

THE READER

CenterLine Dressage is a Group Member Organization of USDF founded in 1972. CLD members are automatically members of the United States Dressage Federation.



HEADLINES

- ✦ **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**
- ✦ **WORLD CUP WRAP-UP**
BY PAT MCVARY
- ✦ **MEETING MINUTES MARCH & APRIL**
- ✦ **AWARDS NOMINATION/ SCORE SUBMISSION CHANGES**

CALENDAR

- ✦ **ICEBREAKER SCHOOLING SHOW**
APRIL 22
@ TOWER HILL EQUESTRIAN CENTER
- ✦ **JENNIFER KOTYLO CLINIC**
MAY 6 - 7
@ PRATENSÉ FARMS
- ✦ **MOTHER'S DAY**
MAY 14
- ✦ **CLD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**
APRIL 3, 2 PM
@ STARWEST
- ✦ **CLD VON DIETZE CLINIC**
JUNE 16 - 18
@STARWEST
DETAIL TO FOLLOW
- ✦ **CLD CLASSIC I & II**
JUNE 24 & 25
CANCELLED

Letter from the President

by Judy Nordstrom, President

Dear Members and Friends,

Spring has sprung! As usual, I am not sorry to see the winter go even though this year was assuredly not our worst! I am awaiting warmer temperatures with anticipation of new growth that comes with spring and rejoice in the thought of not having to dress in three or more layers before leaving the house to head out to the barn! I hate to surmise how much time I have spent bundling and unbundling myself and my horse for the cold weather! Soon that thought will be a distant memory and I will sprint out the door without even the notion of grabbing a jacket.

I just returned from attending my first ever Dressage World Cup which was held in Omaha, NE. It was a great learning experience watching the most decorated rider in Olympic history, Isabell Werth, champion of this year's FEI World Cup Dressage Final, compete among the world's top dressage riders and horses. It was truly spectacular to see the Grand Prix freestyles and try to compare such different, yet amazingly talented horses, work their hearts out for their partners. I was pleased to witness great camaraderie and sportsmanship between the top three contenders at this level of competition. I think this a list of all CLD members attending. Please let me know if I left anyone out: Leslie Burket, Brett Fischer, Judy Ethell, Kate Fleming-Kuhn, Kelly Griffith, Deb Klamen, Martin Kuhn, Pat McVary, Judy Nordstrom, Pinky Noll, Diane Upchurch, and Jenna Upchurch.

Upcoming in our calendar of events this year is IceBreaker, our spring schooling show. Be sure to renew your membership and get signed up for the show. It will be held at Tower Hill Equestrian Center on April 22nd. This is your opportunity to test the waters and practice a test or two before the show season kicks off!

Letter from the President

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I hope you all have had the opportunity over the last few months, in one way or another, to re-charge or re-set. I find this is necessary for me to do periodically in order to keep my life in perspective. Just to step back, take a breath and put things back in order. Then things seem to take off running again! It's a constant struggle to slow down and remember to enjoy the ride, the journey, as they call it.

Judy Nordstrom, President
president@centerlinedressage.com

World Cup Wrap-up

by Pat McVary

Omaha really rolled out the red carpet for the 2017 FEI World Cup Finals! From the moment we arrived at our hotel to the shuttle bus back to the airport, it was clear that the entire city was on board to provide the best possible experience for spectators and participants. My traveling companions - Judy Ethell, Pinky Noll, and Deb Klamen - and I were taking it up on its offer and had a great time watching the World Cup, shopping, and eating in great restaurants.

The entire event was held at the CenturyLink Center, an all-under-one-roof indoor venue. One end housed the Horse Discovery Zone, the demonstration area designed to educate and introduce the community to equestrian sports. There were many booths set up to provide school children hands-on experience with horses. They got to see many different breeds and were able to touch them and give them treats. There was a farrier who allowed them to hammer horseshoes over a "fire" made of orange crepe paper. A small arena with bleachers was set up in this area. Throughout the day there were ongoing instructional programs provided for the public on topics ranging from Riding 101 to training police horses to pony games.

Tucked behind the Discovery Zone was the secluded warm-up ring for the competitors. This area was blocked from the public's view, but one could catch a glimpse of the riders working. From there was a walkway for the horses and riders that travelled up the middle of the building on their way to the main competition arena. Halfway between the first warm-up area and the main arena was another warm up area that sat in the center of the vendors and snack areas. Here, the rider could keep his horse alert before the final walkway into the main arena. This was where we would see the riders up close. This center arena was used frequently during the day for the jumpers to school their horses over jumps. Imagine an average of six horses being ridden over three jumps in a small area. Passing left to left did not apply in most cases!



