

NEWS from SDA

December 2016

Dressage Tas Constitution

The constitution is currently under active review; we thank Josie McGuire for her work on this.

Calendar of Events

- Please see under the “Forms” tab of the Dressage Tas webpage for our working calendar of events, SDA meetings, and other important events. We will keep this as up-to-date as possible, so check in regularly for updates to avoid missing out.
 - Southern Zone In response to feedback from riders and members, please note that the Training Day scheduled for 22 January at the TEC will now be a competition; this will allow a valuable qualification opportunity for championships, following our wet start to the season.
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Vale: Nellie “Neddy” O’Connor

It is with sadness that we note the passing in early November of one of the modern Tasmanian Equestrian scene’s founders.

Neddy and her husband Barney O’Connor, both deceased, lived on a large farming property called ‘Benham’ at Avoca in the Fingal Valley. They were very interested in horses and are thought to have started the current form of Show Jumping in Tasmania which was a change from the original hurdle jumps. They were involved with Australian Olympic Show Jumping riders and supplied many horses in these early days interstate and even overseas.

Neddy herself started to become interested in Dressage and was involved in bringing some coaches to Tasmania and running clinics. Neddy, June Chesterman, Diana Peltzer and Pru Cotton’s father were the foundation members of the (then) Dressage Association of Tasmania and we believe Neddy was the first rider to represent Tasmania in dressage at the National Championships. Neddy’s interstate trips with horses continued into the late 70’s.

Sandra Sloane recalls that at the first Dressage training day held at Ray Trinder’s property just outside of East Devonport, someone left the gate open and Piping Lane escaped onto the highway!! One could say this was a shaky start to the Association!

The O’Connor’s bred Stockhorses and had a handy sire called ‘Fair Isle’ from which Neddy later bred the horse that she had the greatest success on, a lovely grey gelding called Fair Well which some of our members may remember from the late 70’s.

Brenda Atkinson recalls the first Dressage Competition here in Tasmania at Campbell Town in 1970 at which Neddy rode Fair Well and Brenda rode her horse Currajon. They rode a Novice level test.

Neddy was an active Dressage member, rider and Judge for many years and Bert Gibson still has vivid recollections of Neddy teaching her how to ride serpentine at Pony Club when she was 10!

She was certainly instrumental in developing Dressage in Tasmania.

Dressage Tasmania extends our condolences to Neddy’s friends and family.

Travelling Dressage Tas Riders;

- We recently received a report from Lydia Jackson and Splendido on their trip to Boneo Spring CDI; we hope you have had time to read the report on the website! Lydia and “Roc” competed in the Medium tour competition placing a respectable third in each competition – well done!
- We wish Caitlin Radford and Overtime XL or “Professor Jay” the very best of luck competing this weekend at the Victorian Dressage Championships.
- We would love to have any updates on our Dressage Tas members travelling interstate at any time. There is an updated “Intention to travel” form on the website under the “Forms” tab. Remember to fill it in and let the SDA know you are dipping your toes in the big pond! Some travel assistance may be available to assist you with the cost of travelling across the ditch.



HorseWARE Australia DressageTas State Championships

- Sponsorship – this is well under control thanks to Sponsorship Co-ordinator Sam Napier. Any further leads on potential sponsors should be lined up with Sam so she can guide the approach to potential sponsors. Email Sam on: samanthanapier18@gmail.com
- Prizes will be awarded to third and rosettes to 8th where class numbers warrant.
- Five A-level interstate judges are confirmed: Sue Bright, Connie Bookless, Adam Reiss, Luciano d’Elia and Karen Skimmings.
- A reminder to riders regarding qualification requirements;
 - o These will remain at two scores of 55%. Please Note: two judges should have officiated the test for it to count as a qualifier
 - o The qualifying period has been extended to 25/1/2016 - 29/1/2017, which includes a competition in each zone in the New Year.
- Volunteers – attached you will find a call to arms! This is crucial if we are to have sufficient manpower to run this event. Please contact Championship committee chair and volunteer co-ordinator Jenny Hodder on hindi.hodder@hotmail.com. It’s exciting to work in a dynamic team.
- The Mustang Owners Club of Tasmania have been invited to “corral” their vehicles in the Show Jump area at the TEC on the weekend of the Championships. This is a great initiative of Suzanne Betts who saw a similar idea on her travels to the UK. Thanks to Suzanne and Miriam Coleman who have made contact with the Mustang owners group.
- Trophy Relevance – Gill von Bertouch has agreed to be involved in this as part of the “history” project.
- If any members have any information regarding any of the perpetual Championships trophies please email Gill on gillian.vonbertouch@ccamlr.org.
- As Event Director for the Champs, I would encourage more riders to have a go at a Freestyle! You can’t imagine how much fun it is until you try it. With a broader audience there (Mustang enthusiasts) it’s another opportunity to shine!

