

# 9<sup>th</sup> CHUKKA



As the sun sets on another year.  
Much to ponder upon, even more to look  
forward to...  
- Abhishek Bachchan



## Message from our President - Manfred Rohwer

Dear Members

The Christmas season is upon us, which signifies the end of yet another year. As this year comes to a close, I would like to wish you and yours a very happy holiday season and that the New Year is full of health, joy and success.

I would like to thank you for your continual work and precious support for Polocrosse in 2022. I am thankful for this great team and all your efforts and endeavours that have allowed Polocrosse to grow this past year.

Thinking warmly of each of you and wishing your family an extra measure of peace, joy and hope this Christmas. I wish for a great festive season in 2023 for all our executive, staff and members.

Kind regards



### A HORSE(WO)MAN'S CHRISTMAS by horse trainer Doris Eraldi

It's the night before Christmas, we're out in the barn  
Blanketing horses to keep them all warm  
They're eating their dinners, tucked in cozy stalls  
Not aware that it's Christmas or any special day at all  
They can dream of spring pastures from their pine-scented beds

No visions of sugarplums dance in their heads  
But we people are thinking of merry parties and such  
Maybe feeling a little sad at missing so much

This season is special but the horses don't know  
We've got work to do before we can go  
We finish the chores and head on inside  
To get ready for dinner and our own yuletide  
It's nearly midnight, the carols are sung  
I remember a story I was told when I was young  
How at midnight on Christmas Eve  
The creatures of the barnyard can speak to us with ease

I am called to the barn, I wade through the rain  
I know I must go, I can't really explain  
I slide open the door, pause for a while  
Then slowly walk down that dully lit aisle  
A nicker from Casey, a wink from JD  
Sleepy old Alibi waking to see  
Tucker rustling his bedding, a snort soft and light  
Each horse gave a greeting as I walked through the night

I thought about parties bright lit and warm  
The ones we don't go to 'cause we have the barn  
And vacations and holidays that we don't get  
When we're working long hours for bills to be met  
Walking all the way to the end of the aisle  
I stop to stroke Bonnie, it brings me a smile  
She snuffles my face, hot breath on my skin  
It starts me to thinking about my horses, my kin

I could be at parties with laughter and mirth  
But where I am right now is the best place on Earth.





## Message from our Vice-President: Francois Du Toit

What an awesome year 2022 has been, it was jam packed with International tours and great PASA calendar tournaments. The year started with the Veteran and Junior development tour to Zimbabwe. In my opinion, a tour to Zimbabwe is an absolute must for each Polocrosse player, as you get to experience the hospitality shown by our Zimbabwean friends which is always amazing and of such high standard. So, if you haven't done it, make sure you put this on your bucket list. It was a great tour to be part of and a privilege to play in the tournament. Apart from a few lessons learnt when buying biltong in Zimbabwe, travelling with a great group of people made it an even better trip. A short message to bring home after the tour that will always be well remembered was ***"Trophies may gather dust, but friendships last forever"***.

We have also seen wonderful growth in our venues available for hosting tournaments and a well-deserved congratulations to Underberg for hosting a brilliant International, as well as to Bishopstowe and Shongweni for hosting such successful tournaments as well. Ngwenya, Bethal and Walkerville kept the north flag flying high, but we also need to look at supporting our Northwest, Eastern Cape and Western Cape clubs as there are great venues in Vryburg, Potchefstroom, PE and Swartvlei, so look out for these tournaments on the 2023 calendar.

It has been a very busy year for the Executive, and I want to thank all the members of the Executive for their time and contribution. We truly have a committed team that look after the best interest of PASA and although we always debate the numerous issues I do believe that the Executive has supported each other and have a common goal, which is keeping the best interest of our sport top of mind in all decisions. So well done and we are not done yet.

