

DRESSAGE IRELAND COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Company Number: 258826

(the “Company”)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at The Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24XC9W

on 18th August 2022 at 20:00

PRESENT: **Marguerite Kavanagh IN THE CHAIR**

IN ATTENDANCE: 73 members registered attendance as recorded by Richard Twomey

Guests In Attendance: Richard Twomey (Richard Ensor Accountants), Laura Kearney (Mason Hayes & Curran).

APOLOGIES: Alison Mastin Moore, Audrey O’Sullivan, Beth Shields, Carmel Curran, Carol Berry, Carolyn Mellor, Christina Keane, Claire Sedgeman, Dane Rawlins, Debbie Osborough, Faith Ponsonby, Gervaise Maher, Jean Mitchell, Joan Ahern, Judy Reynolds, Karen Gibney, Linda Gaynor, Lucinda Blakiston Houston, Lucy Adams, Marie Hennessy, Marion Greene, Rebecca Keane, Rhiann Shields, Sarah Quaid, Sinead McGrath.

CHAIRPERSON IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Marguerite Kavanagh as chairperson of the meeting (the “**Chairperson**”).

1. NOTICE AND QUORUM

It was noted by the Chairperson that due notice of the meeting had been given to each of the Company’s directors (each a “**Director**”, together the “**Directors**” or the “**Board**”) and a quorum was present. Accordingly, the Chairperson declared the meeting duly convened and constituted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. It was noted that each of the Directors present who was in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in a contract or proposed contract with the Company, declared the nature of his or her interest to the meeting for the purposes of section 231 of the Companies Act 2014 (the “**2014 Act**”).
2. It was noted that a Director may vote in respect of any contract, appointment or arrangement in which he or she is interested and shall be counted in the quorum present at the meeting.
3. It was noted that at least one of the Directors was a person who was resident in an EEA state as required by section 137 of the 2014 Act.
4. It was noted that no Director was a director of more companies than permitted by section 142 of the 2014 Act.

3. RESTRICTIONS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

It was noted that each of the Directors present confirmed that he or she was not the subject of any restriction or disqualification order pursuant to Part 14 of the 2014 Act nor had any application for such an order been made or threatened against him or her nor had he or she given or agreed to give any restriction undertaking or disqualification undertaking within the meaning of Part 14 of the 2014 Act.

4. Chairperson's address.

5. To receive and consider the statutory financial statements for the financial years ended 31 December 2020 and 31 December 2021 and the report of the directors and the report of the statutory auditors on those statements and that report.

6. To re-elect the following, who were appointed by the directors in the period since the last annual general meeting, as directors of the Company:

- Miriam Walsh
- Ronan Murphy

7. To elect those persons who have been nominated in accordance with the Regulation 15 of the Constitution of the Company as directors of the Company.

8. To re-appoint the statutory auditors of the Company.

9. To authorise the directors to approve the remuneration of the statutory auditors.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

4. Chairperson's Address

MK welcomes everyone to the AGM and introduces those at the head table; Laura Kearney (Mason Hayes & Curran), Richard Twomey (Richard Ensor & Co. Auditors), Miriam Walsh, Ronan Murphy and Jane Averill (minutes).

MK explains that Mason Hayes & Curran have recently been employed to act as the Dressage Ireland company secretary and to update the Dressage Ireland constitution.

MK offers her sympathies to families who lost members and suffered during the last two years.

A list of apologies was shown on the overhead projector screen, clearly visible to all those in attendance.

MK explained that the minutes of the last AGM were emailed to all members. These minutes were proposed by Sarah Mellor and seconded by Jane Whitaker.

MK introduced the short promotional video that was commissioned by Dressage Ireland and filmed recently in Greenogue and at the RDS Dublin Horse Show. The video is shown on the overhead screen.

MK noted that 2021 started off with a certain amount of insecurity due to the unpredictable nature of Covid and it was only in June that sport fully opened up to amateurs and youth categories. This affected membership, however once Dressage Ireland got the green light, membership and

competitions resumed quickly. In March, judges training webinars open to all members provided a good insight and kept us all motivated until the sport resumed for all.

