

## LVHS- Half Year Report 2006

The last six months at LVHS has seen many changes, and not a dull moment in sight! Our young shire crosses have kept us busy as we have started introducing them to "proper rides", with much success and some funny moments. Gallahad who got such a fright seeing his first eland that he burst through the other horses like he was in bowling alley, Shaka who was so amazed at his first giraffe that he dropped his mouthful mid-chew to gaze in fascination at these creatures bigger than me??



"Gallahad"

We have also acquired two new horses, Sahara and Rocky. Both of whom initially gave us a fright, Sahara almost died of the terrible African Horse Sickness Virus and Rocky sold as a children's pony and utterly bomb proof; promptly bucked us off on his first day! They have since gone on to prove what great horses they are and Rocky in particular hasn't put a hoof wrong since his first day! Dube the little Grey has found a lovely home near Tzaneen in South Africa to retire with a very caring new owner, so we are sad to see him go but happy that he is being so well looked after! Thanks Gael and Anna! Unfortunately we have lost a very promising young horse called Lobengula to African Horse Sickness and just last week we had to put down Bobby as he broke his leg in the field playing with the other horses.

The rides have been great so far this year as all the game is fat from the plentiful rain earlier in January, February. Some of the high-lights included a canter with almost 100 zebras near Solomans wall. We continue to see good leopard sightings, almost one a week and increasingly so as winter makes for less hiding spaces in the surroundings! Elephants continue to be a huge attraction and we are seeing a lot of them from our new hide at Fort Jamesons, lots of young ones too this season!

Our new Tuli route has also proved a huge success now covering over a 100 miles during the 7 days. In general the riding is better with more canters and ever-changing scenery, as we now ride into camp we are able to splash in the Limpopo or do some of the x-country jumps on the final morning ride on the way home. What a great end to a brilliant safari!

Kobus and Saskia have sadly left Botswana. They are working in the bush at Horizons Dinaka, so we will be coordinating the Big 5 ride between us. Although we miss them here we are sure they are going to be hugely successful in South Africa and we hope to see them regularly. Congratulations on their wedding! Thabo is also on his way back to University where he is going to continue his studies of music and the arts, we wish him well.

Also a big well done to West; he is now guiding and doing an excellent job. And look out for our new back up riders, Festus, David and Mpho!

Thanks for all the support from our many guests, and we hope you come and join us again, maybe for the new Tuli route?