As you are all well aware we have the 2024 Polocrosse World Cup on the horizon, and we have a lot to get done before we can host the Word Cup. A big thank you to the World Cup committee and the Shongweni Polocrosse Club team lead by the Von Benecke and Haynes families and supported by Manfred for all the effort thus far in the preparation of the World Cup. We will need the assistance of the entire Polocrosse fraternity to make this event a success and I am sure we can count on all our member's support.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the polocrosse fraternity for their amazing support and prayers to our family during the difficult time we experienced in Zambia. Polocrosse is a great sport, but the amazing people that make up this community is what truly makes it special. Thank you.

Three cheers for the ponies, please look after them during the off season and get them ready for an exciting new season in 2023, if the weather plays along the calendar is packed with some great tournaments. Be safe on your travels take care and a Merry Christmas to all.

Best regards

Toit



# "GINNY HERBERT - LADY PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR AWARD" Sarah van Wyk

## From Sarah:

I have been postponing this since Rochelle asked me to write a few things about the prize I won at SA Champs 2022, the "GINNY HERBERT TROPHY".

My two weakest traits in life are definitely writing articles and sitting in an office even with an aircon office. I would much rather be on a horse or a golf course in the fresh air.

I was lucky enough to live next door to Ginny in my teen years at Bosch Hoek and often spent time with her in her workshop repairing my broken polocrosse racquets and just chatting (which she could do very well). She is an amazing person that always had time for everyone and definitely gave back to the wonderful sport. I contacted her after I won the prize and she is doing very well. She is living in a caravan in the Griffiths family (Old Benoni Polocrosse Family) garden in Australia. What an amazing sport polocrosse is, how it makes the world so small and brings friends together and makes them family.

I was blessed to be born into an amazing family with an added bonus that we had horses. My Dad played polo so we all rode horses from an early age, have to add my mum is the glue in the family that holds us all together or even sticks our rear ends to the saddle. I moved from polo to polocrosse when I was 14 years old and the rest is history.



## So, to wrap it up in a nut shell:

- MY PASSION - HORSES
- LIVING SIMPLY
- DAUGHTERS
- AMAZING HUSBAND
- ENJOYING NATURE AND OUR SURROUNDINGS
- SUNRISES
- SUNSETS
- A LITTLE GOLF
- RUNS AND WALKS AT YOUR OWN PACE
- MAYBE A LITTLE WINE
- LOTS OF COFFEE
- TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AWAY FROM THE HUSSEL AND BUSSEL OF EVERYDAY LIFE!

***Most important enjoy your horses it's a privilege to have them.***







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### Who is Bomber Nel

Bomber's polocrosse career was resurrected in 1990 in South Africa after having left Rhodesia in 1980, when he and his son were introduced to Bishopstowe Polocrosse and generously offered horses to ride until they were able to afford their own. It was at this time that he was given the nickname "Bomber" and he soon started making equipment for younger players such as racquets, spurs, bits and helmets.

He focused his attention on developing junior polocrosse, Robbie Robson was a willing part ner and the Junior Polocrosse was formally established. The idea of an international became a reality when he contacted Dave Davies in Zimbabwe, who was equally keen to grow junior polocrosse at an international level. An U13 Series was enthusiastically arranged. The Datnis SA Invitation Team was selected from 19 players and announced at the Underberg Tournament in 1992. The test series was played at Chatterton Road with South Africa losing the series to the more experienced Zimbabwe.

The following year 6 junior teams were selected to tour Zimbabwe, U14 mixed, U16 girls, U16 boys, U19 girls, U19 boys and U21 Colts all being awarded full National colours.

Enthusiasm among the younger players had grown substantially and 36 Under 14 players made themselves available for selection. In 1994 Bomber presented his "Most Outstanding Under 14" trophy for the first time which now boasts some well-known names.

This was followed in 2007 by Bomber's "Best Junior Horse and Rider Combination" which was aimed at encouraging junior players to school their own horses. Bomber has generously sponsored players as well as trophies and prizes over the last 30 years both locally and internationally including as far as France, Italy, Holland, Germany, Canada, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Zambia with ongoing commitment to the UK, USA, Australia and of course South Africa with a special place in his heart for junior players.

