



**THE SOUTH AFRICAN PONY CLUB
KWAZULU/NATAL PONY CLUB REGION**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the KZN Region of the South African Pony Club held at the
Highbury School on 2nd November 2013 at 10h00**

PRESENT: Mrs Louise MacLeod, Chairlady
Mrs. Charlotte Houston, Vice Chairlady
Mrs Saadia Varachia, Treasurer
Mrs Jenny Thom, Secretary

And the following branch representatives:-

Mt Edgecombe	Shirley Weatherhead, Nicci Trollip
Karkloof Howick	Charlotte Houston, Claire Davidson
Zululand	Alison Hyde, Christine McGregor <i>(Charlotte Houston)</i>
Hillcrest Waterfall	Barbara Kyllonen, Mandy Somerville
Drummond	Holley Bromehead
Ashburton	Odette Caldwell
Shongweni	Vanessa Clewlow
Drakensberg	No representative
Hilton	No representative
Queensburgh	No representative

Apologies from:

Claire Wager (Hammersdale)

1) WELCOME

Louise welcomed all members present and thanked them for coming. Special thanks to DC and committee travelling from afar.

2) Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting

Null and void: Adjustment made with Dressage qualification.

Acceptance of minutes of KZNPC AGM held on 4th November 2011 (Charlotte Houston and Christine Macgregor)

3) Treasurer's Report:

Saadia read the Treasurer's report, see below

Thanks to all Branches for paying up Interbranch fees in on time.

4) Chairman's Report

Louise MacLeod read the chairman's report, see below.

5) SA Pony Club AGM

Accepted, nothing was discussed.

6) Recognition of New DC's

Drakensberg DC: Vanessa Clewlow and Drakensberg newly appointed secretary: Debbie Odell (*not present*)

DC's remaining

Durban: no DC

Ashburton: Holley Bromehead

Hilton: Jane Duminy – *in recess*

Shongweni: Odette Caldwell

Zululand: Odette Allan

Mt Edgecombe: Nicci Trollip

Karkloof: Charlotte Houston

Hammersdale: Claire Wager

7) BRANCHES

- a) Summerveld – Sue Barrow to drop off Summerveld kit at Highbury. (follow up)

8) Date and Venues of Forthcoming Regional Events:

- a) Interbranch 2014 –still to be confirmed.

9) DC Workbook –

- a) Will be adjusted and loaded on website.

10) Update of members and transfer of members

- b) To keep members updated.
- c) Please could all branches adhere to rules regarding transfers of members? (KZN must be notified of all transfers)
- d) Efficiency tests must be sent through to Secretary within 24 hours of testing.**
- e) This is vital to keep an updated database of members and to which branch they belong.
- f) DC's must inform KZN region and new branch if they are paid up members.
- g) If a member goes to University they must inform KZN to keep them in our records for a period, so they then are able to rejoin.

11) End of Year reports

- a) Jenny requested that year end reports are sent through **urgently**. (*apology from Hammersdale via email*)
- i) End of year reports which have been submitted to date are : Ashburton, Shongweni, Hillcrest and Drummond, Zululand and Karkloof(P&L)
- ii) Karkloof report, Queensburgh, Hilton and Drakensberg(charlotte to assist with Drakensberg DC)
- iii) Ashburton (Holly) was congratulated for super efforts throughout the year in running rallies and superb organization of her branch.
- iv) Congratulations to Shongweni also for getting their end of year reports in time.
- v) Queensburgh outstanding SUBS for 2013! Still not paid 19/01/2014

b) Regarding Branch

- i) Branches to obtain a print out of their bank accounts on the 3^{1st} September – **YEAR END.**
- ii) Branches to finalize members who have paid up between **1 October** the previous year to **31st September** current year.
- iii) Branches are paying **R50 to KZN** and **R50 SAPC** for the members you have within the above dates. **Total R100.**
- iv) **BRANCHES MUST HOLD THEIR AGM'S BEFORE NOVEMBER – so new committee can attend Regional AGM**
- v) **ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE BY THE 31TH OCTOBER.**
- vi) AGM minutes can be sent through within November.
- vii) Things to take note:
- (a) Associate Members are members over 18

(b) Friends are members who are over 25.

