

Driving Newsletter

February/March 2011

Editor: Karen Gruss

It is difficult to believe that the first month of 2011 has already past. I think the older you get the quicker it all seems to go!

The first Driving committee meeting was held on 17th January and all that attended were enthusiastic and really committed to getting the discipline back on track. 2010 was not Gauteng Drivings' finest hour and best left in the past but with all the energy and ideas that were bounced around at the meeting everyone left feeling confident that 2011 will be a good year for driving.

Work Party 12th March 2011

The hazards at KEP have all seen better days. The KEP staff are snowed under with general upkeep of the grounds and especially now with all the rain just do not have the time to help us maintain the hazards. We have decided to hold a work party on Saturday 12th March at 11.00 to refurbish all the hazards. I have done some preliminary work to get us started. Vee kindly lent me four of her staff for a morning and we sorted out the huge pile of old poles that had accumulated behind the stables for grooms to use as firewood at the big shows. We now have 90 x 1.8m poles and 75 poles 2m plus to use on the work day. We also have some 1.5m poles that Vee has volunteered to make portable triangles. The dyke at the road of the old Elna Bridge has been filled in. This was always potentially dangerous due to it being too close to the road. Due to the excessive rain KEP had a huge drainage problem. The best place to dig a trench for drainage was straight through the Dulux walls. They dismantled the walls and we now have to find a new site and redesign and rebuild it. Shirley Sadlier has kindly volunteered to organize the fires etc for a bring and braai on the day, so bring along your braai and beer. Any queries or ideas phone Karen on 082 8019341

Attention all Disciplines

All the drivers are getting together to refurbish all the driving hazards at KEP in our own time and at our personal expense. We ask that you please stop using them as paddocks for your horses at shows. There is a reason for this and we are not just being precious. Each set of poles is measured and the distance between them would equate to heights used in jumps. The smaller the gap the harder it is to drive. Each time that ropes, tape or lunge lines are used to create paddocks it pulls the poles off vertical and they then are not usable. We are going to ask the Exec to make it a fineable offence. If you are fined for not having your dog on a lead at KEP it is nothing against what we will impose for misusing Driving Hazards. We do not want to be unreasonable but please in future respect our equipment.

Awesome sponsorship opportunity for all Disciplines

Every single person who enters the KEP ground, whether they are a rider, instructor or spectator HAS to pass the large wooden bridge on the left. I am not sure how many people go through the gate annually but it is a lot ! The bridge was built in 1994 and now needs a major refurbish to make it safe to use, which obviously means spending money. We are looking for a sponsor for the project. It is an awesome advertising opportunity. Every person going through the gate will be exposed to your brand.

If you, or your company are interested in this great deal please call Vee Laros on 083 3770502

The D.A.D Project

The D.A.D (Develop a Driver) project was Natalie's brain child. The idea being that each competitive driver finds someone who is keen to learn to drive and brings them to a training show at Phaeton Park. The more experience drivers will bring experienced and trustworthy horses for their protégés to drive on very simple cone courses. Most of the driving community have competed in other disciplines before and as the old bodies couldn't leap over poles and go crazily across country any more they took up carriage driving. So come on all you **Show jumpers, Dressage Aunties, Hunters and Eventers** that are getting past your prime come and give driving a go. You might just find that you enjoy it. Our aim is to have at least one "name" from each discipline at our first show. Watch this space you might just be one of the chosen ones that have been targeted and will be challenged to join us at the first show! For more info and dates phone Natalie on 083 5722985

Show Calendar

There are still a few minor changes that will be made to the GHS calendar so a detailed list of shows will be published in next month's newsletter.

Get well soon

Sheelagh Higgerty had a nasty fall at Glenfox that resulted in her breaking her leg and dislocating her ankle. On top of this somebody's (who will remain nameless) horse kicked and damaged her thumb a couple of days before that. Sheelagh is determined that she will be back in the box seat in time to represent SA in the Southern Cones competition mid March. Hang in there Sheelagh, we are all rooting for you.