**The ninth chukka**

**VALENTINE MONTH2018**

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 Wishing the following a very HAPPY VALENTINE BiRTHDAY

***19 - Gavin Flowers***

***21 - Angus Dick***

 ***- Paula Haldane***

***22 - Antonie Cilliers***

 ***- Elri Van Der Merwe***

***23 - Hannes Botha***

***26 - Shane Mansfield***

 ***- Lea Heine***

 ***- Jake Shaw***

 ***- Samantha Hewitson***

 ***- Amy Dodd***

***28 - Patrick O’Sullivan***

***1 - Rebecca Coetzer***

***2 - Rena Van Der Merwe***

***3 - Eunice Meyer***

***5 - Jill Wheeler***

 ***- Emma Dick***

***7 - Roland Wilson***

***8 - Justine Holland***

***11 - Gabriella King***

***12 - Jason Biggs***

***13 - Ruben Vorster***

***16 - Krystal Augustinus***

 ***- Matthew Taylor***

 ***- Courtney Odell***

***17 - Lauren Try***

UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**This year kicked off with a bang as we had our first SAEF meeting.**

**There is a “White Document” that has been sent to all clubs and provinces, concerning national disciplines and Federations that deals with all future elections.**

**There is a new FEI Horse welfare rule book, as well as a first NON FEI disciplines Horse Welfare book that will be distributed within the next 2 months.**

**The arrangements of the passports will also be dealt with from the SAEF office in writing.**

**We are going to have to re address our temporary rider’s fee, as we were informed that our insurance is not covering temporary riders.**

**Nobody can ride or partake in any event or discipline without an SAEF number.**

**There is going to be dope testing done this year by the SAEF on athletes and horses.**

**Hope everyone had a good rest and has a fantastic polocrosse year.**

**Good luck to our Springbok coach and World Cup players with your preparation year for the World Cup 2019!!**

**I expect every individual to work hard and improve their own game to make us stronger than ever before.**

**But don’t forget to have FUN and ENJOY the game!!**

**PLEASE PUT IN EXTRA EFFORT AT OUR CLUBS TO GET AS MANY PEOPLE PLAYING AS POSSIBLE!!!**

**Thank you to each and every one of you for the effort you put into your club and to enjoy our sport.**

**Regards**

**Hannes van Aswegen**

**PASA President**

Junior President Report

**Please could all club secretaries let me know who their official club Junior Representatives are so that I can keep clubs updated with news and developments. Please could the provincial secretaries let me know who your provincial Junior Representatives are.**

**U21 tour against Ireland.**

**The U21 tour will be held over Easter at Mooi River. The selectors will be finalising the team over the weekend of the 10 &11 February.**

**Junior Classic**

**The Junior classic will be held in Mooi River. Teams will be announced on Wednesday 4th April, with coaching on Thursday and games on Friday, Sat and Sun. I will be chatting to Tony about organizing a coaching session on Tuesday and Wednesday for any players who will be leaving horses in Mooi River after the Easter tournament.**

**There are some Zambian players wanting to play in the Jnr classic so if anyone has one spare horse to offer the Zambian kids please let me know. The Zambians are very happy to reciprocate and give our players horses at a local Zambian tournament.**

**Please keep an eye out for the Junior Classic Entry form. I will send it out later in February.**

**U16 Tour To Australia**

**Executive have made a decision to cancel this tour. I spoke to a number of U16 parents and most of the parents were not keen on going, we based our decision on this and a few other factors.**

**U19 United Kingdom Tour**

**The UK could not send us an U14 or U16 team but have asked to send an U19 team to us in July. We are just waiting for the UK to confirm dates and will advise everyone once this has been finalised by our executive.**

**U14 and U16**

**I am busy trying to organise something exciting for August…watch this space…**

**Karen Cocker**

**Jnr President**

UMPIRES WHISTLE

**Aims for 2018.**

Conclude umpire clinics for KZN, EP and WP, thereby concluding in 2017, every provincial umpire up to speed with latest rule book and rule interpretation.

Confirmed KZN umpire clinic- 27 January- Bishopstowe Polocrosse club.

