

## TOKAI DISTRICT RIDING ASSOCIATION (TDRA)

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at The Range, Orpen Road on Thursday 10 May 2018 at 19h00

2017/2018 Committee Members :

Karena du Plessis (KdP)	Chairperson
Grant Chapman (GC)	Vice-Chairperson
Marianne Berry (MB)	Treasurer
Michelle Matthews (MM)	Secretary
Julie Myrtle (JM)	
Laura Forde (LF)	
Maryse Pennington-Collins (MC)	
Hayley Moir (HM)	

Apologies:

Tokai Residents Association  
Melissa Finkelstein  
Fiona Archer  
Debbie Cusens  
Lynne Wragge  
Les Roos  
Kim Muller  
Caroline Brown  
Karen Little

Agenda Item	Minute	Action
1	<b>Welcome</b> Karena (KdP) welcomed all those in attendance and thanked everybody for their continued support of the TDRA.	
2	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the 2016 AGM held on the 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2017 were tabled and approved by members. Proposer: Gill Howell Seconder: Carrie Grant	
3	<b>Chairperson's Review</b> KdP highlighted that it has been a very busy but successful year for the TDRA. Highlights of the year include <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The re-opening of Upper Tokai on 29 December 2017 which has allowed horse riders to enjoy more choice in terms of where to ride. Upper Tokai re-opening has also been a surprise for many riders as the area is nothing like what it used to be prior to the devastating 2015 fires.</li><li>2. The retention of the transit route through the picnic site which was initially a temporary concession. Horse riders are reminded once again that it is our responsibility to immediately clean up should our horses manure in the entrance to the picnic area. There is a bucket and some gloves at the guard house for this purpose. Matthews is cleaning the rest of the route twice a week</li><li>3. Elmonique Petersen is the new SANParks section ranger in the Tokai area and the TDRA wish her all the best in her new role. There is regular communication between the committee and Elmonique.</li><li>4. A very successful and most enjoyable fun event was organised at the Pony Club arena by Laura (LF). The feedback from all who participated was positive and the committee hopes to have more such fun days going forward. Any suggestions of events that members would like the committee to try to organise will be welcomed.</li><li>5. A huge amount of track rehabilitation has been undertaken in Upper Tokai. Grant (GC) has driven this forward and enlisted the use of a TLB that has been stationed at</li></ol>	

	<p>the SANParks' new office site. This has saved the TDRA significant costs as we have not had to transport the machine to the site but has been costly none the less. The improvement to the tracks that have been worked on to date is significant and it is estimated that a further R24 000 would allow most of the very bad tracks to be restored to a rideable condition. The TDRA does not currently have resources available to fund further work unfortunately and so will need to rely on the generosity of members to assist with donations towards the project. The work needs to be done before the machine leaves site permanently which is expected to be in the near future and the TLB is currently on another site temporarily. GC showed members before and after photographs of the areas that have been worked on already as well as examples of tracks that need urgent attention</p> <p>6. A major alien hack was held on Saturday 3 May 2018. Hayley (HM) organised this and a lot was accomplished in respect of removing the alien plants in Middle Tokai. Due to the overwhelming response from members donating funds and labour it was also possible to remove the roots that were close to the surface on the tracks thereby improving the going for horses. Chainsaws were hired to aloe the bigger plants to be removed and SANParks very kindly provided the poison for the alien pants which was applied after cutting to prevent the plants growing again</p> <p>There have unfortunately been a few unpleasant incidents between dogs and horses in Lower Tokai Park. Horse riders were once again encouraged to be courteous and considerate when in this congested area. SANParks has assisted when incidents have been reported to them and some dog walkers have been taken to task in cases where they have been positively identified. The TDRA joined forces with other user groups in the area and distributed an educational flyer that was designed by Maryse (MC). This effort was well received and there are still flyers available should any member wish to spend a few hours distributing these in Lower Tokai Park.</p> <p>There have been a number of attacks in the area recently and horse riders are reminded to exercise caution and be aware of our surroundings. GC attended a meeting of the Honorary Rangers at which attendees were briefed on the incidents in the area. There is now a viewing platform in Lower Tokai Park which will allow a height advantage and it is hoped that this will assist with improving security. The TDRA designed the platform and is very pleased to see the security enhancement. If there are any members who would like to attend the Honorary Rangers meetings and provide feedback on security and incidents in the area the committee would welcome your assistance.</p> <p>The mounted police recently have been patrolling in the Tokai area. The TDRA has again approached SANParks with a request to permit horse riders on the tracks that run through the fynbos in Lower Tokai Park as the height may be an advantage in terms of visibility thereby improving security. This request has been denied. It has been suggested that the TDRA contact the Kirstenhof police station and write to the station commander of the mounted police unit to try to strengthen the relationship with the mounted police.</p> <p>There still has been no resolution reached in respect of the areas that form part of the Tokai Precinct Plan. The committee will continue to pursue this project as it is considered essential that additional areas be secured for horse riders to enjoy.</p> <p>The TDRA has been tasked with drafting the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Table Mountain National Parks. This is a daunting task as it encompasses areas outside of Tokai so the input of equestrian groups in these other areas is required. Carol Poole (CP) and Leigh De Beyer (LB) have assisted the committee with this mammoth task for which the committee extends its deep appreciation.</p>	
4	<p><b>EMP Update</b></p> <p>Carol Poole (CP) explained the purpose of the EMP to the meeting. This is a regulatory requirement under the Protected Areas Act and is especially important for the Table</p>	

