



Summer greetings everyone – and
A very happy and safe Christmas to all!

Welcome to the Dressage Tasmania newsletter.

Who loves daylight saving? More hours to do what we need to do – ride, ride, ride!! Happy days!

If you would like to communicate with the Dressage Tasmania Committee, please email:
dressagetasmania@outlook.com.

Decision-making is achieved through meetings which usually occur monthly. Your Zone committee is your first contact point (refer contact details below).

Please consider supporting your Zone and offering to assist our amazing volunteers. We're all in this together!

Zone contacts

North

Chair – Sue Lamont Vice Chair – Judy Atkinson

Secretary – Jess Midson Treasurer – Jayne Blyth

General committee: Judy Harding, Teresa Darcy, Maryann Smink, Sandra Butorac, Kate Brennan, Annie McCaughey, Molly Evans, Lisa Buckby, Megan Whalley, Philippa Cassidy, Alana Fazackerley

Email address: dressagenorth@gmail.com

North West

Chair – Linda Smink Vice Chair – Penelope Moore

Secretary – Jodie Towns Treasurer – Penny Higgins

General committee: Rose and Paul Kemp, Kenya Broad, Alison Hall and Jessica Tilton.

Email address: nwdressagezone@gmail.com

South

Chair –

Suanne Lawrence

Vice Chair – Gill von Bertouch

Treasurer – Katherine Drake

Minutes Secretary – Jill Suban

General Committee: Sue McDermott, Jenny Wilson, Jill Schwartz, Heather Stewart, Annelise Bellett, Wendy Asman.

Email address: dressagetassouth@gmail.com



2024-25 Dressage Tasmania – State Dressage Authority

President Judy Atkinson

Vice President Sue Lamont

Secretary Alana Fazackerley

Treasurer Alison Hall

Committee Penelope Moore, Heather Stewart

Tania Hay

Seasonal quote:

"There will always be riders with bigger trucks, more expensive horses, and more famous coaches. None of it matters when you enter the arena and rider up the centreline."

German Olympian dressage rider Ulla Salzgeber

Dressage Tasmania Northern Zone Jamieson's Rural Newcomers competition

Rescheduled due to a severe weather warning preventing the competition from going ahead on 17 November, this aims to be an additional championships qualifier, an entry-FREE competition for Off the Track Thoroughbreds and Standardbred horses **AND** an opportunity for newcomers to enter the arena – or those who have never won a Preliminary (or above) competition to win beautiful rosettes and prizes.

Greet the new year and join Northern Zone for their first competition for 2025.

Entries via Nominate (soon) – \$15 Day Membership available (through completion of a Waiver!)

Hot weather warnings

Public Health have provided the following advice in relation to heatwave warnings:

- The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) issue heatwave warnings when the maximum and the minimum temperatures are unusually hot over a three-day period at a specific location. These can be found on their website, app and telephone weather service
- Tasmania's Public Health Services review these warnings and if the conditions present a high risk, a public health alert for heat will be issued via TasALERT, the Department of Health's website and social media channels.

However, because not all BOM warnings will result in a public health alert it's important to plan ahead on hot days and limit time in the sun; check on family, friends and relatives; never leave pets or children in cars; drink plenty of water and know the signs of heat-related illness. There is more information on the hot weather section of Health's website.

Equestrian Australia – Hot Weather Policy – link [here](#).

We need your help . . .

This is an exciting time of the year when you have a chance to take a step up and be involved at the coalface. We like to ride at events, but we also need volunteers to run them – otherwise they cannot happen.

We need your input into ideas and suggestions for events – both ridden and unriden. This is your opportunity to have a say in how we do dressage in Tassie.

We are fortunate to have three excellent Zone committees with people open and welcoming to others.

Go on . . . take the next step and contact your Zone with an offer of help . . . your skills are sorely needed!

Stewards

You would be aware that from 1 January 2024 it has been mandatory for an accredited EA Steward to be present at all Dressage Tasmania competitions.

Congratulations to those newly accredited. We now have a number of accredited Level 1 and 2 Stewards in Tassie. You can search for one [here](#).

EA membership is mandatory to be included on the EA Officials' List.

So, you want to be a dressage judge:

<https://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage/content/judges-information>

<https://www.equestrian.org.au/officials/dressage>

Equestrian Australia Committees

Access who's who in the zoo [here](#)!

Glossary of FEI Competition Acronyms

Confused about the difference between a CSI and a CHIO? Here is a quick-reference guide to various discipline abbreviations. [Link to glossary](#)

Do you know what goes on in the judge's car/box?