To add to the challenges of covid the outbreak of Equine Herpes virus also needed navigating, however it didn't stop Heike Holstein and Kate Dwyer from competing in Exloo and Wellington where they put in strong performances. Other High Performance riders Dane Rawlins, Carolyn Mellor, Alex Baker, Anna Merveldt and Sorell Klatzko also put their mark on the international scene.

The decision not to send a qualified team to The Tokyo Olympics was met with disappointment by the membership, particularly in light of the fact that in its 32 years of existence Dressage Ireland's aim was to send a team to represent Ireland at The Olympics. However, Heike Holstein's ability to earn herself an individual slot on her Irish bred Sambuca lifted members' spirits. They performed a solid test to score 68.43% in extremely humid conditions. Unfortunately a team could not be fielded for The European Championships but Carolyn Mellor and Anna Merveldt took up individual slots and again performed well amongst the best in Europe.

The Irish Dressage Pony team of Oscar O Connor, Rachel Carr, Louise Hooijen and Cillian Curran put in stellar performances and personal best scores at the Pony Europeans in Poland. It has been a delight to see them mature as accomplished athletes that can hold their own in such competitive fields. Vicky Campbell riding Habouche was our sole representative at the U21's European Dressage Championships in Oliva Nova in Spain. They produced a polished test for such a new combination.

Three youth teams also competed at a British Dressage Home International in Wales in August. This involved a huge amount of work by a small group headed by Claire Sedgeman due to the challenges of covid and Brexit. They were rewarded with superb results with team Emerald claiming third and several top placings by others at individual level.

At home, navigating a way around Covid restrictions took some inventiveness. The Winter Championships ran over two days in two different locations, Greenogue and Ballindenisk. This initiative was welcomed and appreciated by members. Regional committees of Leinster, Northern and South Eastern also swung into action when restrictions were lifted, running two and three day festivals which were well supported and brought back a sense of normality to an otherwise difficult year.

Another new initiative forced on us by Covid was an AGM over zoom. For an organisation with only one part time office person and the support of volunteers it provided its challenges but proved to be successful despite it being a new departure from traditional AGM's. Our website continues to be improved and additional training is being offered to regional users, dates to be confirmed shortly.

The National Championships took place in Barnadown at the end of September. The weather remained good with competition running over three days. Despite the slow start to the year 650 tests were ridden. The Grand Prix was contested by five combinations, Dane Rawlins on Esquire was crowned
National
Champion.

The Horse Sport Ireland Autumn Dressage Development Series was a great focus again for riders to keep their horses in training. In an attempt to ensure country wide participation, qualifiers took place in the four provinces. This series emphasised and rewarded the achievements of Irish bred horses in age classes, with prizes for owners and breeders and highest placed Irish bred horses at each level throughout the grades all the way up to Grand Prix. This has been a very well received series as it motivates and inspires riders, owners and breeders of Irish bred dressage horses to get involved and progress in the sport. As an organisation we are particularly appreciative of the sponsorship of Horse Sport Ireland, all our sponsors and volunteers who help to support Irish dressage on an ongoing basis.

It was a lovely way to conclude the year to see Irish International rider Dane Rawlins achieve a personal best score of 67.368% at the London International Excel show on December 16th followed by a fun freestyle to the Pogues.

I'd like to thank you all for your support, not least the input from regional committees. I feel privileged to work with such a dedicated bunch of people who volunteer day in day out to ensure that members can compete, train and enjoy their sport. Without volunteers our sport could not run. For those of you who do it at every show A SINCERE THANK YOU. For those of you who do not volunteer please get involved as my fear is if current volunteers feel taken for granted and fail to continue competitions and training events will decrease in number.

In January and February 2022 Ronan Murphy and Miriam Walsh came on the board with expertise and knowledge, thanks to them as it is a huge time commitment.

5. Financial Statements

Richard Twomey explains that the 2020 and 2021 accounts will be presented which will bring the accounts up to date. RT notes that the Directors Report and Financial Statement for 2021 and the Financial Statement for 2020 were emailed to all current members on 21st August 2022 and that hard copies were available at the meeting.

