

Centre Line



KZN DRESSAGE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

Chairman: Sue Horne

Kzn Dressage Website – www.kzndressage.co.za

Upcoming Events

SA Champs Warm-up – September 5th & 6th 2009

SA Champs in Kimberley - **23 to 27 September 2009**, Entries close **19/08/2009**.

HITS, TIPS AND COMMENTS – COLLECTION (Engagement and Balance)

This article is aimed at our Junior and Pony Novice Riders who are working hard to reach elementary level. For those of you who are getting comments on your tests saying 'more engagement needed' I hope that this article will be of some assistance.

Imagine that there are two circles. When the horse is long, not gathered but is on the aids, the circles are apart. One circle surrounding the forehead and second circle around the hindquarters. Your job as the rider is to close these circles together:

The first circle comes up through the rider's legs, over the wither, down the front of the horse's face, down under the horse's forelegs and back up through the sole of the rider's boot; and the second circle coming up through the rider's legs, over the horse's rump or quarters, down under the horse's hind legs and back up through the sole of the rider's boots.

The hindquarters rotating under the horse's balance, driving forwards and the forehead coming upwards, lightening the horse's shoulders and leaving the forelegs freedom to swing with extravagance and without effort.

If both hind legs step further forward under the horse's quarters with bent haunches, they will carry more weight and then propel the horse's body powerfully forwards and upwards. Because the center of energy is shifted back and the quarters carry more

weight, the forehead is lightened and elevated, the horse's neck is arched and elegant and the back round and soft. The feeling you should get as the rider is that, once you thought you owned a Volkswagen but now you ride a Rolls Royce.

DRESSAGE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Kzn Dressage committee have introduced a couple of initiatives over the past few months. They are the "Reach for the Stars" / "Reach for the Universe" programme and the "Good Sportsmanship Medallion" and "Volunteer Recognition award".

Reach for the Stars" / "Reach for the Universe

The "Reach for the Stars" programme is aimed at our Pony Riders whilst the "Reach for the Universe" is aimed at our Junior Riders.

There are three recognition awards these being BRONZE, SILVER and GOLD. The competitors are presented with a certificate and a pin, in the form of a star for pony riders and a horse's head for juniors.

The recognition is as follows:

BRONZE for upgrading from Novice to Elementary Level.

SILVER for upgrading from Elementary Level to Elementary-Medium Level

GOLD for upgrading from Elementary-Medium to Medium Level.

These pins are worn on the competitor's riding jacket in recognition of their achievements. Competitors are requested to notify the KZN Dressage Committee as soon as they upgrade from one level to the next in order that the necessary recognition and awards can be arranged. Please email Nadine Parker on parkerqm@sos.co.za or advise any of the dressage committee members timeously.

Good Sportsmanship Medallion

This is awarded to any dressage participant for outstanding sportsmanship deserving of recognition. Members are encouraged to advise the Dressage Committee of people and incidents where they believe a person deserves recognition.

Volunteer Recognition Award

We have many people who willingly give of their time in the best interest of KZN Dressage. The KZN Dressage Committee would like to recognise this dedication to dressage in the form of a Volunteer Recognition Award. Members are asked to put forward nominations for this award, nomination forms can be found on the KZN Dressage Website. Please members, these people do so much for us, let us take the time to return the favour. Let us have your nominations.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: “In my last dressage test I was marked down quite harshly in a few movements with a comment that my horse was “unlevel”. He was not lame or unsound so I am not sure what the problem actually was?”

Answer: The definition of the term “unlevel” as per the FEI Dressage Handbook is “Unequal height of steps or bearing of weight on both sides”. The horse therefore appears lame at times or possibly all the time. There may be various reasons for this. In some instances the horse lacks strength especially in the hind legs. In other instances it may be a lack of balance. In both cases correct exercises and training can improve or cure the problem. It is always best to consult with a vet to make absolutely sure that there is no discomfort anywhere. Also remember that occasionally lameness may only show intermittently and sometimes never on a straight line. *Nadine Parker*

CONGRATULATIONS

“Reach For the Stars” recognition awards are presented to the following riders:

BRONZE STAR – for upgrading from Novice to Elementary level
Shannon Fogden Keith Toucher Cheryl Jacobs
Paige Van Rensburg Ashley Honeywill Kirsten Wing
Natasha Rothman



SILVER STAR was awarded to Kirsten Wing and Keith Toucher for upgrading from Elementary to Elementary-Medium level

“Reach For The Universe” recognition awards are presented to the following Junior Riders:

BRONZE to Kate Woolley, Jessica Hodgkinson and Emma Brown for upgrading from Novice to Elementary Level

SILVER to Maggie-Mae Hosking, Dominique Tardin, Mariska Botha. Megan Berning for upgrading from Elementary to Elementary-Medium.

