

## Dressage News Sheet - 30 April 2012

A lot of information is provided on Dressage on the EWA E-blast, however riders and organisers tell us they often do not read it all. The Dressage WA Website is dedicated to providing information on Dressage for all stakeholders. We hope clubs, riders, owners and breeders will use it to reach a wide Dressage audience.

### Dressage – a labour intensive equestrian event

In all minor sports in today's world, finding volunteers is a challenge. Dressage is a highly labour intensive equestrian event. Only about 6-7 tests per hour can be run in each arena. Helpers to support the tests in that arena include on average 2 writers, a gearchecker, a marshall, a scorer, a runner, people to erect and put away arenas, people to manage hospitality for sponsors, announcers, judges, scorers, key organisers etc. This represents a ratio of about 1 helper: 1 rider.

### Helpers

Many competitors choose never to help. Some equestrian disciplines have chosen to simply make entries very expensive so they can pay many volunteers. Dressage prefers to offer people a choice -

- People who wish to keep their entry costs for major events down can significantly lower their entry fee by helping
- People who choose not to help will find their entries dearer

This system seems fair all around, rewarding those who assist, charging those who do not.

People who have not organised events often do not appreciate the numbers of helpers required. Fifty helpers were listed for a recent well-run Official Dressage event in the hills for 119 tests. As most riders rode 2 tests at this event, the equation was about 1 for 1 – ie 1 helper: 1 rider. While many clubs are able to muster this many helpers, clubs with small memberships such as Dressage WA Promotions Inc find it hard to secure sufficient helpers, even with a Helper Fee in their entries.

### Numbers

At the EWA AGM on Thursday 26 April, the Chair of the EWA Board said, 'We think Equenet has had a significant influence on numbers, people who have not renewed membership. Please encourage lapsed members to rejoin EWA.' Anecdotal reports also indicate that negative comments in the electronic social media in WA have deterred some riders from rejoining, and have deterred some organisers from running events. Before making judgements about trends in numbers in Dressage in WA, it is worth comparing trends in numbers in Dressage both within and outside WA.

### National YR Dressage Champs April in Vic

2011 <700 entries approx 250 horses

2012 >260 entries approx 90 horses

### SA Champs

April 2012 - 352 tests in 2 days all on grass

### WA Champs

April 2011 - 470 tests in 2 days – indoors, international, C Quest and grass

April 2012 - 450 tests in 2 days – indoors, international, C Quest and grass (Equenet issues & costs of EWA membership have impacted on membership, the option of payment by instalments should boost figures soon)

### WA Interschools

2009 – 350 entries

2012 – 170 entries

### Dressage Performance Cards issued in 2012

In Vic 1782 issued

In NSW 2021 issued (remember NSW has 7 times WA's population)

In WA data is currently unobtainable due to the issues with Equenet, in 2011 approx 400 WA Dressage Cards

## DDF

Every EWA discipline collects levies from their competitions, and Dressage is no exception.

In the past, funding from Dressage Performance Cards, Dep't of Sport & Rec, & Healthways was allocated to Dressage WA to run our sport. Dressage Performance Card revenue, DSR funding, and most Healthways funds no longer go to Dressage WA. At present, the only revenue source available to Dressage WA to run the sport is DDF Levies.

Until late 2011 all DDF decisions were made by a DDF Sub-Committee, (funds were allocated to events which met set criteria). The CEO of EWA then realised that this was unconstitutional. State discipline committees must manage all monies. DWA now manages DDF. The first step taken was to make the DDF Application process much quicker and simpler, to attract applications from more clubs. The DDF Form is on the DWA & EWA websites. Only 2 applications had been received by 31 March, so the closing date was extended.

### DWA extended the DDF Application closing date for 2012 to the end of April.

#### Levies – comparison between 2011 Budgets DWA with another EWA discipline

DWA DDF Levies		Another Discipline Levies (This data was provided by the CEO of EWA)	
Annual awards at EWA Awards Night	1%	Annual awards at EWA Awards Night	2%
Officials' travel & Chair's travel to ADC meeting	4%	Officials travel	8%
Officials education, fees & accommodation (incl TD's)	22%	Officials fees (such as TD's)	20%
Grants to clubs	45%	Grants to clubs	30%
Rider support	6%	Rider support	8%
EWA officials membership	3%	EWA officials membership	3%
Equipment purchase or hire	5%	Equipment purchase or hire	15%
Prizes, rugs, money etc	6%	Prizes, rugs, money etc	8%
Compulsory annual contribution to the National Dressage Championships	8%	FEI fees	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Dressage Education

Dressage Judges Taskforce organises 6-8 Dressage Education Workshops and Seminars each year. DWA places a high priority on education in response to rider feedback & our last survey. Details of Seminars held over the past 3-4 years are on the website. In 2011, over \$10,000.00, largely from DDF, was spent on developing and training officials.

