

Dressage SA

President's Report on the activities of the 2022 year



MARCH
2023



Dear Members,

Time flies. Another year has come and gone. Another AGM is almost here. We are moving away from the memory of lockdown and trying to get back to 'normality'.

Last year was a bumper year for special shows. The CDI run by Vybrant Club at Summit Ridge set the tone for glamorous events. This was followed by Dressage Connection's exciting event with Katrina Wuest also at Summit Ridge. Thanks to the generosity of the organisers, both events were used for local judges training led by the 4 and 5* FEI Judges who came out to officiate.

The FEI World Dressage Challenge was held at Fourways Riding Centre and Mistico in Cape Town. South Africa excelled in our regional division, a great achievement considering that New Zealand was one of the nation's we were competing against. The final results are available on the DSA website under FEI WDC.

DSA ran a project sponsored by FEI Solidarity which included six PDI riders, with access to horses, receiving intensive tuition with a view to competing at SA Champs 2022. They competed individually and as teams in the novice individual and interprovincial competitions. The Solidarity stars excelled both individually and as teams. The project, due to its success, was nominated for the FEI Solidarity award and much to the joy of all involved, won. A proud moment for everyone. This success has ensured that the project will continue into 2023. Thanks to the athletes and project manager, the horse owners and coaches, for your great enthusiasm and dedication to the project and to the SAEF and the FEI for giving us such a wonderful opportunity.

Our Coach Developers also had a very busy year, running two coach's courses, level one and two and a rider's course all under the banner of Technical Skills Training. The courses were very well supported and I would like to thank everyone for their effort and time expended.

The DSA Challenge was well supported nationally and continues to be a good initiative especially as it offers everyone the chance to compete against athletes from the rest of the country without the need to travel too far. Congratulations to all the winners and sincere thanks to the judges, show organisers and especially to Janeese Silen who makes it all happen.

Many thanks to Fourways Riding Centre for hosting the SA Dressage Championships despite drought conditions and level 5 load shedding. The Youth Dressage Championships had the opposite problem with torrential rain, resulting in flooded arenas and postponements. Thank you to the team at the Durban Shongweni Club for keeping the show going despite everything.

I will leave all financial reporting to Carol Oberem, but I would like to thank her, Debbie Hunt and Peter Schalkwijk for keeping the office going and making sure that our financials are up to date and that we receive a clean audit.

Sue Horne and Equisystems do a great job with our IT systems. Sue has sponsored the judge's portal and various other features that DSA would otherwise not be able to afford and we are very grateful for this.

Lastly, you the members, make the sport great. While there is a lot of pressure to succeed, whether you are an athlete, coach, judge or official, please remember to have fun but more importantly to be kind to and respect everyone around you and above all to put the welfare of the horse first.

Dianne Smith
President