

Summary of Business of the meeting of the Australian Dressage Committee Sunday 15 May 2016

Fundraising for the Development of Dressage in Australia post Rio OG

The ADC discussed actions for developing an ADC Australian Dressage Foundation raising funds to support the development of Australian Dressage into the future after Rio OG. This is in light of the need for decreasing reliance on government funding (decreasing for dressage) through the Australian Sports Commission. Judy Fasher EA Board Chair and Paula Ward EA CEO were in attendance. Deb Carr, professional philanthropic fundraiser, is also advising the ADC on this matter.

In particular ADC is keen to be able to use the tax deductible advantages of the EA Australian Sports Foundation Fund projects in order to facilitate the raising of funds. A Foundation Council will also be developed whose role will be to facilitate fundraising or actually develop events for fund raising. The Council will include up to 4 people from each state who can work together as well as collaborate between the states. In addition to the ASF fundraising, a dedicated dressage bank account within EA will be made available for money raised for purposes other than those suitable for the ASF. The ADC expects to make a further announcement on this in July.

Report on FEI Sports Forum Lausanne April 2016

Both Paula Ward and Judy Fasher were present at these Forums and reported on the discussions including education of officials. The FEI have released the # Two Hearts marketing campaign and if you haven't looked at the video it is well worthwhile –

<https://www.facebook.com/the.feivideos/>

The major issue discussed was Agenda 2020 and the future of equestrian sports in the Olympic Games after Tokyo OG in 2020. There is no doubt that equestrian sports have to change their formats for such big events as the OG in order to make them more attractive for TV rights sale. In addition, the universality (more flags) needs to be weighed up with cost of conduct of the equestrian events (numbers of horses) and the solution is that teams of each discipline will consist of three riders only. Further information and documentation is available on the FEI website at

<http://www.fei.org/fei/about-fei/sportsforum/2016>

RIO Update Report

An in depth written report re the RIO planning was given for both dressage and Para Equestrian. Most importantly, the re-entry quarantine requirements

for horses coming back to Australia has been reduced from 6 months to 60 days and this has reduced costs to athletes considerably.

Para Dressage: There is quiet excitement about the scores the PE riders have been producing and after Roosendaal CDPE in May 2016, the top four athletes and two reserves have been nominated to the Board. Staging camp is in Europe, early in August with a view to flying into Rio on 2/3 September and all horses back to Sydney leaving Rio on 19th September.

Dressage: The top eight list was announced on 12 April and three riders and horses travelled to Europe from Australia. Selection events are at Odense 12-16 May and Rotterdam on 22-26 June. The team will be nominated to AOC on or before 4 July.

Horses and athletes will fly into Rio on 2 August and depart back to Europe on 18 August.

State Coach Workshop – 8 April 2016

A meeting of all State Squad Coaches with the NPD Julia Battams was held during Sydney CDI on 8 April. Present were Mathew Dowsley, Brett Parbery, Peter Fischer, Lone Joergensen, Ricky MacMillan and apologies (but on phone) from Clemens Dierks and Bjarne Elefsen. All coaches stated it would be very beneficial if a 12 month calendar of clinics was made available early in the year. Each coach needs an information pack on who is on squads, the squad policy, plus major competitions where squad members should compete. The squad coaches would also like to be able to invite 2-3 young riders and ADC supports this as long as State selectors are involved on who is invited. One Youth Squad clinic per year is recommended. It is clear that this meeting assisted in developing the strategic connection between High Performance National and State levels Squads. There still needs to be some work done on the National Calendar of major events so that the competition schedule supports the development of combinations and dressage generally.

“Triple Crown” in Dressage An idea to discuss in the future is a “Triple Crown” series which may culminate at the Australian Dressage Championships. This would involve discussions about whether the current National calendar should be tweaked in terms of dates.

Progress on Elementary competition for Participation membership

The EA Board has decided not to proceed with any changes to Membership structure in this regard at this stage, based on feedback from the EA Branch offices.

Proposed Rule Changes for 2017.

The ADC agreed to several rule changes which will be presented to the SDAs for consultation and ultimate approval at the August SDA-ADC meeting.

In particular changes in the Freestyle Judging Rules in response to changes at FEI level will require education sessions for judges in each of the States.

The ADC has agreed to appoint an external consultant to review the current Rule Book with the aim to improve clarity, avoid redundant rules, consistent spelling, phrasing and headings and also check consistency of fonts etc. This will be applied to the 1.1. 2017 Rule Book.

Equipment Clarifications

The ADC is presented with many, many queries about whether equipment, especially bits, nosebands, and boots and coats are legal.

Please note that the EA equipment webpages have been updated and are updated regularly:
<http://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/Dressage%20equipment%20annex%20Version%2011.pdf>

A form for queries about equipment is located at
http://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/Application_to_Dressage_Equipment_Committee.pdf

ADC Gold Performance Medals

The ADC has agreed on the same standards to be applied for all levels and has added the FEI Medium Tour tests. Information is on EA website now.

<http://www.equestrian.org.au/news/2016-national-dressage-performance-gold-medals>

AAOR National Championships 2017

In response to an EOI from Queensland, the ADC has agreed to trial the first National Adult Amateur Owner /Rider Championships in Queensland in late September 2017. If successful it is intended to seek further EOIs with the desire that this is a National Championship which would circulate around Australia.

Senior State Team at Australian Dressage Championships

The ADC has agreed to change this to Prix St. Georges, Intermediate I and Intermediate II/GP level.

Yellow Card- Warning system for dressage

The ADC is investigating whether to introduce into the National Rules a yellow card system similar to what is available at FEI level sports and also nationally for jumping and eventing.

This project is being chaired by Prue Spurrett (Member ADC) so if you have any thoughts on this please contact her. If the policy is ready we will introduce it in 2017, but at latest 2018.

Education matters- Eventing Dressage- G level judges

Eventing NSW conducted a successful pilot program to develop more G level judges and also to increase their knowledge of the context of Eventing sport – cross country /jumping as well as dressage. The ADC supports this program as the dressage section was conducted by a Dressage Judge Educator thus making the candidates eligible for the NOAS dressage judge stream.

Australian Dressage Championships 2016

The Australian Dressage Championships will be held once again at SIEC on 20-23 October 2016. An independent website is being developed. The schedule is being prepared.

Advisory Panel for Para Equestrian

EA has formed an Advisory Panel for Para Equestrian whose job it is to identify pathways for riders to come from RDA, Interschool, Pony Club and other organisations to join Para Equestrian riders to increase participation in the sport. The first report is due in July 2016

Dressage Stewards

Cathy Drury-Klein, the Dressage Steward-General reported on the accrediting seminars held in Victoria, NSW and QLD. The ADC urges each state to conduct a steward's clinic either in 2016 or 2017. Trained stewards are essential to assist in supporting the welfare of the horse at all official competitions.

Next Meetings 2016

ADJC 19 August
SDA-ADC 20 August
ADC 21 August

Mary Seefried: Chair – Australian Dressage Committee