

Oct/Nov 2024

# 9TH CHUKKA



[www.polocrosse.co.za](http://www.polocrosse.co.za)

# Message from our President

As we close the chapter on the 2024 Polocrosse season, we reflect on a year filled with remarkable achievements, cherished memories, and immense gratitude for all who made it possible. From the success of local events like the Junior Classic and SA Club Championships to the unforgettable experience of hosting the World Cup, this season has been a celebration of talent, passion, and community spirit. Now, as our horses and players enjoy a well-earned rest, we can look back on our accomplishments and begin planning for an exciting 2025 season.



The appointment of a new executive marks a fresh chapter for Polocrosse South Africa. This dynamic team, dedicated to the growth and success of our sport, is poised to lead us into the next four years. However, it is important to remember that every member, supporter, and enthusiast of Polocrosse is a vital part of this journey. Your ideas, energy, and involvement are the driving forces behind our progress. Together, we can truly embody the spirit of "Stronger Together" as we forge ahead.

Reflecting on the highlights of 2024, hosting the World Cup stands out as a shining achievement. This event not only fostered new friendships and rekindled old ones but also showcased the incredible quality of South African horses. The feedback from participating nations was overwhelmingly positive, praising the outstanding pool of horses and the dedication of their owners. To our horse owners, we extend our deepest gratitude for your trust and generosity, which elevated South African Polocrosse on the global stage.

This season also highlighted the rising talent within our community. From seasoned players stepping up to meet new challenges to our juniors embarking on the development tour to Zimbabwe, the dedication and spirit of our players shone brightly. Special thanks go to Karen, Gav, and Amy Cocker, as well as the supportive parents, for making such opportunities possible for our young athletes.

As we look to the future, let us not forget the cornerstone of our sport: our clubs. Strong, active clubs are essential to sustaining Polocrosse at every level. By supporting local tournaments and venues, we ensure the continued vitality of our sport. Let's commit to keeping the PASA calendar thriving and encourage the growth of developing venues across the country.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to the success of 2024—parents, players, selectors, coaches, managers, executive members, sponsors, and supporters. Your tireless efforts and unwavering dedication have made this season truly memorable.

As we enter the festive season, I wish you all joy, rest, and time with loved ones. Let's recharge and return with renewed energy for an even more thrilling 2025 Polocrosse season.

Warm regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Tait' or similar, with a large, sweeping 'T' and a cursive 'ait'.



# Thank You & Farewell Dr Manfred Rohwer

Dear Manfred,

As your term as President of Polocrosse Association of South Africa comes to a close, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your dedication, leadership, and the numerous accomplishments achieved during your tenure.

Under your guidance, PASA has reached significant milestones. These remarkable achievements reflect the collective effort of our executive committee, volunteers, players, coaches, and supporters—a true testament to your leadership and vision.

We are incredibly proud of what we have built together under your presidency. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our sport. You will be missed as you move on to your next adventure, but your impact will remain with us.

Best wishes for your future endeavors!



*Dr. Manfred Rohwer*



THANK YOU!





# Message from Dr Manfred Rohwer

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I stand before you today, I am filled with a mix of emotions as I reflect on the incredible journey we have shared over the past five years. These years have been marked by hard work, dedication, and countless memories that I will cherish forever.

First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. Your unwavering support, passion for the game, and commitment to our community have been the driving forces behind our successes. Together, we have tackled challenges, embraced new opportunities, and fostered a spirit of camaraderie that makes Polocrosse so unique.



During my tenure as president, we have achieved significant milestones:

1. Membership numbers
2. PASA registry for members and horses
3. New formats of games/ Presidents Cup/ Polocrosse 4's/ Polocrosse on foot.
4. Interprovincial movement of players to allow smaller Clubs and Provinces to compete at level playing fields
5. Social media platforms. Enabling Pasa to source sponsors.
6. Acknowledgement of the history of the sport and honouring previous members.
7. Animal welfare and quality of horses.
8. Staging the Polocrosse World Cup.
9. Fostering a good relationship with SAEF.
10. Being actively involved in the IPC to eventually result in change to the benefit of Polocrosse as a whole.
11. Expanding our reach within the sports community, to promoting sportsmanship and teamwork.

These accomplishments are a testament to the collective effort of our executive committee, volunteers, players, coaches, and supporters. I am incredibly proud of what we have built together.

