

State Dressage Authority

2022 Annual General Meeting - MINUTES

Date: Friday 29th July 2022

Time: 1905

Venue: Zoom Meeting (Online)

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of Dressage Tasmania Incorporated
ALL CURRENT FINANCIAL DRESSAGE TASMANIA MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
ATTEND (RSVP's ESSENTIAL)

Present - Sharni Radford (Chair), Alison Hall (Treasurer), Lydia Eastwood (Secretary), Judy Atkinson, Sue Lamont, Tania Hay, Claire Lester, Linda Smink, Gillian Von Bertouch, Jill Suban, Teresa Darcy, Bert Gibson, Megan Whalley, Katelyn Coniston

- 1. Apologies** - Kerrie Swan Bates, Sue McDermott (Vice Chair), Suzanne Betts, Penelope Moore, Rose Kemp, Alana Fazackerley, Uta Gonsior
- 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Moved - Sue Lamont Seconded - Judy Atkinson
- 3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

Nil Business arising from 2021 AGM Minutes

4. Chairpersons Report for 2021/2022

SDA Chairs Report 25.7.2022

The 2021-2022 Dressage Tasmania year started with continued helmet tagging. Although not mandatory at that point it is now. Thank you to those riders who have adopted the new requirement. It is pleasing to note that there has only been a couple of helmets not meeting the safety standards.

In August and September 2021 competition and training days were held by both Northern and Southern Zones with NW starting competition in October. October also saw the introduction of the Unofficial Squad and thanks must go to Tania Hay for co-ordinating this initiative.

Fiona Fehlberg advised that she would be retiring from judging and Dressage Tasmania would like to acknowledge her significant contribution over several years.

In January 2022 the State Squad organised a very successful clinic at Woodend Equestrian Centre with Jenny Gehrke. All riders and spectators benefited greatly from Jenny's knowledge.

January also saw the NW Zone dedicate a Judges Box to much loved and missed Life Member Sandra Sloane.

In March the Hygain Tasmanian Dressage Championships were hosted by the Northern Zone with support from NW Zone at Thirlstane. Outstanding prizes were on offer, and we acknowledge the contribution that our sponsors make. On day 1 the conditions were very warm. Day 2 started with recovering marquees from the trees after being hit hard by an overnight storm. Riders were undeterred with many great performances over the weekend. It was wonderful to have interstate judges return to Tasmania. Thanks must go to the many volunteers that made this event happen. Congratulations to those Judges that successfully completed practical exams over the weekend. Thanks to Belinda Snooks for organising this and we wish Belinda and her family all the best for their move to Brisbane.

In April I participated in an on-line Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee (EADC) meeting. Holding meetings this way is a great cost and time saving to individuals and the various State Committees.

Given the current economic climate, Dressage Tas offered members a 10% discount on 2022-2023 membership fees for those choosing to re-join before the 30th of June 2022.

The Judge Education reimbursement scheme has been revised and all Judges are encouraged to contact our new coordinators Judy Atkinson and Sue Lamont to continue with their personal development and education. Thanks also to Judy Atkinson for organising a group of 5 Judges to recently travel to Hawkesbury to both Judge and attend a seminar.

As we start the new Dressage Season, I would like to remind officials that their EA insurance may not be sufficient if officiating with unaffiliated clubs and organisations. It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they are adequately insured.

As required, I have sought the assistance of our state body – Equestrian Tasmania. I would like to personally thank Andrea Watson and acknowledge her contribution to equestrian sports in Tasmania and wish her well for the future.

This is my last report as Chair having held the position for 4 seasons. I am extremely proud of the achievements of all committees I have chaired during that time. Dressage Tasmania is in a sound position thanks to the hard work of both past and current committees. A special mention to our Treasurer, Alison Hall. Ali has secured over \$51000 in grant funding over the last 2 seasons which has been used for the new arena and Judges boxes at Thirlstane, judge education, Pixems, Covid supplies and scoring tablets. Ali's grant writing skills secured over \$150,000 for the new all-weather arena at TEC. I would also like to acknowledge the hours of hard work from our outgoing Secretary, Lydia Davis (Eastwood).

Thanks to Bernadette Gibson who has always been available for a chat when my lack of Dressage knowledge was put to the test.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee members for their friendship, guidance, and professionalism.

I would also like to remind competitors that competitions are at risk due to a lack of volunteers. It is the responsibility of every member to play their part to ensure that competitions can be run. Please support your

Zone and all the hard-working volunteers that give up their time for your benefit.
All the best for the incoming Committee.

Safe riding,
Sharni Radford
Chair, Dressage Tasmania.

