

Para-Dressage Newsletter

Nov / Dec 2009

From: Wendy Moller (Athlete Rep)

Dear Riders, Coaches, Parents and Judges

SA National Championships FEI 3* qualifier:

Wow what an amazing experience.... For the first time we as riders had the opportunity to not just compete at an FEI event, but also to qualify for the World Equestrian Games next year in Kentucky, at the same time we also held our first Inter provincial event at the SA Para dressage championships.

The stables opened on the 19th of Nov, and the Gauteng horses were first to arrive, followed by KZN, WP and FS. Great camaraderie was present amongst all riders, irrelevant of grade or province. As the competition days drew closer, tension started mounting, but still you could always find a smile, and support, even from your toughest competitor..

On the 25th of November the FEI event was officially opened, and all the rules fell into place, the first major glitch were the bridle numbers. Some of us did not know we needed them, and struggled to get hold of some, before our Vet check / trot up.

Everybody turned out their horses, and made sure they were in immaculate condition for the event. A huge learning curve for most of us....

The team test:

Our first day of competition finally arrived. You could actually smell the tension walking into the stable area, but once mounted everyone seemed to get on with the job at hand. It was province against province, but support and encouragement were all around. The Gauteng team won the event, followed by WP and KZN.

Championship Test:

The standard of riding amongst the riders has increased greatly, especially in the grade 2 competition which was also the biggest class. It was a toss up between me and Anthony, and at the end of the day Anthony won the class with 0.3% Wow how's that for competition. Well done Anthony!!!

The grade 3 class was also a very close call between Sarone and Joanice who won the team test the previous day. But it was Sarone's day... well done.

The grade 4: Well Cathy was victorious in all her tests, but it was a close call between Sandi and Lizette both days. Lizette being one of our visually impaired riders showed amazing skill warming up with her fellow competitors, it will always amaze me how she knows where she is in the arena, and Sandi well if there was a prize to be one for the friendliest most helpful rider who smiles the most it would certainly be awarded to her.

Grade 1B: Only had Marion. Everyone was worried that Africa would be naughty on the day, being such a young horse, but he behaved and Marion qualified. Marion lunging her horse from her wheelchair seemed to be the most crowd drawing event at the competition and brought many a tear to some faces...

The musical Kur:

This was what we were all waiting for to actually go out and have fun, and fun it was...Even the horses seemed to catch on, some of them were a little flat during the competition but once they heard their music they started dancing.

Well done to everybody...

The 2 Day clinic:

The judges Jane Goldsmith, Chris Porterfield and Philippa Johnson gave lessons. Everybody's horses seemed to go better at the end of the lesson. We all felt like sponges absorbing as much information as possible. I think all of us left with so much more knowledge, confidence and inspiration.

A huge THANK YOU to everybody. Firstly the judges Jane, Chris and Liz, without you there would be no show, your valuable input means more to us than you would ever know. Then to the show organizers Debbie and Teri for all your hard work, before during and after the competition, nothing ever seemed too much trouble.. The stewards Danielle Pienaar for the great work you do. And also to Sharon without you none of this would have happened.

Lastly to all my fellow riders, it was an honour to get to know all of you a little better, thank you for always smiling, and being so supportive to each other. I honestly believe that we have the best supportive system going in all the Equestrian disciplines....

SHOW RESULTS:

I will include all show results sent to me. If anyone rode in an able bodied event please do not hesitate to send me your results, its great to see our riders achieve. Also make sure you keep record of your show results. PLEASE NOTE I CAN ONLY INCLUDE RESULTS GIVEN TO ME ITS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE I GET YOUR RESULTS.

1. FEI International Qualifier / SA Champs 2009 – Cape Town

Team Event:

Grade 1 B:

Marion Milne (Gau) : Africa : 62.352% : 1st

Grade 2:

Wendy Moller	(GAU)	: Willows Rafiki	: 65.714%	: 1 st
Anthony Dawson	(KZN)	: Dicatan	: 63.809%	: 2 nd
Anthea Coullie	(KZN)	: Harry Casual	: 58.253%	: 3 rd
Nicole Sanders	(WP)	: Nooitjie	: 55.872%	
Anthony Dawson	(KZN)	: Flaming Gun	: 54.285%	
Nicole Sanders	(WP)	: I'm Blue	: 52.856%	
Sarah Hughes	(WP)	: Kahlamba Lucky Bean	: 50.317%	
Sarah Hughes	(WP)	: Carel Hancke Fyntrap	: 50.317%	
Kerry Noble	(KZN)	: Bright Lass	: Eliminated	

Grade 3:

Joanice Vermeulen	(FS)	: Royal Courts Rasjid	: 56.922%	: 1 st
Sarone du Toit	(GAU)	: Inschallah Diva	: 54.358%	

Grade 4 :

Cathy Lloyd	(GAU)	: Shadow Dancer	: 62.499%	: 1 st
Lizette Smith	(WP)	: Agrando Winter Aristocrat	: 54.880%	: 2 nd
Lizette Smith	(WP)	: Solitaire	: 52.023%	
Sandi Leigh Norris	(GAU)	: Arabian Ace	: 51.428%	

