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9th Chukka

November | 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to add a little note to the 9th Chukka.

As you are hopefully all aware, the nominations for coaches and selectors have all been received and will be presented to the executive at the next executive meeting on the 21st November 2020. Thereafter the selection and announcement will be made.

The executive meeting is preceded by the planning meeting and all of you have received notification to assist your Clubs and Provinces in forwarding dates and formats that you are planning for.

Some time prior to the meeting I will be sending out some information and

agenda of the planning meeting to give the Polocrosse fraternity some idea of what the executive, and in particular myself, are thinking as far as the structure for the 2021 season.

Below is an outline, I short, of my thinking as of now:

1. All players/members will have to register themselves on the system. This is for your club as well as for your province and PASA. Horses will also need to be registered in order to ride them in a tournament.

Horse vaccinations must be entered into the system by owners before end of February 2021. Any updates to horse

entries after Feb 2021 will need to be approved and entered by the PASA secretary.

2. PASA is looking forward to hosting more tournaments than in previous seasons, and is planning them to serve specific needs for Level of Play/ Age specific/ Area specific.

3. Provincial Championships and Club tournaments will be fitted in between these tournaments.

4. SA Champs and IPT will be debated at lengths. The trophies for these tournaments are being collected and hopefully resuscitated to their previous glory. I would like to mention that these tournaments in my opinion should have less emphasis on the individuals but should prioritise the importance of Club and Province.

Let this all be an appetiser for what will hopefully be an exciting and challenging 2021.

‘GET INVOLVED’

Your President

Manfred Rohwer



Facts About Horses



- ♥ The average horse weighs 1200 lbs
- ♥ Horses can't throw up
- ♥ The largest horse recorded measured in at 21 hands

Just for LAUGHS...

YES, I WEIGH 1,000 LBS.



AND YES...I AM AFRAID OF A SMALL PLASTIC BAG.

- ♥ A 1200 lb horse eats an average of 18-21 lbs of hay per day!
- ♥ Horses live about 25 years or so, but the oldest horse lived to be 62!
- ♥ A horse's teeth grow continually throughout his life
- ♥ Seasonal shedding is triggered by the change in daylight hours, not the temperature outside



Get to know your EXECUTIVE

Each month 2 of your executive members will be presented to you in the newsletter.

DEBBIE DICK – NATIONAL CHIEF UMPIRE

I started playing polocrosse when I was 24 years old, where I played for Pietermaritzburg Polocrosse Club under the leadership of Andy Timm and Tony Higgs. After some amazing seasons in Pietermaritzburg, I moved to Bishopstowe Polocrosse Club where I have lived for 25 years. Bishopstowe club has become a second home for me, and I have served on the club executive as secretary, treasurer, umpire and horse welfare officer in different years.



I am fortunate to work in the equine industry as a National Equine Sales Manager for Epol horse feed and am in my tenth year with them. I travel extensively in my position visiting horse clients all over the country.

When I am not working, I try find time to do what I am really passionate about – my horses and mountain bike riding. I am passionate about the sport of polocrosse which showcases the equine as an elite athlete.

I took over the position from Gavin Flowers who had been the PASA Chief Umpire for many years two seasons ago. I came into this position very new to the role and have been trying to find my feet. With COVID-19 and the lack of a 2020 season I have had less of a chance to make an impact on actual umpiring at game level. While I am not an experienced physical umpire of the game, I watch most games and do my best to make sure games are fairly umpired and the sport is kept in control.

My main goal in this position is to ensure fair representation of players in all areas of polocrosse. To make sure that each game is played fairly and within the parameters of the rules for the safety of



HENRY HARRIS – KZN PRESIDENT

I started playing Polocrosse 46 years ago whilst living on the family farm in Marondera, Zimbabwe. For many years I represented the Ruzawi River Country Club until we were forced off our farms in 2002. In 2005 we moved down to South Africa where I played for Umhlali for many years.

I represented Zimbabwe in the junior levels and then for the Open team from 1989 to 2004. In those years I captained the men's team for 11 years.

There are 2 playing highlights for me over the years. First would be winning the Quadrangular between South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Zimbabwe in 1997, and second beating Australia in one test in 1998 in Australia (but losing the 2 test series on goal count).

I have coached many teams in Zimbabwe and South Africa over the years, and Zambia at 2 World Cups. Coaching the Zambian team to second place in the 2015 World Cup in South Africa, after beating SA in the pool games, is my coaching highlight.

I have been on many committees over the years, and am now enjoying my time as KZN President where I am ably supported by Polocrosse passionate KZN Executive Members.

The year is coming to an end, and what a year it has been. We would love to find out from our members what their best “non-season” polocrosse experience or lesson was. We are sure many people were able to use their time during lockdown constructively in light of polocrosse.

We have started looking at our social media strategy for 2021. If you have any feedback or ideas, please share these with us. It would be great to get the involvement from players across the country.



A trip down... MEMORY LANE

Thanks for sharing **Owen Holland**.

