NOVEMBER

DressageSA

2026

NEWSLETTER

www.dressagesa.com



DSA CHALLENGE HEADS TO ITS FINAL LEG

The DSA Challenge 2026 will feature six exciting legs this year and will incorporate the 2026 Equipe Senior Amateur National Challenge, offering Senior Amateur riders competing at Preliminary, Novice and Elementary level the opportunity to win an Equipe dressage saddle to the value of R80 000.

A Senior Amateur is defined as a rider who has never competed at Medium level or above at a graded Dressage show, making this Challenge a fantastic opportunity to celebrate riders who are developing their skills and partnerships at the lower levels of the sport.

The final leg of the 2026 DSA Challenge took place at Border Equestrian Centre on 7 to 8 November 2026, bringing the series to an exciting conclusion.

COMING SOON THE NEW DRESSAGE SA WEBSITE

An exciting new chapter is on the horizon for Dressage SA. Our brand-new website is coming soon, featuring a fresh, modern look and an improved, easy-to-navigate experience, designed with our members in mind.

This exciting development has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of Toyota South Africa. We extend our sincere thanks to Toyota for their valued support and continued commitment and helping us take this important step forward.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new online home, where you'll be able to access information, stay up to date with the latest news and explore everything Dressage SA has to offer.

Watch this space – our new online home is launching soon

A NEW SYSTEM, A NEW CHAPTER

The transition to our new system is progressing, and we continue working closely with our development team to resolve outstanding issues and improve the platform for our members.

The transfer of Performance Histories and grading points remains a key priority. Recent results are already visible for many members, while older results and historical performances continue to be transferred. Development of the horse upgrade functionality is also underway.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue refining the system. If you experience any issues with your profile or notice missing information, please contact the Dressage SA office for assistance.

Vaccination REMINDER

When updating your horse's vaccination records, you only need to upload the two most recent AHS vaccinations and the two most recent Flu vaccinations.

2026 FEI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN AACHEN

What a special and exciting time for Philippa Johnson-Dwyer and Jazzynero SLS, whose performances on the international stage have given us so much to celebrate and be proud of.

Their impressive 68.083% personal best was a fantastic achievement in itself, but they went on to raise the bar even further, producing an outstanding 68.730% in their Second Individual Qualifier at the FEI Para Dressage World Championship. It was another wonderful milestone for this special combination and a performance to be incredibly proud of.

Their performances have captured the spirit of determination and resilience that makes equestrian sport so special, and they have given supporters at home plenty of reasons to cheer them on.







2026 SA YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The SA Youth Championships, held at Durban Shongweni Club from 29 June to 5 July, were a wonderful success. It was a fantastic event, filled with exciting competition and enjoyed by riders, families and spectators alike.

A heartfelt thank you to Toyota South Africa for their generous and much appreciated sponsorship, and for their continued support of youth dressage. Your commitment helps make events like these possible and plays an important role in nurturing the growth, development and future of our young riders and the sport we love.

Congratulations to the Winners

Young Riders

Small Tour
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Sanson De Las Cabalierias & Lianri Fourie
Advanced
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Callaho Benedict & Dane Laubscher
Medium
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Devetsaub Sancha & Claire Burger
Elementary
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Rasheeq Glenn Carlou & Samantha Kruger

Juniors

Advanced
Individual: Gunstone & Chane Eardley
Freestyle & Victor Ludorum: Gondor Penelope & Adrienne MacDonald-Hutcheson
Medium
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Berghof Florestar GPR & Caro Nel
Elementary
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Losgelassen Only One & Georgia Macleod
Novice
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum: Duneside Vincent & Adrienne MacDonald-Hutcheson
Prelim
Individual: Bold Resolve & Tori Heenan
Freestyle: Happy Victory WS & Jone Groenewald
Victor Ludorum:
Happy Victory WS & Jone Groenewald

Pony Riders

Medium
Individual: Lemax Cosmic & Zuri Wessels
Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Mount Magic Jewel & Charlotte Valentine
Elementary
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
CDE Countess of Dia & Gabriella Bianco
Novice
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Dolarch Top of the Castle & Kirsten Oldewage
Prelim
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Jabulani's Fudge & Zoe Briscoe