As I pass the baton to the newly elected president and executive committee, I have full faith in their vision and leadership. I am excited to see how they will take our organization to new heights. I encourage you all to extend the same support and enthusiasm to them that you offered me. Your engagement in the years to come will be crucial in navigating the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

To the new president, I wish you all the success in your role. Lead with integrity, inspire those around you, and continue to champion the values that make Polocrosse a wonderful sport to be part of. Knowing the dedication and passion that drives our community, I am confident that you will all thrive.

In closing, thank you once again for the trust you placed in me. It has truly been an honour to serve as your president. Let us move forward together, united in our love for Polocrosse, and excited for what the future holds.

Thank you.



# MEET THE PASA EXECUTIVE



Francois Du Toit  
President



Glen Haldane  
Vice-President



Rochelle Thornhill  
Secretary



Karen Cocker  
Athlete's Representative &  
International Liaison



Stephen Rault  
Chief Umpire



Hazel Stanley  
Junior  
President



Andrew Heynes  
Chief Handicapper



Stefan Harris  
Convenor of Selectors



Gavin Cocker  
Director of Coaching



Kerry Lynn  
Horse Welfare Officer



Camilla Kidson  
Development



Trace Price Moor  
Veterans Co-Ordinator



Kent Wicks  
President - EC



Greg Hunter  
President - GP



Glen Haldane  
President - KZN



Wessel Strauss  
President - MP



Gregg Nortje  
President - NW



Jo Phillips  
President - WC



# Congratulations to the South African Polocrosse Team!

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the South African Polocrosse team for their triumphant victory at the 2024 Ignition Polocrosse World Cup! This outstanding achievement has brought immense pride to our entire nation, and we stood united behind our team every step of the way.

A special thank you goes to our players, the players families and our dedicated coaches, Henry Harris and James Hackland, whose unwavering commitment and expertise played a pivotal role in guiding the team to success. We also want to express our gratitude to Jean Hackland, the Team Manager, for her incredible support and efforts. Your hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed and have been integral to this amazing outcome.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to all the horse owners who generously loaned their horses for the World Cup. Your contributions were essential in ensuring our team had the best possible support, and we thank you for your trust and partnership in this endeavor.

Lastly, we acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the World Cup Committee, led by Brent Von Benecke and Manfred Rohwer. Your meticulous planning and execution resulted in a spectacular event that showcased the best of Polocrosse and created lasting memories for everyone involved. Once again, congratulations to our National Team! Your passion, determination, and skill have made South Africa proud. We look forward to celebrating your achievements and continuing to support the sport of Polocrosse in the future.



2024

2015

2011



## 2024 World Cup Winning Team

*James Hackland (Mens Coach) Jean Hackland (Manager) Chad Von Benecke, Stefan Harris, Josh Le Roux, Jan-Albert Steenkamp (Captain), Jacquie Minnaar, Olivia Kind, Amy Cocker, Lauren Heynes, Henry Harris (Ladies Coach)*

## 2015 World Cup Winning Team

*Helene Steenkamp (Manager) Jean Hackland, Celicia Jacobs, Natalie MacLarty, Leigh Higgs, Graham McLarty, Travis Timm, Gavin Cocker (Captain) Jan-Albert Steenkamp, Bruce MacLarty (Coach)*

## 2011 World Cup Winning Team

*Gavin Cocker, Graham MacLarty, Travis Timm, Jan-Albert Steenkamp, Bruce MacLarty (Coach), Jocelyn Spilsbury, Juli Royden-Turner, Nikki Crook, Celicia Jacobs, Helene Steenkamp (Manager)*

# POLOCROSSE THROUGH THE YEARS FROM A SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE.

Polocrosse has roots in Europe dating back to the Middle Ages, originally played with a triangular net. The game revived in the 1920s by the National School of Equitation in England caught the attention of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hirst from Australia. They brought the game back to Australia, collaborating with horseman Mr. A Pitty to establish the name "Polocrosse."

Despite setbacks during World War II, enthusiasts in Australia kept the sport alive. By 1945, the Buradoo Club was formed, leading to the first inter-club game in 1946. The sport spread internationally when it was introduced to South Africa through visitors, gaining popularity and establishing multiple clubs.

In 1966, the Natal Polocrosse Association was formed, which fostered international connections with teams from Rhodesia. The Polocrosse Association of South Africa (PASA) was established in 1972, promoting the sport globally and forming the International Polocrosse Council in 1976.