His racquets are still made personally by him with great pride and with his continual pursuit of perfection.



### Locals in SA U 13 polocrosse team

LOCAL polocrosse players dominate the South African under-13 team to meet Zimbabwe in a series of international matches this month.

The team was chosen after trials at the Underberg Tournament last weekend.

The players are: Leroy Nel, of Bishopstowe Polocrosse Club; Megan Stipcich, of Shongweni; Manie Nel, of Mid-Illovo; Natasha Bartlett, of Port Elizabeth; David

Cantor, of Port Elizabeth; and Terence Spilsbury, of Harrismith.

Chad Erskine, of Pietermaritzburg, is first reserve. Second reserve is Trace Price-Moor, of Underberg, and Becker van Niekerk, of Benoni, is third reserve. The team is managed by city man Pete Nel, while Robbie Robson has been appointed coach.

This is the first time in SA polocrosse history that a Zimbabwean under-13 team will arrive in

Pietermaritzburg. A three-day international series from August 14-16 will be played.

"An under-13 league has been running successfully in Zimbabwe for the past five years and it is hoped that this will be the start of something similar for S.A. Polocrosse," said Nel.

Most of the players selected for the SA team will be playing at the Scholars Tournament at Chatterton Road this Sunday.



# Bombers contribution to SA Junior Polocrosse

## BOMBERS - MOST OUTSTANDING U14

### Trophy

- 1994 - Leroy Nel
- 1995 - Not Awarded
- 1996 - Lee-Ann Van Wyk
- 1997 - George Van Rensburg
- 1998 - Rene van Wyk
- 1999 - Mathew Braithwaite
- 2000 - Cursti Windt
- 2001 - Nico Van Wyk
- 2002 - Nico Van Wyk
- 2003 - Attie Van Wyk
- 2004 - Shandon Taylor
- 2005 - Retief Steenkamp
- 2006 - Graham MacLarty
- 2007 - Travis Timm
- 2008 - Graham MacLarty
- 2009 - Natalie MacLarty
- 2010 - Natalie MacLarty
- 2011 - Caley Higgs
- 2012 - Paige Pretorius/ Connor Beukes
- 2013 - Wian Botha
- 2014 - Not Awarded
- 2015 - Sam Gilson
- 2016 - Not Awarded
- 2017 - Lauren Heynes
- 2018 - Amy Cocker
- 2019 - Not Awarded
- 2020 - Lauren Heynes
- 2021 - Olivia King
- 2022 - Nick King



## BOMBERS - Best Junior Horse and Rider Combination

- 2007 - Jacques Potgieter - Gonda
- 2008 - Graham MacLarty - Rio
- 2009 - Travis Timm - Simba
- 2010 - Graham MacLarty - Rio
- 2011 - Travis Timm - Simba
- 2012
- 2013 - Caley Higgs - Squaw
- 2014 - Samantha Gilson - Dynamite
- 2015 - John Rae - Mischief
- 2016 - Zack Hooper - Messenger
- 2017 - Wian Botha - Jetaime Flamenco
- 2018 - Chad Von Benecke - Cuzzie
- 2019 - Lauren Heynes - Cup Cake
- 2020 COVID
- 2021 - Fiona Lin - Sogg
- 2022 - Nick King - Gypsey



## Message from the Chief Handicapper - Andrew Heynes



Just a reminder that the following structure is in place for the Handicapping Committee

CHIEF HANDICAPPER  
|  
PROVINCIAL HANDICAPPERS  
|  
CLUB HANDICAPPERS  
|  
PLAYERS

We try to evaluate a player over at least 2 Tournaments before changing their handicap. This ensures consistency and eliminates once off good or bad Tournaments.

Any questions pertaining to your handicap or other players handicaps can be directed to anyone in this structure. It would be best to start with your Club Handicapper and then move up the structure if you don't come right.

