



**Kyalami
Park**

CLUB

Kyalami Park Club

1 Dahlia Road
Kyalami, Midrand, Gauteng
1684

Tel: 010 023 0712

August 2020

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – AGM SEPTEMBER 2020

The past 18 months have been a real mixed basket, with some great highs, and then Covid 19 hitting us with our doors needing to close for a couple of months completely, and afterwards some huge challenges going forward. I'd like to thank members for their patience with the postponement of our AGM, first to May, and then until now due to the lockdown status.

The 2019 Nissan Easter Festival was a huge success with a record number of entries. Everything ran smoothly and on time. We are so lucky to have had the backing from Nissan for many years, and are especially grateful to Mike and Nicky Whitfield for their support. This year we had to postpone the 2020 Easter Festival due to Covid, and are hoping to run a similar event in early December as our Christmas festival.

With Cell C falling away as our promised sponsor for the SA Derby, we secured a large number of generous sponsorships, many from companies new to sponsoring equestrian sport, to run a slightly different event. Teaming up with Downings and Red Pepper events, we ran a thrilling and exciting show which showed us that a new business model can really offer a lot of opportunities.

We hosted the Pony Rider and Junior SA Inter-provincials and Championships in December. Happily, we had a record number of entries, mainly show jumping through all the height categories. The show team had to improvise with the timetable and arena planning due to a copious amount of rain, making our grass arenas too wet to use. We shifted arenas around and used a portion of our now all- weather practice paddock of the Pieter Minne arena for some of the lower heights, and all was well.

With these 3 major shows, as well as the highly successful Reonet WCQ event, and well supported regular recreational and provincial events in all disciplines, our finances were in a healthy state at the end of December 2019. We were looking forward to working on some new projects for 2020. During 2019 KPC ran 23 shows plus hosted 3 SANESA shows. We refurbished and levelled the Dyke in the Bob Charter arena, worked on the grass surface in that arena, and constructed a new small bank there. Some funds were also spent on the Stubbs arena, although that space is still in need of more work.

We started 2020 with more members than in 2019, many riders seeing the value in belonging to our club. Currently we have nearly 1100 members. During 2019 we launched our new KPC and SANEC logo, with thanks to Michelle Lillico and her designer for their assistance. Signage around the property has been updated.

Our first few shows of 2020 all attracted more entries than in previous years. Our HOY show went well, but was less well supported than in 2019, and we hope that the showing discipline can grow its membership going forward. Our dressage shows and membership, however, have grown substantially.

The stables on the property have been upgraded by SANEC, including painting of the roofs, upgrading of drainage, and repairs to brickwork and the doors.

Aidan Lithgow has been an amazing part of our EXCO team, contributing many new and creative ideas towards modernizing our sponsorship concepts, as well as enticing people to join our family of sponsors. Madelein de Beer has handled our marketing and membership for us, and is always liaising with our





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sponsors, members and equestrian community on KPC and show related matters. She is responsible for our Facebook page and our website.

Kerry Byerly has handled the dressage portfolio capably and helped KPC increase the popularity of dressage at our venue. Sandra Dewar has been our EXCO member looking after the interests of our younger members, whilst Jean Michel Turlot has been our vice chairman and looked at legal matters and HR for us, as well as contributing his expertise to show management. My portfolio has been shows, and my goals have been to improve the running of shows in all aspects, as well as to think “out of the box” with regard to development of KPC. Jimmy Telle has held the portfolio of governance, whilst Arnold Botha has worked tirelessly with the grounds and equipment portfolio, ensuring that the staff are inspired and managed. James Curtin picked up the portfolio of Treasurer last year, taking over from Jimmy Telle, and has proved himself most capable and efficient. During the last year we managed to have the 2014 – 2018 financials finalised, audited, and then approved at our SGM in February 2020. Our new auditors, Thort SA, have completed the audit on our 2019 financials which will be presented at this AGM.

The KPC staff have been excellent throughout the past 18 months. Jeanette Schultz was officially promoted to Club manager, a role she had already filled unofficially for some time. Her mother has helped to improve our gardens and venue with her “green fingers”. Heather Mpofu and her assistants ably directed shows and worked as our show secretary. Our ground staff had our venue and arenas well prepared for every event. Wayne, our handy person, has always gone the extra mile to assist in any way he can. Thank you so much everyone, for your valuable contribution to the success of our club!

Covid 19 has been an unwelcome shock for all of us this year. For 2 months of level 5 and level 4 we were restricted from conducting any business, though some of our staff remained on the premises to look after our facilities. Milton and the rest of the team did much repainting. All our jumping poles have been sorted, weighed, and the heaviest equipment adjusted or sold off, so that we can modernize and update our offerings. During Lockdown we offered our members some fun competitions as well as online videos and clinics from experts in their disciplines, trying to add value in a difficult period. Then, when things eased a little we allowed members to hack their horses once more on the grounds, and opened some arenas for bookings for essential exercise, subject to all Covid protocols.

Recently we have been able to start with shows once more, but under stringent regulatory processes, especially with regard to the number of people on the property at one time. We have filled our August shows to allowed capacity, and our first National show since lockdown, the Reonet Cup show is covering 6 full days. Thank you to Govett Triggol and Reonet for sponsoring 2 big shows at KPC this year, as well as a wonderful World Cup Qualifier event in May 2019!

For 2020 we have decided not to host the SA Derby. Many may be disappointed, but with the timeframe and missed titles, we decided to rather anticipate a fabulous 2021 Derby show, and instead bring our top-level horses back up to speed by hosting the Gauteng Championships during the week usually reserved for the Derby. Our other shows will go ahead as planned.

We are so grateful to all our KPC sponsors, to whom we owe our bigger shows, hoping that they will continue to see the value in using our events and property for advertisement of their brands, despite the challenges of business markets in currently depressed times.





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Kyalami Club is here for the future of equestrian sport going forward. It is not a private business venture, but is a Non- Profit Organisation aiming to provide world class facilities for horse enthusiasts in Gauteng, and for all visitors. We would like to assure our members of our passion and commitment to making our venue more attractive, more efficient, and better at running user friendly, fun events that are efficient and exciting to attend.

In closing I'd like to thank all the hard working KPC staff and the EXCO for their positive input over the 18 months, as well as their many hours of dedication to the smooth running and continued upliftment of our club.

Anne-Marie Esslinger
Chairperson
24 August 2020



Kyalami Park Club
Affiliated to the South African Equestrian Federation

