

ANNUAL REPORT: Piet Grové

PRESIDENT: SA Boerperd Breeders' Society: 2012/3

September 2013

INTRODUCTION

It was an honour for me to be able to fulfil the role of president in the SA Boerperd Breeders' Society for the year 2012/3. From the beginning, it was my goal to lead in a participative management style, with the necessary transparency. I could not have done anything without the help of the team of Board members that supported me by carrying out their tasks to the best of their abilities – often under difficult circumstances. A Team is as strong as its weakest link. This is why we planned to a certain extent for portfolios to overlap. We all have to accept that all Board members have made themselves available to be working Board members without earning any salary. Therefore it is understandable that we couldn't all be present at all actions all the time. Each Board member brought with him/her their individual expertise and it was refreshing to be able to implement new and fresh ideas. The capacity of the collective team is truly more than the sum of its individual members.

Throughout the year my motto was that the Board would execute the tasks given to us by the members of the Breeders' Society as accurately as practically possible. Sometimes it meant that we had to think creatively, however having debated everything thoroughly, the Board would then execute the decisions made as a unit and answer relevant questions accordingly. It is the mandate of the Board to implement decisions taken at the Annual Meeting of Members (AM) painstakingly. These decisions cannot be changed. As we had to implement these decisions, it became more and more evident that all members must think their suggestions and the implementation thereof through more thoroughly before voting. Also a budget should be considered in all of the above. A decision that was taken at the AM, cannot be cancelled before the next AM – its stands for the whole year.

I want to thank the executive committee that consisted of Frikkie Combrink, Jan Joubert and Heleen Pope who was on standby for emergency decisions at all times and sometimes had to meet at very inconvenient times. Heleen, thank you for minuting all the decisions made meticulously. These minutes were brought to the Board meetings for approval at the beginning of each Board meeting.

RESIGNATIONS

Diederik Cloete resigned from the Board with immediate effect because of personal reasons. Dawid de Wet was co-opted in his place to fill his portfolio until his term expires in 2014. Mr. Coete's portfolio was *Training and Courses*. Portfolios are however revised annually by the president after the election of the Board.

Charles van Schalkwyk resigned from his portfolio *Marketing and Advertisement* because of a too high load of work pressure. He will however complete the year of 2013. Thank you for your hard work and positive input Charles.

SA STUDBOOK & ADMINISTRATION

The SA Boerperd Breeders' Society forms an integral part of SA Studbook. In the past it has proven to be a problem that quite a big chunk of administrations had fallen behind. It is however with pride that I can now report that most of the administrative work, regarding DNS- and CEM certificates is now updated. One of our biggest problems regarding the registration of foals seems to be the CEM certificates. Each foal's sire need to be CEM verified with a current clearance CEM number that can only be obtained telephonically from Onderstepoort. We are sadly not linked by computer to the Onderstepoort database. If a specific foal's registration shows a PENDING status on Logix of Unistel, it might be that (1)

the CEM certificate is not verified; (2) a covering certificate is not issued, and (3) DNS is not verified. Show results of the past 10 years are in the process to be linked to Logix.

FINANCES

The year 2013 was a difficult financial year for everyone in general. The decision of the AM 2012 to operate on a cash service financial basis did not work very well in practise. With the writing of this report, we still had outstanding debtors of ± R 500 000.00. As decided at the last AM, members whose accounts were in arrears got 6 months to rectify their accounts after which all services were stopped.

As in 2012, we couldn't secure a sponsor for our National Championships. The report of Jan Joubert will go into more detail about sponsorships, as well as the rest of our finances.

INSPECTIONS

In 2012 for the first time we embarked upon a Central Stallion Inspection process, as decided and voted for by members in the AM (2012). This, after a lot of planning and creative thinking, took place in Frankfort (Free State). Five senior inspectors assessed the stallions individually and independently. Although no horse was turned down, some horses didn't score high enough to get branded this year. However these horses will have the opportunity to apply for inspection again next year. A total of 110 stallions applied for inspections, where only 64 actually attended the event. Everyone present was very enthusiastic about the process and the success rate for stallions that were branded was 80%. Our new members had a chance to interact with the inspectors and learned a lot about the conformation and movement of the SA Boerperd. Thank you to Dirk Odendaal and his team, the selectors'-committee, as well as other members of the Board that worked around the clock to make this event possible.

