a wonderful showcase for the state.

As always, we've had a strong commitment to Officials' education and have run a successful Virginia Creed Judges Seminar and supported numerous judges towards upgrading or reaccreditation requirements.

We welcome new:

- G Levels, Nicole Wells and Tammy Cunningham
- F Level, Toni Furlonge
- B Level, Julie Gofton who has relocated to Tasmania, and
- A Level, Judy Atkinson.

We have several judges close to achieving their medium qualifications.

On the stewarding front we are currently working toward a seminar.

Congratulations to Suzanne Betts on achieving her FEI Steward Level 2, also, our two newly upgraded Level 2 EA stewards Andrew McDermott and Lisa Buckby.

We've been fortunate to receive funding from Para Equestrian Australia towards reaccrediting our existing para judge and accrediting a second one, so we can now run events in the state without needing a mainland judge. Lisa Buckby has completed her Para Steward training the first for Tasmania I believe.

Work is currently underway on a program like NSW Equability which will cater for riders with issues that may prevent them from competing in open classes but who would like to try the sport.

The 2025 McGrath Launceston Equestrian Tasmania Dressage Championships was a real highlight of the year and was rewarded with Equestrian Tasmania's Event of the Year, well done to Northern Zone ably assisted by the North West Zone.

All three Zones have organized competitions, protocol and training days and it's awesome to appreciate the work and time our fabulous volunteers and officials put in to make it all possible.

I know many riders feel confused and a little unsure about the current EA National situation, but I urge all riders to continue to support your state disciplines and be sure we are doing all we can to continue to develop the sport.

Judy Atkinson, 2024-25 SDA Chair

[Thank you to Judy for all the effort and time for the season.](#)

## 6 Treasurer's Report for 2024-25

Presented by Treasurer Alison Hall. Distributed to attendees prior to the meeting.

- General Account: closing balance – \$22,564.93 – \$2,661.40 Zone infrastructure
- Championships account: Closing funds – Profit to Zones \$5,295.31 - \$5,000 for next champs
- Judge Education Account: Closing funds – \$16,180.93
- Development Squad Account: Closing funds – \$4,437.97
- Young Rider Account: Closing funds – \$1,096.60
- Pie Chart reflecting General Account expenses FY25

### Audit

- Don Willings and Associates has been auditor for 2024-25. Auditing is not required but it was decided at the 2021 AGM that to remain transparent we agreed to auditing. Audited financials are also a requirement for grant funding purposes.

### Championships Treasurer approval

- To remove previous Championships Treasurer Jayne Blyth and add Alison Hall as Treasurer of 2026 Championships for access to Championships bank account.
- To remove Bank of Us co-signatory Tania Hay and replace with Lisa Buckby.

### Membership numbers

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Senior	29	101	126	140	118	99
Senior 6 months	8	9	14		23	19
Family		15	9	5	7	6
Junior 12 months	9	15	18	21	14	11
Junior 6 months		1	2		4	1
Officials	1		1	6	5	5
Social	1		3	3	0	2
YR 12 months	4	2	1	5	5	2
YR 6 months	1		2		1	
Life members	5	5	5	5	6	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>151</b>

