

Presidents Report 2024

Eastern Cape Dressage Association

During the course of 2023 we had a year that was made inconsistent by our African Horse sickness virus, which played havoc with our events Calendar. We were fortunate to have had a late start to the AHS season but never the less it still had an impact on our plans for the year. The EC dressage committee had a huge change, and I feel the new committee has done a great job working together, figuring out the processes and making our discipline stronger.

Throughout the year, SGMs have been held which was an important key in keeping our various clubs updated with any changes in our discipline.

Eastern Cape Youth Champs was hosted at annual Agricultural Show in East London on the 27-1 May 2023. The Border Equestrian Club did a fabulous job hosting the multi-discipline show in horrendous weather.

The Eastern Cape DSA Leg was held in Port Elizabeth on the 27th and 28th of May. We had a fair turnout with lots of new Dressage enthusiasts. The Show ran to a high standard even in dreadful weather. The PE riding Club hosted a fantastic show and was extremely sympathetic to out of town riders which was greatly appreciated and very well received – we look forward to having the Provincial Championships next year at this venue. The DSA Challenge will be held in East London on the 1st and 2nd of June.

Eastern Cape Provincial Dressage Champs was held at the Border Equestrian Club on the 23rd and 24th of June along with a multi-discipline show. The Provincial Champs is known for not only the riding, but the spectators, music and the annual wine and Cheese tent, which is strategically placed for spectators to watch and enjoy. The arenas rode well and we were fortunate to have had out of town riders join us, and ride the Big tour level – this was an Absolute treat to watch along with various freestyles.

Our annual Prize Giving was held at this event. Riders received invites and were notified about there awards. The Prize giving took place in the tent, plentiful snacks and awards followed with a few spot prizes were given and laugher and congratulations were shared amongst our riders. A lovely evening was Shared and we look forward to hosting our awards at the Port Elizabeth riding Club at EC Dressage Champs on the 10th – 11th August 2024.

SA Youth Champs was held in Shongweni – we had a fair amount of riders from the Eastern Cape Participate in the Dressage. We encouraged our riders to participate and made two full teams. A novice Junior and Pony rider Team were sent through with some help from our Provincial Funds. They were extremely grateful and made our Province Proud. We were also fortunate to have had an open Junior rider who was made part of a Open team. We look forward to SA Youth Champs in Port Elizabeth this year.

SA Dressage Champs was held at the Mistico Equestrian Centre last year. Due to the African Horse sickness outbreak, and the restriction of travel we had three riders make the trip. The riders were encouraged to participate in teams – the other provinces were kind enough to keep us informed and our Eastern Cape riders were able to join the teams and merge our Provinces.

SA Dressage champs will be held in Kyalami, Gauteng this year in September and we look forward to having a whole bunch of riders making the trip and competing for our Province as a team.

DEVELOPEMENT

On the 13th January, a Practical skills seminar was held at Navarre Equestrian Centre, East London. Flo Vernon was our "Coach" through this seminar. Plenty of demonstrations and theory was shared , discussed and questioned through this day. Coaches, riders and horse enthusiasts were all welcome and an open, fun and educational environment was created. We had a few demo riders brave enough to take on the task and our practical session was extremely beneficial. We cannot thank our coach developers enough for sharing what they know in a healthy, educational manner.

The dressage year for 2023 was full of great riding and new adventures and we hope that 2024 will be nothing short of exciting

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FINANCIALS

In the year 2024 we were fortunate to have had the funds to help our judges travel to sit in and judge at various shows, as well as encourage our learner judges. We supported or young riders by assisting them each with a small sum of money to help with funs towards SA youth Champs. We hope to be able to assist in the future again

Kind regards

Robyn Ramsay

EC Dressage President