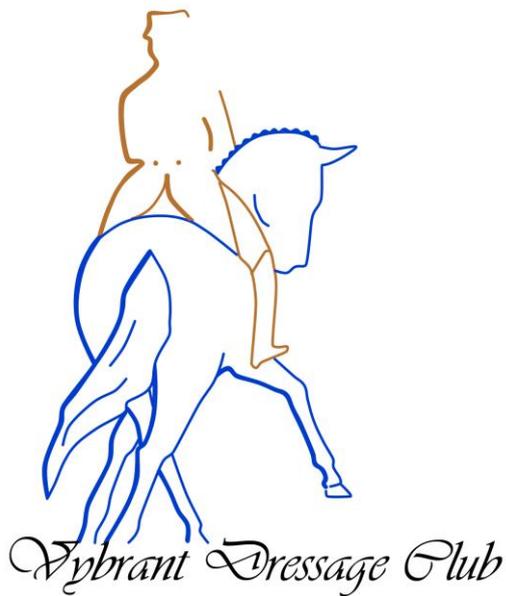


Welcome to all our new Members! We are growing fast!  
Want to see Previous Newsletters? All on our website!



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday 20 June 2018 : 18h00**

Lindenberg Conference Hall,  
Equifax Park, 137 Crocus Road,  
Kyalami

Notice has been emailed to all members and is also on our website, [www.vybrant.co.za](http://www.vybrant.co.za), click on the DOCUMENTS icon.

Vybrant Dressage Club is celebrating its first year and we would like to see as many members as possible!

Our latest Vybrant branded winter and summer clothing will be available for purchase! Lovely warm fleece lined jerseys and long and short sleeved golf shirts and caps!

For those of you who have already placed orders, you can collect them at the AGM!

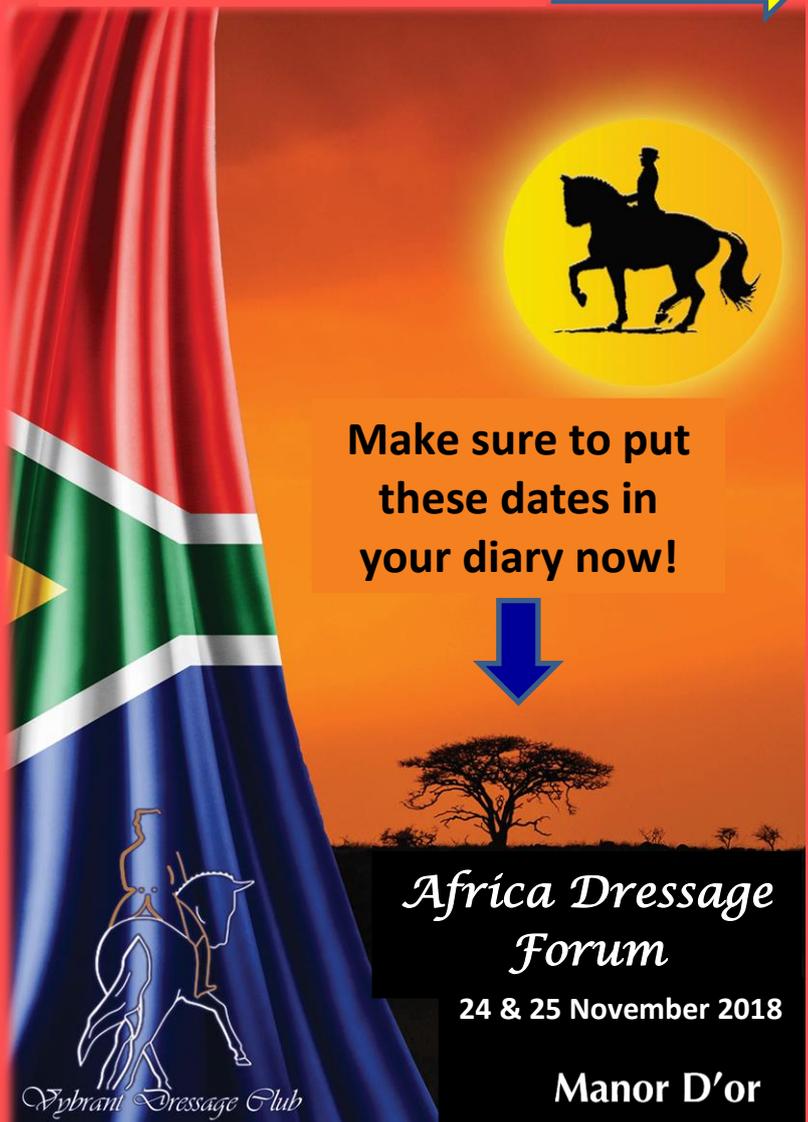
If you are unable to attend, do please complete a Proxy Form and send to us. Proxy Form is available on our website [www.vybrant.co.za](http://www.vybrant.co.za) under DOCUMENTS.

Light refreshments will be available. We look forward to welcoming you!