South Africa has participated in World Cup Competitions since 2003, winning their 3rd World Cup equalling Australia.

Today, South Africa boasts 13 affiliated clubs with 520 members and 280 active players, attracting participants of all ages.

Polocrosse's appeal lies in its accessibility and excitement, drawing families and spectators alike, while significantly contributing to the local interest in equestrian sports.

**Extract from "South African Polocrosse – Through the Years" by Barbara von Benecke**

*Barbara, Chad and Giel Von Benecke*



# Calling ALL Polocrosse Lovers!

Let's Grow Polocrosse in 

Do you have any second-hand equipment lying around that you'd be willing to donate? Our vision is to host clinics and encourage more people to join our amazing community!

Your contribution can make a huge difference in developing talent and fostering a love for the game. Let's work together to introduce polocrosse to more players!

Contact our Secretary Rochelle ([admin@polocrosse.co.za/0827851595](mailto:admin@polocrosse.co.za/0827851595)) if you have equipment to donate or know someone who might. Every bit helps!

***Donate now and be part of something bigger!***



# **Congratulations to Brent Von Benecke and the New IPC Leadership Team!**

We are excited to announce and congratulate Brent Von Benecke on his selection as the new President of the International Polocrosse Committee (IPC)! This achievement not only reflects Brent's dedication and passion for the sport but also brings great pride to South Africa. We are confident in his leadership and look forward to witnessing the positive impact he and his team will make on the global Polocrosse stage.

Brent's extensive experience and unwavering commitment to advancing Polocrosse will undoubtedly guide the IPC towards new heights. South Africa stands firmly behind him, and we have every faith in his vision and ability to foster growth and innovation within the sport.

We would also like to extend our warm congratulations to Wessel Strauss, who has been elected as the 1st Vice President, and Ashleigh Shaw, who steps into the role of IPC Secretary. Their unique talents and perspectives will be invaluable assets to the IPC, and we are excited to see how they will contribute to the future of Polocrosse on the world front.

As we embark on this new chapter in Polocrosse history, let us come together as South Africans, supporting Brent, Wessel, Ashleigh, and the entire IPC team. Together, we can elevate our beloved sport to new horizons and continue to inspire generations of players and fans alike.

Congratulations once again to Brent, Wessel, and Ashleigh!



***Brent Von Benecke***  
***IPC President***



***Wessel Strauss***  
***1st Vice President***



***Ashleigh Shaw***  
***IPC Secretary***



# Polocrosse World Cup 2024: A Celebration of Global Talent

## Senior PASA Development vs Barbarians July 2024

*By: Karen Cocker (International Liason)*

In an effort to promote inclusivity in the sport, the planning for the 2024 World Cup saw the formation of a Barbarian team composed of players from countries not included in the top eight. This initiative aimed to provide these nations with an opportunity to experience the World Cup atmosphere and inspire local growth in polocrosse.

The team, comprising 8 men and 8 women, included players from Argentina, Mexico, Canada, Finland, France, Holland, Germany, and Norway. The assembly process started with invitations asking all international players to send in their expression of interest to me. I was able to choose one or two players from each of the listed countries to enable these countries to all take part in the World Cup experience.

South African players benefited from engaging with their international counterparts, leading to memorable interactions, including humorously navigating language gaps. The Barbarian men's team held their own against the PASA development team, while the women's team showcased significant improvement.

Local PASA members eagerly volunteered to compete against the Barbarians, further enhancing the camaraderie of the event. Generous sponsorships provided essential support, including horse provision and team gear. A welcoming evening featured traditional South African cuisine and lively cultural performances, weaving a rich tapestry of shared experiences.

The tournament culminated in competitive matches, including a final game on the World Cup field, viewed both live and streamed to families back home. The event marked a successful step toward inclusivity in polocrosse, laying the groundwork for future international collaboration. The hope is to invite these developing polocrosse nations to participate in future tours and hopefully the next world cup in a similar format, thus, fostering continued growth in the sport. Thank you to all who contributed to this extraordinary experience!



