

Centre Line



KZN DRESSAGE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009

Chairman: Sue Horne

Kzn Dressage Website – www.kzndressage.co.za

Upcoming Events

KZN Dressage Championships:- 24 – 26 July 2009 at DSC : We hope to see the 43 Juniors that entered Dressage at Interschools in June at the Championships.

Clinic with Bev Pendock – 27 June 2009 at the REA, 9.00am – 1pm, R50 pp

Dual Seminar with Liz Day and Adrian Van Wyk – 5th July 2009 at REA, R70 pp. Liz Day (FEI Candidate Judge) will discuss the interaction between judging and training - What the judge is looking for at different levels. Andriaan (National Dressage Rider and Trainer) will provide us with a very practical Musical Kur Workshop.

HITS, TIPS AND COMMENTS

DO YOU FIND FLAT WORK BORING??????? Most young riders find flat work boring simply because most of our instructors are unable to pass on the knowledge and technique required to open up THE MOST EXCITING AND REWARDING discipline in equestrian sport. DRESSAGE! But lets first start with basic schooling which will not only make your horse far more enjoyable to ride but will undoubtedly enhance your performance in any discipline you compete in. By doing flat work, with the correct attention to detail, you will improve your horses balance, suppleness and gymnastic ability. Flat work is the gymnastising of your horse which not only improves his muscle tone, obedience, response time and performance but turns him into a 'HAPPY ALTHLETE'. Riding around for an hour without improving your horses way of going is only putting wear and tear on his legs and I can assure you that he will be more bored than you are! Most horses that show a lot of temperament and are unruly are that way because they are not getting the correct signals from their

rider, and in their effort to please tend to anticipate what is required and normally they are totally incorrect! This leads to a frustrated rider and a very confused horse who through lack of confidence will develop certain types of resistance and evasions. It is a fact that you can make a hot horse calm and a lazy horse much sharper through basic schooling. What have you to lose? So why not at least try! You do not need a high powered warmblood to compete successfully. There are a number of those high powered warm bloods that are not ridden to there best potential and are therefore very beatable. As long as your horse is sound and regular you will be truly amazed by what you can achieve by producing your horse as correctly as possible and to ride accurately. It is not that difficult to get a 6, and if your training is correct and established with your horse showing himself to be a supple and obedient athlete that shows "throughness" according to his ability, it is almost impossible not to get a 6 at the lower levels and there you already have your 60%. There is a lack of understanding by novice competitors as to what is required to get a 6. Just because you are in a forward going trot or steady relaxed canter, does not mean that you are entitled to a 6. Be aware what the requirements are to fulfill that mark other than relaxation and accuracy. If you find the right thoroughbred and have the correct training and schooling you too could be capable of the success that Martine Lambert achieved on her TB Gelding DONATELLO. She won the SA Championships several times in a row as well as the FEI Prix St George, not only in SA but internationally within our group! The best way to learn is by attending seminars and asking questions. Get your parents and your instructor to go with you. You will not only have an enjoyable day, but will come home motivated, inspired and more knowledgeable. GOOD LUCK. SEE YOU THERE!

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: "I cannot find anything in the Dressage Rules that says a horse has to be plaited for affiliated competitions. Does the horse have to be plaited and are you supposed to plait the mane, forelock and Tail?"

Answer: There is nowhere in the rules that says the horse HAS to be plaited but it is expected anyway. The forelock and tail do not have to be plaited and it is better not to plait the tail. *Sue Horne*

CONGRATULATIONS

The following horses and Pony Riders have been selected for the KZN Dressage Team.

Keith Toucher - Rockyvale Bojangles
Kirsten Wing - Foresyte Fortune Finder and Bridesdale Rain Dragon
Elizabeth Pappas - The Sorcerer
Ashley Honywell - Jebel Bumble Boogie and Highbernim Gadabout

Chef D'equipe - Reeva Wing



Well done to you and your amazing ponies, we wish you great success.

FEEDBACK and NEWS

Feedback from Members

SANEF Show

"To Sue and every body who was involved in organizing the show 29 May 2009. Thank you so much. We really appreciate it. Thank you for lovely prizes. They were fantastic". Lots of Love Kerry Noble and Bright Lass

Thank you for a lovely show. The atmosphere and surrounds were really wonderful. Very well done to the dressage committee. Vicky Mostert

"I would just like to congratulate Sue Horne personally, and all the others on your Committee for the outstanding job you have done at the last couple of shows! The SANEF in particular is a major undertaking, and for you to ride as you did, organise things and remain so cool, calm and collected, was a minor miracle! Well done!! The arenas, as well as all the "landscaping" around, looked so attractive . A lot of thought and effort had obviously gone into everything from the programme and rosettes, to the prizes and catering. All in all, a lovely Show with a friendly, warm atmosphere... And one which I'm sure everyone, including myself, must have enjoyed and appreciated!" Kind Regards, Anita Adendorff

