

# WPHS

news



JULY 2010



WAVE YOUR FLAG

# PR CHAMPS

## Waka waka WP

Forget soccer fever! At the Pony Rider Champs Western Province teams hit the high notes! And did the waka waka to prove it. Jenny Dickerson reports...

“Pick yourself up,  
And dust yourself off  
Get back in the saddle....”

Shakira’s World Cup song could just as well have been penned for Pony Riders Champs held in Kyalami from 11th to 19th June, and it will forever be the anthem of the 2010 Champs.... played full blast over the PA for every lap of honour! What a fabulous week our small group of WP Pony Riders had, with every one of them coming home with a rosette or two, and very special memories of this World Cup Champs.

GHS really pulled out all the stops to make this event a slick and memorable one. Every arena was decorated with flags of the World Cup nations, there were giant (3 metre!) soccer balls anchored to the grounds, a colourful array of balls decorated the main Club house, and, ‘Coz this is Afrika!’ – even the Bob Charter Arena jumps were African or soccer in theme. There was the Ndebele wall that took out quite a few of the ponies, the Grass Huts, and the Bafana Bafana showpiece, all artistically put together.

The WP riders had a rousing send off at the colours evening, where they had a great time learning how to ‘Diski Dance’– from shy beginnings, the group found their feet and rhythm, and turned into a force at the Opening Ceremony that even their dance instructor would have been proud of....showing their hosts how it should be done!

As always, GHS had the Opening Ceremony down to a fine art, using the Lipizzaner Hall to host the parading teams, with their dancing and war cries, together with a moving rendition of the national anthem. It was wonderful to see the pride and passion with which all the children and the grooms joined in the singing, as if this was a Pony Rider World Champs rather than a regional competition.

Sean Henderson was the key note speaker, and the audience were engrossed by tales of his childhood riding – Sean had them all laughing when he said he never bothered to walk a course past jump no. 4, because he never usually got further than that! Sean’s advice was to work hard and have a passion for what they did, because without these ingredients, not even the most competent rider would progress to the next level. He reminded all the children of the sacrifices that many people made in terms of money, time and energy, to enable them all to be at this competition and paid tribute to the many people who had helped not only himself as a young rider, but all the great riding mentors that contribute to equestrian sport.

Other evening entertainment included a display by the Lipizzaners, at which we were privileged to be a ‘first audience’ for some trainee horses, being asked not to clap or be too raucous so that their first experience would be a positive one. Then there was the Mr and Miss Pony Rider Champs, where a group of our girls got up and danced, told jokes and giggled uproariously – everyone always enjoys laughing at the antics on this evening, so well done girls for getting in the spirit of things. The disco was well supported even by a few ex-Pony Riders, no doubt missing the fun that goes along

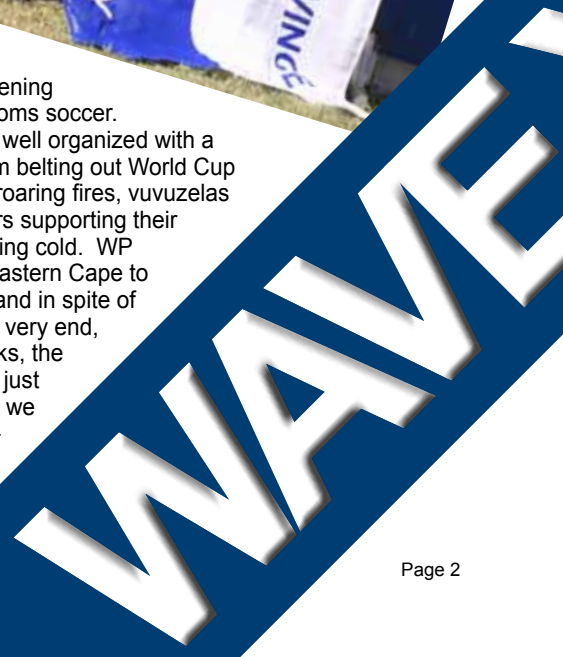


**ABOVE:** Dressage Team – Ella De Nicola, Katherine Gees, Jihaad Nordien, Olivia Myrtle with Anna Buchanan (Team Manager) and Jessica Cheminais (Reserve).



