



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our first Annual General Meeting was held on 20 June 2018, one year and one day after the incorporation of Vybrant Dressage Club in 2017! Your elected Council for the coming year is:

Suzanne Horne (President)
Kim Hobbs (Chairman)

Caroline Potts (Officials Representative)
John Smith (Coaches Representative)
Gill Taylor (Athletes Representative)
Judy Vertue (Secretary & Events Manager)
Lynette Byrne (Treasurer)



The new face on our team, Lynette Byrne, Treasurer, is a long standing dressage competitor. She holds a B.Comm in Management Accounting and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Very grateful thanks to our outgoing Chairman & Director, Lisa Agbenafa, for all her sterling work during the first year of Vybrant.

Self-appointed guardian of the Vybrant banner, also attended the meeting.

We are not quite sure whether to make him an Official or a Recreational member. Should he be filed under B for Brodie or T for Taylor?



Following our announcement of the first *Africa Dressage Forum* in our last newsletter, we bring you further exciting news and updates!

As we have had a lot of new members since our last newsletter, let's start by telling you what this Dressage Forum is all about.

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 stuff on page 2 !



Put these dates in your diary!

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

Vybrant Dressage Club

Judges Promotions

Congratulations to the following Vybrant Members who have been promoted.

Moya Truter (E Cape) from National Candidate to National B Panel

Justin O'Reilly (Gauteng) from National Candidate to National B Panel

Antoinette Stapelberg (Gauteng) from Provincial A to National Candidate Panel.

Dressage Challenge Judges for 2019

We are delighted to announce that Vybrant members and National Judges, **Mandy Greeff (W Cape)** and **Moya Truter (E Cape)** have accepted to be the Challenge Judges for 2019.



FEI 5* Judge **Peter Holler (Germany)** will be judging at SA Championships in September

Running around overseas

Our Vybrant members are having fun overseas!

Coaches Rep **John Smith**, proudly wearing his Vybrant clothes in Aachen



Lisa Penzhorn is in Aachen and is also rumoured to be doing some horse shopping!

Other members (that we know of) who are also at Aachen are **Lilian Möller, Arina Petit, Shane Gershow, Penny van Asche** and **Ute Schutz** (probably more that we don't know of). Hope we will get some interesting stuff to put in our next newsletter!

Western Cape Member, **Nichola Mohr**, is going to train with Tanya Seymour in Germany and her horse, Callaho Winston, is making the long journey to his new home. Good Luck, Nichola!

What topics will be covered?

A feast of information for riders, coaches, judges, and all dressage and equine fans, with both global and local experts!

International and Local Speakers

Stephen Clarke (UK) FEI Dressage Judge General & Forum Leader. Latest FEI judging trends; visual attention at Grand Prix; spectator judging.

Dr Hilary Clayton, (USA) Equestrian (Grand Prix rider), veterinarian, author, researcher and clinician, Dressage Chair from 2000 to 2014 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

Jan Bemelmans (Germany)

One of the most sought after dressage trainers in the world. Team Coach for the Spanish Team for many years and then for the French Team. Workshops on transition from Advanced/Small Tour to Medium/Big Tour and from Novice to Elementary

Jochen Schleese (Canada)

International Saddle Fitter, researcher, clinician and author.

Adviser at many international shows worldwide.

Niall Quirk, (USA)

International Coach. Played a major role in the development of the Coach the Coaches programme in S. Africa.

Prof Ian Sanne, (SA) Founding Director, Equine Research Fund with **Dr John Gruwer, BVSc (SA)** and **Miss Candice Hobday (SA)** Director, Hobday Equestrian Enterprises (International Horse Transporters). Latest updates and research on African Horse Sickness, quarantine and movement control and potential new vaccine.

Miss Natalie Hobday (SA), International Coach (Masters in Sports Psychology)

Dr Sheelagh Higgerty (SA), BVSc, National Head Veterinarian in South Africa for the FEI.

How long is the Forum

Day 1 and Day 2 (Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 November 2018)

These days will be the main Forum days with all the above speakers, including both theoretical and practical sessions. On these days, full catering will be available from the Culinary Company (those of you who were at Stephen Clarke's judges' seminar in 2017 will remember the delicious food!)

Day 3 and Day 4 (Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 November 2018)

We are so fortunate that both Stephen Clarke and Jan Bemelmans have agreed to stay and conduct teaching clinics on those days, also to be held at Manor D'or.

And even more stuff on Page 3!



Members' Results from Gauteng Championships!



**Vybrant members did so well!
Congratulations on your great achievements!**

(below is overall championship result included the freestyle)

Big Tour Champion

Hartenberg Attack & Adriaan van Wyk

Medium Tour Champion

Ulivia STV and Anthea Michaletos

Advanced Champion

Wow's Yellowwood and Patrick Brown

Elementary/Medium Champion

MOT Titan ridden by Georgina Roberts

Elementary Champion

Neapolitana Theodora, Siobhan Records

Novice Champion

Berghof Eragon and Stafford Robinson

Prelim Champion

Adela's Juwel Gersdorf and Maxine Roupell

Junior Small Tour Champion

Float On and Rebecca Tait

Suzanne Horne (with Absolutely Fabulous) and **Stafford Robinson** (with Berghof Eragon) shared the Tarragon Trophy for the highest artistic marks in the Freestyle!

