

AJO Report April 2020.

The season began with Judges in their new allocated levels to coincide with Australian Judges Levels so as both New Zealand and Australian judges can now judge on both sides of the Tasman.

Our judges upgrading system has also been tweaked to correspond with Australian System.

A Judges Clinic was held in Mosgiel, in August 2019, to bring judges up to speed with the levels and tests which came into place at the beginning of 2019/2020 season. It was very refreshing to have new tests to judge as it was for riders to ride, some being more challenging than others, putting more emphasis on the level of training of the horse.

We also changed back to what we called the tests e.g., Prelim Novice Elementary, etc.

Our local judges have been busy giving of their time judging at local and out of area to Otago and Christchurch.

Lyn Fox judged at the Junior Dressage Championships in Taupo.

Noelene Keen judged at Horse of the Year.

Karen Robins also travelled to Horse of the Year to observe and write for NZ higher level judges and overseas judges.

It is of great experience to travel to other areas, especially to the North Island, as you get to judge combinations you haven't seen before, some being the best in New Zealand, and to experience working alongside NZ higher level judges and overseas judges.

During the season Fiona Sharp came onto the list at level F and has been judging along with her riding at local and Otago tournaments. Kerry Jensen is in training to come on to the list. Helen Christie continues to travel the world judging and stewarding for eventing. Helen was also appointed Chief Steward for the Tokyo Olympics which have sadly been put on hold due to the Covid 19 state of the world.

The season has not been without its ups and downs for Dressage Southland. Firstly floods cancelled the South Island Dressage Championships at Gore in

February. Our Autumn Tournament also cancelled in March as all equestrian sport, along with all sports in New Zealand, went in to lock down due to the Covid 19 world pandemic.

Hoping that we can get through these difficult times New Zealand is placed in and, as we emerge, that we look after ourselves in the south and get back on track again looking after our local riders.

To conclude, I would personally like to thank Sharon and Jenny as Judges Sub Committee, for the hard work they have put in during the season. It has not been easy for them due to two cancellations of tournaments. Your dedication and hard work has not gone un-noticed during this difficult season and your work is much appreciated.

Noelene Keen

Dressage Southland AJO