

## ESNZ Presidential Election

Hello! I am Chris Hodson and I am standing as a candidate for the position as President of ESNZ.

- I have been nominated by the retiring President Jennifer Millar and seconded by Jeremy Olphert, Chair of Show-jumping.
- I hope this letter will show that I am a candidate for whom you can vote with confidence.
- This is because I have the background and experience which the position requires

I was born in Masterton and brought up on our hill country farm; my first experience with horses was in the daily work of mustering, moving stock, lambing beats and the rest. I decided to become a lawyer and practised in Masterton until moving to Wellington in 1982. We have a farm in the Wairarapa; my wife and I spend all our available time there.



## My Equestrian Sports New Zealand Background

- I was first appointed to the Equestrian Board in 1998; and I have served continuously as a member for the next 13 years
- I have worked with four Presidents and four Chief Executives
- I was appointed Chef d'Equipe of our Eventing Team in 2001 and I led our team at 5 International competitions, including the 2004 Olympic Games at Athens

## International Experience

While continuing as a New Zealand Board member, I:

- In 2005, was appointed a member of the FEI (International Equestrian Federation) restructuring Working Party, meeting in Amsterdam and London
- In the same year, presented a paper to the FEI in Bahrain on "Issues Affecting Small but Active Nations"
- Was elected 2nd Vice President of the FEI at the 2006 General Assembly at Kuala Lumpur
- Over the next four years I came to understand equestrian sport internationally, being involved with all the equestrian disciplines and their issues at a global level
- Was able to represent the views of the smaller nations, including New Zealand, so as to ensure that the larger equestrian nations did not overrule them
- Promoted mutual co-operation among our neighbour Asian nations, and Australia, particularly at the 2010 Youth Olympic Games at Singapore

## The Present

Following my 4 years at the FEI, I am able to focus more of my time on the sport in New Zealand, working on meeting the challenges going forward, both internationally and at grass roots level here at home.

I am particularly interested in our attracting and retaining members at all levels of the sport. In May this year, fellow ESNZ Board member Chris Bray and I presented a paper to the Board on a whole new approach, including reducing costs for members. I am committed to this work continuing.

I have been honoured and humbled by having been asked to stand as President. I believe my background and experience over the past 13 years enable me to represent at **all** times the best interests of **all** ESNZ members.

## The Future

If elected, I will:

- Work to increase membership and reduce the cost of taking part in our sport
- Engage with each of the disciplines to gain a first-hand knowledge of their needs
- Support our wonderful volunteers without whom our sport could not exist, and work to increase their enjoyment in participating
- Increase recognition and support of our owners far more than we do now; they make the sport possible for so many riders
- Work with our present sponsors as well as seeking new sponsors to increase the value of their investment in our sport
- Promote the increase of the skills and enjoyment of our riders with opportunities for coaching and participation here and abroad

I have already arranged with Count Breido zu Rantzau, the President of the National Federation of Germany, to promote mentoring and support for our riders training in Germany, and his welcome reception of my ideas will help me to make further arrangements for all our disciplines there, elsewhere in Europe, and in the UK and Ireland.

If I am elected, this will be a priority.

## Summary

My emphasis will always be on the good of the sport at home. This means ESNZ being seen to be effectively supporting our competitions and making the best of our strengths, while keeping costs down as far as possible.

**But first, I must be elected and I hope that members will vote for me.** I am delighted that Greg Gent will be Vice-President and I look forward to working with him and our proactive and professional Board.

If you have any questions or would like to make any suggestions please be in touch. The best way is e-mail; my address is [chodson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chodson@xtra.co.nz) Fax 04 499 2705. Post P O Box 10242 The Terrace, Wellington

Sincerely

Chris Hodson QC