

DV Clubs Forum

March 11, 2017

EV Boardroom

Present in person:

Pam Buxton-Barber VDC, Fiona Normand SEDC, Jan Smith Geelong, Sue Leslie WPVDC, Sue Chandler BDDC

Present via conference call:

Kerry Mack WPVDC, Duncan Terry Tatura DC

Facilitator: Julia Battams

The forum was convened to discuss ways in which the Victorian Dressage Clubs could best be represented at DV level given the new structure put in place for the Dressage Victoria Committee. This report is to publicise the conversations and ideas that were shared at the forum with some recommendations for Club Committees to take back to their membership for discussion.

There seemed to be agreement amongst all present that a logical way to move forward would be a structure along the following lines:

- There are currently 25 DV Clubs.
- Divide Victoria into 4-5 regions
- Assuming agreement to this concept, at their next planned meeting, each club should decide on a suitable representative of their club who would be able to speak on behalf of that club's membership. These Club Representatives would attend quarterly meetings in their Region.
- Each Region at its first quarterly meeting would elect a Regional Representative. These Regional Representatives would also meet quarterly (via Skype or conference call if preferred). This Regional Group would elect a representative who will represent all State clubs as a co-opted member of the DV Committee for 12 months.
- Each quarter in addition to the State Club representative, the Regional representative from one of the four regions would also be invited to attend the DV meeting. This way, every meeting the State Rep would be in attendance, but each Region would be represented in person once per year and would be invited to give a short report on the state of play in their region.
- In March each year there would be an annual Club Forum to which all Club officials would be invited. This annual meeting would become the opportunity to:
 - finalise the competition calendar,
 - endorse the State Representative,
 - plan meeting dates for the Regional meetings
 - elect the Rider's Rep for the following year (A question was raised whether this would allow EV members who were not members of a club to have enough input into this position). If this meeting was at DWTS, then this would be feasible, post the Riders meeting.

The next DV meeting (which is the first in the new format) will be the first opportunity to float this concept and we can formulate template documents for clubs to use: Nomination to be Club representative at Regional meetings; Nomination to be Regional representative at State

meetings, etc. All nominations would need to be approved by Club office bearers and must be accompanied by a short CV.

It would be made clear to all nominees, that at the State meetings, they would represent all clubs in their region, and that at the DV meeting, the elected representative would speak for all regions.

As soon as possible, after the DV meeting, clubs would be contacted to find out the dates of their next Club meeting with the plan to run the first Regional meetings as soon as possible after the last Club Committee has met.

There was a suggestion that the annual Club Forum could be held in conjunction with one of the major Victorian competitions – eg DF or DWTS. From a timing perspective DWTS is possibly more appropriate with respect to the timing of the calendar meeting. Could Clubs please discuss this also at their next meeting.

It will be raised at the first DV meeting that one of the DV Committee could take the “Clubs portfolio” and be in direct communication with the clubs to assist in the rollout of this plan, but also to attend club committee meetings and regional meetings on occasion so that each club also has the opportunity to directly communicate with a DV member.

Another topic to please raise at your next meeting is whether your membership feels that the Rider’s Rep should be a co-opted member onto the DV Committee. Attendees at the forum were not in complete agreement on this point and several suggestions were made: firstly that the Riders Rep should either meet with or submit a report to (or both) one of the DV committee members prior to each DV meeting. The report would then be tabled at the meeting. The Rider’s Rep could be in regular contact with the DV committee through this member to keep updated on relevant information.

Another idea was to support the new format of the DV Committee by selecting co-opted members to fill skills gaps in the committee, and if the Riders Rep could fill a skills gap in addition to holding the Rider’s Rep position, this would be beneficial.

The third suggestion was to simply co-opt the Riders Rep to the DV Committee.

Another suggestion to fill the co-opted positions was to include a representative of the Squad sub-committee.

It is not essential to fill these co-opted positions so yet another suggestion was to leave them vacant until a need for a particular skill set was identified on the committee.

Bylaws allow for the DV committee to co-opt additional members or otherwise according to its needs