

Please select those that apply:

16	I am an adult rider competing in registered classes
3	I am an adult rider competing in unregistered (training) classes
1	I compete in young rider classes (under 21) <i>Feel free to add your age here:</i>
3	I compete in Masters classes (over 50)
4	I am a parent of a young rider
6	I am a sponsor
8	I am a judge/steward/official
6	I am a volunteer interested in the sport

Why do you compete?

- To see how my training is going
- Because I enjoy the challenge (x2)
- To have fun
- Spend time with friends, social time (x6)
- I have always ridden and competition is the end product of how well my horse is educated, love the preparation and finally getting to put it all together.
- To evaluate my training programme
- Because it gets me a weekend away with great friends, lots of laughs and time to enjoy my pony whilst benchmarking myself against like-minded peers and my own personal goals that I have set for the weekend
- The enjoyment and to see how I'm progressing with my training
- Because I need something to aim for/work towards (x2)
- Interest in the sport
- Wanting to improve in dressage
- I enjoy competition (x3)
- It means I'm not hanging out with my siblings all the time

- To enjoy time with my horse
- I enjoy dressage and use competitions to benchmark against others and against myself (x3)
- Helps as stepping stones to achieving goals
- Enjoy the challenges of new movements with my horse
- This is my hobby and passion
- I train hard and use competitions as a way to help gauge my progress and improvement (x4)
- I am quite competitive and like to challenge myself (x3)
- Keeps your interest in your training

What are the key things you look for when entering and competing in Dressage Southland tournaments?

- A fair chance - same as everyone else.
- For it to be a fun time with good friends and enjoy being around a positive group of like-minded people and ride my horse
- Suitable classes (x6): the classes I want to do; suitable; classes inside my capabilities; selection
- Suitable surface (x5): soft surface, good surface, if I'm on the surface
- Suitable stables (x3:) safe, choice of selection
- Warm up facilities
- Good judges (x2): range of judges (this is not publicised but if any area I went to consistently had the same judges this would be a barrier for me); consistent judging standards
- What you can win
- People welcoming you to the tournaments
- Dates (x3): What it clashes with, e.g., eventing, pony club events; trying to organise weekends off work; if I can attend
- Something to challenge
- I don't compete at other venues so clashes aren't really an issue but it is nice that Otago and Southland complement each other
- Competing set up although I would still enter no matter what the set up was

What do you see as the barriers to you (or your child) competing?

- Maybe how arenas are set up
- The surface at Gore is too bright and heavy, my horse struggles with it and so I
- Time and surface
- Not riding on the surface in a higher grade
- Time: don't get a lot of ride time at homes to improve so I get a bit despondent if I am not improving
- My job, don't get as much time as I would like to ride, especially during the winter
- Can become hard to have weekends away especially if travelling to other areas to compete, like Otago and Central as they are often back to back
- Where I'm parked, workload would be the biggest
- There is a definite divide in Southland between those who have and those who have not, those that tend to look down their noses at the minion who chooses to ride at the Level I do. To even get a yard or a box, feel like I just get the leftovers
- Unfriendly atmosphere
- Increasing costs to enter; 'officials/judges' fee really off putting and divisive between registered and non-graded riders: all riders use officials during the tournament
- Good range of judges – this sometimes is not publicised on schedules but if any area I went to (and that's not many) consistently had the same judges this would be a barrier for me
- Learning tests
- Being not confident in myself and having nerves
- Feeling I'm not good enough
- Feel I'm not good enough to compete (horse and rider)
- Calendar clashes with other events
- Sometimes having a short length of time between entries opening and losing
- Where I am at with training and what tests are available to enter
- Don't really have any barriers
- None

How might these barriers be overcome?

- A set arena plan
- Better if we can park by arenas
- Planning and organising with my work and delegating jobs that I can
- Getting others to help
- Give everyone a happy pill before they come onto the grounds
- Make it a fair playing field no matter what level you are at when it comes to how you are treated. There are so many awesome people and they know who they are but the others really do spoil it for me
- I really see no successful resolution to this issue
- For me personally I cope with the atmosphere by purely competing and then going home
- Create a welcoming, non-judgemental environment so that only the judges judge!
- Remove the stigma
- Put higher levels on the surface
- Water the surface
- Practice makes perfect
- Just believe in yourself, no matter what
- Unsure as our calendar is so full
- Increased length of time between entries opening and closing is helpful for budgeting
- Prioritising (my own issue)
- Weekends in between events at neighbouring areas
- Personal opinion

Do you know anyone who was involved in dressage but is no longer involved? If so, why did they leave the sport?

- No (x4)
- Yes, left because of life changes, i.e., kids taking priority
- Yes, I do, and because of the way they have been treated, they feel despondent about coming back
- Yes, quite a few
- Unfriendly atmosphere
- Of course.... Who doesn't?
- Raft of reasons for this, e.g., stopped riding, kids more of a priority, lack of funds, lack of interest, change of discipline as wanted a bit more of adrenalin, got the pricker up because they thought they should be doing better but weren't prepared to take on judge/coach feedback!!
- Used to compete on ponies but once went onto hacks they, all of a sudden, were against adults on big moving warmbloods and were uncompetitive
- Hard surface
- Didn't feel encouraged/welcome
- Yes, imposter syndrome: feeling of don't belong here, not fancy enough
- Yes, the cost
- Yes: cost, negativity, made to feel unwanted and unwelcome
- Yes, older person, due to personal circumstances
- Yes, harsh comments from judge, and other interests

Do you see it is being important that prize money is provided? Why or why not?

- Don't think it is necessary for low levels
- No, it's a huge cost to O.C. and very few people actually benefit from it
- No, but it is nice to offer some to help towards registration costs, etc., if you are lucky enough to win some
- Not worried, nice to go home with something but could be a brush or a lead rope, don't always need prize money
- Doesn't particularly bother me so I guess I might be ambivalent. In all reality the value of PM is a drop in the bucket in terms of offsetting costs and I certainly don't go to/choose competitions that have more or less prizemoney as it isn't a driver for me. In saying that it is nice to go home with a few pingas in my back pocket to spend at ClutterBucks on the way home 😊
- Don't get a lot so hard to answer
- I don't myself but can see why people higher up would want to get some of their costs back
- Prize money – yes. Good to get something back when you're a registered rider. You spend a lot of time and money training a horse.
- It is such an expensive sport and if you are lucky enough to gain some prize money, it is very welcome
- Definitely for Level 3 up
- Yes, nice to get something back towards the entries
- Yes, because you pay entry fees, and so do others, and it's your hard work that has paid off
- Maybe alter prizemoney depending on numbers in class
- Yes (but I never get any) as it enables the big guns to afford to compete/be professional and having them there is inspiring to watch
- It's nice to have something to work for
- Feel prize money should be paid out to all grades, not in a pro rata basis as at the higher levels it's not the competitor's fault if there are only 1-2 competitors, but perhaps a minimum % (as for grading points) below which prize money is not paid out
- Yes – I pay a lot for my lessons and just the maintenance of keeping my horse in good condition. Prize money is great for contributing towards this cost: lessons, feed, farrier, etc
- Yes, it's a reward for doing well and an incentive for visiting riders

What are your feelings around product being awarded as opposed to prize money?

