

**MOUNTED ARCHERY ASSOCIATION  
OF SOUTH AFRICA**



**2025  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

## INTRODUCTION

This year seems to have passed in a blur of activity, with some great highlights, and the inevitable challenges that equestrian sport in general is experiencing.

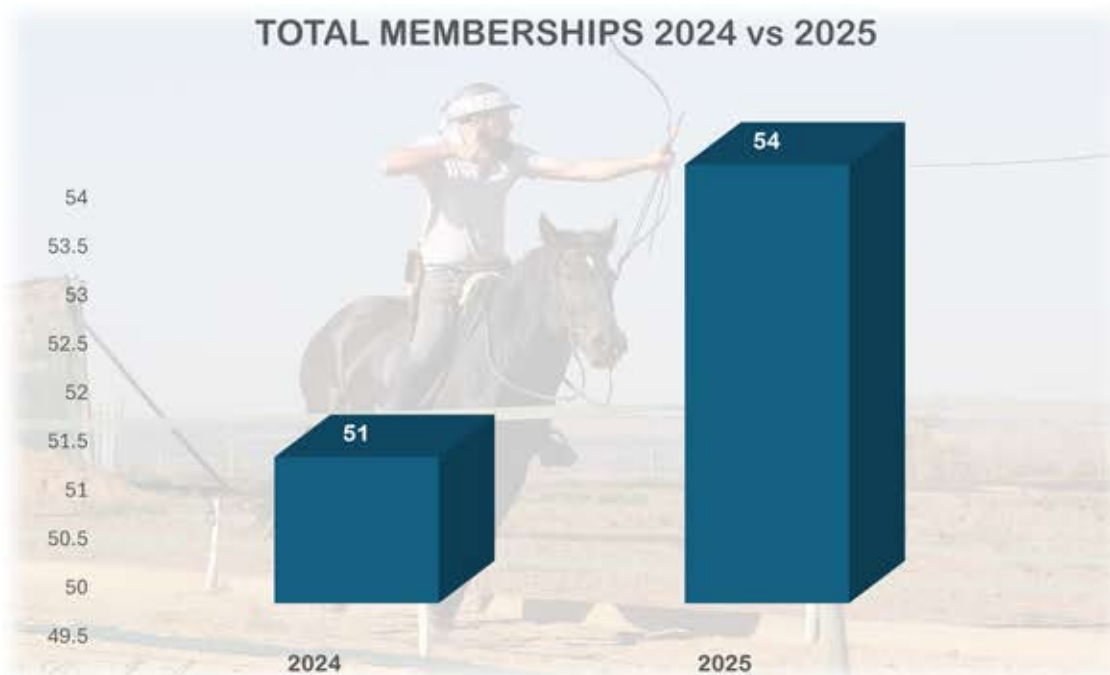
Mounted archery remains a small discipline, but within those small numbers lie passionate and dedicated people.

## STATISTICS 2025

While our membership numbers are slightly up from 2024, the number of entries in our official competition events are down this year.

