

Presidents Report for 2017/18 Competition Season

Well another busy but successful season has well and truly come to an end with our Southland Winter fast approaching. It doesn't feel like it's been a year since I accepted taking on this role and I certainly couldn't of done it without the super Organising Committee that I am really proud to be a part of!!! Everyone around me just knows their jobs and roles so well and they all just get on with it, making it a very well run machine in the lead up to and over the competition weekends. So firstly I would just like to say thank you to each and every one of you.

On a sadder note we did lose a valuable Dressage Southland member in Margaret Dickie, who we had to say goodbye to in September , although she had been unwell it was still incredibly sad to farewell this lady who was very passionate about dressage in the South and who contributed so much to Dressage Southland over the years with being a part of the Committee as well as judging. She will be sadly missed by many.

Throughout the 2017/18 competition season we ran five registered competitions, we also ran a 'Have A Go' day followed by a Non-Grading Day in August and a Pole Clinic followed by a Non-Grading Day in September, the proceeds to this weekend going towards the Officials Fund'.

Our Non-grading days were well supported and encouraged many new riders to our registered competitions.

Our Registered Tournaments have been very well supported over the season with high competitor numbers across the board. We struck some super amazing weather throughout most of the season which just made the tournament weekends so much more enjoyable!!! I think even some of the North Island and Blenheim judges struggled in some of our hot summer days!!! I also noticed an increase in our Pony riders over this season, which was great and I can see some super young riders coming through the ranks!!!

Our Judges Committee have done a great job over the season in getting judges from all over the country. As our Southland judges are unfortunately dwindling this is a practice and expense that we will have to endure more of. On the plus side it is great being judged by all these super judges coming into

our lovely province but the downside to being at the bottom end of the country we do have to use up considerable expense with flights and other travel costs.

A celebration for one of our Southland Judges!! Kristin Cottam has just been upgraded to Level 2, congratulations Kristin. We know this is no easy feat both time, energy and expense so we really appreciate your efforts.

Over the past year Dressage Southland haven't made any major purchases, just the odd maintenance expenditure on equipment.

Lastly I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone for their support and encouragement over the season. This is a role that has taken me out of my comfort zone, there have been times when I have questioned my decision to do it but there have also been many, many times when I have really enjoyed the comraderie and support from the Committee, competitors, judges and volunteers. I have gotten so much enjoyment out of welcoming new competitors to our tournaments and watching these new combinations grow in confidence and ability.

Lastly I would like to wish you all the best for your winter training and before we know it we will be back out there doing it all over again, but better!!!!
Hopefully!!!!