

## **SANEF AGM: 2009**



I am extremely pleased that we are able to get together in SANEF's own meeting room for our Annual General Meeting. We owe Jimmy and his three lady staff for creating this attractive locality which surely longer-term will more than pay for itself through frequent usage.

Through my close association with the office administration over decades I am able to state that we have probably never been as well "manned" to deal with our Federation's ever growing tasks. Unfortunately this does not come cheaply. If we want to satisfy the needs of our provinces and the newly elected Technical Committees, SANEF needs additional income. More activities are having to be handled by this administration year by year, especially due to the growing involvement with the FEI. This year alone some nine or ten FEI officials came to Johannesburg and all of them require assistance in some shape or other. Our attempts to qualify for World Equestrian Games and ultimately the Olympics results in visiting experts spending days or weeks in South Africa. People such as Gerry Mullins, Jean Philippe Camboulives, Kathy Amos Jacobs, Andy Griffiths, Patricia Clifton, Paul Weier, Mike and Angela Tucker, are collected at airports and looked after by our office staff, who are expected not to fall behind with their regular tasks. We also have to keep in mind that the Secretary General needs to transfer some of his vast knowledge and experience in order to plan for our future.

### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

Now that Technical Committees are elected on ability and suitability rather than their provincial belonging, they have increased their demands on the Federation's services. Your Chairman also drives many a project which needs to be supported administratively in a professional way.

### **SHOW-JUMPING**

Both the Chairman and the Show-jumping Chair, Sandy Cox, are busy with the process of qualifying our jumpers for World Equestrian Games in a year from now. Show-

jumping grading rules were revised, ensuring there was never a dull moment for Sandy. A young riders' team was sent to Europe, and Turkish and German teams were welcomed in our country, and a senior team was once again selected and travelled to New Zealand for the Tri Nations event.

### **EVENTING**

Jane Jackman co-ordinates and drives an ambitious programme of running a series of events in accordance with FEI rules whilst trying to qualify for WEG 2010. As regions or provinces in the past have all more or less paddled their own canoe, it is no mean task to bring the activities under the SANEF hat. FEI course designers and officials are helping to qualify not only horse and rider but also officials, some of whom have already officiated overseas.

### **DRESSAGE**

Vicky Mostert is once again heading up the code. This discipline continues to import a number of overseas trainers to South Africa and although the standard is still not sufficiently advanced to aspire to major championships overseas, a National programme is in planning. Para Equestrian now also falls under Dressage and we were fortunate to have in Liz Day a person able to co-ordinate both. Due to her prolonged illness, though, in the interim matters are handled by Angie Meredith and the Chairman, Sharon Boyce.

Para Equestrian has, of course, been highlighted internationally by two Silver and two Olympic Gold Medals, won by Philippa Johnson in Athens and Hong Kong respectively. That way it has attracted the attention of SASCOC as a potential medal winning discipline.

In addition, Philippa has very recently been nominated as "Sportswoman of the Year" in the town where she resides in Belgium, unique for a foreigner in that country!

### **VAULTING**

Led by Paula Taylor, Vaulting continues to thrive and grow. Speciality horses are even imported! The discipline still has internal matters to settle before it can rank next to the other FEI codes.

### **ENDURANCE**

SANEF administration needs to get involved in Endurance only when International participation is planned. The sport has been an independent body for such a long time that it has its own structure. It is, however, an FEI accredited code and growing in importance worldwide.

## **REINING**

So far SANEF has had little need to involve itself in the reining discipline but certainly the discipline participates in the Horse of the Year Show and Easter Festival at GHS and possibly also in other provinces.

## **F.E.I.**

Our major exposure to the International Federation is through its Coaching Courses. Participants continue to be drawn from a wait list of South African trainers and instructors. The Level I Coaching Course had two workshops in the year, the latest one in March/April under French expert, Kathy Amos Jacobs. A second Level II Course was held in May this year and led by the ever popular Jean Philippe Camboulivès as course leader. Only a week later Gerry Mullins, a highly respected International Coach, came to Johannesburg to evaluate the progress of our aspirant show jumpers. I gather that he was sufficiently impressed to potentially stay involved and lead our campaign to compete at WEG 2010 and possibly beyond.

International Course Designer, Paul Weier, designed and built courses both at Pietermaritzburg and twice at KEP. His courses, based on international standards in Europe, have asked a number of questions which not all his riders and horses were able to answer. I understand that both our riders and coaches are, however, very aware that we need to be examined along those lines to ensure that we know what awaits us in Europe and the United States.

## **GROUP IX CHAIRMANSHIP**

At the FEI General Assembly in November last year I ended my nine year Chairmanship since the inception of a Group in 1999. It went to Mrs. Mary Binks of Kenya who still has to show her hand regarding the ambitious promises made in her manifesto prior to the Buenos Aires meeting. In the meantime, South Africa is continuing to liaise with FEI directly, SANEF receiving regular praise for the competent way that matters are handled by Jimmy and Megan, whose task it is to liaise and communicate with International Federations.

Mrs. Mary Binks appointed her Deputy Chairman without consultation of either SANEF or most of the other Group Members. She has been informed this has been contested by South Africa with FEI. The outcome is still awaited.

## **VETERINARY**

The role of medical and veterinary surveillance of the competitive sport by FEI and also SANEF is becoming more and more prevalent. Various incidents both in our country and internationally have made everyone very much aware of the unfortunate way that sportsmen and their equestrian partners are going about things to achieve higher goals. Workshops in all the provinces are needed in order to raise the awareness and train officials and administrators in our relatively inexperienced country.

It has been learned that the giant German Federation has dissolved its Olympic discipline's cadre until further notice. Their President has vowed to stamp out drugging of horses and riders in that leading Equestrian country.

You might have picked up from SANEF's info letters that 42 stewards(!) are in action at the CHIO Aachen at the end of this month, whilst some 19 veterinary surgeons carry out the control over the five day period! We, as a National Federation, have the task to prevent such activities through competent stewarding which, led by our Chief Steward, Mrs. Danielle Pienaar, is in good hands

Before I conclude, I am very sad to have to report on the exit from our equestrian community of two giants of the past in Harold Preston who led the show-jumping discipline for decades, and Mark Shute, a previous Chairman and President of our Federation.

I want to congratulate Tony, Jimmy, Megan, Tiffany and Sifiso, as well as the members on the Management Committee, for their diligent and committed service to our sport. Personally, after decades of serving on management I have reached my sell by date and want to take my hat and make space for a younger and more energetic individual.

E.J. HOLTZ  
PRESIDENT