# Senior PASA Development vs Barbarians July 2024

By: Karen Cocker (International Liason)

## BARBARIAN TEAM

### The Men's team:

- Gael Beaufils - France
- Pierre Winter - France
- Syen Entjes - Holland
- Ignacio Landa - Mexico
- Max Schellerer - Germany
- Nacho Morterio - Germany but originally Uruguay
- Nacho Lechardoy - Argentina
- Mariano Lechardoy - Argentina

### The ladies team:

- Liisa Jarven - Finland
- Cecelia Forsman - Finland
- Katherine Gilbert - France
- Tilda Beaufils - France
- Veronica De La Peno - Mexico
- Anna Von Schintlig Horny - Germany
- Mathilda Bizet - France
- Isabelle Ladiges - Canada
- The Reserve was CamillaBlom - Norway

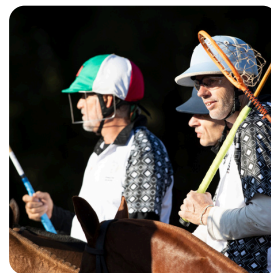
## PASA DEVELOPMENT TEAM

### The Men's team:

- Heinrich Fortman
- Mwalimu Modise
- Medicine Mashindi
- Jonathan Thornhill
- James Taylor
- Trace Price Moor
- Ian Lynn
- Luke Davis

### The Ladies team:

- Camilla Kidson
- Zoe Taylor
- Fiona Lin
- Brigiette Britz
- Stacey Wheeler
- Jenny Hiltunen
- Megan Thomson
- Harriet Wasdell





# 2024 Junior Development Tour (u21 & u14) to Zimbabwe: A Memorable Success

By: Karen Cocker (International Liason)

From August 30th to September 1st, 2024, a team of 12 junior players and 9 parents traveled to Harare for an exciting development tour, playing against the Zimbabwean U14 mixed team and U21 ladies teams. This marked the 7th collaborative tour between Zimbabwe and South Africa since 2018.

Though some last-minute withdrawals led to the forfeit of the U21 team, it allowed the Zambian U21 team to join the event, showcasing their skills and fostering hopes for future collaboration.

The development tour aims to promote inclusivity and enhance players' confidence by allowing them to experience different horses, teammates, and playing styles. Since 2018, Zimbabwe has made significant strides in growing their junior polocrosse community, and it was heartwarming to see experienced Zimbabwean players mentor younger talents during this tour.

Upon arrival, the players quickly adjusted to their assigned horses during practice. The welcoming function at Maize and Mingle restaurant saw teams exchanging tokens and fostering camaraderie.

The matches commenced on Friday, with improvements seen in each chukka. By Saturday, the South African U21 team secured a victory, while the U14 team exhibited remarkable growth despite a loss.

On Sunday, we were on the edge of our seats when the U14 team's lost by a sudden-death goal, and our U21 girls clinched a thrilling series win by just one goal!

Special thanks go out to our coaches Gavin and Amy Cocker and to our generous sponsors: Lucy Polo for shirts, Farmers Agricare for playing shirts, Project Logistic Consulting for U21 hoodies, Orthosport for U14 hoodies, Stanton Construction Chemicals for caps, and the Stanford Family for their cash donation.

The tour was a significant step in promoting polocrosse among junior players and strengthening bonds between the nations. We look forward to future collaborations and continued growth in the sport!

## PASA DEVELOPMENT TEAM'S

**Coach:** Gavin Cocker

**Assistant Coach:** Amy Cocker

**Manager:** Karen Cocker

### The U14 team:

- Sophie Erskine
- Molly-Jane Erskine
- Malan Marais
- Mackenzie Soulsby
- Madison Soulsby
- Jordan Zylstra



### The U21 Ladies team:

- Azara Groenewald
- Electra Groenewald
- Saskia Groenewald
- Jane Oosthuysen
- Isabella Oosthuysen
- Ava Stanford





## **CHAD VON BENECKE**



PLAYER OF THE YEAR - 2023 / PLAYER OF THE YEAR - 2024 / MENS PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT WORLD CUP 2024



# CHAD VON BENECKE PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2023 & 2024

**Age:** 24

**Handicap:** 9

**Favourite Position:** 1/2/3

**Hobbies:** Playing golf, Action Cricket, Polo and Squash

## Message from Chad:

### Highlights of my career

- My first tour was in 2014 where I played in the U14 side against Zimbabwe in Gweru.
- 2016, I played in the U16 side against Australia in PE.
- In 2018 I also played in my first High Goal. I have played in every high goal since then.
- In 2019 I played in the u21 side against Ireland in Mooi River.
- In 2022 I played in my first official men's side against the UK, in Underberg.
- 2022, Winning high goal
- 2023, selected for the World Cup team.
- 2023, awarded PASA player of the year.
- 2023, Winning high goal
- 2024 Winning the World Cup.
- Getting awarded best Men's player of the World Cup
- The horse I rode Celtic won best horse of the World Cup
- 2024 PASA player of the year.