**BELOW:** Showjumping Team – Emma Dickerson, Hayley Preen, Zahn Bosman, Ella De Nicola with Larissa Williams (Team Manager)

with Pony Riders Champs! The grand finale of the evening activities was the grooms soccer. These matches were well organized with a public address system belting out World Cup songs at every goal, roaring fires, vuvuzelas and spirited spectators supporting their teams in the icy evening cold. WP teamed up with the Eastern Cape to put a team together, and in spite of strong defence to the very end, and a few good attacks, the Spec Con team were just too strong for us, and we went down 1 – 0. Mignon Manig (nursing sister and Jess Manig’s mom) was



# FLAG

**RIGHT: Amy Slingsby and her winning PR Eventing team: Stephanie Gees, Hayley Preen, Zahn Bosman and Gabi Berman.**



**MIDDLE: Waka waka from WP riders.**



a great Medic in our match when one of our players was injured in a sliding tackle, running on to the field, announcing, "Medic, Medic coming through!" quickly sorting out the injury, much to everyone's delight.

Then of course there was the amazing weather...I've been cold at Champs in Johannesburg before, but this was exceptional: the water jump in the Bob Charter froze over, and dressage and showjumping classes had to be delayed one morning as the warm up arenas were covered over by a crust of frozen ground about 2 cms thick! Every official, parent, rider, groom and pony that got up in these sub zero temperatures to be in the ring at 8 am, breathing plumes of frosty breath....you rock too!

And these were all just the peripherals to the show! GHS had a superb team of organisers, officials, judges, helpers and support staff. Arenas ran on time with proceedings slick, quick and professional. Our Pony Riders were wonderful ambassadors for WPHS and their sport. Despite being such a small group of riders, with some riding for several teams to make up the numbers, they gave their all, rode their hearts out, dusted themselves off if they failed, and went at it again like true troopers.

"The pressure is on  
You feel it  
But you got it all  
Believe it!"  
(Lyrics from the Waka Waka song!)

**Team results:**

**Eventing EC/WP**

combined team: Stephanie Gees, Zahn Bosman, Hayley Preen and Gabby Berman (EC) – First

**Showjumping:** Hayley Preen, Emma Dickerson, Ella de Nicola, Zahn Bosman – Fourth

**Dressage:** Ella De Nicola, Olivia Myrtle, Jihaad Nordien, Catherine Gees, Jessica Cheminais. – Fourth

**Showing:** Ella De Nicola, Olivia Myrtle, Jihaad Nordien, Zahn Bosman, Jessica Cheminais, Bronwyn Carr – Third.



**Stephanie Gees and Sugar Boy were 2nd in the PR South Afrcan Individual Eventing Championships.**

Every WPHS rider at Champs came home with something...what an incredible feat!

Stephanie Gees was 2nd in the Eventing Championship, with Zahn Bosman 4th.

In showjumping, Jess Manig won the PR 80 Championship, and also the Victor Ludorum for this grade. Katherine Gees had a 1st and a 3rd, Jessie Cheminais a 3rd and a 15th. Our PR.80 Team (Jess Manig, Jessie Cheminais, Olivia Myrtle, and Katherine Gees)

won the team event...well done girls! Sabrina Jansen Van Vuuren jumped into 9th and 11th spot in the PR .90 classes, while Stephanie Gees had a 4th and a broken collarbone... get better soon Steph! In the PR1.00 classes competition was very stiff with over 60 entries and all the places going to the splits on the electronic timing. Ella de Nicola had a 7th in the PR 1.00 Championship, with Zahn Bosman picking up 5th, as well as a 1st and a 4th. Emma Dickerson placed 14th, 9th and 8th and gave the grandstand a great view of her upside-down dismount at the last fence of the jump-off in the Championship class! Hayley Preen did us all proud with a very classy 5th in the 1.15 Grand Prix and a 6th in the Open Equitation.

Our showing girls came to the party with some great individual performances from Olivia Myrtle, 1st Show Hunter, and Bronwyn Carr with a 1st in the Working Riding.

