

MOUNTED ARCHERY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

INTRODUCTION

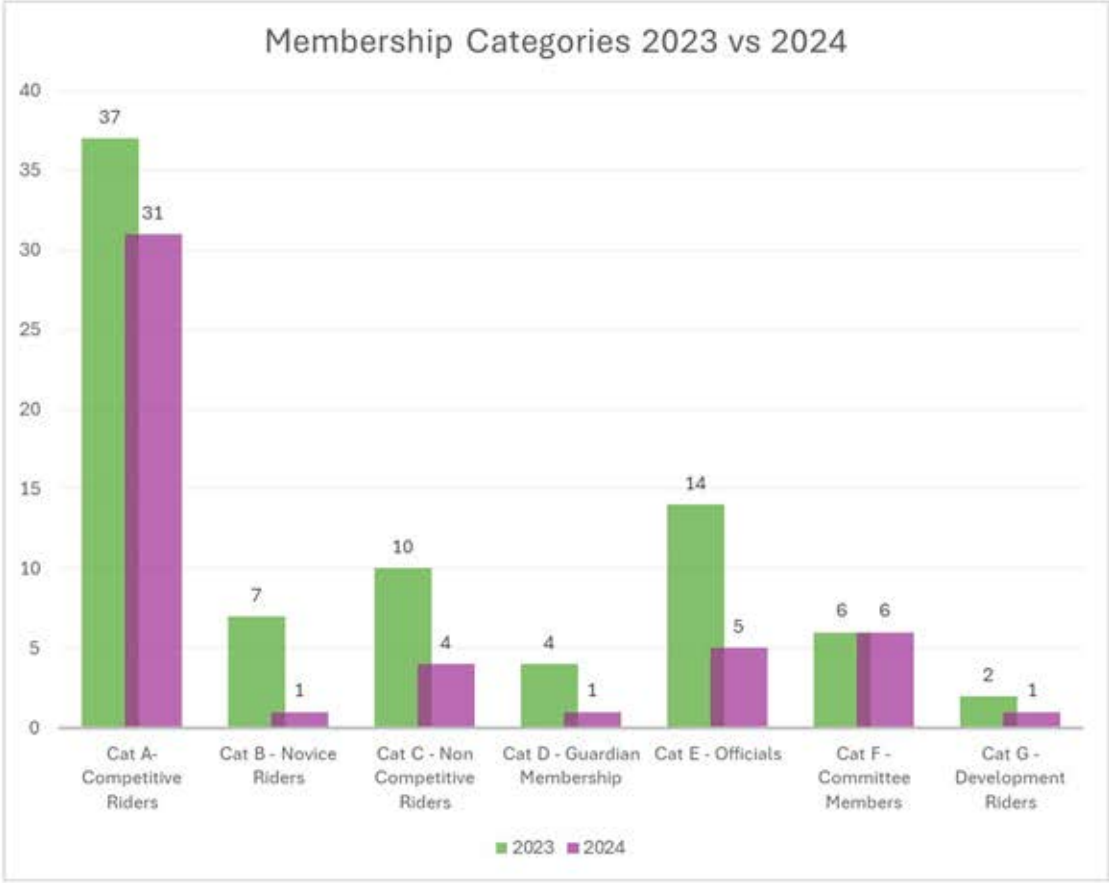
It is often said that there is no sense in looking back, but I believe that there is always a lesson or two (often more!) to be learned by doing so and implementing corrective action for the future.