**Questions:**

- Suanne Lawrence – regarding Judge and Steward education claimed from Active Tasmania – what was grant income \$42,000 and \$58,000 expended on?
- Response: Thirlstane judge studio (container) and fenced, sand warm-up arena with Zone contribution of \$11,508.
- CORRECTION – Judge studio was incorrect for the Financial Year. Funding received in 2024-25 confirmed for the warm up arena at Thirlstane \$38,509 with Zone/s contribution of \$11,508, Active Tasmania/ETas funding \$8,000 and the Tas Racing funding of \$5000.
- Zone infrastructure funding is allocated to Zones for special projects and comes from rider levies (refer below for description of levy disbursement).
- Kerrie Swan-Bates – Infrastructure allocation example of \$5,000 per Zone, with TEC receiving \$5,000 and Thirlstane \$10,000 (for two Zones using the grounds).
- Response: Levies are paid per rider which partially contributes towards infrastructure funds. The amount of riders at each competition depends on the amount of contribution towards infrastructure.
- Unsafe conditions at Edinburgh Park caused North Zone to sub-lease Thirlstane, following unsuccessful intensive investigation of alternate grounds in the northern region.
- North West Zone lease the Thirlstane grounds from the Thirlstane Golf Club, and sub-lease to the North Zone. The arrangement includes strict golf club conditions relating to grounds safety and golf course security.
- Kerrie Swan-Bates – Query membership numbers North, North West, South.
- Response: Unknown disbursement would need to query Nominate.
- Kerrie Swan Bates – Query regarding amalgamation of North and North West Zones.
- Response: No plans are envisaged for an amalgamation of North and North Wet Zones.

Note: Any further questions regarding allocation of infrastructure, membership and use of current venues was advised to be put in writing to the SDA to prevent blow-out of time for the meeting.

**Excerpt from SDA Winter Newsletter 2025:**

When entering a competition, there are usually two levies - a grounds levy, kept by the hosting Zone that goes towards grounds maintenance and preparation (such as irrigation, arena harrowing, etc). This levy might vary depending on the hosting Zone's lease fees, sub lease fees etc.

The other levy, usually called a 'judge education and championships levy' is a \$10 levy per rider that is paid to SDA/Dressage Tasmania.

This \$10 is broken down into three components - a set portion of every \$10 goes towards the running costs of state championships, a portion goes towards judge education (e.g. running steward training, hosting judge education workshops and seminars, upgrading costs etc), and a portion goes towards infrastructure funds for each Zone.

Depending on how many riders are at a competition determines how much money in levies are received, and the infrastructure levies received for each Zone competition are set aside for the respective Zone to access for anything related to ground improvements, maintenance and upgrades. This ensures that money goes directly back to benefiting the members who use those grounds.

SDA has previously also set aside \$5,000 for each Zone (when surplus funds from membership income has allowed), to go towards infrastructure and ground upgrades. An example of what

this money has gone towards includes the toilets at the Thirlstane grounds, the new warmup arena at Thirlstane, and purchase of new harrows at the Southern Zone.

**Treasurer's Report Moved: Alison Hall   Seconded: Alana Fazackerley**

## **7 Dressage Officials Panel Report 2023-24**

Refer to Chair's report.

## **8 Steward report**

We are pleased to be able to have a number of Stewards (about 11) to support our Sport and almost have an equal number North and South. This is impressive for a small state like Tasmania! Am looking forward to having more, as Stewards are now required for each Competition and we all live busy lives.

It is pleasing to see some complete their Level 2 qualifications at the Tasmanian Championships in March. Thank you to Ewan Maskrey and Andrew McDermott for explaining and demonstrating Medication Control to candidates and to those who volunteered to be 'Guinea Pigs' in the Trot Up. I also appreciated Ewan's assistance at our Trot Up. These are both components of the Level 2 and not usually a part of our usual competitions.

Welcome to David Day, an experienced Steward from New South Wales who will be moving to Tasmania in the Cygnet Area. David has already stewarded at our Competition.

We have had several Stewards travel interstate to further their qualifications.

I have now become an FEI Level 2 Steward following attending 2 courses in Sydney with Jacques Van Daele from Belgium. There were Stewards from all over Australia and 3 from New Zealand. A challenging Course but interesting, nonetheless. Even had to take an English Test!!

Am sure details of the 'Becoming a Steward' Course, which can also act as a Refresher will be announced soon.

Stewards support their motto 'Help, Prevent and Intervene'.

Thanks for your Support!

