

# Mounted Archery Association of South Africa



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# Overview

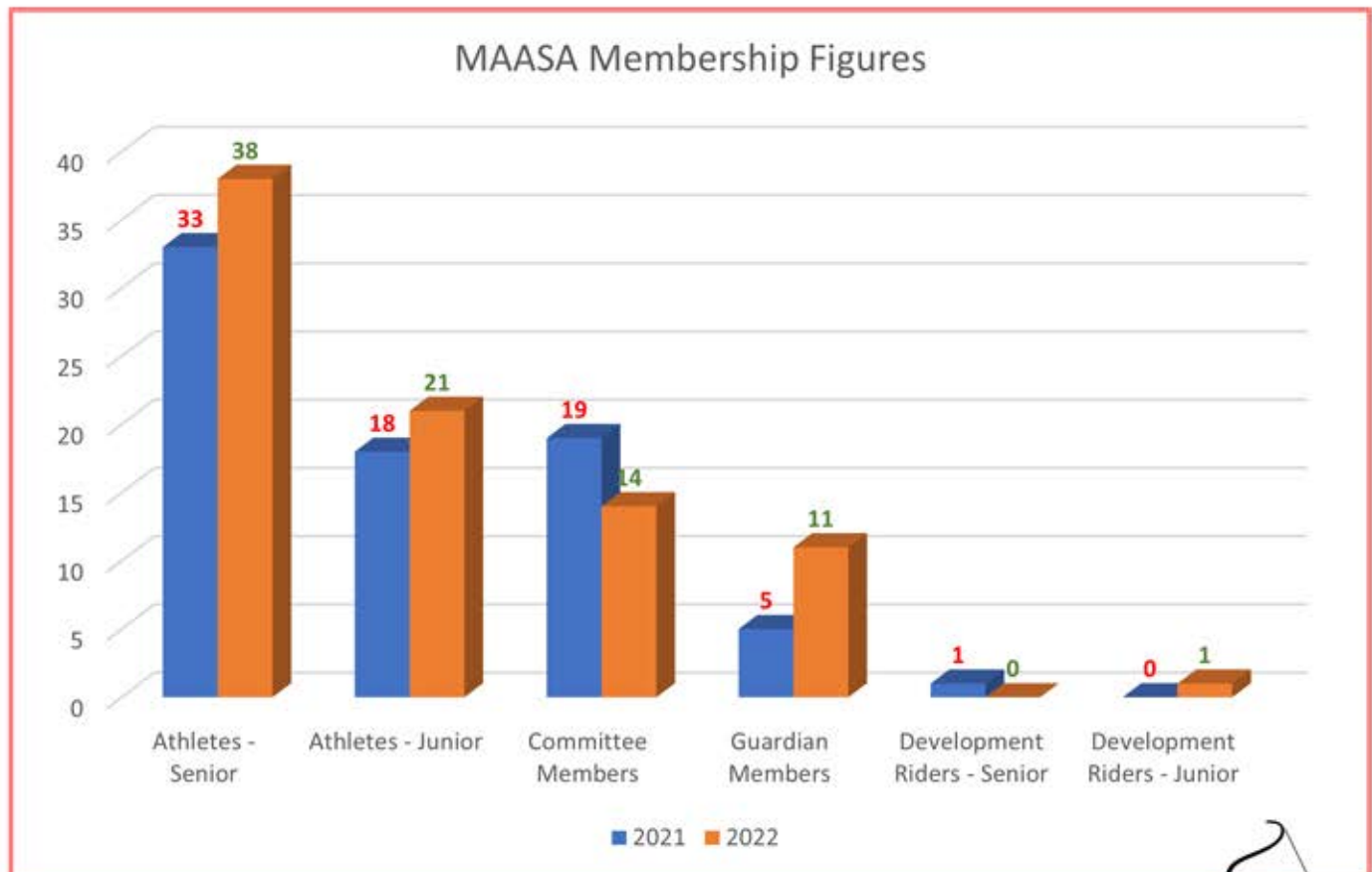
While 2022 was not without its challenges, it was a good year for our sport, with positive growth in membership numbers and impressive results on the track from our athletes, both locally and abroad.