We are delighted to announce that  
**Stephen Clarke,**  
FEI 5\* Judge and FEI Dressage General,  
has agreed to lead the first ever  
*Africa Dressage Forum*  
proudly presented by *Vybrant Dressage Club!*

What is it? Based on the world renowned Global Dressage Forums, held in Europe, the goal is to assist in the promotion and development of dressage through practical, theoretical and debating sessions with global experts, presenting all the latest research and information in all areas of equine sciences and horse management and training.

More exciting stuff on page 2.....



Make sure to put these dates in your diary now!

↓

*Africa Dressage Forum*  
24 & 25 November 2018  
Manor D'or



## National Judge & Vybrant member, Moya Truter in Botswana

In 2017, I was invited by Bridget O'Neill to judge at a graded show at Herbie's Haven Stables in Ruretse, north of Gaborone. The classes were from Children to Adults, Preliminary to Medium. The show ended early afternoon on both days and riders asked if they could come and discuss their tests with me.

After going through the tests with the riders, I gave them a whole lot of 'Visualisations' which I had put out on the table and said they could look up their main problem identified in the test and, with the help of their trainer, correct it with the picture in their mind. These visualisations are done by top trainers, riders and judges in the world, e.g. Carl Hester, Kyra Kirkland, Charles de Kunffy, Debbie McDonald etc. The riders found these Visualisations fun and very useful.

We did a second show towards the end of 2017 and then Bridget asked me to judge a Dressage Series for them for 2018. This involves four shows, the format being that the riders ride two tests at each show. The rider rides the first test, which is marked and then has 15 minutes with the judge to discuss and improve on areas in the test. The second test is ridden and marked. Both tests qualify for grading points. The final show planned for November 2018 can only be entered by riders who have competed in two previous challenges, achieving a minimum of 60%. The idea behind the series is to see how much the riders and horses can improve during the year under the eye of the same judge.



Callaho Giuseppe and Debra Freeman,  
Prix St George Winner, with Moya Truter  
and other human and canine supporters

**What topics will be covered?** Latest judging trends, two training workshops – Making the transition from Small Tour to Med/Big Tour, and from Novice to Elementary; Equine Locomotion and Biomechanics; Equine Research Fund latest research on African Horse Sickness, Movement Control and update on potential new vaccine; Mental Aspects of Competing, Coach the Coaches; Rider Fitness and Balance .....a feast of information for riders, coaches, judges, and all dressage and equine fans!

**What speakers will be presenting?** There will be a mix of both international and local speakers. At this stage, we are proud to welcome the following international speakers!

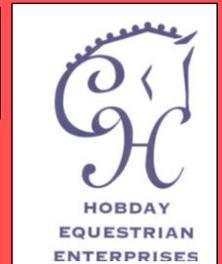
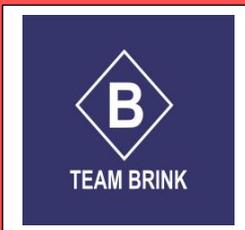
**Stephen Clarke (UK)** FEI Dressage Judge General & Forum Leader.

**Dr Hilary Clayton, (USA)** Equestrian (Grand Prix rider), veterinarian, author, researcher and clinician, Dressage Chair since 2000 at Michigan State University's Equine Performance Centre, a state of the art equine sports facility, and probably the world's foremost expert on equine locomotion and biomechanics.

**Andy Thomas (UK)** Rider Fitness and Balance. Head of Human Performance, United States Equestrian Federation. Previously lead practitioner for human science and sports medicine to the British Equestrian Federation.. Worked in close collaboration with Team GB in particular working with dressage riders on unique system of assessing imbalances and weaknesses. 'Fundamentally riding is about balance of you and the horse'

**Our wonderful sponsors so far!** In order to secure the services of international speakers, sponsorship is key!

A huge **THANK YOU** to the sponsors who have come on board so far, without whom this event would not be possible.



**What next?** Full announcements will be made throughout South Africa and FEI African group countries when we have confirmation from other international and local speakers and we can give you an idea of the full programme! We hope to have this available during July and registration should open some time in August!

In the meantime, anyone interested in sponsorship opportunities for this exciting event should please contact Judy Vertue, Vybrant Dressage Club on 083 601 2104 and email [judy@vybrant.co.za](mailto:judy@vybrant.co.za).



## Para Equestrian Seminar in Germany. Attended by Caroline Potts

Marco Orsini, a 5\* Para-equestrian judge, shared his deep knowledge and experience with us over the first weekend of May. The seminar is always made up of two parts, the first being information on new rules and developments within the FEI with regards to judging. One of the most important developments is that FEI are cracking ahead with the technical development of long-distance learning for Judges in the form of webinars. This will enable less expensive travel so is a wonderful way for those of us who are not close to Europe to stay well in touch as judges.