### Background

I came from a Polocrosse background as both my parents have played, as well as both of my grandfathers played back in the day. My dad played in the first World Cup in 2003 and captained the side. I have been around horses my whole life but I only started playing Polocrosse at the age of 11/12. Since then I have represented South Africa at all age groups from u14 to the open men's side.

I have been fortunate enough to play for some great clubs in my career. Starting off playing for Richmond in my early years then going to Shongweni where I gained huge experience playing in A division for the first time. Then moving on to Nyati. Then 3 years ago moving to Hidcote Polocrosse club.

Winning player of the year for 2023 and 2024 is a massive honour for me and I would not be able to do it without my parents. They are extremely passionate about horses and they are always making sure we have the best horses possible and in the best condition possible. Without them I would not be where I am today in my career. All of my success is dedicated to them. A big thanks to the Choice family for helping me with some great horses for the last couple years.



PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2023  
CHAD VON BENECKE RECEIVING  
HIS AWARD FROM BARBARA VON BENECKE



PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2024  
CHAD VON BENECKE RECEIVING  
HIS AWARD FROM BARBARA VON BENECKE

# CHAD VON BENECKE

## WORLD CUP 2024

### MEN'S PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Firstly, huge thanks to my team, team management and everyone else who helped me on this journey. I would never have received this award without them. To my parents who put in a massive amount of time and effort in helping me in my own preparations to ensure I performed at my best over the World Cup. A massive thanks to my family, friends, grooms and all the supporters who cheered us on, it was so incredible to see and feel the magnitude of the crowd behind us during the games. A massive thanks to the sponsors of the World Cup and the horse lenders, without them this World Cup would not have been possible.

To receive this award on the biggest stage of Polocrosse is a massive honour for me. My main focus leading up to the World Cup, was to be the best Polocrosse player I could possibly be to help our team win the World Cup. I feel very privileged to receive this award but it was a bonus add on to winning the world cup.

When I got selected to be in the World Cup team in JUNE 2023, I knew I had to work as hard as I possibly could to be the best player I could possibly be. Fortunately enough I am a student so I had very flexible hours so I knew I had to take advantage of the extra time I had to become a better player every day. I truly feel all the training, team camps and all the other things I did to train for the World Cup gave me the best chance of being the best possible player I could be.

Leading up to the world cup the team got together as often as we could to practise together and to trial horses for the world cup. In my opinion, there was no other country that practised as hard and as long as our team did. We definitely went the extra mile when it came to training and preparing for the world cup. Our team was fortunate enough to work with James and Henry who were our men's and ladies coaches, Jean our manager, Tracy who was our performance coach and Sherylle Calder who helped us with our hand eye coordination. Everyone listed here played a massive role in our successful World Cup and World Cup preparation.

It gives me goosebumps writing this but during the World Cup, we had some players sacrifice their main positions for the best of the team. Stef Harris gave up his main position ( 1 ) to me during the World Cup. He felt it was the right decision for the team at the time. I cannot thank him enough for this and I will forever owe him one. However, he knew I would have done the same if I were in his position. This is an example of a true teammate. He was then awarded best 2 of the World Cup. ***This is a reminder to everyone who plays any sport, to always put the team first before yourself!*** Josh le Roux was also a player who did not get the credit he deserved during the world cup. He might not have played as many chukkas as he would have like to, but he had a phenomenal World Cup. He never complained when he did not play when he was supposed to. These acts of sportsmanship were instrumental for the success of the team.





# World Cup 2024 - Best Men's Horse

## CELTIC THUNDER



IGNITION®  
GROUP



Who is CELTIC THUNDER

Celtic is a 14 year old thoroughbred mare

**Sire:** Tiger Hunt

**Dam:** Play for me

**Sire of Dam:** Jallad

### **Brief Background**

Celtic was previously owned by Tom De Bruin. He played Celtic, Polo for many years. She excelled in Polo as she played her first Polo test match at 5 years of age. She then went onto play 10 test matches. She has had 2 foals, 1 foal is being used as a breeding stallion. Tom thought she might have potential as a polocrosse pony, so he gave her to Kylie Johnson.

