

Durban Shongweni Club Newsletter August 2009

Hello Members,

We have now passed half-way mark in our yearly calendar – August is almost gone - in spite of freezing weather at times – Summer is on the way ! The days are getting longer – School holidays have come and gone. This winter seems to have been a really cold one – almost zero temps in a lot of places – hope you have all been rugged up and cosy and enjoyed warm log fires and electric blankets wherever you are !

Get well wishes are sent to Karen Levey and Charmaine Gerber, both of whom have had operations – hope you will both be up and “riding” soon !

AGM – 22 OCTOBER : It's that time again - the Club AGM is booked for Thursday 22 October. Further details to follow.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!! **NEWS FLASH** !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Club Membership Fees :

The good news : Being sensitive to the harsh economic conditions at present, the Club Committee have decided not to increase Membership Fees for the 2009 / 2010 year. Like all Clubs, Shongweni Club has found it tough to keep going, so we are showing good faith in all our Members and therefore ask you all to pay your Membership Fees. Account notifications to be sent out to everyone shortly.

Please make note of the following Club contact details :-

Club Office (Shana) : 031-7681251 / Club Fax 031-7681917

E-Mail address : info@shongweniclub.co.za / Club website : www.shongweniclub.co.za

REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN – ANTON MOSTERT

Rugby :

The relocation of the Hillcrest rugby club to the DSC has brought a welcome new dimension. The rugby members have had very positive spinoff to our club with a substantial increase in social activity. It is also great to see how well the first team has performed this season who ended up 2nd in the first division. Lets get behind them next year and get them to WIN!! You might have noticed the trenches been dug on Highveld; this is to bury the electric cable for the lights which keeps getting stolen. Permanent light posts will also be installed by the end of August. The rugby club have also agreed that the lights can be used for other events/ activities by the club."

Tonga Update :

"We continue to have meetings on a regular basis regarding the possible relocation of the DSC to a suitable site. Architects have been appointed to provide a layout with all the facilities we have asked for in terms of a wish list created by the General Committee, which include a full size indoor, all weather synthetic sand competition and exercise arenas and a fantastic large club house to list a few items."

Security Policy :

1. All gates to be locked at all times except :
 - (a) During shows "bottom dressage" gate will be open and manned by a responsible person.
 - (b) During shows "Top Yard Gate # 2" will be left open to allow non-members to use Club facilities.
 - (c) Durings shows "pedestrian gates" will be open, subject to which Arena in use.
 - (d) Gates will be open from 6am and thereafter locked at 6pm.
2. Electric fence functional at all times except during a show – when it will be "switched off" between 6.00am / 6pm.
3. Security lights will be checked on a regular basis to ensure working and will be repaired when necessary.
4. Security Camera's installed – thanks to Hillcrest Rugby Club – will be operational at all times.
5. Alarm System will be functional and activated each evening.

6. Saddle Inn Bar will close at 12.00 pm – if less than 3 customers closing time will be 10 pm.
7. ALL entrance / security gates will be locked when the Bar has closed.
8. Security Sub-Committee are : Vaughn Foster - Wayne Hulbert - Mark Gilks

New Memberships :

We very big welcome the following new **full members** : Belinda Weyer, Amer Watson, Candice Pieters, and Sarah Kennedy.

Just a reminder to **all Members** – dogs are not allowed at the Club – thus - the **Big Notice** at the entrance !! – if you do bring your dog for, whatever reason, then it **MUST** be kept on a lead **at all times**. Dogs may not run free on any part of the Club grounds, **especially not** in the Stabling, Bar and Social areas. Come on guys please co-operate !! Also – if you should come and ride and enjoy the Club facilities, please remember to be considerate to your fellow rider members.

Showjumping Derby : Troy Kernick

The Clubs' Affiliated Show Jumping Derby Event in July was held over 4 days and catered for Children, Junior and Adult Show Jumpers of all grades. The courses for the higher grades were built by Vaughan Baker and the lower grades by Grant Ketteringham. The course builders were assisted by Kevin Levey, Mike McHardy and Deirdre Fox and this ensured the smooth flow of events. A pleasant vibe meant the show was enjoyed by competitors and spectators alike. The Club was thrilled to play host once again to a Derby event which has been absent from our calendar for a couple of years. Derby tracks present riders and horses with questions not normally asked of Show Jumpers. Many of our top Eventers attended the show and took a number of the top places. The Club looks forward to making the Derby an annual feature event and if Sponsorship is forthcoming we would like to make it a National Status Show which will attract the top riders from around the country.

