

ANNUAL REPORT: Piet Grové
PRESIDENT, SA Boerperd Breeders' Society: 2013/14
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INTRODUCTION

As president of the SA Boerperd Breeders' Society, as well as for me personally the past two years proved to be a process of learning and growth. With the exception of the then newly appointed David de Wet to the board, the result was continuity as well as unity within its members. All board members were largely familiar in their portfolios that only had minor changes from 2013 to 2014. The result was that we could continue seamlessly with the work started in the previous year. In this atmosphere, we also had the chance to approach certain matters more critically and to focus intensely on implementing decisions taken on previous AGM's.

The executive committee also remained unchanged, consisting of myself, Frikkie Combrink (vice-president), Heleen Pope and Jan Joubert. Careful minutes of all day to day decisions taken by the executive committee were kept by Ms. Pope and presented at the Board meetings for approval. In the latest minutes, these were also added to form part of the Board Meeting minutes. Members of the Society were kept informed of all relevant matters arising at Board meetings through our News Letters. My experience is however, that we received the most complaints on matters that were already discussed in the prior News Letters and that many members still do not read them. These news letters are available on the website in Afrikaans and English, so there really is no excuse.

RESEARCH

In 2012, the Board (under leadership of Mr. Burger) decided to assist Ms. Mansfield in her research which was going to include a analysing study of the movement of the SA Boerperd breed, by buying certain equipment needed for the project for her. She has taken an already proven model and applied it specifically to analyse the trot in order to compare it to conformation. In 2013 she was seen gathering visual data at the Central Stallion Selections, as well as during the SA Boerperd National Championships in Parys. Together with Ms. Mansfield, Ms. Whitehead published an excellent article based on this research in the HQ entitled *Performance Analyses* (March 2013, Pp.50 – 53). This article is available on the SA Boerperd website. Ms. Mansfield has agreed that all future articles with substantial content will be made available to publish on the website. According to standard academic requirements regarding a master's dissertation, the final dissertation must be handed in together with a complete academic article that is ready to be published in an *academic accredited research journal*. This publication, as well as the complete dissertation and the visual material used for her study, will also be made available to the SA Boerperd Breeders' Society and can thus be used to improve and expand our training material. Ms. Mansfield is currently busy to finalise the statistical analyses of her study and will hand in her final product during 2015.

SA STUDBOOK & ADMINISTRATION

From time to time it happens that SA Studbook falls behind with their administration. This tendency however is being frequently monitored. From our side, we have frequently requested that breeders keep tabs on the recording of foals, as well as give special attention to the PENDING statuses on the LOGIX system. All administrative alterations can be done electronically by every breeder by logging in to LOGIX with the unique password chosen. Therefore there is no excuse for a breeder not to know whether there are PENDING statuses within his/her stud - the system even states the reason for the PENDING status on each horse. Should there be a problem, it can be addressed by simply sending an e-mail to the office. At the beginning of the previous breeding season (December 2013), information was also given in the News Letter on how a breeder can electronically record the birth of new foals. In the year 2014, most of our breeders should be adequately skilled on the computer to make use of this new development. For those of us who are still unsure, the prior manual pen and paper systems are also still in place and valid.

We should now be in the final stages of the compulsory testing of stallions for CEM. However at the date of this report, ALL stallions still had to have been tested at least TWICE for its offspring to be recorded fully. As usual, the relevant information in this regard will be given through the News Letter

The outbreak of *Dourine* in some of our big studs, were a big setback for our breed where we lost a lot of valuable horses. Please be on the outlook for this and take precaution this breeding season by obtaining clearance certificates for horses that might come to you for coverings or vice versa.

FINANCES

From the financial report that will be given by Mr. Jan Joubert, you will clearly be able to come to the conclusion that the implementation of the *cash – to 30 days* payment principle was very successful during the past year. Currently the Society's finances are looking very positive. It would therefore be sensible to continue with this principle in the future. Members / breeders who encounter problems with finances and the payment of their bills within 30 days are however still welcome to contact the office to make an arrangement for terms of payment without having their services being suspended until due payment.

Regarding the National Championships, we were not able to secure any sponsorship for the past two years (2012 & 2013). The result was that the National Championships 2013 ended in arrears. In spite of this, the AGM 2013 voted that the National Show for 2014 be held again at the Parys Afri-Dome and the meeting agreed that should the show again result in a loss, the money will be billed pro-rata to the exhibitors who participated in the show. However it is with great relief that we can now confirm that the National Championships 2014 was not presented at a loss. Thank you to the Show Committee for a job well done.