Ever wondered what it is like being on the other side of the window?

By Teresa Darcy

Did you know that writers are one of the hardest volunteers to source? Each Zone tends to rely on the same people each competition, and they may not always be available. Some of them like to ride as well!

Without our valuable writers, we would not be able to provide you with scores and feedback on your test. Why do most of us compete? To receive our test sheets with those valuable judges' comments to take away and work on!

Have you thought about writing for a judge, but think:

- The iPad scares me?
- I will accidentally bump or press the wrong thing?
- The judge scares me!?
- I wouldn't be quick enough?
- I would get way too stressed?
- No way could I do that?
- I don't have time?
- I want to compete, so unable to write?

We are here to let you know, you are not alone and there are ways of overcoming all of the above, we need your help!!

- **The iPad scares me** – did you know that you can still use paper sheets and enter these on the iPad in between classes or at morning tea/lunch, when you have support and time to become familiar with the system. Nominate have two videos that show you step by step how to use the system – Live Score.
- **I will accidentally bump or press the wrong thing** – you have the option of using a keyboard or stylus, choose what you are more comfortable with! Or be like me and use a glove that stops those annoying marks or bumps.
- **The Judge scares me** – our judges really are lovely and value their writer's support. They appreciate that you may be nervous or if it is your first time, let them know and they can accommodate this. Yes, they will need to concentrate on the test, but you can check the movement number with them, if you think you are getting lost at any stage. Just don't try and have a full conversation in the middle of a test!
- **I wouldn't be quick enough, I would get stressed, no way could I do that!** – yes, you can do it! It is not as intimidating as it seems. Volunteer to sit in the back of the car and use paper sheets for a few tests to see how you go. The more you do it, the quicker you will become, plus there is a list of shorthand ways of writing the most common terms. It is much quicker to draw a circle, square, arrow, etc than write the full word.
- **I don't have time, I want to compete** – not many of us do have time, but unless we make time, sadly we don't have volunteers to run these competitions! If your tests are over by lunch time, volunteer to write, ask a friend to keep an eye on your horse. If you have to scratch from a competition, as tempting as it may be to get that shopping or spring cleaning done, why not volunteer a few hours to write, or learn how to?

Important points to remember

- Everything can be fixed, we are all human!
- Confidentiality is paramount, writers are not to disclose any comments said within the car or box.
- There is always a paper test available if the iPad fails!
- Have a spare pen.
- Check everything with the organisers before getting in the car or box.

- Practice and read the material under helpful resources.
- The most important thing is to get the mark (score) down, comments can be checked afterwards.

Why would I do it?

Aside from giving back to the sport you love, and a supplied morning tea and lunch, there are other great reasons to write at a competition.

Volunteering to write has been the best thing for my competition nerves! I no longer worry about what is going on in the car or box or what the judge may think. I know that every comment is made to assist the rider to improve.

You get to understand that judges genuinely want to see you improve and want to be able to reward that. They are not there to make your life difficult.

Now the biggest contributor to my nerves is trying to remember my test once I hit the centreline!

I encourage anyone who is interested to have a sit-in with a judge and practice penciling, to see how you go. It really is a worthwhile experience.

Helpful resources:

Step by Step Video on how to use Nominate - [Live Score](#)

Equestrian Australia How to Guide – [Quick Reference](#)

[Dressage - guidelines for writers and pencillers.pdf](#)

For more information on how you can help at your next competition please contact:

Northern Zone – dressagenorth@gmail.com

North West Zone – nwdressagezone@gmail.com

Southern Zone - dressagetassouth@gmail.com



Dressage Tasmania membership

Annual membership is to 30 June each year. Twelve and six-monthly memberships are available. If intending to join for a 12-month period, please keep in mind that this will only be from 1 July each year. Various membership categories are available: Senior, Junior, Young Rider, Family, Social, Official etc. To join and for information on cost, access the Dressage Tasmania web site [here](#)

What is a Strategic Plan?

View the current Dressage Tasmania Plan link [here](#).

Dressage Tasmania reviewed its Strategic Plan in October 2024, but what does that mean? Sport Australia defines planning as a tool to outline focus areas for the next few years and beyond.

Our Strategic Plan includes a Vision, Mission Statement and a set of Values which run through everything we do as a sporting organisation.

The Plan includes an Action Plan which lists specific strategies and actions with timelines and how we know we've reached success (called Key Performance Indicators), with a focus on everything being reasonable and achievable (otherwise what's the point!?)

You can view the Australian Sports Commission's strategic plan [here](#).

