

S.A.S.A. President's Report 2017 - 2018

Members

Our current statistics show 342 members of whom 12 are EDTS members. There has been a noticeable decline in numbers which may be attributable to the current economic climate. The fact that fees for SAEF, Club membership and Discipline membership are all due at the beginning of the year may also mean that those affiliating to more than one Discipline or our less competitive members only complete all their affiliations by the end of April. We have active Provincial Councils in 8 of the 9 Provinces.

Activities

- **Shows**

- ⊕ Affiliated shows were held throughout the country and assistance and advice was provided to a large number of training shows in various Provinces.
- ⊕ In some Provinces the SASA shows are held in conjunction with SANESA shows and this has been a very effective way of introducing "affiliated showing" to a new audience.
- ⊕ The S.A.S.A. Riding Horse classes which were introduced last year are proving to be extremely popular as an introduction to the Discipline for Novice riders or combinations.
- ⊕ The Youth Championships were once again a multi-Discipline event and S.A.S.A. strongly believes that this must be the way forward but with all the comparable Disciplines involved in one event. It is unfair to expect parents to pay for children to attend two or more South African Championships throughout the year and a basic tenet of SAEF has always been to encourage multidiscipline activity by Junior riders as far as possible.

- **Showing Handbook**

Our book '**An Introduction to Showing**' is virtually sold out and plans are under way to produce a second edition, possibly including information on the requirements and ring procedures for the many breed Societies that include ridden classes in their Breed Shows

- **Edushow Clinics**

The Lotto funding for Edushow Clinics has been fully utilised and there are no current funds available to continue this initiative however SASA judges continue to give individual seminars on request covering all aspects of the Discipline.

- **DVD courses**

To supplement the individual seminars mentioned above it has been decided to produce a series of DVDs covering various aspects of the Discipline. The first one produced is on "Conformation" and is designed for training potential judges although it is of value to anyone interested in showing horses. DVDS on ring-craft, turn-out and class requirements are planned for the future.

- **SANESA**

We continue our close working relationship with SANESA. Our judges' exam papers contain questions on SANESA classes and judging at these shows is a requirement for promotion through the Judging panels.

A member of the SASA executive designs the Performance and Working riding tests for use by SANESA throughout the year.

In addition one of our senior judges has now produced a presentation for SANESA on what the judges are looking for in the various classes and gives advice on how to present the horses and ride the various tests.

Judges

- In 2017 1 judge was promoted from Junior to provincial panel and 1 judge was promoted from Provincial to National panel.
- 2 judges completed their final written exam and were placed on the learner panel.

- 9 candidate judges wrote their first theory exam and seven passed. Unfortunately no-one went on to pass the second exam which is an intensive practical exam covering conformation and judging of various classes.
- We have introduced a scheme to re-qualify judges who have not judged for five years or more but now wish to become active again. Our rules and ring procedures have changed significantly over this period and it is essential that all our judges are up-to-date in this regard.

Awards

Rider Ranking and Victor Ludorum Awards have been awarded in all three age categories for Open Riders for the past three years. From 2108 only rider ranking awards for the top five positions will be made for Open Riders but new awards have been introduced for Novice riders and SASA Riding Horse class competitors who are members of the Discipline. There will also be awards for the top coaches in 2018.

Rules & Regulations

- Several changes have been made to our Showing Rules, primarily to clarify previously grey areas. One significant rule change has been the introduction of the rule that all riders, including riding judges must wear helmets which have a three-point harness and meet at least minimum safety requirements.
- In 2017 S.A.S.A. developed its own General regulations which are Discipline specific but mirror the proposed SAEF general regulations in many aspects.

Development & Transformation

- We managed to achieve our score card total of 40 (just under 10% of total membership) for 2016 and 2017. This was Transformation members (not all had to be recipients of the EDTS).

Future Plans

- 2018 is an election year for SASA Councils, both nationally and throughout the provinces. To date elections have been held in W. Cape.
- In line with our commitment to spread the Discipline throughout the Provinces we will continue to rotate, at least the National Adult Championships, throughout the country. In 2018 the S.A. Adult Showing Championships will be held in KZN
- We intend to concentrate on developing various educational tools for the Discipline with particular emphasis on Newcomers and SANESA riders.