More about finances in the report by Mr. Jan Joubert.

TRAINING AND SHORT COURSES

This portfolio was handled by Mr. Frikkie Combrink. The following short courses were presented:

1. February 2014: Selectors'- and Selection Refresher Course, Edenville – Lomon Terreblanche; Dirk Odendaal; Johannes Langenhoven.
2. March 2014: Conformation, Show Etiquette & Administration – Frikkie Combrink & Theunis Pretorius; Namibian SA Boerperd Club.
3. April 2014: In-hand Showing – Leon Botha, Highveld SA Boerperd club;
4. June 2014: Traditional 3- & 5 Gaited classes -Piet Uys; Show Etiquette – Elmi Davel.
5. August 2014: Bush Deliberation for SA Boerperd Judges - Parys;

Thank you to all our clubs who hosted- and presented these in-service training courses.

SELECTION & SELECTORS

With reference to the above in-service training courses and examinations, the following six new inspectors were appointed in 2014:

- Sarita Meiring
- Frikkie Combrink
- Pieter Terreblanche
- Elmarie Davel
- Nic Jooste
- Frans Burger.

As seen above, the first selection- and selectors' courses were held at the farm of Lomon Terreblanche in Edenville. A re-assessment was granted to the candidates who failed by only a marginal amount of points to be able to qualify as selectors. The requirements to pass these examinations were set by the Board, as well as published in the News Letter (March 2014). The re-assessment took place in August 2014 at Loch Vaal. Thank you to Dirk Odendaal for his hard work in re-structuring of the assessment processes during 2014.

SAEF

The ever changing of the structures within the SAEF has been very confusing for all of us during the past two years. The restructuring according to a discipline based registration system, commenced in 2012 – 2013. However this has apparently never been approved by SASCOC. Thus the organisation had been given a limited amount of time to restructure the SAEF yet again according to geographical areas, as before. This had to be in place before 2015 for equine sport to be recognised as a sport in all its facets in 2015. Equine sport is currently being managed like all other sports. The prior discipline based associations (SASA; EQSA; SASJ; etc) are grouped together in a technical committee that reports to the SAEF. Protea colours can only be obtained through this channel and with SASCOC's approval. Currently we are still in an interim period where clubs should align themselves within their geographical regions within their provinces. Pro-rata rates are being paid to take part in graded open shows. Horses and riders must still join a local club, as well as the SAEF. All documentation is available on the internet.

As in all sports, it can be expected that SASCOC will eventually want to establish how the "face" of South Africa with regard to race and gender is reflected in all the provinces within equine sport types. For this reason it is important that we act in a pro active way and record our grooms in in-hand classes, as well as riding classes fully as we do with all other riders. This means that the correct names, surnames and ID numbers for all SA Boerperd Championships must be given on entry forms. Our new Showing program is already structured to accommodate and store all these details.

SANESA

At the latest SANESA National Championships, the results have proven once again that our riders and horses can compete with the best and that these riders are fulfilling a marketing function that are to the benefit of all SA Boerperd breeders. In the Secondary School section, 20% of the riders named in the top 20 for the combined disciplines of *Core League*, *Western Riding*, *Western Mounted Games* en *Eventing* were riding on a SA Boerperd. In the Primary school section it was 5%. SANESA shows are hard work. I would like to congratulate Mia Joubert who won the Victrix Ludorm Trophy in the Secondary School section, as well as Kristen Joubert, who was the runner up. Thank you to Jan Joubert who keeps us informed of our riders' successes in SANESA and looks after our interests as well at this level. We as SA Boerperd Society should consider to support our riders more at the SANESA Nationals in 2015 by having a SA Boerperd tent or stall where they can come together knowing that there is a SA Boerperd support system for them in place. At the same time it can function as a marketing opportunity for our breed.

Analysing all the results of the SANESA Nationals in all disciplines, it is clear that the SA Boerperd is represented on all levels and in all disciplines. Therefore all SANESA riders that have performed exceptionally well will receive special awards from the SA Boerperd Breeders' Society. Ms. Pope will have more about these awards in her report. We have tried to share their achievements as it happened with you on Face Book as well.

SA BOERPERD REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the beginning of this term, a show-committee was appointed to assist Ms. Pope with her portfolio. Through the year, this committee oversaw the regional SA Boerperd Championships, as well as assisted where it was needed.

The class descriptions, as well as lists of the minimum and maximum show classes for regional championships were already in place since 2013. We only had problems where these lists were not followed strictly according to the class descriptions and requirement as our allocation of merit points system is based only on these classes. Although other so called "fun" classes may be included additionally in regional championships, neither merit points, exhibitors' points nor stud points can be earned by entering them.