The Plan will be accessible on the Dressage Tasmania web site. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions on how to improve the sport for everyone in Tasmania, please email us.

Spectacular movement isn't always good movement':

Becky Moody on young horses and her key training mantras

Horse and Hound

Read the article [here](#).

The Jenny and Jayden Show!

Woodend Equestrian Centre

23- 24 November, 2024

By Penelope Moore

I sit down with a coffee on hand, tasked with putting in words, what I can only describe as the most motivational weekend of my life.

The starting point of this magical weekend was a little seed of an idea in the mind of Bert Gibson. Anyone that knows Bert will know that if she has an idea, she will make it happen! “Things just don’t happen because it’s a nice idea!”

In true Bert form the weekend was run with the precision of a world class event with her magical facility providing a movie location backdrop on a perfect day.

Bert and Peter, consistently open their facility, their paddocks, her expertise in clinic coordination and their home to provide opportunities for riders in Tasmania, and we can never thank them enough for all they do for us, and for facilitating this amazing opportunity for the Tasmanian Equestrian community.

The riders to participate in the clinic were selected from the first and second place-getters at the 2024 TasRacing Cavalor Tasmanian State Dressage Championships, and where a rider competed two horses, they were to select one and the remaining opportunity would go to the third place getter. This resulted in a fantastic group of horse and rider combinations for Jenny and Jayden to work with and to select the horses that they felt would highlight their training methods and the message that they really wanted to deliver.



Bert Gibson, Jenny Gehrke, Jayden Brown and Judy Atkinson

“Things just don’t happen because it’s a nice idea!”

As riders when we go to these clinics, we can’t help ourselves but hope for a magic wand to fix all our problems, we can’t help it!! Having had lessons with Jenny for a few years now, I most definitely know that is not true. There is no magic wand, but what Jenny’s and Jayden’s system provide is an exceptionally clear and achievable method that builds on a foundation of good old fashioned Aussie horsemanship and love for the horses, coupled with the dressage training scale.

Watching Jayden ride not only my own horse, but all the horses he sat on, there is absolutely no doubt the man is “a freak” (Jenny’s words). Sometimes you are lucky enough to witness an athlete doing what they are a born to do, and you find yourself thinking; is he even human? But then you get over being a bit starstruck and you realise there is nothing he is doing that I can’t do!! He may do in minutes what would take me months, but I can do it!!

Every horse he got on, he went through the same checklist of questions. Can I go forward? Can I stop? Can I turn Left? Can I turn Right??? . . . That simple! The difference between him and an average human is what Jenny would call the “expectation muscle”, his expectation is WAY higher!!

Lesson number 1 – these basic elements are what everything else is based on. These must work and must be sharp.

When he asks the horse one of these questions, he means now, not a few seconds after he asks, and he creates a very clear aid and reward for the horse. When they get it right, he stops asking immediately, there is no nagging, there is just a beautiful silence to the horse, allowing it to move freely on its own.

Forward being the main example, there is no kicking on each stride, he puts them in the pace and expects them to stay in that gear. If they make a mistake and drop down a gear, he allows them the mistake and corrects it, so they learn the correct answer is – you stay where I put you. Most of us spend all of our time

“Can I go forward?
Can I stop? Can I
turn Left? Can I
turn Right? . . .
That simple!”

trying to prevent the mistake, then we just kick and push constantly and the horse learns nothing except we are a bit annoying and start to shut us out!

So a quick flick with the whip or tap with the leg, a surprise to say “no wrong answer” then when they do the right thing, everything off again to reward the answer they have given you.

Lesson number 2: Allow mistakes and correct them – horses learn by making mistakes.

A personal example of this for me, is my mare likes to fall in on the left rein when I go around the corner of the arena. So she has trained me that when we come into that corner, I will put my left leg on to prevent that to happen. Dancer thinks that’s great, something to lean on and I will hold her up. Jayden came into the corner and when she went to fall into his left leg, she got a slap with that leg, like a person slapping your hand and she got a lesson to hold up her own shoulders. Next corner, she went to do it again, same surprise message, third corner she held up her own shoulders!

“A focus on rhythm, making sure it is clear, and yours.”

For the Masterclass itself, first cab off the rank was the beautiful Clearview Springsteen and Linda Smink. A stunning example of the quality of horses on offer right here in Tasmania! Beautifully bred by Judy Atkinson from Clearview Performance Horses. Jenny’s and Jayden’s focus here was to show the work they would do with a young horse. All just the very basics of go, stop and turn. A focus on rhythm, making sure it is clear, and yours. If the horse is going too fast, you need to work on your stop aid, too slow need work on your go aid.

