

State Dressage Authority

2021 Annual General Meeting - MINUTES

Date: Friday 16th July 2021

Time: 1903

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)

Zoom Etiquette: Presented by Alison Hall

Present - Sharni Radford (Chair), Lydia Davis (Secretary), Alison Hall (Treasurer), Suzan McDermott (Vice Chair), Penelope Moore, Tania Hay, Heather Stewart, Sue Lamont, Jill Suban, Teresa Darcy, Judy Atkinson, Amy Griffiths, Bert Gibson, Claire Lester, Leanne Moore, Linda Smink, Tammy Woolley, Maryann Smink, Suzanne Betts (temporarily).

1. **Apologies** - Megan Whalley, Alana Fazackerley, Belinda Snooks and Jody Rybarczyk
2. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Moved - Penelope Moore Seconded - Tania Hay
3. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

No Business arising

4. Chairpersons Report for 2020/2021

SDA Chairpersons Report 16.07.2021

2020-2021 has been a great season for Dressage Tasmania. Although still affected by Covid-19 we did not experience the extremes of 2020.

In July and August Members enthusiastically joined to enjoy the 20% reduction in Membership fees offered by SDA. There will be no discount or increase in fees for the 2021-2022 season.

The season started in August in both the South and North of the state. North was able to utilise the indoor at Woodend Equestrian Centre, Deviot. Thanks go to Bert Gibson for use of her venue and Northern Zone for officiating.

The State Development Squad was selected in July. The aim of this Squad is to identify combinations that are committed to training and education to improve quality of riding and therefore the development and promotion of Dressage within Tasmania. Sadly, due to Covid-19, in person instruction from State Coach Peter Fischer was limited but IT was used when required for clinics. Thanks to Jamie Smith for Co-ordinating the Squad and Pene Moore for her support. SDA recognises that more work is required in developing our Young Riders.

Many of our members have experienced the wonderful new facility, Coal Valley Equestrian Centre. Congratulations and best wishes to Amy Griffiths for undertaking this project.

In November, the SDA Committee met with Alana Fazakerley, Sport and Recreation, at Campbell Town to review the Dressage Tasmania Strategic Plan. This is available to members on the DT Website.

In December I represented Dressage Tasmania at the annual Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee (EADC) meeting, this year via Zoom. It is envisaged that there will be no face-to-face meetings this year either.

After 12 months of planning, the 2021 Hygain Tasmanian Dressage Championships were held at the Tasmanian Equestrian Centre (TEC) on 13th and 14th March 2021. The event is the largest State Championships held to date with 103 riders taking part over the weekend. Big thank you to Heather Stewart as Event Director, Tania Hay and the Southern Zone for hosting such a successful event. The 2022 State Championships will again be sponsored by Hygain and thanks to Northern Zone for taking on organising. The 2022 Hygain Championships will take place at the Thirlstane Golf Club on the 5th and 6th March 2022.

Thanks, and recognition to Miriam Coleman for collating and writing about the 50-year history of Dressage in Tasmania. In recognition of the 50th Celebration Mim organised an amazing cake, and on behalf of SDA and future chairs, I accepted the Founders Memorial Trophy.

Due to the hard work of SDA Treasurer Alison Hall, Dressage Tasmania has been successful in 3 Grant Applications. The largest grant has enabled the NW and Northern Zone to add a new arena with watering system (so now 4 sand arenas) with the addition of 4 Judges boxes. The judge's boxes are something that most of our trusty steeds have not seen so I would encourage riders to compete at Thirlstane at every opportunity. Ali has kindly offered to work with the zones, Equestrian Tasmania and the TEC Committee, assisting with writing Grant applications.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Tania Hay from Southern Zone for organising the successful Training Days at TEC again this season. It is great to see that these days are supported by members.

It is very pleasing to see that we had several new judges and existing judges and officials completing upgrades during the season. Congratulations to each of you as this is not a small undertaking. SDA has committed additional funds to support our officials in this process. Thanks to Belinda Snooks and Suzanne Betts for your continued work in this area.

In May 2021 Helmet Tagging was introduced. Although not yet compulsory for Dressage as it is with Eventing, it is likely that this could be required by all disciplines in the future. Tagging does not indicate that the helmet is safe for use, just indicates that it meets the latest safety standards. I believe that Dressage Tasmania should use all means available to improve the safety of our members. Thank you to those members who have already presented their helmets.

Congratulations to Suzan McDermott for being recognised as EA Coach of the Month for June 2021.

Congratulations to all HOTY winners and runners up.