- Anything that riders can take away from a show is better than nothing
- Perfect
- Nice to go home with something but could be a brush or a lead rope, don't always need prize money
- Certainly would be easier for me as a sponsor. But have suggested it in the past and been flatly refused
- Love the idea of prizes
- Yes!!! Be a good idea
- Either
- Maybe a voucher but product would be useless if it's not what I use
- Products are fine, perhaps not feed because ponies can't eat it
- Would prefer prize money. However, would like to see product as well at special events or classes, i.e., championships or overall winners
- Not totally against it but strongly prefer prize money
- I'd prefer cash but I can see the appeal for sponsors; they would perhaps prefer to donate their product therefore endorsing themselves as well
- Prefer prize money to product by a long shot
- Definitely against this as it's a competition not a lucky draw or a riding club
- Really do not like this idea at all.... Even if you asked me if I would prefer free product or just no prize (product or money) I would choose nothing. Often free product is very personal and can depend on whether you do or do not use those products and in the past I have left free product behind at competitions because of this. If I take it with me I will just have to find a home for it which I am a lazy person and can't be bothered!!
- No, as I may not use the product and therefore a waste for the sponsor and me

How would you feel about, at local events, instead of prize money, spot prizes being drawn from all competitors? What do you see as the benefits and/or disadvantages of this idea?

- Great, then I might get something 😊
- Certainly for training days but not for registered events
- Perhaps could offer encouragement awards as Spot Prizes
- I have been to an event in Otago with spot prizes (sponsored), was quite a fun way of getting people to prize giving and seeing what they got
- I still prefer prize money, I don't like to see our local competitions being dumbed down
- Not against the idea of spot prizes as it has been done most seasons but do it as an added extra as it doesn't cost much to do a few \$5-10 prizes for good sportsmanship etc etc
- I myself wouldn't be worried as I love just getting a ribbon when I can but those people higher up might be a bit upset about not getting prize money and a random person getting a prize instead
- As well as prize money but not instead
- Nice idea but should not be in lieu of prize money
- No, I don't like the idea. I think people that are doing well should be getting the prize money as opposed to anyone winning a spot prize. You could have spot prizes for anyone who hasn't won anything
- I think it's still nice to reward those who win or place and don't feel like prizes should be drawn at random. It's a fact of life, in every sport there are winners and losers, that is why we compete
- Don't really agree as tradition has dictated that the leaders in each class do get rewarded and we are taking part in a very old traditional sport
- Might deter higher level riders from travelling
- Can't understand why this would even be a consideration.... if the group can afford to pay prize money or prizes to the value of then award it to those who earnt the highly in their class.
- The benefits would be more people coming to the shows and more often
- No!!
- No, disagree as it's unfair if you work hard and get nothing

- No, don't like this idea. I personally put a lot of time and effort into my horses whether it be training or conditioning. I feel a little in return for good marks is very beneficial and rewarding for hard effort gone in. If there was nothing in return, I don't think I would compete

What guidelines/processes would you like to see implemented around the allocation of the covered yards and stables?

What are your reasons for this?

- Some Committee should get to pick a stable they have at every comp – depending on their job. As I like having the 1st covered yard or 2nd stable in the Committee stable block. This is so I have quick access to my horse, truck and office as I walk a lot between all three. I like to have someone beside me that can help look after my horse – muck out, take out for grazing etc., as I often don't have time. I would in the past have either Theresa or Kristin looking after my horse so require them to be close to me. The same for the President – horse be where it's easy for you to be going backwards and forward from offices etc. Sometimes it's good to know also for competitors where someone is also – like Stable co-ordinator etc. There is a benefit having committee together as we all know where to find each other.
- As in levels or travel – probably both. Those that travel along way and higher level horses get prevalence.
- Riders travelling the furthest should take priority, if people are prepared to travel 2 plus hours to our shows we should look after them. The committee should continue to be boxed together so everyone knows where to find us if needed.
- Surely this comes down to the well-being of your horse. If the weather is bad, would love to put him in a covered yard or box for his own comfort but as we compete level one or above, we are too far down the pecking order to get this privilege. Have not even tried to get one for so long as always got stuck with small box and I usually ride large horses. I have no solution though, as there is a definite shortage of covered comfortable safe accommodation at Gore Showgrounds
- Needs to be consistent whatever the process.
- Have been let down numerous times regarding stabling. (stable allocation revoked; stable being used by someone else)
- Here's how I believe they should be allocated in descending order
 - Competition committee – President, Stable co-ordinator, comp secretary, writers co-ordinator, judges co-ordinator and runners because they are the people that do the lion's share of the work over the weekend and need safe/secure stables for their horses as they aren't around much over the weekend (exception being stables co-ordinator but they do need to be on the grounds earlier and stay later in case of any issues/changes); then

- Officials – TD's, judges, stewards and similar to above as they are working most of the weekend so need to assured that their horses are in safe/secure stables; then
- Highest grade horses/ponies down to lowest grade
- Stable allocated by area travelled and grade
- Split the committee up so they are more accessible to everyone
- Good process in place now
- I think the current process works well, working committee get priority e.g., choice where they want to be as they are the horses that are there sometimes from Friday morning to last thing Sunday, also riding judges as they are very important, then highest graded and travelling if larger event
- It works fine the way it is. I like being able to choose yards
- Committee to be spread to make them more accessible
- Ensure that the north end stable block has most boxes full so hopefully not one horse gets left behind or on its own as they can't see any other horses
- Would be best if the boxes were of similar quality
- Once again I feel like it is 'class' segregation – not just dressage lass but for the elite, feel like the poor relation out the back
- If someone indicates they need one for a certain reason on their entry and pays for it, please give them one or let them know they can't have it with the option of a full refund
- Not applicable as I don't use them
- I don't use them; I use open yards
- Don't have any sorry. I live close so don't use them
- Not going to make everyone happy have a procedure that everyone is aware of and stick to it
 - Done by distance travelled
 - Done by level entered
 - Competitor preference
- Distance, grade, committee (in that order)

How would you like arenas to be set up for the season and how would you like to see the arenas utilised? (for example, same layout for each tournament; variable layout for each tournament; levels in set arenas or changes around during the tournament; unregistered arena on the surface; musical freestyle on the surface, etc.)

- I don't think we have room or time to run Non-Grading on the surface. Plus, that is one of the differences in the Non-Grading & Registered. Non-Grading is there to encourage people to register. There needs to be benefits for registering.
- I like the Non-Grading being out by Committee stables. Then Non-Grading is not so cut off from the tournament. It was good running on Sacred ground but wasn't really enough room
- Sometimes we will run Novice Non-Grading on surface if there is room
- I would like the same arena layout for the season as it saves a lot of confusion. Not too bothered about each level set in one arena. I wouldn't like to see unregistered on the surface purely due to space constraints. It would be nice to have the musicals on the surface but I don't know how we could fit it all in and some horses can be very noise sensitive.
- Same layout for each tournament would be good, but we have to give the unregistered a chance to compete on the surface too. It is a huge step when they come to registered and the smoothest transition would help. Personally, would love the chance to do tests on grass surface, not just musicals.
- Would be nice to have all arenas in same area as good for unregistered riders to be included
- Set layout is good; running through my tests in my mind helps when knowing where I'm going in
- Same layout for each tournament – weather dependant
- Quite like having same level in same arena – I like riding in the same arena
- Same layout for each tournament the layout in the past with three arenas at North End running north to west and a 4th if required at South End – the flow to enter and exit the arenas worked well and judges also gave feedback they liked this option rather than having all the arenas down the South end. It is not practical in the summer to run the arenas east to west as the sun becomes a major factor for the judges – this has been a complaint from the judges in the past
- I think they need to be in the same part of the surface at each competition and feel they are best run north to south positioned at the north end of the surface because it is safer for judges to get their cars positioned and safer for riders not having cars driving through the warm up area. The dust from when we had the arenas positioned at the south end was a big issue for judges and we got a lot of negative feedback as they weren't able to keep their windows down when it was hot, the cars got very dirty (problem for everyone not just Regional Ford) and the dust coming into the arenas got distracting for some combinations. In previous times when we have run arenas east to west

it caused a lot of friction/negative feedback from judges as the sun was in their eyes all morning then reflected back behind them all afternoon.

