



Dressage Ireland Clg. 2018 AGM MINUTES

Date: 22nd May 2019

Time: 19:30

Venue: Green Isle Hotel, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Gillian Kyle	Aisling Deverell
Norbert von Cramon	Gilly Crawford
Philippa Kearns	Sarah Mellor
Gisela Holstein	Owen Smyth
Donie McNamara	Claire Sedgeman
Joan Adrain	Caroline O'Leary
Cassandra Morris	Deborah Tems
Jane Whitaker	Lisa Dundee
Caroline Moran	Debbie Cherry
Marguerite McSweeney	Karen Gibney
Bernie Webb	Richard McCracken
Jean Mitchell	Kevin Kavanagh
Sarah Mullins	Sarah Quaid
Karen McKeown	Aileen Murray
Sonya McCormack	Louise Somers
Petra Larkin	Adrian Mellor
Simone Hession	Jackie Campbell
Heike Holstein	Niamh Mahon
Clare Fitzsimons	Anthony Hession
Christina Keane	Jan Heine
David Keane	

Apologies:

Joe Reynolds	Joan Keogh
Judy Reynolds	Faith Ponsonby
Lucy Adams	Marion Greene
Dorothy Tynan	Jillie Rogers
Louise Ferguson	David O'Brien
Fiona Hayes	Pippa Teggins
Sam Deverell	Adrian Teggins
Grainne Halloran	Rosi Gomes
Caroline Mellor	Barbara Delahoyde
Sinead McGrath	Josephine Delahoyde
Lisa O'Brien	Karen Bennett
Marie Hennessy	Sinead Heffernan
Alison Mastin-Moore	Kerry Isom
Mary Cox	Kevin McGuinness
Lynne Cassidy	

Chair: Gillian Kyle
Minutes: Philippa Kearns

WELCOME / DISCUSSION:

At 19:45 DI Honorary Treasurer, Tony Hession, welcomed the room and introduced auditor, Richard Twomey.

There followed some discussion on the quorum required. Once it was established that there were enough members present GK opened the AGM with the room's approval.

1. APOLOGIES

In addition to those received prior to the meeting, the following apologies were made verbally: Lucy Adams, Dorothy Tynan, Louise Ferguson, Fiona Hayes, Sam Deverell, Grainne Halloran, Caroline Mellor.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 2017 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were circulated to the members prior to the meeting. The Chair (GK) asked if everyone was happy with them could they be proposed and seconded. Kevin Kananagh (KK) noted that they were scant and that the members couldn't be happy with them. After some further discussion about the minutes and who took them GK suggested that the meeting move on. David Keane enquired about the minutes from the EGM that was held immediately prior to the previous AGM. GK reported that she didn't have minutes from the EGM that she did however have a record of the resolutions which were as follows:

- A - carried
- B - not carried
- C - not carried
- D - carried
- E - not carried
- F - carried
- G - not carried
- H - carried
- I - not carried
- J - not carried

These were confirmed Auditor (RT) and Marguerite McSweeney (MM) agreed that these concurred with her notes of the EGM. RT noted that the details of the resolutions could be presented at the next AGM if people were unsure of what they were. After some comments about record keeping GK noted that DI now have a designated person for minute taking.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Having previously been Vice Chair I took on the role as Chair of the Board of Directors of Dressage Ireland late last year when our former Chair Joe Reynolds was appointed as Chair of the HSI.

As noted by Joe last year, I am delighted to report that Dressage in Ireland continues to grow from strength to strength with increased attendances at Regional shows with new members coming on stream as well as existing members progressing up the levels. The membership initiatives introduced during Joe's tenure, particularly the Trailblazers and discounted rates for first time HSI affiliate members also continue to grow.

We listened to feedback from the members and this year introduced an affordable, dedicated Trailblazers membership rate for parents and children along with the introduction of our new Sportsmans section which we hope will continue to attract more amateur riders into the sport of dressage. We also delivered on our promise of a revamped website which has a fresher and more up to date look and has more flexibility for updating content. We have a general members' meeting scheduled to take place immediately after the business matters of the AGM where we welcome suggestions and input from you the members.

As some of you may be new members, or may be at your first Dressage Ireland AGM, I should outline that the main responsibilities of the Company Directors or 'Board members' is the administration and management of Dressage Ireland Clg. and to be accountable to the members for the actions of Dressage Ireland.

To assist with the daily running of the general activities of Dressage Ireland, which are essentially our shows and national competitions, there are a number of sub-groups who report to the Board of Directors. These sub-groups/sub-committees are composed of both Board members and general members.