As required, I have sought the assistance of our state body – Equestrian Tasmania. Thanks to Tim Williams and Andrea Watson for your continued support and guidance.

I am extremely proud of the achievements of this Committee. In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee for their friendship, guidance, and professionalism, and wish the incoming committee all the best for the 2021-2022 Dressage Season.

Several competitions have been at risk due to a lack of volunteers. Every member has their part to play in ensuring that we can continue to run competitions. Please continue to support your Zone and all the hard-working volunteers that give up their time for the benefit of us all.

Safe riding,

Sharni Radford
Chair
Dressage Tasmania
State Dressage Authority

Accepted Unanimously

5. Treasurers Report for 2020/2021

Report sent to all AGM attendees prior to meeting.

Dressage Tasmania Treasurer Report for 2020-2021

Despite the challenges of 2020 with COVID, the Dressage Association of Tasmania with the SDA as the committee managed some great achievements for our sport and members from a financial perspective.

We commenced the season with a reduction in membership fees due to the impact of COVID. However, and despite this our membership numbers and incomes were very positive. We have also had just over \$5000 in membership income for those joining for the 2021-2022 season already.

The SDA submitted a number of grant applications during the last financial year, with the majority being successful. These included:

- Sport and Rec COVID 19 Tranche 2 for 3 Pixem Robots and hand sanitising supplies = \$2982
- Sport and Rec Improving the Playing Field Grant (NW and NZ) = \$35,000. This is funding a fourth sand arena plus irrigation, and 4 judges boxes
- ETAS Grant funding (also through Sport and Rec) for judge education = \$910

- ETAS Grant funding (also through Sport and Rec) for training days, Come and Try days = \$3810 (to SZ)
- We also submitted a large grant application under Improving the Playing Field Grant round for reconstruction of one of the arenas at TEC in conjunction with the SZ which was unsuccessful.
- We currently have a grant application for 8 tablets under COVID 19 Tranche 4, in the order of \$17,000.
- There are plans underway to support the zones with grant applications in 2021-2022. Plans for the North and North-West include a toilet block and additional 4 judges boxes, and are under consultation with SZ and TEC.
- We will be able to apply to ETAS for grant funds provided to them by Sport and Rec at the end of this year, on behalf of the zones. We ask the zones to please keep a record of expenses for training days, come and try days and similar so the information is readily available when the time comes. It is likely we will be eligible for a significant reimbursement of costs for running these days, which we will redistribute to the zones, therefore making these a great fundraising opportunity.

SDA repaid the \$10,000 to ETAS for the loan to SZ for arena 4; SZ have also repaid this and the remainder of the money owing to SDA for this arena.

With a surplus of money in the judge education account, SDA increased the funds available to judges travelling interstate for education and/or upgrading. Judges upgrading to E or above are eligible for \$1500 a year, and for G level and above travelling for experience are eligible for \$500 a year.

The SDA has also offered to reimburse all zones for G level judge expenses at all competitions in 2020-2021, along with supporting all judges attendance at a series of webinars by Jo Graham, run by Dressage Victoria, offering full reimbursement on submission of receipts.

In line with our new 5 year strategic plan and the needs of the zones, SDA has also implemented a change in levy structure for 2021-2022. The amount of levies paid per rider will remain the same at \$10 in total, but the split will now be \$2.50 to Championship account, \$3.50 to judge education and \$4.00 to the general account to be retained as an infrastructure levy. This money will be kept for supporting the zones with grant applications and similar for ground improvements and upgrades. The best way to leverage funds for these improvements is through grant applications which often require a financial contribution from the applicant organisation. Previously the split has been \$2.50 to champs and \$7.50 to judge education, however due to the significant funds available in judge education we have implemented this for the coming year and can review on a yearly basis.

In addition, funds in the general account have been slowly building year on year, and our current balance of just over \$28,000 exceeds our expected expenses of between \$15,000-\$20,000, so we have the ability to set some funds aside to invest back into the zones and activities that align with our strategic plan.

Moved - Tania Hay Seconded - Judy Atkinson

Jayne Blyth to be added to Champs account
Teresa Darcy to be removed from all accounts

6. Dressage Officials Panel Report 2020/2021

Dressage Officials Panel Report Report for Dressage Tasmania Annual General Meeting
16 July 2021

Details since the 2020 Dressage Tas AGM

Since our last AGM Dressage Tasmania commenced another busy year for Dressage Education and Stewarding. We are still trying to adapt to a VERY different world.

Nonetheless there have been a number of excellent achievements and we thank our Judges and Officials for their dedication to the Sport.

