

Extract from IDJC Newsletter of Spring 2002

*[for light entertainment only]*

The Real, True and unexplainable “Rules of Dressage”

*[With tongue in cheek]*

- A dressage test is a test of your skill against another competitor's luck.
- Dressage is about achieving a harmonious working relationship with your horse, whose only idea of harmony is eating grass in a field.
- If you want to end a drought or dry spell, wear a new jacket and Patey hat to an outdoor arena.
- Untalented, difficult, aggressive horses have robust health and long lives.
- Talented, tractable horses are accident-prone.
- You will ride the best test of your entire life just prior to being disqualified for not wearing your gloves.
- Horses do not improve their paces because you are wearing you are wearing expensive German jodhpurs.
- If you choose a disco theme for your 'dressage to music' test, then the judge will not be less than 90 years of age.
- The less skilled the rider, the more likely they are to share their ideas and advice on riding a test.
- If you are considering the services of a horse 'clairvoyant' to help you with training, then you have reached the point of total desperation – try the German jodhpurs instead.
- If you fall of your horse in the arena you will have paid to have 'that' test videoed.
- If you are feeling confident before a show then three of the British team and one leading eventer will turn up to give their 'young' horses some "experience".
- Your horse will perform it's best ever 'Piaffe' when you ask for extended canter.
- No one cheats at dressage because no one has worked out how to do it.
- It is surprisingly easy to end a test with a perfect square halt, once you have scored a four for every other movement.