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9th Chukka

March | 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let the season begin!

I am sure you are all as excited as we are that the lifted restrictions allow us to host practices and tournaments. It is the news we have all been waiting anxiously to hear.

The start of the season is upon us, with the Bishopstowe Ladies Clinic this weekend. It is always a great weekend and a fantastic way to kick off the year.

We obviously still have to be very aware and cautious during these

events, and ensure all protocols are in place. Please remember to submit these to Ashleigh each Monday.

As always, there is a lot going on behind the scenes from an executive point of view. We have a meeting this weekend to discuss some points of interest, which we will provide feedback on after the meeting. Included on the agenda is some exciting feedback around the World Cup and progress that is being made already to ensure a spectacular event.

Please remember to use your committee channels to raise any topics of concern so that these can be brought to the discussion by the relevant position holders.

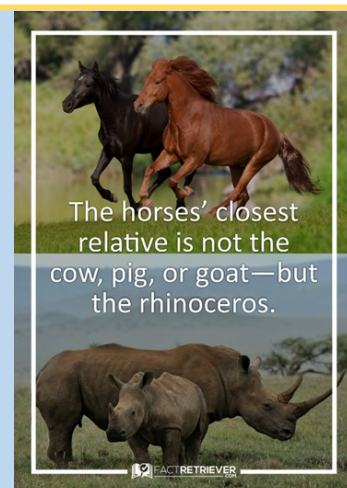
Have a wonderful season start and looking forward to seeing everyone on the field. It is good to say that and know the time has come that this is a reality.

Yours in polocrosse

Manfred Rohwer

Interesting facts...

- Horses can only breathe through their noses and not their mouths
- A horse's hoof acts as a type of pump, when a horse puts pressure on its hoof, the blood is squeezed up the leg into the veins
- Horses produce 10 gallons of saliva a day
- A horse's teeth take up more room in its head than its brain
- Equinophobia is the fear of horses
- The word 'chivalry' comes from the French CHEVAL, meaning Horse



The horses' closest relative is not the cow, pig, or goat—but the rhinoceros.

Get to know your EXECUTIVE

ANDREW HEYNES – PASA CHIEF HANDICAPPER

My father Ken was playing polocrosse from before I was born. As a kid, I was brought up going to practices and Tournaments every weekend during the polocrosse seasons. I always had a racket and ball in my hand, but was never allowed to play due to the fact that we lived in town.

Finally, I got the opportunity to start playing when I was 15 in 1986. I kept my horse at the Shaw's and played for Bishopstowe Club. I've never looked back since then. My dad played for the Springbok's in the 1980's and I always had aspirations of doing the same. I received my schoolboy National Colours in 1988 and then represented South Africa at Senior level for the first time in 1998.

Following the tour in 1998, I went to work in the UK as a recently qualified accountant. My aim was to go over to the UK for 2 years and save the money. I ended up spending 5 years living over there. During my time in the UK, I worked as an accountant and also played polocrosse for Kent Target. I made so many lifelong friends during this time. One of those being Jason Webb, who also played at Kent Target. We won 3 UK Nationals together.

I also had the opportunity to play 3 seasons in New Zealand, favouring this to spending the cold winters in the UK. I played for the SEMCO team and in 2000, we won the equivalent of our Club Champs and Interprovincial's. I owe a lot of my horsemanship skills to my time spent in New Zealand and staying with Erol Gloyne.

I returned to South Africa in 2003 and married Sam in 2004. We currently live in Pietermaritzburg and have 2 daughters, Lauren 14 and Kayla 12. They have both played Polocrosse since the age of 4. Sam and I own our own business FARM FERT. We sell Fertilizer, Lime and Gypsum to farmers as well as do the distribution of Fertilizer for OMNIA.

My highlights in South Africa are winning 3 SA Champs, 3 High Goals and 2 Player of the Year awards. I've had the privilege of owning some really good horses namely, Touch in the UK and then Holly, Touch, V V, Knuckles, Essence and Bolt in SA. I'm not allowed to claim any of my daughter's horses as mine, even though I keep telling her I feed them.

