



Member Communication

17 February 2020

Dear WCERA member

Our province has faced a number of political stumbling blocks in recent months, and a few still remain, but the WCERA council would like to involve members more actively from now on in the management of this sport that we all love so much, as well as get rid of the stumbling blocks for good!

We want to send update correspondence to members on a more regular basis, so that members can stay abreast of what is happening in the sport, and also to ensure that misconceptions are addressed immediately.

Herewith an update of recent developments in the province :

1.WCERA President – Antoinette van der Walt resigned as president, and as acting vice, Michelle Behrens automatically became acting president. As next step, we need to co-opt a vice president, and then arrange an election within the next two to three months to elect a president, vice and secretary. Antoinette contributed a lot to the sport over many years and we thank her sincerely for that! She is still willing to help, and is still ridemaster at many of our rides. Kindly forward your suggestions for a co-opted vice, or if you feel you can make a contribution in that position, please report for duty!!! We need all the volunteers we can get, so please join the dynamic team of people who are presently managing the provincial affairs of the sport passionately and for the benefit of the members.

2.WCERA Secretary – Bianca Venter acted as secretary after resignation of Antoinette de Swardt, who recently had a beautiful baby boy and has her hands full

between baby and its toddler brother! Bianca is however very tied down with Garden Route club's rides, and realised soon she cannot manage both positions. Antoinette de Swardt offered to stand in again, until we can co-opt another secretary. Please report for duty if you have strong admin skills, or nominate someone you think can help the sport in this position!!! This is a critically important position on council, the person who keeps everything together and ensures everything stays well oiled, a nice challenge for the right person!

3. Team qualifying criteria – Riaan Kuhn and William van Zyl are our two team managers for the year and have worked hard to finalise the provincial team criteria for SAIC 2020 and Fauries 2020. Thank you to both!!! The criteria will be circulated today, so that people know what they need to work towards in order to represent our province at our two national competitions. If you have any questions, or need assistance in order to qualify, please contact Riaan or William, they both have years of experience and have as goal to qualify as many riders as possible, so that we can send as many teams as possible, and the strongest possible teams.

4.Member polls – We are currently busy to create a member polling system on the WCERA website, where members will be asked to vote from time to time, and also provide their opinions and input. This will enable the council to make more effective and relevant decisions, with facts at hand to guide the decision making process. Club chairs currently have to obtain mandates via email and whatsapps, which often can prove difficult. The polling system already works at council level, where people can bring out there votes with a nice, auditable paper trail – hopefully this system will also serve as an effective way to obtain member opinions and votes in an orderly and effective manner. Member opinions are of utmost importance in the sport, the sport is after all run on behalf of members. The more inputs we get, the better will be the eventual decision!!

5.Regional competition – For the first time in the history of endurance, and as the first province offering recognition opportunities at this level, WCERA would like to introduce a regional competition at the Goudini ride in May. This will provide members with an opportunity to earn colours at another level. The important thing is that clubs contact their regional sports councils so long, in order to understand their requirements for SASCO regional colours, so that applications can be submitted timeously. William and Riaan are busy finalising the points system that will apply at the competition, it promises to be VERY exciting, so start preparing your horses and line up those teams! We have six regions, so it will be a wonderful competition, with

strong competitors all round! The points system and team compositions will be published this week, so watch this space, but in the meantime, make a note of the Goudini ride and contact your regional sports councils!

6.Unhappinesses – Lincoln said “you can please some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time”!! This applies to everything in life. And even though we cannot have everything we want all of the time, it is the goal of this council to accommodate everyone as far as possible, with the overriding principle of “do no harm”. To this end, we need member input. Over and above member polls, the council would like to invite anyone who has a problem, complaint or suggestion to contact a council member or your club chair. Council members are there to serve, not dominate. If we are not succeeding in this goal, please advise immediately. There are various channels to do this effectively, without attacking someone, offending, degrading or bringing our sport in disrepute to the world out there. Please keep us on our toes, but understand that the council members are also just normal horse people like the rest, who make mistakes or behave incorrectly from time to time, often without realising it. We thank the people who have used the correct channels to highlight mistakes, so that these can be corrected. Together we can win, and become the best province out there, not only because we have the best horses and riders (undisputed fact of course), but also we have the best team spirit and treat each other with respect, as it should be.

The 2020 season has just started, with many challenges, but also many exciting opportunities!! There are a few clubs who are hosting a number of rides, making it possible for riders to live out their passion regularly! Thank you to all the hard working committee members and organising committees creating these opportunities!

We look forward to serve the sport and the riders in this province in the year ahead, and to enjoy this wonderful sport of ours together as one big family!

Kind regards

WCERA Council