

# FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



A New Season with New Challenges

OCT/2017 ISSUE

FROM THE CEO

## THE JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

Article by Lyndon Barends, CEO of NHA

### CONSISTENCY

Most people would like or even call for and deserve some sort of consistency. Let me hasten to add that in some cases, it is very difficult to attain.

In the workplace consistency is of paramount importance with regards to policies, procedures, benefits, etc. It would be very taxing to the employee to constantly adapt to new policies and procedures at the drop of a hat.

The value of consistency in a broader sense cannot be overstressed, as it ensures customer expectations are met, especially around the quality of the expected deliverables.

Consistency is key to developing a strong brand. You know what to expect when you buy or engage with certain brands. There should be consistency in how a brand is known and the brand voice should be consistent across different channels and timespans. The format and the presentation of the brand etc., should be aligned and therefore easily identifiable.

We, at the NHA, often find ourselves at the heart of decisions which are deemed to be inconsistent. This is where we need to examine our system that allows discretion. The clarion calls for consistency, yet discretion on the other hand, are often at odds or at loggerheads with each other.

Everyone has an opinion, a different angle or different influencing factors. So, if we allow

discretion, and even ask for it, why are we so surprised that we have inconsistent or varying outcomes?

In some instances we must expect different outcomes in different conditions, different circumstances with different people.

Yes, we do have guidelines, but they remain guidelines if we also allow discretion.

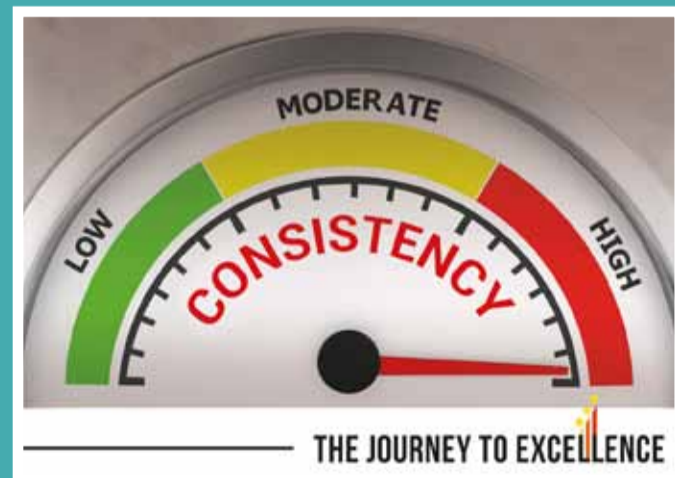
Training and development therefore plays a critical role in ensuring consistent standards across different regions or groups.

However, consistency and rigidity should never be confused. They are not twins or even brothers. They might be distant cousins, I think.

Rigidity is where interventions are the same regardless of the circumstances. Such inflexibility will indeed exert dominance, but it places an unhealthy strain on relationships.

The purpose of Rules should not be to remind everyone who is in charge. Rather, Rules are helpful to guide behaviour. The wise administrator will always check the situation and then decide what is the best response accordingly.

Consistency must be our mantra, especially in specific departments. Consistency can mean that we adapt our interventions to fit the circumstances – we should do that consistently enough to be deemed consistent. However, we should never compromise our foundation rules and regulations.



Although the responsibilities of the Judges have remained the same, the last 20 years have seen many changes in procedures and equipment in the Judges Boxes at all South African Racecourses.

There are 2 racecourses in the Western Cape. The unique course configuration at Kenilworth means that there are 3 tracks.

The back-up video cameras are below the photo-finish cameras. The Judges use this equipment to record the finish of each race and the film can be utilised in the event of a photo-finish system failure.

At Durbanville and Kenilworth, the Judges operate the Omega Timing Scan-O-Vision photo-finish equipment themselves and, in addition to declaring the result of a race, they calculate the winning distance and the distances behind the winner for the rest of the field.

The Judges then capture this information onto the SAHorseracing database and, thus, create every runners' formline for future publications and for each

horse's racing career history.

Modern technology provides an enlargeable image instantly but, in the case of a very close finish involving multiple horses, "Photo" is still sometimes declared whilst the Judges set to work identifying each horse's nose and their respective finishing positions.

