

Durban Shongweni Club

Newsletter

April 2009

Dear Members,

We are now well into 2009 – the Easter Weekend has come and gone, we hope you are all had wonderful holidays – amazing how time flies! Here are some news updates on what has happened at our Club since the last newsletter.

Congratulations: Heartiest congratulations to - our Chairman Anton Mostert and his lovely wife Heather on the birth of their daughter Ella Joy, brother to Oliver - Julie and Chris Rawlins on the recent arrival of their daughter Jenna, Lindsay and Greg Worst – welcome to their baby daughter Paige – it seems we are having a run on the “girls”

Christmas Tree, 13 December, 2008 - by Mary Nel

Arranging the “**Christmas Tree**” at Durban Shongweni Club was a dream come true for me. The reward was seeing the excitement on the faces of the children as they lived the fantasy of Christmas. The authentication of the stories related by their parents, then seeing the parents following behind the children, capturing moments on camera.

Father Christmas did a sterling job. Little boys were commenting on his "fat" tummy and the little girl's obvious envy of his really beautiful fairy, so much so, the little girls were asking his permission to also be his fairy. All these memories of the little faces as they opened their presents and finding something that was listed on their letter to him, will live with me forever. There's nothing more special than the honesty of children.

I cannot take all the credit for the success of the day. I have to thank the **Stable Inn** members who "chipped in" to pay for the Clown. **Michelle Hornby** sponsored the jumping castle and snacks for the parents as well as the awesome Father Xmas ornaments which completed our Xmas theme. **Elaine Jones** who quietly fielded calls, collected money and as usual just kept the flow of things happening. **Lindsay Worst** did a sterling job arranging the fancy dress. The enthusiasm of participants was amazing. Judging and prize giving was charismatically handled by **Heather Mostert**. Each child was presented with a prize generously donated by **Assagay Feeds**.

The final touch to the day was **Hettie Blake's** luncheon, ably assisted and cooked by **Gerald** her hubby, this has become a trade mark now! The scrumptious Webber roasts, veggies & pudding rounded off a really special day.

Thank you one and all! Mary Nel.

Arena Report back from Nigel Hawley

- **Showjumping Arenas:**

Focus and attention continues to be given to the competitive arenas at the club. The Wendy Venniker arena (A Arena) has been rested since late last year and considerable work has been carried out on it. Soil nutrient levels continue to be monitored at Cedara to ensure good root penetration as well as vigorous growing conditions; considerable loads of sand/soil mix have been spread to bring about a more level surface; bare patches have been planted up and the approach to the water jump has been levelled and

replanted. We have also managed to source a sit-on mower that is now being hired and this is giving the ground a more even cut. The recent 'dry' weather has also helped and this arena is looking good for the winter showjumping season. The prime objective of course is to ensure that it is ready for the upcoming CNS status show that is to be held in early May.

Recent shows however have been held on the Blitz Rohr's arena (B Arena) and on the West arena (C Arena). The B Arena has ridden particularly well for the higher classes given the wet weather of the past few months and the surface has not disappointed. Feedback from riders is that it has ridden well even despite the wet conditions and the ground has 'weathered' the few shows that have been held there exceptionally well. Similar ground maintenance to the A arena continues to be carried out on the B Arena.

- **Dressage Arenas:**

A delegation that included, Anton Mostert, Jill Roberts and Pat Titlestad, had an in-depth look at the state of our dressage arenas and surrounds and certain actions are to be taken over the next few weeks to enhance aspects of these facilities. These include:

1. The removal of all present advertising signboards as they need to be placed further away from the arenas.
2. The refurbishment and cleaning of arena curbing - it was suggested that these be painted or bagwashed, a suitable colour i.e. sand or grey.
3. The placement of safety poles around the water pipes adjacent to the arenas.
4. The continuance of perimeter fencing - i.e. as per the "roping" in the car park area. This will be continued and enclose the area to prevent disturbance to competitors during a show - especially alongside Arena A.
5. Arena B - Judges box at E - to be raised sufficiently as it is presently below the arena level.
6. Arena C - the level of the sand is below requirement - to be rectified with more sand and the drainage to be attended to.
7. The azaleas at end of Arena B & C to be trimmed.

The following ideas for improvement were also identified; however, sponsorship and/or fund raising will be needed here.

1. Secretaries / Official area – to erect a permanent fixture.
2. Picket Fencing - around the Secretary and grass warm up areas for demarcation.
3. Permanent sand tracks surrounding each arena.
4. Tree donations - Conifers need replacing at the entrance of Arena C. Shade trees for spectators around the arenas.
5. Permanent Judges boxes.
6. Umbrellas

Sponsorships or donations for any of the above would be most welcome - contact Jill Roberts or Pat Titlestad. With regard to our dressage facilities and arenas, close communication is to be made with the newly elected KZN Dressage Committee and together we are sure that we will continue to host many of the country's premier dressage events. We are proud to have facilities that are the envy of many.

