

# Durban Shongweni Club



The Durban Shongweni Club has long been regarded as the heart of equestrian sport in KZN, however with the support of local business, visionary individuals and an energetic, focused committee the club has recently made an incredible transformation which has turned the Durban Shongweni Club into one of the premier equestrian destinations in the country.

The club now showcases a world class silica / fibre arena –in addition to the main derby grass showjumping arena. In keeping with the standard of the showjumping arena’s the practice ring has been upgraded to a silica / fibre surface too. With the three sand dressage arena’s and stunning cross country courses on good going it’s hardly surprising that at the recent KZN Eventing Championships CIC\*\* the event scored 5+ (out of a maximum of 5) for the eventing course – with the FEI judges comment summing it up as “excellent” - this year the club will host a \*\*\* event! The grounds of the Shongweni Club are pristine with age old trees and a real sense of space in a warm country atmosphere, and under the superb management of Cheryl Danchin they have never ridden better either!



But as Anton Mostert, the chairman, says: “The club is not just here for competitors, it’s here for families and friends too – we want everyone to feel welcome in our beautiful equestrian home. Accordingly the clubhouse has been renovated and decorated by a highly regarded local interior decorator, the kiddies playground has been transformed into a treasure trove of brightly painted jungle gym’s, a toy filled wendy house, sandpits and a tractor, and we have welcomed the police dog and mounted horse units to be resident on our premises – this club is about community living, strong family values and great sport!



It’s hardly surprising that the Durban Shongweni Club was awarded the tender to host a showjumping world cup qualifier, dressage FEI and Junior SA Championships later in the year, however in addition to showcasing the nation’s top talent the club is also focussed on building equestrian sport and facilitating the development of future stars.

One of these initiatives is evident in the unique and exciting concept of the Pharos Wednesday Summer Sporting Series. Running over 13 weeks the club will run Qualifying Round Showjumping shows every Wednesday, thereby enabling riders to progress more quickly through the grades as they gain points and experience mid week. True to form the DSC didn't want to stop there - "We want to promote our sport to sponsors, we want to raise awareness for show jumping and equestrian sport in general and we want to create exciting shows with a great atmosphere" consequently mountain biking time trials, Social touch rugby, trail running and walking, live entertainers, and evening spit braai's were added to the agenda - effectively turning the Durban Shongweni the place to be every Wednesday as it is a haven of activity, fun and friends!

The youthful vigour and passion that we now see in these remarkable surroundings is both inspiring and exciting - this club is on fire!