Children

Elementary
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Sapphire & Tané Boshoff
Novice
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Midas-Touch Sante Fe & Kristen Oldewage
Prelim
Individual: 3 Bits & Talia Pieterse
Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Carlisle's Jabula & Lienka du Toit

Junior / Young Rider

Open Team: KwaZulu Natal
Elementary Team: KwaZulu Natal
Novice Team: Gauteng
Prelim Team: KwaZulu Natal

Pony Rider / Children's

Open Team: Free State
Elementary Team: Gauteng
Novice Team: Gauteng
Prelim Team: Gauteng







TOYOTA SA YOUTH CHAMPS 2026











2026 SA YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

RIDING BEYOND BORDERS: 2026 FEI & ACES CHALLENGE

The 2026 FEI Dressage World Challenge and ACES Challenge took place at Mistico Equestrian Centre from 26 to 28 June, bringing together talented riders and horses for three exciting days of competition, camaraderie and sportsmanship.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity for South African riders to compete on an international platform, with some impressive performances and plenty of memorable moments throughout the weekend.

A sincere thank you to our judges, Dora Markun (Slovenia) and Claire Nadin (Gauteng), for their expert officiating, as well as Felicity Bird, our FEI Steward, the local judges and the dedicated team working tirelessly behind the scenes. Your professionalism and commitment helped ensure that both challenges ran smoothly and successfully.

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our riders when the final results for the 2026 FEI Dressage World Challenge and ACES Challenge are announced early next year.

2026 FEI Dressage World Challenge

Intermediate I Winner: Callaho Billy Rose & Dominique Tardin
Prix St Georges Winner: Vaderlandsche Hoseah & Nichola Mohr
Senior II Winner: Quandeli & Patricia Robertson
Senior I Winner: Neptuno D'Atela & Anja Lourens
Youth Winner: El Jays Demario Bear & Gemma Higgo

Riders selected for our 2026 FEI Dressage World Challenge Team:

- Vaderlandsche Hoseah & Nichola Mohr
- Furst Fidelius & Suzie Michaelides
- Jupiter & Leanne Mostert
- Compton House Flying High & Kim McFarlane

2026 ACES Challenge

Adult Elementary Winner: Adelprag Wakita & Simone Kilian
Adult Novice Winner: Ruggens Generaal & Anja Lourens
Junior Novice Winner: Saratoga Saltare & Shiloh Mayes
Adult Prelim Winner: Callaho Ella Mai & Nichola Mohr
Junior Prelim Winner: Mambo & Carlien Coetzee
Children's Prelim Winner: Thandeka HoneyBelle & Zoey Silen

Riders selected for our 2026 ACES Advanced Team:

- Callaho Fabriccio & Elana Hopkins
- Vaderlandsche Hoseah & Nichola Mohr
- Saratoga San Andreo & Michelle de Villiers Moreira

Riders selected for our 2026 ACES Rising Star Team:

- Neptuno D'Atela & Anja Lourens
- El Jays Demario Bear & Gemma Higgo
- Adelprag Wakita & Simone Kilian
- Saratoga Saltare & Shiloh Mayes

FEI DRESSAGE WORLD CHALLENGE

SUPPORTED BY

FEI SOLIDARITY

A.C.E.S. African Confederation of Equestrian Sport











FEI
DRESSAGE WORLD CHALLENGE

A.C.E.S.
African Confederation of Equestrian Sport









SOUTH AFRICAN
2026 DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Powered by TOYOTA

Kyalami Park Club came alive from 8 to 12 September as the very best of South African dressage gathered for the 2026 Toyota SA Dressage Championships – and what an incredible week it was.

From the first salute to the final centre line, the Championships delivered exceptional competition, inspiring performances and plenty of memorable moments, bringing riders, horses, supporters and officials together in a wonderful celebration of our sport.

A special highlight was the Toyota Starlet Cross, which was won by Janina Rexrodt.