- I quite like the levels being moved around the arenas and also you need to be very mindful of how the timelines and judges breaks work which lends itself more to moving the levels around
- Think levels should be rotated on different arenas as good for horses
- Change about the arenas, makes horses used to working wherever
- I like changes of arenas for the day, adds variety
- The changing of levels in each arena seemed to work well last season, I had a lot of positive feedback, it also meant if your horse took a particular disliking to an arena you are not stuck in that one for the whole tournament although this still depends on placement of classes as the higher levels often have to fit in with what judges can do what and room so they might not be able to rotate as much
- I don't mind how the arenas are set out
- I never attended the tournament when unregistered arena was on the grass beside the arena but thought this was a good idea so unregistered riders feel like they are a part of the group. It also gives their horses a chance to get used to the atmosphere of other horses being near-by
- Musicals on the surface
- Musical away from others due to noise
- Musical on surface or oval
- Depending on numbers in classes it may be possible to have musicals on the surface but in the past our regional is just too big to cater for this, the oval is lovely to ride in whether it's a musical or non-musical
- Higher levels on the surface
- Same layout, it's good to go somewhere and know how it will be
- Unregistered on the surface if room
- I liked the layout at the May winter dressage
- Variable layout: did like judges in the middle of the surface and the training day layout
- Unregistered arena, I'm in two minds about this: young horse first outing away from main arenas, once established then on surface; hard to please everyone
- Happy with variable layout

- Quite like certain levels in certain arenas as then you always know where you are riding BUT I don't like the scary monster corner Arena 4 and would cringe to have four tests in there
- Whatever works best for riders; through Winter Series was good
- I think it's not realistic to have unreg on the surface at reg comps due to no room plus it's an encouragement for them to register – this has been talked at length in the past
- Not worried about set up. However, I strongly feel we should be able to park in front of covered yards. This is such a wasted space, show jumpers are allowed to park there so unsure why dressage riders cannot
- Still early days to see how riders feel with layout for winter series
- Can't always fix a layout as depends on entries and other users of the show grounds
- Important to give plenty of warm up room on the surface

How could we best support the sponsors of our competitions?

- Invite them to come
- Previously an invite to wine and cheese and presenting prizes has been well received
- Invites to events/wine and cheese
- Maybe they could have the opportunity to speak at dinner or prize giving or at the lunch break?
- Make sure they are thanked over the speakers regularly
- Quite nice having a table – maybe tent for sponsors to sit, watch comp, maybe have some snacks & drinks
- A photo and thankyou on their Facebook page afterwards
- Send them emails with thanks and photos of the winners
- Lots of advertising on FB
- Private messages from competitors
- Letters and cards of thanks out promptly

- Thanking them in different ways
- Encourage thanking them, so important
- Continue 'Thank you' cards
- Encourage riders to also thank sponsors personally
- I like the idea of putting a note of who sponsored the class in with the prize money. I think a lot of competitor aren't aware of who sponsored their class they entered and this is a friendly reminder to thank them. With prize money now electronic unsure how this could be done maybe attached to the rosette
- Big 'thank you' cards, perhaps with photos?
- We need to make better use of Facebook, have them at prize-giving to present prizes and riders need to actually thank sponsors.
- Support their businesses and making sure they are aware of how much their sponsorship means to each competitor by each competitor acknowledging them
- God, don't get me started!!
- Dressage Southland treat sponsors like shit!
- Being nice to them would be a start
- Don't take money and not fulfil sponsorship obligations.
- As a sponsor I am happy both as a business and personal sponsor... haven't received many (any) cards of thanks but I'm not actually doing it for that and I think the big card that the sponsorship team has done in the last couple of years has been great!! There's often a fine line of doing enough for our sponsors and doing too much where the value of sponsorship benefits outweigh the value of the sponsorship e.g., free meal tickets/free stables etc., meaning the group ends up in a net negative or net neutral position
- List of sponsors at each tournament
- Perhaps by utilising their products as prizes
- Leader board
- Signs

Do you, as a competitor, feel differently about competing depending on the type of event? (i.e., local event, regional event, Island championship, National championship). Do you think these types of events should be run differently? If so, how?

- No, I don't feel differently. These are run differently with arenas on the Oval, Musicals, bbqs or meals
- No, they are all a progression up the ladder. Local events are a great starting point to work your way up to attending a Regional then South Islands and finally onto Nationals or HOY
- No, just a different environment and competitors, just enjoy the experience
- Not really, it's about the training for me
- I think Championship shows need to have more atmosphere so competitors get the feeling they are at a more premium show and having outside judges so there are more on each class and also able to provide learning opportunities for our own judges is good
- I compete mainly at Regional etc. only as when I have travelled doing local days it is too much for my horse
- No, but you expect more atmosphere at bigger events
- Should still encourage local riders to attend regional and island championships and feel they are good enough to do so
- No differently, they are all our local tournaments in my eyes
- Nope, don't think about it although did feel outclassed when South Islands were on at Gore
- Did find the last Gore South Islands a bit strange (quiet?) in atmosphere considering the scope of the thing
- No
- I like the inclusion of a Friday afternoon as part of a bigger show
- No
- No, don't feel differently. I guess the only thing is that I would train harder for bigger competitions
- As far as run differently depending on the event could perhaps offer a discount on stable/yard for competitors who travel over a specific distance at attend
- Yes, they are different and due to demands from ESNZ, they (regionals and SIs) have to be run to a higher standard. Plus there is a higher standard due to more visiting riders. Local are smaller events and generally are a little more relaxed
- Yes, they are run differently, there is a lot of work that goes into the running of events and all have their own format and think current format works well with the area running the competitions putting their own spin on them

Are you aware of Dressage New Zealand's values? (*Dedication, Respect, Engagement, Sportsmanship, Social, Achievement, Growth, Excellence*)

- No x 2
- Only just now!
- Yes, I helped write it
- Acutely so, wish some others did.
- Yes x 7
- I knew there were values but didn't know what they were
- I am now

How could Dressage Southland better reflect/display/encourage these values?

