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www.vybrant.co.za

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

Happy New Year!

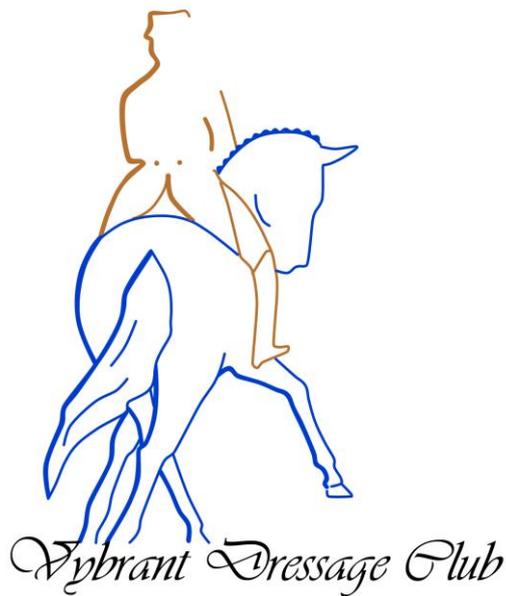
**Bumper New
Year Edition!**
(6 pages)

Relax with
a glass of
wine and
enjoy!



*from all of us
on the Vybrant
team!*

May your Pirouettes and
Piaffe be Perfection,
your Sequence changes
Stupendous,
and your Horse a very
Happy athlete!



VYBRANT EVENTS 2019

Friday 1 February.

Vybrant Awards Evening at Inanda Country Base. Besides congratulating our award winners, there will be lots of news on exciting plans we have for 2019, opportunities to buy our lovely branded clothing at last year's prices, light supper with complimentary glass of wine – just a lovely fun-filled 'vybrant' evening!!

Put this date in your diary! Award winners will be notified shortly and a detailed invitation to all members will follow.

We are delighted to announce that all our planned shows and development clinics in 2019 will be held at Fourways Riding Centre.

Thank you, Marion, for offering us your beautiful facilities, especially your brand new fibre arenas!



Put these dates in your diary!

Saturday 9 February

Development Clinic. Test riding and feedback, coaches sit in, practice judging.

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Don't forget to renew your Membership for 2018!

TO RENEW You do need to go onto our website, www.vybrant.co.za and follow the instructions to renew your membership. We are not yet mobile enabled (we are working on this!), so if you do not have a laptop/computer, please contact Brittany Harrison on admin@vybrant.co.za for assistance or WhatsApp her on 084 743 4547.

Membership fees for 2019 are:

Adult Competitive: R 200

Adult Recreational: R 100

Children/Pony Riders and Juniors R 0

Officials (Dressage Judges registered with DSA) R 0

IMPORTANT NOTE:

If your membership is nil as above, you still have to log on to our website in order that you are recorded on our membership database.

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER – Anita Adendorff meets Totilas in Germany and Gill Taylor meets Valegro in England!

Saturday 2 March

All Grades Dressage Show

Saturday 30 March

Development Clinic (Piaffe/Passage, SchoolmasterExperience; Rising Stars *(see more about this special development programme for young children further on in this newsletter)*)

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 April

Boot Camp. Prelim and Novice

Saturday 4 May

Development Clinic: Flying Changes

Sunday 5 May

Development Clinic: School Master Experience, Flying Changes

Saturday 8 June

Development Clinic. Test riding and feedback, coaches sit in, practice judging, and Rising Stars.

Saturday 6 July and Sunday 7 July

Bootcamp, Elementary and EM.

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 August

All Grades Dressage Show.

Saturday 12 October

Development Clinic . Test riding and feedback, coaches sit in, practice judging, and Rising Stars



Rising Stars

In pursuit of Vybrant's goal to develop children from the very beginning, we are delighted to announce that the very successful programme which ran in 2017 with Kate Laird at the helm, will be continued in 2019 under the Vybrant banner. This initiative will be headed up by Gill Taylor. The first clinic will be held at the Horse of the Year Show at KEP on **Sunday 24 February** Anyone wishing to assist in any way should contact Gill on 083 700 5405.