Carl Hester on Nip Tuck
 (photo by Pat McVary)

Omaha World Cup

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Speaking of vendors - The Boutique Shopping Village and Tailgate Lounge surrounded the center warm up area and provided over 140 shops to choose from. Merchandise included show apparel, boots, jewelry, artwork, saddles, bridles, horse apparel, even the latest in arena footing and trailers were on display. We did our best to make the vendors feel welcome! When shopping became too tiresome, there were tables set up to relax and have something to eat and drink while watching the activities.



Laura Graves & Verdades
(photo by Judy Nordstrom)

Also on hand were the rock stars of the equestrian world. If you were patient, and did not mind standing in line, you were able to get an autograph and picture with any or all of them. CLD member, Jenna Upchurch, did just that and now has a baseball cap with signatures from Steffen Peters, Laura Graves, and Kasey Perry-Glass. She braved a very long line for an autographed book from Carl Hester.

The dressage competitions were held in the afternoon, while the jumping competitions were in the evening. We missed the dressage warm-up on Wednesday



Jenna Upchurch & Carl Hester
(photo by Diane Upchurch)

due to travel. On Thursday, we were in our seats in plenty of time to watch the first phase, the Grand Prix. Our US riders did well during the competition. Steffen Peters had his hands full with a young Rosamunde but did qualify for the Freestyle Saturday night in eighth place and with a 72.257%. Kasey Perry-Glass on Goerklintgaards Dublet put in a solid test and also qualified for the Freestyle in seventh place and with a 73.829%. Laura Graves was outstanding and Verdades performed beautifully for her. They received a 79.8% and were placed second. Isabell Werth dominated the show as expected, winning the first phase with 82.3%. Carl Hester and Nip Tuck got a 76.671% and third place. While we all felt Laura Graves did better, but according to one of the judges, Anne Gribbons, Isabell Werth was technically better. Out of the sixteen horses that competed that day, two did not qualify. One scored lower than 60%, and the other horse was found to have blood present on his lip and so was disqualified.

It was interesting to see the various ages and levels of experience of these world-class riders. Aside from the names we hear so frequently:

Omaha World Cup

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US team members Graves, Perry-Glass, Peters; Britain's Hester; Germany's Werth, Netherland's Gal; there were others who weren't so well-known but interesting in their own ways. Judy Reynolds from Ireland showed her national pride by clipping the shape of shamrocks on Vancouver K's haunches. She placed fifth and during her victory lap she wore a helmet brightly adorned with the colors of her country. From Russia was Inessa Merkulova riding Mister X. This is her fourth World Cup on this horse. They have also gone to the Olympics, WEG and European Championships together.

Maria Florencia Manfredi was the first Argentinian to make the Dressage World Cup. It was clear that she was enjoying every moment of being at this competition riding Bandurria Kacero. She beamed after every ride! Also competing was the youngest rider at the Finals, 21-year-old Joao Victor Marcari Oliva from Brazil. We called him Justin Bieber on a Lusitano stallion, Xama Dos Pinhais. These riders also advanced to phase two -The Dressage Freestyle.

On Friday we watched the Dressage Showcase. We had our somewhat strong opinions on this event. This consisted of exhibition rides and then a session with Werth discussing the development of a Grand Prix horse. Amanda Johnson demonstrated an Intermediare Freestyle on her horse Foley. Her skill was evident in that she was not scheduled to be the rider that day, nor was the music that of her freestyle. She pulled it off beautifully. We also watched two Olympian Para-equestrian riders perform their freestyles. In a sport where we lay bare all of our shortcomings, physical and mental, these equestrians are the bravest.

Isabell Werth's segment should have been longer. Three riders each had fifteen minutes with her. The horses were five, six, and seven-years old. Werth was clear in her commentary. It was obvious that she wished she had more time with each rider. With such young horses and in an electric atmosphere, the riders were challenged. We did see some improvement in the horses' way of going. It was reassuring to hear that even riders of this level needed to be reminded to give with the inside rein, to quicken the hind end and to ride inside leg to the outside rein. The six-year-old horse needed - as Werth said - months to get where he needed to be and she had a hard time stopping the lesson. The rider had him lively in front but he was obviously trailing behind. Werth called it "fake" riding. There was an entertaining exchange between Werth and Nicho Meredith, the announcer, as he kept trying to get her to end the session, while she kept ignoring him. In desperation, he tried to plead with her in German, whereas she replied she didn't understand the language.