RT presents the 2020 accounts with reports shown on the overhead screen. RT refers to the Income statement, highlighting more detail shown on supplementary income. RT points out that funding of €25,000 was received but was given specifically for the prize fund of the Development Series. The Covid-19 Relief Fund Grant relieved pressure by loss of income caused by the effect of Covid restrictions. €50,000 was given by Dressage Ireland to High Performance to support the Olympic athletes in Tokyo. RT explains the Statement of Financial Position, pointed out that there was a prepayment to Dotser of €23,000, €73,000 of a Covid Grant accrual and a €5,000 HSI grant. RT explains the breakdown of creditors which are Dotser and two years of auditor's fees of €23,000 and training grants for regions.

RT asks if there are any queries in relation to central's income and expenditure. No queries or questions were raised by attendees.

RT explains the regional supplementary income and asks if there are any queries in relation to the overall income and expenditure. No queries or questions were raised by attendees.

RT asks if there are any questions from attendees. There are no questions or comments from the attendees. Jane Whitaker proposed the 2020 accounts and Ivor Harper seconds the 2020 accounts.

RT presents the 2021 accounts with the report shown on the overhead screen. Income is up as activity increases. Page 9 shows an increase in income, €82,000 received in relation to Covid. Expenditure is also up due to National Championships and National Winter Finals being a significant expense again. Insurance is high and continues to increase. RT asks if there are any questions in relation to central's accounts for 2021. There are no questions from the attendees. RT explains the statement of financial position. He explains that a €43,000 Covid Relief Grant was received in 2022 but refers to 2021. There was a fee of €9,000 for website maintenance to Dotser. There was a closing balance €161,748 in Central and €108,000 in regions. Accruals are mainly accountancy and bookkeeper fees. RT asks if there are any questions in relation to the 2021 balance sheet. Killian Gaffney asks about fixed assets, RT replies that €48,000 paid to Dotser gets capitalised so goes to depreciation. Killian Gaffney proposes the 2021 accounts and they are seconded by Sarah Logan.

RT comments that it is difficult to present two years and he commends the board and those who were on the board and those in the regions. There is a significant improvement to cash reserves however this is prudent when moving into a time of greater uncertainty, maintain assets, insurance is up, confident company will make good progress.

6. Re-election

Laura Kearney explains that two directors' appointments were co-opted during the year and now were open to re-election which is put to the meeting.

Miriam Walsh gives her presentation introducing herself to the meeting. Supporting Power Point slides are shown on the overhead screen.

Ronan Murphy then gives his presentation with supporting Power Point slides shown on the overhead screen.

LK explains that the resolutions will be decided by a show of hands. Donie McNamara asks if this vote should not be a silent ballot. LK replies that within the constitution it is permitted to be a show of hands, however nominees will be done through a private vote.

The first resolution is Miriam Walsh. MW is passed and MK agrees.

The second resolution is Ronan Murphy. RM is passed and MK agrees.

7. Election of Directors

MK explains that three board members are resigning and there are four vacancies. The six nominees give a short presentation to the attendees. The six nominees are Simone Hession, Eileen Moloney, Dane Rawlins (recorded presentation shown on screen), Iris Walsh, Christine Newton and Jane Whitaker.

A private ballot is observed and counted by Laura Kearney and Richard Twomey.

Simone Hession, Dane Rawlins, Jane Whitaker and Christine Newton are voted onto the board.

8. Re-appoint the statutory auditors of the Company

LK (MHC) asks the meeting if there is any objection to the re-appointment of the statutory auditors of the Company. There is no objection and the statutory auditors are re-appointed.

9. Approve the remuneration of the statutory auditors

LK (MHC) asks the meeting if there is any objection to the remuneration of the statutory auditors. There is no objection and the remuneration of the statutory auditors is approved.

10. AOB

MK concludes the meeting with a minute silence for Joan Keogh. Finally, she thanks all the nominees and thanks everyone for their attendance.

Meeting ends.

Chairperson

Date