

Dressage SA

President's Report on the
activities of the 2020 year

MAY
2021



Dear Members,

It has been over a year since the COVID pandemic has changed all of our lives. I think that very few of us realised what effect lockdown would have on us and that instead of being a temporary inconvenience, it has become the new normal. To all of you that have been affected by COVID through the loss of loved ones and friends I send my condolences.

Pierre Hefer, our ex-president stepped back from DSA fairly soon after our AGM, due to business commitments and then ongoing ill health due to contracting the COVID virus. I would like to thank him on behalf of everyone at DSA for doing a great job and giving up hours of his time to do so.

I would like to sincerely thank Debbie Hunt and Peter Schalkwijk for keeping DSA running from home during lockdown. DSA reopened in October in a new home at 477 Papenfus Dr, Beaulieu. Debbie, Peter and Carol managed the entire registration process and year end without all the extra help used in previous years and for that I am most grateful.

All DSA meetings are run virtually, and the upside has been increased participation in the running of DSA by provincial presidents many of whom attend EXCO meetings on a regular basis.

Although income was down due to show levies not being collected during lockdown, we are still in a strong financial position with reserves in place. It was decided that 2021 would be the time to give back to members by dropping both horse and rider registration fees. Thanks to Carol Pickering, our treasurer for keeping our finances in order.

Unfortunately, SA Champs had to be cancelled, for obvious reasons, however we were able to run the DSA Challenge, later in the year. This show has once again become very popular and was well supported despite the difficult circumstances. DSA 'sponsored' the judges travelling costs and accommodation so that most provinces, are able to host the challenge, as well as keeping the entry fees down for the competitors. The other advantage of this is that everyone from around the country gets a chance to compete against each other without the need to travel. Many thanks to Janeese Silen for coordinating the event for us. Youth Champs also took place, once again with very strict Covid protocols in place and it was also surprisingly well supported even though interprovincial travel was challenging.

2020 was the year of the Webinar. Riders, judges and coaches were catered for and the topics covered are too many to mention. I would like to thank everyone involved for the generous donation of their time and expertise. Webinars are now firmly established as a tool for education. Regula Niehus, Jaco Fourie, Niall Quirk and Lillian Moller and the coach developer group have established a coach's program. Sue Horne and her judges' team are running regular judges training webinars and Debbie Hunt organised various experts to educate riders.

Montanique Wilson was the driving force behind the educational modules offered by DSA, once again covering many dressage related topics. We are grateful to her for putting this project together.

Many thanks to Sue Horne, for upgrading the members login. It is really exciting to be able to see show results, rankings etc. and makes up for not being allowed spectators at shows.

I would also like to thank Elana Hopkins for always being available to give advice and assistance in all matters legal at no charge.

The biggest Thank You goes out to you, our members. We hope that the year ahead is filled with health and horses.

Dianne Smith
Acting President

