

The Mounted Archery Association of South Africa

PRESIDENTIAL ANNUAL REPORT 2019



MAASA
Mounted Archery Association of South Africa

SUMMARY



Though 2018 proved to be a difficult year for MAASA as an association, it was also a year of immense growth for the sport. Internal politics lead to the near collapse of MAASA towards the end of 2018. We were faced with many challenges and difficult circumstances that forced us to stop and re-evaluate ourselves and the direction of our beloved sport not only as individuals within MAASA but also as an association.



Though some difficulty remains within the structure of the association as far as politics go I do believe that we have overcome the greatest of these challenges and are busy moving forward as a strong and unified association. Some broken relationships have been restored and we are in the process of building a foundation of trust, honesty, openness and a willingness to face and discuss any issues that we might face.

The focus and driving force within MAASA for 2019 is to create a greater awareness of the sport; to increase membership numbers; to get structures SAEF compliant; to build on and improve on rules, regulations and procedures; to look for sponsorships for both athletes and officials and to train and educate many more judges, officials and helpers.

A lot of work still lies ahead of us: as a very young association we are still busy building the foundations of this sport, but we look forward to the process of building and to seeing the growth of MAASA in 2019.

Greetings

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deirdre'.

Deirdre Janse van Rensburg

President - MAASA



MAASA Council

The resignation of several National Mounted Archery Council members towards the end of 2018 resulted in the near collapse of MAASA. A handful of individuals jumped in to save the situation and with the help and patience of SAEF were guided into the election process to elect a new national council. In January 2019 the newly elected council stepped into office, ready to pick up the pieces and start the process of putting MAASA back together again.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the SAEF and Secretary General Wessel Strauss for helping MAASA through this tumultuous time. I would also like to thank our newly elected council for the hours of work that they have already invested in MAASA, some have already proven their passion and dedication countless times within the last few months.

Despite some differences with council members from the previous term I would also like to express my gratitude to these individuals for their hard work and years of dedication that they invested into the building up of MAASA. Your hard work does not go unnoticed and we will remain forever grateful for all that you have done for the sport of mounted archery. We trust that in future we will find common ground in our shared love of our sport.



Deirdre Janse v Rensburg
President



Daniel Griffin
Vice President



Jaco Jacobs
Treasurer

Constitution & Rule Book



With the running of competitions and qualifiers firmly established in the past few years, we now turned our attention to revisiting our constitution, adding to and amending it in order to ensure that we were SAEF compliant. We have also added to and rewritten our rules and regulations within the running of the association as well as our competition rulebook, code of conduct, disciplinary procedures and horse welfare documentation with specific care to align ourselves not only with SAEF standards but also to international mounted archery rules and standards as prescribed by IHAA the International Horseback Archery Alliance. All the amendments to these documents have been completed and were approved at the annual MAASA AGM held on the 13th of April 2019.

Clubs & Members

MAASA experienced massive growth within the last few months. We welcomed the Western Cape on board as our newest competitive province with riders from this province competing at the highest levels, the North West also started hosting their own qualifiers at their newly approved track in Potchefstroom.

We also had 5 new clubs affiliating to MAASA from across the country and experienced an increase of 20% in individual membership applications. We would like to welcome all new members, clubs and provinces. Growing MAASA, increasing awareness of the sport and sharing our wonderful art of Mounted Archery with as many as possible is one of our primary aims for 2019. We would like to enable and encourage even more growth within each province and are working on several different strategies in order to facilitate this growth.



Venues & Tracks

One of the fastest ways to ensure growth within the sport is to get more competitive and training tracks and venues up and running. Since November last year we have assisted and are in the process of assisting in the building and approval of 6 new tracks within 4 different provinces.

MAASA requested a risk assessment to be done on venues and tracks in the last half of 2018. Using the results of this risk assessment, a document was created specifically for the building of tracks, venues and show holding bodies with the highest levels of safety standards being implemented.

All new competition tracks are built to these standards and old tracks have been upgraded to these new levels of safety. We can proudly say that some of these tracks and venues are of world class standard with two of these tracks featuring rotating targets, the first of its kind in South Africa.