One of my goals this year as President was to ensure that our clubs and provinces were properly affiliated / constituted, as required by SAEF. With that in mind, the MAASA National Council and I instituted an audit of all our provincial structures, and in turn requested them to audit their provincial clubs. I am pleased to be able to say that this mammoth task has been accomplished, thanks to the hard work of our provincial committees.

One of the areas we still need to look at, and which will be addressed this year, is the development of our coaches and judges. A number of our MAASA judges have already started their IHAA training to become accredited as IHAA judges, a prerequisite for judging a World Record Event status competition.

## Membership Numbers

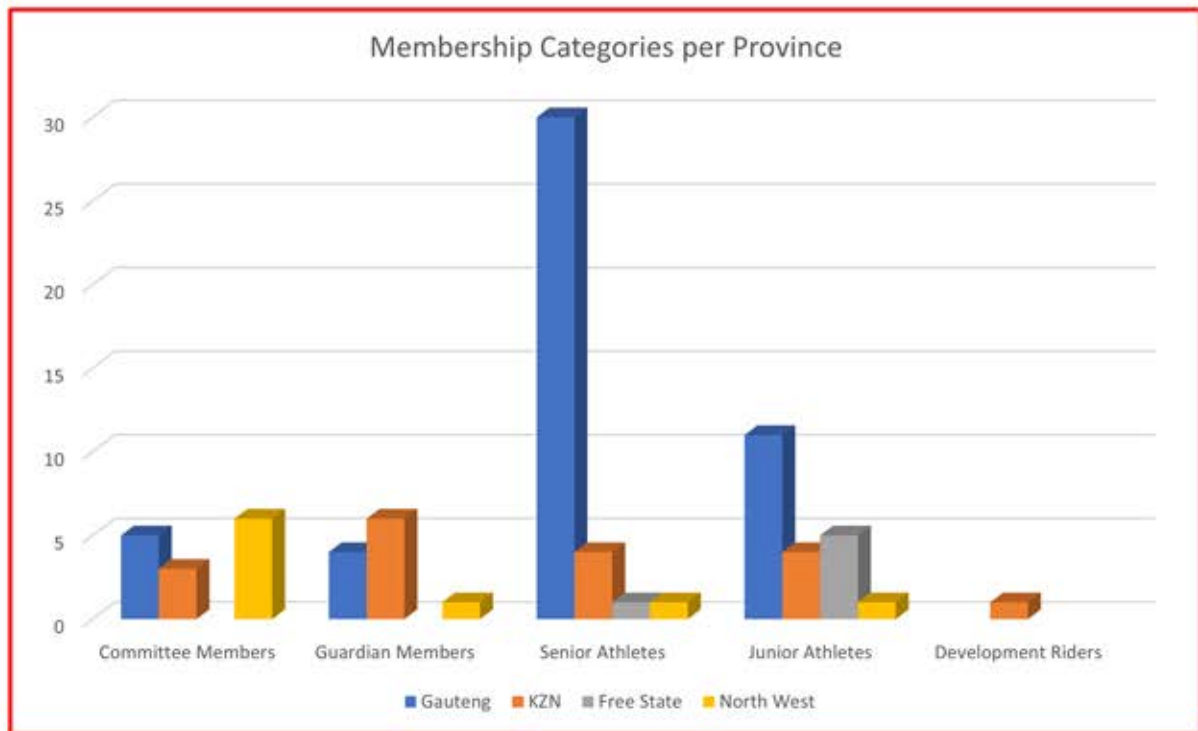
In comparing our 2021 figures to 2022, it becomes clear that our discipline has experienced limited growth, and the growth that was achieved is thanks mainly to the efforts of our MAASA management teams both nationally and provincially, as well as our online presence on social media





# Membership numbers

We have seen frustratingly slow growth in some of our provinces, while Gauteng and KZN have performed well in terms of membership numbers in 2022. However, the growth figures can be misleading when you look at the number of members vs the number of athletes. In order to see real growth in the sport, it is important that we work towards increasing the number of participating athletes.