It is inevitable to avoid conflict situations where competition takes place. At all the regional shows, the organising committees were responsible for the implementation and application of show rules and etiquette. If we want to compete on par with all breeds of horses in open shows, it is of the utmost importance that we manage our shows accordingly and that exhibitors/owners of horses will take full responsibility for their horses' well being, as well as the use of appropriate equipment and show practices during shows and championships. When a person

has nothing to hide, this shouldn't be a problem at all and inspections won't result in conflict. In paragraphs in our written rules and regulations where we picked up grey areas, we have gone to great trouble to clear the situation and improve the description and content of the rules. Unfortunately there are always individuals who abuse these loopholes to their advantage, although they know better.

The totals for entries for regional-, as well as the national championships, are relatively stable and predictable. Thank you to all the clubs and organisers for hosting our championships, as well as the HOY show so as to create a platform where we can show our horses and earn merit points for horses and riders.

From 2015, the annual *Horse of the Year* show, held at KEP will also have the status of an official SA Boerperd Championship where merit points can also be earned. Until 2013 this show has been the only opportunity where we as a breed could collectively compete on an equal level with other breeds. This show also then proved to be an excellent showcase for the best universal horses in our society. Thank you to Heleen Pope who makes this an event of note on our calendar annually.

SA BOERPERD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

After we received requests from the majority of clubs/regions to move the National Championships to an earlier date, the show had to be organised in record time. Congratulations to Ms. Pope and her team who worked non-stop to get everything in place and ready on time under a lot of pressure. During and before the show, two different computer programs were operated simultaneously to process the results. To co-ordinate this action alone was a challenging task that took double the time and effort usually needed. After the new program had been successfully implemented and tested we can now confirm that we will work with the new program (the same program that SANESA is currently using) from 2015. The new system enables each exhibitor to handle his/her own entries via the internet until a preset closing date. Until such time, the exhibitor will be able to check as well as change entries. There will be minimal information that will be written manually and copied to a computer system, making the margin for error much smaller. Cross-entries will also be handled mostly automatically by pre-programming the entries so as not to accept them. The program is operated through internet connection and we hope to train people in every club/province to operate the system during shows. Show programs, class lists, etc. will be automatically generated by the program.

During the National Championships, the traditional classes were judged by SA Boerperd judges only (Lomon Terreblanche; Theunis Pretorius; Sias Horn), as requested an AGM and nominated by the clubs/provinces. Universal breeding classes were handled by the SA Boerperd Judge, Pieter Terreblanche, while the riding classes were judged by Ms. Bev Williamson. Thank you to all the judges for a job well done.

SA ADULT NATIONAL SHOWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

From 10 – 16 November 2014, an adult SA Boerperd team took part in the *National Adult Showing Championships*. Two weeks prior to this event, we were invited by the organisers to select an Adult SA Boerperd team for this event. The teams were selected by the executive committee on the grounds of SA Boerperd Championship participation, as well as their involvement in graded SAEA shows. The teams were thus:

1. **Showing Team** with qualifying classes in *Show Riding, Show Hack & Show Hunter*.
A Team: B3 Koraal /Linda Meintjies & Nicolene Scholtz / Mahashi Euro
B Team: Lang-Carel Viceroy /Chané de Bruyn & Annalize Potgieter / Devondale Yahoo.
Team A placed 3rd; team B placed 5th. There were 18 horses & riders.
Linda Meintjies got the highest score in the class and received a special award.
2. **Working Team** with qualifying classes in *Working Hunter & Working Riding*.
Team: Vasvat Geduld / Bridget Haddath & Calista Generaal / Riana Pretorius.
The team placed 6th. There were 16 riders & horses.

Only senior horses (5 years and older) and adult riders were taken into consideration for the team. All the selected horses also participated continuously in open graded shows. A team consists of the following types of horses and must have taken part in these individual classes as well apart from the team event:

SHOWING: Show Riding Horse; Show Hunter/Show Hack.

WORKING: Working Riding; Working Hunter.

Our participation in the SA National OPEN Showing Championships has given us the opportunity to compete on the same level as all other breeds amongst which the Thoroughbreds and Warmbloods, as is also the case at HOY but now on a National level. Through participating in graded shows, *any* horse breed, with its rider are eligible to be selected for the provincial team events. The selection of these teams, take place primarily on the basis of grading points that have been collected through the year at affiliated shows.