Niall Quirk returns in March



The ever popular **Niall Quirk** will be returning to run clinics from 3 March to 24 March. The clinics will again be held by kind permission of Arina Petit at her beautiful yard in Pommel Road, Bridle Park. Spectators very welcome (no charge). Detailed programme available nearer the time.

Niall has a large base of long standing clients and after that there is an ever growing waiting list! If you would like us to add your name to the waiting list, please do so via WhatsApp or SMS to Judy Vertue on 083 601 2104 or email her on judy@vybrant.co.za giving your full name, your cell phone and your email address! To clarify a query we had please note that the waiting list is 'people' not horses! So if you are an existing client, you can ride whatever horse you like, but you cannot give away your slot to just anyone (if you can't make it one day) . That free slot must go to the next person on the waiting list!!

The IDOC (International Dressage Officials Club) General Assembly & FEI Judges Refresher Seminar : Germany : December 2018

Report from Anita Adendorff, FEI 2* Judge

From 14 to 16 December, I was privileged to be able to attend both the IDOC General Assembly, the CDI4*Show and the Judges Refresher Seminar held in Frankfurt at the wonderful Festhalle.

The IDOC Assembly, which was most generously hosted by Ann Kathrin Linsenhoff and Klaus-Martin Rath at their magnificent estate Gestut Schafhof, was the first one I had ever attended. Apart from the festive decorations, wonderful dinner and special tour for the delegates of the stables , including.....eat your hearts out.... a chance to meet Totilas in person! it was most interesting to get feedback on FEI activities, as well as challenges over the past year. Also, to be reminded that we are all part of a global dressage community. **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



Gestut Schafhof, private estate of the Linsenhoff family.

Anita Adendorff Report (continued)

Judges Age Restrictions

After the various reports, other issues of particular interest were raised...one being the age restrictions and particularly those regarding Judges' retirement. There is definitely a move afoot to re-evaluate these age barriers to promotion and retirement based on competency and a Code of Points, rather than actual years; but when and how it will come into effect was unclear. They also addressed the Stewards, and the fact that they actually have far too many now, (some 800 worldwide! In the light of this, they will not be offering any more Level 1 Courses for a few years, but rather focusing on assisting and promoting their existing Stewards.

New "Paperless" Scoring System

Another aspect that was touched on was E-Dressage and a revolutionary new Scoring System which has already been tested at various CDIs. Basically, this involves a paperless process, using instead, mark input software running on iPads and the SAP Cloud Platform. The judge gives marks and remarks as normal, which the scribe puts into the system, and the Judge then signs each test sheet as he previously did on paper. This cuts down on scribes, runners and scorers....and the marks are virtually immediate, after the rider has left the arena. Paper is there only as a "safety net"! Its aim is to speed up competition time, add a lot more transparency and also make things more attractive for spectators and the media. What is amazing, is that the competitors will receive their score sheets automatically via email after the C Judge has signed the ranking. All Judges' marks and remarks will appear on a single sheet in different colours to make analysis easier for both athletes and trainers. There will be accountability through clear tracing and credibility through immediate and final scoring. It can be effectively used as an educational tool for Judges and will also make the task of the JSP (Judges Supervisory Panel) easier should corrections be warranted. They will now see more easily if a particular judge's mark was justified or not (eg tongue out).



There is definitely a picture of Anita with Totilas, (we believe you Anita!) but it was just one of those times when technology just lets you down! This group of pics disappeared from Anita's smart phone and refuses to be found!.

The above pic is Totilas with Hungarian Judge (who has judged in South Africa), Orsolya Hillier. If Anita's pic miraculously appears from cyberspace, we shall publish it in our next Newsletter!

FEI Seminar

The Course Director for the actual Seminar was FEI 5* Judge, Katrina Wust, ably supported by Hans-Christian Matthiesen, Danish 5* Judge and President of the IDOC. Between them, they provided the 60 odd delegates from all over the world, with not only an invaluable "classroom" theory session, but also live commentary during six of the major competitions. We watched some of the world's top riders and horses battling it out for the ultimate honours in the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special and Freestyle. Names like Hubertus Schmidt, Ingrid Klimke, Kristina Broring-Sprehe & Isabell Werth suddenly became more than just names...but took real form. Apart from appreciating the amazing quality of many of the horses and riding, the Youngster PSG & Grand Prix Finals showcased many of the future superstars.