A successful fund raising flatwork/dressage seminar was held at the Club this last weekend and all the proceeds from this very well supported event will be put towards improvements to our Dressage arena surrounds. The seminar was organized by the KZN Dressage Committee and conducted by one of our longstanding members, Bev Pendock, who gave of her time, expertise and knowledge to riders and spectators – **thank you Bev**. Your input is sincerely appreciated by all concerned. The second part of the Seminar was conducted by Sharon Rode who is an FEI Candidate judge now living, training and judging in Germany. Our thanks go to Sue Horne and her Committee for arranging the event.

We look forward to more of these events !!

THE SADDLE INN: by Linda Carty

Since our last news letter we are all still waiting for the electric fence to be up and running so that we can get back to " Party Time " in the pub. Friday nights without the music pumping and no dancing on the bar counter is very boring!!!!

Thank you to all our pub customers for still supporting us and being "Locked in" when it gets dark.

A very big thank you to Vaughan Foster for organizing the crushed stone to fix our entrance road. What a pleasure not to be "All shook up" whilst driving on the road.

The racing crowd has been very successful lately with our star trainers Craig Eudy and Mark Dixon bringing in the WINS and PLACINGS. Certain owners like Max, James, Steve, Louis, Margo, Dixie and Clodagh have been in the winners circle and very generously bought lots of drinks for everyone. We hope you all continue with your winning streaks.

Rugby Season is in full swing and we have had good support in the pub and some great braais thanks to Greg Forder and Peter Blanthorne who encourage everyone to come and braai. It is wonderful to see the pub and patio area being utilised by our members.

Polo season has started and there have been some practice sessions at the club. Nice to see the polo guys back in the pub, we missed you.

The Durban Men's Choir held a social day at the club which was very well attended and our pub customers were treated to some fabulous singing by these guys (after numerous glasses of red wine). It was a great day thanks to the organizing skills of Gerald Blake.

Thank you to all our members that have paid the R200 Fencing Levy, for those of you who have forgotten please pay up as we desperately need the money. To those people who drink in the pub on a regular basis and are NOT MEMBERS I will be hounding you to join, so get the forms from Sam, your days are numbered!!!!!!!

Please, please, please to those parents coming to the club with children, we love having you all but please monitor what your kids are up to as they are getting out of control and damaging property in the clubhouse and outside.

"Pub Gossip" !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The new Master Nathan Gilks has made his entrance into this world. Congratulations to Mark and Vanessa.

There is also the pitter patter of little feet in the Carty household, welcome to "Jazz"
Who is already a Friday night regular.

The club is deeply saddened by the tragic death of Stefan, the son of Manfred and Sue Rohwer. our thoughts are with you.

We were very sad to hear that Mike Warren passed away and our thoughts go out to Gaye for her very sad loss.

Our condolences to Musa the relief barman on the sad loss of his sister and uncle.

CALL ME LUCY the "pub pony " will be arriving at Craig Eudy's yard soon and to all of you Saddle Inn regulars that have a share in her, good luck. Can you imagine the euphoric state of most of our regulars and increased bar takings should she have a win.

We are all hoping that George Griesel doesn't leave us for Gauteng. The Saddle Inn without George would not be the same.

Well done to our eventing pub regulars "Caroline Griesel, Anita Jackson and Pam Flanagan" for their success in the last eventing show and good luck to the youngest Griesel "Beany" with her much awaited for new pony.

The nights are drawing in and cosy fireside evenings in the pub are soon to be here. Please keep supporting us and enjoying the club facilities. You have got no idea how great it is to see families and friends all relaxing on the verandah enjoying a few "toots" and being sociable. Any ideas on raising money to purchase a gas patio heater for the verandah will be welcomed!!

As soon as the electric fencing is in operation we will be having more social party evenings in the pub and clubhouse. I will keep you posted!!

BE HAPPY, KEEP DRINKING!!!!!!!

Linda

Pats Patch:

With winter fast approaching the grass growth is slowing, however our arena's and polo field are in good shape at present. The moles still seem to survive and keep coming up all over the place. The Wendy Venniker arena was used for the first time recently and rode very well. With polo season starting they have had several practices and preparations for the International against Canada to be held on 16 August 2009, will start soon.

The removal of the advertising boards at the Dressage arena has opened up the area and certainly tidied it up. We will continue with the securing of the area with a rope fence. The planting of trees around the arena's and along the boundary needs to be continued.

The new security fence has still to be commissioned and once this has been done, all disc holders will be cancelled and will be re-issued as below in the news on Security.