Please Remember ... the Dressage Judge Education Panel has been renamed to the Dressage Officials Panel (DOP) to include Dressage Stewards. This has also happened Nationally as we all work together.

Summary:

Judges:

New:

We welcome Pene Moore as a 'G' Level Judge. Thank you for becoming a Judge!

Prospective:

Carla Giles has passed her G Level Theory Exam and completed some sit in and shadow judging requirements.

Rebekka Ayers has passed her G Level Theory Exam.

Sophie McDermott has a few novice combinations to shadow judge before completing her G Level requirements

Upgrading:

Uta Gonsior has become an F Level Judge (at State Champs).

Millie Ashton has become an 'F' Level Judge (at State Champs).

Allison Lamont has become an 'E' Level Judge (at State Champs).

Caitlin Radford has become an 'F' Level Judge (under the New Rules an FEI Rider fast tracking becomes an 'F' Level Judge not 'G'). Caitlin has also passed her 'E' Level Theory.

Wendy Asman has passed her 'F' Level Theory Exam.

Sandra Butorac has passed her 'F' Level Theory Exam.

Belinda Snooks has passed her B Level and Young Horse Theory Examinations and has made a number of trips Interstate to undertake sit ins and shadow judging.

Congratulations to all of them ... and thanks for all your commitment, hard work and dedication to the Sport!

Retiring:

Sandra Sloane: It was with great regret that we accepted the retirement of Sandra Sloane in August due to ill health. Sandra has been a Judge for many years and has always been ready to attend Seminars and Workshops and to contribute to Dressage in Tasmania.

Fiona Fehlberg: Fiona is a Coach and a Rider and has judged for 45 years. She is finding it hard to remain on the Judging List due to many conflicts of interest and maintaining accreditation. We thank her for her work as a Judge and Mentor.

Re-Accreditation:

The re-accreditation period has been extended by 12 months thus giving Judges an extra 12 months – to 31/12/21 – in which to meet their requirements. Tenure of Upgrading Pre-Requisites Extended: In an effort to make the process easier for upgrading Judges in this time of competitions cancelled due to the pandemic the Equestrian Australia Dressage Officials Committee (EADOC) has agreed to relax the 2-year restriction on all pre-requisites from the date they were completed. This means that pre-requisites completed in 2018 and 2019 will now have tenure of 3 years.

Mentors:

A number of Tasmanian Mentors attended a Zoom Mentor refresher Course on 14 September. Belinda Snooks attended as a prospective Mentor and has completed the additional Mentor training to now qualify as a Mentor.

Don't forget to contact our Mentors for all your Shadow Judging and Sit-In Requirements ... OR for a friendly chat about judging!! They are here to help.

Seminars:

Bert Gibson conducted a G Level Theory Seminar on 26 October 2020 via Zoomably assisted by Belinda Snooks as the technical help! (A practice Zoom was held the previous night for those unfamiliar with Zoom and to ensure that the Theory Session went smoothly) This was very useful. The Practical Sessions were held at the TEC Competition on 31 October and at Thirlstane on 8 November 2020. This enabled people to attend without a lot of travel and worked well. Bert conducted both of these Seminars.

Bert Gibson conducted an F/E Level Theory Seminar on 28 October again via zoom ably assisted by Belinda Snooks as the Technical help. The Practical Sessions were held at the TEC Competition on 31 October and at Thirlstane on 8 November. Bert conducted both of the theory and practical sessions.

Bert Gibson held the practical parts of an E/D/C Seminar at Woodend Equestrian Centre on 8 May 2021. Theory Modules were sent to participants for completion before the Practical Day. Quiz Questions are embedded in the Modules and a Certificate of completion was to be printed out. There was also opportunity for further Theory Discussion on the day.



Attendee's at the E/D/C Seminar held at Woodend Equestrian Centre on 8th May 2021; Marisa Hall, Judy Peel, Sue Lamont, Allison Lamont, Gill von Bertouch, Sheelagh Beech, Jenny Laird, Sandra Atkinson, Yvonne Downes, Anthea Simmonds, Judy Atkinson and presenter Bernadette Gibson.

Kerrie Swan-Bates conducted a 'G' and 'F' Level Seminar on 23 May at the Coal Valley Equestrian Centre. The Theory Modules were sent out before the Seminar. Katherine Drake developed a Quiz answer sheet as for G Level it is necessary to have some face-to-face theory. This system worked well and resulted in an hour and a half of lively and interactive discussion of the answers! Following this there was the practical demonstration of paces and marking of tests.