Awards L to R Carl Hester, Isabell Werth,
& Laura Graves
(photo by Judy Nordstrom)

Omaha World Cup

....concluded



Isabell Werth on the podium
(photo by Judy Nordstrom)

Finally, the highlight of the trip! On Saturday afternoon the Grand Prix Freestyle! The riders' order of go was reversed - the first place rider went last, and the last place rider rode first. Hester had remarked, after his ride on Thursday, that he was reserving some of Nip Tuck's energy for this phase. Apparently, this was the strategy for the other riders as well. If a horse looked unimpressive before, it was brilliant on this day! And, to an advantage for some, riding in the arena a second time was not such a big deal. Hester rode effortlessly and placing third with an 83.757%. Peters' Rosamunde was clearly more relaxed, placing ninth with a 75.879%. Perry-Glass again put in a solid test at seventh and 77.068%. The riders to watch were the second and first place winners from Thursday - Laura Graves and Isabell Werth. Graves went first and nailed it! It was such a great ride - 85.307%! Who could beat that? Werth did. She rode an

absolutely perfect test - passing down the final centerline with the reins in one hand and a huge smile on her face. 90.704%!

My favorite part of the World Cup? The awards ceremony after the Freestyle. Werth's groom crying uncontrollably, while kissing and hugging Weihegold OLD. Verdades' groom with a little tub of carrot bits to keep him busy and to keep him from running out of the arena. Werth popping the champagne and drenching Hester and Graves with it. Then offering them each a drink from the bottle. And then sharing with each of the grooms as well. It is a humanizing look at people we admire from the stands. People who are celebrating their hard earned successes and appreciating their partners in these endeavors.

March 25, 2017 CLD Executive Board Meeting

@ Star West; Judy Nordstrom presiding

The meeting was called to order at 2:12 p.m. by President Judy Nordstrom. Attendees included Alice Martin, Teresa Litchfield, Leslie Burket and Martin, Kate and Malcolm Kuhn. Kelly Griffith and Jordan Wilton were phone attendees.

The President asked all officers to update their job descriptions to assist the next person to hold that office. She also announced that our liability insurance has been renewed at a lower price this year.

Email Discussions

- Martin motioned and Alice seconded to approve the January 28, 2017 CLD meeting minutes.
- Paula moved and Teresa seconded to approve the February 19, 2017 CLD meeting minutes.
- Both were approved unanimously.
- Going forward, we all need to be more responsive to the electronic requests to have the minutes approved. Judy will first send out an email requesting a motion and a second to approve the minutes. Once she has that information, she will contact Martin who will send out an email with the voting tool for the minutes. That will be the only place for voting. The hope is that we can cut the process from several weeks to several days.

March 25, 2017 CLD Executive Board Meeting

@ StarWest; Judy Nordstrom presiding

Treasurer Report - Katie Keim Reporting

- Current Bank Balance \$6,754.19
- CD Balance \$25,708.15

Membership Report

We are up to 47 members for 2017. With IceBreaker on the horizon, it is anticipated that there will be riders that will sign up for CLD memberships. A reminder will be sent to those that have not yet renewed their current CLD membership.

Webmaster Report - Martin Kuhn Reporting

- Two newsletters have been sent out since the last report.
- There are currently 141 subscribers.
- Average opening rate of email newsletters is holding steady at around 50%.
- Website traffic is up slightly from last month.

Social Media - Jordan Wilton Reporting

- FaceBook has 568 likes.
- Twitter remains steady at 41.

Newsletter

The February newsletter went out in March. Alice is preparing the next newsletter as we meet.

Awards

Teresa has ordered the saddle pads, having secured a great deal! We did some brain storming about options for future year end awards. It was suggested that a survey be shared with membership for feedback on year end awards.

Symposium

- There will be a three day Susanne von Dietze clinic which will be held at StarWest on June 16th, 17th, and 18th, 2017. Lunch and a lecture will be included for all riders and auditors as part of their fee. Alice moved that CLD host the clinic and Kate seconded. It passed

unanimously and CLD will sponsor the clinic as an Education event.

- Kate has not yet been able to contact George Williams.

CLD Fund Raiser

As CLD will not be hosting a recognized show this year, it has been suggested that we have a fund raiser to generate some income. A variety of fund raising ideas was put forth but a silent auction with an accompanying dinner appears to be the winner. The date for this dinner and silent auction will be June 17th, during the Susanne von Dietze clinic. Look for details to follow.

CLD Classic Show

- Follow up discussion for the 2018 CLD show included a review of potential venues.
- Judy will contact NEC and see if there are dates available for the show. Also, remaining at the fair grounds, using only one arena, is an option.
- Molly Fine is available to manage the show if there are no date conflicts.
- CLD has been approved to offer the following Championship classes:
 - * FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC)
 - * FEI Children Dressage National Championships
 - * USEF Junior and Young Rider Dressage National Championships
 - * USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championships
 - * USEF Young Adult 'Brentina Cup' Dressage National Championships
 - * USEF Young and Developing Horse Dressage National Championships

Illinois Horse Fair

Paula submitted the following Illinois Horse Fair report.