- Be inviting – make sure riders have all relevant info on where to park, all the facilities, where arenas will be
- They could spend some time at a Bill Noble Course, just to watch how everyone who trains with Mr Noble, care about each other and their horse. The support, camaraderie, desire to achieve better, respect for not only the coach but also each other and learn, it would be a great example
- Be nice to people! All people the beginner on the standardbred. The sponsor. The writers
- I find that some people are really stropy when, say, there have been a few scratchings and you may mention to them that your arena is ahead of times, just a heads up so the judges aren't hanging around for ages waiting. Maybe use a speaker to inform people that certain arenas are running early, just to make the day run smoother
- Congratulating people's achievements
- Be social with everyone
- Make sure we display people's achievements right after the show
- Lead from the top, e.g., committee, you're making a great start!!
- Put posts out each week or month or something or per day at competition focussing on one or two of these values

- I think Dressage Southland is doing a good job at present the committee in the past always are there to run a great competition and those who are negative are often not involved and have no idea what goes on behind the scenes
- Put them up around the show grounds. Discuss before prize giving and meeting
- Give spot prize awards for outstanding efforts relating to our values and pull up any behaviour that is not representing our values. This is common practice at my work and it works well
- Respect other people's opinions and their space
- Be aware of people in roles and who are also riders, judges, etc. all need help and support at different times for different reasons

If the rules and structures around grading and competing didn't exist, what system would you design and why? (throw all historical knowledge out the window and start from a clean slate).

- Wow, no idea
- No comment, honest
- More emphasis on rider/horse harmony
- Less emphasis on paces; more emphasis on training scale
- It's up to the National body to decide this but I think the system as it stands is actually very good as it allows competitors to moderate when they want to upgrade, the only change I would possibly like to see is around riders who compete in levels that are completely out of their depth. It is neither good for horse welfare or public perception
- I like the aiming for moving up the grades however would like the system to push some of the winners up (or sideways) somehow; not that it is about winning but you do get a bit bored when you can pick the results before you start
- No names on judge's run sheet, ID numbers only
- Wouldn't this be a discussion at National level?
- Love this grading system and I can't forget the history of how it used to be!!

What are your thoughts on a system/process whereby competitors would get recognised for the improvement on their scores as opposed to, or in conjunction with, their placing in the class?

For example:

Two riders are competing in the same level. One rider scored 52% in the morning and 57% in the afternoon, showing a 5% increase. The other rider scored 71% in the morning and 71.5% in the afternoon, showing a 0.5% increase.

Which competitor showed the greatest improvement?

- Yes, good idea.
- Surely it is down to each individual rider to see that improvement in themselves and their horse, you don't always need to be rewarded by a Judge's opinion to decide this?
- I do like it but then different judges have different ideas. One day I scored 68% in the morning and 57% in the afternoon; the horse felt and rode just the same
- Much more room for improvement between 52-57% than at 71%
- No because horses can be cheeky in the morning and tired in the afternoon test

Considering the DNZ values of Growth, Achievement, Engagement and Excellence, how could we encourage/incentivise those competitors who are training for improvement which may not be acknowledged in their actual placing in the class?

- Improvement in % is a good way
- Surely it is down to each individual rider to see that improvement in themselves and their horse, you don't always need to be rewarded by a Judge's opinion to decide this?
- Great idea but dressage competition has been systematically altered and skewed to favour warmbloods.
- Other breeds are 2nd class dressage horses in the eyes of many judges and most Southland dressage committee members
- For me it is about training to bring out the best in my horse. I can see that competing is going to feature less and less in my programme as the playing field becomes less appealing
- I don't agree with this at all... firstly it will take an awful lot of man power to keep a record of the improvement, the differences in improvement can be due to different judges morning and afternoon, a naughty horse in the morning but more settled in the afternoon etc., etc.

- I don't like this concept. Dressage is a competitive sport not as adult riding club. We enter knowing that only one rider per class is going to win and another three will place meaning the majority walk away with nothing. We know this when we enter. Many riders have different goals each show and for most it's not about a red ribbon, it may be to achieve a qualifying score for South Islands or Nationals or to just get through a test
- We are all there to test our training at home in some form or another, e.g., when I compete I am aware of my horses and my own weaknesses and look to improve on these so at times whilst my score does not show it I have actually improved and that is enough for me to feel a sense of achievement. If it so happens that my own benchmark of improving sees me in the placings then that is an added bonus but it doesn't add to my sense of achievement because I have already accomplished what I wanted to
- We are in an era (I'm not just talking about dressage here) where it appears that society can no longer cope with there being winners and losers but that is the reality of the big bad world we live in. If our competitors need to be acknowledged for their bad test improving to a sufficient test to feel as though they have achieved something (as opposed to feeling this innately themselves) then maybe competing in an ESNZ affiliated discipline is not where they should be setting their sights on competition wise. There are plenty of ribbon days and adult riding clubs that cater for this level
- I think it would be great to maybe compare first three tests of the season to the last three tests and get an average and acknowledge the difference
- Look at season or half season improvement rather than individual tournament
- Sometimes depends on the judge, you might not feel that you actually improved
- Yup, good point; maybe consider a badge or something for improvement in season or similar
- Maybe as simple as 1st-4th and an extra ribbon for Most Improved
- Remember that different judges do seem to just like different horses so only relevant if it was the same judge
- Also could have been due to different tests, e.g., first horse couldn't get flying changes but not required in the second test, etc.
- I think they can aim for series
- I train for improvement, not places, so places are always a bonus
- Engagement for best movement achieved over the weekend
- Another that has had discussion at National level and think this is for discussion if DS want to put in remits for this as would need to be nation wide and members of DS would have to be all in favour of, I think current system is fine
- My idea would be a progress recognition over the season. % increase and or going up a grade

- I see merit in recognising improvement at a different type of competition where perhaps you have the same judge for both cases who, after the first class, could do a basic summary of where riders are losing marks and where they could improve (but not instead of our normal competitions)

How would you feel about an Incentive award for riders who showed the greatest percentage increase? Examples could be using the average of their last three tests as the base line, or percentage increase from the morning to the afternoon test, or any other arrangement. How could we best acknowledge this (a certificate/card, a ribbon, other ideas.....)?

- Good idea. A different rosette maybe?
- I like this idea much better as it's a way to reward both the "true" winners and those that are improving but not necessary placing and would be an excellent way to encourage riders to aim for better scores. I think a certificate/card is a great, cost effective way to do this
- No comment
- Great idea but again the clique of Dressage Southland would not entertain the idea
- Similar answer to above... it can be difficult to monitor and it could be something as simple as a completely off test and one that went according to plan. I'm not trying to be negative and possibly my thoughts are clouded by how I think and process things but I know if I get wide variation in test %'s I always break down the why's and then decide to feel a sense of achievement for the higher percentage and build a bridge for whatever happened with the low percentage!! Unless of course the high percentage was a gift and I know I shouldn't have received it then I need to build a bridge for both tests
- A nice flash ribbon would be really cool
- Rosette
- First tournament to last tournament average percentage in same grade
- Aim for series
- Cool idea; one off ribbon in each competition
- National or Local level? Maybe puts more work on secretary on day – think we have enough encouragement type awards: Nation-wide plus unreg. awards locally
- My idea would be a progress recognition over the season. % increase and or going up a grade. Would suggest a certificate
- Yes, it's good to reward and perhaps we could have a working group to look into it

With the new dressage tests, most levels have three tests plus a musical freestyle. What are your thoughts on how best to implement the new tests to cover a four test weekend? Please also consider that it may not be possible to run a Musical Freestyle class at each tournament and that an alternative to a Musical Freestyle will need to be offered also.