14 selectors were used in teams for the inspection of mares and geldings. These groups covered tours to Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Free State, Western Cape and Northern Cape. Read more detail in the report of Dirk Odendaal.

SAEA, SAEF & MIRITS / HONORARY COLOURS

With the re-structuring of the SAEF (previously known as SANEF) as prescribed by legislation, the SA Boerperd Society took the initiative to found a collective association for Breeders' Societies. This followed a meeting with the management SAEF on one side and Dr. Pierre van Rooyen (director of SA Studbook), Mr. Michiel Burger (representative of horses at SA Studbook), as well as Mr. Jan Joubert (representative of the SA Boerperd Society). Following this meeting, a special Forum was held on the 6th June 2013 to select a committee that will lobby with the SAEF on behalf of the collective horse breeds, to have a vote in the new SAEF structure. With Michiel Burger in his double role as horse representative at SA Studbook and his involvement with the SA Boerperd Society, as well as Jan Joubert as SA Boerperd Board member as well as SANESA Board member, the SA Boerperd Breeders' Society is strategically exceptionally well positioned in this committee. This will thus ensure that our breed is well looked after. The plan is that all Breeders' Societies will be represented at a collective Breeders' Association, thus being on the same level as the other disciplines in the SAEF, for example *Dressage, Eventing, Polo, Driving, Western Riding, etc.* All active judges will also have to slot in with this new structure through the Judges Association of SA.

The SA Boerperd is busy to slowly take up its rightful place between other horse breeds of the world in South Africa. ±160 SA Boerperd has gone through to the SANESA National Finals at KEP. Congratulations to the youth that show our horses so well. The approximate total of SA Boerperd type horses or partly bred SA Boerperd that participated in the SANESA league is ± 5800. Looking at these figures, the schools league the the ideal marketing place for SA Boerperd breeders.

Heleen Pope was the representative at the SAEA, SANESA, ESASSA, etc. She also has the task of verifying points for horse merits and honorary colours. This is a time consuming task of great proportions and is

potentially an administrative nightmare. Many hours go into this task before a certificate or honorary colours are awarded. We would therefore like to suggest that all member keep record of their show results as backup on a computer program such as excel. Feel free to call in the beginning of the year if you need assistance.

SHOWS & CHAMPIONSHIPS

The portfolio for shows and championships is managed by Frikkie Combrink and the show-committee as elected at the AM 2012. Thank you to everyone who spent a lot of time to standardise and economise the show program. It takes a lot of work to organise a show and every regional show is in effect a practise run for the National show. Rules that are improved continuously is the result of grey areas that arise in regional championships. We should see it in a positive light as different interpretations of the same rule, leads us to improve the formulation of that specific rule. We should not take any of this personal as it leads to improvement. Change is a sure sign of growth within a system, however it is also always accompanied by a certain amount of resistance.

The SANESA National Finals overlaps this year with our National SA Boerperd Championships. However in spite this fact, the entries from last year's 240 horses to this year's 265 still show growth of $\pm 10\%$.

LIASON, SERVICE & NEW MEMBERS

Lomon Terreblache did an excellent job in his portfolio with assisting and motivating our new members. Statistics show that we have had more show-members that joined the Society this year than in the past. Thank you, Lomon, for sharing your expertise and experience with regard to breeding, inspection and judging procedures with our new members, as well as the youth.

The SA Boerperd Breeders' Society has in the past year since September 2012 compiled 4 quarterly News Letters. The people mostly responsible for this document are Petro Grové and Charles van Schalkwyk. Chairmen of the different clubs also regularly send in their reports. The purpose of the News Letter is to keep members abreast of management issues, as well as new developments. The News Letter therefore functions as a summary of SA Boerperd activities.

REGULATING SYSTEMS & ADMINISTRATION

The portfolio for Rules & Regulations and its administration was filled by Johannes Langenhoven. This is a difficult portfolio that needs a lot of critical thought and analyses to continuously improve our documents. Thank you, Johannes for the work you put in to revise and implement the improvements in our show rules.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

Since Lisa Verwey from SA Studbook designed our new webpage, we have had 15 103 visitors already. Lisa is responsible for the management of the webpage. However everything that is added there goes through our office after being approved by the executive committee or relevant Board members.

We have had advertisements on a regular basis in the HQ and HQ Pony, as well as photos of regional championships in the *Landbou Weekblad*. It is hard work to select new photo's continuously to keep the look of an advertisement new. Thank you for your hard work in this regard, Charles.