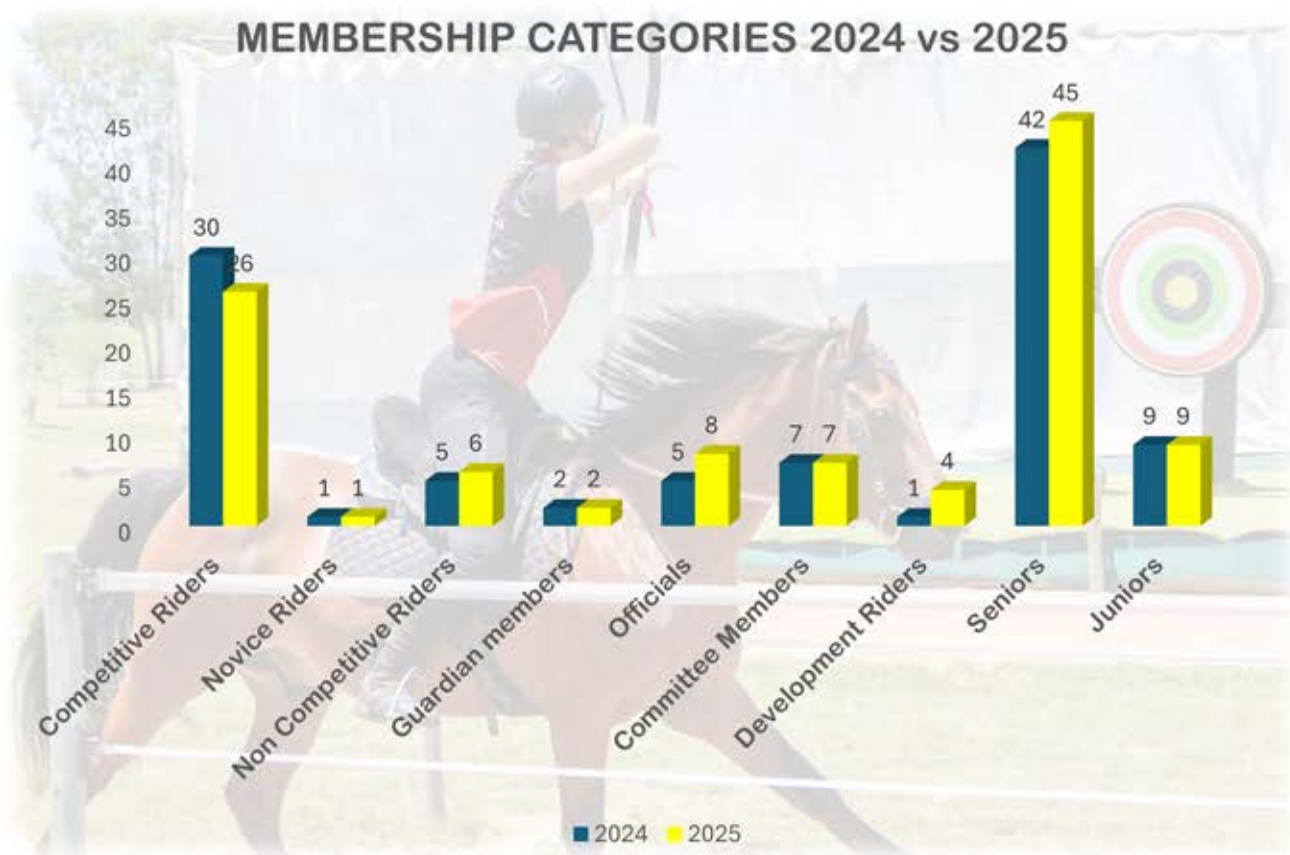
On the positive side, KZN has returned to the competitive stage this year, thanks largely to the hard work of the KZNMAA council under the leadership of their President, Janine Crago. They have been working tirelessly to promote and market the sport in KZN, and we look forward to seeing their competitive numbers grow next year.

Gauteng province has had their first year under the leadership of mostly new provincial council members. Special thanks to Marna Wium, the GMAA secretary, who capably took over the daunting task of organizing the Gauteng qualifiers this year.