I went to Kokstad earlier this year to do a coaching clinic with my Dad (Brent). I was coaching on multiple horses throughout the weekend. Duncan Johnson brought this horse (Celtic) to me to umpire on. I remember her being very busy and I thought that she might have some potential before I even started riding her. After about 2 minutes of riding Celtic, I straight away knew she was something special. I immediately went to my Dad to tell him to start negotiating with the Johnsons, because I knew this mare had to play in the World Cup. A few weeks later, we took Celtic home so we could prepare her for the World Cup.



It was the beginning of the World Cup and we drew the pool that Celtic was in. A few hours after the draw, we took our team pool horses to the sand arena for a light canter, just to give the horses a little sweat. After the light workout, I got a phone call from Camila (our horse coordinator) to say that Celtic has tied up. It was not ideal but I still thought she had a chance to play that weekend. After hours of care from the horse coordinators during the week, I rode her on the Friday before the opening game to give her a bit of a burn and immediately after I rode her she tied up again and her chances of playing that weekend was zero.

A couple days later, after the first weekend's games, I rode her 2-3 times a day to prep Celtic for the Semi-finals and final. The semi-final against Zambia was the first game she played at the World Cup, and she was a dream to play. She did everything I wanted her to. The final against Australia was a special occasion, one I will never forget. To play Celtic for 3 chukkas in the final was such an unforgettable experience, she gave everything and more and I really could not have chosen a more special horse to share the win with. It was a moment I will never forget.



# HORSE OF THE YEAR - 2024

## WORLD CUP 2024 - Best Ladies Horse

### FRENCH KISS

#### Who is FRENCH KISS

French Kiss is owned by the Rae Family, bred and trained by Karen Cocker

**Sire:** Edenhope Bundy

**Dam:** French Affair

**Sire of Dam:** Star Cutter

#### Siblings:

Full Brother - Fifty Shades of Grey

Three Quarter Sister - Belami

Full Sister - Anastasia

Aunt to - Rhapsody, Romance, Champion, Gin and Tonic



*French Kiss*

#### SOME FAMILY HISTORY

French Kiss was one of the first embryo transfers done by the Bundy Syndicate in 2010. Her mother was my top mare called French Affair, who produced two embryos that year. French Kiss and her brother Fifty shades of Grey were brought into the world via surrogate mares in December 2010

I purchased French Kiss's mother, French Affair from the race track in Zimbabwe as a 3 year old, we had a lot of success playing on horses from a thoroughbred stallion called Star Cutter, so when I saw French Affair and heard she was by Star Cutter, I had to have her! She was a very talented mare and I had the honour of playing her for eleven years and when she was 15 years old when she was finally retired and used as a brood mare. She was an easy horse to ride and gave me everything. French Affair produced two more foals, one is Belami my young horse which I started at SA champs in 2023 and she is going from strength to strength, the other is a mare called Anastasia who is owned by the Van Eeden family and is doing very well in polo. Sadly French Affair passed away and we did not get any more foals from her. Every foal she produced has proven to be exceptional. All with soft mouths and very agile. I did keep Fifty Shades as a stallion and he was the first stallion to play in polocrosse tournaments in South Africa. He had an incredible nature, passed down from his dam and the Bundy line. I was able to breed some good horses with him, Gin and Tonic, Champion, Rhapsody and Romance. I did geld fifty shades as a 7 year old, I enjoyed another 5 years of polocrosse on him before he sadly passed away from AHS. I am hoping to get a foal from French Kiss one day, to keep this line going. It has been so rewarding breeding and playing French Kiss all these years. I am the luckiest and proudest player, such an incredible privilege to have been graced with this line of horses.



*French kiss as a yearling walking to the paddock with Amy leading her. She was always a very gentle horse.*



# HORSE OF THE YEAR - 2024

## WORLD CUP 2024 - Best Ladies Horse

### FRENCH KISS

#### FRENCH KISS'S POLOCROSSE CAREER

French Kiss and Fifty Shades of Grey grew up on our farm and I started them slowly with gently outrides and schooling until they were 4 years old when they came in slowly with green horse chukkas and gradually moved onto faster polocrosse

French Kiss took to polocrosse easily and quickly became my top horse. French Kiss has played well for everyone who has ridden her, she played for Amy in the U14 test match against Zambia in 2017 as a 6 year old and she has also played in many junior classics with Amy and more recently with Callum Rae. She has played in many High Goals with me and Internationals over the years. I won best number 2 at the 2018 High Goal on French Kiss and she won best horse at the 2019 High Goal.

