

Executive Summary



Para Committee Meeting

16 August 2018

1. Since the last meeting, there has been significant work done by committee members, meaning that much of today's meeting reviewed progress and finalised plans thereby allowing useful time to be spent planning how we tackle our next priorities. The teamwork shown by all has been inspiring and whilst it may not often be commented on, the way we are working, the work being done in-between meetings, the interaction and closeness to riders and their families, can only bode well for the future as we grow para dressage.
2. Whilst many had contributed, it's right to highlight – and thank – John Robinson, Sarah Leitch and Natasha Pearce and Chloe French for the hard work they had done, all via email, to produce the Para Judge Paper and the outline format for the Para Judge Pathway. We were also sad to announce the retirement [from the committee] of Nina Venables; she offered a sound link to the Training Committee and we are grateful to her for all she did.
3. It was also opportune to have the meeting to draw to a close the two working groups set up a year ago. Again, many had contributed, but there was heartfelt appreciation of the time both Nick Rodgers and Di Green had given to the Participation Working Group. The Opportunities (Competing) Working group had grown over the year, with (as planned) the work then being consumed within routine committee business. Notwithstanding, thanks were due to Sophie Wells, Rachel Smith and Mandy Heath for their additional time and commitment.
4. Myerscough College have offered to gift rugs to the winners of the Para Winter Championships. To fit with the ruling that only sponsor rugs are to be used in prize givings, Myerscough confirmed that the rugs would be embroidered with the Equissage Pulse logo but will not be used in mounted prize givings (given prize givings are unmounted).
5. Dates and awareness of para competitions. Continues to be a challenge as the information is difficult to find. It is an issue, with input codes. Lou Jones is going to pick this up with Sports Ops and organisers.
6. Following the inaugural ID Championships, a number of new relationships with RDA groups are developing. Lou Jones and Natasha Pearce have leads to follow up with on both the ID and para front. One example so far is that one contact, a new relationship, may be making it possible to welcome seven new classified para riders to BD.
7. Competitions. Planning and dates were looked at closely. We are very conscious of lead times, locking major dates into the diary and deconfliction. Judges have been invited for the major championships up to and including Winters 2019. Work will now proceed out-of-committee to explore/confirm Hartpury 2019, potentially a new event at a prestigious venue, and Bishop 2019. Summer Champs at Solihull 2019 is locked in (2/3 Sept) and we are in the very early stages of being considered as an addition to a new CDI (so that would be a CPEDI 1, 2 3* potentially in the autumn after Stoneleigh). Several of the discussions are in the very early stages, but it is incredibly encouraging to see the para calendar beginning to develop in the way we hoped.

8. Feedback on the Para Home International has been examined and a number of options scoped; the overall preference was inclusivity with able bodied (potentially a team event) and timing/planning around existing popular para events. The board's approval would be sought for one particular option to be worked on, in detail, and we are very grateful to Lou Jones for leading that project. It is preferred that we run a pilot (trial) this year to best inform a future tender process (i.e. before committing to a three year period, we will pilot how the event could run first).
9. New rules for 2019 briefed (old news given the amount of work that has been ongoing on this since the beginning of the year) but nevertheless useful to remind:
 - a. Summer period 1 Dec – 17 June and Winter period 18 June -30 Nov
 - b. (Rule book has yet to be finalised so riders must check with the rule book in case of minor changes – the points requirement will not change though)
 - c. Gold – 12 points, 6 max can come from CPEDI3*/Para PYO (individual test only)
 - d. Silver – 10 points, 5 max can come from CPEDI2*/Para PYO (Nov A only)
 - e. Bronze – 5 points
10. Judges. Exceptional work done to produce the Para Judges Paper. Much discussion about what the para judge pathway will look like, how it is to be funded, what funding we can request and what it looks like for List 3 and above, List 4s (future or Intro para judge), fast track from para rider to para judge (to be considered), link and collaboration with the RDA. A detailed and important workstrand. **This area is the focus for a number of the tech committee now, and we will draw on the support of the Training and Education Manager and her team, bringing para and judges teams closer together.**
11. Para matters. Superb production of the article from Fellows and Winnie Murphy. Ideas for an article with riders sharing what their classification is for, and compensating aids used, was received well. The aim of this is to further remove the hesitation many have in asking and understanding what makes a particular rider 'para'. The benefits of an open approach are numerous.
12. All BD para reps are invited to attend RDA HQ for their annual meeting on 17 Sep (Warwick); Natasha Pearce will liaise and attend on my behalf..
13. Next meeting is 28 November.

J A FRIZZELL
Interim Director – Para