Suzanne Betts

*NOTE: To maintain accreditation, EA membership is essential. Current membership will ensure inclusion on the EA accredited officials list.*

## **9 Declaration of 2025-26 Committee Members**

Thank you to the outgoing committee for a productive year and for the sacrifice of time and effort to support dressage in Tasmania.

All positions on the Dressage Tasmania SDA committee were declared open and nominations invited via email 10 June 2025, follow up posted on Facebook and web site.

As per the constitution, seven (7) nominations make up the SDA committee. Nine (9) nominations were received via email, those being (alphabetical order):

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Alana Fazackerley | 6. Penelope Moore  |
| 2. Alison Hall       | 7. Suanne Lawrence |
| 3. Judy Atkinson     | 8. Suzan McDermott |
| 4. Linda Smink       | 9. Tania Hay       |
| 5. Liza Buckby       |                    |

Equestrian Tasmania undertook a Dressage Tasmania financial member vote to determine the required seven (7) committee members following close-off for nominations on 25 July 2025.

The results are (in order of votes received):

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Alison Hall | 2. Penelope Moore |
|----------------|-------------------|

3. Lisa Buckby
4. Judy Atkinson
5. Alana Fazackerley

6. Linda Smink
7. Suzan McDermott

Office bearer positions will be declared at the SDA General Meeting post AGM and will be announced in due course.

A warm welcome to the new committee and good luck for the 2025-26 season.

## 10 Notices of Motions

### NOTE:

**The current Constitution will not change until carried motions are actioned through amendment to the Constitution.**

That the Dressage Tasmania Constitution dated 22 September 2017 be changed to include:

Replacement of:

#### 19.4 Quorum

Six SDA Committee Members present in person constitutes a quorum.

Changed to:

#### 19.4 Quorum

50% plus one of Committee Members in office present in person or via electronic media constitutes a quorum.

**Motion carried**

Addition to 19.1 SDA Committee Members meetings:

#### 19.1 SDA Committee Members meetings

- (a) Subject to **clause 19.1(b)**, the SDA Committee Members may meet together for conducting business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit.
- (b) The SDA Committee Members must meet at least 7 times in each calendar year.
- (c) SDA Committee Members must attend at least 75% of scheduled meetings in an operating year subject to a valid reason for absence(s).

**Motion carried**

#### 14.1 Composition of the SDA

Addition of:

#### 14. SDA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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#### 14.1 Composition of the SDA

The SDA shall consist of:

- (a) 7 SDA Elected Committee Members all of whom will be elected under **clause 15.3**; and
- (b) up to 2 additional SDA Appointed Committee Members who shall be appointed in accordance with **clause 16**.
- (c) optional appointments can be made to ensure SDA Appointed Committee Members represent all operating regions.

**Motion carried**

**Motions submitted by Suanne Lawrence:****16. SDA APPOINTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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**16.1 Appointment of SDA Appointed Committee Members**

The SDA Elected Committee Members may appoint up to 2 SDA Appointed Committee Members in accordance with this Constitution.

To be replaced with:

**16.1 Appointment of SDA Appointed Committee Members**

The SDA Elected Committee Members may propose additional Appointed Committee Members comprising:

- (a) 2 additional members to supplement any skill gaps per Clause 16.2
- (b) 2 additional members to ensure representation of all operating regions per proposed Clause 14.1 (c)

Motion not carried

And addition of:

**16.4 Additional SDA Committee Members (Clause 16.1) to be nominated at the AGM**

Alternatively by notification to Members by written correspondence within two weeks of the AGM

Motion not carried

Action to amend current Dressage Tasmania Constitution to include motions carried.