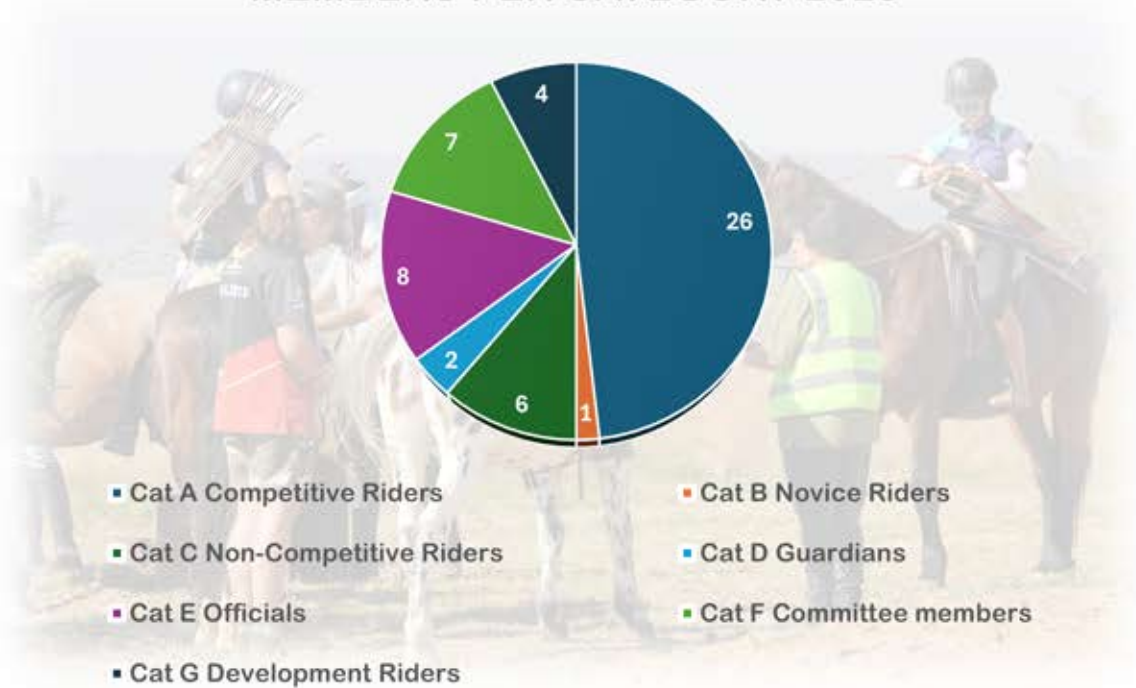




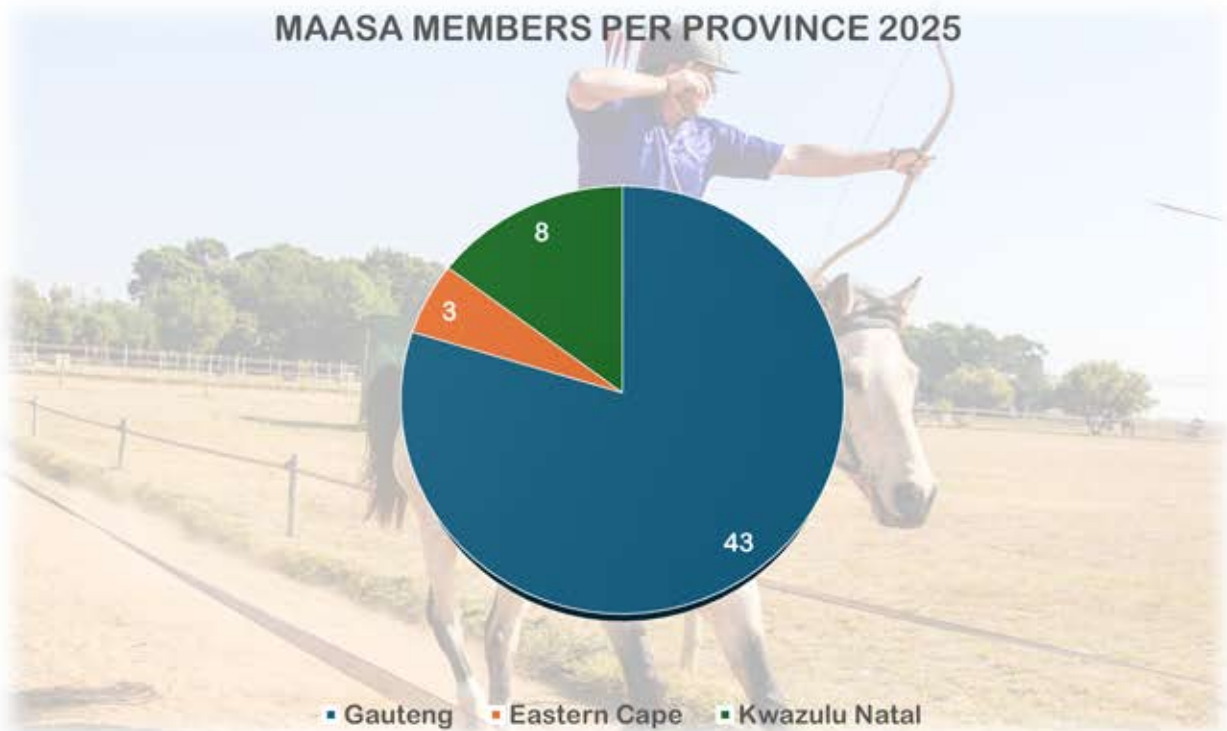
## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES 2024 vs 2025