Not to be outshone, the Dressage riders showed their mettle, with a hatrrick for WP in the Elementary 2 class...2nd to Katherine Gees, 3rd to Jihaad Nordien, and 4th to Emma Dickerson. Katherine also had a 5th in E 4. Jessie Cheminais took a 3rd in Nov 1, while Bronwyn Carr had a 1st, a 2nd, and a 2nd in the Novice Championship...well done to this new combination at their first PR Champs! Our higher level riders performed well, with Ella de Nicola picking up a 2nd in E4 and a 3rd in EM4. Ella was 5th in the Championship, with Olivia Myrtle 6th.



financially locally, nationally and internationally.

Simply put, this is how it works:

You pay your annual membership to WPHS (for each competitive rider who joins WPHS, SANEF receives R200 of this fee as affiliation fees). You are now in a position to enter a graded show in the Western Province. You pay your ground levies and entry fees to the show holding body which runs the shows and maintains their grounds and equipment... the show holding body in turn pays an annual Affiliation fee as well as R6/class of your entry to WPHS, the manager and promoter of equestrian sport in the Western Province. WPHS in turn pays levies (R14 of your class entry) to SANEF which in turn manages the affairs of Equestrian sport in the whole of South Africa. SANEF in turn pays levies (for FEI classes) and Affiliation fees to FEI, who in turn manage and promote Equestrian sport in the whole world!

This is indeed a large, hungry organisation which has to be maintained on all levels in all economic climates.

June is the time of year when the Executive of WPHS takes a long, hard look at the finances, inflation and Budget for the following financial year and has the unpleasant task of assessing and restructuring annual membership fees.

As at mid-June 2010 the income of Western Province Horse Society stands at just over R1.3 million with expenses at just over R1.2 million. WPHS should once again just break even for the 2009/2010 financial year.

So where does Western Province Horse Society's (and SANEF's) money go to? (We now know that its income comes only from bundles of R6 levies and membership fees.)

**The costs of running WPHS can be simply divided into:**

**SANEF** : Levies and Affiliation fees

**Accommodation** : Office Rental and Electricity

**Salaries** : For two full time employees

**Communication** : Computers, ADSL and telephone, printer and photocopier, Newsletter editorial, website management and hosting, stationary and postage.

**Insurance** : Short Term and Liability Insurance.

VAT Charges and rebates

**Airfares** : WPHS representation at SANEF Council Meetings

Without far greater than inflation price hikes in membership fees and levies, WPHS has to work very carefully with its money and is unfortunately, at this stage, not able to subsidise its riders and affiliated bodies who host major events.

Western Province Horse Society is fortunate to have a reserve fund which has built up over the years. Interest on this is either used to offset a shortfall or is reinvested annually. This is a guarded contingency fund that will only be tapped into in an dire emergency.

**How to you make a small fortune? Take a big fortune and then buy a horse**

## FROM OUR CHAIR

**Where does all the money go?**

Its time to pay our WPHS subs again. Cherry Coleman explains what puts a hole in our pocket.

"How do you make a small fortune? Take a big fortune and then buy a horse!" This is one of the first bits of information that I learnt upon entering the equestrian world. The issue of money and the lack of it comes up all the time in horse circles...from owing a horse, the entering and running of shows, the membership and management of Horse Societies, National Horse Federations and all the way up to FEI (Federation Equestrian International) Level.

As members of Western Province Horse Society, we are a part of the very big organisation which needs to be managed and fed



Switch Dewormer

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Reg. No. G3590 Act 36/1947

Pyrantel Pamoate 11,41 g per 26 g syringe

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Reg. No. G3591 Act 36/1947

Abamectin 3.7 mg/g + Praziquantel 46.2 mg/g

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Reg. No. G3768 Act 36/1947

Ivermectin 12 mg/g + Praziquantel 150 mg/g

Cipla Vet

# DRESSAGE

## Fine and dandy at SDRC

*Di Arnold reports:* The weather was very kind to us as we held a busy day at SDRC with at times up to 4 arenas going at the same time.

By late afternoon the cloud cover had moved over and the wind chill had set in, but the spirit was still high from judges, riders and officials alike.

The grounds looked superb and the arenas rode well. Our new look clubhouse is also getting the riders excited as the fire was lit in the club setting a lovely warm winter scene.

