

CHALLENGE DAY FUND RAISER

By Karen McGowan

Photos by Veronkia Urschwitz

On the 3rd of March 2009 a challenge was taken up by Karen McGowan on Jazz to race Sasha Cooke, father of 2 Mbala pony clubbers and husband to Katherine who used to compete in USA at point to points, on a fun day out at the farm in January. Sasha is a very fit and talented man, having been a professional squash player, piano player, sports and secondary teacher, he is always up for a challenge. So the date was set for 3rd March for the "great race".

A crowd gathered to enjoy a fun day out at the farm and offer their support to "Vaulting for Malawi". There were 2ndhand books and jods for sale, T shirts, horse treats, refreshments and latterly burgers.



Supporters from Zomba gather.



Vaulting Drums donated by MFC & Illovo Malawi.

Vaulting drums were available for any one who wanted to have a go and three of Malawi's vaulting team gave a demonstration of their freestyle routines.



May the best legs win!



Off goes Sasha

Sasha was given a 4 and a half minute start over a 6 km course covering all manner of terrain. Up hill and down dale, stoney, muddy, sandy and boggy - a challenging course for both man and horse!



Supporters waiting to cheer - here comes Sasha with Jazz catching up fast.

One might think the horse would win of course, but there are places where he cannot go fast, where it is slippery or stoney. This was also his first time to do anything like this. However, the final spurt was much easier for Jazz than for Sasha and Jazz just beat him by 17 seconds in a spectacular close finish. Sasha ran the 6kms in 24 minutes which is amazing over such terrain, and Jazz in 19minutes.



Can I change my bet? I want to bet on Jazz not my Dad.



Congratulations to Dee who won the bet. All cyclist prepare to do the course for fun.



A refreshing swim to end a fun filled day and many thanks go to all the supporters.

After the race everyone gathered to watch a short vaulting display by 3 of the Malawi Vaulting team on the drums and to enjoy burgers and good company in a beautiful setting on the farm. We raised MK20,500 for "Vaulting for Malawi" towards entering a team for the Inter Africa Cup in August this year. We would like to thank Sasha Cooke for being such a great sport, Jazz for being such a special horse and all the parents and kids who came to enjoy a day the out on the farm.

If you have a challenge for us or want to do any fund raising for us, we would greatly appreciate your support. You can have a great day out, be on our website and help enable the vaulting kids to take a team to Swaziland this year to compete against several other countries from Sub Saharan Africa.

Look out for our next challenge. The Mbala Pony Club and Vaulting kids from the farm are challenging the Sir Harry Johnston International Primary School children to a football match.

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