**11 Honorariums**

\$650 honorariums for four (4) x, being Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Website Coordinator

Moved: Alana Fazackerley Second: Jill Suban

**12 Life Member nominations**

Nil

**13 Horse of the Year Awards 2024-25**

Preliminary: Phillipa Cooper – Tennyson Stud Witchcraft

Runner Up Preliminary: Melanie Paterson – BS Laylah

Novice: Abbey Sultan – HV Feuertanzer

Runner Up Novice: Teresa Darcy – HPS Wynlord

Elementary: Kate Brennan – Lethal Chance

Runner Up Elementary: Phillipa Cassidy – Machiavelli

Medium: Penelope Moore – Clearview Rain Dancer

Runner Up Medium: Kenya Broad – Wolter Van Gelder

Advanced: Rose Kemp – Bluefields Honduras

Runner Up Advanced: Stephanie Temple – Clearview Verdict

Preliminary to Elementary Pony of the Year: Heather Stewart – Barring Alexander

Runner Up Preliminary to Elementary Pony of the Year: Suzanne Walton – Scarlett Ohara

FEI Small Tour: Penelope Moore – Her Royal Ruby

Runner Up FEI Small Tour: Amy Griffiths – Debussy

FEI Large Tour: Breanna Turner – Carrera

Runner Up FEI Large Tour: Judy Peel – Regensturm

Unofficial Preliminary: Phillip Cooper – Tennyson Stud Witchcraft

Runner Up Unofficial Preliminary: Lisa Buckby – Concentrate

Unofficial Novice: Joanna Conroy – CSU Highland Dancer

Runner Up Unofficial Novice: Nicole Elliot – Jack N Harry



Young Rider of the Year: Kye Ford  
Runner Up Young Rider of the Year: Olivia  
Jarvela

Off the Track Thoroughbred of the Year Georgia  
Pearce – Oceana Incognito  
Runner Up Off the Track Thoroughbred of the  
Year Nicole Elliot – Jack N Harry

Congratulations to everyone.

Prizes announced and presented at the ETas Ball. Recipients notified by email.

## **14 Other Business**

### **14.1 Zone Reports**

#### **14.1.1 Northern Zone Report 2023-24**

The Northern Zone have enjoyed a successful year of dressage, led by a large and enthusiastic committee with many skills, talents and ideas.

The year began with our popular Clearview Performance Horses Winter Series, this is always an excellent opportunity for riders new and old to continue their development over the winter months thanks to the comfort of Bert and Peter Gibson's wonderful facilities at Woodend Equestrian Centre. The series consisted of 3 development days followed by a competition to start the season.

Competitions then commenced at Thirlstane grounds, with the exciting addition of a large new sand warm up arena. Thanks to the North West Zone for their hard work in co-ordinating this project.

This season the Northern Zone ran 5 competitions and 4 development days, plus the State Championships. Unfortunately, competition numbers continue to be low at times, which seems to be the case across many equestrian disciplines. The committee continue to look at ways we can promote our sport and encourage new and increased participation.

Thanks to TasRacing (and SDA for obtaining the grant) we were able to offer free entry for Off the Track horses at 2 competitions and 2 development days, this attracted some new faces and encouraged increased attendance. We hope this grant will be available again for the coming season.

The State Championships were run by the Northern Zone with some assistance from North West members, this was a fantastic event which received excellent feedback and we were delighted to win Equestrian Tasmania's Event of the Year at the June 2025 ball. We look forward to North West holding the championships at Thirlstane again this season and wish them all the best for another successful event.

The Northern Zone AGM is scheduled for the 16 August and we look forward to presenting our performance awards for the last season, as well as welcoming some fresh and familiar faces onto our committee for this season.

A huge thank you to the outgoing Northern Zone committee who have worked exceptionally hard this season to run the Zone as well as the State Championships, all committee members' inputs and friendships have been thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated. Special mention to committee member Lisa Buckby who was award Equestrian Tasmania's Volunteer of the Year at the recent ball. Thank you also to the other Zones and SDA for your time and commitment to the sport, along with all riders, officials, sponsors and supporters of dressage in Tasmania.

Jess Midson, 2024-25 Secretary, Northern Zone

#### **14.1.2 Southern Zone Report 2023-24**

Southern Zone had a very busy and successful year with Training Days held monthly, in addition to ten competitive events.

