

Centre Line
KZN Dressage Newsletter
JUNE 2010



Chairman: Sue Horne

Kzn Dressage Website – www.kzndressage.co.za

Newsletter information- :nadinep@sos.co.za

Upcoming Events

17-18 KZN Dressage Championship, Shongweni Club.

HITS, TIPS AND COMMENTS – Know your Dressage Rules (Part 2)

SECTION 33 - Failure to comply with any part of Section 33 shall result in elimination.

33.1.0 SADDLERY AND DRESS

33.1.1 SADDLES

Dressage saddles which must be close to the horse and have long, near-vertical flaps are compulsory from Elementary/ Medium level upward. General purpose saddles may be used in the lower grades.

33.1.2 Numnahs or Saddle Cloths are permitted and should be neat and not larger than necessary. Gel, air, foam or Sheepskin pads may be used under saddles.

33.1.3 Saddle covers are NOT permitted. (e.g. Sheepskin or similar covering). See also rule 33.5.2.

33.1.4 Breastplates are permitted but may not be used for events run under FEI rules. Cruppers on ponies are permitted but may not be used for events run under FEI rules.

33.2.0 PERMITTED BRIDLES

33.2.1 Bridles shall be as per instruction on the official tests.

Padding is allowed on bridles both under the bridle and stitched into the leather.

33.2.2 PERMITTED BITS

All bits permitted by the FEI Dressage Rules are allowed depending on the test ridden. Bits or materials specifically disallowed by FEI will not be allowed.

(a) In addition any other bits illustrated in Appendix DS/4 which are not in

the FEI Dressage Rules are permitted for non FEI classes. No other bits will be allowed.

- (b) Bit guards are NOT permitted.
- (c) The minimum diameter of snaffle bits at the bars of the horse's mouth has been fixed at 10 mm. This is measured either against the outer loose ring, or at the beginning of the radius on egg-butt and similar snaffles. The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon must be such so as not to hurt the horse. Pelhams with connectors are allowed for Pony Rider Preliminary classes only.
- (e) When using a double bridle the Bridoon and Curb bits must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber. Wrapping of bits and flexible rubber bits are not permitted. Lip strap and rubber or leather cover for curb chain is optional (see plates and captions).
- (f) The lever arm of the curb bit is limited to 10cm (length below the mouthpiece). If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouthpiece should not measure more than 10cm when the mouthpiece is at the uppermost position.
- g) It is acceptable that there will be variations in the manufacture of the examples, but the rule in regard to variations in manufacture should be interpreted with the intention that the welfare of the horse, together with the best schooling principles, should be the only consideration

33.2.3 NOSEBANDS

(a) Either a dropped noseband or a Cavesson as illustrated in Appendix DS/3 may be used with a snaffle bridle, but not both. A cavesson noseband, whether used with a snaffle or double Bridle, may never be so tightly fixed as to harm the horse. The decision of the President of the Ground Jury shall be final.

(b) A Mexican noseband or Crossed/Flash noseband as illustrated in Appendix DS/3 is also permitted with a snaffle bridle.

33.3.0. WHIP/SPURS

33.3.1. Adults, Juniors and Pony Riders. In the Individual South African Championship, whips are not permitted, no matter what the level of test or classification of rider. In this instance the whip is to be dropped outside of the arena enclosure and horse and rider may not circle the arena carrying a whip before commencement of the test. Failure to do so will result in 2 penalty points being deducted. At Events below CN Status, FEI Dressage Tests may be ridden with a whip unless otherwise stated. Whip length may not exceed a total maximum length of 120cm (including the tassel) and for Pony Riders total maximum length is 100cm (including the tassel). The use of one whip, as above, in the practice area is allowed at all events. Only the rider when riding, walking, leading or lungeing a

horse (standard length lunge whip allowed), is allowed to carry a whip (maximum 1.20 cm) anywhere on the showground. The groom may also walk, lead and lunge a horse as above. Other parties are allowed to carry a whip, provided it is not in connection with the training of the horse.

