



Summary of Business: Dressage Victoria July Meeting

Dressage Victoria met face to face at the Leveson Hotel, North Melbourne on 13th July 2022. Due to the effects of Covid-19 and various lockdowns this was only the second time we have been able to have a physical meeting with all committee members in the past two years. While Zoom meetings have been very productive it was great to catch up with everyone.

The meeting set time aside to discuss the proposed Review of the Committee Code of Conduct, Committee Structure, and Committee Member Profiles. The EV CEO, Amy Slayter and Chair of the EV Board, Christie Freeman, were also welcomed at the meeting.

Lively and productive discussion followed as Dressage Victoria came to terms with the proposed new By Laws likely to be introduced in November 2022.

Other topics discussed included:

2022 Dressage Festival – Victorian State Championships, December 2022.

Chair, Lizzy Schirmer, led the meeting in exploring ways of promoting and expanding this popular event and also continuing to involve Victorian dressage clubs and their members as stakeholders in the event.

EA Measuring Rules

Pony spokesperson Louise Maguire raised the issues that relate to dressage pony measuring and the essential differences between measuring these ponies and show horses / ponies. Victoria is in a good position with approved measuring facilities in three venues around the state but a fourth to service Gippsland, especially in the east of the state, is being investigated for Sale.

Young Pony Dressage Tests

Currently the six year old pony test does not include flying changes, this was a modification that occurred several years ago and an EA test was designed for ponies as opposed to the FEI Young Horse test for six year old horses. With the improved standard of pony breeding and training it was felt that it was appropriate for six year old ponies to be asked for flying changes in line with the horses.

Online Dressage Survey

Recently an online survey was designed promoted by our Social Media representative, Lindsey Ware. The questions were interesting and carefully crafted to achieve measurable results. Lindsey reported on the responses from a healthy number of respondents. Areas that received attention with positive responses included:

Atmosphere at an event, the provision of pony classes, presentations, electronic scoring and the provision of media walls / photo opportunities at major events were all seen as important to competitors. Trophy rugs were preferred to trophies, rosettes over ribbons and physical prizes over prize money were top suggestions. Garlands, usually only awarded at show horse events, also

received positive feedback. Vouchers for feed won out over physical bags of feed so that riders could have choice

Socialising opportunities at events were divided on almost equal terms with riders often too busy with their test duties to have real opportunities to relax.

Concern was shown for the costs of competing, with entry fees, stabling and travel as a deterrent to some.

Volunteers and volunteering produced a wide range of responses with many feeling that they did not always feel they could commit due to other commitments at events.

Many put forward the importance of thanking sponsors and they would like to see greater promotion of sponsors on social media as well as signage and photo opportunities.

Dressage Victoria