The second part of the day was dedicated to practice-judging which was done from the bottom of the arena in a dedicated tent for our use. Here each judge would judge a horse and rider over a connected intercom system so that all judges could hear the judge in question and Marco's remarks on the judging. This certainly kept us on our toes! It is enormously helpful to judge like this and by the end of the two days of practice judging, one feels much more confident that what you see and the mark given are properly related and at the required standard.

The judges taking part were:

Eeva Kaartinen, Suzanne Petty, Geneviève Pfister, David Schmutz, Freddy Leyman, Birgit Valkenborg, Jose Baud, Harro Goudsmit and myself.

**Pic below right**

Practice Judging in the Tent below A

**Pic below left**

German Rider Hannelore Brenner with horse Belissima M competing in the CPEDI \* Team Test Grade IV



## Proud Vybrant Member and Mother, Judith Harrison, has new mounted security unit!



“Thank goodness for my wonderful daughters, Kayleen Harrison, Robyn Harrison and Brittany Harrison whilst riding out on Doakes Farm on Sunday 3 June. I was walking with them. We saw 2 cyclists being attacked and without thinking, they charged the 4 armed men with BG, Beach Bum and Omar Makaarem (the cyclists told us afterwards that they were armed, we didn't see any guns when the Harrisons were in full charge mode). The men ran off into the trees on the ridge. Fortunately all OK! Two shocked and bruised cyclists. Well done girls - I am so proud of you.” *The two grateful cyclists found us on Facebook and thanked us even more. Whilst the girls will probably ride up there again, Mom is certainly not walking there again!*

## Vybrant Member and National A Judge, Susen Human, judged at the Inter-Africa Cup in Namibia.

Alongside my amazing colleague FEI 2\* judge and President of the Ground Jury, Mrs. Sylvia Bruckner, I'm very grateful that I was invited to judge the Inter-Africa Cup (IAC) 2018, which was held at the Duneside Equestrian Centre and Stud farm in Namibia from 9 – 11 May 2018

The Equestrian Centre is part of the Sandune Game Lodge, set on 4 600 hectares in the Kalahari Forest near Gobabis and about 160 km from Windhoek International Airport.

We were privileged to meet and dine with the president of the FEI, Mr. Ingmar de Vos, the Secretary General Mrs Sabrina Ibáñez and the NF Liaison Officer, Mrs Lucinda Arsenio. Ingmar de Vos said: "The Inter-Africa Cup is a wonderful initiative to showcase the talent and the drive in the region and I'm delighted to see that since being created in 2000, new disciplines have been added to the scope."

The IAC was dominated by Showjumping and Dressage, this year; however, Endurance was part of the competition. The show jumping was judged by Mrs Mary Binks, and as the Chair of FEI Group IX, she oversaw this competition, held presentations and introductions.

The teams comprised of the following nations: South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Mauritius, although, the latter was not part of the dressage competition.

The dressage competition was the first to take place. The arenas were beautifully set up and the footing was very good. Our judges boxes/cars were sponsored by Gobabis Toyota.

Some horses were appreciatively loaned from Namibian horse owners and studs to the South African and Zambian teams; without such generosity, this competition would not be possible.

Many congratulations to the Namibian team, who won the Dressage, followed by Botswana and in 3<sup>rd</sup> place South Africa. Well done to all competitors for all their efforts and traveling such distances to represent their country and the sport in Africa.

Overall, it was a superbly organized Inter-Africa Cup 2018. Congratulation to the Namibia Equestrian Federation, the show organizers, the beautiful venue Dunside Equestrian Centre, and many thanks to our hosts Sandune Lodge for their stunning accommodation and amazing game drive.

## Your Education Corner

### Collection

Collection is at the pinnacle of the Training Scale. Let's look at what it's all about!

#### Definition

The horse's weight plus that of the rider must be distributed as evenly as possible over all four legs. As the forelegs normally carry more weight, it means redistributing the load to the hind legs. By training through effective half halts combined with increased propulsive force, it is possible to increase the carrying capacity of the hindquarters.

This in turn lightens the forehand, giving more freedom to the movements of the forelegs. The horse looks and feels more "uphill". The steps become shorter but without losing their energy or activity. The increased flexion of the hind legs results in the neck being raised. The horse is then in a position, if the carrying capacity through impulsion and engagement of the hindquarters is sufficiently and systematically developed, to move in balance and complete self-carriage in all three paces.

To enable a horse to be collected correctly, all former criteria of the Training Scale (rhythm, suppleness, contact, impulsion and straightness) must be fulfilled.

The highest degree of collection is needed in piaffe, passage and canter pirouettes.

#### Common mistakes

- \* Neck too long and flat instead of being raised
- \* Poll not highest point and not elastic
- \* Neck only shortened by the rider's hands
- \* Hind legs out, not moving under the horse's point of gravity
- \* High croup
- \* Steps and strides not elevated but short and stiff (and sometimes slower)
- \* Lacking impulsion and engagement
- \* Lack of self-carriage – too much weight on the shoulder.

### Niall Quirk's next visit

Many of you have asked when he is coming again! Originally August but more likely to be in Oct/Nov. Will let you know soonest!