A big thank you to Vaughan Foster for arranging the crusher stone for our entrance road. We then used a heavy roller to compact it while it was still wet. The road from the dressage arena's to the stables has also been hardened to prevent vehicles from getting stuck during the rainy season. The maintenance crew has been busy with repairs to stables, clubhouse, paddocks and the grounds.

Security:

We would like to say "thank you" to all those members who have already paid the Security Levy of R200 towards the costs of erecting the electric fencing around the Clubhouse area. A big thank you to **Wayne Hulbert - Natal Fencing** for installing this.

PLEASE NOTE : ON FRIDAY 24th APRIL – ALL GATE DISCS WILL BE CANCELLED !!

Discs can be re-activated on request - Shana will be in the Office on the following days and times :

Friday	24th April	9.00 – 15.00 / 16.30 – 19.00
Saturday	25th April	9.00 – 12.00
Tuesday	28th April to Thursday 30th April	9.00 – 19.00

Please note: discs will only be re-issued to fully paid up Members of the Club and to those who have paid the R200 security levy.

Sponsorship:

Once again – without the help or sponsorship of so many of our members – we would be lost !
But.....it doesn't end herewe need you guys – so please - sponsor a
jump....fillers.....advertising.....plantstrees.....we would really appreciate any form of sponsorship !

Contact : Jodi Wolhuter – 083 655 4465

New Members:

We would like to WELCOME the following new club members : Michelle Duncan, Yvette Taylor, Lize Campbell, John Dawson, Kenwyn Geysler, Charl Geysel, Kelly Orwin, Lauren Cutting, Sheldon Peters, Carey Radford, Jenny Botha. We also welcome the following new flying club members: Kevin Marcus, James Shearing, Stewart Ramsay, Monogaran Moodley and Dave Lentle. We sincerely hope your association with the Durban Shongweni Club is a long and happy one.

Stabler's Corner:

Thanks to Tracy Lyle who has been very busy promoting our great stabling facilities - we welcome new stablers and their partners – Carey Radford & Woody, Jenny Botha & Passion, Sheldon Peters & King of Cool, Toni Clayton & Ee By Gum, Julie Rawlins & Snoopy, Kathy Schmit & Forest / Conference – we hope you all have a long and happy stay with us. Another welcome to Mariam Mohomedy's new young horse - Ridder.

Happy riding to you all !

Rugby:

To put you all in the picture here – we have been approached by the Hillcrest/Villager's Rugby Club for them to play out their season here at the club. The committee has agreed to investigate the renting of some field space to enable this to happen. As the practices take place in the evenings it does allow us to use our field during 'idle time' and also allow us to benefit from the synergy of them utilizing our clubhouse facilities. It is not envisaged that this arrangement would in any way impact on our equestrian activities, and any matches would be scheduled on dates where no shows were planned. Any arrangement would only be for a 6-month period (the length of their season) and would be evaluated thereafter to see if it was successful. Players would for this period be classed and paid up as Temporary Members. So we hope, in the meantime, that having so many dashing young men around - our security levels will improve for everyone – especially – the unattached ladies!

Website :

The Club website address is www.shongweniclub.co.za - please visit the website for Notices, Schedules, Entry Forms and news in general.

Forthcoming Events: NB – Subject to change:

11 April	Easter	
1/3 May	Shongweni Festival & Grand Prix	13 April
9/10 May	Pre – Royal	28 April
17 May	Training – Dressage Pre-Sanef /ShowJumping/Cross Country	
29 - 31 May	Dressage – SANEF Competition - Affiliated	
13/16 June	Interschools	approx 2 May
21 June		
27/28 June	Winter Selection – Adult / Junior only	12 June

27/28 June	Polo	
3/5 July		
6/19 July	Show Jumping Derby	24 June
1 & 2 Aug	Eventing (Training)	
8/9 Aug	Showing – KZN Champs	16 July
8/9 Aug	Polo – Presidents Cup	
15/16 Aug	Polo – International	
23 Aug	Dressage (Training)	
29/30 Aug	Eventing – KZN Champs	6 Aug
4/6 Sept	Dressage – KZN Champs	
12/13 Sept	Show Jumping – Forsythe/Shongweni (Affiliated)	25 Aug
12/13 Sept	Showing – Spring Selection	29 Aug
2 – 4 Oct	Multi Disc – Spring Extravaganza – Juniors	10 Sept
9/11 Oct	Showing – SA Champs – Adults	10 Sept
10/11 Oct	Dressage (Affiliated) – pre FEI ??	
7/8 Nov	Spring Show	27 Oct
14/15 Nov	Show Jumping	29 Oct

Till next time
Jill Roberts