The horse must be adjustable. A key takeaway here was if the horse is worried about something, instead of focusing on what they are worried about or what they can’t do in that moment in time, give them a job they can achieve. For example, if they are struggling to trot down a long side without a spook or a worry, ask them to trot a circle, or do some transitions to get them back on the job and give them something you can reward.

Lesson number 3: If the horse keeps making the same mistakes, we need to ask ourselves the following questions.

- Do they understand the question I am asking them?
- Are they physically strong enough to be doing what I am asking?
- Do they have a limitation that means they can’t give me the answer I want?

Jenny and Jayden are passionate about making sure the horses understand what we are asking them. If the horse is struggling to give us the answer we are looking for, we go back a step or two and break it down again to make sure they have the tools they need to give us the answer we are looking for.

An example of this was in Helen Malcom’s gorgeous pony gelding. He is exceptionally loose in his body, a good response to the go and stop aids, but due to his looseness the turn left and right needed to be less loose and more solid between the two reins.

The exercise to work on, was turn using a square and using a reverse flex around the corners of the square to get control of the shoulders. Using the outside aids to ask for the turn, with a tap on the shoulder to sharpen the leg aid if there was not an immediate response. The aim being anything we do with the horse we want to do with the lightest aid possible.

The result of this exercise was the gelding was then totally in self-carriage holding his own shoulders up and Jayden had the ability to ask him to move any which way with his leg with the lightest of aids and hold him on his line creating a solid leg to hand connection. This very simple exercise transformed this already handsome pony into a real crowd stopper, and I must admit he was one of my favourites all weekend.

Next up, Jenny and Jayden wanted to show that dressage is aimed to improve the quality of the pace. Using Jonathan Coombes’ gelding Milo, they worked on the next step in the go/stop aids, and that is the transitions within the pace and using the long half halt to start to gain lift and cadence in the trot pace.

Milo very much reminded Jayden of a previous mount of his, and while Milo needs to develop more swing, he has a fantastic mind and tries very hard to give an answer to the questions.

“Jenny and Jayden are passionate about making sure the horses understand what we are asking them.”

Jayden started with making sure the go and stop aids were working well and sharp. If you don't have a correctly working stop aid, the half halt will not work. To make this sharp it's pretty simple, Jayden picks a marker and says I am stopping there, so are my hands, the rest is up to the horse to figure out. He of course starts this in walk, so the horse learns not to slam into the bit, then progresses to trot and same rules apply.

Jayden is very clear on this point; if the horse slams into the bit, that is on them, as long as the rider is providing a soft hand as a boundary for them to go into. If the rider is pulling back on the reins to stop, or leaning back in the transition, this is bad riding and on the rider.

The result within a couple of transitions is a downward transition that is balanced and on the body of the rider. Using this, Jayden then turns this into a long half halt, with the aim to slow the front end, while keeping activity in the back end to start the journey of collection. We get the very first baby steps of short steps, which then in the coming years develop into passage with strength and work.

This gets the horse to take more weight over the hinds, freeing up the shoulders, that sitting can then be taken forward in balance into the working trot and develop a longer stride and a more magnificent trot.

Jayden is very firm here that we cannot be greedy. We must reward any effort of a try from the horse. If they have tried we must reward, in particular when they are learning a new skill. If they are on the right path, even if it's not exactly what we want, if it's on the right track we must give an idea they are heading in the right direction.

Jenny using the analogy of; if you ask a banana and they keep bringing you apples, you say thank you for this apple, now bring me a banana, and you keep repeating until they bring you a banana and you have a party!

Next up, we saw Jayden ride Amy Griffiths' gelding Wiki, working on Flying Changes. Again, Jayden went through the same routine, can I go, stop and turn? He used variations of all these aids to get the canter ready for a change. He wanted to make sure he had a balanced canter with a clear three-beat, and the ability to put

both the quarters and shoulders of the horse wherever he wanted them. He also wanted to make sure the horse had a clear understanding of the canter aid, so an exercise in canter transitions on the long side through trot, changing leads each time was done. Jayden was precise on the transitions and made sure everyone was in balance, on his aid and wouldn't compromise on that. This resulted in the canter, which was already a highlight, becoming a delight for the eyes and I physically found myself becoming so relaxed watching the entire process.

“Everything was done in such a relaxed way, no tension, no anxiety.”