## Facilities

**Judges Boxes** - The new Judges Boxes have purposely been built large enough for Mentoring, Sitting In and Shadow Judging, since most WA Judges do not travel to events outside WA to have opportunities for development.

\$3,000.00 has already been donated from Dressage WA/DWAP Inc so far from their 2011 Christmas Dressage Day Fundraiser, another \$3,000.00 from DDF is already committed on Dressage WA's Minutes when they are complete to specifications.

**Surfaces** - The quote the CEO of SEC received in August last year to develop a proper raised base that drains, and to resurface the International Arena at SEC was \$400,000.00. Sport funding from DSR is for new facilities, it is not allocated to maintain or renovate existing facilities. An amount of the magnitude of \$400,000.00 is completely beyond the resources available to Dressage WA.

## DP Inc 2012

Dressage WA has requested EOI's for clubs to run major events including the Dressage Festivals, we have had no responses. Over the past 3 years Tanya Appleby, Sandy Taylor, Val Vesperman, Nadine Herbert and Angela Carroll have done a fantastic job, making the 2 Dressage Festivals a huge success. We have some terrific new people on DWAP Inc who have helped to share several of the big jobs like sponsorship and catering. DWAP Inc will be looking for new Event Managers for 2013, so if you are interested, send in an EOI.

The budget for ADF & SDF is \$60,000.00 pa (ADF - \$32,000.00 to run, SDF - \$28,000.00 to run) - experience has taught DWAP Inc, (as is best practice in business and industry and like other EWA disciplines), to hold a contingency fund in a bank in case of a losses like those sustained in September 2009.

Prizes for 83 classes including Champion titles need to be obtained. Most classes require prizes to 3<sup>rd</sup> place and rosettes/ribbons to 6<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> place – when you do the maths, this is a very large number of rosettes & prizes to fund. The budget for these events is considerable, experience has taught DWAP Inc to, (as is best practice in business and industry and like other EWA disciplines), hold a contingency fund in a bank in case of a losses like those sustained in the events in September 2009 (Indoor Championships lost \$4,000.00).

## Costs

Over a quarter of the \$32,000.00 budget for the ADF was spent on venue, followed by expenditure on the many Officials needed for the event (including airfares, accommodation and reimbursement), followed very closely by rugs, rosettes and prize money. These expenses are all fairly standard ratios in event management, and they help to put the **refundable** \$50.00 Helper Fee charged at the event into proportion.

## Cost comparison with some other events & championships in Australia in 2011

	EA Comp (class)	FEI Comp (class)	Admin Fee	Prize Money	Venue	
Aust'n Champs	Nov/Elem \$66.00 Med/Adv \$77.00	PSG/Int II \$88.00 GP \$132.00		varies	sand arenas, 1 indoor arena	
Vic Champs	\$76.00	\$98.00	-	varies	sand arenas, 1 indoor arena	
Qld Champs	\$55.00	\$65.00	\$30.00	varies	sand arenas, 1 indoor arena	
Clarendon (NSW DC) Monthly Events	Off Tests \$40.00-50.00	\$40.00- 50.00	\$5.00	none	no indoor arena, 3 sand arenas	
Clarendon (NSW DC) Monthly Events	Assoc Tests \$40.00	\$40.00		none	no indoor arena, grass	
Several WA Clubs	\$35.00	\$35.00		varies	sand arena	
Albury Wodonga Champs	\$40.00	\$40.00		varies		
DWTS	\$115.00	\$115.00		varies	sand arenas, indoor arena	

## State Championships Date - April or September

Experience has shown that there is no single date that pleases all stakeholders.

In the past successful riders have expressed a strong desire to be able to ride for WA State Championship Titles and National Titles, and to have the results of State Championships prior to the close of entries for the Nationals

In the past riders who have full time work have made it clear the dates should be when daylight allows training after work and when arenas not waterlogged

It is impossible to obtain enough volunteers on Father's Day – first Sunday in Sept

It is difficult to secure the best judges on the second weekend in Sept – many senior judges are judging at the NSW Championships & Champs also in Vic

It is impossible to obtain enough volunteers on Perth Royal Show weekend 29 Sept- 6 Oct

It is impossible to obtain enough volunteers on AFL Grand Final – last Saturday in Sept (often the first weekend in Oct)

## Dressage Events in WA

Feedback from a number of clubs last year to DWA was that entries were disappointing – this meant that some clubs put in a lot of work and raised almost no funds, they only just broke even. This influenced a number of clubs to reduce the number of events they planned to hold in 2012. Unless entry numbers grow, clubs will be reluctant to add more Dressage events to their calendar.

