DressageSA

President's Report of the activities for the 2024 year

June 2025



Dear Members and Council

Many thanks for your continued support in the 2024/2025 year. Thank you to all members of the DSA council for the work that you as volunteers put into making the sport successful.

Thank you to Debbie Hunt in the office for being the face of DSA and to Peter Schalkwijk and Carol Oberem for running the finances and keeping our audits clean and DSA solvent.

On behalf of all at DSA, I would like to thank, and at the same time, bid farewell to Sue Horne who has relocated to Mauritius. Sue was instrumental in starting DSA when the entire equestrian structure, including the Provincial Horse Societies was dissolved and we were instructed to start Discipline Associations.

This was new to everyone, and, with Sue and the generous donation of her IT skills, as well as a very strong knowledge of dressage, a whole bespoke online system was developed free of charge, and a new association came into being.

Sue is also a national judge, a retired FEI Judge and a keen rider. I am sure she soon be showing the Mauritians how to ride a Grand Prix test. She will continue as our IT service provider and go to person when we need advice. Sue, we are already missing you.

Sponsors. I have no words for the generosity of the sponsors who make our sport possible. It is impossible to name everyone without leaving someone out so a huge thanks to all.

Our major shows of the year were the DSA Challenge, Youth Championships at Durban Shongweni Club and the Adult South African Championships held at Kyalami Park Club.

The DSA Challenge was well supported in some provinces, however the entries in others were disappointing. The object of this competition is to give riders around the country the opportunity to compete against each other without having to travel too far. Thanks to Moya Truter, Susen Human and Sylvia Bruckner, who came to our rescue when Susen had a family emergency, for judging the 2024 challenge.

The Youth Championships once again showcased the best of our developing talent and hopefully, future top dressage riders. Congratulations to all for participating.

The SA Championships was a great success, thanks to the efforts of the KPC team, Toyota, Midfeeds and the many generous individuals who sponsored the show. I would like to specially thank the riders who travelled long distances, from all corners of SA to participate.

The FEI World Dressage Challenge and the ACES Dressage Competition were held at Maxwells Equestrian in Mooiriver KZN and Europa in the Western Cape. Our South African riders did very well in our Group F competition.

Our Solidarity Star project continues with some super talented riders who are consistently placed in the competitions that they enter. We are very fortunate to have received Lotto funding to keep this project going, thanks to Sharlene Venter, the SAEF SG for making this possible, as well as to the owners of the horses and support teams behind the riders.

There has been a huge focus on judges education and consequently congratulations must go to Claire Nadin, Nadine Parker, Janine Viljoen, Bronwyn Bailin, and Cheryl Kempin on being promoted to National List 1. This means that they can judge up to Medium Tour Level. Thanks to Sylvia and the National Judges who assisted in this process.

Our coaches have also been active with the launch of the DSA Coach Education online courses. Well done to Wendy Moller for persevering in getting this up and running, and to Montanique Wilson for her assistance.

Phillipa Johnson once again held the South African flag high and participated in the Paris Paralympics with her horse Just in Time.

Our membership numbers for 2024 were as follows:

Adult Competitive: 831
Junior Competitive: 229
Children Competitive: 57
Pony Rider Competitive: 103
Non Graded Adults: 157
Non Graded Juniors, Pony Riders, and Children: 61
Nonparticipating Owners: 111
Officials: 70
Sponsors: 13
TOTAL: 1632

Dianne Smith
President