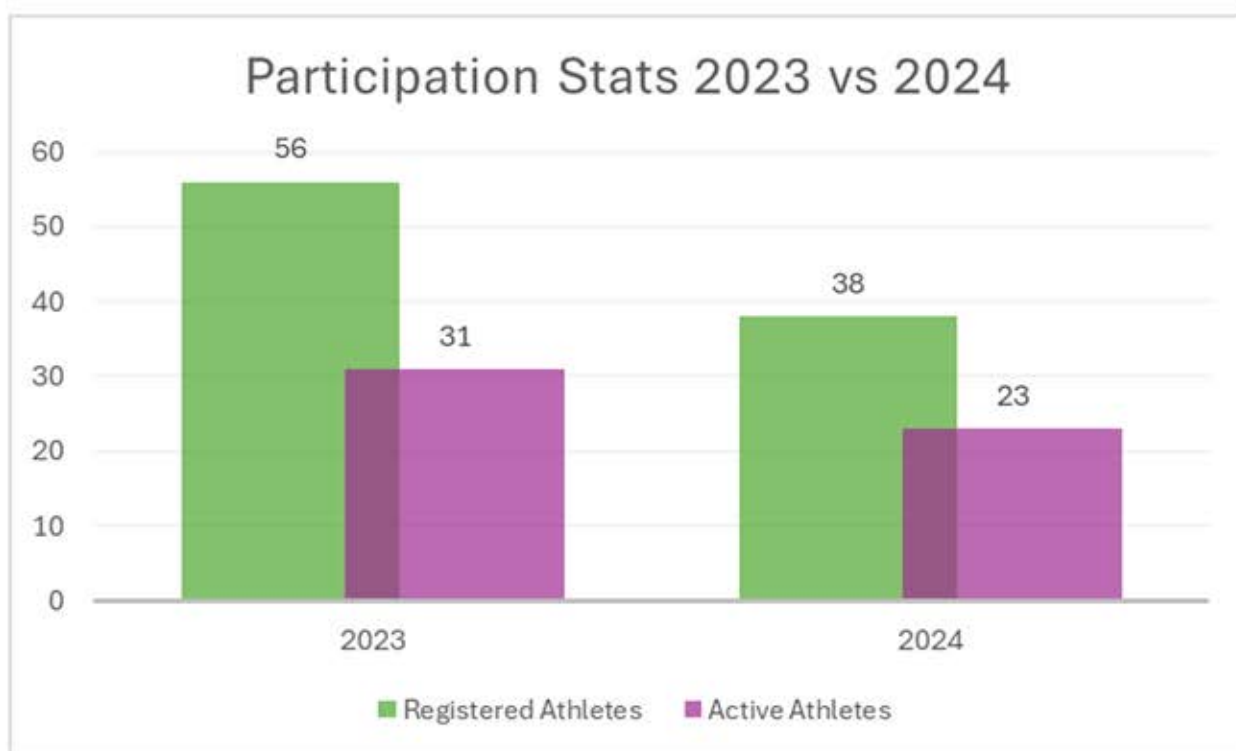
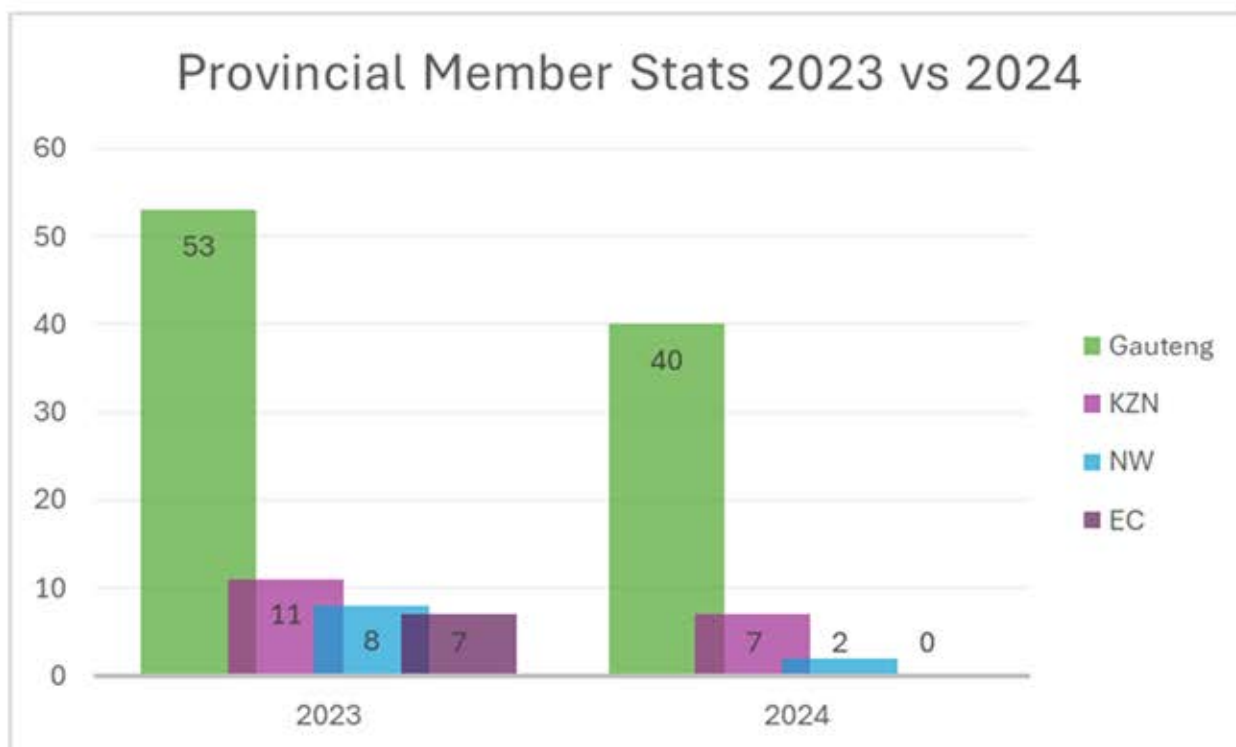
2024 was a challenging year for MAASA, with dwindling membership numbers, lack of volunteers and officials, and legal issues.