Polocrosse has given me the opportunity to visit and play in so many Countries, namely, the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Zimbabwe and Zambia. I have a wonderful network of friends all around the world.

I've always believed in giving back to this wonderful family sport that I've played for the past 35 years. I've held the position of Chief Umpire / Director of Coaching and am currently the Chief Handicapper. Nowadays I get satisfaction out of Coaching juniors and watching my 2 daughters play. My spare time is spent schooling horses, riding off-road motor bikes and playing squash.



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

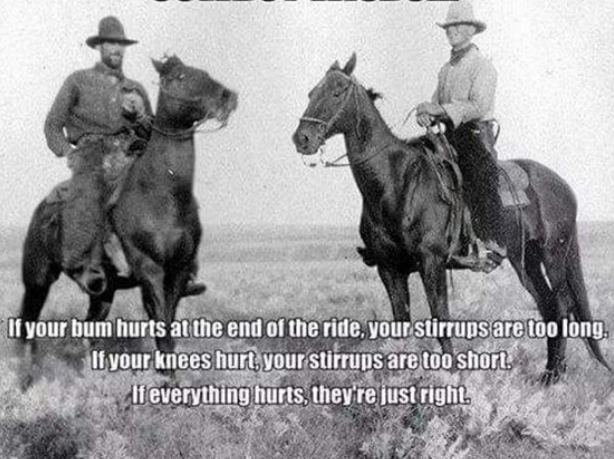
Please remember to register on the portal (www.polocrosse.co.za) and pay the correct affiliation amount to PASA. The POP should be sent to admin@polocrosse.co.za, with your name as the reference.

No players will be allowed to enter a tournament without SAEF and PASA affiliation—full payment.

All fees will increase as of 1 May 2021.

Just for LAUGHS...

COWBOY WISDOM



If your bum hurts at the end of the ride, your stirrups are too long.
If your knees hurt, your stirrups are too short.
If everything hurts, they're just right.

WALKERVILLE COACHING CLINIC—WITH BRUCE MACLARTY

After two cancellations earlier in the year due to rainy weather, the Walkerville club was excited to host a coaching clinic with Bruce MacLarty over the last weekend in February 2021. The aim was to not only provide coaching to the youngsters, but also to educate the Gauteng coaches around Bruce's strategy and game plans so that they could help develop these players throughout the year.

While final field preparations were being done, mother nature decided to throw in a massive curve ball in the way of an almighty hail storm and flooding. Plan B!

Coach and players arrived and decided that the sand-arena at Neels Beukes' place would be a good alternative, and force a great and different way of thinking for the players. Thanks to Neels Beukes and family for your opening up your facilities to everyone.

The enthusiasm from all players was evident, and it was wonderful for everyone to finally be together playing this amazing game we all love.

Day 1 started with a chat around game plan and strategy, followed by some on-foot ball skills and drills. With the notion of being able to implement what was mastered on foot, on the field while riding, the players all mounted their ponies and made their way to the 'field'.

By the end of the day, all participants were exhausted after playing more chukkas than they have in a long time, The different ground and "field" size made each player have to think quickly and adapt their riding and strategy. In hind sight—a great coaching ground indeed.



The DuToit's welcomed everyone to their home on Saturday night for some TV inspired coaching and dinner. Even though eyelids were heavy, the players were glued to the screen and provided great feedback and insight.

Hopes were high that the fields would be dry enough for day, but no such luck. Back to the arena we went for a couple more chukkas, focusing more on lineouts and positioning this time.

Thank you to Bruce, Josh LeRoux and Chelsea MacDonald for coming up to share your knowledge with the GP crowd. It was a great experience and learning opportunity for players young and old. We look really forward to having more interaction with our head coaching during the season, and seeing the improvement in the juniors especially.

Have a great season!

News from the Mountains

On the 7th of February, Underberg polocrosse club hosted a gymkhana/working hunter/cross country. We were overwhelmed by the response of people interested near and far. It was a fantastic day with riders ranging from 4 years old to 62 years old.

