

President: Petronell Vorster (president@drasa.org.za)	Vice President: Cindy Radomsky (vp@drasa.org.za)	Secretary: Lee-Ann Rossouw (secretary@drasa.org.za)
Timekeeper: Sheena Pettit (timekeeper@drasa.org.za)	Horsemanship Judge: Adri du Toit (hmsjudge@drasa.org.za)	Athletes Rep: Maret van Rensburg (ar@drasa.org.za)
Treasurer: Emma Platt. (treasurer@DRASA.org.za)	Ride Manager: Narina Uys (rm@drasa.org.za)	Website: www.drasa.org.za
Central Region Rep: Jandeen van der Walt (centralrep@drasa.org.za)	Coastal Region Rep: Jo-Marie Myburgh (coastalrep@drasa.org.za)	

Minutes of the Meeting
Held on 25 September 2023 at 19h00 via Zoom

Present:

Jo-Mari Myburgh
Narina Uys
Sheena Pettit
Petronell Vorster

Lee-Ann Rossouw
Maret van Rensburg
Adri du Toit

Agenda:

1. Welcome: Petronell
2. Nationals Overview
3. HMS Issues
4. RM Issues
5. Vet Issues
6. Time/Program Issues
7. Christopher Juul
8. Final Results
9. Year end

Nationals Overview

- The President congratulated everyone on the successful conclusion of the nationals and commended everyone for the overall safe and well-run events.

HMS Issues (Adri)

- Judges did not have measuring tapes to ensure accurate measurements (will be handled internally by Head Judge)
- New obstacles are creating a buzz and judges are excited to try these out and to be ready to roll out for next Nationals
 - Want to have more trail orientated obstacles instead of traditional showing tests (President)

RM Issues (Narina)

- Reviewed all reports – no major issues
- Timing for Western Cape needs to be looked at due to the concern around weather.
- Besides a few horses pulling up lame, no major issues

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Vet Issues (all)

- Junior riders do not have maturity to ride on their own or make wise welfare decisions on behalf of their horses.
- Horse vetted out at WC and seen by vet, bruised frog due to stony ground.
- No critical concerns

Timekeeping Issues (Sheena)

- EC – new timekeeper but managed admirably
- NW – congratulations, well run
- WC – No critical issues

Ride Calendar (all)

- Wet weather influences WC Nationals
 - WC – suggest End April/Beginning May
 - NW/GP – suggest Mid to end May
- If the dates do not work out, we will change the dates for the following season
- Accommodating the clubs in Cape region due to their membership size
- Ride calendar to be communicated to President by 1 October, minimum information required is the date and potential location (e.g., Suikerbos/Pretoria)

Christopher Juul (Maret / all)

- During WCCD ride, CJ downgraded his ride (refer to attached email – Annexure A)
- No rules to assist club in managing the scenario as experienced at the recent Nationals
 - Sheena to investigate if unlinking junior/senior riders on the timekeeping system is possible
- Junior rider rules to be reviewed (junior rider = 16 and under (Maret))
- President requested that this rule be reviewed at next AGM
- President requested decisions of such a nature to be included in the ride management report
- President advised that should more time to issue the reports be needed than the requests
 - Time to issue the reports is sufficient (Maret)
 - At the time it was not seen as critical and therefore not included in the RM report (Jo-Marie)
- Any exceptional decisions to be communicated via WhatsApp to the Council and/or directly to the President
- Communication to run via the correct channels to ensure clear and factual information is sent and received

Final Results

President will share results after the meeting via WhatsApp. Winners were congratulated.

- Digital Certificates will be issued

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- No trophies – DRASA gives money to the clubs to host nationals
- DRASA will only give scrolls for year-end awards
- It was decided to give out floating trophies to the overall winners from this new season

Year End Awards

- The date for the AGM to be decided on (suggest 1st week in November, President to confirm timelines)
- Need to announce new fees at the AGM and early bird fees for affiliation
- Another Exco meeting (at least one to two weeks prior to November) to decide on fees for the new season and new Treasurer (co-opt is preferable)
- Ethos nominations due
- Scrolls for awards was approved for issue this year
- Rule changes to be forwarded by clubs for discussion at the AGM

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Petronell Vorster

Mon, 25 Sept, 09:52 (1 day ago)

to rm, Vp, Lee-Ann, Timekeeping

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Maret Van Rensburg** <karorado@live.co.za>

Date: Mon, 25 Sept 2023, 09:18

Subject: Re: Christopher Juul - Nationals

To: [wectra.info](mailto:wectra.info@gmail.com) <wectra.info@gmail.com>, wccdequestrianclub@gmail.com <wccdequestrianclub@gmail.com>, petronell.vorster@gmail.com <petronell.vorster@gmail.com>

Christopher Juul Matter

Juul has only qualified to ride 3 Pleasure division days for Nationals. However, he elected to ride 2/3 days Trail. The reason behind the decision was that he wanted to ride with his daughter which is still a minor and so that he can get a jump on qualifying for Nationals Trail next year. He has another daughter Lienke, which is about 8 years old, that he sometimes had to ride pleasure division with because she has a new horse and she cannot ride without a senior to accompany her. Case in point she is too short to get on him by herself in the event that she should come off as she did on the Sunday.

