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9th Chukka

February | 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I can hardly believe that the first month of 2021 is already over, with the breaks and relaxation of December all but a distant blur, it seems.

It is around this time that most players are frantically getting their horses ready for the season, and entering youngsters into the green horse tournament opportunities on the calendar.

Although there are clubs that have started practicing, we still do not have the go-ahead to host any tournaments at this stage. We are confident that the various requests being submitted to the powers that be are being heard, and are hopeful that our actions will confirm an eventful calendar for the remainder of the year.

PASA has not been able to leave behind the impacts of COVID just

yet. During the days of harder restrictions in 2020, we had to carefully evaluate our financial positioning and make some tough decisions to keep the organization going.

Despite the fact that we are in the middle of a softer lockdown, we are still under immense pressure and doing our best to insure the financial and operational security of the association. The situation will be carefully monitored by the executive and changes may need to be implemented along the way.

We really value the membership of each and every player, non-player and supporter, and urge you to all please continue with your incredible support, despite the uncertainty that we all face. If you have not yet completed your affiliations, please do so as soon as possible. Remember

that there is a price increase as of May 2021.

Now more than ever, we need to stand together as the PASA community and show support to this amazing sport.

On a softer note, it is wonderful to see additional contributions to the 9th Chukka coming in from the sideline. Thank you to Barbara von Benecke who will be contributing to our memory lane insert, as well as our "Armchair spectator" who has also contributed anonymously. I have so enjoyed reading through these pieces.

Have a wonderful "season of love", and hope to see you all soon in the kick-off of our season of play.

Yours in polocrosse

Manfred Rohwer

Get to know your EXECUTIVE

FRANCOIS DU TOIT – PASA VICE PRESIDENT

Better known to the Polocrosse fraternity as “Toit”, he is often seen cheering on his blonde haired daughters, Sydney and Morgan, on the side of the polocrosse field. Toit is married to Gail, who both enjoy playing polocrosse with their family.



Toit was first introduced to the game some 25 years ago by Neels Beukes, who was good friend from the community having grown up across the road from each other. He started playing at the Walkerville Polocrosse club in the South of JHB.

For Toit's first chukka of polocrosse, he was thrown in the deep end when Mike Cash offered him his star horse, “Six Crowns”. Not long into the game, Toit was left on the ground by “Six Crowns” but was determined to finish the remaining chukka of this newfound passion. Needless to say, the experience was enough to get him completely hooked.

Early on, Toit was given some sound advice by “Tarzan” Graham – “Don't invest in something that eats while you sleep”. However, he was far too taken with the game and bought his first polocrosse pony from “Tarzan” and has enjoyed his polocrosse ever since.

Over the years, he has made some life-long friends, and games with these players have made up some of his polocrosse highlights – playing for Walkerville with Neels Beukes, Mark Hooper, John Davis, Kim Smith and Tony Christodoulou to name a few. He also considers being able to play alongside the past youngsters of the club – Ross and Conor Beukes, Trent and Zack Hooper, Dean, Keagan and Yorick Smith – as great highlights, and loved seeing these players grow through the ranks and excel and play a high level of Polocrosse. There is now a new crop of youngsters at Walkerville and Toit looks forward to seeing how their game grows too.

Aside from Walkerville, playing Veterans with Andrew Heynes against some of the best Veterans in the country was a great privilege and a definite highlight. He will never forget Andrew's realisation – “One thing I have learnt playing Veterans – The pain is always with you”.

Toit has been a member of the PASA Executive in excess of 6 years and sees the position of Vice President as an honour and privilege. He looks forward to working with the new executive to improve and develop our sport that has become a passion and way of life for so many families.

Just for LAUGHS...

WHEN YOU'RE AT THE TACK
STORE AND YOUR HUSBAND SAYS
"DO YOU REALLY NEED THAT?"



"DO I REALLY NEED
YOU MIKE?"

Interesting facts...

African Horse Sickness (AHS) is endemic in the central tropical regions of **Africa**, from where it spreads regularly to Southern **Africa** and occasionally to Northern **Africa**. All serotypes of AHS occur in eastern and southern **Africa**.

Mortality rate in **horses** is 70-95%, mules around 50%, and donkeys around 10%.

It is best to keep horses stabled from before dusk and after dawn, as this is when the midges are most active.

Use insect repellents containing Deet on your horse as a deterrent.

Make sure your horses are vaccinated annually.

Place fans in stables as an extra precautionary measure.

Temperature horses daily to pick up early warning signs of any disease, normal temperature range is from 36.5 to 38.5 degrees, an ideal temperature is 37.5 degrees.

African horse sickness (AHS) is not **contagious**. In susceptible horses, **AHS** usually begins with an acute fever, followed by the sudden onset of severe respiratory distress.

A trip down...

MEMORY LANE

Thanks for sharing **Barbara von Benecke**

Covid-19 has given us time to look back in history and reminisce about this beautiful game we call POLOCROSSE. Being a non-player or rider, but an avid supporter "from the sidelines" for 52 years, I think back to a trip where a group of Non-Representative players were invited, by Tom Heineken to promote Polocrosse in the Cape during the 1970's.

A very social and enthusiastic group of 12 players, wives and supporters, was managed by John Hulley. The group was made up of the Drummonds, Stantons, Heynes, Hulleys, Sinclairs, Oberholzers, de la Heys and von Beneckes amongst others.