The atmosphere amongst the competitors was great and certainly was a day to remember.

RESULTS

Bending poles

Group A – winner Jenny Firth

Group B – Bongie

Ball and Bucket

Group A – Brenda Crawford

Group B – Margie Firth

Barrel Race

Group A – Ian Pendaris

Group B – Sam Brandis

Working Hunter

Winner - Brenda Crawford

Second – Megan Frost

Cross Country

Winner – Lexi Louwrens in a time of 1:30,47

Second – Megan Frost in a time of 1:32,15



And the most important event of the day involved a bit of alcohol (no riding) was won by no other than Ian, Juinita and Dale

A great day was had by all even the peewees. Underberg would like to extend their thanks to everyone that participated for their support.

March 2021

ARMCHAIR SPECTATOR

Greetings from the sidelines.

Or should I say 'front porch' because it seems as if we're back where we were last year with this virus 'thing'.

This month I'd like to share a bit on horse preparation. Most Polocrosse players have different views on schooling Polocrosse Ponies but for me the most essential function is to identify the right horse. It's no good looking at a horse or a photo of a horse and choosing it on looks alone. Invariably you're going to get it wrong because even if a horse looks good doesn't mean it's going to perform well, you need to ride it and preferably on an out ride where you can assess how balanced it is, what it's mouth is like, how quickly it learns and what kind of temperament it has etc. Sure you're going to find horses that look good and also turns out to be very good and on the flip side, you may ride a horse that is difficult yet becomes a top horse, but you should get a good idea about whether the horse has potential or not, so information is critical and that you'll only get on the back of the horse.

Once you've established that the horse has potential and you take ownership, the key to turning it into an exceptional horse is to ride it as often as possible. A horse doesn't know what's expected of it so you have to show it what you want, and do it with patience and repetition. Remember, you are only as good as your horse.

I've known quite a few players that could make a donkey look good proclaiming, 'As long as it's got legs, I don't care if it doesn't stop' should ring a bell with quite a few players but they also generally play better on a horse they ride regularly.

I would like to bring up an interesting character of my Polocrosse days each month that I grew to admire and respect and this month it has to be Mr Commentator himself – Rolf Hagen. He was without a doubt one of the greats. He also had a regular column in the Ninth Chukka, From the Commentary Box, which made for interesting reading. His commentary over the years gave Polocrosse the excitement it became known for and he went to great lengths to get to know the players and would during commentary give a brief description of the player and a lot of times mentioned facts about him/her that most people were unaware of. He was also a great player and he and Owen Holland made a formidable duo. I won't mention what he got up to in the line outs, but he'd argue it was all legal, something I can attest was borderline criminal. However we'd laugh about it over a beer afterwards and then when he commentated a game I played in later, would jokingly remark how some players pushed the boundaries of the sport. Here's to a fine gentleman that was at home as much amongst dignitaries as amongst us common folk. We desperately need someone of his caliber that can take up the reins where he left off.

Wayne Collett are you listening.

Even though I don't play anymore, I still want to be as much a part of the sport that gave me so many years of pleasure as I possibly can. I hope you enjoy my little article and please write to me at armchairspectator@protonmail.com and if you want I'll include it in the next article.

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

Cheers until next time.

MARCH



1	MORGAN DU TOIT	17	HEATHER CAMPBELL
2	KEIGHLY VAN WYK	18	DRIES DE VILLIERS
3	VANESSA GILKS		EMMY-LOU DEJONG
10	TRENT COCKER	19	DE WET DE VILLIERS
11	CHRISTO DE VILLIERS		GRAHAM MACLARTY
	MARISCHKE GRENEWALD		THOMAS LYNN
12	ALLAN OATES	23	MANDY RAPSON
13	FRANCOIS DU TOIT	26	NIKKI CROOK
14	ANDREW BRINK	27	MARCIA BARENDSE
15	LINDSEY WILLIAMS	28	GORDON SHAW
16	OLIVIA TAYLOR	29	LUKE DAVIS