

**Scottish Dressage Group Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 2 December 2015 Stables Bar, Mortonhall Edinburgh**

Members Present: Claire Scott, Roberts Stephens, Kath Lawson, Jacky Chalmers, Carol Wood, Rachel Jackson, Joanne Charlton, Margaret Parker, Hazel Hunter, Ros Kirkman, Sophie Young, Claire Fraser, Nicola Mowatt, Sheila Rodgers

Other Attendees: Hannah McLeod, Vanessa Ingles,

1. Apologies for Absence

Alys Watson, Eilidh Whiteford, Alison Scougall, Judy Douglas Miller, Kayreen Jones

2. Minutes of last AGM

Minutes of previous AGM approved. Proposed: J Chalmers Seconded: Claire Fraser

3. Chairman's Report – Ros Kirkman

The chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the club to all the committee who have served during this year and to all show organisers and helpers, writers, stewards, scorers etc.

A special thank you to Margaret who has organised several shows, done all the times, rosettes, helpers, result sheets as well as maintaining the arena kit, teas, coffees, entry forms, jolly emails and made big contribution to everyone enjoying the shows.

The chairman also thanked the current committee: Hazel (Treasurer), Margaret (Competitions) Sheila (Membership), Judy Douglas Miller (Judges) plus new ones Carol Wood and Claire Scott co-opted during the year. Also Julie Ross, who is not on committee but is our Child Safety Officer.

Thanks to retiring committee during year: Jackie Gray who was Chairman for many years, Jackie Chalmers (Competitions secretary) and Alison Scougall (Membership). Also without portfolio Robert Stephens and Nicola Mowatt.

Thanks to Celia and the Cousland team for use of facilities and putting up arenas.

The Club has had a successful year with 5 winter competitions and for the first time 5 summer ones, and record entries, but the real success is people wanting to come and compete and help.

This year, no social or non-competition events were organised – the committee have asked members but no suggestions or volunteers-still open to suggestions/requests from members.

Finally the chairman asked for other volunteers for committee. Without the committee the club would not exist.

4. Membership Secretary's Report – Sheila Rogers

SDG had 85 members end of September 2014 for the year 2014/2015.

As of 23rd November 2015, there were 65 members joined/rejoined for 2015/16 incl 2 Honorary, 5 Juniors, (youngest is 7 years old!). It is expected that some more of last year's members will rejoin, and there will be some more new members.

5. Treasurer's Report – Hazel Hunter

Balance sheets are available for members to read and questions welcomed.

SDG holds two accounts, an operational account and a savings account. Both accounts are on the

audited accounts balance sheet available at the AGM.

Total competition income covered all competition expenditure and resulted in a profit.

The 50th Anniversary Dinner had a shortfall the result of expenses incurred of £115 which the committee, at that time, decided the club would pay.

Two British Riding Club fees in one year were the result of the period when payments to BRC were made. BRC confirmed that no overpayment was being made. These two payments gave the impression our resulting profit for the year was less than it actually was.

It was noted during discussion of the accounts that the accounts up to 30th September 2015 appeared to show a loss of £475 for the year. However, this was due to payment of 2 years BRC affiliation fees in these accounts (including £735 from 2014). This meant that there was actually a profit of £260 for the year to end September 2015, rather than a loss of £475.

6. Competitions Secretary Report – Margaret Parker

Margaret thanked Jacky Chalmers for helping with the transfer as she took on this new role.

Competitions have averaged 4.5 hours of tests each month. The exception was August which lasted over 5.5 hours! All competitions have been financially viable. Over the summer where we run repeated tests it was very evident the improvement everyone was making both in the scores and moving up the levels. Over the winter we will encourage people to try 60m tests!

Despite Rockrose holding competitions nearby, our club competitions are still adding value and worthwhile.

We are committed to promoting dressage at grass roots level which we hope has benefitted from introducing the Restricted sections in the Intro and Prelim Classes encouraging more people to give them a go. We have also started using Trainee BD Affiliated judges to help give them the practice they need. This arrangement has been mutually beneficial. We will still be using well experienced judges too. We have also changed our scoring for the winter league to a British Dressage points system for %'s rather than places and we will watch how this pans out over the winter.

We would also like to encourage new people to try out writing and scoring, and hope to get a list for the coming year. Seeing tests from the judges box and hearing comments first hand is a very good way to improve on test riding accuracy and will help add a few more points to anybody's score sheet. While doing scoring makes one appreciate how intense it can be to get the results out without delay after tests have finished.

Everybody at our competitions are volunteers and the show would not go ahead without them. On the day we rely on judges, writers, scorers, readers, tea ladies etc but one job which really keeps the day flowing is stewards and this year many competitors will have been kept in order by Rachel who stewarded all summer for the entire day. This has not gone unnoticed in that we would like to present Rachael with the Volunteer of the Year Trophy!

Rachael Jackson was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Trophy for 2014/15.

Finally Margaret thanked Ci Henderson for the use of competition facilities at Cousland and the staff who layed out arenas etc for us.

7. Subscriptions and Entry Fees

It was noted that BRC affiliation fees and the hourly rate for hire of the competition venue at Cousland are increasing during the coming year.

The Committee proposed keeping entry fees and membership subscription rates unchanged for the year 2015/16. (It was suggested by some members that the committee should be given the power to increase subs and entry fee amounts for the next year should it be needed during the current year. The chairman did not feel that this was necessary. Post meeting note: Our constitution states that changes to subscription rates must be agreed at an AGM.)

A vote was taken for membership subs and entry fees to remain the same till the end of September 2016. This was passed unanimously.

8. Election of Committee Members

Sheila Rodgers, Claire Scott and Carol Wood were nominated as committee members (having been co-opted onto the committee during the year 2014/15). They were proposed by Jacky Chalmers and seconded by Robert Stephens. They were elected unanimously.

In accordance with our constitution, the 2 longest serving committee members are re-elected at the AGM. Hazel Hunter and Judy Douglas Miller were proposed by Ros Kirkman and seconded by Robert Stephens, and unanimously elected by the AGM.

6. Trophy Presentation

The following trophies were presented:

Winter 2014/15:

Intro: Sophie Young
Prelim: Rachel Jackson
Novice: Sarah Murray
Elementary: Amy Krause and Elaine Napier
Medium: Joan Lauder
Adv Medium: Joan Lauder

Summer 2015:

Intro (R): Nicola Mowatt
Intro (O): Kathy Lawson
Prelim (R): Kathy Lawson
Prelim (O): Lorna Pate
Novice: Claire Fraser
Elementary: Eiligh Whiteford
Medium: Ros Kirkman

Intro Points for whole year: Sophie Young

Total Points Winter: Rachel Jackson
Total Points Summer: Kathy Lawson

7. Any Other Business

No other matters arising.

Meeting closed and buffet opened.

HH and RK 4.12.15