A huge thanks to riders for being diligent and getting through the full programme in record time. Thanks also to our judges and officials for helping make the day run smoothly and receive the cor-

**TOP RIGHT:** Sharon Vincent and Hakahana Appraise.

**RIGHT:** Gail Venecourt on JDV Sullivan.

**ED:** Check out the results on the SDRC website [www.sdrcc.co.za](http://www.sdrcc.co.za).



PHOTOS HORSES ARE ART



## Land Rover joins music festival

Land Rover Stellenbosch are proud sponsors of the Western Province Musical Freestyle Championships. So hurry hurry hurry and get those entries in – the closing date is 24th July. This is an event not to be missed! Contact our Show Director Janeese on 083-459-8194 or at [janeese@telkomsa.net](mailto:janeese@telkomsa.net) if you have any queries.

Also calling all advertisers! If you would like to have a stand at this prestigious show, please give Janeese a call.

We are privileged to once again be holding the show at The Sanctuary in Banhoek (by kind courtesy of Liz van Rensburg) and it has to be one of the most beautiful spots in the Western Province.

So if you want to be a part of this fantastic festival of equine beauty, don't delay! This show always attracts large numbers of spectators and, now with Land Rover Stellenbosch's participation, it is bound to be a classy success.



# SHOWING

*Compiled by Helen Pick*

## Congrats pony riders

Well done to all our WP team Pony Riders for coming 3rd at the Pony Rider Champs.

## June Jetsetters

We were all so grateful for the wonderful sunny day even though there was a chill in the air. This was a very important show for the Adults competitors as this was their final chance to prove themselves before Team Trials, and they truly went all out. Well done to you all!! We really missed our pony riders at the June show it was very quiet without you all. We would like to say a special word of thanks to all the wonderful and dedicated people who are always committed to making every show a success.

## General showing stuff

**ADULT TEAM TRIALS:** What a wonderful response we had with the Adult Team Capability Forms. Trials took place at MRC on the 26th June at 9am. Team to be announced soon. Adult Showing Championships will be held in Port Elizabeth in August 2010. Dressage Championships will be held at the same venue.

**NEXT SHOW:** Oktoberfest Showing Show at CHPC on the 30 & 31 October 2010, entries close on the 14th October 2010, entries on the day for SA Riding classes (31-37) NOT including Newcomers classes. We are looking forward to a bigger and better show in October and hopefully the weather will be as kind as it was for our June Show. See you there.

**SUGGESTIONS WELCOME:** If you have any ideas or suggestions for our new website please mail me at [helenpick@mweb.co.za](mailto:helenpick@mweb.co.za). Don't forget to visit our new website @ "[www.wphs.co.za](http://www.wphs.co.za)" and click on Disciplines and then SHOWING.



NEW

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# EVENTING

## Waving the flag at Treverton

Five horseboxes left Cape Town for the trip to Mooi River, KZN, Mandy Mason (Pohlands Cuppuchino CIC \*\*), Daniela Muller (Chikara Amaretto CCI\*), Inge Hansen (Cipla Vet Swift Strike CIC \*\*), Ulindi van Heerden (Rio de Janeiro EV 90), Merri Spratley (Equi-Feeds Master Gold EV90), Candice Joliffe (Scorpio CCI \*), Nikki Thurgood (Foton Tractor's Carribea Bay EV 100 & Prince of Tides CIC \*\*), Grace George (Just Donny PR EV70) and Jessica George (Moody Blues PR EV80). Quinton George was competing in the CCI\* on Sport of Kings (Douglas Welsh).

We arrived to find the show and stables in the Nature Reserve of Treverton, roll on Zebras and game... ask Mandy. By the end of the show our horses where either immune to the scary monsters or not. The main concern – please move them before the cross country phase!

All horses and ponies arrived fresh and ready to run. The show was run over three days with the dressage on the Friday, all the WP horses passed the FEI trot up with flying colours. The FEI horses did their dressage on the grass and the SANEF classes where held on sand arenas, deeper than the WP horses are used to. At the end of dressage day, Mandy led the CIC \*\* closely followed by Inge, and Daniella led the CCI\*. Ulindi and I where chuffed with our tests, as both our horses where travelling for the first time and thought our horses coped well.

