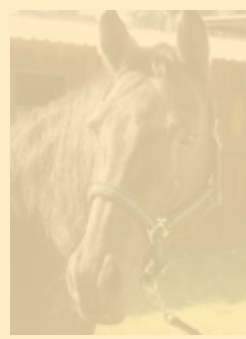


# Para-Dressage Newsletter

June/July 2011



Dear Riders, Coaches, Parents and Judges

## **THE PARA EQUESTRIAN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 2011:**

Congratulations to the following people have been selected to serve on the PENTC in the following portfolios:

1. Tracey Cumming - Chairman/Development
2. Cheryl Kempin - Finance
3. Wendy Moller - Marketing / PR
4. Danielle Pienaar - Legal
5. Teri Smith - Technical
6. Jacqueline Dawson - International Affairs
7. Caroline Potts - Officials

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to Sharon Boyce. She has certainly taken Para dressage to a new level. Sharon your valuable input, expertise, and hard work is much appreciated, losing you is a great loss to para dressage, we are certainly going to miss you.

## **PARADRESSAGE CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT 2010/2011**

**Prepared by:** Sharon Boyce

As I reflect on the past year within the sport of Paradressage I am struck by the variety of events and the number of different places they took place, as well as with the enormity of knowing that we are moving into our final preparation year for London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Towards the end of last year SA Para dressage lost one of its great ambassadors, Liz Day who died after a courageous battle with cancer. Despite being grievously ill she continued to realise her dream of becoming both an international dressage and Para dressage judge. She has most definitely left a legacy in the judge development system and rider ranking system she created.

This past year saw the implementation of a high performance programme for the riders on the short list for WEG. These riders attended three training camps at Hpc TuksSport where they initially underwent scientific and medical assessments to determine their fitness, strength and conditioning as well as a functional movement analysis. The results of this provided a baseline for the intervention programmes that were designed for each individual. Following camps included feedback regarding individual programmes and implementation of any necessary adaptations, there were also sessions with the dietician and sport psychologist. Coaching was included in the camps and this was facilitated by Bev Franklin as well as two training camps with international judge, trainer and FEI tutor Kathy Amos Jacobs. Para dressage is certainly leading the way with their high performance programme as they are the first SA discipline to include scientific services in the preparation of their elite athletes and we are very grateful to LOTTO for the funding that enabled this. The plan is for the 2011 / 2012 year to further develop this programme for the athletes short listed for the Olympic 2012 squad.

LOTTO funding further enabled South Africa to be represented as a team at WEG 2010. This was an historic occasion as it was the first time that Para dressage was included as a discipline in the WEG competition format. South Africa placed 14<sup>th</sup> overall and secured the highest scores of countries riding borrowed horses. In looking to the future I am encouraged knowing how the riding skills of the SA Paradressage riders improved with the opportunities created last year, as well as their tenacity to continue to remain focused to improve their performance in the face of adversity.

The level of skill and quality of horse power in international Paradressage competition has escalated dramatically and in order to be placed or even near to this it is essential that our riders need to be riding their own horse, and that the combination has experience at international level. The majority of the medal winning riders rode top quality horses that had competed at Grand Prix level in their past careers. Unfortunately this is very difficult to match through the current model of short term leasing of horses. I am firmly of the belief that if the SA Paradressage riders want to move from "Participation to Placed" then this can only be achieved through moving away from the current paradigm of management selected horses for short term lease; to identifying and securing long term access to top quality horses that have been selected by and are the responsibility of the individual riders. Sourced LOTTO funding could then provide subsidization to the selected riders' and their horses based on clearly defined performance criteria linked to participation in the high performance programme and competition results.

Whilst there was a major focus on the preparations for WEG, there was a lot that happened within South Africa as well. The second CPEDI3\* was hosted by GHS and this competition was both a qualifier for WEG and London 2012. The standard of riding was notably improved and going into 2011/2012 we currently have nine Para dressage riders with at least one qualifying score for London 2012.

The SA Championship and Interprovincial event was hosted by Free State in Kimberley. Unfortunately the interprovincial was not held due to a lack of team representation from the provinces, the reason being that a number of the provincial riders were in the USA at WEG. On the upside of this a number of newer riders gained the experience of riding at SA Champs and earning podium positions.

For the first time Para dressage ran a national competition alongside Dressage using the same model and giving special dispensation to the selected national dressage judges to judge the Para dressage classes. This format worked well and will be continued going forward and the lack of qualified judges needs to be urgently addressed.

Within the provinces there is a lack of depth of qualified Paradressage judges and this is an area of development that needs to be addressed through encouraging dressage judges to include para dressage in their repertoire of skills, the hosting of national judges' seminars and possible special dispensations.