Everything was done in such a relaxed way – no tension, no anxiety. If Wiki made a mistake, Jayden calmly placed him back in the spot and said “try again”. After a variation of the shoulder control exercise done with Helens pony, Jayden started the changes and the result was magnificent, expressive “flying” changes. Jenny then challenged Jayden to make the canter bad, e.g. four-beat and average (hard for Wiki with his naturally great canter) and took away all the things that make a good change, the clear rhythm and the straightness and on the forehand, which resulted in a late change in front. He then fixed those ingredients again and back to the superb changes. He makes it look so easy!

The next horse was Lydia Jackson's gelding Faberge R. Jayden showed the progression from what was shown with Jono's gelding and developing the trot into passage. Again, just the fine tuning of the go stop aids, ensuring self-carriage and activity of the hinds and gaining lift. Lots of forward and back transitions within the pace, asking him to carry on his hinds then pushing forward. They then worked on the half pass, which again is just an extension of the forward back and turn aids, asking them to move sideways, no pushing with the outside leg, just an ask to move sideways, while forward and holding bend to the way of travel. Jayden tuned up the outside aids, then asked the horse to hold bend not asking more until the horse would hold bend softly. Once he had that, he would ask him to take that forward. Again he used transitions within the pace and within the movement to help develop the pace and make the trot more extravagant and more over the back and into the contact.

“Jayden is very firm here that we cannot be greedy. We must reward any effort of a try from the horse.”

Key takeaways here were making sure the rider's shoulders match the horses, not pushing the horse off balance with too much pushing with the outside leg. They need to be tuned enough that you ask with the leg, then take it away until you ask them to stop. If you are having to push every stride, it is wrong. Using the inside leg to keep the forward.

The final horse was Bree Turner's magnificent Grand Prix Carerra and oh, what a treat they gave us! Jayden had had a 15-minute sit on Carerra the day before to help Bree fine-tune the half pass zig zags. The aim was to show the normal work routine for a Grand Prix horse. Starting with all the basics he had done with all the other horses – can I go, stop and turn etc, with a higher expectation muscle of the responses.

Within 10 minutes in true Jenny form, without Jayden even having done a line of changes of the horse, not to mention any Piaffe or Passage "how about you just run though the Grand Prix?" . . . I'm not sure if anyone else saw the side-eye he gave her, but never the less he agreed!!

“. . . all I can say is, it was honestly the most beautiful test I have ever seen.”

A quick run through the tempi's and the P & P and he was off! Jenny insisted he redo the centreline . . . "That was a bit shit" she said. Well he redid it and all I can say is it was honestly the most beautiful test I have ever seen.

Maybe I was high on the emotion of the day, I'm not sure, but there were tears of joy in my eyes. I was so happy for Bree, so grateful to her for bringing this magical horse to Tasmania and allowing us to share in her journey and pushing us all to be better.

Our sport has been in the limelight for all the wrong reasons of late, and to see dressage done well with a horse giving a rider he does not know his whole heart in a high-pressure environment, and trusting that rider because he is giving him clear and consistent instructions, it was something truly magical.

Dressage done well is BEAUTIFUL and it should be beautiful. It should be a joy and Jayden and Jenny have given me a very real reminder that our sport is beautiful and well worth fighting for.

For me the day was so, so special. Not only because they gave us a program that is achievable for the average human, but we got to share, if only for a moment, the extremely special relationship between Jayden and Jenny. Their connection is magnetic and as a team they are something else. Jayden's skill in the saddle and Jenny's superpower to put in words in the most entertaining way what we need to see and feel. We are so, so lucky we have them here in Australia, and even more lucky they are willing to share their knowledge and they are on a mission to share it far and wide.

Thankyou Jenny and Jayden, I've always had faith, but now I have a plan!

Those with Jenny and Jayden, who participated in the weekend: Linda Smink, Lydia Jackson, Amy Griffiths, Bree Turner, Stephanie Temple, Kenya Broad, Celia Conder Lang, Bert Gibson, Jonathan Coombs, Penelope Moore and Helen Malcolm

“Key take aways here were making sure the riders' shoulders match the horse's.”



2025 McGrath Launceston Tasmanian Dressage Championships

1ST & 2ND MARCH 2025 | THIRLSTANE



McGrath

Thank you to McGrath Launceston for Naming Rights sponsorship of the 2025 State Dressage Championships.

A close-knit team of experts, passionately committed to excellence and six-star customer service. Located just a short stroll from Launceston's CBD, the agency is dedicated to creating memorable experiences that keep clients coming back. Home to some of the area's most renowned agents, McGrath Launceston is driven to achieve impressive results. Leveraging McGrath's wider network and intimate local knowledge, the aim is to be the first choice in Launceston for all property needs.