The Cross country track for the EV 90 and EV 100 was quite testing with a few skinnies, the One and Two star tracks where big and bold with lots of accurate riding required. Ulindi had a fantastic clear in the EV 90 and for me – well I blame the flu as Equi-Feeds Master Gold carried his mum the whole way round bar one rider error. Nikki had a brilliant clear in the EV100 BUT missed out no 13! Daniella unfortunately could not run her horse as he had managed to hurt himself overnight – he did not pick the right moment! Candice had a wonderful clear on Scorpio as did Quinton and Sport of Kings. It was then up to the big guns. Mandy, Inge and Nikki did WP proud with fantastic clear rounds and after the country Mandy was still in 1st and Inge in 2nd, Nikki was chuffed with her return to 2\* level.

Show Jumping morning – unfortunately the going on the Cross Country was quite hard and a number of horses where rather jarred. Swift Strike was one of them and did not pass the 2nd vet's inspection. All the other horses from WP did and it was then off to the Show Jumping. Both Rio de Janeiro and Equi-Feeds Master Gold finished their show off with lovely clear rounds – clever boys. Unfortunately, just before going in Scorpio over extended in the warm up arena and was lame, Quinton and Sport of Kings had just the one pole but achieved a qualifying round. Nikki rounded off her show with a clear with time and Mandy finished the show with a clear in the CIC \*\* WINNER !!!!

Inge Hansen and Ciplavet Swift Strike.



PHOTO BY KEVIN SPRATELY



Candice Joliffe and Scorpio.



ED: Check out the full results at [www.wpeventing.co.za](http://www.wpeventing.co.za) where you'll also get regular eventing news and updates. Also visit the WP Eventing Facebook pages for photos from various events.

RIGHT: CIC \*\* winners, Mandy Mason and Pohlands Cappuchino.

# PARA EQUESTRIAN

Compiled by Debbie Slater

## 2nd and 3rd in SANEF classes

Western Province Para Equestrian would like to congratulate two of our riders who took part in the 2010 SANEF Dressage Para classes.

Nicole Sanders, a WP Grade II rider, competed on Isabelle Stirrup's Nooitjie at SDRC on Sunday 2 May 2010 and scored an impressive 72.14%. The judges were separated by one mark – Laura Kotze (C) gave them 151 and Flo Vernon at E gave them 152! Sadly, only two Provinces participated in this CN competition. The final results were as follows:

Place	Horse	Rider	Judge C	Place	Judge E	Place	Total	%	Prov.
1	Willows Rafiki	Wendy Moller	148	2	160	1	308	73.33%	GHS
2	Nooitjie	Nicole Sanders	151	1	152	2	303	72.14%	WP
3	Rival	Sarah Hughes	134	3	147	3	281	66.90%	WP

Our sincere thanks go to Sylvia Bruckner – WP Dressage Chairman & Janeese Silen – SANEF Dressage WP Show Director. Both these ladies went to a huge amount of effort to ensure that Para classes were included, not only in the schedule, but also in the day's proceedings. Nicole said it was lovely to feel as if she was part of the event itself.

To Stellenbosch District Riding Club – Teresa Forrester & Di Arnold especially – thank you for welcoming our Para riders so warmly to your beautiful venue every time.

Sarah Hughes (Grade II) has been lent a horse, Rival, to compete on in Johannesburg, so rode her SANEF test at the Gauteng leg of the SANEF Para. Well done, Sarah – that really is 'going the extra mile'!

Caroline Potts, who was in Cape Town for the birth of her first grandchild, was kind enough to judge at our WPPE show on 30 May 2010. Since Sarah had just returned from Gauteng, Nicole was the only Grade II rider, scoring 63.33% in both tests.

Our Development Rider, Imaan Sayed, was given a lesson by Caroline, which was a wonderful opportunity for Imaan to get to know her new pony better.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Anna & Michelle Antonsson, Imaan has been given Gandalf, Michelle's pony, to learn & compete on.

This is the second Noordhoek family to provide our riders with competition-standard horses – the first being Georgina & Isabelle Stirrup, who willingly assist Nicole Sanders with Nooitjie, making Nicky's competitive aspirations much easier. It cannot be emphasised how much this gesture alone means to a Para rider.

WPPE is going to profile our four riders, all of whom have been selected for the WPHS Talent Identification Programme, in the WPHS News Review over the next four months, starting this month with Nicole Sanders:

Nicks is one of our WP Grade II riders. This means that she has been classified to ride in dressage tests, at the walk & trot, showing turns on the haunches & 8 metre circles at the walk, half 10-metre trot circles, medium trot, halt & rein back.

