



**Minutes**  
**Federal Council Meeting, 7:30pm, 7 September 2023,**  
**via Zoom**

**1. Welcome**

**2. Attendance**

Federal Executive  
Federal Council members  
Guest – ACDS Federal Driven Dressage Convenor

**3. Conflict of Interest** (to be submitted for each agenda item)

**4. Minutes of previous meetings** 17 July 2023 (distributed prior to the meeting)

Resolution

That the minutes of the FC meeting held on 17 July 2023, as amended, be accepted as a true and accurate account of that meeting

Carried

**5. Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer's report was read out by the Treasurer and included and profit and loss report and a balance sheet. It also included a response to some questions

Resolution

That the Treasurer's report as presented be accepted

Carried

**6. Correspondence In** – not listed for this meeting.

**7. Correspondence Out** – not listed for this meeting.

**New Business**

**8. Dressage**

The FDDC was invited to the meeting and a detailed submission by the Victorian Delegate was read out and included such items:

- a. State specific events and discussed at VB Delegates meeting.
- b. Rota first listed in 2019. VB State Exec not aware of the National Driven Dressage (DD) Rota until an EOI was put in by the Eastern Vic Pleasure Harness Club.
- c. Issues regarding qualification period and proposed dates for 2024 National Driven Dressage Championships (NDDC).
- d. Wants to host the Championships in Autumn, which is the end of the Victorian season.



## Australian Carriage Driving Society

ABN: 28 794 114 302 – Incorporation No: A01028

- e. Dressage Rule book does not stipulate which month the Championships should be conducted.
- f. Vic Branch wants to fully support shows for the benefit of all drivers.
- g. Sept to Nov – CDEs regularly listed on Events calendar
- h. Rundown on yearly calendar and weather.
- i. Impact of driving a championship in October.
- j. Resolution on 1 June by FC that all NDDC be run in Oct/Nov
- k. Vic Branch By-law.
- l. Precedents set.
- m. Need of a consistent approach to run events in Victoria without consultation with the Federal Driven Dressage Convenor (FDDC).
- n. Recognition of shorter period of time to qualify for other State and National championships.

FDDC asked that a quote from a meeting on 8 Aug 2023 be deferred to later on in the meeting.

- i. It was reiterated that during this discussion it was stated twice that the qualifiers to be held by the Pioneer or any other Club would qualify them for the 2024 State Championships to be held at Longwood.
- j. Conflicting advice sent to VB and FC – 8 August and 24 August 2023.
- k. Process of By-laws was triggered by concerns of Club Delegates.
- l. VB wish to encourage Driven Dressage in the State.

FDDC spoke in regard to:

- a. State Championships
- b. Knowledge of Rota.
- c. Communication is on a National basis, that is, communication to State Convenors and then it is their role to communicate to their panel members and State.
- d. Rule book implemented in 1 Jan 23 and changes based on a questionnaire sent to all members and strong responses from Vic members. Responses collated and two pages included in the September 2022 Journal. State convenors met and the outcome of that meeting decided the changes in the Rule Book for 2023.
- e. Through a democratic process there was a change to grading points, yearly season and qualifications and all states are expected to abide by the rules.
- f. State By-laws do not override the ACDS National Rule Book.
- g. Misrepresentation that the Pioneer Club qualifier to be held in the next couple of weeks is a qualifier for the 2024 Vic Championships.
- h. DD schedule on the website has been altered.
- i. Victoria holding their Championships early in the year is up to them, but it is at the risk of their members qualifying because of the time frames under Rule 6.1.
- j. Reiterated the GDD season.
- k. Rule book was changed because of qualifiers and seasons during Covid.
- l. A copy of the new Rule Book, the marked-up Rule Book and a Summary of Changes was put on the ACDS Website and sent to State Convenors in September 2023.
- m. Reasons why championship to championship was changed for the qualifying period.
- n. Reiteration of response at the last VB meeting on 28 Aug.
- o. Has had no correspondence from the VB Dressage Committee or the VB Exec regarding Dressage in Victoria. No respect or courtesy from VB.



# Australian Carriage Driving Society

ABN: 28 794 114 302 – Incorporation No: A01028

Comments from the Federal Treasurer, SA Delegate and Federal Secretary.

FDDC Convenor also shared a response from the NSW State Dressage Convenor regarding the unfair advantage of Victorian drivers competing at Pioneer and being critiqued by judges on the 2024 tests after being assessed at their own championships. Victorian drivers doing this would be critiqued up to six times on the same test that NSW drivers would be driving for the first time at their championships. NSW also asked that if Victoria is holding qualifiers in September – why can't one of those be a championship?

FDDC also emphasised that the next Championships will be offered to Victoria in 2030 – six years away.

Discussion also on the Victorian 'season' and the holding of qualifiers as opposed to championships.

FDDC was thanked by the President and left the meeting.

## **9. In-Camera – Responsibilities of Federal Council**

## **10. In-Camera – Open Forum Review**

Resolution

At the Federal Forum held on 31 August of 2023, questions were raised regarding the forming and the conduct of the 3 June 2023 Annual General Meeting held via Zoom. Federal Council has reviewed all aspects relating to the calling and conduct of the meeting and has found no reason to call into question the conduct of the meeting. It is the view of Federal Council the AGM was called and conducted according to the Constitution and the requirements of Access Canberra. Federal Council will take no further action in this matter.

Carried

Victorian Delegate abstained

Federal Secretary abstained because of a conflict of interest.

Resolution

It was resolved that because of the harassment toward the Federal Council members, this Federal Council would not be conducting any more Open Forms.

Carried

It was recognised that this harassment was directed by a very small minority of ACDS members

Greg McDonald thanked for a good job at conducting the meeting.,



## Australian Carriage Driving Society

ABN: 28 794 114 302 – Incorporation No: A01028

**11. Vic Branch Meeting – 26 September 2023.** Discussions regarding a meeting to be convened between Vic Branch and the Federal Secretary and the FDDC. Now scheduled on 5 October 2023.

### **12. Arbitration Agreement**

A letter is to be sent to an Arbitrator asking her to arbitrate on a disagreement between a WA member and the ACDS. A draft Arbitration agreement is also to be sent for review by the Arbitrator and the WA member. Once an understanding is made the process will commence.

### **13. Request for Copy of Member List**

There has been a request from Janet Smith of WA for *a copy of the membership list*. This was later changed to a review of the list under Clause 44 of the ACDS Constitution and the list would consist of Name, Membership Category and Club only

This is in direct conflict to the ACT Incorporation Act, the ACDS Member Protection Policy and the ACDS Privacy Policy but FC considered that a letter from Janet Smith's lawyer had one sentence that could be easily construed as taking legal action against the ACDS if we did not comply.

A letter is to be sent to her lawyer asking to reiterate what information she wants to inspect and the ACDS is to set the conditions under which an inspection can occur.

### **14. By-law 3.1**

A member has informed Federal Council that the reference in By-law 3.1 should be changed from Clause 12.1 to Clause 12.11 of the Constitution to conform with changes made at the 3 June AGM.

Resolution

That By-law 3.1 be altered to reflect the changes in reference to Clauses of the ACDS Constitution.

Carried

### **Closure**

11. There being no further the business the meeting was closed at 10:40 pm

12. Next meeting date/time to be advised.

Dot Willcoxson  
ACDS Federal President

29 September 2023