

**TOKAI DISTRICT RIDING ASSOCIATION (TDRA)**  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Held via Zoom on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 18h00

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2021/2022 Committee Members:	Caroline Brown (CB)	Chairperson
	Grant Chapman (GC)	Vice-Chairperson
	Philippa Rattue (PR)	Treasurer
	Michelle Matthews (MM)	Secretary
	Ros Chapman (RC)	
	Sarah Tiffin (ST)	

Eliana Scheibe (ES)

Apologies:

Melissa Finkelstein  
Debbie Cusens  
Gill Howell  
Karena du Plessis

Agenda Item	Minute	Action
1	<b>Welcome</b> Michelle (MM) welcomed all those in attendance and thanked everybody for their continued support of the TDRA. There was a quorum of members at the meeting.	
	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the previous year's AGM were approved. Proposer: Ros Chapman Seconder: Sarah Tiffin	
3	<b>Chairperson's Review</b> Caroline (CB) acknowledged that the last year has once again proven to be a challenging year and that she had grossly underestimated the quantum of work that the committee does.  The importance of the Tokai Cecilia Management Framework review was highlighted as should horse riders not be pro-active then there is a risk of being gradually marginalized until ultimately not being given support. The process has taken a great deal of time as SANParks was required to consult with the public about the future of the park. The period for comments has been extended to the end of May 2022 and the TDRA will share the draft comments that will be submitted with members. CB encouraged members to submit their own comments as well and noted that it is not necessary to have registered as an interest party in order to do so. It is a public participation process so all members of the public are encouraged to have their say and be heard. Horse riding is also part of the heritage and cultural landscape of Tokai so it is important that participation be encouraged.  It is evident that the EMP will prove vital as the management framework is likely to reference the EMP documents for permissible tracks. This process is ongoing and CB thanked Sarah Tiffin and Les Roos for their ongoing efforts in this respect.	

	<p>CB noted that there have unfortunately been some very unpleasant incidents of dog and horse conflicts in Lower Tokai Park recently. The TDRA has been working with Parkscape and representatives of the dog walkers to try to educate all parties of the potential dangers when a dog approaches a horse. New flyers have been printed and distributed to users as well as being laminated and put up at various points in Lower Tokai Park as part of an education and awareness campaign. Horse riders were once again reminded to be friendly and polite to other users in this shared space as there is a tendency for dog walkers to justify their actions on a perception of horse riders being entitled and prevalent so it is essential to change that perception as part of the process.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Covid led to the cancellation of the much-anticipated annual soccer party and braai as well as the show that was planned to be held at the Tokai Pony Club Arenas in December last year.</p> <p>Despite its challenges there were also some highlights which included the Christmas hampers that were put together for the Tokai grooms. These were well received and there is much appreciation to the various donors who provided extra items so that the hampers could be extra generous.</p> <p>The training course that was held earlier in 2022 for our grooms was also very well attended and enjoyed by all. Thank you to: Julie Myrtle for the use of her yard and facilities; Sue Copley for her fabulous course, and; Cynthia Donellan from Blue Cross for taking the time to provide healthcare training as part of the course. 21 grooms attended the course over the two days that the course was offered so it was fully booked for both days and even had an extra person squeezed in. Further training courses might be offered going forward if there is sufficient demand for them.</p> <p>The trails are showing the positive impact of the ongoing maintenance that is being done with some trails having been restored after becoming completely unpassable by horse or 4 x 4 which is really fantastic.</p> <p>Should the EMP maps be approved it will trigger some additional trail work. It is also hoped that more fun or educational events can be hosted throughout the year.</p> <p>CB thanked all of the committee members for their ongoing efforts and support. A special mention was also made to the previous committee members and a thank you for all that was done by them, in particular Marianne Berry for her continued assistance and for auditing the financials and Karena du Plessis for all of her continued support.</p>	
4	<p><b>Trail Maintenance Update</b></p> <p>Grant Chapman (GC) provided an update on some of the big projects that have been completed during the year as well as some that are currently on the horizon. The committee has decided to use James 1 and James 2 who reside in Westlake for regular ongoing maintenance in an effort to avoid damage to the tracks. They have proven to be invaluable and are now able to maintain water bars as well as assisting with alien clearing and raking of the tracks.</p>	

