



DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: THE SCRIBE

By Toni Jones and Dr. Erika Matulich, PhD, PCM, email: ematulich@ut.edu

Volunteers are an extremely important component for any carriage driving show, and an internationally-rated competition such as Live Oak will require the services of over 100 volunteers! Many people have expressed doubts about their ability to volunteer, but anyone can do it! This document describes the duties of the Scribe. Scribes are particularly important in dressage, but are also used during cones and presentation.

Duties of the Scribe

The job of the scribe is to be a record keeper for the judge's score sheet in dressage (or anywhere else, such as presentation or cones). In dressage, write down the competitor number and the judge's letter position (usually C, B, or E) on the score sheet. During the test, neatly write down everything the judge says. This way judges can keep their eyes on the competitors at all times. After the test is over, turn the sheet over to the judge to sign. Then turn the sheet over to the scoring personnel.

Preparing to Scribe

In scribing for dressage, try to know each test and each movement. This can only help as you will not get lost in the noting of the movements per line. Along with knowing the tests, also memorize the abbreviations for certain words. These are located in the rule book. It will save time and space. Some judges have quite a few comments, and you need to keep up and have enough space. Remember, these remarks are for the benefit of the driver. Do not leave any out. It takes no special talent to scribe, but do some of this homework and you will be a step ahead.

Equipment Needed

Most shows will have everything you need. Make sure you have a bell, a whistle, several sharp pencils, a sharpener, and a clipboard. Just in case, also sunglasses, a chair, water, hat and clothes for all types of weather.

Appropriate Dress

Please show up dressed professionally. You are seen with the judge and sometimes represent the show. Dress similarly to the judge, such as a coat and tie, suit, or dress. Wearing a hat is also appropriate. Think "pleasure driving show" dress for dressage and cones.

At the Show

Attend any briefing with the judges to get your assignment. Be 15 minutes early to your station. Before starting, find out how the judge likes to dictate the comments. Some will give comments first, and then the score...some the other way around. Also, DO NOT talk to the judge unless spoken to. Endless chatter will distract everyone. Also, do not discuss any of the drivers or equines to the judge. He or she does not need to know certain gossip about the driver or equine. DO NOT discuss scores or comments from the judge, about drivers, to other competitors. You would not like it and others do not also.

Conclusion

As a scribe, you have a wonderful learning opportunity. Listen to the comments and learn what the judges look for. This will help you become a better driver, and concentrate on the tips you have just learned from an experienced judge. Scribing is an important job -- your recordkeeping will be responsible for the final scores and placing of the competitors. The comments you write down will help competitors improve their driving. Try not to get distracted about watching the competitor and forget to record the information! Although this is an important job, you can also have fun and learn a lot!

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN SCRIBING FOR A JUDGE

@	at	lat.	lateral(ly)
abr.	abrupt	ld.	lead
attn.	attentive	let.	letter
bal.	balance	lngh.	lengthening
bd. bdg.	bend, bending	long.	longitudinal
bef.	before	o.	circle
beh.	behind	ob.	obedient
bet.	better	obv.	obvious
bk.	back	outw.	outward
b.	bent	pos.	position
btwn.	between	prec.	precise, precision
c-ln.	centerline	r.bk.	rein-back
chl.	counter flexed	reg.	regular, regularity
col.	collected, collection	res.	resistant, resistance,
cor.	corner	rhy.	rhythm
corr.	correct	rt.	right
cant.	canter	sal.	salute
d.	driver	sat.	satisfactory
dep.	depart	serp.	serpentine
diag.	diagonal	slt.	slight(ly)
dir.	direction, direct(ly)	sm.	small
disob.	disobedient	□	square
eng.	engaged, engagement	□ fr. o.	square front only
ext.	extended, extension	st. b.	stepped back
flex.	flexed, flexion	str.	straight
fwd.	forward	strg. o.	strungout
gd.	good	thru	through
h.	horse	tr.	trot
ha.	haunches	trans.	transition
ht.	halt	↑ trans.	up transition
hur.	hurried	↓ trans.	down transition
imp.	impulsion	unus.	unusual
inattn.	inattentive	us.	usual(ly)
incomp.	incomplete	v.	very
incor.	incorrect	vert.	vertical
inw.	inward	w/, c	with
irreg.	irregular	~~~~	weaving
L.	left	wr.	wrong