Mounted Archery Clinics



Another aspect of growing the sport is the hosting of regular clinics. Not only introductory clinics to teach mounted archery to prospective new members but also more advanced clinics that will take our archers to higher levels of skill as well as improving their knowledge and understanding of their archery equipment. Since January 2019 MAASA has hosted 2 very successful introductory clinics in Gauteng with our head of Judging and Coaching Karen Bands facilitating these clinics.



The plan for the remainder of 2019 is to host introductory clinics throughout the country at least every second month and we are currently in the process of organising clinics in Namibia and Natal. We are also busy planning an advanced clinic and training camp for our top achieving juniors at Griffins Mounted Archery in the Western Cape in the second half of 2019. This clinic will be presented by the number 1 ranked Horse Archer in South Africa and Vice President of MAASA, Daniel Griffin. Discussions are also under way to host an advanced clinic for our seniors in Gauteng with Daniel as facilitator later in the year.

Judges & Officials Workshops

The development of new tracks and venues within the different provinces has also led to a need for more judges and officials within each province. These officials need to be well trained and familiar with all aspects of the sport.

With the help of several individuals the existing Judges and Officials material was rewritten, improved and extended upon and we are looking forward to hosting the first Judges and Officials course for 2019 the last weekend of April with MAASA sponsoring all course material and fees for the officials part of the course and only asking a small fee for the judges part of the course.



Coaches Framework

As the sport is growing we are also seeing a need for more mounted archery coaches and instructors. Although there are only a few that are currently adequately qualified to teach, we have several individuals in the process of becoming qualified. We are also in the process of rewriting and upgrading our coaches and instructors course and will host several coaching courses throughout the year.

Though the planned legislation regarding coaches has not yet been implemented by SASCOC MAASA is being proactive and has already begun writing and implementing these new rules into our coaches' framework. All approved MAASA coaches will need Eqasa levels 1,2 and 3, an up to date police clearance certificate as well as the required Mounted Archery coaching certificate to comply.



International News

MAASA riders have done exceptionally well internationally within the past year. A total of 11 Riders competed in 7 different competitions in the following countries/; Korea, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Jordan, Iran and the United States of America .

Our juniors brought home 3 golds, a 2nd as well as a 3rd place from the World Championships in Korea with one of our Seniors bringing home an overall 1st place for the Texas Star competition. Overseas competitions planned for this year include Korea, Russia, Hungary, Kazakstahn and France.



Mounted Archery & SANESA



Mounted Archery is also growing within SANESA and amongst the youth. Entries have grown from 36 in 2017 to 81 in 2018. We have new provinces successfully hosting SANESA competitions and have already seen a growth in entries for 2019. SANESA riders are shooting at the highest levels with four SANESA riders attending the World Championships in Korea in 2018. We are very proud of your young riders, most of whom have already or are in the process of surpassing the skills and shooting scores of our adult riders.

Website & Electronic Scoresheets

We are currently in the process of building a new and improved website for MAASA. Though there is not enough funding at the moment to enable us to build a system that allows for online entries, we hope to be able to incorporate such a feature into our website in the near future as and when funding allows. The new website will be launched within the next two months.

Another improvement that we've brought to the table since the beginning of the year is the creation of very advanced electronic scoresheets. These scoresheets have built in parameters for Novice, Student Archer as well as Horse Archer levels. This means that these scoresheets make allowance for and automatically calculate scores according to the level of the archer, the track time allowed for the level they ride in, bonus points accrued as well as whether they were shooting in a walk, trot or canter for the novice level riders. These scoresheets have brought new efficiency and accuracy to competition days and the calculating of scores.

In closing

Thank you to each and every member, council, parent, club and venue for the contributions you have made to the sport. Thank you for your continued support and patience with us. Thank you for placing your trust in us as MAASA council and in me as your president. We are working very hard to iron out all the issues and to build an association that is built on values, rules and integrity, an association that will not only build and grow our youth but an association that we will be proud to hand over to the current youth when it is their turn to take it over from us. Thank you, regards Deirdre Janse van Rensburg.