In terms of mass participation children riders with disability continue to be identified within the School sport competition system and hopefully in time they will be encouraged to join Para equestrian sport. In order to accommodate new riders into the sport I am aware that some of the provinces are looking at introducing a Welcome class with different tests to the FEI ones currently used. Hopefully this will be implemented in the coming year and we will start to see some riders use this as a stepping stone into para dressage. On the other side of the coin a number of the more experienced para dressage riders have started to compete in able-bodied dressage where their listed compensating aides as per the classification card are recognized and allowed.

Communication between the national technical committee, the provincial committees and members has been greatly facilitated by the monthly newsletter that has been so capably penned and published by Wendy Moller. Wendy performs this duty and that of the riders' liaison officer with diligence and commitment and on behalf of all I would send her my heartfelt thanks. Another way in which communication was greatly improved this year was through the inclusion of the provincial committee chairman in communication, this proved to be very valuable in ensuring buy in and implementation of decisions made.

The development focus was certainly the TID squad, and the first assessment camp was eventually held in February 2011. Bev Franklin was selected to be the national coach for the TID squad and everyone is looking forward to greater things in 2011/2012. Tracey Cumming is the administrator; she has been ably assisted by Teri Smith in Western Province who is a stickler for detail. Thanks to you both for your commitment to development within para dressage!

Danielle Pienaar and Regina Hobbs have brought great wisdom to our committee especially around the rules and regulations of SANEF and how to integrate some of the SANEF specific requirements with the FEI rules which our sport follows. They will be presenting the first SANEF Para dressage rules equivalent in the next few months.

Classification is an integral aspect of para equestrian sport and Elsa Matthee is our hard working classifier. As a result of the classification training courses she has run over the past two years we now have a Hetsie Vietch qualified as an international qualifier.

In line with the recommendation from SANEF MANCO all the current members of the committee have stepped down and it is great to see that many have been re-nominated along with some new names as well. I

am taking a side step out of Para dressage in order to give more time and energy to development within SANEF and I wish the incoming committee a year of great successes!

### **SASCOC ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING PARADRESSAGE QUALIFICATION FOR LONDON 2012**

The SAEC have informed SANEF that SASCOC have informed them that the qualification criteria for Paradressage to be included as a team in the London 2012 TEAM SA squad is that the team members must have achieved a minimum score of 65% in a Team test or Individual Championship test at a recognized CPEDI3\* event between 01 January 2010 and 17 June 2012. The Para National Technical committee have written to the SAEC requesting that this be modified to 65% score at CPEDI3\* in SA and 63% score at CPEDI3\* outside of SA. See the FEI website for a list of recognized events. (PENTC is still waiting for the outcome)

### **Shows & Show results:**

**Results:** Well done to you all!

*(If you want your scores included in the newsletter then you must send them to me - it's your responsibility)*

### **CDR Heusden-Zolder( Able bodied) 29 May 2011**

Philippa Johnson: L6, M4 70.60%, 64.44% - Verdi (1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>)

### **CDR Alken (Able bodied) 5 June 2011**

Philippa Johnson: L7, M3 69.35%, 65.45% - Verdi (2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>)

### **SANEF Competition Karkloof (KZN) 8 May 2011**

Anthony Dawson : Grade 2 68.29%, 66.54% - Ardmore Ceramics Remus B

Anthony Dawson: Grade 2 65.38% - Flaming Gun

Kerry Noble: Grade 2 58.45%, 61.42% - Bright Lass

Gary Allpass: Grade 4 60.55%, 60.00% - Runaway Warrior

### **Linbro Park (Gauteng) 12 June 2011**

Theo Van Rensburg Grade1A 60.00%, 61.00% - Trapeze

Marion Milne : Grade 1B 72.27%, 69.57% - Baron

Wendy Moller: Grade 2 71.90%, 65.71% - Willows Rafiki

### **Picture of the month:**

This month we have a picture of Grade 2 Anthony Dawson riding Ardmore Ceramics' Remus B. *Due to the file size I can only include one picture of a rider at a show, therefore I will select a new one every month.*



### **FEI CPEDI 3\*/ SA National Championships 5-7 August 2011**

This event will be judged by 3 international judges and Kathy Amos Jacobs will be presenting training clinics for both paradressage and able bodied dressage athletes after the competition. The schedule is currently at FEI for approval and will be sent to all riders as soon as it is approved. Riders who intend to enter must make sure they and their horses are registered with FEI. All horses including borrowed horses must have a valid group IX passport. The forms can be downloaded from the FEI website:

[FEI Rider Registration Form](#)

[FEI Horse Registration Form](#)

### **International competition:**

Due to the lack of funding available no teams will be selected to represent South Africa at Hartpury in the UK. Riders are encouraged to compete at international level, however they need to do so as individuals. The Shortlisted Paralympic squad for London will be announced at the end of September 2011, but SASCOC will make the final decision as to whether an equestrian team will be included in the Paralympic Team or not and take note that this announcement may only be made early in 2012. We are looking forward to the announcement and our Team will get full support from the PENTC.

**Until next time happy riding!!**

**Wendy**

*PS. Feel free to contact me if you have any tips, funny horsy stories or anything you would like to add.*