- Thank You Centerline Dressage for your generous sponsorship of the Melanie Michalak musical freestyle demonstration and lecture. The freestyle demonstration was represented by Classical Dressage riders Madison Godart and Susan Rosse while Marilyn Weber and Keri Simpson represented Western Dressage. They showed

March 25, 2017 CLD Executive Board Meeting

... concluded

the progression of dressage using music. Both the lecture and demonstration were well attended.

- Overall horse fair was well run and attended despite the issues with the coliseum and closure of the outside covered arena.

New Business

- Ken Levy, Region 2 Director, sent a reminder throughout Region 2 that there are sponsorship opportunities available for the 2017 USDF Convention in Lexington, KY. CLD would like to make a contribution but

the amount has been tabled until our next meeting. He requested all contributions be submitted by April 22nd.

Our next meeting will be April 8, 2017, at 2 p.m. in the StarWest Lounge.

Alice motioned and Teresa seconded for the unanimous 3:41 p.m.

adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Burket - CLD Secretary

April 8, 2017 CLD Executive Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 2:17 p.m. by President Judy Nordstrom. Attendees included Alice Martin, John Simpson, Martin and Malcolm Kuhn, Teresa Litchfield and Leslie Burket.

Email Discussions

- Martin motioned and Kelly seconded to approve the March 25, 2017 CLD meeting minutes. The minutes were approved on March 28, 2017.

Secretary Report - Leslie Burket Reporting

- The minutes from Saturday, March 25th meeting, were compiled, reviewed and posted to WriteBoard on March 27th for board review.

Treasurer Report - Katie Keim Reporting in absentia

- Current Bank Balance \$6,754.19
- CD Balance \$25,708.15

Membership Report - Kelly Griffith Reporting in absentia

- Kelly reports that we have three new members, bringing our membership to 50 for 2017.

Awards Banquet

- Steve Todd has been very helpful in providing information about the Motorboat Club as the location for

our 2017 Awards Banquet. Judy and Teresa were able to take a tour of the recently renovated facility and met with Chef Jimmy O, a well known local chef. They were impressed with the facility, menu, prices, availability of the AV equipment and the generous space, resulting in a signed contract for our banquet!

Symposium

- Discussion continued for the Susanne von Dietze lecture, dinner and silent auction in June. After reviewing our options, the decision was made to recommend the Motorboat Club for this function.

Schooling Shows

- It was suggested that we offer sponsorships for classes at IceBreaker and Firecracker, similar to CLD Classic class sponsors. The idea was a hit and IceBreaker immediately had five \$10 sponsors and one sponsor for Firecracker. Teresa will add the sponsorship option to the show bills for each show, hoping to generate additional support.
- John will get Teresa the ribbons for IceBreaker and FireCracker.

CLD Classic Show 2018

- Because construction for the Coliseum repairs does not have a timeline yet, and is still not underway, it was decided to look to other facilities for our 2018 show. Judy was able to secure our standard weekend dates,

April 8, 2017 CLD Executive Board Meeting

... *concluded*

June 23-24, 2018, at the National Equestrian Center (NEC). John Simpson has agreed to be our Day Manager for the show.

Director's Reports

- Paula Briney submitted the following: Betsy Steiner will be at Pratense Farms on July 21-23, 2017 and October 13-15, 2017. Paula is still working on a future clinic with Jennifer Kotylo with a target date of May 6-7. It has not been decided if any of these clinics will be CLD sponsored.
- John Simpson reports that, after visiting the fairgrounds, there is no evidence of any construction work being done on the Coliseum. Enclosing the north and south sides of the covered outdoor arena is underway. The Food o Rama area has been converted

into a small arena, not large enough for a 20 x 60 dressage arena.

New Business

- In support of the 2017 USDF Annual Convention, it was agreed that we would like to donate \$300 toward the Board of Governor's Friday afternoon snack break. Voting will occur online.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, June 3, 2017, at 2 p.m. in the StarWest Lounge.

John motioned and Teresa seconded for the unanimous 3:20 p.m. adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leslie Burket - CLD Secretary

CLD Year End Award Nominations/Score Submissions

As of last week the award nomination and score submission process for CLD year end awards has been completely redone, consolidated, and streamlined. Members now can go to one place to see all the information they need to nominate, confirm nomination, submit scores and confirm scores were received.

Awards Process

1. Nominate (every year)
2. Accumulate Scores
3. Submit Scores

2017 Nominated Horses

- Richthofen 7
- Rubin Raphael
- Washburn SW
- Greystoke



All information
now at
centerlinedressage.com/awards

DEADLINE FOR READER ITEMS



Items for publication or inclusion in the READER should be received by the editor by the 1st of the month. Items for THE READER, activity forms, ads, etc should be sent with a check for the charges, if any, to:

THE READER
c/o Alice Martin
1736 S. Farmingdale Rd.
New Berlin, IL 62670