Whatever different challenges the 2 courses throw up, the Judges still perform the same function and, whether it's a mid-winter, mid-week meeting at Durbanville or SunMet day, the entire card is learned by the owners' colours and the Judges strive to work quickly and accurately to declare a result for the Weighing Room, the Stipendiary Board, the Commentator, the Raceday Manager, the Tote and last, but certainly not least, for racing fans on the course and watching at home – wherever in our rapidly expanding racing world that may be!

*Photos and article courtesy of Cape Town Judges - Rachel Stott and Sarah Raine*

## DURBANVILLE FINISH



## THE HISTORY & ORIGIN OF RACING "SILKS"

Not often these days do we hear the word "silks" used in relation to racing – it seems more to do with fashion and glamour. However "silks" is the traditional and correct name for the "colour set" used by the jockeys. But does anyone know the story behind the jockey silks?

Dating back to when horse-racing started to become a popular sport and more horses started participating, it became necessary to identify horses to allow commentators and race-goers to follow their favourite horse in a race and these unique jockey outfits were made from silk, hence the name "silks". Nowadays – these "silks" are made from performance based fabrics.

The origin of the modern jockey silks comes from England. Although horse-racing meets are recorded as far back as 1114, individual silk colors are first mentioned in 1515 when Henry VIII occupied the throne. The "costume" itself was established in the latter part of the 17th and early 18th centuries during the reign of Charles II and Queen Anne. In the early days of racing, runners were few and matches were very popular.

The matches which often consisted of only one race a day of two, three or four-mile heats. Therefore, the need for distinguishing in colours was not a serious problem. Close finishes were rare, and it did not seem to matter much if the Jockey's jackets were of similar colour.

During the 1700's, as the owners list increased, confusion resulted from the duplicity of entries which made it necessary to vary colour and design for positive identification of the horses. Both judges and spectators began to complain of the confusion caused when sportsmen frequently changed the livery of their jockeys.

At Newmarket in 1762, the English Jockey Club requested that the owners submit specific colors for jacket and cap which required owners to register their colours and to use them consistently in an attempt to distinguish riders and avoid disputes. This was then officially adopted on the 4th October 1762 where it was recorded in The Jockey Club minutes :-

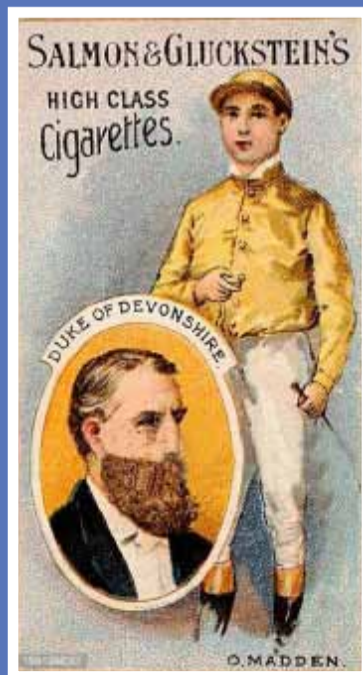
*"For the greater convenience of distinguishing the horses in running, and also for the prevention of disputes arising from not knowing the colors of each rider, the under-mentioned gentleman have come to the resolution and agreement of having the colors annexed to their names, worn by their respective riders."*

*Nineteen owners were listed: seven Dukes, one*

*Marquis, four Earls, one Viscount, one Lord, two Baronets, and three commoners.*

- The Duke of Cumberland chose: "purple"*
- The Duke of Grafton chose: "sky blue"*
- The Duke of Devonshire chose: "straw"*
- The Duke of Northumberland chose: "yellow"*
- The Duke of Kingston chose "crimson"*
- The Duke of Ancaster chose: "buff"*
- The Duke of Bridgewater chose: "garter blue"*
- The Earl of Waldegrave chose: "deep red"*
- The Earl of Oxford chose: "purple and white"*
- The Earl of March chose: "white"*
- The Earl of Gower chose: "blue"*
- Viscount Bolingbroke chose: "black"*
- Lord Grosvenor chose: "orange"*
- Sir John Moore chose: "darkest green"*
- Sir James Lowther chose: "orange"*
- Mr. R. Vernon chose: "white"*
- The Hon. Mr. Greville chose "brown trimmed with yellow"*
- Mr. Jenison Shafto chose: "pink"*
- Sir J Lowther proved indecisive and failed to make his mind up in time...*

From the Duke of Cumberland's purple to Mr Jenison Shafto's pink, the first silk colours were all solid shades and topped with the black velvet cap. The "Straw" registered by the Duke of Devonshire is still used by the family's racing stable and must be considered the oldest racing colors in existence. The oldest American racing colours in continuous use today are the "Scarlet" racing silks of Mrs John A. Morris, believed to be used first at the Metairie Track in New Orleans during the 1850's. The Morris all-scarlet racing silks, introduced in 1840, are the oldest used continuously by one family.