(c) **Assisted Members: a letter of recommendation needs to be put through to the KZN committee, for approval.**

(i) These members will not pay membership fees and Branches will not submit fees through to Regions at year end, but they must be entered as assisted members into year end report.

12) Clinic Training

a) It was discussed that Branches must use Nadine (Newmarket stables) for clinics which she will assist in running.

13) Election of Office Bearers

- a) Chairman – Saadia Varachia (2 year term) - Louise MacLeod to stay on for 6 months to assist.
- b) Vice-Chairman – Charlotte Houston –(2 year term re-election 2015)
- c) Secretary –Jenny Thom will remain as secretary for 1 more year, any offers to take over for 2015
- d) Treasurer – Christine McGregor: – 1 year (Zululand Branch). Saadia to assist.

14) Efficiency Tests:

- a) Shirley gave report on testing in Zambia and general standards.
- b) Get instructors on board to assist with PC

15) Clinics

- a) Each Branch should arrange 1 clinic for the year and invite other Branches.
- b) These clinics must be coordinated through Nadine and Shirley.

16) Camp

- a) Inter Eventing camp possibly in April, at Dolceod Equestrian
- b) Nicci Trollip to assist and organize a mounted games camp.
- c) Mt Edgecombe running a clinic in December.
- d) Accommodation to be arranged

17) INTERBRANCH 2013

a) **Best Pony Club Member** – Awarded to Guy Houston for his dedication in helping at IB and the Irish teams. Accepted by all branches and committee attending.

b) Eventing – Colours

- i) Children Full colours to: Mohammed Varachia (Zld) and Rory Houston (KKH)
- ii) Junior Full colours awarded to: Rebecca Pinnell (KKH) and Heather MacLeod (Shongweni)
- iii) Children Half colours awarded to: Kelly Ervine (Zld)
- iv) Junior half Colours have been awarded to Chelsea Carlisle, Kyle Trollip (MTE) Kayd Oliver (HMD) and K’li Scott (ASHB).

c) **Feedback from Interbranch 2013**

- i) Well run Interbranch
- ii) Costs too high
- iii) Last day ran too late

18) INTERBRANCH 2014

a) DISCIPLINE HEADS

- i) Dressage – Nadine Parker
- ii) Equitation – Chantel Duffey
- iii) Eventing – Heidi Wood and Fransie Weston
- iv) Show Jumping – Charlotte Houston

- v) Rosettes –B Kyllonen
- vi) Trophies - photos taken but not handed out. – Alison Hyde to sort out
- vii) Engraving? This was not discussed. Branch's to carry costs of engraving.
- viii) Talked about a cabinet either at Royal show grounds or Shongweni Club - Holley
- ix) Team - to be printed in program, - teams sent to Jenny and Drummond to assist.

b) **Functions Co-ordinator -**

- iv) Stabling – Barbara Kyllonen
- v) Entries – Jenny and Drummond
- vi) Printing Program – Drummond

c) **Branch in charge of disciplines**

- vii) Dressage –Shongweni and Hammersdale
- viii) Equitation –Hillcrest Waterfall
- ix) Show Jumping –Karkloof, Zululand and Ashburton
- x) Eventing –? (once we have venue)
- xi) Jumpkhana –Queensburgh
- xii) Quiz –Mount Edgecombe
 - (a) Test for Dressage and Equitation still need to be confirmed @ National AGM in Feb 2014)
 - (b) Inter- Regional Judges – will be confirmed by SAPC.

d) **INTERBRANCH 2014 – DISCUSSION**

- i) Sponsorship for rosettes and program
- ii) Advertising for sponsorship for IB – Branches should find sponsorship.
- iii) Branches to raise funds for IB 2014 as levies will need to be included this year to entry fees.
- iv) No new members will compete at IB if not joined 3 months prior.
- v) Medals were discussed by Holley to hand out to winners.