- Just as we do now – offer Musical at specific tournaments
- Run all three tests once then the A test again on the Sunday afternoon for those that want to try the movements of the next level up or have had a day run and want to finish the weekend on a nice note. It is not practical to run musicals at every show
- Mixing it up is good and maybe easy test run Sat AM and Sun PM – Musicals not a good option to run at every tournament as there is a lot more work in them and not everyone does them especially at lower levels so then may have to offer them a second option
- Feel really strongly about this that there is a need to have an alternative. Personally do not have the time to put a musical together and it would mean either still competing or giving up riding completely, rather than to travel the distances we do for just 3 tests, at the same level. Surely this should be our choice as a competitor and an alternative be available?
- Alternative for musical needs to be offered
- Hoping to run one test twice over the weekend and maybe a different one at each tournament as I don't have a musical sorted
- Perhaps alternate a test to do twice is a weekend where a musical can't be held. Competitors could use this as a personal improvement goal for the weekend to match their result with the first time they completed the test for the weekend. It would be beneficial to have same judge as some judges judge differently and harder on somethings than others
- As DS only run 4? Registered tournaments surely a freestyle could be accommodated
- Offer one of the three tests twice or run three tests with a musical at November as well
- Maybe just do a test twice and switch it around each tournament so you're not always doing the same test twice
- Choose a fourth at random (to be done twice over the weekend)
- Use either the 2nd or 3rd test twice or use the easiest test of the first morning
- Level 6 horses and above should not be required (ideally) to do more than one test per day and certainly three tests maximum over a weekend
- Finish Sunday lunchtime (x2)
- Let's see what they suggest at Judge's clinic

What would you like to see in regard to the availability of food and beverage purchases, trade stalls, etc. at tournaments?

What are your reasons for this?

- Caravans for food and coffee
- Not to bothered as long as there is some food available
- Think it is a great idea, food and a cold drink when competing are very important and one less thing to worry about when preparing for competition
- Coffee lady could be there longer and earlier!!
- Having a trade stand (personally) is difficult as the committee are not welcoming and at times actively go out of their way to discourage it. Hopefully this will change?
- Coffee – who doesn't need coffee?
- Don't look at trade stands much so don't have an opinion either way
- Healthy food is good although Robyn's hot chips are mighty good when the energy levels are waning
- I think it would be a good way to promote the sponsors having stalls there to show what they have on offer
- Would be good to have more food stalls (am too disorganised to bring food)
- More food stalls
- Trade stalls at a tournament to create atmosphere but they do need support or it's a waste of their time
- Maybe have them (trade stalls) at bigger tournaments, e.g., December
- Advertise them well
- Tend to take own food and beverage, sometimes I purchase something else if it looks good
- Trade stalls – good to look, and have sometimes purchased
- Would like more trade stands (I don't get out much!) and would enjoy horsie shopping
- Food is fairly accessible at most tournaments
- Be nice to have trade stands there, makes it more of a 'fare' type feel
- EFTPOS at shop
- This is it ample what has been supplied

- All of the above, anything that makes our competitions more interesting and gets people/riders/judges to other areas of the grounds (which is a plus)

What are your thoughts on paying judges a remuneration for judging at a competition weekend? *Please be as detailed as possible*

- I think we have to pay judges or they wouldn't come. That's what happened before we started paying them. They complained that every other area they got paid. It's hard enough to get judges as it is. Australian judges are great as they fly into Queenstown and have a wee break there before coming down to us
- This definitely needs to keep happening or we will not be able to get any judges at our shows
- Definitely. It is incredibly expensive to be a judge. Plus most judges have to give up a Friday to travel down
- Probably would have been an idea to put more context around this so people understand that "paying" is not an hourly rate it is merely a contribution towards covering petrol costs/airport parking etc.
- I think it is crucial to ensure we continue to attract judges to return... they undergo an increasing amount of training and upskilling at (for some) considerable cost and by paying a small amount it is a token of the groups/competitors appreciation for having given up their weekend
- If judges were not paid I can only assume it would be to reduce/limit costs being passed onto competitors but in doing so we must question ourselves why it would be OK to then pass on additional costs to our officials who are in all honesty there for the benefit of the competitors... the competitors are getting more out of who sits a C than the judge gets out of sitting at C!!!
- There are no professional judges I am aware of in NZ so I think the very least we can do is to offer a small token to help offset what will be a net negative hobby for them!!
- Yes, pay
- Only if they are travelling
- Travelling judges to be paid a daily fee and lunch
- Riding judges, no
- I don't think local riding judges should be paid as this is their contribution to helping the weekend run
- Yes, local if not riding

- Not loving the idea of having to pay more money but totally accept the difficulty we have getting more judges down and cost of travel, etc.
- May also encourage more people to get into judging
- Yes for flights and accommodation
- As a judge I don't expect to be paid however I think a travel allowance for those judges who travel is a basic requirement
- Voucher options (e.g., CRT, PGG, Gardening, H&Js) instead of money: local judge's choice of voucher for meals or money if driving
- Should be paid fuel
- No meals, have to eat at home anyway
- Judges at prize giving, more noticed by riders
- Reward judges with Dressage Southland caps, t-shirts, etc., presented at Prize Giving
- Current system I think is fine, we pay every official \$25 per half day no matter where they are from and outside judges get paid their fuel costs or travel and also all accommodation etc. – this is already a large cost and if we were to increase it we need to know how to fund this
- Yes, I think something needs to be given: fuel vouchers, small gift.
- Judges work hard to become a judge so something back would be nice
- It's a sign of the times and to get judges south we really have no choice but to follow the guidelines set out by DNZ
- No comment

What are your thoughts on paying writers a remuneration for writing at a competition weekend? *Please be as detailed as possible*

- Non riding writers need to be paid – they are using their own time petrol etc., and are a massive help to us. Quite often a Non riding writer will stay with the same judge all day which the judges really like too. Yes, we could save money using all riders – some tournaments it may work but some of our bigger ones it would probably be quite a problem only using riders
- If we have to bring in outside writers then we definitely have to pay them
- Non-riding writers – yes and lunch
- Only travelling writers that have no association with dressage
- Fuel voucher if not riding (x2)
- Pay people coming in for it and doing a full day (\$40) and maybe a half day (\$20)
- I wrote for a few full days when I couldn't compete and was delighted and surprised to get some money (which I put towards lunch and fuel). I enjoyed writing (once I stopped sulking about not being able to ride) especially when I got to write for higher classes and North Island judges
- ALL local riders who aren't on the committee or judging/stewarding or filling some other role should have to write as a condition of entry
- Not riders as it is part of entering to volunteer?
- Try to fill writers from riders or parents first
- Riding writers – no
- No, we have a lot of competitors who can write between tests
- I can't believe any rider would expect remuneration for writing for an hour or so when they are already on the grounds competing
- With so many riders it is hard to understand why they can't all do their bit and write! (unless they are on committee)
- If the writer rides then should not be paid and all of the other comments as per judges are the same for writers and, of course, the TD's and stewards that haven't been mentioned but incredibly critical to running a competition
- Can I suggest we do something along the same lines as Eventing? On entry, each competitor must nominate a helper (can be themselves and job they would like to help out with during the day (writing, collecting tests, picking up judges, poo collection, taking down arenas, putting up arenas, etc.), or they pay a fee if cannot supply anyone
- Riders should be happy to give back to their sport