**Provincial Umpire’s communication and knowledge to all clubs and players.**

In anticipation of every province providing a strong willed and dedicated provincial umpire, we as a umpire panel need to upgrade our communications on umpiring to all clubs and players.

Active involvement from provincial umpires, plus backup support from PASA chief umpire, ensure emails, club practices and tournaments, we produce a top quality panel of information, direction and assistance to all clubs and players- regardless of age.

Unbiased umpiring is to be a priority at all levels, plus keep the junior graded and senior graded umpires working together.

Upgrade our refereeing to ensure every A and B division, plus any other divisions where needed, a unbiased and neutral referee, to assist the umpires at these games.

Encourage new players to umpire, and support umpires in all decisions.

Uplift the moral of umpires, to ensure good umpiring, and to be proud to be a umpire.

**World cup 2019.**

Through the normal nomination process, a panel of umpires will be selected to ensure we have the best and the most- lion tamer person -to do duty in April 2019.

This person will work with the coach and his team as often as required, ensuring we have the best and top quality umpire for WC 19.

**Rule Books**

There are not many left with the PASA secretary, so when almost all is sold, planning needs to be made for edition 2018/19 book, this again with the panel of provincial umpires input.

**Provincial umpire and going forward to be possible chief umpire after 2019.**

Through development and panel of provincial umpires, at any international in SA in 2018, plan is to show and advise any provincial umpire or person, who would like to continue the journey going forward after 2019.

**IPC umpire.**

My plan has not changed and my vision is still to be the next IPC umpire, which will only be dealt with at WC 19, and its IPC meetings- as that is the time nominations go forward.

SA will benefit tremendously, as already we are leaders in umpiring, plus our international umpire clinic early in 2017, is seeing 5 out of 8 countries working on same pages.

Therefore I need to ensure I am up to speed for all of you during 2018, going forward to 2019.

**Local tournaments according to PASA calendar 2018.**

Assist where needed the provincial umpire to assist any club or province needing more umpiring experience.

Look forward to a great 2018.

Regards

Gavin Flowers.

**CLINIC UPDATES………….**

**EASTERN PROVINCE CLINIC- PE**

After a long but pleasant journey through the Eastern Cape, via Matatiele, Maclear, Queenstown, Fort Beaufort Route, **Port Elizabeth** was the destination on weekend 1.

The roads in EC are new, well-marked, no potholes and fences on both sides of the road keeping animals in from the farms alongside. A great route for anyone wishing to go to PE, without the busy roads of the N2.

Hosts John and Leigh Mansfield, I thank you very much for a fantastic weekend of hospitality, friendliness and camaraderie from PE club and the EP polocrosse clubs.

A large turnout of over 35-40 players and officials attended the umpire clinic, both Saturday and Sunday at the PE clubhouse.

George, East London and PE clubs all sent members to attend- thank you to East London and George for travelling the long distances to attend.

Discussion and dissection of playing rules was the order of the day on Saturday, and I had to dig deep into the umpire bag to produce answers that all were happy with and concluded the same rule was interpreted.

A banter of questions kept me wide awake and digging deep all through the day, as it seemed each club wanted to outdo each other in ensuring the rules were interpreted correctly. Even absent players were used and abused as examples, keeping the clinic on its toes, amid much laughter and friendship by all.

EP is a fantastic group of friendly, happy and jovial players one feels totally at home in their company. Jani Peel and her members ensured catering and refreshments (non-alcoholic) were always available, and that order was maintained. It was great to see players and officials who I have not seen for many years attending and participating.

Saturday afternoon was the videos and these were replayed dissected and comments were fast and furious- time and time again we went through various penalties and umpire decisions until time had to be called for the EP AGM.

After the AGM as usual, the well-known PE club kept us in the mood with an evening of great polocrosse families and friendship- home from home and totally relaxed as usual.

Sunday, starting again at 9am, we discussed non playing rules, had discussions and debates on many, as well as observations of what is not happening around the country in each province, and what the rules say should be happening- so a wakeup call coming for many provinces who are NOT performing to the rules. Code of conduct and other Executive decision rules were discussed and notes made to address issues at next executive meeting.

