

Riding Horse Judges Association of South Africa

Members Update and Newsletter January 2021



Dear Fellow Judges

A new year and not entirely a happy one, as we find ourselves in yet another lockdown and a Covid-19 second wave.

Last year was an emotional rollercoaster indeed!

There are no adjectives left to describe all the feelings. We have all suffered collective trauma in some way and continue to do so into 2021 as our social media timelines fill with R.I.P. messages.

Our difference, here on the African continent, with our African spirit, is that we are resilient and we can turn adversity into opportunity.

Our committee is hard at work with ideas and plans to make sure we are on top of things! Here are a few of the projects and plans we are working on and setting in place!

Updated Members List

Our Membership List has been updated!

Both Junior and Senior members are listed with the relevant qualifications.

The RHJA of SA currently only has the authorization to qualify judges for the following:

- S A Saddlebreds
- Saddle Seat Equitation
- S A Hackney Ponies

The following Breeds maintain their own authorization and qualification processes:

- Welsh Ponies (since 2000)
- Friesian Horses
- Flemish Horses
- Hackney Horses
- Miniature Horses
- S A Boerperd
- Kaapse Boerperd

Our Association does list all recognised qualifications where members have gone through the correct channels.

Membership Fees

All members will be invoiced prior to the 2021 AGM in August for the annual fee. The current fee is R450.00 per member.

Website

Plans are underway to incorporate the RHJA of SA information into The Saddlebred Society of South Africa's website. The Rules and Regulations are currently hosted on this site, so it would be logical to include all the relevant information.

Members Lists; The Constitution and Ethical Code; Tutorials; Online examinations; Evaluation Criteria; Specialist Saddle Seat Qualification Examinations; Dress Code and much, much more!

Constitution:

We are revising the Constitution and preparing an Evaluation Criteria Document which will be a separate document from the Constitution. This will make the Constitution much more stream

lined and effective in addressing the normal constitution issues.

To be presented for consideration at the 2021 AGM

Evaluation Criteria:

The old 'Rating System' will be replaced by this Evaluation Criteria Document. The new Evaluation Concept will be an electronic offering in order to manage effective quality control and transparency.

Specialist Saddle Seat Equitation Qualification:

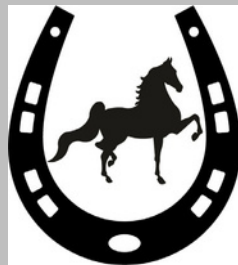
With a great deal riding (excuse the pun) on the judging of Trials for National Team selection, International competitions, Champion of Champions and the SANESA Provincial Colours, we feel that it is necessary to offer a specialist form of qualification for this category.

A more comprehensive qualification will be offered for voluntary sign up by our members. This will include more tutorial and training opportunities along with questionnaires to keep our judges up to date and fully informed.

These "Specialist" Equitation Judges may then be accessed for the above mentioned Saddle Seat Equitation competitions and shows.

New Look

We are super excited to share our new look logo and masthead! There is also a stunning new Judges Certificate!



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Candidate Judges:

A new strategy to assist Candidate Judges at shows to get real time practical input from senior judges has been implemented. The trial run took place at Uniondale Show during November 2020 with great results. The candidate/s judge a few of the classes from outside the arena with a senior judge to give live time comment. The class can be discussed while in progress and thus give real time instruction and opinions. The normal process where the candidate/s perform the duties from inside the arena still forms part of the training.

Juvenile Judges Programme:

We are planning on offering young riders the opportunity to judge a show as a practical experience via the SANESA competitions. These children will attend a short presentation on what to look for and what to expect, along with how to fill in a judges' card. They will then have the opportunity to judge the Supporters Classes at these shows.

There will be a prize for the closest to the class outcome! A great way to involve younger riders and give them a feel of what it is all about to stand in the ring.

This programme will roll out with the SANESA shows, once we have confirmation on when and where these will be presented.



We welcome all input and suggestions from our members at all times. Make contact with us! Together we are certainly stronger and more effective. So, we wish you all an opportunity-laden 2021, filled with health and joyful moments.

With regards,

The Committee of the RHJA of SA

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