Our official Facebook page, *the SA BREEDERS' SOCIETY* currently has 194 members. Other non-official Facebook pages are also very successful with the following numbers of friends:

SA BOERPERD: 604

SA BOERPERD PICTURES & SALES: 450.

Please be responsible in the comments and conversations you have on these pages. It is to all of our benefit to stay positive. These pages are managed by Heleen Pope and Charles van Schalkwyk.

QUALITY CONTROL

What will we do without the depth of insight in our breed of Oom Jan van der Wath? What he had already forgotten, we still have to learn. Oom Jan, thank you for your involvement in our selectors'-committee, as judge, as well as all the advice and insight. Thank you that you constantly remind us where came from so that we can plan our future responsibly.

JUNIOR RIDING TEAM

After the resignation of Liezelle Whitehead as team manager of the SA Boerperd Junior Riding team in the beginning of 2012, we had to finalise dates with the USA Morgan Horse Society to compete against our team during the year. Although Ms. Whitehead already corresponded with them in September 2012, they never gave a written commitment. Even after contacting Julie Broadway directly, as well as through George Borchards, team Moran USA was still unwilling to travel to South Africa.

Since then, Carel Meintjies was appointed as team manager. We have also contacted other *Morgan Horse Societies* in Europe (Germany), however the answer to all of our correspondence was that their year has already been planned in advance. The opportunity has now arisen that our Riding team could compete against a team from the USA that is selected from students in equestrian sport during January / February 2014. Should this realise, our riders however will not obtain Protea-colours. These can only be awarded through SASCO. Against this background, we have decided not to select a new Riding Team this year. We would still like to give the previously chosen riders the opportunity to compete internationally.

YOUTH BOARD & YOUTH ACTION

We see our youth as the leaders of the future. Therefore we have decided to have a special function for them at all the regional championships. This function has a dual purpose: (1) to interact socially, thereby enhancing positive sportsmanship, and (2) to empower the youth with skills and knowledge about horsemanship, showing etiquette, breed standards, etc. This building of capacity in our youth will ensure and enable them to develop our breed responsibly in the future. With the exception of the Kwa-Zulu Natal Regional Championships, we had such an event at all the other regional championships during 2013. There is a special *YOUTH ACTION* facebook page with 64 members where photo's, results and comments can be shared. The youth and their activities are managed by Petro Grové and Riana Pretorius. The Youth Board consists of the members of the SA Boerperd Junior Riding Team that has already proven themselves as role models for the younger riders. The Youth Board members also have their own locked facebook page that they use to communicate about arrangements that need to be made for youth actions, etc.

RESEARCH

Since 2012, the SA Boerperd Breeders' Society has been involved in a research project with Dawn Mansfield from the Tswane University of Technology. During last year's National Championships, she has started to collect data by measuring, photographing and videotaping horses to determine the connection between conformation and movement. To complete her studies, she will apply an already tested model to analyse her data. She has also conducted her further research during the Stallion Inspection, 2013. We are looking forward to apply her research results to our breeding programmes and to improve our breeding practises.

AUCTIONS


During 2013, a total of 5 auctions were conducted under the auspices of the SA Boerperd Society. With the application of a stud / breeder to present an auction under our patronage, a Board member is allocated to oversee the procedures and verify the identity of all the animals at the auction. Reports show that all horses were well turned out. There is a definite demand for schooled horses. However, the difficult economic circumstances that we are currently in, has a significant effect on sales.

SECRETARY

Our office at SA Studbook is a very busy one. With the exception of the WP Regional Championships, Elize had to travel to all the other regional championships to do the administration and tabulate the show results. For the future, our plan is for all regions to nominate a person that will be trained to operate the computer programme, as well as manage the show administration. In this way, Elize will be able to manage her time in the office more effectively. All correspondence within the Society goes through the SA Boerperd office. Elize also regularly meets with Lisa about the webpage and its contents. Thank you for your loyalty, support and hard work during the past year.

A FINAL THOUGHT

For me, 2012/3 was a busy year where I experienced invaluable support from the Board, secretary, members of the Society, as well as my very special Hoefstraal team. Although there were allegations in the beginning of the year that we would not cope, looking back I see the year behind as a peaceful year where many bridges were built. In order to build the future, we have to let go of old vendettas and bad feelings. Thank you to each and everyone who put their trust and support in me to lead this very special Breeders' Society.



Piet Grove: President 2012/3