



An open letter to all ACDS Members from the National Carriage Driving Committee (NCDC)
(The NCDC is Equestrian Australia's National Committee for Carriage Driving).

20th March 2010

Dear ACDS Members:

We wish to bring to the attention of all ACDS members that the NCDC has been attempting to arrange face-to-face meetings with the ACDS Executive Committee to discuss re-affiliation of the ACDS with Equestrian Australia (EA), the Australian licence holder of the FEI Intellectual property and rules. These efforts have been to no avail.

Last year (2009) the NCDC Chair attempted to contact the negotiating committee established by the ACDS to set a meeting date either late 2009 or early in 2010 as the NCDC has had no contact from the 2009 elected ACDS Federal Executive or the ACDS-EA negotiation committee, yet the minutes from the ACDS Federal council meeting held 24 October 2009 say:

“5.6.3 ACDS-EA Committee

- EA Meeting to take place in a week's time.
- Three EA drivers have joined the ACDS so they can drive at the NSW State CDE Championships.
- Negotiation ongoing.
- Result of EA Meeting will be advised to Delegates”

The NCDC Chair has repeatedly contacted the ACDS Federal President and the Vice President (Chairperson of the ACDS-EA negotiating committee) to try to arrange face-to-face meetings, with all attempts failing. No correspondence has been received from the ACDS up until a letter from the ACDS Federal Secretary dated 10th March 2010 (copy attached).

This letter from the ACDS Federal Secretary confirms the repeated attempts by the NCDC Chairperson to arrange a meeting, quote: “In response to your telephone calls re a possible meeting between.....”.

The NCDC's objective is to meet with ACDS Federal Executive to discuss ways of bring the two bodies closer together in the interests of all areas of Carriage Driving in Australia, including:

- Pleasure & Endurance
- Showing
- Combined Driving
- Historical.

The NCDC wishes to clearly state that no meetings or negotiations have taken place with the ACDS Federal Council elected in 2009 or with the ACDS-EA negotiating committee.

The NCDC and EA Executive have been eagerly awaiting a revised version of the 2005 affiliation proposal from the ACDS, but nothing has been received to date.



For the future of Carriage Driving in Australia we must ALL look forward and not back, and must not hold on to old, wrong and unsubstantiated ideas of where the EA stands regarding affiliation.

The NCDC would like to table the following for comment:-

- All the members of the NCDC are either current or former ACDS members.
- That the FEI rules should be the basis for all competitions, with minimal NF variations
- The NCDC has been demonstrating “good faith” towards ACDS members. This includes:
 - ADCS members being able to compete in all non-official classes at EA events
 - Inviting the current ACDS Vice President to be one of the Judges at the Official International event conducted this year at “Witwood”
 - Making the EA/FEI Officials school open to both EA and ACDS members
 - Not taking any action at this stage in response to the ACDS reprinting FEI Intellectual Property (IP) without permission from EA, which is the local owner of this IP.
- At no point has any monetary value for affiliation fees been mentioned by the NCDC, and figures that have been reported are just false
- The only way ACDS drivers and officials can access new resources through affiliation with Equestrian Australia. These could include:
 - Funding visiting overseas experts for both Driver and Officials schools
 - Training programs
 - Youth development
 - Officials programs with recognised qualifications
 - Coaching programs.
- Equestrian Australia through its insurance underwriter could offer more comprehensive insurance options to ACDS members, including:
 - Member-Member cover
 - Personal accident cover
 - Personal accident cover for officials, stewards and volunteers

The NCDC has no interest in taking over the ACDS and believes the two organisations can work well together in the future once full, frank and transparent negotiations take place to resolve underlying issues.

All NCDC members are happy to be contacted by ACDS members to help with any questions.

Judy Meredith	NCDC Chair (past ACDS member)
Cynthia Doherty	NCDC member (current ACDS member)
John Kee	NCDC member (past ACDS President)
Anne Lindh	NCDC member (current ACDS member)
Andrew Marshall	NCDC member, (current ACDS member)