



DRESSAGE

GAUTENG

INSPIRATION & EXCELLENCE

Telephone: Admin – 0795894313 | Gauteng - 0662312150
Email: admin@dressagesa.com | gt@gautengdressage.co.za

Gauteng Dressage Council's Presidents Report – John Smith

2020 kicked off with a full and exciting calendar. This soon changed, due to the arrival of the Coronavirus and we found ourselves in uncharted territory.

As of March, all shows were cancelled with immediate effect and sport came to a standstill. We had no indication as to what the future had in store, or when we would be able to resume competition.

During the latter part of July, we were given the greenlight to start hosting shows again. This came with a lot of restrictions and the SHB's had their work cut out to adhere to all the additional Covid 19 rules. They rose to the challenge and by the first weekend in August, our first Covid 19 compliant shows were hosted. The landscape was very different and SHB's as well as athletes took a while to find their feet.

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions on gathering numbers, we were unable to host the Gauteng Championships.

As the year progressed and the country moved to eased lockdown levels, we managed to host a very successful DSA Challenge as well as a World Dressage Challenge. Both these shows had full attendance and the Gauteng Riders performed excellently Nationally as well as Internationally.

The logistics around physical onsite judges training were complicated due to the social distancing rules. Judges were further hampered by the long ban on competitions, as there were no judging opportunities during this time.

Our Judges portfolio holder took matters in hand and organised a series of online seminars for judges, covering many topics from general rules, to more specific needs for each level of judging. These seminars were well received and well attended.

At the start of 2020 Gauteng embarked on the undertaking of having all graded venues inspected and certified ensuring top-class arenas for all our competitors. The project just started gaining momentum when we were shut down and everything came to a standstill for 6 months.

Once shows resumed, even under the trying circumstances faced, everyone forged ahead to keep this project moving forward and complete all the inspections needed.

I can report that as of the first few months of 2021, all graded venue inspections have been completed and all arenas have been certified to FEI standard. Gauteng has led the way on this and I am very proud of the Province's SHB's standards.



DRESSAGE

GAUTENG

INSPIRATION & EXCELLENCE

Telephone: Admin – 0795894313 | Gauteng - 0662312150

Email: admin@dressagesa.com | gt@gautengdressage.co.za

My thanks go to all the judges who conducted and facilitated these inspections, offering up their time and expertise. Thank you to Cheryl Teare and Surea van Schalkwyk, who along with myself handled the administration around this project.

As a close, thank you to the entire Gauteng Dressage Council for your support during 2020. We faced the unknown during these unprecedented times and all worked together to achieve what was possible. We all learnt from the obstacles faced and as a team persevered.

While Covid 19 is still with us, we look forward to a full 2021 season, guided by lessons learnt and experienced gained.

All individual portfolios holders submitted reports, and these are tabled below.

Athletes Rep Report – Jane Schalkwijk

The only query I had from an athlete, was a Novice rider that had only accumulated points in Prelim, for which you don't get points.

She sent me lengthy emails in this regard. I forwarded them to John and discussed it with him and the points were reallocated to Novice as they were earned in Novice.

I do think it should be made clear to Novice riders that they actually need to upgrade to Novice even though it's not officially a requirement, because otherwise the points are not allocated correctly. In this case the rider was thinking of upgrading to Elementary but according to the system had no Novice points and therefore ineligible to do so. Maybe a flag could pop up for them to upgrade.

Gauteng Judges Report – Claire Nadin

The Gauteng Judges portfolio had a challenging year trying to organise typical judging and training activities due to the Covid lockdown. We had a meeting with all the Gauteng panel judges soon after lockdown to discuss alternative options for learning opportunities. The worldwide acceptance of the use of tools such as Zoom, allowed us to put together a few online training sessions which were ultimately opened to judges across the country. Those were very well received and we started to get requests for more.

We managed to do online training for judges at each of the levels between May and October.

Once shows started to take place again, we looked to return to the traditional sit-ins as a means of training. However, space limitations often meant sit-ins were logistically difficult. We arranged one "socially distanced" ring seminar which was a success and allows us to begin to arrange more.



DRESSAGE

GAUTENG

INSPIRATION & EXCELLENCE

Telephone: Admin – 0795894313 | Gauteng - 0662312150

Email: admin@dressagesa.com | gt@gautengdressage.co.za

We have also pushed for a rules seminar which is currently taking place. The written exams are being revised to match the rules and written exams will soon be scheduled.

I have been ably assisted by Clare Bailes and Lyn Sacks and we have cleaned up the Trainee Judges list, removing members who were not active or currently able to commit to learning and development. We have accepted two new trainee judges onto the panel while recognising that more needs to be done to encourage people to join.

The following judges have written shadow exams with results as follows:

1. Tammy Ashford - Passed
2. Helen Gilfillan - Pending
3. Hilary Dredge - Pending
4. Wendy Moller - Pending
5. Marion Milne - Pending
6. Heletha Burmeister - Pending
7. Elizabeth Hickman - Pending
8. Neil Henry - Pending

Those judges whose results are Pending are waiting for exams to be marked or feedback to be given. This is an ongoing process and final results will be provided in due course.

Venues and Schedules Report – Cheryl Teare

The year started off with a full show calendar. Unfortunately, that was not to be and we had a six-month hiatus. Once shows started up again, it took a while for everyone to get back into the swings of things, as many administrative changes were needed, with declaring all the different Covid regulations on the submitted schedules. Once these changes were cemented, schedule checking returned back to running smoothly.

Venues all needed to be Covid certified in order to be able to return to hosting shows.

Venue inspections: Covered in the Presidents report.

Technical Report – Sheba Zager

Technical continues to deal with the day to day technical matters arising from members. Most queries received revolved around whether certain tack items were legal for competition.



DRESSAGE
— GAUTENG —
INSPIRATION & EXCELLENCE

Telephone: Admin – 0795894313 | Gauteng - 0662312150

Email: admin@dressagesa.com | gt@gautengdressage.co.za

The Technical portfolio also forms part of the team which evaluate downgrade requests.

Development Report – Elena Jankowitz

At the start of 2020 the Council together with myself set out planning our Development projects for the year.

With the Covid 19 closure we were not able to host these projects. The regulations never eased to a point where we could revive these projects.

We have now shifted our focus to 2021 where we will be taking on different projects which we will be able to host under the current lockdown levels.

Treasurers Report – Jennifer Gertzen

2020 was a challenging year for most due to Covid. Budgets were reviewed and downsized considerably. Adjustments were made to try and ensure affordability to ensure as much commitment from the participants as possible. On a positive note, not much was spent during this year as many events were cancelled. Trusting that 2021 will allow us to do more for the sport.

Teams and Awards – Martjie Kuipers

In 2020 we organised an Awards evening at KPC. Unfortunately with Covid and lockdown it couldn't happen. Johan at KPC Caterers kept our payment for this year. If Covid allows us we will have the Awards evening on the 17th of July this year combined with Gauteng Champs. Most of the arrangements are already finalised.

We will have a final discussion on selection of teams for 2021 in the near future.