A heartfelt thank you to Toyota South Africa for their invaluable sponsorship and continued support of South African dressage. Your partnership played a huge part in making the 2026 Championships such a special and successful event.

Congratulations to the Winners

Big Tour
Individual: Arco360 Esclavo FM and Candice Hobday
Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Winx Insurance's Callaho Lincoln & Dawn Newman

Medium Tour
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Arco360 Rocinante XVII & Candice Hobday

Intermediate I
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Janina Rexrodt & Vincent Vegas

Prix St Georges
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Janina Rexrodt & Rosalie

Advanced
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Silhouette & Vay Snyman

Medium
Individual: Adelsheim Sir Loritz & Carl Boonzaaier
Freestyle: Kuda Insurance's Compton House Quantico & Catherine Berning
Victor Ludorum: Tierra Pequena Maverick & Rozanne Schnetler

Elementary
Individual: Berghof Elvinah & Stafford Robinson
Freestyle & Victor Ludorum:
Adelprag Wakita & Simone Kilian

Novice
Individual: Adela Revelation & Bobby Archer
Freestyle: Fontaine DB & Bobby Archer
Victor Ludorum:
Adela Revelation & Bobby Archer

Prelim
Individual, Freestyle & Victor Ludorum: Callaho Ella Mai & Nichola Mohr

Para Grade I
Individual & Freestyle:
Sultan & Charmaine Watts

Para Grade II
Individual & Freestyle:
Galisco & Abby McIlree

2026 Open Team Event
Gauteng

2026 Advanced Team Event
Gauteng

2026 Medium Team Event
Gauteng

2026 Elementary Team Event
Western Cape

2026 Novice Team Event
Gauteng

2026 Prelim Team Event
Gauteng






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CELEBRATING OUR JUDGES' *Preomotions*

Dressage SA is delighted to congratulate Claire Nadin (Gauteng) and Michelle de Villiers-Moreira (Western Cape) on their promotions to the National Judges List 2 — a wonderful achievement and an important milestone in their judging careers.

This promotion means they are now qualified to judge competitions up to Grand Prix level, the highest level of competitive dressage. It is a significant step forward, reflecting their dedication to developing their judging expertise and deepening their understanding of the sport at its most advanced level.

This achievement is a wonderful recognition of the hard work and commitment invested in their judging journeys. It also highlights the importance of ongoing education and development within our judging community, helping to ensure that South African dressage continues to benefit from knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated officials.

We are incredibly proud to celebrate this milestone and look forward to seeing these two judges continue to grow in their roles and contribute to the future of our sport.

Congratulations on this well deserved achievement. We wish them every success and many rewarding experiences as they take this exciting next step in their judging careers and continue to play a valuable role in the development of South African dressage.



Claire Nadin





Michelle de Villiers-Moreira

News from the Judges Box

Strengthening Judging Across Africa



The ACES Judges Exchange Programme provides a wonderful opportunity to strengthen and develop judging standards across Africa. By bringing local judges together with experienced international officials, the programme creates a valuable platform for practical learning, knowledge-sharing and the exchange of different perspectives and approaches to judging.

This year, we are particularly proud to see South African judge Tammy Ashford taking part in this exciting initiative. Her participation provides an invaluable opportunity to further develop her judging skills, gain new insights from international colleagues and share her own experience and knowledge with fellow judges from across the continent.

Programmes such as the ACES Judges Exchange play an important role in creating greater consistency, understanding and collaboration within the sport. The benefits extend beyond the individual participants, contributing to the continued development of judges and the advancement of dressage judging standards across Africa.

We wish Tammy every success with her exchange and look forward to seeing the knowledge and experience gained through this opportunity further contribute to the growth of dressage judging in South Africa and across the continent.



International Insight, Local Excellence

Following the 2026 SA Dressage Championships, Dressage SA was delighted to host a National Judges Workshop with Małgorzata Pawłowska (FEI Level 3) from Poland.

The workshop provided a wonderful opportunity for our National Judges to further develop their knowledge, exchange experiences and gain valuable insights from an international perspective. The interactive sessions offered meaningful learning opportunities and encouraged discussion around the ongoing development of judging within our sport.

