

GHS Newsletter

January 2011

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Welcome to 2011

Welcome back to all our members!

We hope you're all rested and rearing to go in 2011 with lots of successful and fun riding!

SA Junior Championships in PE

WELL DONE TO OUR SUCCESSFUL SA JUNIOR CHAMPS WINNERS!

Dressage

Individual SA Dressage Champion is GHS's Anthea Michaletos on Ulivia STV
GHS Team – 2nd

Equitation

Individual SA Equitation Champion is GHS's Chelsey Gertenbach
GHS Team – 2nd

Eventing

Individual SA Eventing Champion is GHS's Katie Keller
GHS Team – 2nd

Showing

GHS Team – 3rd

Showjumping

Individual SA Showjumping Champion is GHS's Olivia Bramley on Hakahana Absolute
(GHS Riders took the top 5 places in the individual competition!)
GHS Team – 1st

GHS bids a very sad farewell to Lynne van Achterbergh

GHS bids a very sad farewell to Lynne van Achterbergh, who, in spite of her feistiness and determination, lost the battle with cancer last week. Lynne will be sorely missed in the riding community.

Our sincere and heartfelt condolences to her family, husband Roes, and children, Mark, Ilse, Joanne and Gillian.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Frans and Alicia Barnard on their recent wedding. We wish both a long and happy life together.

It's all about bearing the consequences of our actions ...

SANEF and GHS Rules and Regulations are in place for a reason, and while the majority of members do abide by the rules, there are a few who don't, be this because of a lack of knowledge of the rules, or because they have the attitude that rules are there to be broken. We appeal to all our members that you become familiar with both the SANEF and GHS General Regulations and the discipline specific rules to ensure that you act within the parameters of these rules (all regulations are available on the GHS website – www.ghsinfo.co.za).

The GHS Office takes no pleasure in instituting Disciplinary Action, but we owe it to the majority of our members who do abide by the rules, to ensure that those breaking them are disciplined.

As we depend on a group of volunteers for the holding of disciplinary hearings, we try to avoid actual hearings where possible, therefore where a case is clear cut (e.g. competing on an unregistered horse in an affiliated class), a fine will be instituted. If the fine is not paid within the period stipulated in the letter of fine, the member will be placed in bad standing.

In the case of complaints about behaviour or other contraventions of the rules, e.g. horse abuse, dogs off leashes etc, the GHS office can only act on complaints given in writing. No disciplinary action will be taken based on hearsay.

We thank you for your co-operation.

(Note: Members currently in bad standing are Roger Hessen and Bianca Grossett.)

GHS Calendar

Owing to the increasing number of show holding bodies, the compilation of the Calendar has various challenges, and we depend on several factors to get it right – e.g. the input from SANEF and the other Provincial Bodies in terms of the National Calendar, input from the Discipline Committees to ensure there is an appropriate spread through all age groups and levels within each discipline, and the co-operation of the show holding bodies to agree to dates that will minimize clashes.

The process is as follows:

- A draft calendar is drawn up based on the previous year;
- National Show dates are obtained from SANEF and the other Provincial Bodies, and inserted;
- A calendar meeting is called with all the show holding bodies, prior to which they are provided with a draft of the calendar;
- The meeting is held, and those present bid for their dates;
- Changes are made to the calendar based on the dates bid for at the meeting, and the calendar is again circulated to all the show holding bodies, who are given the opportunity to revert with changes;
- Once changes have been made, the calendar is sent to the Discipline Committees who look specifically at their disciplines to ensure there is an even spread, and that they can ensure there are sufficient shows to assist them with team selection. If we don't receive changes from the Disciplines, we assume there are no changes to be made.

Very late in the process of 2010 we were advised of a change in the dates of a couple of major shows, which have had an impact on the calendar. We therefore have to have a re-look, and will publish a revised calendar as early as possible in January. The first few months are unlikely to be affected, and only smaller local shows will be affected, so there will not be major changes that will affect your planning for the year in terms of away shows.

Shows and Series to take note of when planning for the year...

Amateur Series

This series was well supported in its first year last year ... we hope to have even greater support this year as it gathers momentum. Thank you to the following show holding bodies who have volunteered to host the various legs of the Series, which will culminate with the Final at Derby in October.

1st Leg – Penny Place – 12/13 Feb

2nd Leg – Witkoppen – 26/27 March

3rd Leg – Maple Ridge – 9/10 April (during Presidents Cup)

4th Leg – Burlington – 21/22 May

5th Leg – Fourways – 11/12 June

6th Leg – Sunlands – 20/21 August

Click here for a link to the Amateur Series Rules

GHS All Grade Champs – 26/27 November 2011

Rankings in all Grades will be monitored from 1 May 2011 for qualification to compete in the GHS All Grade Championships at the end of the Year. The rules are on the Showjumping web page on www.ghsinfo.co.za.

Inter-Regional Competitions

Higher Grade Inter-Regionals – 20/21 August; Lower Grade Inter-Regionals – 3/4 September

GHS is split into 6 regions (Central, North, South, East, West, Limpopo) for the purposes of holding an inter-regional competition in both Lower and Higher Grades in all Disciplines, and thus grow the sport throughout the province.

This is a reminder that if you wish to change your region, there is a window period between **15 February and 15 March** during which you may change – no changes will be accepted outside of this window period unless you have physically relocated. The Central and North Regions are by far the biggest in terms of membership, with South, West and East being far smaller regions. If you are located near any of the smaller regions, you would stand a better chance of team selection if you opted to be allocated to one of these regions, and at the same time will be helping these regions to grow and achieve success. You can check what region you are currently in by calling Agnes at the GHS Office on 011 702 1657.

The Inter-Regional rules are on all of the Discipline web pages on www.ghsinfo.co.za.

Membership Options

Don't forget our Mini-League and Grooms Memberships. There will be classes and activities for these categories throughout the year.

Dressage “Grand Prix Initiative”

We are delighted to advise that the Grand Prix Initiative Committee has secured the services of Natalie Hobday to run the first Bootcamp on 2/3/4th February at KEP.

There will be space for 24 riders.

The first day will comprise an assessment of all 24 riders (including an assessment video), and the following two days will be a riding clinic focusing on ring-craft for 12 riders on each day.

For more information please contact Heather Partner on 082 654 1240 or heather.partner@gmail.com.

Be a part of GHS's exciting new development plan!

This plan is supported by both the Executive and Management Committees and covers 3 main elements:

- GRASS ROOTS DEVELOPMENT
- MORE STRUCTURED EDS
- TALENT IDENTIFICATION PLAN

GRASS ROOTS DEVELOPMENT

This plan provides a fantastic opportunity for yards and riding schools, or even individuals, who want to play a part in reaching historically disadvantaged riders.

Wendy Gidlow of Heritage Equestrian Centre was awarded with the FEI Development Award last year for doing just that.

To find out more, interested members are most welcome to contact N-J Freeman.

We strongly encourage you to take up this invitation – this is your chance to really make a difference!

The Development Plan Presentation is located on the Equestrian Academy web page on www.ghsinfo.co.za

EDS BENEFACTORS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT WE MUST RECEIVE MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORTS OF OUR EDS RIDERS.

The Monthly Progress Report Form is located on the Equestrian Academy web page on www.ghsinfo.co.za.