She originates from East London but her family moved to Cape Town when she was five to enable her to receive therapy & have the operations she needed.

Nicks has cerebral palsy & was born two months premature in October 1985. She suffered a brain haemorrhage, which caused a brain bleed & both her lungs collapsed. A lack of oxygen to the brain resulted in her disability. She's had seventeen operations, to date, to help her feet and relieve muscle tension and spasms throughout her body. She's also always smiling & is a ray of sunshine at every WPPE show!

Having studied marketing at Boland College in Stellenbosch, Nicks is currently the receptionist at Catwalk Cosmetic Laboratories CC in Capricorn Park, reading historical books & biographies when she's not working or riding!

Her riding career started at SARDA in 1992 as a supplementary therapy to her physiotherapy. Teri Smith, SARDA (Cape Town) instructor, has been greatly instrumental in Nicky's path to competitive dressage & was as delighted as Nicky when, in 2009, Nicky was awarded Western Province Para Equestrian colours.

In Nicky's own words:

"I can't say I always enjoyed competitive riding. To be honest I hated it & was a bundle of nerves. I have grown into it over the past few years &

really enjoy it now. It was a great honour to be placed on the short list for WEG 2010 and hopefully things can improve. My future ambition would be to ride overseas just once and if I get the chance, to compete in a Paralympics.

Although Nicks has use of Nooitjie, she receives no subsidy or sponsorship, so funds her competitive goals herself. If there is anyone who would like to assist Nicky, in any way, please contact Debbie Slater at [torrin@iafrica.com](mailto:torrin@iafrica.com).



Nicky Sanders, Nooitjie and her coach Teri Smith.

# DRIVING

Compiled by Lou Docke

## Flying chariots ... and more

One of our top drivers, Graham Haddow, runs a riding club and livery yard on a farm in the Greyton valley. On 30 May, we all went to Graham's for a 3 phase competition. It was a beautiful clear day, the tops of the mountains were sprinkled with snow which gave a crispness to the air.

Graham had done an incredible amount of work for the show, building 4 hazards on his own. We began with a dressage test in a 60m x 20m arena judged by Pippa Jarman, a British judge who is now living in Knysna. After a short break we set off at 10 minute intervals onto Section A of the course. This was a beautiful 6.2km drive through all the Persimmon orchards. It was a good work out for the ponies as it included a lot of hills. Upon completing this section, the ponies were given a 10 minute break before they started Section E with the 4 hazards.

The cones course was driven in the sand arena, it was quite a technical course and there were no clear rounds.

Unfortunately none of the Novices could make the trip to Greyton, Sally driven by Lou Docke was the winner of the Open class.

# SHOW JUMPING

## What a win from Oli Lazarus!

Oliver Lazarus and Silver Spring took the title and won the Norwegian Grand Prix in Drammen, Norway last weekend. This team is brand new (second official show and they have bonded big time). They did a breathtaking first round and were the last to go (out of the four clears) in the jump off and cruised around for a fast clear.

Great to have our SA Nations Cup team there to encourage him with Ann Marie Esslinger and we were full of pride while the South African flag was raised and national anthem was played, Oliver was singing his heart out! Silver Spring or Johnnie as we know him, certainly looked pretty impressed with himself after 8 faultless rounds over the last week!

Silver Spring looks like our new Team Lazarus member and has proved a serious BIG TIME horse even after a very long journey to Norway!



Oliver Lazarus and Silver Spring claim the Norwegian Grand Prix in Drummen, Norway.

## Soccer fever at SDRC

*Theresa Forrester reports:* SDRC's arenas were both in full swing to celebrate the stunning new jumps, including the "World Cup Jump", riders were treated to some challenging courses, built by Inessa, who probably did more running than the average footballer... as she was co coordinating courses between both the Sand and Grass arenas.... !

Well Done Inessa on your "multi tasking".

It was wonderful to see the higher grades competing at SDRC, and loving the new grass arena... ( Seen in the crowd, was the ever elusive to SDRC, Gonda... great to see you back again!!)

The grounds were looking great, with masses of International Flags flying. Well done to David and his crew for all their hard work.

230 rounds were ridden in both arenas, between 9.00 and 3.30 - enabling the Dads and husbands to get home in time to watch the Rugby..