We are extremely grateful to Małgorzata for sharing her knowledge, experience and expertise with our judges. Her international perspective and practical insights made the workshop a valuable and inspiring learning experience for everyone who attended.

A sincere thank you to SAEF for sponsoring this important workshop and for supporting the ongoing education and development of our judges. We greatly appreciate the investment in our officials and the positive contribution this makes towards strengthening judging and supporting the future growth of dressage in South Africa.



Online Dressage Scribes Training

Sylvia Bruckner (FEI and National List 2 Judge) will be presenting an online training session for scribes on 17 November 2026 at 19h00 - open to wannabee scribes and current scribes - all welcome.

Learn to record a judge's marks and comments accurately and quickly, understand the movements and the collective marks, work confidently alongside officials.

Expand your knowledge and be part of the sport from a new perspective.

To book or for more information please contact Chanda on 083 475 2647

Gauteng Judges' Seminar

The Gauteng Dressage Council held a Gauteng Judges' Seminar, presented by Marlena Gruca-Rucińska, on Saturday, 31 October 2026, at the SAEF offices.

Her seminar provided a valuable opportunity for our judges to broaden their knowledge, exchange ideas and share insights, contributing to their continued learning and development within the sport.

A sincere thank you to ProDressage for their generous contribution towards making this educational opportunity possible. Your support was greatly appreciated and helped us continue investing in the knowledge, development and growth of our judges.

Save the Date: Hans-Christian Matthiesen Joins us in January 2027

We are pleased to share an exciting educational opportunity for our dressage community. Hans-Christian Matthiesen, one of the world's leading dressage officials, will be joining us in Gauteng from 22 to 24 January 2027 for a series of special seminars.

Hans-Christian is a Danish veterinarian and internationally renowned FEI Level 4 Dressage Judge. He has judged at some of the sport's most prestigious events, including the Olympic Games, and has played an important role in international dressage development through his work with the FEI Dressage Committee. He is also a passionate advocate for continued education and the ongoing development of our sport.

The programme will include dedicated seminars for judges, with a special day for riders and coaches — offering a valuable opportunity to gain fresh insights, broaden knowledge and learn from one of the sport's most respected international experts.

Further details, including the programme and registration information, will be announced soon.



Hans-Christian Matthiesen

Veterinarian – 5-Star International FEI Dressage Judge

Hans-Christian Matthiesen is a veterinarian educated at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen, and has worked at Hørsholm Hestepraksis for more than 20 years, with a particular focus on orthopaedics and sport-related injuries in horses.

He is a 5-star international FEI dressage judge and Ground Jury President, having officiated at multiple European and World Championships, as well as the Olympic Games in Tokyo, the Pan American Games, and the Asian Games. He regularly teaches on judging courses for international dressage judges and served as national team veterinarian from 2006 to 2013, including at the Olympic Games in Hong Kong and London.

Within Danish equestrian sport governance, he has served as Chairman of the Dressage Committee and as a member of the Main Board of the Danish Equestrian Federation (DRF), and he holds seats on and chairs several working groups within the FEI. He is Chairman of the International Dressage Officials Club (IDOC).

Hans-Christian's core interest lies in the development and future of equestrian sport – bridging veterinary science, judging practice and horse welfare. He is a frequent debater and speaker across all stakeholder groups within horse-keeping and equestrian sport, from riders and trainers to officials, welfare organisations and veterinary professionals.

Organisations & Boards

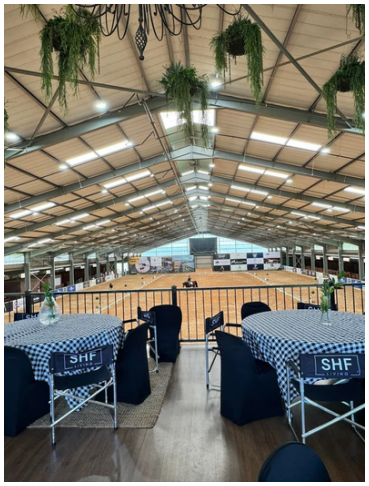
- **Uanvendelig.dk** – Chairman
  An evidence-based knowledge platform run in collaboration with Hestens Værn, dedicated to helping injured horses and their riders through diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation – with the aim of reducing the number of horses euthanised each year under "unusability" insurance following injury.

