

Centre Line



KZN DRESSAGE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009

Chairman: Sue Horne

Kzn Dressage Website – www.kzndressage.co.za

Future Shows

KZN Dressage Committee 4th and 5th April at DSC – entries close 14 March 2009.
Watch for the Training show 25th April at DSC – entries close 14 April 2009.

NOTICE

On February 26th, I had 6 Saddles stolen from my yard in Harrison Valley. Please keep your eyes open for anybody selling dressage saddles. There were 2 county dressage saddles, 2 Passier Grand Gilbert, 1 Bates Isabel and 1 Frank Baines. All in very good condition (At least when they left) If you have any information please Phone Sue Horne - 0824488257

Show Results 14th /15th February

The first affiliated dressage show of 2009 got off to a good start. The results are as follows:

Adult & Junior Advanced 2: 1st Jowat Adhesive's Kings Image – Ann Pritchard
Adult & Junior Prix St George (2009): 1st Ferragamo – Vicky Mostert. **Adult & Junior Advanced 3:** 1st F.D. Ref's Asterix – Sue Horne. **Adult & Junior Advanced 6:** 1st Lambada – Anton Mostert. **Adult Elementary 1:** 1st Highlander – Kirsten Wing; 2nd Tess – Jenny Rencken. **Adult Elementary 2:** 1st Tess – Jenny Rencken; 2nd Highlander – Kirsten Wing. **Adult Elementary-Medium 1:** 1st Mossandi Rendezvous – Pam Crompton. **Adult Elementary- Medium 2:** 1st Dekarda – Vicky Mostert; 2nd Ballachu – Jill Fox. **Adult Medium 1;** 1st Ballachu – Jill Fox **Adult Medium 2:** 1st Dekarda – Vicky Mostert. **Adult Novice 2:** 1st Degeraad Zilver – Natasha Brown ; 2nd Nissan Qui to Heaven – Heidi Wood; **Adult Novice 3:** 1st M.O.T Saint John – Genevieve Mc Neill; 2nd Dageraad Zilver – Natasha Brown. **Adult Novice 5:** 1st Mossandi Rienne Vas Plus – Pam Crompton; 2nd Quantum Leap – Heidi Wood; **Adult Novice 6:** Mossandi Rienne Vas Plus – Pam Crompton; 2nd Quantum Leap; **Pony Riders Elementary 1:** 1st Jebel Bumble Boogie – Ashley Honyvill; 2nd The Sorcerer – Emily Davies; **Pony Rider Elementary 2:** 1st Bridesdale Raindragon –

Kirsten Wing; 2nd Jebel Bumble Boogie – Ashley Honyvill; **Pony Rider Elementary-Medium 1:** 1st Bridesdale Raindragon – Kirsten Wing; 2nd Foresyte Fortune Finder – Kirsten Wing. **Pony Rider Elementary-Medium 2:** 1st Foresyte Fortune Finder – Kirsten Wing. **Pony Rider Novice 1:** 1st Pablo Picasso – Jennifer Barrett; 2nd Midnight Sambuca – Amber Watson. **Pony Rider Novice 2:** 1st Midnight Sambuca – Amber Watson; 2nd Pablo Picasso – Jennifer Barrett. **Disabled Grade II :** 1st Mountheys Choc Drop – Anthony Dawson. **Junior Elementary 1:** 1st Wenzel R – Dominique Tardin. **Junior Elementary 2:** 1st Wenzel R – Dominique Tardin. **Junior Medium 1:** Don De Niro – Dominique Tardin. **Junior Novice 2:** 1st Cardini – Carey Grey; 2nd Joie De Vivre – Savannah Wilmot. **Junior Novice 3:** 1st Joie De Vivre – Savannah Wilmot; 2nd Cardini – Carey Grey. **Junior Novice 5:** – 1st The Guardian – Kathleen Edmonds. **Junior Novice 6:** 1st Midgard Trick-a-Treat – Kate Woolley. **WalkTrot 1:** 1st Drive to Dream – Kirsten Bailey; 2nd Lucky – Lindani Mshengu. **Walk Trot 2:** 1st Drive to Dream – Kirsten Bailey, 2nd My Dream Abigail – Jenny Young.

The Committee would like to thank our hard working volunteers, without whom these shows would not be possible - Show Director DI COMPAAN. Most valuable and ever enduring announcer JENNY DEMPSEY who brings humour and of course the wine to our shows. Our ever loyal scribes – JENNIFER HAMMOND, JENNY RUSSELL, RECHAY GREY and AURELIA GOLDING To the Judges that jumped in to help scribe the higher grades, PAM MULDER, ELAINE STRAVROU, SALLY McGRATH and BRONWYN BALLION. To our new scribes that have come to our assistance, RENE and ANDREW HOFFMANN-JENSEN, KERRY FERGURSON, CHRIS and MICHELE BAMBER. To the auditors ALTA LIGHTFOOT, JANICE SELICK. To our judges and to anyone whose name has not been included, we apologise, it is not intentional and we do appreciate your help. We hope that we can rely on your on going support through the year.

We are looking for volunteers who would be prepared to act as the show hostess, taking care of the food, “thank you gifts” and money and officials. If you are interested please email Nadine on parkergm@sos.co.za

HITS, TIPS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR JUDGES

This month I asked one of our Judges, Gill Pater, to write an article addressing our new rider's to dressage and the Junior and children lower grade riders and to give these riders a few points to remember.