7) **Website**

- a) Adjustments to be made to website: Members registration to be made as (interested new member)
- b) To remove membership form, new form of **Interest to** be compiled, with request linked to DC email.
- c) DC must enter members onto website, new form to be created.
- d) AH and B riding is missing from website.
- e) DC and instructors are encouraged to use the UK pony Club website – under Instructors and Recourses:
http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/training/training_instructors_resources/

8) **Community Outreach**

- a) Odette gave some suggestions with regard to Outreach, that shongweni have used SAADA and SPCA to hold some rallies/badges. Branches should inform Region what they will be organising.

9) **General**

- a) KZN is hosting National AGM in Feb 2014.
- b) Odette will order 9 Horsemanship books for Branches

10) **2014 date for AGM – Saturday 8TH November 2014.**

KZNPC CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2013

The KZN Committee and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone attending the 2013 KZN AGM held at Highbury today on the 2nd November 2013. Thank you for all making the effort to travel, some of you, long distances. We celebrate the arrival of the first rains, the grazing will be greener, and the going will be kinder for the eventers!

2013 has been another busy year for everyone, and it is always a battle to make dates for rallies and camps which suit everyone. I would still love to be able to publish a list of possible dates for the whole of KZN Pony Club at the beginning of the year, to help people to plan their riding commitments and to help them to plan their 3 ridden rallies prior to Interbranch. Leonie Botha suggested at our last AGM that each branch take on a discipline and offer it as a rally to the rest of the branches. We would do well to follow this up. The problem of busy riders possibly not prioritising Pony Club rallies is sad, and one that I feel comes from the top down. In the UK, in order to affiliate, a rider has to have passed their C test meaning that if you want to affiliate you need to have been Pony Club trained. In South Africa, riding people and I include some top instructors, do not uphold the importance of Pony Club as the breeding ground for their future riders. It is a feeling that filters down, and until our Pony clubbers prioritise their branch rallies and are encouraged by their DC's to move up the Efficiency test ladder, our riders will not develop as they should. Pony Club is not intended to be competitive, rather it is the only forum in which our youngsters can learn the correct way of looking after their horses, and learn the reasoning behind effective riding.

The focus for 2013 as stated in my report last year was on Rider Development. This has taken the form of various camps during the course of this year. I thank the people involved in running these camps and for pursuing rider development. It is important that when these opportunities are presented, that DC's actively encourage their members to attend and not to leave D and C tests until the week prior to Interbranch. I would especially like to thank Charlotte, Claire, Jenny and Nadine for their efforts in this area. Nadine is willing and able to offer her Newmarket Stables as a training base for Pony Clubbers. However, she does need to be supported in her efforts by all the branches. I know that if a branch approached her with specific needs, that she would make a plan to accommodate them.

Shirley has been researching new testing methods in the UK and has seen the emergence of new standards and levels starting at the D standard. We need to look carefully into what is being suggested at each level, and consider some DC training in this area.

As Shirley has been seconded to the National Committee as the SA Testing Co-ordinator, I invited Nadine to step up into the position of Testing Co-ordinator for KZN, a position which she has gracefully accepted. We are very privileged to have 2 very experienced, knowledgeable and passionate people in these positions right here in KZN.

Odette Caldwell has also been seconded onto the KZN committee as the KZN badges co-ordinator and Media Co-ordinator. Her aim is to encourage branches to use the badges and to show DC's new badges. Odette did an amazing job of promoting Interbranch in the local newspapers. Thanks to Michelle Mackenzie, we also had articles in the pony HQ.

