



Committee Meeting Minutes
Date: 7 October 2020, 8pm
Location: Zoom Meeting

Present: Sonja Swale, Liz Ferns, Lucy McKelvie, Mary Davies, Sharon Muirhead, Corinne Ward, Fiona Sharp

Apologies: Allie Harper, Noelene Keen, Marlene Parkinson, Di Elliotte

As this was an additional meeting to discuss a specific issue, the standardised meeting format was not adhered to.

The meeting progressed as follows:

Correspondence received:

Sonja has received an email from Vicky Hammond in which she tendered her resignation from the position of Writer's Coordinator (effective immediately). Sonja has had communication with Peggy Angus. Peggy is happy to take on this role.

Matter Arising:

To discuss the removal of Official's Fee and how this might be best communicated with our competitors, sponsors and wider community.

- Sonja outlined her concerns with how we might best communicate this – first outlining the background of how and when the Official's Fee came into existence. Originally this was only applicable to Registered riders, however prior to the 2019-20 season this was expanded to include Unregistered riders. The Official's Fee came into existence due to the nature of running shows / tournaments in Southland (geographic isolation forcing air travel etc) and also the general costs of running shows increasing.
- Sonja then discussed our last Committee Meeting held on 10/09. At that meeting we discussed fees, prize money, special classes and it was during this conversation that Sonja discussed the idea of removing the Official's Fee for our first TWO competitions. The Committee agreed that this would be reviewed following our December show and *prior to* the January show.
- As a Committee we recognised that we were able to offer this small incentive / recognition to riders because of the overwhelming support we had been given by our riders and our sponsors (many of whom donated their entry fees and/or sponsorship monies to us rather than accept a

refund). As a Committee we wanted to acknowledge this whilst also offering an understanding that due to Covid-19 / weather bombs many people were suffering in an increasingly stifled and fluctuating economy.

- Sonja continued to discuss the recent request in our Dressage Southland Facebook Messenger Chat to advertise the removal of the Official's Fee prior to the closing of entries for our Oct/Nov Show. This request had prompted huge conversation within the chat and ultimately prompted the calling of the Zoom Meeting on 7/10.

There followed discussion of this issues, summarised below:

- How should we best acknowledge the support we've had?
- Should we use a non-sponsored show for this, ie March Show?
- We need to be mindful that sponsors such as AB Lime left their money in our account even after the cancelation of our March 2020 Show. Is promoting the idea of our removal of the Official's Fee taking away from the loyalty our sponsors have shown to us as a group?
- Can we not promote it *and* acknowledge it as a 'riders and sponsors' support?
- Should we acknowledge the riders commitment to us via the removal of the O.F *and* in the same moment mention that our riders need to support the sponsors?
- Is there a suggested message we can look at and discuss?
- Is this not a simple matter that can easily be addressed without the need for this Zoom Meeting?
- We need to move forward with this issue in a positive manner.
- This needs to be discussed in person and not via Facebook Messenger where tone can be incredibly hard to interpret and the sheer number of messages which one suggestion promotes is a little overwhelming to keep track of.
- All of these are really good points but we must achieve these two ideals: to acknowledge and promote our sponsors but also to recognise that our riders have also been generous in the recent past and that we'd like to give something 'little' back to them.
- Absolutely – but we need to let our community know that this is something we will need to review prior to the January Show. Is this something that we are happy to have in the wording? In essence, we need to review it (for fiscal reasons) *but* we are hoping that we can continue this for the remainder of the season.
- How quickly can we put this message out? This can be done really quickly (ie tonight) but we need to make sure that all the sponsors are acknowledged.
- It is encouraging to note that our rider entries are steadily increasing (ie 65 rider entries already).
- Are we happy to include in this post that entries do close on Friday? Yes, absolutely.
- In summary we wish to: acknowledge the support we have had from sponsors (particularly with the weather bombs and South Island Tournament) as a result of this we have removed (as a goodwill gesture) the O.F for the next two shows (naming the sponsors of these shows) the removal of the O.F will be reviewed before the Jan show but we hope to be able to continue this for the remainder of the season. Is everyone happy with the general sound of this? Yes.

Close of meeting: 8.31pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 14 October, Venue TBC.

The main focus for General Meeting will be finalising the arrangements for the next two shows.