- 33.3.2. Spurs are allowed in all classes and must be made of metal. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the centre of the spur when on the rider's boot. The arms of the spur must be smooth. If rowels are used, they must be smooth and free to rotate. See Appendix DS/3 for rowels. Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs are allowed ("Impuls" spur). "Dummy" spurs with no shank are allowed. Rowels on spurs are not permitted for Pony Riders. Gooseneck spurs are permitted.

33.4.0 IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

Identification. Each horse keeps the same identification number throughout the event as provided by the Organizing Committee upon arrival. It is compulsory that this number be worn always by the horse whenever it leaves the stables, so that it may be identified by all officials including the stewards. Failure to display this identification number incurs first a warning and, in case of a repeated offence, a fine will be imposed on the rider by the Ground Jury or the Appeal Committee according to FEI legal procedure. This number will always be displayed on the left side.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

The results for the KZN Leg of the SANEF Dressage Competition are as follows:

Adult Novice	-	Jocelyn Constant & Mossandi Rhinestone
Adult Elementary	-	Liesel Bold & Eagle's Cornetto
Adult Elementary Medium	-	Heike Harvey & Mossandi Royce
Adult Medium	-	Catherine Berning & Coeur De Leon
Prix St George	-	Catherine Berning & Livius
Adult Intermediate I	-	Colleen Morris & Aladin VDK
Junior Novice	-	Megan Cleary & Jebel Double or Quits
Junior Elementary	-	Megan Berning & Washington
Junior Medium	-	Kirsten Wing & Hakahana Angus Og
Pony Rider Elementary	-	Kirsten Wing & Bridesdale Raindragon

The KZN SANEF Teams:

Junior Novice

Shannon Fogden and Ashur
Lang Carel Skot and Rachel Barrett

Junior Elementary

Megan Berning and Washington
Julia Van Niekerk and Zandor

Adult Novice

Ursula Oberholser and Juba
Liesel Bold and Eagle's Watersport

Adult Elementary

Debbie Taylor and Riverdale's Ultimo
Natasha Brown and Dageraad Zilver

Adult EM

Heike Harvey and Mossandi Royce
Jocelyn Constant and Domino

Medium

Catherine Berning and Coeur De Leon
Natasha Brown and Ascot Unify

Junior Medium

Kirsten Wing and Hakahana Angus Og

Prix St George

Calet De Vos and Rob
Catherine Berning and Livius

Intermediate I

Colleen Morris and Alladin
Catherine Berning and Karnival Klapper

Pony Rider Elementary

Kirsten Wing and Bridesdale Raindragon
Ashley Honeywill and Jebel Bumble Boogie

Victor Ludorums and Trophies SANEF Results KZN

The Dynamic Dressage Preliminary Championship
Trophy (Donated by Adriaan Van Wyk):-

Davenport Piccadilli & Heike Harvey

The Advanced Floating Trophy:-

Alladin VDK & Colleen Morris

The Just Woody Medium Floating Trophy:

Coeur De leon & Catherine Berning

The SANEF Prix St Georges Floating Trophy:

Livius & Catherine Berning

The Icarus A SANEF Junior Medium Trophy:

Hakahana Angus Og & Kirsten Wing

The Actor Elementary-Medium Floating Trophy:

Mossandi Royce & Heike Harvey

The Swan & Rail Floating Trophy for the
highest percentage obtained in any class:

Eagles Watersport

The Dynamic Dressage Floating Trophy –
Novice Victor Ludorum

Juba & Ursula Oberholzer

The Gillian Fisher Floating Trophy :

Juba & Ursula Oberholzer

The Evening Star Victor Ludorum Floating Trophy: Mossandi Royce & Heike Harvey

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU.



FEEDBACK and NEWS and LETTERS

How to get better marks in your dressage test!