French Kiss has been honoured to win many pony prizes over the years at most tournaments. The most prestigious being best ladies horse at the 2024 World Cup and the 2024 PASA horse of the year. She loves polocrosse. When she plays her ears are always pricked when you ride onto the field, she is eager to get going. When she is going flat out her ears go back and her tail goes up!

She has a soft mouth and is quick off the mark. She is barely 15hh, but when you ride her she is so brave, you think you are on a much bigger horse! She really loves marking other horses. That's her nature, she is very bossy in the paddock and all horses do what she tells them to do! She plays any position. She stands quietly in a line out, but you can feel her trembling in anticipation, when the balls comes in she is very quick to burst out the line out and take you to the ball. You have to be ready because she knows when to go and could leave you in the line out if you are not careful! When you are playing number one, French Kiss loves to spin in front of the goals, you have to hang on for dear life as she knows when you are passing the goals and she is always keen to do a sharp turn and take you back to the centre so you can score.



# THEN



# NOW



Lauren Heynes - World Cup 2015



Lauren Heynes - World Cup 2024



Amy Cocker - World Cup 2015



Amy Cocker - World Cup 2024



Lauren & Amy - World Cup 2024



Francois Du Toit & Christopher Thornhill 2014



Francois Du Toit & Christopher Thornhill 2024



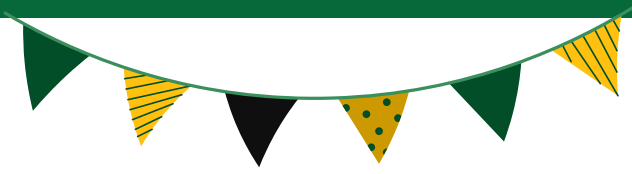
Chad Von Benecke - 2024



Chad - 2017

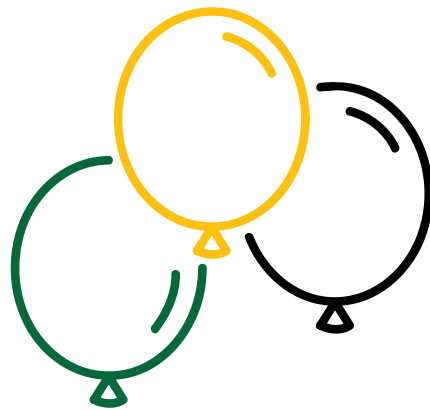


# Birthdays October and November 2024



## October

1-Leigh Mansfield  
1-Joshua Claite  
2-David Armitage  
3-Albie Grobbelaar  
3-Claire Armitage  
4-Jocelyn Hartsliel  
6-Arno Vermaak  
6-Lenka Bronn  
7-Tyrone Hennings  
10-Gail Du Toit  
10-Jaryn Goetsch  
12-Seán Fortune  
14-Zene Botha  
19-Joelene Phillips  
20-Mbongeni Bongeni Noqwane  
20-Celicia Jacobs  
21-Ryk Roodman  
21-Savanah Kenny  
23-Louw Schabert  
23-Aidan Lynn  
26-Stephanie Hanwith-horden  
27-Trent Hooper  
27-Chad Von Benecke  
27-Danica Baker  
29-Ian Penderis  
29-Megan Van Der Weshuizen  
31-Nicolaas Van Rensburg  
31-Keara Mattheus  
31-Grace De Franca



## November

2-Graham Powell  
2-Ian Stanley  
4-Georgia Couvaras  
5-Jenny Firth  
7-Samantha Gilson  
9-Mark Rubin  
9-Meah Du Toit  
10-Werner Kleyne  
10-Mwalimu Modise  
11-Clint Mattheus  
12-Rebecca Goodwin  
12-Rikus Cilliers  
16-Daniel Haldane  
17-Tyler Dell  
17-Amy Cocker  
17-Troy Brande  
18-Chris Newton  
20-Sage Venter  
22-Shaun Wheeler  
23-Bruce Maclarty  
26-Quinton Wheeler  
26-Garth Muhl  
30-Andrew Van Der Walt  
30-Sydney Viljoen  
30-Lauren Heynes