We set off from Natal with the first stop being in George. From George we headed to Cape Town where the horses were stabled on the Cape Flats. All keen to off-load and head up Table Mountain, no one thought to note the address of where we were staying in a Caravan Park - many, many hours later a bedraggled group eventually found their way "home".

While staying there, Peter Drummond caused quite a

stir when he decided to go duck hunting in the caravan park with his gmm - fortunately we were all young enough to "duck" for cover in those days.

Promotional games were played at the Cape Hunt Polo Fields, much to the consternation of the Polo players. Our players were mixed with the Cape players to encourage and show how Polocrosse is played. The next game was played under flood lights at the Goodwood Show Grounds arena where a Mt Rosa team played against Impendle. On the return trip a game was played in Grahamstown.

Horses were transported in 2 horse boxes and on a truck owned by Obie Oberholzer - for the grand sum of R150 per horse return. Peter Drummond, towing a double horse box, was caught doing 140 kmph near George. He tried to get out of the fine by telling the Traffic Officer he was on a promotional Polocrosse Tour - this didn't help, neither did his breath or co-driver, Giel.



It has been a pleasure seeing the number of National and Social players emerging from the Cape through the years, and we look forward to seeing many more come through the ranks.

We would like to encourage ALL our member to share their stories with us. Pas or present, all news is welcome. Please send any stories to the PASA secretary by the 25th of each month (admin@polocrosse.co.za).

ARMCHAIR SPECTATOR

I've played Polocrosse since the mid 70's, and played with and against some of the games' greats such as Chris van den Bergh, Littleman Mansfield, Bucky Taylor, Tony Timm, Rubberman Ridl, Paddy o'Sullivan, Melton Schriever, Catherine Rault, Brett Pringle and even Graeme McCarty as a young boy, which I think qualifies me to make this monthly contribution.

I must add though that each of those players were brilliant in their own right, but the player that left me feeling like a complete novice after a game was Tony Higgs. He has all the qualities of a brilliant player—horsemanship, skill, astute tactician, and has what most other players of that level never had, he was a great support player. I believe he was unlucky never to be promoted to a 10 handicap.

This month I'd like to wish the current administrators all the very best for the coming season. I believe we have some outstanding men and woman serving on the Executive and we should, as members, give them all our support. It is a very unselfish act to serve—a lot of hours are spent planning, attending meetings, traveling (mostly at their own cost) to administer this game we all love to play and watch.

In saying that, I'd like to warn those in charge not to take their responsibilities lightly, especially the selectors. We must all realise that the dreams and aspirations of especially the younger players can be crushed in an instant by a selfish or impulsive selection for self gain. Decisions must be made taking into consideration players' commitment and skill as well as a thorough investigation into their game. The same goes for Handicapping and all other facets that affects players.

Manfred, I believe you're a quality leader that will ensure that all decisions have been thoroughly discussed and made in the best interests of the game. I also believe you are a person that will be a servant of Polocrosse and not the other way around. Good luck to you and your committee, I wish you the very best for 2021.

Let me finish off this month's contribution with a funny story that happened when I started playing. I hope this doesn't give away my identity but here goes.

A certain club had been formed with completely new players who'd played a bit of Polo which they found to be too expensive. The group had only heard of Polocrosse, so they bought a bunch of Rackets and were eager to try out this great game. They attended their first tournament which was held at Matamo Club with their best Polo ponies, eager to show Polocrosse players how to ride.

These fellows were to play in the very first game of the weekend on the E Field and were told to report on their ponies promptly at 9am sharp and not be late. The guys got up early, putted their ponies and reported at the field at 8.45am and waited. 9am arrived with no one else in sight. At 9.15am some guy was shouting over the loudspeaker about who was playing and which umpires were officiating, ironically starting at 9am. (his watch had obviously stopped or lost time)

At twenty to ten, some fellow on a nag came walking across with the Matamo E team who were to play against this new team and proceeded to measure the Racket depths, because in those days we all played with shallow nets. He then instructed the players to line up and all six of the new players lined up in front of him, much to the amusement of the opposition.


'What are you guys doing?' he asked. 'You're only supposed to be three lining up'.

After explaining to them that they only play three at a time, a fight then broke out amongst the newbies about who goes on first, which the opposition found even funnier.

Eventually it was decided that the Matamo team incorporate the newbies into two teams and they have a practice game so that the newbies could see how the game is actually played. Matamo, however, insisted that the game be awarded to them which the newbies reluctantly agreed to.

Should someone wish to comment on my piece or add something I can submit with my article next time, my email address is armchairspectator@protonmail.com

Let what happens on the field, stay on the field. Cheers.



FEBRUARY			
5	EMMA DICK	21	ANGUS DICK
5	JILL WHEELER	22	ANTONIE CILLIERS
7	TRISTAN VAN DER WALT	22	ELRI DE JAGER
10	MADIE NIEUWOUDT	24	CHRISTOPHER THORNHILL
11	ELLA KING	24	JAMES TAYLOR
11	HAZEL STANLEY	25	HANNES BOTHA
11	HANNES VAN ASWEGEN	25	HYLTON CHOICE
14	TYRELL HOLM	26	IAN LYNN
15	FINOA LIN	26	JAKE SHAW
16	EVETTE GIMMELL	26	SAMANTHA HEWITSON
19	LAMBERT VAN DER NEST	26	SHANE MANSFIELD