

Scottish Dressage Group March 2015 Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

When May arrives, we will be changing to the Summer Points Championship, held on the first Wednesday of the month, and running usually from 5pm until about 9pm.

The dates are Wednesday 6th May, Wednesday 3rd June, Wednesday 1st July, and Wednesday 5th August. This is one additional date, giving more weight to the Summer Points Championship by running it over four events, not three as previously

As usual, these events are less formal than the winter competitions. As is the norm for the summer events, jackets need not be worn - smart casual is acceptable - and plaiting is not essential. All other BD rules must be adhered to, however. Tests will be the same for all four events, allowing you to chart progress and be confident of remembering the test. All are held in a 40m arena.

Competitions

At the last Committee Meeting, it was agreed that Intro and Prelim Summer Points Competitions should have Restricted and Open classes to encourage riders to tackle a higher class. This will mean that there are two further trophies for which members can now compete!

Help at competitions is still very much dependent on Committee Members and Cousland based members with only a few exceptions. We need helpers who would like to try their hand at writing for judges or using their maths skills at adding score sheets (calculators provided!). Neither is too difficult but they are vital jobs for running a competition smoothly and efficiently.

Stewards are also essential for keeping the events running to time, so if you have a non-competing friend travelling with you, they may like to assist for part of the time. Without a steward, confusion arose at the March event over the running order and two entrants were upset and inconvenienced, so Stewards are vital to the smooth running of an event!

If you think you could undertake any of these tasks on one of our Wednesday evening competitions in May through to August, Competition Secretary, Margaret Parker, would love to hear from you.

Rosette Certificates

These are available to class winners instead of rosettes, if they so wish. The certificates are worth £1 each and can be used in part payment of future entry fees. If you are lucky enough to be placed, please let the organisers know if you would like a certificate rather than a rosette. Remember to bring a SAE to a competition for your score sheet if you think you might leave before your class is finished.

Entry fees

SDG competition entry fees have remained at the same level for many years, and we are happy to be keeping them at these levels. However, when you enter a competition please ensure that your cheque is made payable to Scottish Dressage Group, it is signed, and you have sufficient funds in your account to honour the cheque. Every moment spent by our volunteer Treasurer sorting out incorrect or unpaid cheques, equates to less riding time for her!

Catering

Sadly, we are finding that our competition numbers are not high enough to make it viable for an outside catering van to attend. If any members do know of a caterer who might like to attend, if only for a few hours late morning and over lunch, please let a member of the Committee know.

Freestyle to Music and Teams

The take up of a Freestyle Dressage to Music class in recent years has been poor, so this will not be included in the SDG calendar at present. Similarly, while one or two members have shown interest in being part of an SDG Team, no one has come forward with the enthusiasm and time to organise this, or the fundraising that would have to go with it. If this should change, the Committee will consider it again.

Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) and Scottish Veteran Dressage (SVD)

The organisers of both these championships have been contacted to see if a qualifier could be held at an SDG competition but as yet no replies have been received.

Stallions

If you are competing on a stallion, please note that BD rules state that stallions are to be identified by the rider wearing a yellow cross band or stallion disc on the bridle whilst working in and in competition.

Training

Our Competition Secretary, Margaret Parker is making enquiries to see if SDG can work with other dressage enthusiasts to bring advanced trainers more regularly to this area of Scotland.

Website

The SDG website had now been updated with some of the photos from the 50th Anniversary Dinner last November. It is hoped that a potted history of SDG will also go on the website shortly.