

Arena - May

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Stal van Decraen Young Rider Dressage Series

We are extremely proud to announce the results of the 1st Leg of this series that saw the riders take on the FEI Young Rider Preliminary Test:

- 1st – My Rose ridden by Nicole Smith (63.47%) – who won R 6 000, a sash and a day sheet
- 2nd – Karnaval von Klapper ridden by Catherine Berning (63.19%) – who won R 4 000
- 3rd – Winslow Christmas ridden by Roxy Leyshon (60.69%)
- 4th – Razdi Crack ridden by Philip Jacobs (56.11%)
- 5th – Hallmark Lady Luck ridden by Jacques Jacobs (54.17%)

The feedback was very positive; all riders loved the competition despite the fact that the test they performed was fairly advanced and difficult - congratulations to you all. The next leg will be held, in each region, during the SANEF competition – this time the riders will tackle the FEI Prix St Georges.

The Inter-Africa Cup



All Inter-Africa Dressage teams – Unknown photographer

Congratulations to the following horse and rider teams who represented South Africa:

Adult team



Adult team – Unknown photographer

Fervent Favour - Jaco Theron, Spurwing Nile Bossanova – Sean Eggersglusz, Riders Original Royal Darco – Lynda Records, Chandra – Carl Boonzaaier

Dageraad Ubbe and Megan Woodrow were originally selected but were unable to participate due to an injury. The bad luck continued as the next selection was Kehewalani and Mark Krieg were also unable to compete due to injury but luckily Carl Boonzaaier had better luck riding Mark Krieg's Chandra.

Young rider team

Uphi Umfaan – Jeanne van Vuuren, Voigtskirch Dvojak – Jacqueline de Greef, Razdi Riesling – Amber Gunston
Verdini Strawinski – Candice Berman

This team was also plagued by injury as Zandor and Julia van Niekerk were originally selected but were unable to compete therefore Candice Berman took their place. We hope that all the injured horses are now fully recovered.

The Inter-Africa Cup competition was ridden, during the Easter Festival at KEP, in very wet conditions. But all the riders put a big smile on their faces, braved the rain, cold and mud and gave it their best!

Congratulations go to the SA Adult team who emerged as the winners with Namibia taking 2nd; Swaziland 3rd just 1% ahead of the SA Young Riders team who came in fourth position - Botswana 5th and Mauritius 6th.

Well done to all the visiting teams - their enthusiasm and effort in travelling the long distances in order to compete at the Inter-Africa Cup is greatly appreciated.

Also many thanks to Barbie Gertenbach who allowed the visiting riders to compete on her horses and Candice Hobday who acted as chef d'Equipe for the SA teams. Candice did a fantastic job, the beautiful little posies she gave each SA team member added some much needed colour on an otherwise grey and rainy day!

Moving on up again

Congratulations to Susen Baier and Cheryl Kempin who have recently been upgraded to Provincial B panel judges.

Marietta Whitehages

Unfortunately the Marietta Whitehages seminar sadly had to be cancelled due to the volcanic ash cloud over Europe meaning that Marietta was not able to fly out from the UK. However, the good news is that Marietta's visit is currently rescheduled to July which will give us the great opportunity of her judging at GHS champs!

Highborn hosts world-leading coach

Gauteng dressage enthusiasts were not deterred by the weekend of inclement weather and there was a good turn out of enthusiastic spectators to watch Morten Thomsen, currently the USA's dressage team trainer, over the long weekend from 23 to 25 April at the Highborn Equestrian Academy.

Comments Claire Bailes: "Morten coached a number of higher level horses, focusing on improving the fluency and elasticity of the horses and encouraging the horse to lift through the shoulder whilst increasing the engagement of the inside hind leg.

"One of the exercises he used for the trot was to turn down the centre line, leg yield to the long side and just before the side, change the movement into a shoulder-in thus maintaining the rhythm and engagement of the inside hind leg.

"Emphasis was put on freeing up the horse's shoulder so that the stride became more ground covering while maintaining softness in the contact. Most lessons ended with some in-hand work. Morten teaches all his horses piaffe and passage from the ground first. There are now a few riders who went home with some knowledge of how to train the 'Spanish Walk'!

"It was a wonderful experience to watch such an accomplished trainer and grateful thanks all round to Highborn, not only for hosting the seminar but for providing an unending supply of tea, coffee and sherry – which kept the worst of the cold at bay," concludes Bailes.

Thomsen represented Denmark at the 1988 Olympic Games with Diplomat and at the 2000 Olympic Games with Gay. He was the official Danish young horse trainer from 2005 to 2007. Horses he has trained include Chablis, the 2006 European Young Rider Champion horse; Solos Carex, a 2002 Swedish team World Equestrian Games horse, and Bernstein Las Marismas, which won bronze at the 2007 Pan American Games. He is based with his training stable in Silkeborg, Denmark.

From 2005 to 2007 Thomsen was the coach for the Danish team for the World Cup for young horses. He has also been a judge for the selection of the young horse championships and involved in the breeding

management of DV. Thomsen travels nearly every weekend to England, Germany or Italy, helping professional riders with their horses.

The key phrase in Thomsen's training with horses is that "what is being played in, you can play out, and what you forced in, you have to force out". Over time he says he has found inspiration from other horse people, not just looked at horses with "dressage glasses."

Part of Thomsen's work in the training of young horses, or any horse, is working with the horse from the ground. He teaches all his horses piaffe and passage from the ground first. He also teaches all his horses the Spanish walk to improve their movement and mentally stimulate the horse.

This free seminar was made possible due to the generosity of Sue Cullen, Andre La Conté and Ronnie Lawrence.

Upgrades

Congratulations to all the horse and rider teams who upgraded over the last few months:

Advanced:

Videnco – Elena Bosman
Local Dancer – Sarah Maio
Voigtskirch El Dorado – Karen Kellar
Ravel – Deborah Hunt
Float On – Andrea Harrison

Adult Medium:

Blue Movie de Muze – Karen Vorster
Rocky Point – Zaneta Georgiades

Adult Elementary Medium:

Stellenwood Laikah – Ingeborg Sanne
Quantum Leap – Amy Hunter
Ashgar Cadogan – Robyn Scordilis

Adult Elementary:

Elastilon – Monique van Rensburg
Cellehof Tin Tin – Dominey Alexander/Tamaryn Burton Moore
Zidane – Trudi Marsland
Diehough Zorba – Lorna Cochrane
Kaladan – Lucy Welch
Kinvara's Rosenburg – Kirsty Rault
Alzu Laudable – Janice Watson
Akurweberg Satyn – Niki Versveldt
Franlaren Luftwaffle SS – Yolande Pieterse
Davetsaub Monsun – Trix van Tonder
Winslow China Belle - Lizelle van Vuren
Runaway Warriio – Moira Hampson
Ilizwe Silken Ribbons – Cecelia Michaelatos (September 2009)

Junior Elementary Medium:

Paddington Bear – Jennifer Gill
Legacy – Ashlyn Webber

Junior Elementary:

Coral Eclipse – Rene Claasen

Preliminary:

Dibynn Star Quality – Chelsey Gertenbach
Jongintabia Golden Arrow – Aimee Lee Verster
Fletcher – Michal Bands