*Article and picture by Julie Wilson, NHA KZN*

## STUD BOOK NEWS

Firstly I would like to introduce myself. I, Judy Davies, have recently been appointed the Stud Book Keeper on a 6 month contract.

I am operating on an open door policy and you are welcome to contact me by phone on 011 683 9283, by email on judy@nhra.co.za or drop in to the NHA Head Office.

Please note that Samantha Dames and I are planning to be present at the CTS ReadyTo Run Sale in Durbanville on 16 and 17 November 2017. You will find us at the NHA stand.

The Stud Book is in the process of sending out the Covering Certificate Books for each active stallion. Ideally, studs should be submitting their monthly covering reports as the Stud Book can then calculate how many covering certificates will be required for each stallion. If your monthly covering reports have not been submitted, please advise us of the number of covering certificates required as soon as possible. If any stud farms have not received their copies of the Covering Certificate Books within the next two weeks, please contact us.

Please beware that a **31st January 2018 deadline** will apply for the submission of the counterfoils from the covering certificate books.



*Article by: Judy Davies*

# SAJA APPRENTICES TO RIDE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

South African Jockey Academy Apprentice Jockeys, Calvin Habib and Liam Tarentaal, have both been invited to work and race ride in the Middle East. Calvin Habib will be riding for the Al Afoo Racing Stable under Trainer Hussain Al Daylani in Bahrain, while Liam Tarentaal will be riding in Dubai for trainer Ali Rayhi.

Both Calvin and Liam are very excited and grateful for the opportunity to ride internationally!

SAJA Principal Graham Bailey said "I'm very proud of Calvin and Liam and wish them the best for their time riding in the Middle East.

The fact that our apprentices and jockeys are in demand around the world is further proof that the Academy and the South African Horseracing Industry are able to produce jockeys that are internationally recognised for their skill and ability!"



*Pictured left: Liam Tarentaal, and pictured right: Calvin Habib, Apprentice Jockeys, who will be going to ride and work in the Middle East.*

*Article by: Leonard Strong, Marketing Manager at the South African Jockey Academy*



## BIRTHDAYS

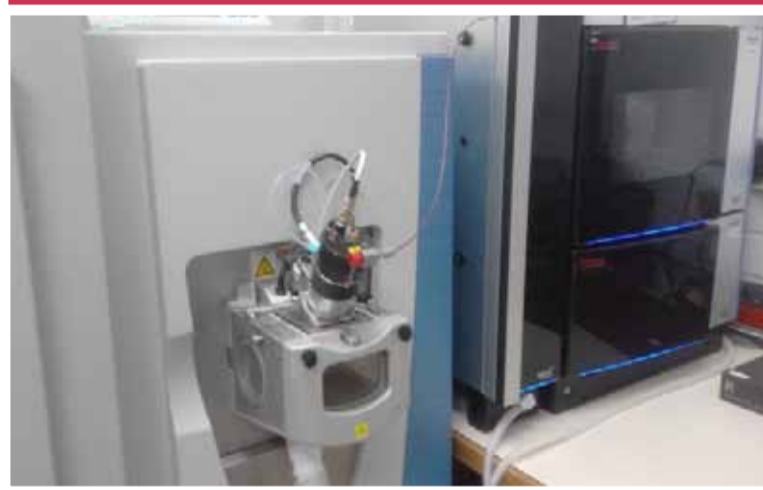
May the coming year of your life bring you loads of happiness, wonderful memories to cherish and success in all your endeavors for the year ahead.

The National Horseracing Authority would like to wish all our Stakeholders born in November a Happy Birthday.

We hope you have a great day!



## NEWS FROM THE NHA LAB



### MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD AT THE LABORATORY

The Association of Official Racing Chemists is the international body for racing laboratories. They organised proficiency tests to monitor the performance of laboratories to be compliant to the required standards. Such tests involve the analysis of "blind" urine and plasma samples for prohibited substances.

In these samples the substances are present at the low concentrations prescribed by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities.