McGrath

✔ CHAMPIONSHIPS ELIGIBILITY ✔

★ Official horse and rider (combination) are required to receive two scores of 60% or more, at the level they enter for the 2025 State Championships, between the qualifying period of 30 January 2024 and 29 January 2025. Please note qualifiers are not required for Para Equestrian, or Young Horse classes.

★ FEI horse and rider (combination) are required to receive two scores of 55% or more for the tour level they are competing in at the State Championships.

★ Participant horse and rider (combination) are required to compete at two DTas events between the qualifying period of 30 January 2024 and 29 January 2025.

★ **Official riders need to have their horse registered with EA and a current competition licence.**

Limited competitions left to qualify. Remember that to qualify for **Participant (Unofficial)**, you only need at **enter** and **attend** two competitions!

If you would like to be part of the organising committee to take on one or two tasks (small and large), or have any queries, please email dressagetas.championships@gmail.com



Dressage Tasmania Summer Calendar (Information as at newsletter distribution date.)

Please consider contacting your Zone by email to help at an event.

Roles range from organising an event to putting letters out and any help would be greatly appreciated.

DECEMBER			
Date	Venue	Event	Contact
1	TEC	Southern Zone Official Series – Round 3	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
14	TEC	Southern Zone Training Day	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
JANUARY			
5	Thirlstane	NEW Jamieson's Rural Northern Zone Newcomers	dressagenorth@gmail.com
12	TEC	Southern Zone Southern Spectacular Competition (mainland judge)	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
18	TEC	Southern Zone Training Day	dressagenorth@gmail.com
18-19	Thirlstane	NW and Northern Zones Combined Competition	dressagenorth@gmail.com nwdressagezone@gmail.com
CHAMPS QUALIFYING PERIOD ENDS!			
FEBRUARY			
2	TEC	Southern Zone Competition	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
9	Thirlstane	Northern Zone Training Day	dressagenorth@gmail.com
15	TEC	Southern Zone Training Day	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
16	Thirlstane	NW Zone Competition	nwdressagezone@gmail.com



Dressage Tasmania events calendar

To access events through Nominate, flag in Nominate to receive email notifications of upcoming events. An email will be sent to you when an event opens. Access the Dressage Tasmania online calendar [here](#).



View the Boneo Park calendar [here](#).



View the Werribee Park calendar [here](#).



EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA

DRESSAGE

View the Dressage National Calendar of Events [here](#)

INGRID KLIMKE
DRESSAGE AND EVENTING
MASTERCLASS
PRESENTED BY EQUINESQUE

JANUARY 25, 2025
QUEENSLAND STATE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
CONTACT: LEESA MURRAY
EVENTS@EQUINESQUE.COM | WWW.EQUINESQUE.COM
0402 033 716

Willinga Park 4CYTE™ Dressage by the Sea

ENTRIES OPEN



Event dates:
20–23 February 2025

Entries close:
Sunday, 12 January
2025 | Midnight

Enter via: [Link](#)

Tips from the experts . . .

Carl Hester

There is always someone who will teach you something new about horses, so remain forever open minded.

The best investment you can make is a good trainer. Find someone who is honest and critical without constantly putting you down and someone that gives you a plan and goals to aim for.

You don't have to spend a fortune on a horse for dressage – as long as the basic paces are there, the rest can be achieved through training.

The key to training horses is patience and consistency – you will get there!

The only way to improve/influence horse's paces is to ride forward in a balanced way.

The trot is the easiest pace to change and improve but you need to buy a good walk and a good canter.

Use lots of forward and back transitions within the canter to spice up the hind leg.

Lots of transitions between canter and trot will help to improve the trot by getting the horse to carry more weight on its back end.

Steffen Peters

Have a high standard for giving aids in a very clear, correct way. If the aids are that obvious, it's not dressage. Educate your horse so he responds to gentle leg pressure.

Your horse should have respect for the bit and should respond to the smallest of aids. When we touch a horse on the inside rein, he should bend to the inside. When I touch the bit ever so slightly, the horse must answer to this.

Keep things simple. You don't want to have to micromanage every little thing.

Be decisive. The wrong reaction is 10 times better than no reaction at all.

Incorporate plenty of praise. Stop and let your horse think about it when he's done something right.

Jessica Von Bredow-Werndl

It's not about the goal we set; it's about how to get there, how to create the journey. I would just love to remind some people to enjoy the time with their horses more and don't take everything too seriously. And in general: that all horses have the chance to go out in the field.





