

# President's Report – March 2013

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## Competition cancellation

Unfortunately we had to cancel the February Members only t-shirt dressage competition due to some extreme weather the night before which caused power outs, numerous trees down, committee and club members being flooded in and general havoc all around!

## How and why?

The committee and the owner of Il Cadore had to make a decision on the Friday morning, as to whether or not we wanted to go ahead – at that stage, the weather was predicted to be sunny and 30 degrees on Sunday. Given it was a member's only t-shirt day, the committee consensus was to take the chance and say 'yes, let's do it'. (SIEC Eventing was still going ahead, so we thought a few puddles in the dressage arena shouldn't be too hard to navigate – especially compared to those people jumping two and three star jumps?!).



As we watched the weather on Saturday coming in, the sideways rain and wind, it wasn't until around 9pm on Saturday night when we decided to change the plan. Then we had the black out! In the dark, a few key committee members were contacted and we scrambled around to advise as many people as we could (not just the competitors, but also Il Cadore, judges, pencilers, caterers, scorers, gear checkers, Somersby Public School, Joe the Cappuccino Man etc) via sms, email and Facebook. We were unable to publish on the website as Wendy (Website Coordinator) also had no power and a few other home hazards to deal with.



## Presentation

7am Sunday morning, the sun was shining, the rain had disappeared and a few competitors had arrived ready for the day. We extended our apologies that they didn't receive the notice of competition cancellation. We still planned to go ahead with the 2012 presentation of awards and a social lunch during the day - even though the power was still out (and not expected to be back on until 4pm that afternoon). This in itself presented some challenges (making tea and lunch became a mini camping experience) but we felt that we should celebrate those 2012 award winners.

The medallions (gold, silver and bronze) and Champion/Reserve trophies were awarded, but it was also great to be able to recognize the 2012 Volunteers and Future Champions as well.



Added to this, we presented a sponsorship package for **Brianna Cartwright** (DNSW Youth Development Squad) and **David Shoobridge** (DNSW High Performance Talent Squad) for their awesome dressage achievements. We also inducted **Shauna Murphy** as one of our Life Members. Shauna has devoted many years to the club (through good times and bad) and we thank her for her commitment and dedication.

Laura (who is our regular caterer and recently had a baby) was able to provide a tasty cold lunch on the hot, humid day and we also thank Somersby Public School for donating a variety of cakes and biscuits.

Thanks to all who attended and congratulations to all the award winners. The results have been published. If you didn't attend, please contact us to make arrangements to collect your award.



Please note, our Leaderboard/Pointscore criteria will be published for member information shortly – there are some slight changes to encourage quality performances throughout the year.

### Feedback and Appreciation

We received some very supportive and understanding feedback with regards to the competition cancellation – thank you, it makes a difference. Whilst the majority of competitors were very sympathetic to the situation, there were some negative comments which affected a few committee members. I would like to highlight that the committee all work very hard for the benefit of the club members – sometimes to the detriment of their own priorities, family, home and horses. Please keep this in mind if you are feeling frustrated - sometimes we are too, yet we continue coordinating and organizing events, with a smile on our faces! We have a great team who are friendly, generous, enthusiastic and passionate about the club, but we also want to enjoy and have fun while we are doing it!



A big thank you goes out to Shauna, Liz, Coralie, Wendy G, Anna and Kara for their coordination before, during and after the competition cancellation and presentation. Thanks also to David, Peter, Suzanne and the rest of the committee for their support and efforts too.

If you have any other comments, feedback or want to be more involved, please feel free to contact us and let us know.

### New date

There were several options discussed as to another member's only t-shirt day. Easter weekend, Saturdays, mid-week options were all considered, however we still need to



make sure that several components are available. We have decided on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April** to hold the Member's Only T-shirt day - Liz (Judges Coordinator) is already on the case contacting judges. We expect that it will be great competition training for the Sunday official and associate dressage day to be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013. The Member's T-shirt day entries will be carried over to the 27<sup>th</sup> date – if you are unable to attend, please let us know and we will be happy to arrange a refund or competition credit. Entries for both days will be via Nominate.

### Competition Secretary Support

It is generally perceived that this role can be quite time consuming, however we have segregated some of the processes so that the role isn't as concentrated for just one person. This can be further refined. The Competition Secretary's role is also one that should be shared around so that we don't have people feeling grumpy, stale and over worked! We are looking for more support in this area – whether it be relating to the Nominate set up, the actual draw or post competition administration. There is some remuneration involved with this position and we will happily provide training. If you have intermediate excel skills and would like to know more, please let me know.



### Facebook

There have been many updates on the SEC Facebook page, but we have received feedback that members aren't receiving or can't find the SEC FB page. We have sent a couple of queries directly through to Facebook, however there has been no response. We will look at creating a new Facebook page and would ask members to "Like" the new page as we consider Facebook is usually a great avenue for status updates and information.