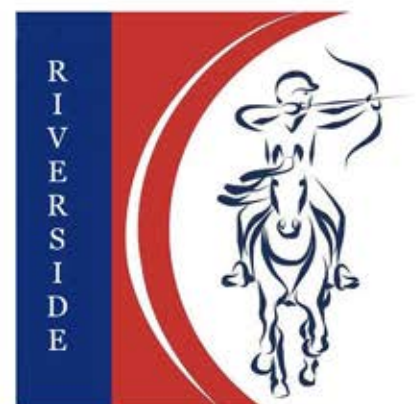


## Highlights

Overall, 2022 was a busy year with focus on creating an awareness of the sport of mounted archery.



We welcomed two new clubs to MAASA – Barebow Mounted Archers (Gauteng) and Riverside Mounted Archery (KZN). In addition, Riverside applied for and was granted MAASA approval of their new track, to date the only approved track in KZN.



# Highlights

February 2022 – one of our Gauteng clubs (Youngblood Equestrian Archers) hosted a mounted archery demonstration day at a fundraiser event for Highveld Horse Care Unit in Meyerton. The event was well attended, and the demonstrations of mounted archery performed by the riders was enthusiastically received.



August 2022 – two of our Gauteng clubs (Barebow Mounted Archers / Kings & Prophets club) performed a mounted archery demonstration at Krag Dag, east of Pretoria. This event is held annually, and attracts much public attention, and the team of mounted archers impressed the crowds with their skills and their presentation.



MAASA Senior Deirdre Janse van Rensburg was elected to the Board of Directors of the IHAA International Horseback Archery Alliance. Deirdre is one of 8 Directors and represents the continent of Africa on the board. She is also the IHAA Member Association representative for South Africa



A very successful MAASA Nationals was held in October, with 21 entries from 3 provinces. During this event, a new South African senior record was set in the Raid 233 class.





## Highlights



Many of our athletes competed throughout the year in international postal matches set by IHAA . Both our senior and our junior riders consistently placed high in these events, which are designed to allow riders from all member countries to compete against each other, in their own country.

In addition, we had three Senior athletes who competed at international competitions in France and Turkey, with excellent results.

## Challenges

Financial challenges have been experienced in the smaller provinces, where there are fewer riders to cover the cost of competing in qualifiers. This has unfortunately resulted in the loss of our Free State provincial structure, as their riders are no longer competing due to financial constraints. Our North West province has also struggled to meet the costs of hosting qualifiers, and with so few riders involved, were only able to host one qualifier in 2022.

We have made various attempts to launch mounted archery in the Western and Eastern Cape, and one of our instructors presented a clinic in both provinces earlier in 2022 but with little success in terms of new members. A scheduled clinic in George, EC was unfortunately cancelled due to the escalating fuel prices in the current economic climate.

A knock-on effect of these financial challenges is that due to lack of riders and qualifiers in the smaller provinces, it was not possible to select provincial teams and hold provincials in each province, with Gauteng being the only province which would have had sufficient riders to form a team.



# Challenges

Lack of suitable horses who are trained for mounted archery remains problematic, with horses being shared by riders at qualifiers. We are hoping to address this problem with the implementation of "Horse Training Clinics" where potential riders can be assisted in training their own horses for this discipline, with the aim of competing on their own horses in the next year.