2013 has also been a year in which KZN finances have been liberally used to subsidise members. Unfortunately this trend cannot continue as it has resulted in an unhealthy balance at the end of the PC financial year. I am fully aware that as a nonprofit organisation, we are not supposed to hold large balances, my point is not that, rather that the monies need to be very fairly and more and thoughtfully allocated. I would like to propose that the budget has various funds into which it is allocated, much in the same way in which the Lotto money is used. The meeting here today should decide on specific categories and the KZN committee can later divide the budget accordingly. I would also like to propose that each individual branch is responsible for fundraising for Inter branch and that it should not fall solely on the shoulders of the KZN Committee as it is too onerous a task combined with the organising of the show as well. Interbranch ran at a loss of R -43 685.00. (some of which is owed to KZN by Karkloof). This was in an attempt to assist branches who had done no fundraising themselves. I would also propose that whichever Branch is organizing a particular discipline, that Branch is also expected to provide the catering on those days. We spent a total of

R12 000 on providing food alone, some of what went to waste each day. The judges cost close to R10 000. I would like to set up a Pony Club Judges group on our website, listing judges and instructors who are prepared to help us simply for the reward of developing young riders. Here I would like to make special mention of Heidi Wood, an ex-Hammarsdale member, who at Interbranch, hands back her money to me every year. Each year she gives up a week of her time, including teaching time, to devote to building our Cross country course.

On the subject of Interbranch, I would like to thank all of you for a very happy show. The bulk of the work continues to rest on the shoulders of a few, with complaints and advice liberally given by others, so before complaints are voiced, please reconsider their importance within the context of hectic show prep by just a few, rather offer your services and those of your branch first. The discipline of Eventing needs to be carefully relooked, as the amount of preparation, followed by packing away (a full week of hard labour) is hard to justify.

At this point, I would like to present an award. The trophy for Best Pony Club Member for 2013 is presented to a Pony clubber who selflessly gives time and energy in helping out, both at Interbranch and at camps. I use the present tense as this is an ongoing trait of this particular member, and comes from the heart. It is presented to Guy Houston for all his very hard work for Pony Club. It has not gone unnoticed.

I would like to thank Vicky Dillon and Charlotte Houston for organizing the Irish to visit us once again at Interbranch. It certainly, along with Gauteng's presence, gives an air of excitement to our annual show! Shirley will be talking to us about her recent visit to Zambia. They are very keen for us to send up a team or two to compete in their Interbranch in April 2014. This Interbranch is also attended by Zimbabwe. Imagine participating in a tri-nation Interbranch!! Can't get more exciting than that!! They are also keen to join us at our Interbranch 2014.

Rhian Capostagno from Dolcoed Stud has initiated a successful Development Riders programme on her farm linking SA Pony Club and SANESA, together with Karkloof/Howick. This also provided an opportunity for some of our A candidates to hone their coaching skills, as they are working towards their Pony Club Coaching certificate.

A priority into 2014 is to set dates for our B and A candidates and ensure that a full training programme is in place for them. KZN is hosting and running the national A testing next year and the National AGM next February.

I would like to see the Community Outreach initiated at the AGM last year, taken up by each branch in a more serious manner and reported on in their annual reports.

Over the past few years, KZN has emerged as a strong and innovative region. I am taking on a new portfolio at Highbury in 2014 as Director of Media. This is a wonderful opportunity for me, but one which will take all my time and energy. There are many more developments that are waiting to happen in Pony Club, and I feel that in order to do so and to maintain the strength of our region, it needs to be led by someone who has sufficient time to devote to it. As such, I feel that I have done what I needed to, with Pony Club, and it is now the turn of someone else to drive it forward to even greater heights.

I would like to close by thanking my committee and each and every one of you for all the support, fun laughter and tears that we have had over the years. You are all a wonderful bunch of tireless people with very big hearts as the only reason you are here is because you are putting our children first at the expense of yourselves. Pony Club is an exhausting and often thankless job trying to organise rallies and please parents, however our pony clubbers make every minute worthwhile!

Early one morning, following Interbranch this year, while I was trying to convince my body out of bed, I saw a post on the Shongweni PC group which read...How many sleeps till next Interbranch, I can't wait!

Thank you

Louise MacLeod