Remember that it is only natural for people to have a biased opinion of themselves or family members. We all feel that we are better than we are.

How can you improve your handicap!!!

There are a number of ways to improve. Here are a few ways:

- Practice more
- Improve your fitness
- Play on more than 1 horse if possible
- Ensure you play your best horse at Major Tournaments
- Pick out a few people that are 1 handicap higher than you. Ensure that you do all the basics better than them (practice more, better fitness, play your best horse against them).
- Put less pressure on yourself. The more thoughts that go through your head during a game, the worse you will do. Forget about who is watching you and focus on just playing the game in that moment.
- Prepare yourself for the season. Plan all the above so that you peak at the right time. The result of a game is out of your hands, but the way that you prepare for a game is totally in your hands and generally the results follow suite.

Enough said, I'm looking forward to a great 2023 season and hope that all players are motivated to improve next season. Good luck for your 2023 preparations





## Message from the Chief Umpire - Stephen Rault



Hello all, here we are at the end of a great season where we all got to play the game of Polocrosse we love so much!

It's a great game to play with rivalry, comradery and competition that makes us all return to the game tournament after tournament.

Many of us are little budding RASSIE ERASMUS's where the poor umpire is often criticised for just showing up, and in some cases for not showing up because he or she can't be bothered!

So as Chief Umpire, you often get asked, "How are you going to fix it?" ..... well, it's a damn good question and you know what, I cant answer it. Now before you lynch me and post all the videos like Rassie does after each game, lets look at some potential solutions.



The umpires come from the players. Aah, I think I see an opportunity here..... Good umpiring starts with you. If you don't put any effort into improving your umpiring and improving your knowledge of the rules, how can you expect other players to do it. If you feel you had a bad game, make the effort to upgrade your umpiring so when you get the chance to umpire, 12 other players can respect you for what you are doing for them.....which is allowing them to have a good game.



So, in the off season, take responsibility for umpiring and upgrade your skills with the assistance of the Provincial umpires. Make the commitment now to study the rules and practice umpiring. When you are a player, you practice on your horse and improve your skills..... why not do that with your umpiring?

### **So good umpiring starts with you.**

Please make the effort to participate on our WhatsApp poll which came out on the 25th November 2022 and look at the results that are there. It gives the umpiring committee something to work on for the 2023 season.

Have a great off season and chat soon.



December 2022

# Season's Greetings



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Christmas brings family and friends together; it helps us appreciate the love in our lives we can often take for granted. May the true meaning of the holiday season fill your heart and home with many blessings.

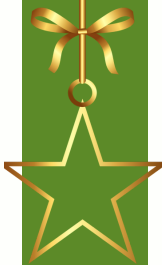
On behalf of the PASA executive, we would like to wish all our members, their families and friends a very Blessed Safe Christmas. And we look forward to seeing you all on and around the Polocrosse field in 2023.

Reflecting on another year that saw NGWENYA POLOCROSSE CLUB host Gauteng Champs, SA Club Champs and the SA vs Zim/Zam Series, we can only be filled with pride & gratitude. Blessed beyond measure with our facility and our fantastic Club Members, anything is possible!

Thank you to PASA for having the faith in us to bring SA Club Champs back to Gauteng - which was much needed! And to the rest of the Provinces & Clubs for supporting us .

We now get to have a small break ahead of a much anticipated 2023 Season.

Until then, we would like to wish all PASA Members, Grooms and Families a safe, peaceful & fun Festive Season! 3 Cheers for our Ponies!



# WHO is MOLLY?

## Mwalimu Modise

- I am 17 years old, play for Potch Polocrosse Club
- I play off a 2 handicap but actually I am a **7**
- Hobbies are golf, club cricket and practicing my skills on being a standup comedian



I am one of a kind very outgoing person, funny easy to talk to and full of myself (*inspired by Codi*) I have a few favorite polocrosse memories but one that stands out is probably the "lekke" jol we had at Junior Classics 2022 and the Development tour to Zimbabwe this year.