Five Mainland Judges officiated at our events from November 2024 to June 2025. We also hosted four N and NW judges who kindly travelled south to judge at three different events.

The season began with a Fun Day in August, while the competition season proper commenced in September and continued monthly through June, with the exception of the month of March, when State Championships were held in the North.

As last year, Unofficial and Official Competitor series were offered and both were well supported. This year, an OTT leaderboard is being funded by Tasmanian Racing. The Leaderboard will run for the entire 2025/26 membership year and open to all OTT horses. The scoring will be based on points per placings accumulated at Southern Zone Events throughout the year.

Event organisation was made more challenging with rule changes regarding Stewards at the beginning of 2025, as well as the loss of Suanne Lawrence as Chair and Heather Stewart from the Committee. The Committee is very grateful for the significant contributions both made during their time on the committee.

Work on the grounds at TEC has called for a few changes throughout the year and more are planned in the future. One of these was moving the gear check shed to a point near the entry/exit of the arenas for the convenience of the Marshaller and Stewards. This was needed because of the requirement that gear checks must be done immediately after tests are ridden.

Also, Southern Zone has applied for a grant in hopes of erecting a rabbit-proof fence around the dressage area at TEC to make the grounds safer and more horse-friendly.

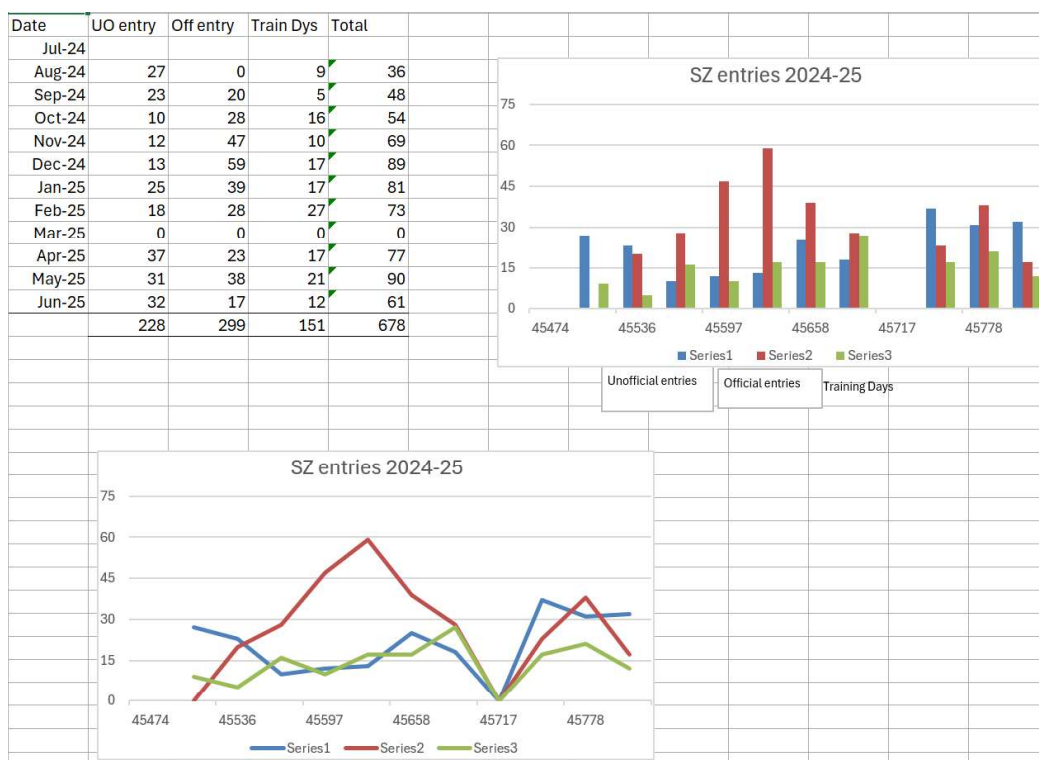
In conjunction with SDA, Southern Zone has supported two new G-level judges (Tammy Cunningham and Nicole Wells) to complete their accreditation. We have also offered opportunities to prospective stewards who have begun the EA Stewards pathways program.