Another well organised show at Eaton Farm, complete with Gluhwein and cake, and blankets for the judges (the weather chose to be very unfriendly that weekend!)

Half a century scored!



Nothing to do with the cricket, just Patrick Brown celebrating his 50th birthday!

He and Jane certainly know how to organise a fantastic party!

Happy Birthday!

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.

Callaho Warmblood Stud, Manor D'or, Team Brink, Adelprag Friesian Stud, Arco 360, Compton House Stud, Hobday Equestrian Enterprises, Ernst Holtz Front Page Industrial Marketing, Postnet Woodmead ,Take5

What next?

Delegate Registration Forms and Fees will be available during the latter half of August 2018 on the Vybrant Dressage Club website, www.vybrant.co.za together with the Final Programme.

In the meantime, if anyone has any further enquiries or is interested in sponsorship opportunities for this exciting event please contact

Judy Vertue, Secretary and Events Manager,
Vybrant Dressage Club



Niall Quirk will be back in Johannesburg running another teaching clinic from 2 to 22 November. It is likely that during this time he may be teaching in other provinces as well.

As always, Niall's long standing and very loyal client base will be first on the list for lessons. Due to his immense popularity, we have a waiting list of 13 people!! All enquiries to Judy Vertue, Mobile: 083 601 2104 Email: judy@vybrant.co.za.

Vybrant Development Seminar : 1 July 2018

Our first development seminar for riders, judges and coaches was held at KEP and had most positive reviews! Coaches were allowed to sit in with FEI 2* Judge Sue Horne and get feedback for their pupils, and riders received feedback directly from the judge. Tests were ridden from Prelim to Small Tour. Trainee judges had a chance to practice judging.



Thanks to Gauteng Dressage for development funding towards this seminar and to John Smith for his contribution to the arena hire at KEP.

Our beautiful Vybrant gazebo had its first outing!

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

Your Education Corner

Demistifying the Turn on the Haunches (TOH) and the Walk Pirouette

Hope this is helpful to judges, riders and coaches. In particular, we have concentrated on queries received over time, which include how to return to the track (TOH) and when and where the front/hindlegs are allowed/not allowed to cross!

What the Rule Book says

(You can all see this in the Dressage SA Rules on the DSA website) These Articles are taken from the FEI Rule Book.

Article 413 The Half Pirouette & the TOH

The Half Pirouette is a turn of 180 degrees executed on two tracks with a radius equal to the length of the horse and the forehand moving around the haunches.

The forefeet and the outside hind foot move around the inside hind foot.

The horse is slightly bent in the direction in which it is turning, remaining on the bit, with a light contact, turning smoothly around and maintaining sequence and timing of the footfalls. The poll remains the highest point during the entire movement.

During the half pirouette the horse should maintain its activity (the walk)

The Turn on the Haunches

For younger horses, that are still not able to show collected walk, the TOH is an exercise to prepare the horse for collection. The TOH is executed out of medium walk, prepared by half halts to shorten the steps a little and to improve the ability to bend the joints of the hindquarters. The TOH can be executed on a larger radius (approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ m) than the pirouette in walk but the demands of the training scale concerning rhythm, contact, activity and straightness are the same.

Useful observations from various published articles by US Federation FEI Judges

Many riders at the level where TOH is asked for, try to make the TOH smaller and therefore fail.

Remember these two movements are “non-brilliance” movements. This means that the quality of the gait is not taken into consideration, but the rhythm, regularity and activity of the walk is very important. So any horse with correct training should be able to do these movements well.

It should be made clear that a correct TOH, can receive a 10! Many riders and trainers think that in order to receive an excellent score the riders must perform a pirouette in place of the TOH. This is not the case and as judges we must remember this. However, if the rider demonstrates a correct pirouette instead of a TOH, it can also receive a 10! You cannot penalize an overachiever!

It is very helpful for judges to have a basic scale for the mechanics of either of the movements and then be able to add modifiers on top of this score. Modifiers are bend, ease of the turning of the shoulders, contact, line of travel etc.

Marks of Fairly Good (7) to Excellent (10)

*Correct size, active

Marks of Satisfactory (6)

*Large or one step against outside leg or trouble turning shoulder

Marks of Marginal (5)

*Stuck one step

Marks of Insufficient (4)

*Stuck several steps

Marks of 3 (Fairly Bad) and below

*Backward steps, haunches go in wrong direction, major resistance.

The correct way to start a TOH along the rail is to have a slight shoulder-fore position to prepare. You should finish approximately half a meter off the rail. Be sure to go straight on this line for a step or two to show you have finished the exercise. **Then ride a diagonal line straight back to the rail.**
Do not half pass or move sideways back to the track.



Serious faults include the walk losing its clear 4 beat rhythm, losing the flexion and/or the bend, having the wrong flexion, stepping out even one step with the outside hind leg, and **crossing of the hind legs during the turn.**

A correctly executed pirouette/TOH will show **crossing of the front legs,** outside over inside.