

WESTERNPORT DRESSAGE CLUB 2020 AGM

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Good evening everyone, thank you for joining us for our AGM via zoom.

As we are all aware, 2020 has been a challenging time for us all, and as a club we are not immune. Our 2 major fundraising events- our annual Bunnings sausage sizzle, and the Premier Cup were both cancelled due to COVID 19.

At the start of the year, the committee were full of enthusiasm for the upcoming 12 months, with some exciting events on the horizon. We had a clinic organised with Justine Greer, a members competition scheduled to be run at Merricks Station reserve, and an evening and protocol day centred on demystifying dressage organised with Adam Reiss and Ally O'Neill.

Hopefully the restrictions will continue to ease and we will be back to running these events in the near future.

On a more positive note, we successfully applied for a Government grant to assist clubs who had had a significant disruption due to Covid. We received an initial \$1000 in July, with an additional \$500 being granted to the club in September. This will help with paying our club insurance and Equestrian Victoria membership.

As a result of there being no movement on the Westernport Calendar, as a committee we didn't feel comfortable in charging our members for our membership year 1st Nov 2019- 31st Oct 2020. As a result all memberships have been extended until 31st October 2021 and memberships for new members are now open.

I would like to take this time to thank all our current committee for their help and support this year. Whilst from the outside it would

appear as not much has happened, the reality is somewhat different. We have needed to attend many meetings with Equestrian Victoria, and also the Victorian Dressage Clubs committee. This year saw the reintroduction of the Victorian Dressage Club's committee and we are now represented on the Dressage Victoria board. This is a huge step forward in getting concerns from the clubs listened to in a more formal setting.

An issue that continues to exist throughout the sport is the lack of help and assistance throughout the dressage community. In the past it had been the dressage clubs who instigated the running of competitions, with helping at the event being a given for both members of the organising club, and the competitors (or a nominated representative). With the introduction of private entities, this has proven to impact on both the available workforce, and the membership numbers at club level. With this in mind we would like to offer our members more than just being a competition driven club.

On a personal note, I see value in keeping the clubs tradition alive and would hate to see the day that Victorian Dressage Clubs cease to hold purpose. For this reason alone, I would invite everyone to have a think about what they would like to see offered by the club. There are many successfully run events across the state, and I don't believe the calendar needs more dates. But I do still see a need for smaller events such a protocol days, clinics, social outings for young horses etc.

If you could please take a minute or two to send us a message with what you would like the club to offer it would be most appreciated. You can contact us via our facebook page, or send an email directly to a member of the committee. Our details can be found on our website.

I hope everyone is feeling reinvigorated with the commencement of activities again, and we can all see each other in the not too distant future.