<b>Dressage Dates in 2012</b>			
Jan	<b>21-22</b>	<b>Southern Districts DC Summer Solstice - Albany</b>	<b>DHOYL Round Off &amp; Assoc</b>
Jan	28	FoSEC cancelled	Off/Assoc
Jan	29	Perth DC	Training
Jan	29	FoSEC cancelled	Off/Assoc
Jan	29	Orange Grove H&PC	Off & Assoc & Interschool Qualifier
Feb	5	Serpentine H&PC	Off & Assoc
Feb	11	FoSEC cancelled	Off/Assoc
Feb	19	Perth DC	Training
Feb	19	Dryandra REA	Training
Mar	4	Margaret River & DC	Off & Assoc
Mar	11	Henty RC	Off & Assoc
Mar	<b>11</b>	<b>PDC</b>	<b>DHOYL Round Off &amp; Assoc</b>
Mar	18	FoSEC cancelled	Off/Assoc
Mar	24	Swan River DC Elem-GP Series 1	Off
Mar	25	Swan Valley EP	Off & Assoc
Apr	1	Busselton H&PC	Off & Assoc
Apr	13-16	Interschools	
Apr	<b>21-22</b>	<b>Autumn Dressage Festival – State Champs</b>	<b>2 x DHOYL Rounds Freestyle Challenge Off &amp; Assoc</b>
Apr	22	Geraldton Combined Equestrian	Off & Assoc
Apr	29	Gidgegannup EA	Off & Assoc
Apr	29	Dryandra EA Narrogin	Training
May	3-6	<b>Sydney CDI3* &amp; CDIY</b>	
May	6	Margaret River & Districts	Off & Assoc
May	6	Transitions Inc	Training
May	6	Bunbury	Off & Assoc
May	12	Swan River DC Elem-GP Series 2	Off
May	12	Swan Valley DA	Off & Assoc
May	13	Pinjarra H&PC	Off & Assoc
May	13	Geraldton Combined Equestrian	Off & Assoc
May	20	Mid-West DC DRTA Geraldton	Off & Assoc
May	20	Katanning EA	Assoc & Unoff
May	26-27	Southern Districts DC	Off/ Assoc
May	28	Perth DC	Training
May	28-29	Southern Districts DC - Albany	Off & Assoc
May	26	Perth DC	Training
June	10	Margaret River & Districts	Off & Assoc
June	10	Kalamunda DA	Assoc & Training
June	10	Geraldton Combined Equestrian	Off & Assoc
June	<b>20</b>	<b>Serpentine H&amp;PC</b>	<b>DHOYL Round Off &amp; Assoc</b>
June	<b>30</b>	<b>Dryandra EA Narrogin</b>	<b>DHOYL Round Off &amp; Assoc</b>
June	30	Zamia ARC (Darlington)	Assoc

July	7	SRDA - Elem-GP Series 3	Off
July	8	Geraldton Combined Equestrian	Off & Assoc
July	14-15	Perth DC	Training
July	14	Swan Valley DA	Training
July	15	Orange Grove H&PC	DHOYL Round Off & Assoc
Aug	11	Swan Valley DA	Training
Aug	18	Perth DC	Training
Aug	18-19	Geraldton Combined Equestrian	Off & Assoc
Aug	26	DAWA	DHOYL Round Off & Assoc
Sept	1-2	Henty	Off & Assoc
Sept	15-16	Spring Dressage Festival/CPEDI3*	Assoc Champs DHOY Final Rounds Freestyle Challenge
Sept	22-23	Katanning Equestrian Association	DHOYL Round Off & Assoc
Sept	23	Geraldton Combined Equestrian	Off & Assoc
Sept	30	Perth Royal Show	
Sept	30	Serpentine H&PC	Off & Assoc
Oct	7	Bunbury H&PC	Off & Assoc
Oct	13-14	PDC	Training
Oct	13-14	Margaret River & Districts Spectacular	DHOYL Round Off & Assoc
Oct	28	Kalamunda DC	Assoc
Oct	25-28	National Dressage Champs – SIEC Sydney	
Nov	10-11	WA Arabian Society State Championships	
Nov	11	Albany Ag Soc	Off & Assoc
Nov	17	Perth DC	Off & Assoc
Dec	2	Transitions	Off & Assoc

### FEI Judges

At the last Forum, there were complaints about a lack of variety in high level judges. All Australian FEI Dressage Judges have judged &/delivered Seminars very recently at our major events.

#### 5\*

Mary Seefried  
Susie Hoevenaars

#### 4\*

Virginia Creed  
Ricky McMillan  
Maria Schwennesen  
Gill Cobcroft (now retired)

#### 3\*

Jane Ventura  
Joanne Fowler  
Gisela Nilsson-Harding