- Writing at a tournament – the whole way that this is done in Southland makes me really angry. Because I always try to help where I can, am sick and tired of the text messages telling me to help. The way they are formatted and the expectation, that you will write where and when you are told, regardless of the time you are actually competing is just ridiculous. And to really get on my high horse here – I have been involved in this sport for over 50 years now and when I give up my free time and am not actually even competing, make the effort to travel to Gore, find it most upsetting that am writing for unregistered classes out the back of the grounds, for all morning. I have written at all levels and surely there should be some consideration given to a writer's experience to match with a judge? This has happened on more than one occasion and haven't even got to see any registered tests. I feel very disrespected and sad, so much so that I just went home
- That was the one of main considerations in travelling out of Southland this past season, that, the surface and the attitudes of many
- Yes, pay
- Just a token amount for volunteers, nice to offer something
- As a writer I don't expect to be paid
- I think the current payment is good if anything to increase as these are non-riders who give up their time and the payment helps to cover fuel costs

What are your thoughts on having a Dressage Southland Squad?

This could be open to all levels and experience. Riders may be expected to train, as part of the squad, with someone who is not their usual trainer and would be expected to commit to it. Lessons could be half price but the squad members would have to fundraise for the funded half and commit to maybe eight out of ten lesson weekends, commit to some travel and be available if there were team events running. Thoughts and ideas please.

- Maybe a good idea??
- It has merit
- No comment
- Great idea!
- Transparent and consistency in the selection process

- If it's something that would benefit the profile of Southland and our riders then sounds like a good idea providing those in it are prepared to abide by the rules of engagement
- Wouldn't be a bad idea, would also give up and coming riders something to aim for. Would be cool to see and hear more of our riders heading away further up the island to compete
- Yes, I like this idea. However, some may not wish to do it
- Perhaps people put their name forward at start of season to be considered for the Squad

<p align="center">Southland Registered Rider Series Competition</p> <p align="center"><i>2018/2019: Points for percentages; all tests from the Dressage Southland competitions; Saturday of last tournament the last qualifying day and worth 1.5 points; Southland riders and self-nominated affiliated Southland riders eligible</i></p>		
<p align="center">What works well currently (the positives)</p>	<p align="center">What doesn't work so well currently (the drawbacks, pitfalls, problems)</p>	<p align="center">What are some possible solutions? (the ideas)</p>
Worked quite well last year (x 2)		
Great that it is all tournaments		
Points system works well		
Incentive to attend and try and get the trophy		
Encourages riders in our area		
There is a prize for this. Something to work towards. Would be nice to have a rug for the winner 🐾		
	Definitely against riders from other areas being included. Very unfair (x3)	Use the same geographical areas as DNZ

	Riders that go up a grade during the season but this is done knowingly by the rider...	I think in the amateur league the riders still accumulate points based on the initial level they entered with the theory being the higher up the levels you go the lower the scores so the rider isn't at an advantage so it is a fair representation of achievement though the season
	Changing the rules around who was eligible part way through the competition (x3)	Set the rules prior to the start of the season and stick to them (you can't please all of the people all of the time)
	Lack of promotion (x2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post updates after each tournament (x5): use the website to encourage foot traffic to the website • Include information about series (and the rules) in each schedule • Advertise the sponsor • Ensure promotion increases
	Lack of clarity in regards to levels allowed to be awarded (x3)	Allow for rider/horse combinations to gain placings in more than one level. If they have done that well and progressed that much, why should they be penalised and made victims of 'tall poppy' syndrome?
	Lack of clarity as to which tournaments are applicable, i.e., registered days, non-grading days, do some tournaments have double points, when is it being awarded (x3)	

	Prize giving on the Saturday of the last tournament – no-one (competitors) knew this was happening; also added extra pressure on office staff and no way for results to be transparent or double checked for accuracy	Award at Mid-Winter dinner or AGM
	No leader board throughout the season	Enter on EE with sponsors on banner at top, makes it easy to view results
	Riders not knowing who is in their level	
	Too many leagues to enter: nationals, regional, areas, types	Advertise the national leader boards more
	Done on percentages not placings. Competitors aren't able to visually see how many points they get for their percentage or place. Nothing for them to be able to keep their own record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be a combination of placings and percentages or tests • Make sure it is stipulated to everyone the points system

Southland Unregistered Rider Encouragement Awards

The Dressage Southland non-graded Encouragement Awards aim to help riders transition to registered competition. Southland Riders who have no points above Level 2 (or combinations with any dressage points) are eligible. Separate sections for horses and ponies. Points collected from the best top ten scores from five Southland tournaments with double points for the last tournament. Sashes and prizes provided.

What works well currently (the positives)	What doesn't work so well currently (the drawbacks, pitfalls, problems)	What are some possible solutions? (the ideas)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great competition • Good idea to encourage newbies • Good way to get more people motivated and involved in the sport 		
	Riders starting on new horses but who have competed previously in registered classes aren't able to enter	I think it should be opened up to horses that haven't competed registered instead of riders
	Quite a lot of unregistered riders didn't know about it. People don't realise it is for them	
		Open up to all apart from the ones who have come in the top two in the previous years unless on new horses
	It's not advertised enough or well (x3)	Advertise better via FB, website, Equestrian Entries, email (x3)
	Lack of previous support for it	Better promotion – ongoing throughout the season; include past winner's stories to celebrate
	Important for the final tournament (and others also, too) that the judge's scores are on par with each other	

Encourages more people to become registered		Possible payment (maybe 50%) towards registration costs for the winner for the following season (upon providing receipt)
	Getting support to run it	
	Leader board isn't easily accessible	Provide ongoing updates throughout the season

Fees and prize money structure

Targeted entry fees and prize money paid to 4th regardless of entry numbers or scores, per level

Registered classes

- *Levels 1&2, \$12; prize money \$30, \$20, \$15, \$12*
- *Levels 3&4, \$14; prize money \$35, \$25, \$20, \$15*
- *Level 5+, \$17; prize money \$45, \$35, \$25, \$17*
- *Ground fee \$25 for weekend*
- *\$20 Official's fee*

Unregistered classes

- *\$10 regardless of level, rosettes to 4th*
- *Ground fee \$25 for weekend*

What works well currently (the positives)	What doesn't work so well currently (the drawbacks, pitfalls, problems)	What are some possible solutions? (the ideas)
	Full ground fee for the weekend if only competing one day (x3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Split ground fee into 2 x 1 day fees (x2) ● Family cap on admin/ground fee
Seems ok like this		
People are aware of the prize money that can be won as stated on entry form		
I like that the higher grade you compete the more prize money there is to be won. A lot of training goes into getting horses and keeping them competing at that level		
	Committee always saying the tournaments run at a loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No prize money for levels 1 and 2 ● Pro-rata prize money, i.e., 1-3 horses, pay out for 1st; 4-6 horses pay out 1st and 2nd; 7-9 horses, pay out for 1st, 2nd and 3rd; 10+ horses pay out 1st-4th. Still