Feed back from Judy Vertue, National Judge, Gauteng from judging at the KZN SANEF Competition Warm Up Classes 14-16 May 2010

Way of going - In the Prelim class there were some really lovely horses, with lots of potential, with the majority of them appearing to have a very nice 'mind' and working in harmony with the rider. But there were a substantial number of horses, who were just not MOVING FORWARD enough in the trot, which was often laboured and lacking energy. We want to see a horse moving forward positively with a spring in his step moving actively on the hind leg.

Know your test! - On coming round the arena to report to me, one competitor asked if they could just have a few extra minutes before they went in, in order to 'run through the test in their mind' once more. Another said could I give her a few moments as she just wanted to run through the test again with her caller as her caller had only just got the test!! In both instances, I replied that unfortunately 'no', as I have an obligation as a judge to ensure that the next person in the class is able to ride on her riding time and I cannot delay the class for these reasons. By making these requests/comments, the competitor is unfortunately giving the judge the impression, even before they enter the arena, that they are not sure what they are doing!!! It is the competitor's responsibility to have the correct test, to learn it, and to organise their callers! Don't give the judge a negative impression even before you start even if you are very nervous!!

Performance of movements - The judge is first and foremost always looking at the 'way of going' of the horse according to the training scale. However many competitors missed out on the 'extra mark' due to inaccurate riding.

Serpentine - Many 'prelim' competitors did not ride a three loop serpentine correctly. Competitors rode deep into the corners, stayed on the track for up to 6 strides, presenting a 'square', rather than three equal half 20m circles!

Straightness - The Elementary Test 6 has three movements half circle 10m BX / XE, two in trot and one in canter with simple change. Many were not straight on the centre line and also had unequal half circles in the trot work. The canter into simple change at X was often not completed to the centre line, with the horse walking on a curved line. Clear walk, 3 to 5 strides must be shown.

Movement 11 in Elementary 6 - Some competitors had unfortunately the wrong 'idea' about this movement, putting the hands low and down and letting the horse stretch forward/downwards. Competitors tend to read the movement instruction, but not the 'directive' next to it, which is the judge's guidelines. The whole objective of this movement is for the horse to remain in the same frame (FEI use the word 'attitude'), to be well balanced on his hindquarters and not 'held up' by the riders hands but to be in self-carriage. And so the directive says 'Steadiness, rhythm & maintenance of the same attitude and balance while giving hands; reins should be clearly loose.) This can only be achieved by the rider putting both hands up towards the horse's ears and making the rein loose as per the directive.

Turn on the haunches in Elementary 6 - For younger or less experienced horses that are not yet able to show collected walk, the **turn on the haunches** is an exercise to prepare the horse for collection. The turn on the haunches is executed out of medium walk, prepared by half halts to shorten the steps a little and to improve the horse's ability to bend the joints of the hindquarters. The turn on the haunches can be executed on a larger radius (approx 1/2 m) than the pirouette in walk, but the requirements of the movement are the same. The aim is to demonstrate the willingness of the horse to turn around the inside hind leg slightly bent in

the direction of the turn, **whilst maintaining the activity and the clear four beat rhythm of the walk.**

Observations in judging this movement

- Trying to make it much too small, resulting in the horse 'sticking', losing his balance and then stepping wide.
- No clear preparation, just carrying on walking a very large half circle.
- Incorrect bend, with rider sitting to the outside

Dress Code - This is an elegant sport. Do justice to yourself and your horse by having clean tack, clean numnahs, polished boots – this costs nothing!! And hair neatly contained in a hair net (minimal cost!!). Also be aware of the dress code for this discipline, black shirts are not allowed!

Where to find out more? - There are some riders who may not have a full time dedicated dressage instructor so it is up to you, the rider, to find out more about the rules, the movements, the dress code etc. These are all in the SANEF Dressage Rules, which you can find on **the SANEF Web Site, www.horsesport.org.za**, and then selecting Dressage and then Rules. All dressage riders should have a copy of the rules.

