

Benefit Show 2008 Report

Background info:

This year, we had 83 competitors and collected 66 drug levy fees. Our number of dressage tests (78) was down from last year as we used 1 1/2 judges. Our profit was over \$3000 (\$1300 from the canteen) as we didn't have to pay for medics (\$1500 in savings). It goes without saying that our profit margin is very low and this needs to be addressed.

Pony clubbers represented 47% of our competitors with 39 horses out of 83 being from the following clubs (26 from the Eastern region and 13 from the Western region):

NHPC: 7 horses	QR: 7 horses	WP: 1 horse
MH: 9 horses	RR: 2 horses	
Portage: 2 horses	Brandon: 6 horses	Baldur: 5 horses

We offered the following divisions with the senior division being the most popular this year! This has not been seen in quite awhile. We had dedicated a blanket to the 13 and under junior as a way of helping them make the move up from the Walk-Trot division.

24 SENIORS	22 JUNIORS – 6 riders were 13 and under	
13 GREEN	10 WALK-TROT	9 PONY

Our pony club volunteers (aka parents) put in over 600 hours to make this show successful. It goes without saying that basically all the parents worked many more hours than the 6 hours required on the entry form. It would be impossible to run this show if that weren't the case.

East: 481 hours (includes 5 coordinators jobs (chair, volunteer, secretary, scorer, barn and canteen) - West: 97 hours (includes secretary assistant)

Regardless of which region puts on the show in future years, it can expect to put in many extra hours above and beyond what is recommended.

What went well:

Having a hunter and jumper ring both days was quite appreciated as there was no moving of jumps required Friday and Saturday evenings.

The PC Jumping and Dressage Championships were given on Saturday night at the supper. This gave plenty of time to both jumping and dressage chairs to review the placings and correct mistakes if necessary.

Our slate of officials was excellent and our volunteers were dedicated, often taking on last minute jobs if nobody had been found.

Having coolers filled with drinks at ring gate for volunteers and in the judges' booths helped to keep things run smoothly.

Opening the PC Championship classes added to our profit and didn't seem to hinder the judges' ability to place the class.

Suggestions for next year:

-Add a 2'3'' and 3'3'' open jumper classes on Saturday during the PC champ. classes.

-Next year: medical fee to go from \$10 to \$20 to cover the cost of medics (app \$1500)

-Drop the \$5 fee for the dressage and jumping championships but

1) Charge \$5 for the second jumping round

2) Raise the Dressage tests fees to \$15 from the actual \$10 (Dressage Winnipeg charges \$25).

This would make life easier for gate people, jumping and dressage chairs as well as the office.

- Charge at least \$12 for the supper tickets to cover the cost of having it.
- Find a sponsor for the water for volunteers to cover our costs.
- Close the show office during slow times and sell tickets at ring side starting at 10-11am with clipboard for tabs.
- Find a second canteen coordinator. It is too much for one person.
- Eliminate the equitation division as the basic seat class does not exist anymore. A championship ribbon could be given for each of the A/B/C/Adult overall winners based on the results of the dressage and hunter seat classes.

That would give us a \$2400 profit (with medics...) for 80 competitors as long as we continue to have the canteen.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the parents who worked so hard to make this a success. A special thank you goes to Val who has been helping to make the transition to a new Benefit Show committee smoother as it now takes 5 of us to do the job that Val used to do on her own!

Hélène Savard

MPC Show Chair 2008