3.13 Scale of marks

Under both EA and FEI rules, the scale of marks is as follows:

10 – excellent	5 – marginal (EA) (sufficient – FEI)
9 – very good	4 – insufficient
8 – good	3 – fairly bad
7 – fairly good	2 – bad
6 – satisfactory	1 – very bad
0 – not executed (means practically nothing was performed)	

- all half marks from 0.5 to 9.5 may also be used both for movements and collective marks, at the discretion of the judge – this also includes freestyle competitions
- whole marks should be written as 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, etc
- in freestyle tests 0.1 decimals may be used for the artistic marks

3.14 Called tests

In regards to a test being called:

- tests may not be called
 - at any level above Advanced at any event
 - in any competition where the Conditions of Entry excludes it
 - at any FEI-sanctioned competition (e.g. CDI-W)
- where callers are permitted, it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that only the printed text, or extracts thereof, is read out and that no other form of assistance is given
- the caller may read each movement once or twice only. Failure to observe this rule may entail elimination

3.15 Execution of tests

All movements contained in tests must be:

- executed in the order laid down by the test sheet
- carried out at the specified point in the arena

In a movement that must be carried out at a certain point or letter of the arena, it should be done at the moment when the competitor's body is above this point or letter. In transitions where the horse approaches the letter from a diagonal or perpendicular to the point on track where the letters are positioned, the transitions must be done when the horse's nose reaches the track at the letter so that the horse is straight in the transition.

3.15.1 Holding the reins

Riding with the reins in both hands is compulsory in all Dressage competitions – deduction from marks -2 per judge. The exceptions to this rule are:

- leaving the arena after the final salute
- during a Freestyle test as part of the degree of difficulty
- a discreet 'pat on the neck' for a well performed exercise, or for reassurance, is perfectly acceptable (as is the situation of a rider needing to wipe a fly from their eye, or other situations such as adjusting clothing, saddle pads etc)

If the rider intentionally takes the reins into one hand to use either the reins or the other hand to produce more impulsion from the horse, or to promote applause from the spectators during the test, it will be considered a fault and will be reflected in the mark for both the movement and the collective mark.

In the competition arena, under no circumstances is a rider to take the reins in one hand, whip in the other and use it on the horse – such action will entail elimination.

3.16 Use of voice

The use of the voice or clicking the tongue as an aid by the rider repeatedly is a serious fault, which will be penalised by the judge/s who hear it with a deduction of 2 marks from the mark that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement.

NOTE: The use of voice is permitted in some cases in Para-Equestrian Dressage as an aid. See [Section 11](#) for more details.

3.17 Penalties, Technical Faults and Errors of Course

Technical faults will incur a 0.5% deduction from the final percentage mark as per [Annex E](#). The deduction is from each judge and all judges must have the same number of penalties recorded.

Error of Course, whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalised and is cumulative. The penalties for an error of course are as follows:

EA level tests (up to Advanced)

- the first by -2 marks
- the second by -4 additional marks
- the third by elimination

FEI level tests

Senior, U25 and Young Rider

- first error - 2% from total score
- second error – elimination

Young Horse, FEI Children, Pony and Junior and Para

- first error - 0.5% from total score
- second error - 1% from total score
- third error - elimination

- a) if the bell is not sounded when an error of course is made, and the test requires the same movement to be repeated and the error is made again, the rider is only penalised once. The Chief Judge must be aware of the effect of one movement on the next and where mirror images occur, in order to be prompt in notifying the competitor
- b) if eliminated, if time permits and the type of event or competition is appropriate, the Chief Judge may invite the rider to continue the test to the end with the marks being awarded in the ordinary way. In such a case it is not necessary for the collective marks to be completed
- c) the use of the rider's voice, referred to in [rule 3.16](#), is not an Error of Course
- d) it is not always necessary for a judge to ring the bell for an error of course. Below are instances that will and will not require the sounding of the bell. However, not all cases can be quoted and it is the Chief Judge who will decide to sound the bell. In deciding not to ring the bell the judge must consider the effect this will have on the rest of the test

The Chief Judge WILL ring the bell:	The Chief Judge need NOT ring the bell:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when the rider enters the arena at the incorrect gait 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when the final halt is at X instead of G or vice versa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when the rider turns right instead of left or vice versa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when the rider makes a transition not clearly at the marker
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when the rider omits a movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cantering up the centre line from A, the rider makes a pirouette at D instead of at L
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when a movement is the first of a mirror image and the competitor rides rising trot instead of sitting trot and vice versa and/or an incorrect circle size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rider does rising trot instead of sitting trot or vice versa in a non-mirrored movement