Jenny Hodder, Event Director, HorseWARE Australia DressageTas State Championships



Equestrian Tasmania

- Equestrian Tasmania have been successful in obtaining a grant from Sport and Recreation for the 2017 calendar year. The focus will be on dressage judge upgrading, educational forums, stewards' courses, and para-equestrian. Further details to come.
 - Note: we now have a new ET Chair Tim Williams who is currently becoming accustomed to adopting a governance role as opposed to a sporting one.
 - The ET Constitution is being reviewed in 2017.
 - The insurance situation has been clarified and will now enable non-EA members to compete when covered by a signed waiver. ***This ONLY provides PUBLIC LIABILITY insurance for the club (Dressage Tasmania). ALL RIDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO TAKE OUT PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE VIA EQUESTRIAN TASMANIA MEMBERSHIP.
 - ET has provided InterSchool Ribbons available for routine comps, in addition to the annual IS Championships.
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Judge Education

NEW JUDGES:

Several candidates are in the midst of completing their shadow judging at present. Annika Nowell and Karen Allen are nearly there! Leanne Moore and Anne Cotton are starting the process. Other candidates have passed their Open Rule Book test and are awaiting the opportunity to attend a Seminar before starting their shadow judging.

UPGRADING:

Belinda Snooks has completed (and passed) her E-Level Theory Exam and all her shadow judging, and is awaiting an opportunity with 15 Elementary horses to sit her practical exam.

Suzan McDermott has passed her Young Horse Theory Exam with good marks and excellent comments from Mary Seefried.

Kerrie Swan-Bates is currently in Europe to attend an FEI Judges Seminar and do her FEI judges exam. She is going to a "practice" comp first

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS:

TASMANIA:

A Freestyle Workshop, "Dancing with Maria" conducted by Maria Schwennensen was held in Hobart on 30 September. Organised at short notice, it was very pleasing to have 31 attend including 6 Judges, 2 prospective Judges and 1 returning Judge. All received certificates. Everyone enjoyed dinner first and there was a happy atmosphere, with people catching up with each other away from their horses. Thanks to Miriam Coleman for designing the catchy flyer.

A Stewards' Seminar (for all disciplines) was held on Sunday 23 October at Lauderdale. It was conducted by Chris Wallis (Victoria), Steward General (Eventing), who has stewarded at the London Olympics, and has just returned from England, having done a Level 2 Show Jumping Seminar. Chris is going to Adelaide to be Chief Steward for the Adelaide 3-Day Event, as well as at Equitana. There were 7 attendees at the course.

I attended as a "refresher" and Suzan McDermott attended to become a Dressage Steward (I think Sandra Atkins will accredit as an Eventing Steward). It is hoped to run another course in 2017.

Suzan will also do some shadow stewarding at the DF in December so that the FEI Stewards there can assess her work and she can gain experience. It will be good to have another Dressage Steward in Tasmania.

