

Vybrant Newsletter

What's happening in the world of Vybrant Dressage Club

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Vybrant AGM Recap

Thank you to those members who attended our recent (online) AGM, along with the Vybrant Council.

As none of the Council positions were contested for 2020, our Vybrant team remains as is for another year.

- Sue Horne – President
- Kim Hobbs – Chairman
- John Smith – Coaches representative
- Lilian Mohr – Athletes representative
- Caroline Potts – Officials representative
- Lynette Byrne – Treasurer
- Judith Harrison – Secretary, Events and Development

Also on the agenda was discussion of webinars, shows, clinics, and other events held over the last year in an effort to further the sport in South Africa. With lockdown slowly easing, the logistics of returning to shows and competing were also discussed with some exciting developments on the horizon in future. We will keep members informed of any new developments around this.

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**Meet Your Fellow
Vybranteers -
Dressage Diva
Siobhan Records**



Vybrant Dressage Webinars Continue

The Vybrant Dressage Webinars have evolved into something bigger than any of us had anticipated. From what was initially a way to keep up learning during our unprecedented lockdown, these webinars are now a novel way for people to increase their dressage knowledge and learn from people that we would never be able to access regularly in our daily lives.

We've moved forward from just pure Dressage riding to judging, biomechanics, sports psychology and much more. With Jenku's involvement, we're now even including groundwork and horsemanship to the delight of our multi-talented Vybrant members.

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Feedback from Jenku's Webinars

- *I just want to thank you for arranging these sessions. I am not a great rider, but am enjoying these sessions so much.*
- *The most awesome presentation - THANK YOU!!!*
- *Incredible experience - thank you so much for your time and sharing*

SA Champs Cancelled

After what we are sure has been plenty of deliberation, consideration, and debate, Dressage South Africa has taken the hard choice to postpone the SA Champs for 2020.

Although we as a club are disappointed that such a major show will no longer be able to take place, we believe that the safety of not only our riders but also our grooms, judges, officials, and the often unseen members of the sport remains paramount.

To read DSA's statement on SA champs, please [click here](#).

On a brighter note, SAEF have announced that shows have been given the green light! Some of our local venues have already started with jumping shows, and we hope to see people back in the Dressage arenas very soon. [Read the latest update here](#).



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Some of the Callaho superstars



Callaho Larano



Callaho Corrigan



Callaho Valkyrie

Callaho Annual Auction

Congratulations are in order for Vybrant member Grant Store and the Callaho Stud team at large after pulling off an incredible feat for a successful online auction this June.

When the Callaho auction lots were released earlier this year and eager potential buyers and attendees booked their annual weekend of horses and good times down in the freezing cold town of Christiana, nobody anticipated that Callaho would be forced to cancel.

Showing that resilience and innovation are key to survival during this time, Callaho took a leap of faith by holding their auction online; a bold move in a country which has never held an online sport horse auction.

Naturally, the equestrian world had some doubts around the readiness of South Africans for online auctions, the economic climate and financial uncertainty many of us are facing, and the limited opportunity to try the horses out or see them in the flesh.

None of these concerns could stop the Callaho team, who received record bids on a number of their horses. The outstanding Capital Corrigan fetched 1.37 million rand, with plenty of others reaching over the R500 000 mark. Congratulations to all the new owners on your purchases.

We are so pleased to see that buyers are ready and willing to invest in homegrown horsepower, and are grateful to Callaho for once again being pioneers in our sport. We look forward to many more successful auctions, whether online or in person.

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Meet Siobhan

Last month we chatted to Leanne Bruwer, and this month we meet one of our top Dressage Divas, Siobhan Records



Tell us about your competition horses? Brace yourself readers, it's a long list!

Rathmor Caprice is obviously my most well-known horse - he's a 12yo gelding out of Cappriccio and is prepping for Grand Prix. I've owned him since he was 3! Then I have Raindancer who belongs to my mom Lynda, who is a Lusitano x Warmblood and currently competing in Advanced. Neopolitano Theodora is another of mine, a 9yo Lipizzaner gelding who's at Medium now. Adcon El Encanto Sevilla who is owned by Claudia Privato who's an Andalusian cross mare also at Medium - and you might have seen her turning a hoof to Eventing from time to time as well! Rosie Lee M is owned by the Mowatt family and is out of Uron M and out of a Connemara M. I have a 7yo Namibian Warmblood at Novice level, Seeis Sopranoure, owned by Jessica Brar as well. That's the regular string!