More Derby news : Heather Mostert

"The 2009 Durban Shongweni Club Derby was a resounding success with over 800 rounds being jumped in the 4 days. The Derby is a unique event incorporating 'cross country' and 'show-jumping' obstacles, and it was great to see many of the eventers join the show-jumping ranks, making for some tough competition in many classes. The winner of the Adult 1.3m Derby Championship was Carla Garton on Brandenburg Leonardo de Vinci with second place going to Debbie Taylor riding Paddy, these horse and rider combinations show great potential and we are sure to see them excel in the future. Special mention must also be made of Lucinda Woodruff on Falcons Andante , winners of the CA / CB Children's Derby Championship. It was thrilling to watch this talented child and pony combination fearlessly jumping some huge jumps. As well as the Rugby - SA Polo have also livened up the Social bar activities. The sponsored BMW International Polo match – SA Polo Team challenged Canada this last weekend - 15/16th August. There was a huge amount of activity at the Club, we sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed the exciting match, apologies to horses and stablers' for any inconvenience which may have been caused.

Forthcoming Big Events :

August 28 – 30th

KZN Affiliated Eventing Champs including FEI CIC* / FEI CIC**

This prestigious event is being hosted by our Club the weekend of 28th – 30th August.

A full and exciting weekend ahead for competitors, family and friends – your support will be great !

We once again need the help of Judges and Scribes for the Dressage which will be on the Saturday morning – Marshalls, Timekeepers etc for the Show Jumping which will take place both the Saturday and Sunday, and Jump Judges etc for the Cross Country on Sunday. If you are available – PLEASE – let us know !

Contacts :

Club Office – 031-7681251- Shana / Show Secretary Karen Levey – 031-7681241

Dressage – Jackie Bridel – 031-7672959 / Jill Roberts – 031-7656228

ShowJumping – Troy Kernick - 072-527-3607 / Cross Country - Chris Hawley – 031-7655871

Hill 2 Hill & 'Beerfest' 19/20 September : Fundraiser for the Shongweni Club

In conjunction with the rugby guys and the Hill2 Hill organizers, we will be hosting a 'beerfest' over the week-end 19 and 20 September, wherein we will be doing the following:

1. Opening a beergarden on Sat 19 Sep from 12pm where 'wors' rolls, egg and bacon rolls, cooldrinks and chips will be sold – along with beer. There will be a kiddies playcentre and a DJ. 1500 cyclists will be coming to register for the race and we are hoping they will stay for a few drinks and something to eat.
2. On Saturday night we will be hosting a beerfest - SAB are sponsors and we will have a DJ playing.
3. On Sunday, the catering will once again comprise of 'wors' rolls, egg and bacon rolls, juice and chips, with the beer garden opening at 12pm. Once again there will be lots of kiddies activities and a DJ.

We expect no less than 3000 people on Sunday. We are hoping that, together with the rugby guys, we will make in excess of R100 000 in order to upgrade the 'second' jumping arena and equipment for the Shongweni club.

There is a huge opportunity for **club members to get involved** and have fun at the same time for the benefit of raising money for improvements at our Club.

For further information should anyone be prepared to get involved - please contact Heather Mostert # 0829080089 or e mail heather@altix.co.za

S A SHOWING CHAMPS : 9/11 September

Enquiries – DSC Club Office – 031-7681251 / Karen Levey – 031-7681241

XMAS FAIR CUM XMAS TREE : 28 November : Mary Nel

On 28 November, 2009 we will be putting together a Xmas Fair / Xmas Tree . The idea is to approach various business or hand craft specialists to take a stall to sell their wares. Should you know of anyone who would like to have a table to sell for Xmas @ cost R200,00 once off. The sale of their products will be for their account.

We need help...lotsa hands..... There will be a dress up theme for the kiddies...fairies and elves. Last year all the little girls were so envious of our fairy. Horse fancy dress is planned / Pony rides, anyone with ponies to share ?

We need help for Ice Cream Cone sales / Pop Corn sales / Candi Floss.....does anyone know where we can source a machine? / Jumping castle / Boerie Rolls & Hot Dog sales / Tarpaulin to house the flea market stall holders & a Father Xmas corner etc – we need sponsorsPLEASE !

Who might have a contact for Helium Balloons to decorate the area ??we want a festive impact !!

The Xmas tree last year was so successful and this was created by a handful of people !! The more ideas and hands we have, the more exciting we can be.

Tea garden...bakers !! - please..Hettie Blake will need help here.

Beer garden....Linda will manage !!

Please contact Mary Nel on 082 462 8763 or Elaine Jones on 0844299110 or Mish Hornby on 0836568890

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Mary Nel

COMPETITION ARENA REPORT : Nigel Hawley

Wendy Venniker Arena (A Arena) :

The main arena has wintered and ridden very well through the very dry period to-date. The recent Shongweni Derby saw full fields over three days and rider reports were that the ground was great. Testament to this was some extremely tight and fast jump offs being witnessed. This show followed on the back of the Shongweni CSN status show that was held in May where the feedback reports from riders then were equally positive.