If you want to know even more, every judge in South Africa also has a copy of the **FEI Dressage Handbook, Guidelines for Judging**. Talk to one of your local judges if you want to see a copy. This is an invaluable 'bible', describing not only the general principles of dressage, and the training scale, but also a description of all the movements and the scoring criteria from 0 to 10. This can be purchased directly from FEI. Go onto their website, **www.horsesport.org**, select MEDIA, then PUBLICATIONS, and then from menu on left select OTHER, and it will allow you to click on the title and give you an order form. Price Swiss Francs 40. Check also whether SANEF has any spare copies in their office as at one time, they did order bulk supplies.

Hope this is all useful 'homework' and I look forward to my next trip to KZN!

FEEDBACK ON SEMINAR ON EQUINE LAMENESS

On Wednesday evening (26 May 2010) we were treated to a brilliant Lameness seminar by Dr's John Mc Veigh and Carol Furness from the Baker and Mc Veigh veterinary practice. The seminar was held at the beautiful Summerveld racetrack clubhouse at a very low cost of R50 and included snacks and refreshments including some delicious estate wine. It was extremely informative and covered topics such as the pre-purchase examination, which really stressed the importance of having radiographs taken, as no matter if the horse costs nothing to buy, one still pays the same to keep it and would not want to get emotionally involved in a horse that has serious problems.

We had the privilege to go through slides of different causes of lameness such as OCD, navicular syndrome, fractures in the foot as well as laminitis and many more. It was also shown how important the veterinary radiographs need to be as some faults can be hidden by the angle of the radiograph taken. The second part of the seminar was loads of fun and John made sure we all got the basics right- so from now on we should all be able to detect unsoundness in the legs, which leg it is and what grade it is. 1/10 being a very slight lameness to 10/10 very serious lameness. This was taught to us by watching many different

video clips of different horses trotting out and then together with the vets we had to point out the head nodding and which leg was lame and how serious it was.

For those unable to attend here is some valuable information you should know. Lameness occurs when a horse develops a limp - detected by nodding of the head when trotting. Lameness is easiest to see when the horse is trotting on a flat solid surface. If the pain is in just one leg, you'll notice that the horse is not moving evenly. The severity can range from a barely noticeable difference in the stride (1/10) to a reluctance to put any weight on one foot (5/5) or move forward.

A lame horse will often throw his head in rhythm with his stride. If the horse is sore in a front leg, he will throw his head up as the sore side touches the ground but in a slight lameness one might not notice this, so it is better to determine the lameness by the horse nodding down when the sound side touches the ground. If the lameness is in a back leg, he will have a steady head, but his hip will dip on the unsound leg when trotting as the horse will lean onto the sound side. He may also drag his toe and/or have a shorter stride on the sore side.

If the horse hurts in both front feet and/or all four feet, you won't notice a limp. Instead, he will keep his head and tail up and move with a short, stumbling stride (this was also noticed in a video whereby the little horse was extremely unhappy with its large rider). Sometimes if the lameness is in the front and the hind- which can easily occur as the horse would have shifted all his weight off the hind and on to the front. In this case you will notice the head nods the same time the sore hind leg touches the ground.

While an observant horse owner can recognize that a horse is lame, pinpointing the exact site and cause of the lameness is usually a job for a veterinarian. Listen to your horse through his movement- they will usually tell you if they are experiencing pain- if your horse is acting out of the ordinary i.e. stopping at jumps, not wanting to go forward or tripping all the time- don't beat him up- have him checked by your vet as you might find he is in pain. *Shona Reeves*

Thank you to Dr John McVeigh and Dr Carol Furness for giving up valuable time to run the seminar on lameness in horses. The seminar was informative and interactive. The positive feedback has been fantastic.



NEW DRESSAGE SIGN AT SHONGWENI

The KZN Dressage Committee, on behalf of all of its members, would like to thank the Western Shop for the sponsorship of the new sign found at the entrance to the Dressage arena field.