Despite this, MAASA still succeeded in providing our dedicated athletes with opportunities to officially compete, and feature on the IHAA world ranking system.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

The following statistics give an overall view of membership figures in 2024, compared with 2023:





In 2023, we had members across three provinces, namely Gauteng, KZN and Eastern Cape. However, the Eastern Cape members were not athletes and did not renew their memberships for 2024. In both Gauteng and KZN, membership numbers in 2024 have fallen. It is also worth noting that there are members who register as athletes, but do not compete. Only 60% of registered athletes actually participated in competitions in 2024.



LOCAL EVENTS / COMPETITIONS

The majority of events and competitions in 2024 took place in Gauteng, while KZN and NW were not able to hold official competitions due to lack of athletes in those provinces.

Gauteng hosted 6 qualifiers in 2024, as well as MAASA Nationals, during which the following SA records were achieved:

- Jacques Horn – New SA Senior Record in Raid 234 (109.01)
- Jacques Horn – New SA Senior Record in Tower110 (134.21)
- Talitha Schoeman – New SA Junior Record in Tower110 (51.03)
- Telika Kruger – New SA Junior Record in Raid 234 (81.86)

Barebow Mounted Archers presented an Autumn Tabla Tourney in April and did a mounted archery demonstration at the Lavender Kontrei Mark in July. They also gave demonstrations at the Kragdag festival in August.

Phoenix Horseback Archers presented their Winter Weekend competition in July, with a 2 Star IHAA Record & Ranking hunt track, a trot Hunt track for the novices and a fun moonlight shoot. They also supported the Wetnose Equine Rescue centre in April where they performed demonstrations of mounted archery, as well as showcasing the sport at the well-attended annual Medieval Fayre in June.



INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION



IHAA monthly postal matches were well supported by MAASA athletes on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

MAASA Senior Deirdré Janse van Rensburg and her student Telika Kruger (MAASA Junior) traveled to France in August of 2024 to compete in the annual Gauchoux competition. Deirdré competed in the 4 Star open competition consisting of Tower110, Asian Nomad Mix and the Hunt track, where she placed 20th overall.

Telika competed in the European Open Kids Championship, in the 12 years and under age category. She rode the Raid 233, Tower60 and Hunt tracks, and achieved an impressive 5th place overall in her age category. This was Telika's first international competition, and an exceptional accomplishment.



CHALLENGES

Our ongoing struggle to grow numbers in terms of competitors and qualified judges and officials continued in 2024. Economic restraints prevented smaller provinces from holding official competitions, and most activity took place in Gauteng.