5. Treasurers Report for 2021/2022

All members who RSVP'd to the AGM were emailed treasures reports prior to meeting

2021-22 SDA Treasurer Report from Alison Hall

Key items:

- Membership income was down from 2020-21 by approx. \$2000
- Excluding grant income, total general income was down by approx. \$7000
- Excluding grant/infrastructure expenditure, expenses were approx. \$400 less than 2020-21 – for the last 3 years expenses (excluding grant/infrastructure) have been between \$15,000 and \$17,000.
- We have set aside \$5000 per zone to be used for infrastructure, ground developments or other projects as discussed and approved by SDA. This leaves \$19,412.06 as at 30th June to cover general expenses. Going forward we will need to be mindful of expenditure from the general account.
- Since bringing in the infrastructure levy, which saw a reduction in the judge education levy, total judge education funds have declined by \$275.02. Still a very healthy balance of \$26,301.06 in this account
- Championships in 2022 saw the lowest entry income in the last 6 years, but the highest sponsorship in terms of cash income for the same period. Distribution of a total of \$6786.42 back to the zones.
- In terms of finances, the development squad was the most active it has been for a few years. Total balance for the year was a positive one of \$1799.85. As at 30th June there was just over \$4100 in this account. Future squad endeavours will need to consider fundraising.

Question raised by Bert Gibson - do officials get reimbursement from the judge education account when they undertake training?

The SDA has not had any claims from officials for education costs but it would most likely come from the Judge Education account if claims were to be made as it is an account for education and training purposes of judges and officials.

Possibility for the account to be renamed as a Judge and Official education account - for the new committee to discuss.

6. Dressage Officials Panel Report 2020/2021

From Belinda Snooks:

A COVID-disrupted 2020/21 inhibited some interstate travel for our Tasmanian judges wishing to keep in touch with mainland competition (which was similarly disrupted!). Conversely, the flexibility and resilience of our Tasmanian-based pool of judges meant that Dressage Tas was able to be served well by our local judging pool.

- Sept 2021 - Belinda Snooks obtained B level at QLD State Championships - thank you to Anita Barton and the QLD Organisers for their support in facilitating this opportunity
- G/F Seminar with Bert Gibson 31 Oct @ WEC
- Judges workshop approved by EADOC with Jenny Gehrke at WEC in Jan
- Jo Graham webinars were well attended by many officials
- Nov 2021 the EA National Health and Safety conference was attended by many of our officials
- 2 May 22 - Judy Atkinson and Belinda Snooks participated in the FEI Group VIII Dressage workshop facilitated by Susie Hoevenaars and Mary Seefried via Black-horse One
- Pene Moore attained her G level
- Sandra Butorac, Wendy Asman and Gillian Von Bertouch attained their F level at State Championships
- Caitlin Radford attained her E level at State Championships (pending seminar - my oversight! Belinda)

Congratulations to all and thank you to all the Mentors and Educators who were involved in the upgrading work

- Uta Gonsior has commenced work towards her E level upgrade.

Many thanks to Suzanne and the SDA for their support, and gratitude to Judy Atkinson and Sue Lamont for taking on Education reins, and best wishes to all involved in Dressage Tas - guiding the sport is challenging yet rewarding!

Belinda Snooks

From Suzanne Betts:

Firstly I have been meaning to send a note to Judges and the Dressage membership regarding my resignation from looking after Dressage Education in Tasmania. When I found that Belinda was moving to Brisbane it seemed to be an appropriate time to leave the role which I have done for 15+ years so that fresh ideas can be incorporated! But I must say that I have loved almost every minute

of the 'job'... organising workshops and seminars and helping people achieve their judging targets. Already I am continuing to assist but in a reduced manner (I facilitated the 22/6 Workshop at the RYCT and assisted with the 3/7 Seminar at CVEC) and still look after my EA and FEI Stewarding responsibilities.

Stewarding:

12 October '21 FEI Stewards Rules and Questions Zoom
January '22 Passed Annual FEI Exam
1 February '22 FEI Stewards Rules Zoom
4 to 6 March '22 Chief Steward at Tasmanian Championships, Thirlstane
24 to 26 March '22 FEI Steward at Dressage with the Stars, Werribee

I am trying to arrange a Dressage Stewarding Seminar... watch this space...

Suzanne Betts 24 July 2022

From Judy Atkinson and Sue Lamont:

Since the change over of the responsibility of judge education passing to Judy Atkinson and Sue Lamont a well attended workshop was conducted by Kerrie Swan Bates at the RYC on the importance of the training scale in relation to the lower levels of dressage. Our Seminars and workshops are always open to judges ,riders, and coaches so it was very encouraging to see many riders attending.