OTHER:

- Have you seen the very smart judges' satchels? They have been designed as a "grab and go" bag so judges can leave their test booklets, rule book or iPad etc. and be ready to go!
- I will be attending the DF to do FEI and EA Dressage Stewarding

Suzanne Betts, Chair, Dressage Education Panel, 23 November 2016

INTERESTED IN BECOMING
A JUDGE OR STEWARD?
WE CAN'T RUN COMPETITIONS
WITHOUT THEM!
Please contact Suzanne Betts on
chimo@netSPACE.net.au

Squads

STATE SQUAD

The "A Squad" members for 2016/17 are;

Ellie Smith	- Berenburg Jagger
Philippa Cassidy	- Voltaire
Lilly Stephenson	- Walden Park Santana
Bert Gibson	- Kai & Neversfelde Rafael
Mickcarla Townsend	- Furstin Fine Design
Lydia Jackson	- Splendido & Malteaser R
Caitlin Radford	- XL Overtime
Belinda Snooks	- Neversfelde Romany
Meegan Daun	- Sir Archiebald
Kerrie Swan Bates	- Solitaire Diamond & Southern Lights

B Squad members include;

Tania Hay	- Shipstern All Show
Molly Evans	- La Vista Donnerstern
Jessica Van der Vlist	- Ballare
Sophie McDermott	- Ariel el Hombre
Linda Smink	- Matilda R

Congratulations to all the riders on their great results over the 2015/16 competition season which has led them to nominate and be selected on the Dressage Tas Squad. Our Squad Coach for this season is Peter Fischer.

The First of the three squad clinics booked for this coming season has been held at the Swann-Bates' property "Ashcroft".

Tanja Mitton was booked for a few hours on the Thursday evening to give the Squad riders a demonstration on mindset and body position and how it can affect riders and the effectiveness of their interactions in the saddle with their horses.

Tanja regular Angela Burdon gave a good demonstration of the breathing techniques used by Tanja, which resulted in "Lenny" letting go through his top line and gave a significant reduction in his particular nervous tension which is a slight 'snap' of his teeth, which after Angela was able to 'breathe' and let go of her internal tension then Lenny was able to do so as well.

Lynda Lonergan and Leroy were our second demonstration combination and although they were clearly a little overwhelmed by "performing" in front of a crowd, they also gave a good demonstration of Tanja's techniques. It was great to see the two of them relax and there was a clear increase in length of Leroy's stride using the breathing and mindfulness techniques.

Squad Sponsorship drive: from Philippa Cassidy.

Philippa attended the last SDA meeting as an invited guest and shared her ideas around fundraising for the Squad, she is currently working toward running a Friday masterclass with the Squad Coach with the possibility of demonstration Freestyle/Quadrille/Pas de Deux to finish off the evening. Logically this would be held in conjunction with scheduled squad clinic at WEC for 23-24 February 2017.

We thank Bert and Peter Gibson who have generously donated their venue for this fundraising opportunity.

This event would include features such as a licensed bar to raise funds with invited Tamar valley wineries and gourmet BBQ.

Pre-ticketed squad raffle drawn at the Ball, tickets could be pre-sold on Nominate and in person by Squad riders.

Fundraising Goal: the short term goal would be to send a "Pilot" group of riders to the 2017 National Championships, with a larger group or team to go in 2018. The chances of getting a larger group together have just increased with the announcement that Boneo Park on the Mornington Peninsula in Melbourne will host the 2017 Nationals!

The SDA also suggests that there is great potential for squad-rider run Training Days (many of these riders are qualified coaches or judges), which has the happy side-effect of addressing member feedback requesting greater exposure to training opportunities, and relieves some pressure from our competition-focussed zone committees.

Look out for these training opportunities in the winter months!

The next two squad clinics are booked for:

23 and 24 February at Woodend EC and

15 and 16 April at Ashcroft EC (Yes, that is Easter weekend, maybe the Easter bunny will visit!)

Young Rider Squad

A reminder to Young Riders that we have a Squad especially for you! Your Squad Co-Ordinator is Jill Schwartz. Check out the link on the Dressage Tas webpage for further details.

<http://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/content/dressage-tas-young-rider-squad>

Jill does a wonderful job making clinics and other YR activities happen, but she will admit that "Computer" is not her first language! A Young Rider or parent to help Jill with "Admin" would be much appreciated, so we can all hear about the good work Jill is doing implementing YR initiatives, please contact Jill hemelerijk@bigpond.com or belindasnooks@hotmail.com if you might be able to help with this important task.