		<p>award rosettes regardless of number of entrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweepstake prizemoney • Lower entry fee and cut prize money
	<p>Prizemoney being paid to competitors solely because there was only four horses or less in it despite being clearly over-faced at that level (x2)</p>	<p>(x5) PM only to be paid out if grading points are achieved... 57% is still a low percentage so if unable to achieve this then training or behaviour needs to be revisited</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of transparency (x2) • Have no idea where all the entry fee money goes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a break down of where the funds from the admin/ground fee go: how much for grounds, how much for ESNZ, how much for A&P, how much for SEPT, how much for DS • Separate the ground fee from the admin fee
	<p>Lower level riders covering costs for higher level riders: inequitable system (x3)</p>	<p>Same entry fee costs and prize money ratio for all registered grades</p>
	<p>Unfair that registered riders have to cover expenses for Non-Graded riders via the Official's fee (x3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread the cost across registered and Non-Graded riders (i.e., \$10 each) • Abolish Official's fee and cover difference with increase of \$10 for Ground/Admin fee to make it \$35 for the tournament or \$18 per day over a single day of a weekend tournament
<p>Entry fee and prize money is good with prize money paid into bank account (x2)</p>		

Official fee good	Official fee not good (x5)	
	Unregistered riders only get up to a 4 th ribbon	When classes are big maybe give a 5 th or 6 th as well to encourage them

Competing at Dressage Southland tournaments

What are the five top things about competing at Dressage Southland tournaments?

The top five best things	Why did this make your top five list?
Like the Gore show grounds	
Being able to compete	It's the only reason
Central location Not too far too travel (x2)	Travel is at a minimum keep cost down
Enjoy catching up with all the riders, judges, committee, etc. (x2)	Like-minded people
Gore has good cafes & supermarkets for food	
Time out	A break from other responsibilities
Facilities (x2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to date and with a good surface • All weather area, great to use in the sun and rain
Experience for young horses	Registered and non-graded areas and classes
Checking in	To see how you are going with your goals
Stewards (x2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendly and helpful • Know their rules • Approachable • Create a safe environment
Outside judges (x2)	Nice to be judged by new faces and get different points of view
Safe environment for you and your horse	
Group is generally very friendly and positive (as long as discussion is open and constructive)	

Competing at Dressage Southland tournaments

What are the five most negative things about competing at Dressage Southland tournaments?

The five most negative things	Why did this make your list?	How could Dressage Southland make this better?
Writing	<p>Writing at a tournament – the whole way that this is done in Southland makes me really angry. Because I always try to help where I can, am sick and tired of the text messages telling me to help. The way they are formatted and the expectation, that you will write where and when you are told, regardless of the time you are actually competing is just ridiculous. And to really get on my high horse here – I have been involved in this sport for over 50 years now and when I give up my free time and am not actually even competing, make the effort to travel to Gore, find it most upsetting that am writing for unregistered classes out the back of the grounds, for all morning. I have written at all levels and surely there should be some consideration given to a writer’s experience to match with a judge? This has happened on more than one occasion and haven’t even got to see any registered tests. I feel very</p>	<p>Somehow, somewhere, find a better system of doing this. How do other regions do this?</p>

	<p>disrespected and sad, so much so that I just went home.</p> <p>That was the one of main considerations in travelling out of Southland this past season, that, the surface and the attitudes of many.</p>	
Stabling (x3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surely this comes down to the well-being of your horse. If the weather is bad, would love to put him in a covered yard or box for his own comfort but as we compete level one or above, we are too far down the pecking order to get this privilege • Have not even tried to get one for so long as always got stuck with small box and I usually ride large horses • Too small for our horses and the old ones are full of borer or can not be secured properly 	I have no solution though, as there is a definite shortage of covered comfortable safe accommodation at Gore Showgrounds
There is no-where for elderly or disabled family members to view a family member competing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elderly disabled family not able to go to Tournaments now because there is no-where for them nor are they made feel welcome. So many rules, who can do what • Older support crew can struggle to navigate the grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an area available purely for this purpose and sort out some of the picky rules. Health and Safety are essential but there is also common sense needed • Wheelchair access • Opportunity to observe from car • Designated parking area close to the arena/s
<p>Poor attitudes (x6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aloof • Too precious 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always like this • Not welcoming • Felt like I couldn't ask anyone anything 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hopefully new committee will make a change

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfriendly committee • Unfriendly atmosphere • Unwelcoming • Uptight and rude 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Got snapped at in office when asked questions • Didn't know who were the people to ask • There is a definite divide in Southland between those who have and those who have not, those that tend to look down their noses at the minion who chooses to ride at the Level I do. To even get a yard or a box, feel like I just get the leftovers • Fun is sucked out of coming to dressage • Too serious • Uncomfortable • Bitterness • Division of people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a job list on the day so we can see how we can help • Photo board with pictures of committee (in riding gear and casual gear), perhaps include description of vehicle at competitions, lanyards for committee • No polite comment to make • More social opportunities, e.g., quiz nights, dinners • Encourage people to speak nicely to each other • Develop some empathy • Clarity • Be upfront
<p>Awful food selection</p>	<p>Other areas have great food/coffee people</p>	
<p>Parking (x5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's always a drama. • Especially don't like no parking in front of stables • If it is wet, there is not very much room to park off the grass • I think we should be able to park in front of the covered in yards. When I first started out in dressage I used to look up to other riders (still do) and being able to watch then was so inspiring. I feel with not being able to park next to the ring this has stopped as 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have heard a rumour this has been addressed? • Allowing people to park close to the stable, regardless of where it is (also allows for people to more easily watch the competition) • Would like to see parking return to in front of covered yards to lift atmosphere • Allow parking in front of covered yards

	many people watching other competitors not just their friends	
Sloppy dress code at prize giving, especially from higher level riders	Disrespectful to sponsors and judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline clear expectations in programme • Remind people over the loudspeaker • Friendly etiquette posts on FB
Awful attitude towards sponsors	Previously sponsored and was appalled at the attitude once they have your money	I think it will be very difficult to entice sponsors back
Surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface can dictate how your horse travels and allows softness through the body and when it is too hard as a rider we fight an uphill battle • Same layout for each tournament would be good, but we have to give the unregistered a chance to compete on the surface too. It is a huge step when they come to registered and the smoothest transition would help. Personally, would love the chance to do tests on grass surface, not just musicals. The surface at Gore is too bright and heavy, my horse struggles with it and so I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get SEPT to add in something to give the surface some life • Allow one test or more on the grass
Inconsistent judging between non-graded and registered classes	When riders move to registered classes it can be a shock to see their percentages suddenly drop and they find themselves not competitive any more	
How entries are managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close too far in advance of tournament (4-5 weeks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have entries closing three weeks before a tournament

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of flexibility to make changes to level competing after entries have closed • Inconsistency around application of refunds and not transparent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close entries on a Monday (rather than a Friday) so can make decisions based on weekend competition • Present all requests for refunds to committee meeting for discussion and approval
Caretaker (x2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be intimidating for some people • He makes things difficult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better communication • Fire him
Putting name down to help then not required on the day but overhear people moaning about people/riders not pulling their weight and helping	Really unpleasant feeling and makes me not want to attend or volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actually use people to help out. If everyone does 30 minutes help, then the workload is spread • Be mindful of the conversations that you have when people can hear you
Showers and toilets (lack of access, supplies, hot water) (x3)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure showers are unlocked and available for use • Investigate reasons for cold water (even early in the day) • Make sure there is access and supplies re kept up through the tournament – maybe put it on a ‘job board’ so people can check and advise committee if there is an issues
Warm up areas (x3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent location and inconsistent rules around who can warm up where • Not being allowed on grass for warm up (close to arenas) • Not everyone feels comfortable warming up on the surface. Using the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise where people can warm up (do this early in the week; finding out on Friday evening and Saturday morning is far too late) • Allocate specific spaces for warm up (make them open to all riders)