	<p>The stream in Lower Tokai Park that runs along the Flandorp was cleared and sand bags were installed to prevent further erosion last winter. This will be reviewed following the prescribed burn that was recently undertaken in the area.</p> <p>Middle Tokai has received some much-needed attention with all of the tracks being raked and cleared of stones intermittently.</p> <p>In Upper Tokai, there was very bad flooding last winter close to the new SANParks offices which was attended to by the TDRA and sandbags used to prevent further flooding. The TDRA has offered to assist SANParks by providing and installing a drainpipe in the track above the boom next to the SANParks' new offices to help prevent flooding in the area going forward which will be happening after a scheduled meeting with them to discuss its location. The Chumane track has had water bars installed to prevent erosion in winter and was recompacted by the TDRA after SANParks had their offices' electrical cable buried under the length of the whole track. The track above Tipping's rock has been restored as has the loop off it towards Zwaanswyk Road, funded by generous donations by the Tiffin family, as that was unpassable and had been for many years following the 2015 fires.</p> <p>Following the work done by the City on the Keyser River Trail, signs were made and installed to remind users to yield to horses. No cycling signs have recently been received from SANParks and the TDRA has been tasked with installing these around the Upper Tokai Park.</p> <p>A special thank you to the members who have so generously donated to make this maintenance possible, including ST and MM for their financial contributions.</p> <p>A member enquired about the maintenance that is needed on the Zwaanswyk fence line track. GC indicated that this will require heavy machinery to do and to date three companies had been approached to do the work with two of them saying they were prepared to do it but haven't managed to do the project to date. Another potential contractor will be approached shortly after the AGM.</p> <p>Cameras were installed by the TDRA at the Drifter (Chrysalis) and Picnic Site gates just before the AGM and still seem to be working fine which is good news. The main reason for the cameras is to prevent vandalism of the gates which has occurred on numerous occasions. Both of these gates have been repaired again and are also working well currently. The Picnic site gate number has had to be changed due to the Sim card expiring (the new number is 072 8981415 that paid-up members still have access to) and has been left unlocked briefly to have members update the new number on their phones. If there is load shedding again, Karena's grooms have been asked to unlock the gates temporarily.</p>	
5	<p><b>EMP Update</b></p> <p>Sarah Tiffin (ST) provided an update on the EMP to the meeting. This is a regulatory requirement under the Protected Areas Act and is especially important for the Table Mountain National Park as this protected area has the unique challenge of being on an urban edge and not being fenced in as most protected areas are making access control very difficult.</p>	

	<p>The EMP was submitted to SANParks in 2018 with feedback received at the end of February 2021. Site visits were requested by SANParks and these have been completed in the various areas with representatives of each area being invited to join and provide their input. The maps have been reviewed and thank you Leigh de Beyer for her assistance with updating the maps. It is intended that the revised documents be submitted to SANParks before the end of May 2022 and once submitted they will be posted on the TMEF website.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Financial Report</b></p> <p>Philippa Rattue (PR) provided an overview of the financial year. Expenses related to the cleaning of the picnic site transit route were higher for the year as we did not experience temporary closures as were experienced in the previous year. Membership fees were lower than the previous year which is concerning but a small surplus was retained at the end of the year. Trail maintenance costs were largely funded by donations from members.</p> <p>Thank you to Marianne Berry for reviewing the financial statements for the TDRA.</p> <p>The Financial Report is available on the TDRA website: <a href="http://www.tdra.co.za">http://www.tdra.co.za</a></p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Annual Membership Fee</b></p> <p>No increase in the annual membership was proposed for the new year.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Committee Members</b></p> <p>The current committee members have agreed to stay on and no new nominations were received. It was noted that one committee member has indicated that she would like to step down at the end of the 2022/23 year and a call was made for anyone who is keen to assist to please let the committee know.</p> <p>The committee was approved by members present at the AGM.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Raffle and sponsored items</b></p> <p>Due to the overwhelming support for the raffle the decision was taken to run the raffle via Random.org so that ticket numbers were electronically generated and drawn. A major thank you to Leigh de Beyer and Ros Chapman for their incredible work to make the raffle such a success.</p> <p>Raffle tickets were sold for R50 per ticket or R200 for five and, building on the success of last year's raffle, raised over R11 000.</p> <p>Prizes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edge for Men voucher</li> <li>• Home décor items for Michelle Milner</li> <li>• Wine from Arendsig</li> <li>• A voucher for Caroline's Fine Wines</li> <li>• A physio session and branded items from Scope</li> <li>• Saddle fitting by Belinda Thom</li> <li>• A session at the Pony Club Arenas</li> <li>• Four sessions at the Bentgrass Arena</li> <li>• A session in the de Jager Family's Arena</li> <li>• A session in the McMahon's Arena</li> <li>• GSC Max Product</li> <li>• Soul Clothing items</li> <li>• Africa Extracts hamper</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blowdry voucher from Hair Café</li> <li>• A weekend away at a beautiful house in Llangebaan</li> <li>• Voucher from Icing on Top</li> <li>• Organic Honey</li> <li>• A lesson with Larissa Williams</li> <li>• Blanket washing vouchers from Brennan Williams</li> <li>• A voucher for the Tack Shack</li> </ul> <p>The TDRA Committee would like to thank the sponsors for their generous donations and the members for their overwhelming support of the raffle. This was the most successful raffle that the TDRA has held to date which was no easy task considering that the raffle last year raised a record amount of money.</p>	
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The meeting ended at approx. 18:50

Certified a true record of the proceedings

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Chairperson

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Date