

# Carriage Driving South Africa Report

Carriage driving is one of the small disciplines affiliated to SAEF and did have some transformation and development training sessions in the Cape Province which was a great success. It was run by Brenda Wessels, Jakes Jacobs and Graham Haddow and Faiz Moerat. In Kwa-Zulu Natal it was Mrs. Vivion van den Bergh who did it there and it was also supported by Graham Haddow and Jakes Jacobs and it was all funded by them self's as, we know with Carriage driving you have to take two vehicles as one is to transport your horse or pony and the other your carriage.

Carriage driving in South Africa is small and is not completely like overseas where every competition you have to have two carriages (one for your dressage and cones course and one for marathon.) There is nothing active in Gauteng and only one member who is fortunate to do carriage driving overseas and compete there, and the other two drivers of Gauteng are his staff, who was also members of Carriage driving South Africa they too compete in the Southern cones, which is held each year between South African and New Zealand and Australia drivers and this competition is monitored and administrated by John Plummer who also travels at his own cost to promote and liaise with the other bodies in above mentioned countries. Last year South African Drivers came with good results namely 1<sup>st</sup> in Pony pairs and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Single harness.

Western Cape carriage driving have also successfully held clinics at Greyton and in the Cape Flats as well as at some agriculture shows at Tulbagh, Robertson, Malmesbury and Moorreesberg.

After many requests road shows were to be held by SAEF thus this did not happen, which would have enabled a small discipline like carriage driving who could have piggy back onto it to encourage carriage driving in all areas.

Carriage driving had a solidarity training session with top FEI driving instructors which was liaised and organized by Brenda Wessels and the money that was allocated by the FEI solidarity fund should have been paid to SAEF in 2015/2016 and no money was paid over and Carriage driving cover the costs.

This was very successful and it was originally organized to take place in the Western Cape in conjunction with the Helderberg equestrian club in Macassar. Whom in who were the most development drivers come together. Due to gang violence we were advised to cancel the arranged training sessions for safety reasons and all the arrangements were then transferred on short notice to Wayne van Niekerk at Qantum stud who already has the venue for the lecture and dressage and cone arenas as well as hazards.

There were 8 people who participated in these sessions which ended up being very successful and there was a newsletter sent out to all drivers inviting them all. There was very positive feedback given from the two FEI instructors as well as an invitation to shadow judge at international shows.

Unfortunately there are two groups that do not want to be members of SAEF or Carriage driving South Africa. Do to the instability of SAEF during the past year members were hesitant to join. Current members in the Western Cape made an effort to attend some of the shows held by the other groups to motivate and build some sort of relationship and to inspire them to join SAEF and Carriage driving and we will continue to motivate and encourage them to do so.

Kind Regards

Jakes Jacobs

Acting President CDSA