



EQUESTRIAN
AUSTRALIA

Equestrian Australia Ltd

ABN 19 077 455 755



DRESSAGE
AUSTRALIA

Riders Meeting

Thursday 6th December 2012 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm Dressage Festival Werribee

Minutes

Chaired By: Riders Representative – Elizabeth Owens

Minute Secretary: Rider's Representative

Riders in attendance: Total of 12

1. Introduction

- EO stressed importance of emailing the riders representative with issues/ideas. In order to maintain a consistent email address, irrespective of elected representative, a new address has been set up which will be transferred between successive representatives. This address is dressageridersrep@gmail.com and should be used for all email communications.

2. Updates from ADC

Matters arising from September meeting and actions from ADC

- Hot Weather Policy – now ratified by EA and Veterinary Committee and comes into effect immediately. There will be implications for organizers and riders in how they respond to predicted increased heat loads during competitions and EA events. Now an obligation to change timing for competition and/or have additional cooling mechanisms available such as ice, foggers, fans and extra hosing sites.
- Developing Grand Prix test – test agreed upon following consultation with ADJC and riders. Will be known as the Big Tour Entry level test and will be available for inclusion in competition programs from January 2013.
- New EA tests will be introduced in Jan 2014 and are based on USEF tests from 2011
- New preparatory tests will be introduced from 1/1/13
- New freestyle tests being introduced from 1/1/13
- PSG Challenge – successful qualification for this event will be recognized by awarding of badge and certificate. FEI Dressage Forum 2013 – this has been cancelled (leading international guest presenter cancelled) and will now be an FEI refresher with Stephen Clarke.
- Flyhoods – agreed by ADC that flyhoods will be allowed for prevention of insect annoyance from 1/1/13 without need for special approval. Still not allowed indoors except with permission OC.
- Grading system – feedback requested. Consensus was to maintain status quo and those riders who felt that their competition opportunities were limited due to risk of upgrading, should go HC.
- Some states have successfully introduced special category for non-professional riders to encourage increased participation. Put to the meeting that perhaps it was time that Australia had a 2-tier competition system that separate professional from non-professional riders. There was good discussion on this issue with riders present who

had had experience of similar initiatives in South Africa and the UK. They suggested introduction of “Open” and “Restricted” divisions separated by success (qualification for Nationals or state championship places) and/or professional status. The other suggestion made was to introduce a reduced cost membership that issued “restricted” riders with tickets to redeem at a maximum of 6 competitions per year.

3. Update from EA

EO gave assembled a brief overview of the information received at the last ADC meeting from EA

- Membership review underway across state branches. Goal to standardize membership categories – suggestion is Competitor, Recreational and Supporter categories. Cost differential and fees per category to be decided by state branches. Decline in membership a source of major concern for anyone interested in equestrian sport.
- High Performance
 - Relayed to meeting that position of Performance Director for Dressage would be re-advertised following poor response prior to Olympic Games. It was also noted that the position of Chef D’equipe was a separate role.
 - Nicole Tough queried the direction of the National Futures Squads and what the plan was for this initiative. Asked if there had been any report on progress or milestones achieved in its first 12 months. Suggestion was made that this should be the job of the Dressage Performance Director.
- Olympic debrief function being covered by Australian Sports Commission on this occasion. Concerns of Australian riders conveyed to Brett Mace by Riders Representative at last ADC meeting.

4. Any other business

- Petition from riding member submitted to ADC requesting that use of snaffle bit be made optional in EA competitions up to and including Grand Prix. The basis for the request was on animal welfare grounds. The feeling of the meeting was that acceptance of the double bridle is an integral stage in the progressive development and training of dressage horses and is no more a welfare concern than any other bit in the right hands. The proposal to make snaffle bits optional to Grand Prix was not supported.
- Mary Hannah stressed the importance of encouraging Under 25 young riders to gain experience at Grand Prix. Mary offered to sponsor a series to be run at major competitions with a final at the National Championships to encourage both YR and also owners to partner school master horses with YR’s and also for YR’s to venture into GP. There are appropriate tests that could be utilized for this division. Mary also pointed out that the success of this venture should not be measured by the number of entries but rather by the enthusiasm and talent shown by the few that participate.
- Judge selection at Nationals and State Championships discussed with riders noting that they often have the same judge in several tests and also the quality/experience of the judges appears to be secondary to who they know and how cheap they are to obtain. Recommend further discussion with ADJC, particularly in relation to National Championships.
- Lack of practice at Freestyle competitions – qualifying scores often out of reach of many keen competitors. The lack of any freestyles on the Friday night at DF was given as an example of an opportunity missed. Given that the Freestyles are the events of

greatest interest to the general public it is a pity that they are not included in more events.

5. Meeting closed 7:30pm