We finished off by 12h00, but the videos continued for many hours, as the EP players are hungry for polocrosse and do not stop asking and want answers to lots of areas of concern in umpiring and the game.

PASA umpire certificates were presented to each and every one who attended- a small token from PASA accrediting umpires for further evaluation.

John and Leigh Mansfield, Jani Peel and Chris Newton, Andrew Orchison- thank you and the EP clubs, for a very well organized, friendly umpire clinic, that to leave, promises of a soon return had to be made- home from home , one is so comfortable with everyone in EP- a definite return hopefully soon- thank you everyone.

**WESTERN PROVINCE CLINIC- WELLINGTON**

Between PE and WP clinics I took a couple of days off from the farm, and I visited the Simonstown and Saldanah equestrian centers, did awesome tours along the pristine, clear, fantastic beaches of the Cape from George to Saldana- and it was clear that not being in the Cape for 20+ years, I have missed lots that only photographs can tell stories of. Thankfully Janet my wife  was with me( ex Capetonian from the 1980’s), as not only did I get lost about 5 times, that table mountain confuses my brain- never mind the white clear sands that only sunglasses can cue the glare from- even at 9pm at night!!!!!!

I saw some old Polocrosse friends and officials that have been unable to travel to tournaments for a long time- so it was great to catch up on the old days vs. new day Polocrosse-

Cape Town and its surrounding areas are a disaster area- NO WATER- 50lt per person per day- water from the shower into the Toilets, from the washing machine on 15 min wash to the garden- this is what we witnessed- plus queues lining up to get 25lt containers of water from watering points, to no grass in many areas, grape vines, leaves being burnt- what a terrible site to see.

But life goes on, and people are doing the best they can under the circumstances.

Friday afternoon, we arrived at the home of Helene, Jannie and Retief Steenkamp, Unicorns club home base- who were our hosts for the weekend. A tour of their awesome farm, playing fields and stables, again showed me that I have missed so much by not travelling to the Cape for +- 20years.

Saturday started at 9 am- a busy day with 20+ players, as we had to cram both playing rules and non-playing rules into 1 day. It was fantastic to see a mixture of ages of players and their families- all geared up and ready to take part in the umpire clinic- I would like to thank all who travelled from long distances, especially the players from Saldanha area- a hot and windy trip, but all were on time- well done.

The playing rules entertained a lot of clarification, which was excellent as we needed to ensure everyone had the interpretations correct- we stopped, did graphic drawings, re checked the rule wording until everyone had it correct.

Lunch by our hosts and clubs was a very chilled affair by the pool, as heat was again above the 35 mark- luckily Helene has a borehole and the pool was still full, so a quick  lunch time dip and relax was the order of the day.

After lunch was the non-playing rules, with PASA code of conduct, and videos- again we stop started until penalties and decisions were thrashed out and everyone on same page.

We finished at approximately 4 pm for a relaxed chat before many had to make their way home. It was great to socialize and enjoy the awesome hospitality of the Steenkamp family and players alike- another home from home relaxed atmosphere, until late in the night – sitting outside by the pool enjoying great company.

Thank you Helene, and Retief for organizing a fantastic group of enthusiastic players and families- and a great well done to all WP who managed to attend and join in with us.

Thank you Helene and family, for being fantastic hosts- plus Helene’s family who we met and socialized with- I assure you, it will not be another 5 years wait until I return- thank you.

**Rules to be presented to provincial umpires for rewording or more clarification or analysis.**

RULE 47- rewording of phrases and sentence.

Rule 20- rewording of phrases of most goals win.

Rule 22(d) - addition of word clips to be taped up.

Rule 2(a) stallion shall not be played- observations of this for the PASA executive- allowed Stallion- report needed from respective provincial umpire and owners.

I thank PASA and the PASA executive, who made these clinics possible, as well as all the players and families who participated- without all the challenges from you, umpiring would falter.

Thanks

Gavin Flowers

**Happy Valentines Everyone!!**