Theory discussion in the CVEC Classroom



Practical Demonstrations in the Arena

Workshops:

A number of Tasmanian Judges have participated in online education opportunities; both local 'Zoom' Workshops and International webinars. Dressage Officials Education funds are available to reimburse the fee for attending the British based ones, when invoices are submitted. Dressage Education has embraced the pandemic induced proliferation of online communication and education.

Kerrie Swan-Bates conducted a 'Preparing for the F Level Theory Exam' Workshop by Zoom in December. This was a great help to the F Level Candidates, many of whom passed their theory examinations, as mentioned above.

A Workshop presented by Kerrie Swan-Bates will be held at the RYCT, Hobart on 14 July. It will comprise a Quiz and some clips of tests. A Bistro dinner is available from 6 pm. RSVPs are essential ... to Suzanne at chimo@netspace.net.au by 11 July for catering and Covid purposes. A great chance to get together!!

Other:

Suzanne prepared a Report on half yearly events for the EADOC for a Zoom Meeting in September.

The Monthly Calendar of Seminars, Workshops and Exams is forwarded to all Judges on the first of each Month.

Judges who have not renewed their ET (thus EA) membership have been reminded to do so by Belinda. They are not on the Judge's list until they do so!!

It is of concern that some Riders still do not display numbers on their horses when on the Competition grounds. Numbers are required when tied to the float, in a yard, hand walking, lunging or grazing. The first offence is a warning ... the second a Yellow Card. This is a safety issue! I am sure we have all been at a ground when there's been a loose horse (horses) and people are rushing around trying to work out whose bay/chestnut/gray it is. Please note that the numbers must be on a white background (green if a stallion). The brass plates on halters are not acceptable. I have been asked to ensure that we comply with this rule.

Stewarding:

A paper prepared by the Steward General for Australia (Cathie Drury-Klein) regarding the Role of Stewards in a Covid-19 world was forwarded to the SDA for distribution to all Zones. To Summarise; Gear Checking is to be visual only i.e. don't touch the horse/rider and if incorrect gear is thought to be used a photo is to be taken and shown to the C Judge.

Cathie Drury-Klein was invited to speak at a pre-championships Yellow Card Zoom session in March which was well attended.

It is great to see that Risk Management is included in the G/F Seminars and that the Role of Stewards is highlighted. Good to recognise the Role of Stewards so that riders can appreciate what we do.

Sue Lamont, Suzan McDermott and Suzanne Betts have assisted with Stewarding at various competitions.

Suzanne Betts acted as Chief Steward at the Tasmanian Dressage Championships at the TEC in March.

Suzanne has completed and passed the FEI Steward's Exam. This Exam is issued from the FEI Headquarters in Switzerland and therefore includes MANY questions relating to Europe for example; European Children's Championships, the amount needing to be paid ...in Swiss Francs to lodge a protest etcetera so is challenging. The Exam is now a compulsory requirement to be taken every year for FEI Stewards to remain accredited.

Suzanne and Sue Lamont attended a National Steward's Workshop via Zoom on July 6 conducted by Cathie Drury-Klein.

Future Focus:

1. Supporting our B and A level judges to travel to interstate Seminars to complete the required compulsory 3-yearly seminar to maintain accreditation. It should be noted that whilst it is possible to use video, all Judges Seminars are required have a live horse component. Tasmania currently does not have sufficient/enough GP horses to act as demonstration horses to enable an A/B seminar to be conducted. The benefit of travelling, networking and observing a variety of different combinations should not be under stated.
2. Supporting the more than 50% of Tasmania's list of Judges currently accredited to G (Preliminary) level to maintain their accreditation, increase their knowledge and gain the required skills and confidence to take the step of upgrading through the levels of accreditation. Thus, enabling us to continue to service all levels of Dressage into the future. While it is pleasing to see so many judges entering the accreditation system at G level, within Tasmania and Nationally it is a recognised challenge to encourage judges to develop their skills and progress through the ranks. The DOP and SDA have developed the G Level reimbursement

scheme to encourage OC's to employ the G levels thereby giving the opportunity to gain muchneeded exposure to EA Dressage, which is the first requirement on the way to upgrading to F (Novice) level. The DOP support and encourage the zones to use G Level judges where practicable and off-set competition expenses under this scheme.

The State Championships this year was the platform for riders to have the pinnacle of their training year tested. Similarly, four Candidate Judges Practical Examinations were held over the weekend, with an excellent result of three upgrades achieved. This number of practical exams has not been seen at one event in Tasmania in some years. Thanks must go to not only the candidates for their commitment to the process, but also to the mentors, Judge Educators and Examiners for their generously given knowledge, guidance and wise counsel – which all contributed to the results achieved.