The only other serious challenge we experienced this year was the collapse of our KZN Mounted Archery provincial structure, and the unwarranted and unjustified interference of the KZN Equestrian Federation in the election of a new KZN Mounted Archery provincial committee. This necessitated the involvement of SAEF, and we are pleased that the outcome of this matter resulted in the election of a competent and dedicated KZN MA Council who will take the sport forward in that province, under the very capable and dedicated Amy Diack, who was elected KZN

## High Performance

MAASA was privileged to see three of its Senior athletes compete internationally this year, and are very proud of their results:

Senior Rider Jaco Jacobs from the Kings & Prophets Club in Gauteng participated in the Sancakbeyi Nations Cup held in Kayseri Turkey in June.

Jaco participated in a 3 day competition against 43 competitors from 15 countries. Competing on Doruk a very speedy Arabian over 3 events, the Raid, Tower90 and Tabla Tracks Jaco placed 9th in the Raid event and finished in 17th place overall. Jaco recently placed 2nd overall in the MAASA National Championships, and is the current SA record holder in the Raid 123 event, and the Skirmish event.



Senior Rider Yusuf Bemath also competed in Turkey, attending the Akinci Toyu Competition in Balikisir. Yusuf achieved an overall 15th place out of 80 competitors in this tournament.



# High Performance

Senior Jacques Horn competed in the Gauchaux Open held at the Domaine de Gauchaux close to Bellac in the South of France in August.

The Gauchoux Open saw 90 riders from 16 countries take part in a 2-, 3- and 4-Star competition. Jacques entered the 4 Star category, which pitted him against the very best mounted archers in the world. Riding a borrowed horse (Foxtrot), he competed in three events – the Tower 110 in which he placed 2nd and set a new world record in the Young Rider category, the Tabla event where he placed 1st and the Hunt Track where he earned 2nd place. His combined total scores for the three events earned him the first place overall in the Senior 4 star competition.

Prior to the 3 day competition, Jacques attended training clinics with two mounted archery specialists in their events, and is looking forward to sharing his knowledge with the South African mounted archery community.

Jacques is a member of the Youngblood Equestrian Archers club (Gauteng) and recently became the MAASA Senior Champion of 2022 at MAASA Nationals held in October, where he also set a new South African record in the Raid 233 event.



## SANESA

Our SANESA juniors did very well this year, especially the newbies who started off the year walking all their runs, and progressed to trotting and/or cantering at SANESA Nationals.

We welcomed the first KZN Sanesa rider, Aimee Crago from Riverside Mounted Archery, who came all the way to Gauteng to participate in Nationals, where she did exceptionally well in her classes. We look forward to welcoming more KZN riders to accompany her at the next SANESA Nationals.

SANESA Nationals 2022 were held at Bekker Equestrian Academy, in very hot conditions, but the children certainly didn't let that put them off having fun and enjoying the competition.

To all our SANESA parents: thank you for getting your children to competitions, cheering them on and ferrying them to practices. Our juniors are the future of the sport, and they couldn't do this without their support team!







## Conclusion

All in all, I believe MAASA can look back on a year of great successes, minor setbacks and a few challenges that will only serve to encourage us to do better in the year ahead.

I would like to make special mention of our officials who are the backbone of our competitive season. The judges, scorekeepers, timekeepers, arrow pullers and venue organizers - we simply cannot hold competitions without these volunteers who time and again give up their weekends to ensure a smooth competition for the athletes. These are usually the same people at every competition, whether it be official qualifiers, training shows or SANESA qualifiers - they are always willing to lend a hand and do whatever they can to assist.

This year, if you are able, it would be great to see some new faces in this group of volunteers, so that we can spread the workload.

I would like to commend and thank the members of the MAASA National Council for their efforts and hard work and working tirelessly to serve our members. An organization like MAASA cannot function without these dedicated volunteers, who take on the day-to-day management and administration of the sport, so that the athletes can compete. The Council has been a constant source of support and encouragement to me and to each other, and will ensure that going forward, the sport of mounted archery will continue to flourish and grow in South Africa.