- e) if the Chief Judge does ring the bell, they should show the rider the point at which they are to re-take the test, which could be a movement prior to where the error occurred. Judging will re-commence when the rider reaches the point where the error of course occurred
- f) in principle, a rider is not permitted to repeat a movement of the test unless the Chief Judge decides on it being an error of course (rings the bell)
- g) however, if the rider has started the execution of a movement and attempts to do the same movement again, the judges must consider only the first movement shown and at the same time penalise for an Error of Course
- h) each judge must have the same number of errors marked on their sheets with a notation explaining where the error was made. The Chief Judge must make the final decision as to the number of errors if there is a discrepancy
- i) if the judges have not noted an error, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt

NOTE– Errors of course are to be deducted from the total score from the test sheet of each judge

3.17.1 Other technical faults with penalties – refer to Annex E

All of the following are considered technical faults and 0.5% will be deducted for each one, and this is applied each time a technical fault occurs but will not result in elimination. (including for Freestyle tests):

- a) a rider entering the space around the arena with whip (where not permitted) or riding in a dressage arena with a whip (when not permitted) or with boots on the horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves). See rule 5.6(e) for whip penalties at FEI events and Australian and State Championships and 9.1.2(f) for Young Horse.
- b) if the test has already started before the above discrepancies have been noticed, the Judge at C stops the rider and, if needed and where possible, an assistant may enter the arena to remove the item(s). The rider then continues the test, either starting from the beginning (from the inside of the fence) or from the movement where they were stopped. The marks given before they were stopped are not changed
- c) a rider entering the arena before the sound of the bell
- d) a rider not entering the arena within 45 seconds after the bell
- e) a rider not saluting at either the first or last halt
- f) a rider not taking reins in one hand at the salute
- g) in Freestyle tests, a rider not giving the signal to start music within 45 seconds, entering the arena after more than 30 seconds of music
- h) if the Freestyle test is longer or shorter than stipulated on the test sheet 0.5% will be deducted from the total artistic score

Yellow Warning Cards

Q1 Who is eligible to issue a Yellow Warning Card?

A As per Dressage Rule 1.5.1(b):

FEI Stewards, EA Stewards, EA Technical Delegates, FEI Judges, EA Judge Educators.

Equestrian Australia information available [here](#)

EA Equipment Annex – Dressage Rules

The new Equestrian Australia Equipment Annex - Version 22 - 04.04.2023 has been effective since **23 April 2023**. Access through the EA Dressage Rules Webpage: <https://www.equestrian.org.au/Dressage-rules>

The summary of changes to the National Dressage Rules effective 1 January 2023 is now available at this link: [Summary - Dressage Rule Changes 1 January 2023 23112022.pdf \(equestrian.org.au\)](#)

Friendly reminders

- Judges who do not hold a current Working with Vulnerable People registration/card, will not be included on the Equestrian Australia Judges' List.
- Riders may now ride only two tests per day at any level.
- Numbers at a height of 3.5-4cm need to be visible on BOTH SIDES of a saddle pad or bridle when competing **and BOTH SIDES of a halter at any other time at Dressage Tasmania events.**
- As of 1 January 2024 EA dressage competitions must have an accredited EA Steward on duty. A Steward or Steward-appointed person is necessary to check gear at competitions. Checking of gear is undertaken **AFTER** a test.

Please check the current Dressage Rules and Equipment Annex before attending Dressage Tasmania events to ensure your equipment is correct, to prevent any surprises!

Values



Dedication	Committed to supporting dressage in Tasmania.
Respect	Everyone is valued and treated accordingly.
Excellence	Striving to provide the best possible experience.
Solidarity	We are all in this together.
Safety	Horse and rider welfare is the priority.
Access	An environment where everyone is welcome.
Growth	Nurturing membership development.
Encouragement	Dressage as a positive experience.

Your feedback matters!

Members are encouraged to have input into the way we do dressage in Tasmania. Ideas and ways of improvement are welcome. Email dressagetasmania@outlook.com or your Zone contact. Likewise, if you think of anything you'd like included in future newsletters, let us know.

Web links

[Dressage Tasmania \(equestrian.org.au\)](https://www.equestrian.org.au)
[Horse Registration | Equestrian Tasmania](#)
[Your Membership | Equestrian Tasmania](#)
[Insurance | Equestrian Australia](#)
[Medication Control | Equestrian Tasmania](#)
[Discipline rules & regulations | Equestrian Australia](#)

Dressage Tasmania web site:

<https://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage/>

Dressage Tasmania E-mail:

dressagetasmania@outlook.com



<https://www.facebook.com/dressagetasmania>