Sitting having a few beers on a hot Friday afternoon at Shongweni club with a dedicated, enthusiastic, yet not very fit fellow club member, led to another beer (as usual), which in the old days was coupled with a pack of Camel. After much talk on many topics, the very serious and out of context statement "I am going to get fit this year and get to a 3 handicap" would be thrown out with much confidence and conviction.

From anyone else, maybe this may have made sense, but not from this player who was carrying many excess kilograms, had just finished of a pack of cigarettes and was on beer number eight or nine possibly, at the start of many more over the weekend. The sight of this to this day does not reconcile with the committed statement and intent of getting into serious training.

Sunday practice arrives and the same player walks onto the field full of purpose, optimistic and very well mounted, ready for his chukkas as a professional number 2 aiming to progress through the ranks and handicaps that day.

Chukkas start, and this player races onto the field to get stuck into the game—very active on the field and taking up a lot of space. Early in the chukkas I noticed something was not right and turn to another club mate to take a bet that Mr Optimistic would not notice, for the balance of the chukka, that his racket head is snapped off the shaft and is dangling by a string. So intent and committed was Mr Optimistic, that he rode everywhere looking for the ball, riding off players, making himself known in the lineouts, watching the ball come in, that he seemed to completely miss this broken racket which was his only hope of a magic pickup and someone noticing that he could be under handicapped. The chukka went on, and the sideline bets continued while Mr Optimistic kept up his frenetic support of

his team players and focused on his lineout play and the ball. Still the bets were on as to when, or if, this broken racket would catch his eye. No chance—the chukka ends and off the field he comes to dismount. Some good Samaritan then quietly informs him to change his racket before the next chukka.

A nearly full chukka played with such commitment with no knowledge of the broken off racket, still amazes me today. He then went on for more chukkas, still optimistic of being noticed for progress through the ranks of polocrosse and to at least his target 3 handicap.

Now we get to the tournament the next weekend, and all players, as usual in those days, are packed in the pub in the evening, with loud music, much merriment, and of course booze flowing freely.

As the evening moved on and spirits were high, some lighter more athletic players (both men and women) started this game of leaping off the bar counter into the crowds in a dive formation. Being light, the crowds below the bar counter would catch them before they hit the deck. This went on for a while and the game developed momentum, with many of the lighter more athletic players confidently diving into the crowd to be caught.

Then onto the bar counter jumps Mr Optimistic—full of beer, confidence and very rotund. He turns around and with absolute faith dives into the crowd below. Well there were many expressions of terror in this crowd now and within a moment the crowd panicked and dispersed, with Mr Optimistic hitting the floor with a resounding thud and much pain.

Luckily no injuries were sustained and Mr Optimistic, quietly and much perplexed, ordered another beer and stayed well grounded on the floor for the rest of the evening.



This was a sequence of events which led me to believe that his 3 handicap aspiration was unattainable, however a 10 handicap for optimism and enthusiasm was on the cards for this team member, who also carried the name "the destroyer" among others.

NEWS FROM OUR EASTERN PROVINCE

FRIENDS AND FAMILY



After months of no polocrosse during the lock down and not much to look forward to, a small ray of sunlight shone. PE polocrosse club organised a small dress up practice. After putting the date out a month before there was much excitement in the air. With our other half of the family from George (who we haven't seen for months) on their way to join in.

So all is planned and the weekend all set. Well that's what we all thought... mother nature clearly had another plan on her agenda. The heavens proceeded to open on Friday and Saturday and we had a whopping 25 mls of rain fall. But Sunday morning arrived and the sun was shining. A quick check on our awesome fields and a few adjustments to the plan (draw C) all was good to go, and play was on the way. The need for speed had definitely been missed. So much fun was had by all, including the dogs!

Lunch time arrived and all enjoyed some lovely braai wors and rolls. Kids tucked into the snacks and cool drinks. All too soon it was the last ball and last chukka, and time to pack up and go home. The BEST DRESSED TEAM went to the INCREDIBLES... undies and all!

A big shout out to our George peeps for making the trip down. It was great to see you all again. Thanks to all that made it happen, polocrosse has definitely been missed this year.

That's a wrap from PE Polocrosse club this year—check you all next year... Whoop Whoop!

Regards

PE Polocrosse



NOVEMBER

- 2: IAN STANLEY
- 5: JENNY FIRTH
- 6: TARRYN HIGGS
- 9: MARK RUBIN
- 11: MARISCHKE GROENEWALD
- 12: RIKUS CILLIERS
- 16: DANIEL HALDANE
- 17: AMY COCKER
- 18: CHRIS NEWTON
- 20: PETER CHOICE
- 22: SHAUN WHEELER
- 23: BRUCE MACLARTY
- 30: SYDNEY VILJOEN
- LAUREN HEYNES

Patience

Don't ask too much from your young horse before it is ready to move onto the next step. They need to master the basics to create a good foundation.