"It was a pleasure to attend the recent SANEF show held by the KZN Dressage Committee at the Durban Shongweni Club. It was very evident that the committee has been working extremely hard on improving facilities and the impact of having the one area paved and the colourful flowers around the arena was tremendous. The atmosphere was reminiscent of years gone by with the relaxed and friendly camaraderie. The odd glass of wine and sherry available, no doubt helped create the ambiance of enjoyment that we all so enjoy. I was also very delighted to see for the first time the Para Dressage and the quality of horses being used - it was a real eye opener and I would like to congratulate those involved. Another thing I found very uplifting was the warm and friendly attitude of the para riders and the parents, friends, and instructors involved. They took time out to explain to me a little of how these courageous young athletes have grown in confidence through being involved with the horses and how it has given them that very important element of independence which we all so cherish. Well done! Thanks once again to our hard working committee. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed". **Bev Pendock**

Thank You

The committee would like to thank all the scribes, auditors, bit checkers, caterers, runners and other helpers who assisted us at the show. We would also like to thank Di Compaan who was the show secretary over the three days and to Jenny Dempsey the show announcer for the three days.



Thank You to our Chairperson, Sue Horne, who not only was the show director but also rode in the Prelim and Intermediate 1 classes over the three days of the KZN S.A.N.E.F. Dressage Championships. Throughout the show she was calm, cool, 'collected' and ensured that problems were dealt with swiftly and efficiently. Her organisational abilities inspired confidence not only in the committee but in all those who worked in the background,

making it an extremely successful, well-run event. This bodes well for future shows and for the vision for Dressage during 2009.

******* SANEF NOTICE *******

The Dressage Technical Committee would like to share the following information with all equestrian enthusiasts in South Africa. Please can you distribute this to ALL your members, and publish on your websites and in your newsletters? The new rule book will come into effect on 1 August 2009 (except for the pass-left-to-left guideline which comes into effect immediately), but the Committee would like to make everyone aware of the changes already now. The things bound to have the biggest impact on riders on a national scale are the following :

- 1) 2009 Dressage Tests: Many dressage tests have been changed & the format altered. Please see the SANEF website for the latest tests.
- 2) Whip length: 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 shows. Only the rider when riding, walking, leading or lungeing a horse (standard length lunge whip allowed), is allowed to carry a whip (maximum 120 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.
- 3) Bridle numbers: A number will be allocated for each show to each horse by the show organiser. Each horse must keep the same identification number allocated by the organisers on arrival and throughout the competition. This number is to be worn on the left side of the horse's bridle or halter and the *number display device* to be provided by the rider. It is compulsory that the number be worn by the horse while actively competing and at any time while working in the exercise and schooling areas or being walked in hand so that they can be identified by stewards and officials. Failure to display the number incurs a first warning and in the case of repeated offence a fine may be imposed.
- 4) Warm-up etiquette: These guidelines will be published as an addendum in the rule-book. **With immediate effect**, all riders are to pass left-shoulder-to-left-shoulder in all warm-up areas (similar to all international events). The etiquette guidelines are to be displayed outside the entrance to all warm-up areas. It is advisable for clubs, riding schools and stable yards to have the "pass left shoulder to left shoulder" printed and displayed clearly at all riding arenas, in order to help with the cross-over to the internationally agreed system.

ETIQUETTE FOR RIDING ARENA & WARMING UP AT SHOWS

- Pass left shoulder to left shoulder (thus, a horse on the left-rein on the track has right of way).
- A slower moving horse (walking) keeps to the inside track. When walking or halting, do so 5m off the track in order to keep the track clear for faster moving horses (i.e. cantering horses).
 - A horse doing lateral work has right of way (shoulder-in, leg-yield, half-pass).
- A horse doing more advanced work (tempi changes, extended trot, etc.) has right of way. If you would like to use the diagonal or centre-line, please announce it in a clear voice (ie "Diagonal please !").
 - Be aware of stallions, they can be unpredictable and should be treated with respect.
 - Be aware of your fellow riders and ride considerately:

- *Try not to stop suddenly and don't deliberately cut across someone else's path.*
 - *Don't obstruct the entrance/exit, or the track.*
- *When entering the riding arena,, make sure you do not get in the way of approaching riders. If the entrance or view to the entire arena is obstructed , announce in a clear voice "Door please", before entering, in order to prevent accidents.*
- *Give riders ample room when passing them so they don't get pushed up against the railings of the arena, whether passing from behind or in front .*
 - *When passing, make sure your whip does not inadvertently touch the other horse*
 - *Don't gallop past riders in the arena OR ANYWHERE ON THE GROUNDS.*
- *If you have a fractious or young horse, use the riding and lungeing arenas to settle him but not at the expense of everyone else's safety. Also, if you see a young or fractious horse, try not to upset them.*
- *Instruction from the side of the arena is allowed, but not at the expense of distracting other riders or to the detriment of the image of our sport - instructors and riders are encouraged to use microphones and earpieces in order to minimise distractions.*
- *Make sure what tack is allowed in the warm-up ring at shows, as it can lead to elimination (eg. Running reins , whips longer than 120cm, helpers carrying whips).*
- *The warm-up arena steward's duty is to protect the sport & ensure safe and fair warm-up experience for all competitors. His decision is final: if you are reprimanded or warned, obey graciously and learn from your mistakes.*