

Welcome to my fourth and final Annual General Meeting report as President.

Like all industries, the equestrian sporting world has almost shut down and many of our members are feeling the impact within their families, businesses, and the sport. The present enhanced restrictions imposed at the National level is an indication that we are facing an extraordinary situation with the Covid-19 pandemic. We all had to adapt both our personal and working lives and have no choice to play our role in protecting the health and welfare of all and our Sport. This is our collective responsibility, and it must be a priority and comes at a cost.

All of this is extremely challenging, and I want to reiterate our commitment and our determination to help in any way we can to minimise the effects on everyone and organisations in our community.

It seems that the only viable solution is to get vaccinated because the mutation of the virus is rapidly increasing and like flu, we probably will have to be vaccinated again and again as development continues.

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Secretary General: Sharlene Venter
Treasurer: Neil Smith
Athletes' Rep(co-opted): Amali Raschke
Associates Rep: Sandra Copeland

Legal:
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Lead Coach:

Adv Johann Raubenheimer
Vacant
Vacant
Sakkie van Niekerk
Fiona Ross
Rosemary Bartlett



Resilience, determination, and dedication are synonymous with the equestrian community, and they are the values we will need to embrace now more than ever before to overcome the widespread consequences of this pandemic. I can however report that I am humbled by the dedication and the determination of our community, and particularly at the time of writing when we are facing a completely unprecedented situation with the newest Delta strain.

In the past year, we continued our strategic objectives and did our best to also increase participation across all levels in our sport, raising the standard of excellence, maintaining financial sustainability, and delivering improved value to our members.

Finances

Our financial position has continued to improve notwithstanding membership fees which were reduced last year in October. I once again want to commend our Treasurer Neil Smith, who has been instrumental in the turnaround we have experienced. He has been a major pillar of support in all areas of Exco

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and his mature experience over many decades in this industry will be missed. Make no mistake, serving EXCO daily, was no small commitment.

Transformation and Development

Transformation and Development are still key to our success and the development of our sport remains the most important strategic objective for the equestrian industry in South Africa. Presently it has been difficult with this pandemic however SASCOC has promoted a lot of engagement and our discussions and execution thereof will continue.

Unfortunately for these reasons, not much progress has been achieved with Indigenous Horse Riding, but I believe the new incoming EXCO, should the pandemic allow, foster to enhance the rollout plans to become fully compliant.

Head office

The occupation of our new head office has been a huge success. Most of you I believe have experienced enhanced and smooth service delivery with the

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strong and well-experienced staff that have been appointed. We have much more space which was one of our goals including the handing over of a better SAEF to the incoming EXCO. The SAEF's strength has always been to represent a broad range of equestrians so I want to thank all the Stakeholders for their continued support. Remember compliance equals Governance which favours numbers. Our goal in the constitution dictates that we have an obligation to affiliate all athletes to join up and to participate.

Sport

Although the pandemic has a huge impact on this department, our success comes from a commitment and understanding within the administration that we are all here to serve in this industry, whether by organising world-class tournaments or by nurturing young talent. Our achievements will motivate, inspire, and encourage all of us to push for more positive changes in these difficult times bringing hope, joy and smiles into the lives of all.

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A Special word of congratulations to our athletes:

Victoria Scott - Eventing;

Tanya Seamor - Dressage;

Philippa Johnson - Para-Dressage;

Cayla v/d Walt -Para-Dressage;

and Ingeborg Sanne - Chef d'Equipe and Manager,

who are all on their way to the Olympics and our best wishes accompany them.

Odet van Wyk - recently participated in the Longines FEI Endurance International Championship in Italy. She made us all immensely proud and came 12th against the best of the best, an exceptional achievement.

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Legal

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the dedicated members of the legal committee. Their commitment resulted in significant benefits towards the SAEF and most importantly, to the broader society within the Equine community. They have assisted with their professional services for many hours, days and months on various legal matters and we are truly thankful to you all. Their report is indicative of the major and professional role they have played in managing exceedingly difficult and important matters.

Conclusion

In the past year, we continued to make progress toward each of our four strategic objectives of increasing participation across all levels in our sport, raising the standard of excellence, maintaining financial sustainability, and delivering improved value to our members.

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I also want to extend my sincere gratitude to all our members, fans, sponsors, officials, volunteers, and the greater equestrian community without whom we would not be here.

Members of Exco, thank you for your hard work, your dedication and your valuable input will always be remembered.

And lastly, thank you to the athletes – and your dedicated support teams for making our sport what it is.

It has been a huge privilege to have been your President for the past 4 years.

Best wishes



Willem Edeling

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