GOLD to Dominique Tardin for upgrading from Elementary Medium to Medium.

WELL DONE TO YOU ALL.

Good Sportsmanship Medallion presented to Carey Grey by Dominique Tardin, for willingly and thoughtfully coming to the assistance of a fellow competitor at the risk of ruining her own competition performance. Thank you Carey for being a good ambassador to the sport and making it possible for Anthea Coullie to compete in the disabled class Grade 1a Individual Championships at the KZN Dressage Championships.



KZN Championships - Victor Ludorums

NOVICE (Adults)	-	Natasha Brown and Dageraad Zilver
NOVICE (Junior)	-	Megan Berning and Washington
ELEMENTARY (Adults)	-	Jocelyn Constant and Domino
ELEMENTARY (Junior)	-	Kirsten Wing and Hakahana Angus Og
ELEMENTARY-MEDIUM	-	Dominique Tardin and Anky's Wenzel R
MEDIUM	-	Cathy Askitis and Brandbach Algrecó
ADVANCED	-	Colleen Morris and Dior
ADVANCED FEI	-	Colleen Morris and Othello
PONY RIDER NOVICE	-	Amber Watson and Midnight Sambuca
PONY RIDER ELEMENTARY	-	Ashley Honeywill and Jebel Bumble Boogie
YOUNG RIDERS	-	Dominique Tardin and Anky's Wenzel R



FEEDBACK and NEWS and LETTERS

Feedback

The Pony Riders KZN Dressage Team for 2009 made up of Keith Toucher, Kirsten Wing, Elizabeth Pappas and Ashley Honeywill won the South African Pony Riders Provincial Championships. Well done to you all, KZN has good reason to very proud of our up and coming and very promising riders.

Report on the Liz Day Clinic by Cathy Askitis

The understanding of theory and its translation into a physical act is one of the most fascinating challenges of dressage – one which Liz certainly mastered in her seminar.

Everyone sees things differently and explains them in their own unique words: we need to think no further than the half halt to see how many different ways people view this concept. Liz shared her training methods and ideologies with regard to training and judging. Her direct communication style, professionalism and touches of humour conveyed her ideas clearly and in an easily understandable manner. She took time to explain concepts and deal with questions which provided the audience with many learning opportunities.

Liz worked with a fantastic range of horses from Prelim to Advanced. Her systematic approach to training was applicable to all levels – “Is there a rhythm?”; “How supple is the horse?”; “Is the horse offering a contact or is the rider taking the contact?”; “What about impulsion, straightness and collection?” She further addressed some contradictions between riding and judging: e.g. depending on where one sits, a leg yield can look like a shoulder in, and a shoulder in can look like it really didn't happen, as well as contradictions in training methods: e.g. the use of big flexions. Liz dealt with all of this in a very informative, clear and non-dogmatic fashion.

The brilliance of the seminar, in my opinion and that of my pupils who were present, lay in Liz's explanation of what is acceptable for each level. Her application of the training scales to each level, her blend of Judging (giving marks to movements) with training (finding techniques for improving marks) was greatly appreciated as was her explanation of how much more is expected of the next level.

I certainly feel that there was something for everyone in this seminar, and to all the missed it, be sure to catch the next one, which I hope will be soon

Thank You

The Kzn Dressage Committee would like to thank the many people who have contributed to the paving and gardens at the Durban Shongweni Dressage Arena's, it is not possible to name you all but thank you to all the competitors, supports, spectators, caterers and friends of the sport who so kindly made donation.

The Kzn Dressage Committee would like to thank the Durban Shongweni Club for putting in the tap at the paved area so promptly and before the KZN Dressage Championships.

NOTE

Please check the KZN Website – all results are published on the site along with other interesting information.

Please remember the new rule of passing is LEFT shoulder to LEFT shoulder.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE:

Competitors are advised that in future all prize money, gifts and rosettes that are not collected at the shows will be forfeited. Gifts and Rosettes will be returned back into stock and prize money will be put back in the KZN Dressage Bank Account.

Competitors are also asked to note that in future, any dressage tests not collected by the end of the show will be destroyed.

New **National Dressage Rules** have been published and are effective from the 1st August 2009. They can be downloaded from the KZN Dressage website.

YELLOW CARDS

Competitors are advised that with immediate effect, the Yellow Card System will be enforced; the names of competitors who are yellow carded will be published in the monthly news letter. The onus is on competitors and responsible persons to ensure that they are familiar with SANEF general rules and regulations. These are available on the SANEF website.

The yellow card may be issued by a SANEF Representative, stewards or Ground Jury (judges are considered part of the ground jury).

Lets hope that there is never any cause for a yellow card to be issued in KZN.