

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – AGM APRIL 2021

It's just over 6 months since our September 2020 AGM, with varying status Covid 19 lockdowns still being imposed on us all. This has created challenges for KPC in managing our shows and our finances. We really appreciate the assistance given to us by SANEC with regard to leniency on some of our rent during the past 12 months.

Our 2 major shows scheduled for December 2020 were the Outdoor Grand Prix of SA titles for all age groups, and the SA Youth Championships (without Interprovincial titles) 2020. We were in lockdown level 3 for both of these events. The government gazettes have not relaxed Covid regulations with regard to spectator presence at events since inception. We were challenged to host such busy shows, whilst keeping the number of people on our premises to a minimum, as well as minimizing the flow of traffic in and out of the property.

We were very fortunate to be able to secure good sponsorship for both of these events, and are so grateful for the funding from loyal supporters such as Reonet, Mark White Nissan, One Insurance Solutions, Back on Track, Hollard/ Equipage, Epol/Equus as well as newcomers like Equine 74, Ice Man and so many more....

Unfortunately, during the Outdoor Grand Prix event, there were riders present who had either tested positive for Covid 19, or had been associated with positive Covid 19 friends or family, who attended the show. Some of these people were not up front on their questionnaire forms. The information with regard to these incidents has been collated and checked by Jean Michel Turlot, our KPC EXCO member who carries the legal portfolio, and has since been handed over to a judicial committee for review.

In view of the number of riders and their support structure personnel accessing the premises daily, the KPC EXCO and office decided to cancel the balance of this show, rather than knowingly putting anyone more at risk than necessary. We understand how disappointing and expensive this decision was for many competitors and their families. It also had a negative impact on our finances, as many refunds had to be done, as well as a huge number of legal consultations, Covid 19 testing and sanitization procedures effected. All our sponsors kindly agreed to carry forward the unused sponsorship portions to our Easter show where the same titles were hosted for 2021. Sponsorship contributions reflect in the 2020 financials, rather than the 2021 financials, because that's when the amounts were invoiced and received.

The Youth Championships went fairly smoothly, with well supported entries and exciting finales in all the height categories. After clear up all staff enjoyed a shortened Christmas break. I'd like to thank all the KPC staff for their willingness to be flexible during level 5 & 4 lockdown states earlier in 2020, and then losing some of their normal Christmas break time, to accommodate the additional workload generated by our 2 December events. The grounds, gardens and equipment were all kept in excellent condition throughout!

We have successfully retained our membership into 2021 and are looking at additional incentives for our members in the future that do not incur additional costs for the club, which needs to focus on keeping our books in the black during these very difficult times. Currently we have over 1100 members. Our vision is for KPC to become an aspirational club where non-horsey people living in the area can also enjoy club facilities such as a pub, a restaurant, areas to cycle or walk their dogs and other attractions. With a larger membership, beautiful grounds, superior equestrian facilities and events, we can surely make our club even better.

2021 started a little slow, but the entries for our Reonet Grand Prix show were rewarding, as were the Easter show entries. Easter show required some finessing to reduce the amount of traffic on the venue, and necessitated us offering only 3 jumping competitions per height category, instead of the usual 4 – this obviously had a negative impact on our income from entry fees.

Our annual February HOY showing show was rescheduled for November.... Showing deciding that Covid would negatively affect their entries as well as the potential to import foreign judges. We sincerely hope that by that time we will be over the worst of the pandemic and that our lives will have become more normal again!

The new Pieter Minne judges' box is finally complete, looks great, and was used at the Easter show for the first time, offering the jury an excellent view of the arena. A huge "Thank You" to Jean Michel and Marie Claude Turlot, who initiated this idea and generously sponsored R150 000.00 towards this project – a commitment they made several years ago in order to upgrade the judges' box to be FEI compliant.

Your EXCO has met monthly throughout the past year, with each member devoting time to their specific portfolios. Sandra Dewar has been dealing with health issues, and resigned due to this...we thank her for her time spent representing the Pony Riders, Children and Junior categories and wish her a good recovery. Michelle Dawson recently stepped up as a co-opted member to handle this portfolio and is already very active on our committee.

I'd also like to extend our grateful thanks to Jimmy Telle for his valued contribution to the KPC EXCO for the past 7 years. Most of this time Jimmy acted as treasurer for the club. He is well versed in the regulations, constitution and financial status of our club, and always gives sound advice. Thank you, Jimmy!

The Reonet World Cup Qualifier event at the end of April has attracted 256 Open horse entries! This is the most Open horses to ever have attended a KPC show. The other height categories have also been very well supported and we look forward to some exciting jumping at this show.

For 2021 we have decided to go ahead with hosting the SA Derby. At this stage, due to Covid 19 and spectator restrictions, planning will have to be for a spectator free event. This will make a huge difference to the set up and running of the show. We intend to publicize the exciting main classes via live streaming, and hope to sell both the various classes and the specific Derby fences to interested sponsors, as we did in 2019. Work has already begun with regard to the forward planning of this show.

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 to business markets in currently depressed times.

Kyalami Club is here for the future of equestrian sport. It has never been a private business venture, but is a Non-Profit Organization aimed at providing world class facilities for horse enthusiasts in Gauteng, and for all visitors. We would like to assure our members of our passion and continued commitment to making our venue more attractive, more efficient, and better at running user friendly, fun events that are well run and exciting to attend.

In closing I'd like to thank all the hard-working KPC staff and the EXCO, who are always volunteers, for their constructive input over the past 6 months, as well as their many hours of dedication to the smooth running and continued upliftment of our club.

Anne-Marie Esslinger
Chairperson
20 April 2021