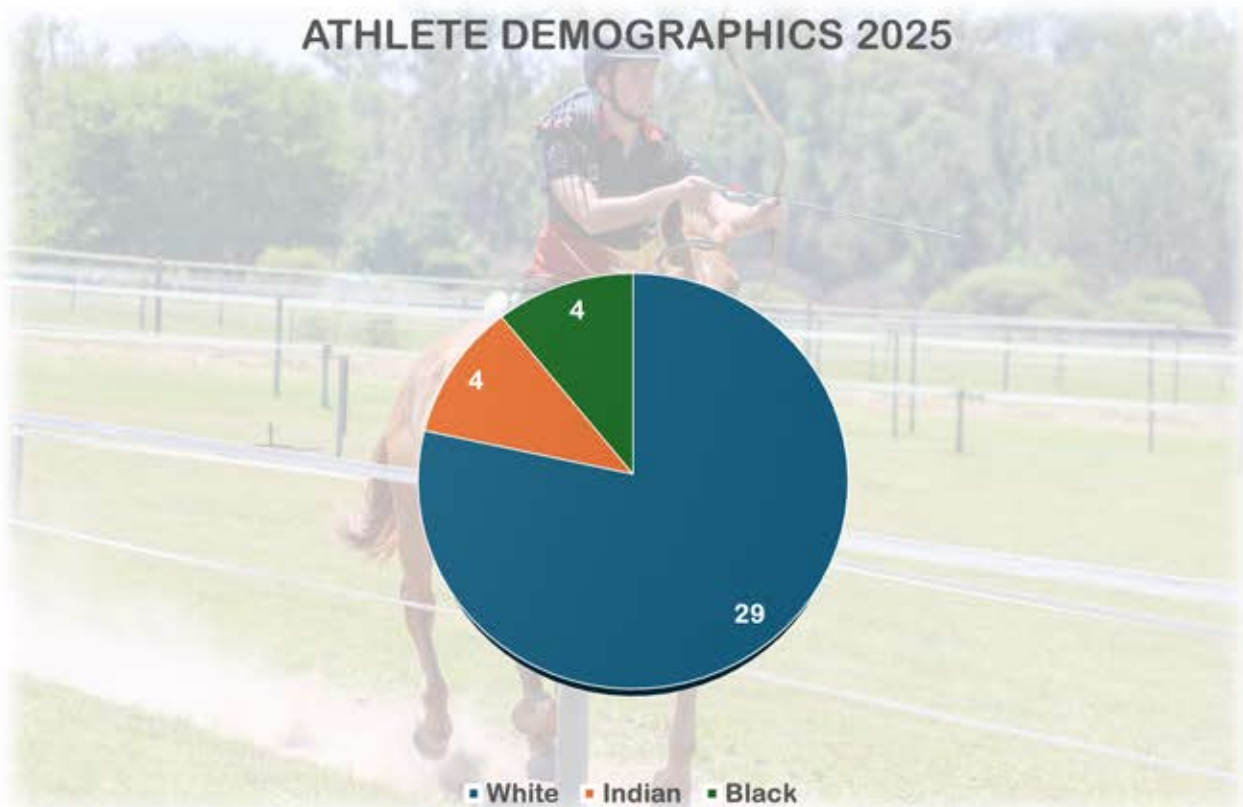
## MEMBERS PER CATEGORY 2025



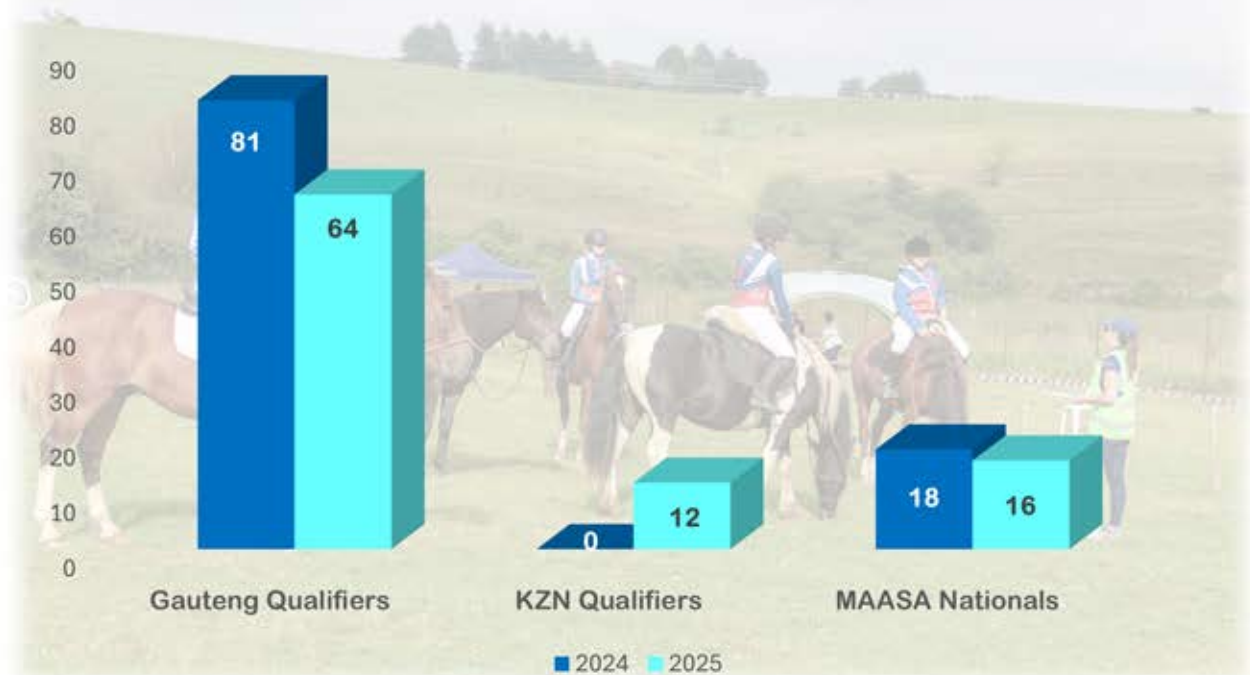
## MAASA MEMBERS PER PROVINCE 2025



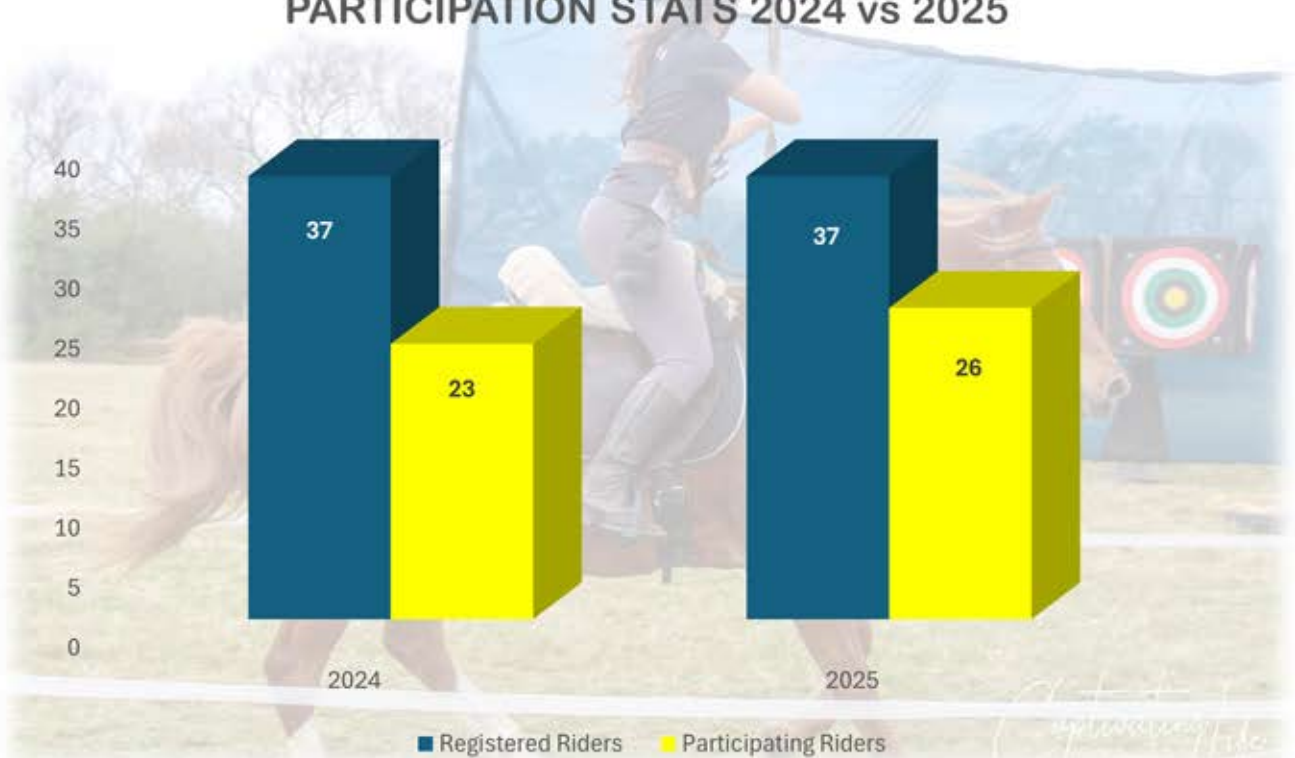
## ATHLETE DEMOGRAPHICS 2025



## COMPETITION ENTRIES 2024 vs 2025



## PARTICIPATION STATS 2024 vs 2025





## LOCAL EVENTS / COMPETITIONS

KZNMAA had quite a busy year, holding 5 qualifiers (combined with SANESA qualifiers) as well as a development clinic for riders and a training course for officials and judges.

Gauteng also held 5 qualifiers, in addition to hosting MAASA Nationals at Botha Wil Stables, our top venue for mounted archery in South Africa.

Despite the reduction in the number of entries this year overall, there were some impressive performances by our riders, many of whom achieved higher grading levels.

There were two National records set this year, both by Gauteng riders:

Jacques Horn (Phoenix Horseback Archery) - New SA Senior Record in Tower110 (164.73)

Talitha Schoeman (Phoenix Horseback Archery) - New SA Junior Record in Tower110 (61.26).

Other events included:

Training Show and Fun Day in February (Barebow Mounted Archery)  
Shosholoza Shoot 2 day competition in May (Phoenix Horseback Archery)

Mounted Archery Demonstration at the Medieval Fayre in June (by Phoenix Horseback Archery)

Winter Hunt Fundraiser competition in July (by Phoenix Horseback Archery, in aid of funds for the SA Protea Mounted Archers)