Visit to the Tasmanian Institute of Sport

Facilitated by Sharni Radford, who was kind enough to extend her "+1" to a "+2" so that squad member Lydia Jackson and ET representative Suzan McDermott were able to attend the recent TIS Parent Introduction Evening at the Dowsing Point Techno Park in Hobart.

Topics covered throughout the evening included;

- Increasing the understanding of the high performance environment
- Clarifying what support services are available at the TIS and how athletes access them
- Explaining your role in the high performance environment
- The importance of TIS link and athlete's completion of daily monitoring
- Handling Disappointment – Developing Resilient Athletes
- TIS Performance Nutrition

Lydia reports that this was an insightful evening with information on what the TIS offers and what parents can do to help their children in the programs. The nutrition talks, athlete monitoring and strength-building aspects were particularly interesting.

Lydia has been motivated to approach the TIS to see if an Equestrian program could be introduced to aid our aspiring Olympians. Watch this space!

Northern Zone

Change of Date: Northern Zone's 11 December competition to 18 December

North West Zone

The committee has done some remedial work on the Thirlstane grounds – concrete supports for old chain arenas had come to the surface – which need digging out, some already have been, resulting in backfilling with water and surface material.

The first competition of the Season the North West Festival was a huge success with a great day had by all!

Southern Zone

The SZ Committee and all at Dressage Tas wish Kerrie Swan-Bates the best of luck with her FEI-level judge's exam in Austria this month! Good Luck Kerrie!

Competition season in full swing. Weather gods are at last smiling on us. Dec 4 comp was a corker, with a great feeling of cooperation amongst riders, volunteers and judges.

Unfortunately the ever-increasing costs of running competitions has caught up with SZ committee.

You may have noticed that recently the TEC user fee of \$5 per rider has been added to your competition entries. Many of you may not have been aware that SZ have been absorbing this cost for some years now, and in order to feed up the piggy bank, so that we can do further works to Arena 1, amongst other projects, we have decided it's time to pass this cost onto competitors.

In addition, SZ has four or five riders now regularly competing at Intermediate and above, which is a huge achievement the committee members are committed to support. To do so we need to continue to fly in our Interstate A-level judges. We also recognise that there is a huge ripple effect for all competitors, as the A-levels are needed to supplement our local judging pool to judge all levels, as there are not enough local judges to run a competition with these alone, and petrol costs to the North and NW are almost as much as an airfare! (The same problem exists for our Nth and NW Organising Committees.)

We also have the happy side-effect that our interstate judges are very valuable in educating and mentoring our local judges as they progress in their judging education.

Due to these factors you will notice a small increase to your entry fees as in early 2017.

Gala Ball

After the success of last year's event, planning is already underway for the next Dressage Tas Gala Ball!

Mark yourself as "busy" and put in your leave form for the 29th July 2017 and plan to get to the Country Club Casino, Launceston.

Helmets

After some brainstorming, it has been agreed that riders should check in with the Site Office/DC to get their helmet checked before riding at competitions in the New Year. Details will be included on the draw for the first few competitions of the year.

Horse of The Year

We understand some riders' frustration at having to nominate for HOTY. Currently, as there is no grading officer, this appears to be the best system available. An IT solution does not appear to be available at this time, and we hope that you will understand that the hours spent by a committee member trawling through the previous year's results for all members results vs that spent by individuals on their own horses' results is the best compromise for now.

The SDA plans to present HOTY rugs at the Gala Ball, so you will notice that HOTY nominations close on 17 March 2017.

The 2017 HOTY form is already on the website under the "Forms" tab and includes instructions on how to obtain horses' results off the EA database.

Nominate:

Entries seem to be working well and discounts being automatically applied for members. However, a few of our riders had thought they had entered at the last SZ comp when in fact their entry did not process, and they only realised after the draw came out! Just a reminder to you all, that if you do not receive an entry receipt within 5-10 minutes of making your entry, it may not have gone through. If this happens follow up with the competition organiser, who should be able to log in and check that your entry has or has not appeared, try again, and failing this give the friendly staff at nominate a call.



**The SDA would like to wish all of
our members and friends a
very happy festive season and
a safe and prosperous New Year!**

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