A G and F seminar was held in conjunction with a competition, held for the first time at Amy's Coal Valley Equestrian Centre, this was a superb venue to conduct a seminar as judges were able to view and discuss the tests whilst not affecting the riders.Thanks must go to Amy for allowing this to happen.

A D and E seminar will be conducted by Judy Peel on Sunday 31st July at Woodend Equestrian Centre and a Workshop on the Training Scale later on in the year.

A group of A level judges with the support of DT made the trip to the Hawksbury Dressage Festival where they had the opportunity to judge all the FEI tests plus the Freestyles and Para classes, and attend an A and B seminar thus allowing their accreditation to remain current. Contacts were also established with the hope that in the future, trips can be organised for other groups of judges to attend interstate competitions to further their education.

Judy Atkinson and Sue Lamont

7. State Squad Report 2021/2022

During the 2021-2022 Squad year clinics were held with state coach Peter Fischer. These clinics were provided for the Performance Squad. Development Squad and Young rider squad members also took places in the clinics as well.

Mindset sessions with Ben Netterfield, zoom meetings with Peter Fischer, training days and BBQ's all formed part of the events for the year.

One special highlight was a zoom session with the 'Stablechats' girls Lillie and Maddie from Willinga Park, who are now based in the UK for the next 2 years and will be going to the World Equestrian Games with rider Jayden Brown. The girls gave the riders a fantastic insight into what it takes to care for and prepare horses for national and international level competition.

The big-ticket item for the squad was the Masterclass with Jenny Gerkhe. The clinic preceding the Masterclass was open to all riders from all 3 squads to spectate. The masterclass was sanctioned as an education activity for judges as well. Everyone who rode in the clinic, masterclass and everyone who spectated had nothing but positive feedback for Jenny and her training philosophy. **The teamwork shown by the Performance squad to make the masterclass happen was fantastic to see.**

There are so many ideas and ways to progress squads in Tasmania. However, these are all limited by things such as personal time and circumstances of the coordinator, the riders and the coach as well as funding and other factors..... it all takes a LOT of work.

As I have stepped out of the coordinator role, I wish to take this chance to thank the SDA and squad riders for their support and wish them all well for the future. Thank you also to Peter Fischer for his commitment to Squad over the year.

Jamie Smith

Sharni Radford - welcome to Kate Coniston as the new squad coordinator for 2022/23.

8. Declaration of 2022/2023 Committee Members

Thank you to the outgoing committee for a productive year.

All positions on the Dressage Tasmania SDA committee declared open.

As per the constitution, through nominations received via email, 6 committee members have been elected for the Dressage Tasmania State Dressage Authority and 1 committee position remains vacant.

In alphabetical order the committee for 2022/2023 are:

- Alison Hall
- Gillian Von Bertouch
- Judy Atkinson
- Sue Lamont
- Sue McDermott
- Tania Hay

The office bearer positions held will be decided at the SDA meeting post the AGM and will be announced in due course.

A warm welcome to the new committee and good luck for the 2022/2023 Dressage Year.

9. Notices of Motions

Nil received

10. Honorariums

5x honorariums. Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Website Coordinator and DOP Chair (x2 this year).

Ali notes - Lydia Davis (Eastwood) to be removed as signatory on all accounts
Jayne Blyth to be removed from Championships account
Tania Hay to be put on as a signatory for all accounts

Don Williams and Associates to remain as auditor for 2022/2023. Auditing is not required but it was decided at the 2021 AGM that to remain transparent we agreed to auditing.

11. Any other Business

11.1 - Southern Zone Report 2021/2022

Dressage Tasmania Southern Zone Summary 2021/2022

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022, Southern Zone organised 10 competitions and 12 training days. However, while competitions were successfully run in September and December, those in October and November were postponed due to frequent heavy rainfall and the November one eventually had to be cancelled.

The grounds were already suffering from the previous year's flooding, which killed large patches of grass. The continued wet conditions have made it impossible to restore the grass warmup area and undertake planned work on arenas.

Training days have gone ahead extremely successfully, especially in encouraging riders to get started in dressage by having a choice of several coaches, group, private and poles lessons and test-and-tells. These have been an initiative of Tania Hay, who continues to drive them each month.

Entries at competitions, however, are dwindling at an alarming rate, which leaves Southern Zone in a difficult situation regarding the maintenance of facilities in a safe condition and being able to book judges from all but very local areas.

One reason for the dwindling entries is the growth of four local riding clubs which now run dressage competitions with entry costs of \$12 or \$12.50 per test. This has led the Committee to consider whether entry fees should be reduced, something which is still under discussion.

