

# Arena

Editors: Rebecca Haynes, Alexandra Parry, Sibylle Gussman, Sheba Zager

## Join the Dressage Rider's Club!

The Dressage Riders Club is now open to all interested riders. If you would like to join and be able to express your views as a rider, please contact Andrea Harrison at [andyh@worldonline.co.za](mailto:andyh@worldonline.co.za)

## Updated dressage rules

The updated SANEF dressage rules are now available on the SANEF website. The changes that have been made are in an attempt to bring our rules more in line with those of the FEI.

## Updated dressage tests and new restriction

SANEF Tests to be used are now all dated 2010 and available on SANEF website. These are not new tests, although there are some that have been altered, such as the Preliminary 3 (movements four, 10 and 12 have been altered slightly so that this test can be ridden in a 40x20m arena) and the Advanced 6. A new Advanced 7 test, as an introductory test to Intermediare II, has also been added. It is a slightly altered version of Advanced 6 and it differs by asking for transitions from Piaffe into passage instead of collected trot and seven flying changes instead of five.

There has been much confusion recently as a number of the tests had more than one revision, however the 2010 dated tests should now alleviate this problem.

A Pony Rider Medium Freestyle has also been added.

There is also now a change affecting Elementary horses and riders. Now at GHS championships, Elementary classes are only open to Elementary horses that have obtained 60% or above in at least two graded tests (excluding freestyle) since 1 January 2010 up until closing date of entries on 22 July 2010.

The aforementioned rule until now had only applied to Novice classes, in other words the same requirement for Novice horses to have achieved 60% percent or above in at least two graded tests between the beginning of the year and closing date of entries. However, it was decided to apply this restriction to Elementary classes as there are so many more horses competing at this level.

## Time in with Sheba Zager

A perspective from Provincial A Panel dressage judge, Sheba Zager

### **Q: When did your interest in horses first start?**

A: I was told that my first word was not "Mamma" or "Dadda", but "Horse". I started riding at the age of three, albeit on ponies at the zoo. I was one of their best clients! I 'officially' started riding at the age of five, competed from the age of six and have never stopped.

### **Q: Tell us about some of the special horses you have owned and ridden over the years.**

A: As many of us do, I started off show-jumping and started dressage with ex-showjumper, Permissive. He was the most perfect gentleman and we were fortunate enough to ride up to Prix St. George level. Though I have had and still do have *many* wonderful horses, by far the most amazing horse I ever had the pleasure to ride and own was Lang Carel Delft. This little Boerperd won almost every class entered and sadly died just as we had upgraded to Medium.

### **Q: When, how and why did you get into judging?**

A: I got into judging somewhere around 1990 with some influence from Ute Schutz and Helen Laros! I wanted to improve and increase my knowledge, my riding and to pass this knowledge on to my pupils.

### **Q: What in particular do you look for when judging?**

A: First and foremost I want a happy horse! One that is soft, supple and willing to do the work. Nothing irritates me more than seeing a horse 'pulled' onto the bit and pottering around! It is very easy to see which horses have not had good basic schooling.

**Q: What changes (good and bad) are you seeing in dressage and the dressage fraternity these days?**

A: We are seeing fantastic horses being brought in from overseas and are also seeing some outstanding locally-bred horses. Dressage has grown phenomenally over the past 10 years. What I would like to see are more and more riders going up the ranks to be riding Intermediare II and to see a South African Dressage Team! My only negative comment would be that local riders and trainers, do not share information. I would love to see this change.

**Q: What is your advice to the dressage rider?**

A: Ride, ride and ride! Attend seminars, courses and learn to 'steal' with your eyes and ears! It takes a life-time to learn how to ride a horse. Be humble!

**Q: If you had \$1-million to spend on any horse globally, who would you buy and why?**

A: I don't think a million dollars would buy the horse that I would want. Blue Horse Matinee blew my mind at the 2006 World Equestrian Games. If I had around seven million dollars, perhaps I could have made an offer!!

**Q: Please share one or two funny anecdotes you have experienced either competing or judging.....**

A: Oh dear! I have many, but one immediately jumps to mind. I was competing at the SA Champs in Gauteng and had forgotten to pack my bowler. Another rider kindly offered me theirs, which unfortunately was a little big. We quickly rallied around and decided to put toilet paper around the inside rim. So, A enter at collected canter. X halt. Wind blows and bowler flies off, along with toilet paper flying in different directions! I will never forget Ernst Holtz was the judge at C and he promptly jumped out of the judges box, running to try and pick up what he thought was my stock! Funny, but rather embarrassing!

***Kimberley simply the best!***

Judy Vertue recently judged for two days at Kimberley Equestrian Centre and reports to Arena: "If any judge gets invited to judge in Kimberley, say "yes"!"

"I spent a wonderful weekend judging at the Kimberley Equestrian Centre – everything from Prelim right up through all the grades to FEI PSG and Intermediate. The show organisation was absolutely superb and everything ran like clockwork. Results were out with lightning speed and there was room in the programme for several short breaks during the day and a longer lunch break.

"The food produced at the Club was excellent, with beautiful fresh salads and wonderful home-made lasagne.

Thanks so much to Christine Spangenberg, Brigid Thompson, Corne Gunston and Fiona Barbour for looking after me so well and to my incredibly efficient secretary, Sue Robertson. The highlight of the weekend was judging lots of magnificent Friesians from Adelprag Stud - what a pleasure!"

From the international arena

Denise Hallion has just competed on Bomond at the Wellington Premier League show, in Hampshire, United Kingdom. She competed in the PSG Class on the first day, ending up sixth, which she says she is delighted with. She comments that Bomond found the prize giving all too exciting, bucking all the way around.

On the second day they competed in the Intermediare I which was in the indoor arena and scored 66%, coming fifth. Denise says: "He was fantastic in this class and the winner had a score of 68% which was quite close. He felt so super and my trainer, Adam Kemp, was also very pleased with the test. He was well-behaved in the second prize giving and really showed off his super trot.

"Then we did a second PSG test. He had a 45 minute break between tests and he felt a quite tense and tired. However we still ended up in the top half of the class. I am still getting to know him and the partnership is developing. I think two tests in one day is too much for him, but that's all part of getting to know each other.

"We are so excited about our results, the standard was high and we are getting closer and closer. At home we are working on our Piaffe and I am pleased to say that it is coming along very well and we are looking to do our first Intermediare II in September."

Denise says her exciting plans are to compete in the Small Tour at the Hartpury and Hickstead CDI and then move up to Big Tour.

## *Results!*

The results for the recent Pony Riders' Championships and the Stoneridge Equestrian Centre two-day dressage event will be up on the GHS site and Arena hopes to cover these in more detail in the next issue.