

EVENTING SOUTH AFRICA



Website: www.eventingsa.co.za

Email: admin@eventingsa.co.za

EVENTING PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR SAEF AGM 2018

- 1) Northern Cape, Limpopo, North West and Free State are the Provinces yet to form Eventing Associations. The Free State Eventing Council is 95% formed and their Committee Members are in place – just finalizing the never ending paperwork! Their Riders are now travelling to Events. The other Provinces are all up to date with approved Constitutions and elected Councils.
- 2) ESA is not active in all Districts due to the very low numbers of Eventers making it impossible/impractical to form Clubs in these Districts.
- 3) The FEI recognized Africa Cup Series, has been modified with the four participating Nations running Events every alternate year, as the high cost to Athletes of travelling four times a year has proved prohibitive. Zimbabwe and South Africa will be hosting a Series Event in 2018, with Namibia and Zambia holding theirs in 2019. This has provided a valuable platform for athletes and officials to gain experience, and has given the FEI Group IX countries valuable experience. There is still a need for the FEI to help our Officials keep up to date with their qualifications by attending Seminars and permitting us to hold more of these in Southern Africa.
- 4) We are holding 4 FEI Events this year which continue to qualify athletes with aspirations to compete overseas, as well as ensuring that our Events maintain International standards. Financing our Events still remains a major headache for our SHBs.
- 5) African Horse Sickness lengthy and costly quarantine regulations continue to restrict local athletes from taking their horses overseas, and the only practical way of them competing overseas is to source their rides over there. At present it looks like we will have 3 Athletes who have a chance of competing at WEG 2018 – all based in the UK and France.
- 6) It was interesting to hear from the FEI Sports Forum that the dynamics have changed in Europe as well, where the Young Riders used to come from rural country areas where Riding was a means of getting about. Now they are from the Towns and Cities and many of the Parents have no knowledge of the Equestrian World BUT have the money to back the purchase of quality Ponies and Horses, with instruction from top Coaches who are also Talent Spotting.

One of the biggest challenges for the Young Riders was to balance their Academic careers with their chosen Sport. The Schools/Educators and Universities need to come “to the party” as with other Olympic Sports. The Swiss had an excellent plan for their Sports Men and Women and the Universities adapted to it.

- 7) Most of our Show Holding Bodies hold SANESA classes, and this has provided the best means of Development and Transformation of our Discipline, as well as increasing our Athlete base. But there still remains the problem of lack of Pony Riders and Juniors for the Future.

Peter Thomas
President Eventing South Africa,