At Nationals however his youngest (Lienke) was sick the first two days of Nationals but she did arrive for the last day. It was pouring with rain the first two days and the last day the going/terrain was very tricky due to water-saturated soil. Christopher Juul completed the first two days in Trail and it was a blessing because the inclement weather could have been a real issue if a minor (Arike) were in trouble in the pouring rain with bad visibility.

On the third day Christopher came to us and said he is not comfortable for Arike to ride on her own and he cannot leave his youngest Lienke unassisted. We initially said that he must do pleasure division and when we tried to change that on the XRC system, the system did not allow for Lienke and Juul to be unlinked. Arike could not be the senior to accompany Lienke and it was not safe for Arike to do Trail alone. And it was not fair to downgrade Arike to pleasure on account of system shortcomings and factors out of her control. So I, Maret Van Rensburg, as the Ride Manager decided to only downgrade Christopher to Leisure division (because there were no other option for the system to allow Lienke to ride) so that both daughters could do 30 with their dad and he was fine with the last day's ride not counting toward year end awards. Eventhough Leisure division does not technically allow for 30km, the system does not allow for a linked junior to be unlinked after entries. Leisure division was the closest option with acceptable casualties to mitigate the problem. The decision did not impact the junior (Lienke) or minor's (Arike) ability to compete and the senior involved

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were happy to sacrifice one day's points to help his daughters situation out. It also did not impact National standings except Christopher himself. The bigger concern however was the safety of the two minor riders in the weather and subsequent deteriorated terrain. I put the safety of riders, especially children/minors first. We still scored his vet and time so that we can at least show that his horse was never in danger or being harmed in any way.

In future we in the Western Cape strongly appeal to not host rides during our rainy season. We had issues with riders not getting permission to vaccinate AHS timeously or even at all which also caused out rider entries to be almost halved from last year. Having it in the first or second week of October should bring the odds of it raining like this down significantly and the AHS unpredictability as well. The rain is not a problem if the climate makes it dry off but with the intermittent rain and cold temperatures nothing dries off until the sun at least shined for a whole day with temps higher than 15 degree which it seldom is during our winters. This exact situation is what I was afraid of when I complained about the timing of Nationals in years past. And I was not even aware that you could not unlink riders post entry which should also be looked at. Thank goodness for Sheena otherwise this could have resulted in an even worse situation. Trying to justify taking R1500 from people without them being able to ride due to systems and rules that does not allow for all possible situations is not fair either.

I operated "outside" the rules because the rules and systems did not provide with a solution to the problem, because the problems were something that has never been encountered before. However I did take into account the possible fall out and I will make the decision again with the options available to me as it were at the time. We as organisers and hosts and clubs cannot take entrants money but then when our systems and rules are lacking penalise those selfsame entrants. That is the quickest way to kill a sport.

If my decisions result in disciplinary action against myself, so be it, but expect my resignation to be in the post. I have financed enough rides out of my own pocket to show my dedication to the sport and all I ask is some good common sense to prevail. If I were the rider I would have probably taken it on the chin like I did when I did ride Nationals previously, but I am not the average rider.

I felt pressed for time to get the reports and results in within 48h because my work required me to travel the next day and I would have been out of cellphone range for a few days. I did ask to postpone the post Nationals meeting otherwise I would not be able to attend but I never received a whatsapp even to indicate any issues from management.

I did not appreciate the fact that the person consolidating the scores, used the week to cause dissent and distrust without reading a report or contacting me directly to find out what actually happened; but rather making her own conclusions and suggesting we were trying to cheat. Cheat in order to achieve what is beyond me, because Juul (with his consent) lost a third day of points and his daughters rode what they entered very successfully in less than ideal circumstances (to put it mildly). The only person that could possibly be impacted by the scores were people participating in Trail division and we only had one horse in that race with Arike that were not in any way given an advantage over other riders. Her ride was not implicated in what we decided regarding Juul and Lienke. The only thing of concern was all of the rider's safety and that no horse be harmed and that the person losing points gave his consent/sacrifice willingly and that all other rules be upheld.

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The gossiping could have been put to bed with a phonecall or simple whatsapp to find out what is the story behind the scores. It pains me that the whole WECTRA leg of Nationals were being deligitimised due to two riders' scores that really impacted nothing and no one. My decision did however save Drasa from potential damages to reputation, loss of very dedicated riders and also possible litigation if riders/horses were injured in those conditions. Regarding the conditions and us not postponing the ride. That was not an option for the simple reason I was told by council when we discussed dates for Nationals that we will not be allowed to move into October again like 2022. The weather was not so bad that I felt the cons outweighed the pros to take the financial hit of cancelling the ride. I asked the riders after the first day if they wanted to keep going the second day but remember eventhough the 3 rd day was sunny, having 9 horses per day doing each loop twice for two days did cause the track to deteriorate.

I hope this email explains extensively enough what happened and why.

Kind regards
Maret v Rensburg