Summer Hunt Track competition in October (Barebow Mounted Archery / Archer's Ville Mounted Archery)

Mounted Archery demonstration at the Lavender Kontrei Mark in November (Barebow Mounted Archers)

Battle of Boschkop Fun day in December (Barebow Mounted Archery)



## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

The highlight of 2025 was the selection of the SA team to participate in the IHAA World Championships in Lewisburg, Tennessee, USA in September.

The team had to contend with extreme heat and humidity levels throughout the competition, as well as some last-minute changes to the horse allocations due to circumstances out of their control.

The event itself was well organized, with horse welfare being front and centre for both organizers and competitors alike, and the SA team enjoyed the competition and the hospitality of their hosts.

Marna Wium and Jacques Horn competed in the Senior category (ages 22-49), while Abdullah Safodien competed in the Masters category (age 50 plus). A total of 19 countries were represented at this event, with 12 countries entering the team event (3 riders per team). There were 56 riders overall.

Marna Wium shot her personal best score on the Tower110 with an impressive 125.43 points, which was double the score she had previously achieved on this track. She was just as impressive in the Raid event, but her Hunt event on the 3rd day was a challenge, as her allocated horse was difficult to keep in a canter throughout the course. This resulted in her not being awarded some of her target points achieved, and an unfortunate time penalty.

Jacques Horn started well with an excellent Raid score on Day 1, placing him in 5th place. Unfortunately, he had to withdraw from the Tower110 event on Day 2, as his horse tripped and fell on him in the warmup arena, leaving him with an injured left arm and unable to draw his bow. His horse was subsequently withdrawn from the competition.



## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

However, he did his best on Day 3 on the Hunt track, riding a borrowed horse and shooting with a borrowed lighter bow due to his injury.

Abdullah Safodien had some challenges on the Tower110 event, but he shot an excellent Raid score. He was unable to complete the Hunt track on Day 3 due to an unfortunate fall half way through the course.

South Africa placed 10th out of 12 countries who entered the team event, and 11th out of the 19 countries represented at the competition.

Despite the challenges with horses and injuries, Team SA never gave anything less than their best and can be commended for their excellent sportsmanship and horsemanship. They persevered through some tough situations and were outstanding ambassadors for their country and the sport.