As the makeup of the committee saw some changes throughout the 2024/25 year, I'd like to thank all Southern Zone members for their ability to work cohesively and flexibly together.

Jill Suban, Chair, Southern Zone

Southern Zone entries:





## 14.1.3 North West Zone Report 2023-23

It feels like this opportunity to express my thanks to our hard-working NW committee has been a long time coming. I have managed to stay out of the limelight for quite a while now. The northwest zone has been led by some amazing people, and I hope I have done it justice in the 2024-2025 year. This of course could not be possible without the dedicated and hardworking committee: Penny Higgins, Kenya Broad, Rose and Paul Kemp, Jodie Towns, Ali Hall and Penelope Moore. All committee members work full time, ride and compete multiple horses and all manage to help on the day of competitions, and I personally thank you for this. We are always desperate for more volunteers, and I would like to thank those NW and North members who actively help – with either morning tea, arena set up, poo pick up, writing and stewarding. It all helps, and we would not be able to do what we do without your help and assistance.

This season we only had to cancel one competition due to weather but managed to turn this day into a protocol day undercover last minute as our mainland judge was already flying over. Our zone managed to run 5 competitions and 4 Training Days – 2 protocol days, 1 pole day and 1 simulator day. With an average of 30 + riders supporting our competitions. All these events have yielded a profit due to the generosity of some of our officials not charging us for their services. Special mention to judges: Judy Atkinson and Alison Lamont and also Stewards Lisa Buckby and Alana Fazackerley.

Lucky to have the sponsorship this season of Horses n More, Prime Accounting, Warehouse Traders and Animals Aligned who have supported our prizes for competitions.

Huge shout out to Sheelagh Beech and her sponsorship of our award medals.... We have a record number this season with 2 x gold medals, 6 x silver and 12 x

bronze medals. If you receive one of these please wear them with pride on your competition jacket.

State HOTY awards from NW include:

- Medium – Pene Moore and Clearview Rain Dancer and runner up Medium – Kenya Broad and Wolter Van Gelder
- Advanced – Rose Kemp and Bluefields Honduras and runner up Steph Temple and Clearview Verdict
- FEI Small Tour - Pene Moore and Her Royal Ruby
- Unofficial Novice – Joanna Conroy and CSU Highland Dancer
- OTT Thoroughbred – Georgina Pearce and Oceana Incognito
- Championships were held at Thirlstane this year with a hardworking north committee. Judges came from around Australia and New Zealand with compliments flying left and right about our grounds and how amazing they looked and the friendliness of all members. Standout combination was definitely Pene Moore and the lovely Clearview Rain Dancer.

Some new features for our zone that were implemented during the season:

- Off the Track – free entries for all off the track horses (26 horses across 5 competitions)
- Fenced warm up arena
- Containers lifted to allow air flow underneath and limit the moisture inside
- Payment Square allowing people to pay via card for BBQ
- Day membership to allow people who are not members of DTAS to come and try dressage
- New improved pump
- New BBQ and BBQ shed for it to be housed in
- Harmony Award at big competitions – recognise great sportsmanship and general harmony between horse and rider
- New ground's maintenance person – Chris Brown along with the Thirlstane Golf Course

The committee are always open to new ideas and thoughts about how we can continue to improve and cater for all members. Yes, there will be change with EA and how we cater for those that do not want to join EA, but we will ensure this process is transparent and listen to your voice and continue to strive and thrive.

Once again, a huge thanks to the NW committee and everyone that has come along tonight to support our passion for ponies.

Linda Smink on behalf of NW Zone

**15 Meeting Closed – 8.36pm on 8 August 2025**