Every year as judges, we see anxious faces and wide-eyed ponies or horses appearing in the vicinity of dressage arenas. Some riders are mounted on old "school masters" who aren't phased by the P.A, cyclists or cars appearing briefly behind judges boxes, other horses galloping across the arena and people popping up in bushes now and then. Others are battling bravely on very novice ponies/horses who are determined not to enter at A or to leave by the same route, are bent in every direction but the one in which they are supposedly meant to be travelling at a sedate trot and are inclined to take off at great speed in lengthened canter movements. All this can really test your judges' ability to assess a horse's paces,

impulsion, submission etc! Patience is certainly required for the unexpected happenings that can occur in arenas, and ingenuity and creativity in drawing up acceptable remarks by your judge at the end of the test!

A few points for you as the rider to remember are -

Judges aren't there to destroy your confidence and really enjoy giving higher marks when they are deserved. You have presented your horse and yourself for assessment and should accept the comments made by the judge on what he/she saw on that day. These remarks can be of help to your instructor as well when planning your next foray into the arena.

A nicely turned out rider and horse creates a good impression immediately. Horses/ponies with a plaited mane, well-groomed coat and untangled tail (with no bedding or stalks of hay visible of course!), nicely trimmed or shod feet, clean tack and a well-fitted saddle always make the judge take a second look as you trot sedately around the arena and present yourself. Although you may be nervous, try to listen for the bell or whistle – it's not great being eliminated before you have even halted at X. Riders should look neat with gloves, clean jodhpurs or breeches, hair neatly secured and shiny boots. Remember that the length of whip allowed is now 1.20m (including the tassel) for juniors and adults and 1m for pony riders. Anything that is carried higher than the rider's thigh or looks rather like a fishing rod is generally not the correct length whip! Diagrams of bits and nosebands which are allowed under SANEF rules can be found in the Dressage Rule Book 2006. These may be purchased at the KZNHS office or are available on the SANEF website.

Once you are in the arena and well on your way after turning at C, the most important things to remember are RHYTHM and FREEDOM in all the paces. In addition, judges like horses and ponies which are SUPPLE and have IMPULSION. Impulsion doesn't mean one has to ride faster, it just is more power in the pace through your horse engaging behind and being able to lengthen or shorten the stride as required while staying in rhythm. If you feel you are holding your horse/pony up to stop him falling on his nose, he is definitely not light in front or in balance, as he is not keeping his hocks under him. We do understand as judges that children sometimes find it difficult to control their ponies and are fortunate to stay in the arena at all!

Try to make use of the arena by riding the correct size circles and being accurate at markers. A free walk means the horse/pony walks with purpose across the arena, not weaving, ambling or stopping to graze en route. Memorise your test and go over it every night in your head. Don't blame your caller when you make a mistake!. Above all, find help from a qualified person in training your horse/pony and follow the correct stages of training. Asking too much from a young horse will always show up as tension and resistance and this will be reflected in the contact and submission marks which are awarded by the judge at the end of the test. Whatever happens during the test don't pull your horses back teeth out or saw him in the mouth - its not going to create a good impression with the judges. Do smile when saluting, and

remember to thank the organisers before you load up and go home. Collect your test sheets and see what you can work on to improve your tests before the next show. If you want to discuss anything with the judge you are welcome to do so. Good luck for 2009, and look after your lovely equines as they are indeed special creatures. *Gill Pater*

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: "I am really having trouble with the extended / lengthen trot in my tests and it's this movement that pulls my marks down the most. I get remarks like 'hurried', 'rushed' or 'on the forehand' and sometimes a combination of these. What are the judges looking for and what do they mean by these comments. How can I change this and also is there a difference between an extended and lengthen trot and if so what is it?"

Answer: "Only novice horses are asked to lengthen the trot - more experienced horses are asked for a medium and extended trot. The differences are explained well in the dressage rule book. A working trot is a pace between collected and medium trot when the horse is not yet developed enough physically, or ready for collected paces. Your horse is asked to stay in rhythm (regularity of the pace) with good hock action, be on the bit and have impulsion (power). A lengthened trot means the horse is still working over the back with good hock action, staying in balance and is able to lengthen his strides to cover more ground without hurrying. The preparation in working trot on the short side of the arena before changing rein and lengthening is vital and that is something your instructor should be able to help you with. An extended trot is when the horse covers as much ground as possible but may lengthen the topline a little while remaining in balance with great impulsion from the hindquarters. Novice horses should not be asked to perform this movement." *Gill Pater*

Question: "How do the judges tell that my horse is on the forehand and what does this mean? Can I fix this problem or is my horse's conformation the problem?"

Answer To briefly answer the question in regards to your horse being on the forehand. From a judges' perspective, there are various "signs" and things that we look for, the one being that the horse is basically in a good balance and in self carriage. If he is tending to carry a lot more weight on his front legs and to "pull" himself along, rather than "push" himself from behind, the whole frame tends to tip forward and down, often onto the riders hands, giving him a rather downhill appearance. Then, instead of displaying lightness and mobility through the shoulders, the opposite happens. He looks heavy in front and the poll too, ceases to be the highest point. Conformation can also play a part in producing this tendency, for instance a horse heavily set in front, or with a low set neck coming rather flat out of the wither, coupled with weak quarters makes it that much more difficult for the horse to adopt the correct frame and use his body as we would like. Correct training, including lots of transitions, and the building up of the right muscles can, over time, improve the overall way of going until finally, the weight is carried more on

the hind legs and the horse comes "off the forehand and moves more uphill. *Anita Adendorff*

Email your questions to parkergm@sos.co.za . We will not print your name without your permission. .