Many thanks to all the Officials, helpers and course builders for their ongoing support, time and effort...



ED: For more show jumping news check out the new SHOW JUMPING page on the WPHS website at [www.wphs.co.za](http://www.wphs.co.za).

# ON THE WEB

## A new website at last

Our favourite website, [www.wphs.co.za](http://www.wphs.co.za) has had a complete makeover and went live during June. And boy did it get a great reception! In the two weeks since it's launch, it received more than 580 visitors which clicked through to thousands of page impressions. The new site has some great additions such as the drop down menus containing pages for each discipline. You can access show schedules from the site under EVENTS and the calendar plus results.

If you have information, show schedules and pictures for uploading on the website please send it through to the WPHS office. If you have discipline-specific announcements for the discipline pages you can contact the discipline heads who will put you in touch with their go-to person for the webpages.

A huge amount of thought and effort went into the masterminding of this new site. So enjoy it and please send in your comments, we'd love to know what you think of it.

### Comments so far:

- Lisa-Marie Bosman via Facebook – the new website is really nice wow! :)
- Carol Batchelor via Facebook – Trying to get to the site that has prac and graded shows on [www.wphs.co.za](http://www.wphs.co.za) to no avail - where does one find these now?

Show schedules will be uploaded as they're sent through - but the WPHS site is for graded events held under the WPHS - so the facility for practise shows falls away.



### What is your favourite WP Show Jumping venue?

SDRC – Stellenbosch District Riding Club	35%
NRA – Noordhoek Riding Association	15%
CHPC – Cape Hunt and Polo Club	
CVRC – Constantia Valley Riding Club	
Glenellen	50%

## WHAT'S ON FACEBOOK

We have more than 260 fans - catching up with the GHS page fast!

Join the discussion forums:  
**TRUCKING SUBSIDIES** – Do you think WPHS should provide trucking subsidies for team members to compete outside of province? Would you be prepared to pay a higher annual membership fee to support this?

And the hot new topic following our show jumping venue poll – WHY has CHPC fallen out of favour with show jumpers? Post your comments on the discussion forum and let's help increase entries to CHPC shows.

### PICTURE GALLERIES

The eveting ball  
 Oliver Lazarus competing  
 ADD your scariest moment picture to our fan photos page.

### OUR NEXT FUN POLL

Would you like to be able to wear colourful numnahs in dressage competitions?

Please comment, add your own photos and enjoy!

**Joint Protection, Cartilage Synthesis and Repair**

# GCS-MAX

## JOINT CARE

Reg. No: V18135 Act 36/1947

# HAVE YOUR SAY

## What's up with Show Jumping?

After reading the last news review, I should like to clarify the reason for my not going to the interprovincial in Shongweni.

Literally, until days before the event there was uncertainty as to whether it was going to take place at all. I was told at various times that Gauteng would not be sending a team, that one person after another had dropped out of our team and that we might have a combined team with OFS/NC. There was certainly a 50/50 chance that the event was not going to take place at all. Due to the considerable personal expense involved in travelling horses to Natal, I decided, under the circumstances, to rather compete in Gauteng and then go to the Royal Show. These shows were well supported by all the top riders while the Shongweni Show only attracted the locals and a handful of visitors. As it turned out, the interprovincial itself ended up with 2 Natal teams (1 being a young riders team), a 'G' team from Gauteng and a team of 3 from WP. All in all, a bit of a farce and posing the question whether there is any point in running this event at all?

Taking up Cathy Deare's point I need to describe what used to happen in the "good old days". Teams were announced with much fanfare, photos in the newspapers, often an official party where colours were presented and notification in the news review. Also, trucking was paid for and sometimes even an accommodation allowance. Tracksuits and jackets were also organised by WPHS. None of this happens anymore and most often teams are not even announced in the news review.

We are told funds are not available for some of the above but it's not all about money. Making the sport attractive to the top competitors in other ways will also help to keep them in the WP. What happened to the annual awards evening?? Surely the committee can organise one social event in a year to recognise the top achievers in our sport? Acknowledgement of their achievement in reaching the higher levels of the sport and the occasional sponsorship of the higher grade classes would help keep riders at home for longer. On the subject of funds I have been told that about 70% of the total income derived by WPHS is from showjumping but all the smaller

disciplines are subsidised by the SJ levies. If all SJ levies went to SJ there would obviously be more money to improve the discipline.

