

SA EVENTING

Update #2 – February 2011

There has been a flurry of email activity lately; hopefully this will help explain in more detail –

As you know at the beginning of this month the Technical Committee met and together with the Provincial Eventing Chairmen (**Sarah Arnot, Colin Scott, Jane Kenyon and Kate Peskens**) revamped and reallocated portfolios. With the help of **Merri Spratley** who has set up numerous distribution lists, we hope to keep you regularly informed of what is happening where and to whom!

During December 2010 an email from FEI Eventing Department was received at the SANEF offices regarding the Qualifying Event (TEAM) for London 2012 for Groups F and G (we are included in Group F together with the rest of Africa and the Middle East.)

We were unaware of the email until the Japanese Federation (Group G) phoned the SANEF office mid January and asked to speak to Eventing. To cut a long story short:

- FEI had suggested three venues for the event 1) Bramham in June 2011 2) Blenheim in September 2011 and 3) Ligniere (France) September/October 2011
- A minimum of 3 Federations with a minimum of 3 riders are required for this event to take place and 4 Federations were keen - AUS, JPN, RSA and NZ.
 1. Three of our riders were contemplating competing at Braham, **Alex, Stuart and Paul**, but June was early in terms of preparation
 2. Blenheim (a great venue and annual event) required compensation from participation Federations/Riders to put on the extra class. It is estimated that the cost per Federation will be c. €450

3. Ligniere had **Jean Philippe's** vote, the OC were really keen to host and it would give us more time to prepare

- JPN and RSA voted in favour of Ligniere, NZ and AUS wanted Bramham!
- Eventually NZ and AUS changed their minds and proposed Blenheim, JPN also proposed Blenheim. RSA really had no option but to accept the decision of the other Federations. Their thought process being that if any one Federation cannot field a team, then at least there will be 3 Federations remaining

As per previously circulated letter from Catrin Norinder (Director of Eventing at FEI), Blenheim has been given the OK by the FEI Eventing Committee with Ligniere as a reserve venue.

Of course, all this is academic unless SASCOG give Equestrian Athletes the green light to participate at the Olympics, however, in the meantime we stick with the programme and remain optimistic. We are waiting to hear from SAEC/SANEF if there have been further discussions with SASCOG.

Zorba and Kardinal are back in SA and waiting for their quarantine to finish so they can go home and relax! Graham tells me it was an emotional reunion – we can only imagine after the experiences they shared since the start of their journey to WEG.

Heartbreak Hill and Paul compete at Barroca D'Alva 3*(outside Lisbon, Portugal) from 9-13 March 2011. Very best wishes go to them on the start of their new campaign.

Hannah Brown, an eventer resident in the UK, is in the process of becoming an SA citizen. Her family have a home in the Western Cape and Hannah is keen to represent SA in her eventing career. She is currently competing at 3* level and will hopefully become another member of our **TEAM SA**.

Lesley Mawhinney, one of our FEI Candidate Event Judge participated in the Eventing Global Education and Mentorship Programme in 2010 and has just received a positive and encouraging assessment from working at Blair Castle and in Eastern Europe – Lesley has been chosen to participate in the Programme in 2011 and will be visiting the USA to officiate later in the year!

The Talent and Identification Development programme (Department of Sports and Recreation and SANEF) got underway this weekend with a one day assessment at the High Performance Centre in Pretoria. We have asked for feedback from the participants (**Kelly Searle, Robyn Groenink, Michelle Jarman, Erin Dempsey, Hayley Parker, Amy Slingsby, Lance Setter, Alexander Foster, Lindsay Scott and Amy Vergunst and well as the Coach, Graham Winn**). For further information on this programme Sharon Boyce at SANEF is the person to speak to and of course **Priscilla Young** who is managing the Development Portfolio on the Technical Committee.

That's all for now

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