- **Hestens Værn** – Board Member
  Denmark's oldest animal welfare organisation dedicated to horses, founded in 1909. It works nationwide to prevent neglect and mistreatment of horses and ponies, and to promote sound horsemanship and welfare standards.

- **Dressurens Venner** – Board Member
  A Danish non-profit association, founded in 2007 under the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Benedikte, dedicated to advancing the development of dressage sport in Denmark – supporting national squads at all levels, funding events and lectures, and running the nationwide club tournament Dressurens Venner Cup.

EXCITING NEWS

Maxwell's Equestrian Centre to Host the 2027 SA Championships



We are delighted to announce that Maxwell Equestrian Centre has been selected to host the 2027 SA Dressage Championships.

A huge congratulations to Tessa and the entire Maxwell's Equestrian Centre team on this wonderful achievement. We are excited to see the preparations get underway and look forward to working together to make the 2027 Championships a truly special and memorable occasion for our dressage community.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Kyalami Park Club for submitting their bid and for their continued commitment to and support of dressage in South Africa. We truly appreciate the time and effort that went into their proposal.

We look forward to an exciting championship and wish Tessa and the Maxwell team every success as they take on the challenge of hosting this prestigious event. We can't wait to see what promises to be a fantastic celebration of dressage in South Africa.

The dates for the 2027 Championships are still to be confirmed, so please watch this space for further announcements.

New Tests for 2027



A fresh and exciting chapter begins on 1 January 2027. The new tests bring fresh challenges, new goals and exciting opportunities for riders, horses and coaches to continue learning, developing and progressing through the levels. We look forward to seeing our dressage community embrace the new tests as we step into another exciting year for the sport.

The 2027 tests will be available soon — so keep an eye out for more updates

Develop Your Coaching Skills with DSA Education

Looking to refresh your knowledge, build confidence and strengthen your coaching skills? Dressage SA's online Coaches Courses offer flexible, self-paced learning, allowing you to study at a time that suits you while deepening your understanding of dressage and developing your coaching expertise. Getting Started: Visit DSA Education to explore the available courses: https://dsaeducation.co.za/courses Course Fees: Full series: R1,000 | Individual modules: R100 each.

We recommend completing Series 1 before progressing to Series 2. Certificates are awarded upon completion of a full series. Invest in your knowledge, continue developing your skills and take the next step in your coaching journey!

For assistance or further information, please contact coaches@dressagesa.com.

Our Sincere CONDOLENCES



A LASTING LEGACY IN SOUTH AFRICAN DRESSAGE

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of

Jenny Neill

12 December 1960 to 23 October 2026

Jenny's dedication and love for dressage played an important role in the development of our discipline in South Africa. Her time, commitment and willingness to contribute helped strengthen our sport and the community that surrounds it.

Over the years, she became an integral part of South African dressage, building connections and making a difference to those who shared her passion for horses. Her involvement and contribution will be remembered by the many people whose lives she touched through her dedication to the sport.

Her passing leaves a void in our dressage community, and we reflect with gratitude on the time, effort and enthusiasm she gave so generously to a sport that meant so much to her.

Dressage SA extends its heartfelt condolences to Jenny's family, friends and all those who are mourning her loss. May the memories they cherish bring comfort during this difficult time, and may her contribution to South African dressage continue to be remembered for many years to come.

She will be deeply missed, her contribution fondly remembered, and her legacy forever cherished by our dressage family.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE.



Until Next Time…

As we look ahead, may we continue to grow, learn and celebrate the wonderful partnerships that make dressage so special. Thank you for being part of our community and for helping our sport flourish.

Wishing you happy riding, successful shows and many special moments in the saddle

Together, let's keep the passion for dressage alive and thriving