Blitz Rohr's Arena (B Arena) :

This arena ran well for the CSN show in May however from reports was not as good as the main arena during the Derby, but was nonetheless suitable at this time of year for the lower heights that were being jumped there. The winter programme for this arena will however be reviewed, and we know that this arena jumps well during the wetter periods in summer.

The timing of the maintenance regime of a turf arena in winter is critical. Following a big show both arenas are immediately watered and rolled with the heavy roller in order to replace turf divots kicked up by the horses. The tyner (spiking action) that the Club acquired last year (helped with generous funding by NHS) is then used and this allows the arenas to 'breathe'. A few bags of LAN fertilizer are then applied followed by constant irrigation (depending on rainfall). A few loads of sand / soil mix are then spread to even out the surface over the following weeks. This also helps, over time, to 'soften' the landing for horses.

Finally the importance of carefully managing the show calendar along with the cooperation of course builders (who in our case have been tremendous) cannot be underestimated.

Dressage Arenas : Jill Roberts

Firstly, a very big thank you to all those who put in so much time, money and effort to improve the surrounds of the Dressage Competition area. We really do appreciate all the time spent, planting trees, making spectacular gardens - special thanks to - Pam Harms and Hettie Blake – you are two very special ladies ! To the KZN Dressage Committee and those who were involved in organizing the Seminar to raise funds for the new paved Secretary Area – **many thanks !!**

The Sanef Dressage Competition was held in May – many said the show was a great success and that the arenas' rode well. Extra sand was put into B arena and it was good to see that the curbing surrounds of all three arenas had been re-furbished. Thanks to Club Management and the "team" for their ongoing effort and support.

Our practice dressage arena is in the process of up-grading – it is planned to rake on a more regular basis as well as relocate sand to even out the going, and thus make it an arena that is suitable for – lessons / schooling / warm-ups for shows etc. A big thank you to those who contributed towards the new extra loads of sand - it did not go un-noticed ! On this note we would just like to ask all rider members not to lunge horses in this arena nor allow horses to "dig and roll" after workouts.

SADDLE INN NEWS : Linda Carty

Our quiet little " watering hole " has had a very busy last few months.

Thanks to the Springbok and Sharks rugby matches we have had several social braais and much celebrating of Springbok wins!

Our July day function was a great success with a packed pub and party atmosphere that carried on till the early hours and saw some new "table dancers and zebra riders"

Craig Eudy our resident Saddle Inn trainer and owners Max, George, James, Craig and Louis had a runner "Thandolwami" in the Vodacom Durban July. Unfortunately he got boxed in and bumped during the race but still ran well, sadly just out of the placings. However what an achievement to have a horse qualified to run in the July.

Well done,

The Saddle Inn was thrilled to have the "Polo Guys" back in the pub during their recent tournament. Luckily this coincided with our July Day Party and the Polo Players certainly joined in the fun and helped to consume mega amounts of booze.

The Saddle Inn welcomes Hillcrest Villagers Rugby Club which is now based at the club. The rugby guys are already well entrenched into our pub life and have certainly brought a breath of fresh air (sometimes a bit hot and sweaty after a match) into the pub.

The pub is now a far more appealing place to the local ladies, hence the increased wine and cider sales and the swish of petticoats!!!!!!! sashaying through the Pub on Rugby nights is a common sound.

What a great bunch of guys and how much safer we all feel with all you beefy guys on the premises. Thanks to the Rugby Club we have now got closed circuit TV on our entrance gates and a big screen in the club house. We have recently installed a wood burner fire place on the verandah to help keep our regulars warm whilst socializing outside and a very BIG THANK YOU TO NORMAN McINTYRE and MARY NEL for donating us a Log Burning Fire Basket and repairing our much used Braais. Norman you are very kind to us Pub People, VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

Pub Gossip :

Sadly we lost Paddy (Charles) Anderson this year. Paddy was one of the Pub Characters and will be sadly missed by us all..

The Absolute sales have dropped lately due to our dear RONNY CAINE suffering a mild stroke and sensibly staying away from the pub for a while. Ronny there is a very lonely corner waiting for you to return. We were all very worried about you but thankfully you have now recovered .

Gerry Fields is also on the mend after a serious operation, nice to have you back Gerry and looking so well.

The Saddle Inn surrounds are looking very posh with some fancy new garden features.

The stunning new gardens are all down to a very special lady **HETTY BLAKE** who has given up serious amounts of time and hard work to make this Club a better looking place. It was a lucky day for Shongweni Club when Hetty joined us. **Thank you Hetty.**

It is rumoured that Sam the Barman is now racing fit as he is so busy behind the bar these days he is burning up shoe leather just keeping the customers supplied with drinks.

Thank you Sam for your loyal support and hard work in "Keeping The Customers Happy" We know how many late nights you have worked to keep the customers happy. You are the backbone of the Saddle Inn and thanks to you our pub is

Growing from strength to strength.