The prize givings matched the performances and were extravaganzas in their own right, with laser light shows and great lead up music

The Competition Arena at the Festhalle in Frankfurt

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Grand Prix Freestyle is always a highlight and this one was no exception. The overall winner, Isabell Werth from Germany on Don Johnson, scored 80% with an average score of 9 for her music

I learnt an amazing amount...enjoyed and cherished every moment...and would just like to thank all those, particularly my own province of KZN for their unwavering support and financial assistance which enabled me to go and complete my FEI accreditation requirements. This is always a heavy burden to bear...but one which is made at least possible through family and our Dressage community. Thank you to everyone involved.



Pic above right : Gorgeous Christmas Carousel with two judges on the left underneath the umbrella, Virginia Creed from Australia (who came to Johannesburg in 2005 to judge at the 11th Anniversary of the Annual Freestyle Festival) and Finnish Judge, Tiina Karkkolainen, who has judged many times in South Africa.



*I count myself very lucky as when I knew I was going to go to Olympia, I contacted Isobel Wessels (FEI 5 * Judge) to see if we could meet up. We have kept in regular contact over some 30 years from when we used to compete together in South Africa. Through her good offices, I was given permission by British Dressage to be a 'paying Observer' at the Judges Seminar that Isobel was running. What a privilege! I sat quietly in the corner, made loads of notes and just absorbed all the knowledge I could! Just incredible to be in a room with over 100 people all passionate and extremely knowledgeable about Dressage – to name but a few, Peter Storr, Jenny Loriston-Clarke, Paul Hayler*

Article by Gill Taylor

Introduction

Isobel started off by saying that judges must always be loyal to each other, give fair comment, encourage riders and try to deliver bad news with a smile. Isobel was very clear regarding what she wants to see - poll highest point, nose forward, hindlegs stepping through, elasticity in back and harmony. Look for quality, avoid looking for mistakes Always try to be positive, not criticize all the time.

The Shortened Grand Prix

Isobel showed 6 tests of the shortened Grand Prix, which was showcased the previous evening and asked for comments on the new test.

Only one person was in favour of it, everyone else felt that it was too busy, didn't allow the horse time to breath and all the competitors had made mistakes.

The current Grand Prix Test

We then watched about 10 of the current Grand Prix test and these are a few of the most pertinent comments:

Walk: when not clear 4 beat, don't say lateral.

Walk Half Pirouettes : look for rider closing horse from behind, bend, balance.

Canter Pirouettes: don't just say too big, count strides, give constructive comments that rider can use to improve.

Piaffe/ Passage: the quality of the transitions are extremely important.

Passage: look for good height, hooves not dragging in sand.

Piaffe: number of steps, can't get a sufficient mark if insufficient steps.

Tempi Changes: if incorrect number, then the mark is insufficient.

Reinback: if not diagonal steps then not more than marginal.

Freestyles

In the evening for the Freestyle we all had headphones and Isobel made comments on each test. An amazing experience.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE !

Interesting Format for educating audiences

Isobel had judged in Stockholm the previous weekend and they had well known riders (Edward Gal, Helen Langehanenberg, etc) giving short Master classes between each competitor, to educate the audience. This was apparently received extremely well and she felt this was an excellent idea instead of changing the Grand Prix test.



In addition, on route to stay with relatives in Cheshire, I visited the **Liverpool International Horse Show** held between Christmas and New Year, where I had the most fantastic opportunity to meet Carl Hester and Charlotte Dujardin, get some books signed and talk to them about our amazing African Dressage Forum (I proudly gave them a copy of our programme!)

It was wonderful to see Valegro 'in the flesh'. He has lost his figure a little bit (too much Christmas dinner, I think) but nevertheless a true show man. Spectators were treated to a parade of this dressage superstar with commentary and a look back over his hugely successful career.