I started playing polocrosse a few years ago. I was introduced to the sport by the Thornhill family. If it wasn't for them none of this would have been possible. They have had a huge impact on my life and I will be forever grateful for that. I enjoy the sport and the people a lot. I hope to make a name for myself in the game one day and play as good as my idols.

I played my first tournament last year in Bethal and have been collecting memorable moments since then. My favorite positions are 1 and 2 because I don't like being held back and I'm always trying to make a difference on the field.

My favorite polocrosse person is Codi Campbell. Why? I think we have the same personality and I know he looks **up to me**. I also enjoy playing against him.

Another reason he looks up to me is because I am definitely better in golf than him.



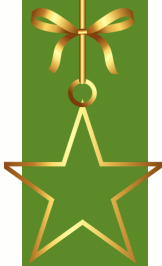
## Why Polocrosse?

Because of the people, the horses and all the memories. What I have learned is that without hard work and discipline you will be stuck and not move forward.

Respect for horses. They are beautiful animals and have so much to offer.

There is **no better feeling** than playing polocrosse.

**Funniest moment** for me must have been when I smashed Uncle David across the back at one of Bruce's clinics. His face and utter disbelief! You had to be there to appreciate the moment. Ha ha ha.





## From the Junior Presidents Desk - Karen Cocker

To all our Junior Players

I hope your exams all went well and that your horses have had a good rest.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in the 2023 season.

In the meantime keep riding and practising polocrosse . Be kind to each other and your ponies.

Remember if you give your horse what he needs he will give you his heart in return!

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a holiday full of family love and fun.

Yours in polocrosse

Karen Cocker



# FIXTURES

## February 2023

- 25/26 George

## March 2023

LADIES

- 4/5 - Ladies Clinic (Bishopstowe)
- 11/12 - Bethal
- 25/26 - Nyati (Elandslaagte)

## April 2023



- 15/16 - Bishopstowe
- 28-30 - TWK (Bethal)

## May 2023



- 6/7 - Port Elizabeth
- 13/14 - Presidents Cup (Ngwenya)
- 27/28 - KZN Champs  
Cammelot (Potchefstroom)

## July 2023



- 30 June- 2 July Junior Classics Bishopstowe
- 14-16 :SA CHAMPS (Elandslaagte)
- 29/30: - Shongweni

## September 2023



- 9/10 NW Classic -Huhudi Vryburg



## June 2023 ★★★★★

- 10/11 - Hidcote/Barbarian Tour
- 23-25 - HIGH GOAL (Shongweni)

## August 2023

- 5/6: Prov Champs GP/NW/MP -Ngwenya
- 12/13: Underburg
- 26/27: Walkerville  
:PE - CGK

## October 2023

- 30 Sept - 1 Oct Cape Classic
- 7-8 Oct Cape Classic



## Birthdays December 2022

**D**ecember

2-Sanet De Villiers  
2-Paula Maclarty  
3-Owen Holland  
3-Tilanie Groenewald  
5-Sarah Dix-peek  
5-Lara Orpwood  
6-Tayla Von Benecke  
8-Holly Mckenzie  
9-Lauren Kuhn  
9-Jenna Brink  
10-Dale Taylor  
10-Shakes Mokheseng Suping  
10-Ross Haldane  
11-Noel Wilson  
11-Richard Reid  
11-Nicholas King  
12-Nicholas De Jong  
13-Megan Thomson  
14-Andrew Thomson  
15-Druan Meyer  
15-Joshua Joubert  
17-Colby Wheeler  
18-Stuart Odell  
19-Mark Scott  
19-Johanna Botha  
19-Megan Frost  
22-Noel Bauer  
22-Brenda Crawford  
23-Nkululeko Ngcobo  
24-Chante Van Der Walt  
25-Heinrich Roland Fortmann  
27-Kayla Heynes  
28-Mike Kidson

Happy  
Birthday!