	<p>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. This makes access control very difficult to manage.</p> <p>The Table Mountain Equestrian Forum (TMEF) has been established to be the primary link between the horse riders in all of the areas covered and SANParks. The draft EMP is available on the TMEF website, <a href="http://www.tmef.co.za">www.tmef.co.za</a>, for comment. It is possible to edit the documents with proposed changes that any member wishes to put forward during the comment period This is crucial as this document will ultimately govern our rights as well as our responsibilities. The primary of which will be designating where horse riders are permitted and the code of conduct that forms part of the document will be enforceable should horse riders contravene the rules.</p> <p>CP explained the various sections of the documents in detail.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The potential impacts of horse riding are shown in section two</li> <li>2. The vision, principle and objectives of the EMP are outlined in section three.</li> <li>3. The proposed management framework is in section four. Management includes designated times of use, activity permits and trail construction amongst others.</li> <li>4. A paragraph is being included on historical trails in each area as maps are not relevant given the freedom horse riders used to enjoy. This is required to try to motivate the trails that are being proposed which are largely historical trails that have been lost over the years.</li> </ol> <p>Members were invited to view the maps that have been generated spanning areas such as Cecilia Forest, Orange Kloof, Sandy Bay, Noordhoek, Glencairn, Redhill and Tokai. Representatives of these areas have been requested to assist with the maps and commenting on the full EMP documents as well before the affected parties' consultation process commences. This will be followed by the document being submitted to SANParks for their comment and then a public participation process. It is hoped that this will be completed later in 2018 but will largely depend on whether SANParks requires changes to the document or not.</p> <p>All user groups are required to generate such a document and the cyclists have completed theirs with the help of a consultant.</p>	
4	<p><b>Financial Report</b></p> <p>Marianne (MB) provided an overview of the financial year and indicated that expenses marginally exceeded income for the period.</p> <p>Major sources of income were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership fees totalling R18 900</li> <li>• Donations from members for trail maintenance and or large trail projects totalling R12 200</li> </ul> <p>Major Expense were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gates for access-controlled areas</li> <li>• Gate maintenance</li> <li>• Track maintenance</li> <li>• Ground levies</li> <li>• Signage</li> </ul> <p>At the end of the year, the TDRA had a positive bank balance in the region of R16 000. However, the budget for the current year has been exhausted already as the rehabilitation work in Upper Tokai has been prioritised to preserve the tracks for horse riding in that area. Membership fees of R 13 100 had been received prior to the AGM and donations of R8800. The work completed in Upper Tokai has utilised just over R12 000 and the alien clearing and track work in middle Tokai has utilised R3800. The remaining funds are required for the ongoing ground levies and the removal of manure in the picnic area so no further projects can be undertaken without specific funding being raised.</p>	

	<p>MB indicated that the full financial report would be available on the TDRA website:  <a href="http://www.tdra.co.za/">http://www.tdra.co.za/</a></p>	
5	<p><b>Appeal for funding</b>  KdP thanked those members who have donated so generously over the years. Donations whether of time to assist with a project, labour to assist with a project or financial are greatly appreciated and allow the TDRA to do the work that is done in the area on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>An appeal was made to assist with funding for the work in Upper Tokai so that this can be continued. Catherine Moore pledged R2000 at the meeting and challenged other members to match her generous donation. Michael MacMahon and Grant Chapman both matched the donation with an anonymous donation being made in the amount of R5000 after the meeting. This coupled with further anonymous donations has allowed the work to continue with about half of the required funding having been raised already. The committee again reiterates its gratitude for the generosity of members. The TDRA is only as strong as our members.</p>	
6	<p><b>Committee Members</b></p> <p>Prior to the meeting nomination forms had been made available. KdP confirmed that all committee members are available for the 2018/19 year. A call for further nominations yielded one being Leigh De Beyer. The committee was approved by members present at the AGM.</p> <p>Confirmation of positions is as follows:</p> <p>Karena du Plessis – Chairperson  Grant Chapman – Vice Chairperson  Marianne Berry – Treasurer  Michelle Matthews – Secretary</p>	
7	<p><b>Prizes</b>  At the end of the evening lucky draw tickets were drawn from the pool of attending paid-up members. Prizes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vouchers for a session with Body Tec</li> <li>• Horse head candles from Equestrian Affair</li> <li>• Teff from Cornel</li> <li>• Fly masks from Viv Lewis</li> <li>• Clothing from Soul Clothing</li> <li>• A painting by Sasha</li> <li>• Handmade rope from Shelley Baron</li> <li>• Body work voucher from Dineh Curling</li> </ul> <p>The TDRA Committee would like to thank the sponsors for their generous donations.</p>	

The meeting ended at approx. 20:30.

Certified a true record of the proceedings

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

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Date