My vision for 2015 is that we as SA Boerperd Society will start early in 2015 to negotiate with the *SA Showing Association* (as sub-committee of the SAEF) to include the SA Boerperd in their team events at the end of 2015 in the Adult, Junior and Children's SA National Showing Championships. This will however mean that there would have to be a substantial number of riders that participate in graded showing and is registered with the SAEF in 2015. The disciplines can also be extended to eventing, etc.

REGULATING SYSTEMS, ADMINISTRATION & SHOW RULES

The SA Boerperd is a dynamic breed and organisation which means that that we have to identify the points of growth to meet our riders' needs on a continuous basis. It is our duty as management to investigate such areas and bring it to all our members' attention, as well as to get their informal opinion on such issues. However every time we try to get a clear opinion about these issues, it ends in serious disputes with inaccurate interpretation of information and clear understanding of the meaning of the opinion polls.

The already existing show rules should be updated on a regular basis to keep up with the riders' requirements, as well as to clear up any grey areas that may consist. Mnr. Langenhoven has done that on a regular basis. He also as placed these planned changes on our web page for all members to see and give input. Very little feedback was received. Existing show rules that were not implemented consistently in the past should be implemented on all shows. Only then will we be able to show on an equal basis within the set boundaries. Keep in mind that the Universal horses show under SAEA rules, with only a few relevant exceptions that are clearly stipulated in our documents.

QUALITY CONTROL

This portfolio was filled by Jan van der Wath. With his vast knowledge and experience, Oom Jan keeps an eye on all that is happening in our Society and with his background he is able to pick up inaccuracies in publications about our breed and its history faster than anyone. He knows where we come from – he was there. Thank you Oom Jan, for keeping us grounded in our roots.

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Thank you for David de Wet for handling the design and compiling our 2013 calendar. Although this is a beautiful product, its production costs increase annually in such a way, that the last time we made a profit from this project was in 2009. Maybe it is time to consider another format for the calendar where it can be in an electronic format that can be downloaded to smart phones and/or computers in electronic format.

MERITS AND HONORARY COLOURS

Congratulations to all riders and horses that received merits and/or honorary colours. Display it proudly. Thank you to Ms. Pope for long hours to calculate in many cases years' points manually. With our new computer system, this will hopefully be done automatically from next year on, which will make this task a lot easier.

LIAISON, SERVICES, NEW MEMBER & AUCTIONS

As in 2013, this portfolio was filled with great success by Lomon Terreblanche. In his liaison with our new members, he was able to support sympathetically them with his knowledge and many years' experience. Thanks to Lomon for his invaluable input. Statistics over the past 5 years show that there is a tendency that the SA Boerperd membership is very slowly but constantly declining. This is however not reflected in show numbers. On the contrary we see that there are now more riders that align themselves with specific studs.

YOUTH ACTION AND YOUTH BOARD

The Youth Action and Youth Board had its origins in 2012 when Ms. Whitehead together with Mr. Burger took the initiative to select a SA Boerperd Team to compete against a team of the *Morgan Horse Society* in Kentucky, USA. From these riders, the first Youth Board was chosen. The Youth action however has gone from strength to strength over the past 3 years. We now have a Youth Policy in place where the mission and vision for social-educational actions are stipulated. The Youth Board is tasked with the stimulation these youth actions. Thank you to every member that contributed to the success of every action at the regional championships, as well as at SANESA and other shows. The new Youth Board for 2015 will be announced on the web-page and leaves room for additional riders that didn't take part in our National Championships to still be co-opted as Youth Board members within their provinces. Only riders under 19 come into consideration for the Youth Board.

OFFICE

All correspondence and administration goes through the SA Boerperd office at SA Studbook and Elize Prinsloo. Elize was and still is always available, very able and willing to help. She is also frequently confronted with sticky situations where people act rudely towards her when she only tries to do her job. I want to thank Elize from the bottom of my heart for her hard work and extreme loyalty during the past years.

CONCLUSION

For the two years that I acted as president of this remarkable society, I can state with a clear conscience that transparent management was my motto and implemented in all sections of management. I was however accused of the contrary. My integrity was put under suspicion because I opened my house to Board members for accommodation to save costs going towards Board meetings. It was however never my goal to be popular – I rather set out to manage the tasks regarding our breed to my best ability. Thank you to everybody that believed in me and gave me the opportunity to make a contribution. I wish the best of luck to the next management team. May each and every member of the SA Boerperd Breeders' Society put his/her personal grievances aside and make well thought through decisions for the future that will honour *the horse of the RSA*.



Piet Grové
President 2013/14