The DOP would suggest that the State Championship becomes the venue for annual F and E level examinations – to give candidates a clear goal and timeline to work towards completing their pre-requisites.

Suzanne Betts and Belinda Snooks Co-Chairs, Dressage Officials Panel

on behalf of members of the Panel Bert Gibson, Kerrie Swan-Bates, Judy Peel and Sue Lamont 11 July 2021

Sharni Radford Raise - Cards/flowers/wine to be sent to Fiona Fehlberg and Sandra Sloane for their judging contribution in Tasmania over the years (Card/Flowers/Wine). To be sent sooner rather than later. Gift already sent to Sandra on her initial announcement of retirement.

Accepted Unanimously

3. Declaration of 2021/2022 Committee Members

Voting 1-9. Voting via email to Equestrian Tasmania (Andrea Watson) received votes and tallied. Andrea had membership list and cross checked memberships to votes. Votes were then emailed to Kylie Pearn (ETas - North) to be double checked. Very mindful of conflicts of interest. Transparency was guaranteed.

After this meeting there will be a brief meeting amongst the newly elected committee members to decide on positions for the 2021/2022 year.

In alphabetical order:

- Judy Atkinson
- Lydia Davis
- Alison Hall
- Tania Hay
- Sue Lamont
- Suzan McDermott
- Sharni Radford

4. Notices of Motions

Nil Received

5. Annual Subscriptions for 2021/2022

To remain the same for 2021/2022 as 2020/2021

6. Honorariums

\$650.00 to go to the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, DOP Chair/s, Director of Championships and Website Co-Ordinator.

7. State Development Squad 2020/2021

Dressage Tasmania Development Squad 2020-2021 – annual summary

Squad initially started as 17 riders. However, over the year rider numbers reduced to 11 due to soundness, sale of horses, unable to perform etc.

Due to covid, all clinics held were Virtual clinics using the PIXEM camera robot. There was a total of 5 clinics held with attendance by most squad riders at these clinics.

BBQs were run by squad riders at some events, to help raise funds to cover clinic costs and so on.

Zoom meetings took place between squad riders, also with peter Fischer took place as well as a zoom meeting with rider Riley Alexander

A social gathering was held at the beginning of the squad cycle, to chat, team build, discuss goals etc.

In the weeks prior to champs, we held a couple of tune up squad clinics.

Champs results for squad riders were as follows:

Champions x5

Reserves x 4

1st x 10

2nd x 11

3rd x7

Top 10 x5

So overall an excellent performance from squad riders.

Thank you to the venue owners Bert Gibson (WEC) and Amy Griffiths (CVEC) for their help throughout the squad year.

8. Presentation of POTY/HOTY/YROTY awards 2020/2021

Preliminary POTY

Champion - Bamborough Liberache and Sabrina Jackson

Runner Up - Fairfield Cadence and Tamara Smith

Preliminary HOTY

Champion - Clearview Vija and Linda Smink

Runner Up - Courtlands Cognac and Pip Godfrey

Novice POTY

Champion - Bamborough Liberache and Sabrina Jackson

Novice HOTY

Champion - Debussy and Amy Griffiths

Runner Up - Jellystone Park Ruski and Kara Berry

Elementary POTY

Champion - Shipstern All Show and Tania Hay

Runner Up - Evergreen Hullabaloo and Sharon White

Elementary HOTY

Champion - Macarthur Furst Of All and Bernadette Gibson

Runner Up - Verochka and Jonathan Coombe

Medium POTY

Champion - Sheldon Benallen and Leanne Moore

Medium HOTY

Champion - Clearview Francesca and Linda Smink

Runner Up - MS Cocktail and Caitlin Radford

Advanced POTY

Nil Nominations Received

Advanced HOTY

Champion - Her Royal Ruby and Penelope Moore

Runner Up - Leadburn Don Amour and Jordan Gale

Small Tour POTY

Champion - Wembleybrook Sergio and Michelle Milne

Small Tour HOTY

Champion - Malteaser R and Lydia Jackson

Runner Up - Her Royal Ruby and Penelope Moore

*Nil Higher Nominations Received

Young Rider of the Year

Champion - Jordan Gale and Leadburn Don Amour

Runner Up - Sabrina Jackson and Bamborough Liberache

Champions Receive an embroidered woollen rug supplied by Dianne Ray-Luttrell at Remus Rugs

Runners Up receive an embroidered saddle pad supplied by Horseland

All embroidery is done by Amanda Baker at Saddlesavers By Sandbeck

9. Any other Business

Nil other business arising.

10. Meeting Closed - 1949 on 16th July 2021