As someone who has worked on many committees over the years I know it's not easy to find people to run our sport and I appreciate the efforts of those that do. However, obviously something needs to be done to improve the current state of affairs. Twenty years ago we had weekend shows with 25 competitors in the open classes. On a good day we might manage 8 these days. This is surely cause for concern.

SJ as a discipline is rarely even mentioned in the News Review. Some of the NR's in recent months don't have any SJ news whatsoever - how does this contribute to the improvement of the sport? Surely there is someone on the committee who can be assigned to writing a report each month or finding someone to do same? It doesn't matter how well one is doing if nobody knows about it!

SJ could well take note of what the showing community are doing. Lots of NR coverage and well run shows with good sponsorship. Surely if they can do it, SJ can? I can't believe that trotting and cantering in circles can attract more interest than SJ! (sorry Dawn!). It's marketing and hard work that make the difference.

I have probably upset and annoyed (or both) quite a few people in writing this letter. I don't mean to attack anyone personally but we need to do something!! I've had much pleasure from equestrian sport over the years and my only motivation in writing this is to get people talking, get ideas flowing and ensure the growth and improvement of our sport.

The new trend of having 2 shows on 1 weekend does not help either. Now our handful of open horses is split resulting in even less competitive classes. This would not be a problem in Gauteng as there were 190 horses in the open classes at the recent world cup show! *Paul Garlicki*

**ED: The Show Jumping committee was sent your letter the day it arrived on Tuesday 10 June, they were asked to respond by 20 June and reminded on 22 June. Still no response.**

**The WPHS newsletter shouldn't be the propaganda mouthpiece for the disciplines. That would be too top-down. It belongs to all members and anyone with news that's current and relevant to WPHS can contribute. In fact please do! And send photos if you have them.**

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## Chester – in memorium

As a fanatical supporter of the Eventing discipline, I was delighted to hear that our very young Western Province Pony Rider Eventing Team had won in Gauteng!

With this wonderful news, many bittersweet memories flooded back from this time, last year, at the 2009 Pony Rider Championships in George.

The euphoria of Tatooine Treasure and Kate Pettit winning the 2009 South African Pony Rider Individual Eventing Championship...

The irony of the presentation – pouring with rain, the triumphant pair were accompanied by their Lane groom, Chester, smiling proudly as 'his pony' received a rosette as big as his head...

A week later, still in George, Chester had died from a stroke.

Emma Hyde's heartfelt tribute to her groom, and the timing of the WP Eventing Team's success, made this an appropriate time to recognise this quiet, humble man.

Chester was a typical Lane groom. Identified by his immaculate blue overalls, always smiling

and ready to help, he was brilliant at 'away' shows! Two events stand out for me – the first was KZN Eventing Champs at Shongweni in 2007, when WP/Lane arrived with a float full of eventers and enthusiasm! The second was George in 2009.

Both shows were really successful for WP, due in large part to Chester's presence ensuring that all horses were ready, at all times, for all phases – a big ask, when you have at least eight horses/ponies to look after!

Riders were assisted, but not allowed to shirk their responsibilities on Chester's watch. Taking scrupulous care of his charges was his job. Tacking up was always the rider's job. Cleaning, grooming, feeding and watering was his job. No rider egos were allowed to get in his way. Always a gentleman to everyone, but a gentle man with his horses.

My final memory of Chester is of my car, loaded with young riders from WP, parked on the side of the 'pitch' for the traditional Grooms Soccer Match. We hooted, shouted and sang for 'our' team – Chester was Captain. As the daylight faded, all the cars switched on their headlights, so the guys could finish their game. Chester's team won (of course!!!) and his smile lit up the evening as he and the opposition exchanged handshakes.

The next morning Chester was taken to George Hospital and never recovered.

I miss him, and I know there are many others at Lane, and beyond, who feel the same. He was a special person in every way, as are all those who care for the basic needs of our horses. Remember to appreciate those in the background while they're still part of your lives – their passing leaves so much un-done, and too much un-said – especially 'Thank You'

Thank You, Chester, for being part of my life.

*Debbie Slater.*

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