It was also great to watch Charlotte compete (and win!) in the Inter I freestyle class that evening, riding the talented grey mare, Florentina VI.



Flying on Christmas Day!

Lynette Byrne went flying on Christmas Day – nothing to do with aeroplanes, just flew off her horse when it had an unexpected spook and landed up having surgery for three broken bones in the shin and around the knee. (Horse fine!) Now at home doing extended walk on crutches!

We wish you a speedy recovery, Lynette!

Just a bit of fun!

The Dressage Test

*All we, like sheep have gone astray
Amnesia sets in at A
And, turning down the centre line
I rode a perfect serpentine
Perverse and foolish oft I strayed
the halt at X was much delayed
And, if he had not deigned to budge
I would have halted on the judge
I wandered through the wilderness
Twist M and K in great distress
At random, on the verge of tears,
For what seemed long, infernal years
Till exiting, by chance at last
Confused, exhausted and downcast
By accident, it came to pass
That I had won the freestyle Class!*

More serious stuff on final page!

Your Newsletter : Your Club : We always welcome new ideas!

Your Education Corner: The New Adult and Junior Dressage Tests 2019

Riders, coaches and judges need to be well prepared for the new Adult and Junior Dressage Tests for 2019.

What has been done and why?

The DSA Judges Committee has collected feedback for at least the last couple of years from riders, judges and coaches. All this mass of information was collated to form the basis of new tests with the emphasis on a much more logical progression of movements throughout the grades. Some tests were too long, some too complicated, some did not have a natural 'flow' to make it easy for both horse and rider, so basically all the tests were revamped.

A summary is given below which we hope will be helpful.

Preliminary Tests

Basically the same (mirror image from 2010 ones!) so where you have turned left for 9 years, you will be turning right! New wording from the trot into the halt "2 to 3 walk steps allowed". This is to replace the wording, "halt through the walk" where it was found that some less experienced judges were giving very low marks and penalising the rider if no walk was shown and not rewarding the quality of the rest of the movement. The horse/rider should be rewarded if they go directly from trot to halt, but the walk steps are allowed to 'facilitate the smoothness' of the transition in less experienced horses. Rising trot is compulsory throughout.

Novice Tests

Mostly redone. The collective marks have been made the same as for the Preliminary Test (walk, trot, canter, submission, rider, accuracy) The lengthen trot has to be ridden rising. There is no rein back and no counter canter.

Elementary Tests

The four collective marks of Paces, Impulsion, Submission and Rider, have been brought back in by a large majority of votes and will apply up to and including Advanced. Tests are much less complicated! Compulsory to be ridden in a snaffle. Trot is ridden sitting, but the "lengthen trot" in Elementary 1 and 2 has option of being ridden rising. Medium trot (always ridden sitting) is introduced from Elem 3, from a short diagonal to a three quarter diagonal. The canter/walk/canter transition is introduced in Elementary 1 and 2, with a much longer walk distance in between (from one marker to the next) to settle the horse in the walk in preparation for the 'true' simple change (3 to 5 walk strides) which is introduced in Elementary 3 upwards, initially through half circles, then on short diagonal, and then out of counter canter. Collected trot is introduced in Elem 3 for the performance of shoulder in.

Elementary Medium

Simple changes in EM 1, 2, 3 and 4. The option of simple or flying changes in EM5, and compulsory flying change (one in either direction) in EM6.

Flying changes have wherever possible been given a completely separate mark, from when they are introduced, so as not to penalise the rider for a well executed 'previous movement' originally connected to the flying change.

Medium

Basically same movements but some redesign done (especially Medium 5!)

Advanced

Advanced 2 brand new test and an additional Advanced 4 has been added within the Advanced Grade, to ensure that it is not always a combination of only three tests within the grade that is ridden and to bring in line with 'even' number of tests in other grades.

Freestyles

Being updated and will be on the DSA website by the end of January



Every test has been ridden by riders in that particular grade! There has been very positive feedback from these new tests from coaches, judges and riders involved in the working group, so we look forward to seeing lots of happy horses and happy athletes riding these new tests!