

TOKAI DISTRICT RIDING ASSOCIATION (TDRA)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at The Range, Orpen Road on Tuesday 12 April 2016 at 19h00

2015/2016 Committee Members :

Karena du Plessis (KdP)	Chairperson
Grant Chapman (GC)	Vice-Chairperson
Emma Tiffin (ET)	Treasurer
Michelle Matthews (MM)	Secretary
Julie Myrtle (JM)	
Marianne Berry (MB)	
Jess Fogarty (JF)	
Carol Poole (CP)	

Apologies:

Jurgen and Friedrun Stulinger
Rosie de Jager
TRA

Agenda Item	Minute	Action
1	Welcome Karena (KdP) welcomed all those in attendance and thanked everybody for the co-operation and patience with the closure of Upper Tokai.	
2	Minutes The minutes of the 2014 AGM held on the 24 th of March 2015 were tabled and approved by members	
3	Chairperson's Review KdP acknowledged that the fire has created many challenges for all park users but she also highlighted that it has also created many opportunities and has cemented the relationship which the TDRA enjoys with SANParks. The main achievements of the TDRA over the past year were summarised with highlights including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A very enjoyable and informative saddle fitting talk.• An extremely popular and appreciated introduction to natural horsemanship course.• The submission of a bid for the Tokai arena during the tender process.• The upgrading of very soft tracks by introducing wood chip to the surfaces.• The sponsorship of a concrete slab to upgrade the Airlie-Neva bridge (Upgrade pending City approval).• Rehabilitation of the verge along Spaanschemat Road .	
4	Financial Report Emma (ET) outlined the main expenses and sources of income throughout the year. She confirmed that the majority of the funds that are currently available are earmarked for trails with a primary focus on the new Upper Tokai Road trail, proposed new middle Tokai trail and the rehabilitation that may be required when Upper Tokai is opened for use. Major sources of income were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Membership fees• Introduction to Natural Horsemanship Clinic• Donations from members for trail maintenance and/or large trail projects Major Expenses were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtaining public liability insurance as was required for the submission of the arena tender to SANParks The current value of funds in the TDRA is just over R24 000 which is an increase on the previous year primarily due to the closure of Upper Tokai and the retention of the funds for the re-opening thereof. Due to time constraints, Emma indicated that the full financial report would be available on the TDRA website: http://www.tdra.co.za/	

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Presentation by Gavin Bell of SANParks

KdP introduced Gavin Bell (GB) who is an Area Manager for SANParks.

Gavin provided an update on the various post fire interventions and rehabilitative procedures that have been undertaken in Upper Tokai. Examples of these measures include the following:

- Clearing of drains and construction of water bars and berms
- Gathering and distributing of Protea seeds
- Slope stabilisation

GB indicated that there are only 9 compartments of pines and gums still to be harvested and this is scheduled to finish in about April/May 2016 although there have been unforeseen delays. Many of the single paths have been completely destroyed during this process and the jeep tracks are severely damaged.

GB confirmed that SANParks is currently undergoing a track rationalisation process which will be circulated to stake holders for comment but will not be open for public comment.

The timeline for this process is as follows:

- Rationalisation process complete in July 2016
- Design work from August – September 2016
- Trail building work from September – December 2016
- Re-opening of Upper Tokai December 2016

There is a possibility of limited access being made available as early as June 2016 once the logging is complete.

GB also confirmed that there will be a new trail along Upper Tokai Road and SANParks has the edging and chips sourced. He confirmed that the trail has been marked out by the TDRA already.

GB also indicated that another new trail through the picnic site is being explored. It was asked whether this could run along the fence line as there is already a cleared area adjacent to the picnic site fence that is used as a firebreak and to prevent baboons climbing over the fence but GB said that there were concerns about the flora and fauna in that area.

GB also confirmed that SANParks intends to install gates at the stone Church and close to the zebra crossing at the end of track one in Middle Tokai for which the horse riders will have remotes.

GB advised the TDRA members that SANParks has rejected the arena bid and will be putting this out to tender again. He also said that there had been a letter advising the TDRA of the failed tender, however the TDRA committee confirmed that they have not received any letter. He would not confirm why the bid was rejected and said that he would send the TDRA the original letter.

During the question and answer session it was asked whether an open day could be arranged for interested parties to view Upper Tokai. GB indicated that this may be possible once the tree felling is complete as it is not safe to be in the area until that process is complete.

A TDRA member asked why SANParks hadn't heeded any of the advice of Professor Moll who had put together a substantial report on the need for shade in the Park and which had the support of most of the community, but instead chose to follow the directives of consultants like Dr Rebello which was proving to be a very contentious issue among a growing number of Park users. GB commented that SANParks gets advice from a variety of consultants and didn't only follow Dr Rebello's advice and that in addition the Park was a nature conservation area which meant that vulnerable plants such as those found in the Cape Flats acid sandveld region, which constituted a major part of the Park in the Tokai

	<p>area needed preserving as it was a unique area that was threatened</p> <p>GB reminded members of the SANParks contact details for the reporting of an emergency or incident: 086 110 6417.</p>	
6	<p>Address by Dion de Villiers</p> <p>Dion de Villiers (DdV) addressed members regarding mountain biking in the park. There is a proposal to allow mountain bikers early access to Upper Tokai via one of the paths that has historically been for horse riders and hikers only (currently called "Central Track" on the TDRA maps). The proposal is to use this temporarily until the rationalisation process has been completed and Upper Tokai has been fully reopened.</p>	
7	<p>Committee Members</p> <p>Prior to the meeting nomination forms had been made available. KdP confirmed that the existing committee consisting of Grant Chapman, Karena du Plessis, Julie Myrtle, Carol Poole, Emma Tiffin, Michelle Matthews, Marianne Berry and Jess Fogarty is available for the 2016/17 year. A call for further nominations yielded none, and the above members were approved by the TDRA members. Ryan Thwaites volunteered to assist the Committee as needed</p> <p>Confirmation of positions is as follows: Karena du Plessis – Chairperson Grant Chapman – Vice Chairperson Emma Tiffin – Treasurer Michelle Matthews - Secretary</p>	
7	<p>Introduction by Gavin McDermid and Robert Bateman from OTS</p> <p>Gavin and Robert introduced their services which have been available in Noordhoek but will now be offered from Chrysalis Academy in Tokai as well. They are personal trainers who take the rider out of the saddle to assess their strength and alignment as these may have an impact on the horse. They then assist with exercises to improve on these with an average increase in fitness of 400% over the six week programme. More information on their service is available at: https://www.facebook.com/OutTheSaddle</p>	
8	<p>Riders Mate</p> <p>Michelle Matthews provided members with information on Riders Mate which is a product developed primarily for horse riders, cyclists and motor bike riders. The system is designed to alert emergency contact numbers of a fall and to provide the location of the incident so that help can find the rider. It can also then be used to locate the horse should it have left the rider after a fall.</p> <p>More information on Riders Mate is available on: https://www.ridersmate.com/</p>	
9	<p>Prizes</p> <p>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"> • Vouchers for a programme with Out The Saddle • Equestrian Affair hamper • Wine • African Extracts Rooibos Hamper • Royal Feed T-shirt • Kuda numnah, bag and cap <p>The TDRA Committee would like to thank the sponsors for their generous donations.</p>	

The meeting ended at approx 21:00.

Certified a true record of the proceedings

Chairperson

Date