Individual Championships:

Grade 1B:

Marion Milne (Gau) : Africa : 59.68% : 1st

Grade 2:

Anthony Dawson	(KZN)	: Dicatan	: 64.696%	: 1 st
Wendy Moller	(GAU)	: Willows Rafiki	: 64.393%	: 2 nd
Kerry Noble	(KZN)	: Bright Lass	: 57.121%	: 3 rd
Anthea Coullie	(KZN)	: Harry Casual	: 56.818%	
Anthony Dawson	(KZN)	: Flaming Gun	: 56.514%	
Nicole Sanders	(WP)	: Nooitjie	: 55.908%	
Sarah Hughes	(WP)	: Carel Hancke Fyntrap	: 49.999%	
Sarah Hughes	(WP)	: Kahlamba Lucky Bean	: 47.878%	
Nicole Sanders	(WP)	: I'm Blue	: 47.726%	

Grade 3:

Sarone du Toit	(GAU)	: Inschallah Diva	: 58.400%	: 1st
Joanice Vermeulen	(FS)	: Royal Courts Rasjid	: 57.733%	

Grade 4:

Cathy Lloyd (GAU) : Shadow Dancer : 63.118% : 1st

Sandi Leigh Norris	(GAU)	: Arabian Ace	: 54.945%	: 2 nd
Lizette Smith	(WP)	: Agrando Winter Aristocrat	: 54.408%	
Lizette Smith	(WP)	: Solitaire	: 52.254%	

Musical Kur:

Grade 1B:

Marion Milne (Gau)	: Africa	: 60.24%	: 1 st
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Grade 2:

Wendy Moller	(GAU)	: Willows Rafiki	: 68.51%	: 1 st
Anthony Dawson	(KZN)	: Dicatan	: 65.55%	: 2 nd
Anthony Dawson	(KZN)	: Flaming Gun	: 60.64%	: 3 rd
Nicole Sanders	(WP)	: Nooitjie	: 58.42%	
Kerry Noble	(KZN)	: Bright Lass	: 57.68%	
Anthea Coullie	(KZN)	: Harry Casual	: 56.75%	
Nicole Sanders	(WP)	: I'm Blue	: 53.42%	
Sarah Hughes	(WP)	: Carel Hancke Fyntrap	: retired	
Sarah Hughes	(WP)	: Kahlamba Lucky Bean	: withdrew	

Grade 3:

Sarone du Toit	(GAU)	: Inshallah Diva	: 60.46%	: 1st
Joanice Vermeulen	(FS)	: Royal Courts Rasjid	: 59.35%	

Grade 4:

Cathy Lloyd	(GAU)	: Shadow Dancer	: 69.92%	: 1 st
Sandi Leigh Norris	(GAU)	: Arabian Ace	: 61.06%	: 2 nd
Lizette Smith	(WP)	: Agrando Winter Aristocrat	: 59.77%	
Lizette Smith	(WP)	: Solitaire	: 54.92%	

SOUTH AFRICAN PARADRESSAGE MAKES HISTORY

The SANEF (South African National Equestrian Federation) hosted the South African Championships and Interprovincial Team Competition event from 26th – 30th December 2009. For the first time it offered SA para dressage riders the opportunity to qualify for the World Equestrian Games in 2010. The World Equestrian Games take place at Kentucky Horse Park, in Kentucky USA from the 25th September – 10th October 2010 (incorporating the Paradressage competition from 5th October – 10th October 2010). This will be the first time in history that Paradressage has been included in the World Equestrian Games.

SASAPD and SANEF are delighted to announce the following riders qualified at the weekend to compete in the WEG:

- Marion Milne – Grade Ib
- Wendy Moller – Grade II
- Anthony Dawson – Grade II
- Cathy Lloyd – Grade IV

They join Beijing Paralympic double gold medalist, Philippa Johnson who qualified with her scores at the 2008 Paralympic Games.

Interprovincial Results

Results of the 2009 Interprovincial Team competition are as follows and are based the combined Team and individual test scores:

1st = GP on 61.413%

2nd = WP on 52.375%

3rd = KZN on 47.164%

Following the competition all riders were involved in a training camp with the international judges who are highly regarded coaches in their home countries. The riders were given feedback on their performance during the competition and assisted in setting goals to improve performance for the next International Competition and opportunity to qualify for World Equestrian Games and London 2012, which will be held at KEP from 18th-21st March 2010.

Sharon Boyce
Chairman

Picture of the month: (Please send me your show pictures)

Due to the file size I can only include one picture of a rider at a show, therefore I will select a new one every month. This month we have the GHS Team at the prize giving !!!



GHS Team: Sandy Leigh Norris on Arabian Ace; Sarone du Toit on Inshellah Diva, Wendy Moller on Willows Rafiki and Cathy Lloyd on Shadow Dancer. Chef d'Equip is Bev Franklin

Until next time happy riding!!



Wendy

PS. Feel free to contact me if you have any tips, funny horsy stories or anything you would like to add.