## CHALLENGES IN MOUNTED ARCHERY

Lack of volunteers remains a challenge, as is maintaining viable structures in our provinces. Our ongoing calls for people willing to serve on committees go unheeded, and in Gauteng specifically we have far too few officials for the number of events that we host. We continue to have to rely on a small core of people who wear many hats, which invariably leads to the all too familiar accusations of conflicts of interest, and in some cases results in the withdrawal of much-needed volunteers.

Properly trained horses are another challenging area in the sport, with many riders not owning their own horses, but needing to borrow or share horses at events. Since MAASA prioritizes horse welfare, and needs to comply with international standards, we restrict the number of starts (events) per horse per day, which in turn results in fewer entries at competitions.

MAASA is still dealing with a legal challenge from one of our Gauteng clubs, assisted by the SAEF legal office who have kindly provided counsel and support. The matter in question has dragged on since its inception in December 2023, with no end in sight currently.

The matter is communicated to our members regularly and transparently, and we will continue to follow legal advice provided by the SAEF.

## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

MAASA was delighted to receive a grant (via Lotto funding from SAEF) this year, which was put to good use by the launch of our Grooms Development Program. We have identified development riders in both provinces, providing them with equipment, lesson fees and competition entry fees to training shows and/or official competitions.



## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Our top development rider Oliver Mdladla (Gauteng) climbed five grading levels from a Student Archer Level 5 to a Horse Archer Level 4 this year, an impressive achievement. Oliver was coached by MAASA instructor Deirdre Janse van Rensburg.**

**Two other development riders from Gauteng, Jacky Moretsi and Cyrus Sibande, both Novice riders, also benefitted from lessons and competed in training shows and informal competitions. They are both working hard on their riding skills to be able to participate in the near future in official qualifiers. Jacky is coached by Marna Wium and Cyrus is coached by Jacques Horn, both of whom are registered MAASA instructors.**

**We were also able to present a development clinic in KZN at Riverside Mounted Archery in June, where our KZN development rider Tessa Pitout was one of the many eager clinic participants. Tessa competed in her first SANESA Nationals this year, where she achieved a 1st and a 4th place in her two events. We are confident that she too will be moving up the grading levels next year.**

**There are a number of North West riders who have expressed interest in the sport, and who have requested a development clinic and training in their area, with the aim of setting up a new track and establishing a new club to affiliate to MAASA. We are awaiting the balance of our grant funds from SAEF before going ahead with this project.**





## **SANESA PARTICIPATION**

**SANESA continues to make a valuable contribution to the sport, with qualifiers being held in three provinces this year: Gauteng, KZN and the Eastern Cape.**

**The 2025 SANESA Nationals were held in the October school holidays in Gauteng at Phoenix Horseback Archery.**

**There were 15 Gauteng riders, 2 riders from KZN and 2 riders from the Eastern Cape who participated in various events at this competition.**

**MAASA currently has 4 members who grade through the SANESA system.**

## **GOALS FOR 2026**

**Growth, development and transformation remain high on our list of goals for next year.**

**We will be focusing on getting more provinces involved in the sport, capitalizing on the interest already evident in the North West province.**

**Our SANESA National rep will also be focusing on the Winelands area in the Western Cape, and planning an introductory clinic in conjunction with the relevant SANESA bodies, introducing the sport to the many Western Cape SANESA riders in that area.**

**Phoenix Horseback Archery is scheduling a Youth Training Camp and Competition in July 2026, with focus on young riders and SANESA riders. This will be a three day event, where training will be presented by two of the current SA Protea team members. Training in straight and hunt tracks will be scheduled, with competitions in both disciplines. SANESA riders will be eligible for discounted fees for this clinic.**



## CONCLUSION

2025 will be my last year as MAASA President, as I step down from the position to focus more fully on other projects and personal goals.

After 4 years in the driver's seat, I leave with a sense of gratitude for lessons learned and experience gained. I am extremely grateful to those on the MAASA National Council who have helped me steer through many highs, but also some rocky roads.

It has been an enormous privilege to have seen and been part of the development and growth of mounted archery over the past few years, with the highlight of my term being the opportunity to accompany and support our SA team this year at the World Championships - nothing comes close to the feeling of pride while standing trackside and watching our top athletes compete in the green and gold!

I wish only the best for the next MAASA National Council - good luck, and always remember to put the sport first!

Diane Horn  
MAASA President