Suitable horses for this sport are few and far between, and restrictions on the number of starts per horse per day in official IHAA Record and Ranking accredited competitions contributes to this challenge.

The cost of equipment is also prohibitive to many newcomers to the sport.

MAASA was unfortunately embroiled in a legal challenge brought about by one of the Gauteng clubs, which is currently under suspension for failing to follow due process and contravening the MAASA and SAEF constitution. Apart from the time and resources that have been spent on this case, this has also resulted in fewer volunteers coming forward to assist with serving on committees and/or being willing to serve as officials. SAEF has been supportive in this matter and covered the majority of legal costs to date, and we are hopeful that the matter will be resolved soon.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Barebow Mounted Archery presented a Basics and Advanced Hunt track training clinic September, and Phoenix Horseback Archers presented an introductory mounted archery training clinic at Welgegund Livery in Hartebeespoort, North West - we are encouraged by the enthusiasm of the North West clinic participants, and look forward to them officially affiliating to MAASA in the near future.



SANESA PARTICIPATION

Our SANESA riders continue to make a valuable contribution to the sport, and thanks to their dedication, we were able to hold SANESA Nationals this year with no fewer than 17 riders from Gauteng, and 5 riders from the Eastern Cape.

This year saw the introduction of the Tabla 4 class (for Levels 4 and 7 riders), and the Mini Tabla (for novice riders – Level 1).

There are currently 5 Gauteng riders who grade with MAASA through SANESA, and we are confident that this number will increase in 2025.



MAASA NATIONAL COUNCIL

The current members of the MAASA National council are serving their final term in office, and therefore the next MAASA AGM on the 30th January 2025 will be an elective AGM. Nominations for positions on the MAASA National Council closed on 26th December 2024.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each current member of the MAASA National council for their dedication, hard work and support. No sport can be successfully run without volunteers serving in management positions, and frequently these volunteers hold down full time jobs in addition to their responsibilities on the council.

We sadly say goodbye to Callie Kruger, who is unable to make himself available for a further term, and wish him well - hopefully he will now have more time to compete!

Gauteng and Kwazulu Natal held their provincial elective AGM's in December, and we therefore welcome Stephan Wium (Gauteng) and Janine Crago (Kwazulu Natal) to the MAASA National Council as provincial presidents.

With the provincial elections resulting in dynamic and capable teams of people managing the sport on a provincial level, I look forward to focusing my time and energy more at national level in 2025.

Only one person per position was nominated during the elective process, and therefore the elections on national level were uncontested. The new MAASA National Council positions will be officially confirmed at the upcoming AGM:

MAASA President: Diane Horn
MAASA Vice President: Theuns Kruger
MAASA Treasurer: Petro Wium
MAASA Secretary: Andrie McArthur
MAASA Athletes Rep: Maretha Kruger

Gauteng: Stephan Wium
Kwazulu Natal: Janine Crago
North West (Representative): Vicky van Zyl (non voting position)



WHAT'S NEXT?

With the provinces now in good hands, the MAASA Council and I will be focusing on two projects in 2025:

JUDGES / OFFICIALS TRAINING:

Our repeated and desperate calls for volunteers to become qualified judges and officials has not met with much success. Currently our training material is geared towards self-study; in 2025 we will be looking at presenting instructor-led, hands-on training courses and workshops in all the provinces

GROOMS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

SAEF has applied for, and been granted, National Lotto funds to distribute amongst the various Discipline Associations. MAASA will be receiving funds for our requested Grooms Development Project, which will involve identifying and developing promising grooms who would like to participate in the sport. More information will be communicated once the first payment of the funds has been received from SAEF, which is when the project will commence.

IN CONCLUSION...

Despite the challenges we faced in 2024, I am confident that MAASA will continue to grow in strength and numbers, as we look towards building on the current passion and dedication of our members and volunteers, and making the sport more accessible to a wider audience.

May 2025 be good to you and yours (and our sport)!

Kind regards
Diane Horn
MAASA President