What's your secret to competing so many horses on show days without passing out in the saddle?

The first secret is organisation. Know your riding times and arenas, and memorise ALL your tests 2-3 weeks before so that an absent caller isn't a problem (yep, it's happened a few times!). 3 weeks before I do a test run of the show which I video. 2 weeks away we do some troubleshooting on any movements, and the week before I work them nice and lightly and get their physio - I'm really lucky to be sponsored by Sasha Chelin, who also keeps me in one piece...no small feat.

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I also go to the gym 4/5 times a week (when we could!) and cycle and do strength training, and go to Bodytec Kyalami who also sponsor me. The other thing is (sorry!) diet. Eating right helps keep sustained energy. And, of course, the other thing that helps me compete so many horses is having an amazing support crew. My grooms, the horse's owners, my mom, everyone who helps truck horses, tack up horses, turn them out etc. I'm really lucky that when I get to a show all I have to focus on is my riding because almost everything else has been taken care of, and I'm really grateful for that.

If you had to give up either wine or chocolate forever, which one would it be??

You HAD to ask me this when I'm on a cleanse and don't get either this week?! This is a hard question...I love my chocolate...but there's other forms of confectionery. So I guess I'd lose the chocolate and live on lemon meringue pie and wine!

What's the best life lesson that horses have taught you?

Horses are so humbling. You can be on top of the world one day and LITERALLY in the dirt the next. So I think it sort of breeds humility. But there's two other things. One is that things take as long as they take. We all want to have a plan and think "I'm gonna do this and that" but, life doesn't always go according to plan and sometimes you have to adapt, overcome, and improvise. That's some Bear Grylls inspiration for horseriders!

The other thing is that there are many roads to Rome. You learn that the same approach doesn't always work, and you sometimes have to modify your approach. They say that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result and I think that's true of horses and of life.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

It's the Derby. I just love it. The switching of horses does it for me and I love how despite having riders who are men, women, tall, short, etc, the horse becomes the leveller. My best memory is of 2017 where I won the Derby on Royal Darco. Winning Derby on your own horse is just such a huge accomplishment, because it speaks volumes not only about your skills as a competition rider but as someone who can produce such a rideable horse.

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If time travel was real, when/where would you travel to?

I'd probably go to 400BC with Xenophon. His book is still used in horsemanship today so has truly stood the test of time so to go and learn from a master like that would be amazing. Or maybe the 17/18th Century where they started creating movements like the shoulder in and go to see those concepts being created.

If you had never got into riding, what would you be doing with your life now?

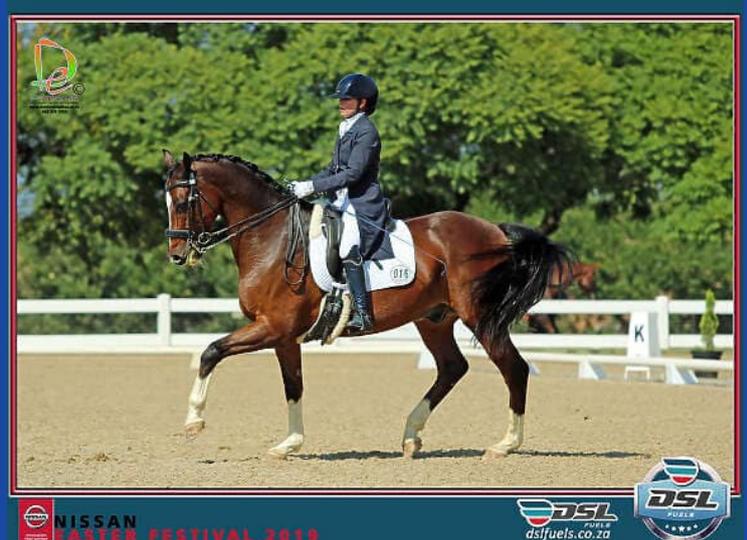
I don't know! I love my job. I can't do computers or too many people, don't like sitting at a desk.

loooooong silence

Maybe I could be a trustfundarian?

Why Vybrant?

I'm incredibly grateful to Vybrant for all that they do for members, from awards evenings to rider support. The webinars have been incredible with amazing speakers and amazing information. Vybrant are always continually striving to grow Dressage in SA and they need to be commended for that.



Thanks for reading!