In addition to the \$10 levies per rider paid to SDA for championships, judge education and infrastructure, Southern Zone must pay the Tasmanian Equestrian Centre \$9 per rider for ground hire (this is a walk-on cost for use of yards, water, toilets, parking areas and clubrooms). TEC does not assist with maintenance of arenas and warm-up areas. Ground preparation costs us up to \$200 per competition, and this cost is sure to rise with the increasing cost of fuel. This is essential to maintain arenas in useable condition for each competition and training day, and is one of several costs involved in maintenance and restoration of arenas and warm-up areas.

Finding volunteers to help run competitions has never been easy, but the problem is increasing, especially as the number of riders decreases. The Southern Zone Committee has examined various solutions, and in October 2021 ran a survey of riders regarding options for getting tasks completed. This question remains on the Southern Zone agenda, and the task of coordinating volunteers proves time-consuming and disheartening at times.

Several committee members resigned during the last year, one being the Chair, Jenny Hodder, who had contributed her time and expertise to Tasmanian dressage administration for a decade and a half. Another was Catherine Viney, an efficient and diligent secretary, who has now taken on greater responsibility in her paid job.

A planning and budgeting meeting of the Southern Zone Committee determined that it has insufficient resources to cover current and ongoing maintenance, watering, rebuilding and restoration of sand arenas and grass warm-up areas. Two of the sand arenas are currently in poor condition and only marginally usable. If sufficient ongoing financial support cannot be found, it will be necessary to close these arenas for uses other than competitions. Furthermore, the grass warm-up areas have been the subject of complaints from several riders who consider them unsafe. The ad hoc allocation of funds by SDA is appreciated, but Southern Zone notes that one ground is receiving twice the funding of the other. As we have the only income we have is from competitions and training days, on current trends we may find ourselves in a situation where we can't afford to bring judges south or bring them from the mainland, thus making it virtually impossible to offer higher tests.

*The issues above and other issues will have to be discussed with the new SDA committee going forward.

* EA Judges are only covered by EA Insurance for expenses paid at unaffiliated clubs but as soon as they accept payment for equestrian services (ie their time judging) then their insurance is void. EA Judges judge at non-EA affiliated events at their own risk and if they have queries to look into their insurance themselves.

11.2 - Northern Zone Report 2021/2022

Dressage Tasmania Northern Zone 2021-2022 Season Report

The Northern Zone began the season with an AGM where all committee positions were filled. All meetings were well attended, with lots of support shown, particularly at the Championships meetings.

The season kicked off with the ever popular Clearview Winter Series, which proved very rewarding for the riders and horses who attended. Many thanks to Judy Atkinson and Clearview Performance Horses for the ongoing support of these series and to Bert & Peter Gibson for the use of their lovely facilities at Woodend Equestrian Centre. Competitions thereafter resumed at the Thirlstane grounds.

Competition entries were slightly down from last year but successful events were held nonetheless. A number of Development Days as well as Competitions were held. Many thanks must go to our local judges and volunteers who make these days happen. The judges in particular deserve our gratitude as they show up at all of our events, often for all the zones and are always willing and happy to assist.

This season saw the return of the State Dressage Championships to the North of State, held at the Thirlstane Grounds. The organisation of this was the main focus of the Northern Zone committee as well as the very well supported State Dressage Championships committee. It was a great event with lots of fantastic feedback received from riders, officials, sponsors and judges. We are looking forward to having North West hold the Champs this season and wish them all the best for another successful event.

Together with the North West zone, more improvements were achieved at the Thirlstane Grounds, with the completion of the fourth arena, finalisation of the judges boxes and installation of the new round yard. These will continue to add to the functionality and safety of the grounds. Thank you to all involved in the improvements and maintenance of the grounds, it makes for a fantastic venue.

Lastly, many thanks must go to the very hard working committees of all the zones and SDA. We all know how much time, effort and hard work goes into making dressage a success. All those who compete, sponsor and support the sport appreciate it.

Northern Zone statistics:

Event	Riders	Horses	Tests / Sessions
04/07/2021 Clearview Development Day (WEC)	13	14	14
01/08/2022 Clearview Development Day (WEC)	14	14	14
15/08/2021 Clearview Development Day (WEC)	14	14	14
04-05/09/2021 Clearview Competition (WEC)	24	24	44
10/10/2021 Competition	18	18	34
14/11/2021 Competition	32	34	66
11-12/12/2021 Competition (run with NW)	64	70	157
09/01/2022 Competition	44	45	88
13/02/2022 Development Day (run with NW)	22	23	33
05-06/03/2022 State Championships	68	72	184
08/05/2022 Clearview Development Day	15	16	17
12/06/2022 Clearview Competition & Development Day (WEC)	10	10	16
TOTAL	338	354	681

12. Meeting Closed - 2009 on 29th August 2022