Coming Up :

Subs are due in August and anyone not having paid this years subs, please cough up!

A pub cricket match still to be arranged.

Another golf day to guarantee that the drought is broken. (it always rains on our golf days)

Sat 31st October HALLOWEEN PARTY start thinking about your fancy dress outfits now!

Once again, thank you all for being such great customers and helping to make our Pub a special place.

STABLERS CORNER :

News Flash !!!!!!!!!!!!!

A warm welcome to Margie Keyter (Wittstock) who has been appointed as our new Stable Manageress. She is well known to many of you – is highly respected for her knowledge of horses – they are her 'passion'. She believes owning a horse is a privilege and a responsibility. Margie grew up in Malawi and Zimbabwe where she rode competitively – has been involved with animal welfare for many years – in particular, the many facets of equine welfare over the last 20 years. She had the privilege of being one of the founder members of the KZN Horse Care Unit and was also involved with many other equine organizations. She has been on the Committee of – Summerveld Pony Club, Dressage Promotions, SAQUA SGB Welfare and she is also an accredited SANEF examiner.

Welcome to the following **new stablers** – Amber Watson and her two ponies – Sparky and Midnight Sambucca (these two were very successful at the recent KZN Dressage Champs) well done ! , Kerry Watson and Qui to Heaven, Kirsty Cook and Pinero. Kathy Asherwood has a new horse – Gowdie, and Carey Radford has brought her lovely chestnut - Woody, back to the Club.

Sadly, two of our older four-legged friends – Zolie and Rhythm & Blues have moved on to "horse heaven" and will be missed by many of us.

Birthday Wishes to a Grand old Man !!

We'd like to send out some very special Birthday wishes to the oldest resident of the Durban Shongweni Club – Flash Point turned 33 on 10 August !

Flashy, as everyone knows him, has been owned by Tracy Lyle for the past 18 years and he has lived at the Club since 1996. He was a strikingly handsome horse during his earlier years and was even winning showing classes at the age of 20 ! He would have gone on to compete at the Royal Show that same year but unfortunately was diagnosed with bone spavin soon before the event and had to be retired from competitive riding.

He has now been fully retired for the last 10 years and spends leisurely days in the paddock adjacent to the Manager's cottage. Flashy has had a few paddock companions during his time at the Club, and most recently, lost his dear old girlfriend, Zolie. He now has a wonderful new friend, this time - a gelding, Johnny D, owned by Hettie Blake.

Flashy is absolutely adored by his owner, Tracy, who checks on him daily to ensure that his every need is met. He is also under constant Veterinary supervision by - Dr Ralph Katzwinkel and Dr Karen Behrens of Summerveld Equine Hospital. Flashy loves attention and you are welcome to visit this grand old man any time in his paddock or at stable # 45 in the top yard. We wish him many more happy and comfortable days of retirement at the Durban Shongweni Club.

Rosettes & Ribbons : KZN Showing Champs

Kathy Asherwood and Swift Response (Top Yard) were well placed in the Working and Show Hunter classes last weekend – they ended up as Reserve Champion Working Riding Horse. Jacquie Engelbrecht and Oakland Park (Bottom Yard) also did well in the Show Hack classes and were awarded Reserve Champion Show Hack. “. They are now heading for the **big one - SA Champs** in October - Congratulations” and well done to both these combinations !

KZN Eventing Champs are coming up 28th – 30th August . You will no doubt have noticed that all the cross country jumps are in the sand arena near the Top Yard – they are being repaired and re-furbished in preparation for this big event and will be moved out soon for the show. Apologies for the inconvenience but please understand these big events are the Club's “bread and butter”.

To clear up any confusion regarding the use of the Rugby fields – please note that we have only been asked not to lunge horses on these two fields due to the constant circling leaving tracks, otherwise you are free to ride in these areas.

Last but NOT least – **a big thank you** to Norman McIntyre for donating the new stable trolley for the transporting of hay, feed etc between the two yards – so much appreciated by all of us stablers.

PATS PATCH :

Winter has certainly made itself felt at Shongweni Club this year. The two days of heavy frost turned all the grass brown. Both the Wendy Venniker and the Blitz Rohrs arenas' have held up well with the help of continued irrigation and aeration. They also rode very well over the Show Jumping Derby.

Bridgemeade polo field played well for the Shongweni Polo Tournament at the beginning of July. The International Polo match between SA and Canada was held on 16th August.

The security fence has been commissioned and working well. The two electric gates have been giving a bit of trouble But seem to have settled.

Event Calendar : subject to change

29/30 August	Eventing Champs
12/13 September	Show Jumping Affil. – Foresyte / Shongweni
12/13 September	Showing – Spring Selection
19/20 September	Hill2Hill / Beerfest
9/11 October	Showing SA Champs – Adults

Till next time

Jill