	<p>hospital paddock would be ok but not with the gates shut as you then have to navigate around stables and trucks. etc., to get close to arenas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted choices 	
Wash down facilities (x4)	Not available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for hoses to be available on existing taps • Create a specific, purpose built wash down area (x3)
Wheelbarrows	Expectation is that grounds are meant to be left tidy but not always able to do so as equipment lacking or poor quality (the Gore wheelbarrows are practically unusable)	Ask for functioning wheelbarrows
Musicals	Lack of opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule for more than just one per season • Look at ways of helping people to create them (information, etc)
Sheep tape and netting used on grounds	Because horses can get hurt	Make sure the grounds are safe
Too many rules – spoken and unspoken	Inconsistent application: depends on who you are	Be clear and consistent

Dressage Southland membership <i>Should Dressage Southland introduce a membership fee?</i> <i>If so, what do you think should be the benefits?</i>	
Yes	No, because
<p><u>Reason:</u> Don't know. Maybe but if you charge a membership then they would need to get cheaper entry fees or something???</p> <p><u>What could be the benefits?</u></p> <p><u>Possible cost:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goodness, am not made of money, I just want a fair chance to ride my horse. • Costs a lot as it is (x2) • What's the point?
<p><u>Reason:</u> <u>What could be the benefits?</u> Database communication Coordinate events/seminars/education</p> <p><u>Possible cost:</u> \$</p>	
<p><u>Reason:</u> Have a bigger committee to help run events. Feel a part of a group.</p> <p><u>What could be the benefits?</u> Discount in entry fees. Help out on the day get to know more about how an event is run behind the scenes</p> <p><u>Possible cost:</u> \$40 per season</p>	

Dressage Southland strategic planning	
<i>Looking forward to the next five years, what do you think should be the priorities for Dressage Southland?</i>	
Priorities (and reasons why)	How could these be achieved?
My priority would be to get a good working committee that works together efficiently	
Personally, all of the listed above. (surface, writing, attitudes, stabling, access for elderly/disabled)	Allow the amazing new President the chance to sort this all out, put correct planning in place and have the right people around her to put it all into practice.
Better, safe, friendly and more inclusive environment (x2)	Open and honest communication Transparency Keep it professional and not resort to the personal attacks and jibes
Nurture sponsor relationships	
Grow our junior riders	
Dressage for everyone	
Get the trailer sorted	
An area that we can use for Judges etc. Would love another office like our scorers close to the scorer's office but with a kitchen.	
Speaker system	Music playing during the day 'Chipper' people on the loud speaker Sponsor notes over loud speaker
Friendly office staff	Speak nicely to people Openly speak to new people, more support given

Riders to choose jobs when they enter	Someone to follow up on what people have said they will do and make a roster for it Have a 'ten minute job' board where competitors can see a list of wee jobs that they could help with if they have a few minutes to spare
Sponsorship	Increase range of opportunities for sponsors Offer a payment plan for sponsors Be welcoming of any offer of sponsorship, especially use of product Offer ability to sponsor as 'advertising'; better for tax purposes
Promote the sport	Podcasts about riders, sponsors, judges, trainers, committee members (could use GarageBand, sound cloud; can also be linked to Dressage Southland FB page and website)
Musicals on the surface	Timetable them there
Portable grandstand to enhance viewer/spectator participation	

Dressage Southland financial strategic planning	
<i>Looking forward to the next five years, what are purchases on your 'wish list' for Dressage Southland?</i>	
Priorities (and reasons why)	How could these be achieved?
Updating the arena trailer (x2)	Fundraising push or access some of the term investment, after many years of discussing this every year and nothing happening we need to make a decision and then work with businesses that are capable of making it happen in a time efficient manner so we have the work done in the offseason ready to begin the new season with
An area that we can use for Judges etc. Would love another office like our scorers close to the scorer's office but with a kitchen.	
Judge's boxes (x4) – avoids the need for vehicles and disruption moving them. They would need to be insulated	Money Potential sponsorship
Meals – why do they cost so much? How many are we feeding? Who is entitled to them?	Can we do something different? Baking is already provided so maybe only provide a savoury component. Perhaps someone could bring savoury items. Forward planning around this would be useful.
Stables (x2)	Some require repairs. If new ones are built, they need to be square rather than rectangular, more like 4m x 4m
More warm up surface	Fundraising, sponsorship
Surface – watering system to stop dust	Are SEPT addressing this?
Roof over the arena	Fundraising, sponsorship
Better admin/office area	Fundraising, sponsorship
Speaker system	
Specific lunge area (secure), or on a surface	
Hose down area (specific and purpose made)	Kate Briggs can help source wood

Dressage Southland personnel strategic planning	
<i>Looking forward to the next five years, what are do you think are the priorities for succession planning and increasing volunteer involvement for Dressage Southland?</i>	
Priorities (and reasons why)	How could these be achieved?
Have assistants/deputy for all roles so that succession is easier and also in case of accident	
Personally approach people	
Open committee meetings is a good start as that is where most people that are currently on or have been on the committee started. They attended meetings to see how the group ran and then became more involved generally starting with smaller jobs and then working into bigger responsibilities once they became more comfortable	Discuss at next closed meeting
Succession planning – upskilling of volunteers	Upskilling for ‘shadow’ assistance Mentor scheme so you can buddy up Shadowing people in the roles currently Having 2ICs Providing job descriptions/having these available
Unity (x3)	Making people feel welcome, valued and supported Communicate Ask for help Sort out the committee – filters down from the top More social events/times Black and white, transparent Clarity of roles Develop empathy Be more open and accepting of others
Support each other	Open communication

	Meetings
Securing different judges throughout the season	Openness about the process used to secure judges – communication and transparency
Supporting the recruitment of new judges	Shoulder tapping, helping potential judges by providing information and support (i.e., FB posts, notice boards, info sheets)

Any other ideas, tips, suggestions?

- I think, as a group, instead of putting up entry fees we should look at doing more fundraising, holding events such as balls, dinners with guest speakers, lotto number draws, raffles. This also might bring the group together a bit more
- Would be nice to ride to someone else's music as an introduction for horse to music
- Otago Rescue – notified of our dates and have a contact person so we are aware that the helicopter is coming to the grounds
- Need to get better at thanking sponsors and judges
- Judges to get Dressage Southland vests as thanks, as an idea
- Don't start classes at 8am on the first day (we have daylight savings and it doesn't matter if we go later into the afternoon)
- Ask judges if they will be part of the Ground Jury (they shouldn't find out when they look in the programme)
- Riders to donate baking and food to assist with catering costs
- Lunch catering and morning/afternoon tea to only be provided for judges, stewards and external writers
- Have judges presenting prizes at prize giving (unless sponsor is present)
- Introduce the judges at prize givings
- 'Loose ends' helper list: toilets, collect tests, manure pick up, etc