These include:

- The Judges Committee – who maintain the judges list and provide training and exams
- The Championships Committee – who organise the Winter Finals and Nationals
- The Rules Committee – who update the Dressage Ireland competition rule book
- Horse & Rider Grading Committee – who evaluate appropriate grading of imported horses etc.
- Youth Development and Silver Spurs
- Training
- and Child Protection

I would particularly like to thank those who give up their time to volunteer on these sub-groups. To keep us in line with good corporate governance we are in the process of updating specific Terms of Reference for these groups and I hope that in future this will enable the Board of Directors to concentrate more on strategy and management.

I would also like to thank our general administrator, Norbert Von Cramon, and our admin assistant Charlene Moore for their support behind the scenes. From horse and rider registrations to dealing with entries for National Competitions and for their time and expertise at the Winter Finals and National Championships.

We are all busy people with responsibilities in our everyday lives, so we are not infallible. However, we try our best to ensure that our members enjoy being part of Dressage Ireland. As our auditors will explain shortly, there was a delay in the production of the accounts for 2017. This was due to the fact that this was the first year that Regional accounts were incorporated into the central accounts since Dressage Ireland became a Clg. On a positive note our Honorary Treasurer, Tony Hession, is currently working with the Regional treasurers to streamline this process going forward and to ensure that the 2018 accounts will be submitted on time. To keep us on track with Corporate Governance responsibilities Anne McFarland, who has quite literally written a book on Corporate Governance in sporting organisations, will be advising the Board of Directors and updating any policies and terms of reference that may be required. Myself and the other Directors are very grateful to have access to their expertise.

Other positive news is that we have six riders qualified for the European Championships in Rotterdam in August which is a great achievement for Irish Dressage. I am sure you will join me in wishing them and all our National and Regional level riders all the best over the coming months.

Finally, Dressage Ireland is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. We have come a long way from the inaugural meeting of a handful of people in the washroom of Punchestown Racecourse with the washing machines rumbling in the background talking about forming a Dressage society in Ireland. We look forward to you, the members, joining us for a 30th anniversary celebration at Cavan at the National Championships where we are planning some additional entertainment to previous years.

Thank you all.
Gillian Kyle

4. REPORT FROM THE AUDITORS

Richard Twomey presented the accounts for the year ending December 2017. He explained that these accounts were very late due to delays at Regional level. He started these accounts in August 2018 and they were signed off in April 2019. He noted that it would be beneficial to explain to regions what exactly was required for the 2018 accounts and that the Honorary Treasurer, Tony Hession (TH) was going to help do this to help ensure that the 2018 Accounts are filed on time.

RT drew the members attention to the Summary of Income Statement. The increase in income in 2017 was due to merging of central and regions accounts as the 2016 figures only represented central accounts. 2017 was the first year that detailed income and expenditure together for all regions combined. As a result, there was nothing to compare this to, so RT noted that he couldn't go into much detail other than to say that the Regions along with central showed a surplus.

There were some queries from the floor in relation to income and expenditure as presented in the accounts. The biggest cost variance was an increase to €25,000 from €13,000 for High Performance and an increase in the costs of the National Championships. A Championships cost analysis was provided to the members for the years 2011-2017. The difference between the 2016 and 2017 costs were due to a substantial increase in prize money, judges' flights, judges' expenses and dope testing (that was not carried out in 2016).

There was a query raised from the floor in relation to the HSI Combined Training which took place in 2018 and 2019. Some discussion followed on whether this was of any value to DI before returning to the 2017 accounts.

MM asked what normal accounting fees should be for an organisation the size of DI. RT noted that it should be between €3,000 and €5,000 but that there were additional costs incurred due to delays and issues with Regions submitting information for 2017.

TH noted that the costs were due to the amount of work required and that DI were fined €1,200 for late submission of the 2017 accounts. He added that DI have lost our two-year exemption because of late filing and there is an extra charge for having the accounts audited. He explained that the 2017 accounts were late because various regional treasurers did not do what they were supposed to do. He stated that we need to push as hard as possible to get the 2018 figures as soon as possible and added that he would try to reduce the amount of work that Richard has to do which would bring down the cost. He asked the members to tell their regions that he needs to receive the information requested on time and thanked the 3 regions that have already submitted the 2018 information. He added that if regions had problems that they contact him and thanked Norbert von Cramon for his work to date and hoped that Norbert will keep on working until we get the 2018 accounts sorted.

The accounts were then Proposed by: David Keane and Seconded by: Deborah Temms

5. REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

Proposed: Kevin Kavanagh

Seconded: Joan Adrain

6. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

There were five nominations for three Directors places being vacated by Bernie Webb who stepped down having served since 2014, Joe Reynolds who resigned to take up his current HSI role and Cassandra Morris who was co-opted onto the Board to replace Luke Drea who stepped down left.