This year the Laboratory fire to some extent coincided with the timing of this test. In the absence of full capacity at the Laboratory at that time, it was decided to submit the results which were obtained prior to the fire.

The Laboratory was recently notified that it obtained 100% in this 2017 Proficiency Test Program. While such testing is a "positive finding" proficiency test, the Laboratory also participates in a "negative finding" proficiency test. With this test a proportion of our specimens which we declared negative are sent to other

laboratories.

These laboratories then have to investigate that these specimens are in fact negative. While the "positive finding" test ensures we can detect and identify substances at the required sensitivity, this "negative finding" test ensures that we do not miss any substances which we should be detecting and prosecuting.

Such tests are not just important to continually confirm our screening analysis and substance identification capabilities against the international requirements, these also provides confirmation to racing jurisdictions within the rest of the world that we maintain the high standards which we have kept in place for many years.

This proof of our international compliance serves to greatly benefit confidence in our racing. This is critical for the growth of our racing within overseas betting turnover.



*Article and photos provided by: Dr Schalk De Kock*

## FUN FACT

1941 read 'Horse the Germans Could Not Kill'.



100 Years Later...

In September 2014, 100 years after Warrior went to war on the Western Front, he was awarded the PDSA Dickin medal, recognised at the animals Victoria Cross and honouring all the animals that served in the Great War.



Credit: www.warriorhorse.com

## MICROCHIPPING OF THOROUGHBRED RACE HORSES



The National Horseracing Authority (NHA) in partnership with the Equine research Centre (ERC) and Veterinary Genetics Laboratory of the University of Pretoria (UP) has been evolving the Identification of thoroughbred racehorses in southern Africa for registration. The first thoroughbred foals were microchipped in 1999 by the Equine Research Centre which is lead by Professor Alan Guthrie.

The Thoroughbred foal identification team consists of four members, two technicians and two veterinary surgeons. This team will travel around our beautiful country to every known farm that has a foal to be identified for registration.

Microchipping is one of the compulsory components in the registration of thoroughbred foals in South Africa. It is used in conjunction with the official markings to provide a very effective means of identification. DNA samples are also collected as part of the identification process.

Microchips have improved the efficiency and reliability of the identification process and are also helpful in establishing identity of thoroughbreds on

stud farms, international or domestic travel, and in the event a horse is lost or stolen.

Even though the microchip implant is only as big as a grain of rice, the procedure is invasive yet safe and fast. This procedure can only be performed by a registered veterinary surgeon in South Africa. It is also very important to apply aseptic techniques to avoid any possible complications from this procedure.

The microchipping procedure is done as follows:

1. A small patch on the top line, in the middle third of the neck, is shaved.
2. The shaved area is then scrubbed.

3. The microchip is then removed from its packaging, ensuring that the needle is kept sterile.
4. The microchip is then inserted into the Nuchal ligament by way of the plunger being pressed to deposit the microchip. This can be done on the left or right side of the foal.
5. Topical antibacterial ointment is then applied on the small incision.
6. Fly repellent is applied around the incision.
7. Scan the microchip with a microchip reader to ensure that it has been deposited and not in the needle or worse case scenario on the stable floor.

Articles by Dr Roehann Sutherland, Veterinary Surgeon KZN

## SHUMBASHABA GETS INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE

Shumbashaba continues to attract interest from the media; not just local but also international media.

1. **Netherlands national television broadcaster, NOS TV:** filmed on the 23rd June 2017 this footage of our Shumbashaba vaulters was aired on a children's program on the 2nd August 2017.
2. **German television:** for those who do not know that the Jane Goodall Institutes Roots & Shoots program is hosted every Saturday at Shumbashaba, this footage that appeared on German TV on the 2nd October 2017 shows the wonderful work they do with the 200 or so children that attend our Saturday Development Program.

### Links:

- <https://jeugdjournaal.nl/artikel/2186146-arme-jongeren-turnen-op-paarden.html?ext=html>
- <http://m.dw.com/en/a-greener-future-for-diepsloots-slum-kids/av-40826244?maca=en-Facebook-sharing>



Above: Justice (far right) and Siphamandla (third from right) with their families and vaulting coaches, Nicole de Villiers and Bongani Mvumvu of the International Vaulting & Lunging Association.

Below: Justice and Siphamandla pictured with the team on the night of their selection to represent S.A. at the World Junior Vaulting Championships held in Austria in August.

Article by:  
Jacky from Shumbashaba