GK invited candidates to introduce themselves:

Richard McCracken

Member of NI and NI committee member. Business background - animal feed merchants and retailing, experience handling customer issues and problems. Started eventing and transitioned to dressage through ownership and basic riding. Willing to get hands dirty and get stuck in, as already doing so in NI.

Claire Sedgeman

DI member since a young age. Involved with youth Development and for the last 4 years and have taken the youth team away to the Home international. Also involved in Silver Spurs and youth training. Senior, Para and youth co-ordinator in HSI. Previously been in senior management positions within own career.

Q from David Keane - Are you employed by the High Performance Committee (HPC)? Are you in receipt of income or expenses?

Reply from CS – Expenses only. As coordinator I am the intermediary between the riders and the HPC.

Q from David Keane - But you're not a voting member of the HPC?

Reply from CS – No.

Cassandra Morris

From Claremorris, Co. Mayo. Current Chair of MWR. Was actively involved in SJ and now a Para rider. Safeguarding officer for Para and serving member on Para Board of Directors. Involved in helping with DI Winters/National Champs. Was co-opted onto the Board last May when Luke Drea stepped down and would like to continue working on the Board.

Q from David Keane - Why were you co-opted onto Board?

Reply from CS – You would have to ask the Board who probably thought I brought something of value. The Board voted to co-opt me on in what I think it was a unanimous vote.

Statement from David Keane – we have a lot of people who have a lot of experience with horses, but not so much with business and corporate governance.

Reply from CS – I have definitely had to deal with corporate governance with Para, so am seeing it from both Para and DI perspectives. Read an item in the Sunday post only recently about corporate governance in relation to juniors, I know we have to be very careful. I also worked for Coolmore and they did not get where they are without being good at corporate governance.

Q from Kevin Kavanagh – and why don't you work for Coolmore anymore?

Reply from CS – I had a very bad accident and was not able to continue working, but had a contract to continue working with them for another 3 years.

Petra Larkin

Originally from Sweden. Run a horse business with husband. Have lifetime experience to bring to Board and want to represent the regions. Have 3 daughters competing in DI from young age. Linea twice qualified for Europeans. Travel internationally to CDIs. Emily did Children on horses and youngest is doing jumping. Was on PC committee. Now on Leinster Committee.

Dane Rawlins

GK – read out a resume for Dane Rawlins who sent his apologies for not being able to attend.

Dane started riding in Brixton Central London. He studied at Hull University where he first rode 'internationally' with the University riding clubs. Having tasted real Dressage whilst competing at Saumur, home to the Cadre Noir, he decided that this was what he wanted to do. A chance meeting with British Olympian Domini Morgan and Christine Stuckelberger led to a three year stint with George Theodorescu at a time when all of the German greats were around. This was followed by time in Canada. Dane founded BYRDS, the British Dressage young rider scheme, as well as establishing the UK Premier League. He also spent 10 years on the UK Dressage Committee. In 1993 Dane started The Dressage at Hickstead Nations Cup and has organised European Championships for both Young Riders and Seniors. Dane now runs a small farm and yard in West Sussex alongside a temporary stabling business with his wife Maureen and Daughter Anne Marie.

Q from David Keane - Can we vote for someone who is not here? And is there not a direct conflict of interest with Dane being on the Europeans team?

GK – No, there is no conflict of interest and yes we can vote for him while he is not present. I think it is an honour to have someone of his calibre and who is on the team for the Europeans come forward for the Board.

DK - But he could not make the meeting tonight.

GK – he had his reason for not being able to attend tonight. He had planned to be here, but something came up.

Heike Holstein – I was talking to him earlier in the week and he was intending to come.

GK - Dane helps us a lot and is willing and able to be part of the Board.

DK – you cannot say there is no conflict of interest since the Board decides how much money to put into HSI for High Performance.

Jan Heine – But then surely that would mean there would be a conflict of interest for everyone standing for election, they all have related interests. No, it is not a conflict of interest.

< VOTING PAPERS HANDED OUT, VOTES CAST AND COLLECTED >

< BREAK FOR TEA & COFFEE WHILE AUDITORS COUNTED VOTES >

7. RESULT OF VOTE

The following candidates, in no particular order were voted on to the Board of Directors of Dressage Ireland Clg.:

- Claire Sedgeman
- Petra Larkin
- Richard McCracken

8. NEXT AGM

The 2018 AGM was then adjourned to be reconvened at a later date to present the 2018 accounts.