



Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc.

Minutes of the Committee of Management Meeting

Date: Commencing at 10.00 am ADST on Sunday 11 February 2024

Venue: [Webinar - this meeting is recorded.](#)

1. Meeting opening

Meeting opened at 9.04 with a quorum present. Mark Dunn, President, welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking for their time given and encouraging all to have an efficient meeting with purposeful contribution.

2. Attendance

2.1. Management Committee Members Present

Mark Dunn (President & Treasurer) (TEERA), Wayne Hegarty (NSWERA), Dick Collyer (Vice President, QERA), Kim Moir (Secretary) (QERA), Jil Bourton (SAERA), Sioux Reid (VERA), Natasha Ellery (WAERA).

2.2. Apologies

MC Members - Clare Fleming (NSWERA); DA Delegates - Cheryl Bullock (SAERA); Reports - Caiwen Cusworth, EA.

2.3. Proxy Votes

Sarah Pollard Williams attending with proxy vote held for Clare Fleming.

2.4. Visitors

AERA Delegates - Belinda Hopley, Gertraud Norton, Noni Seagrim (NSWERA); Allison Brown (QERA); Andrew Miles, (TEERA).
Honorary Members – Pat Hodgetts

Natasha Ellery noted that Richard Summerfield would be the new WAERA Delegate to AERA.

Linda Tanian, DBSC, attended the meeting at 1.30 pm to speak to the report from the DBSC.

3. Portfolio Allocations

No changes

Mark noted that he would not be nominating for return at the 2024 AGM and asked everyone to consider which portfolios they might take on.

Action

Secretary to contact all AERA Sub-committee members to confirm their willingness to continue.

4. Register of Pecuniary Interest

Committee Member	Point of Conflict	Reason
Mark Dunn	TQ25	TEERA Committee Member

5. Previous meeting minutes

5.1. Amendments to the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2023.

Agenda item 14.12 Governance and Policy - motion amended to include the highlighted words for clarity

Motion: 2023/11/10 Moved: Mark Dunn / Sioux Reid

That the amended By-law MC Office Bearers and Sub-committees be ratified.

Motion: 2024/02/01 Moved: Dick Collyer / Jil Bourton

That the minutes of the AERA Management Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2023, as amended, be accepted.

Carried unanimously.

5.2. Amendments to the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting, Subsidiary Agenda, held on 12 November 2023

Nil amendments received.

Motion: 2024/02/02 Moved: Dick Collyer / Kim Moir

That the minutes of the AERA Management Committee Meeting, Subsidiary Agenda, held on 12 November 2023 be accepted.

Carried unanimously

6. Business arising from the minutes – refer Action Sheet

6.1. TQ24 – call for DA representative Vets and Chief Stewards to be sent to DAs for response by 30 April 2024. Request also for DA articles for the TQ book to be given by 10 August.

6.2. TPR documents have been updated to align with rule changes implemented from 1 January 2024.

7. Online motions

7.1. Financial decisions

Payments from 28 November 2023					
No	Payee		Date	Amount	Description - comments
1	Horse Deals	Jan24-593	28/11/2023	517.00	Advertisement - promotion
2	Fusion / ATO		28/11/2023	8,227.00	Activity Statement to 30 Sept 2023
3	Fusion Financial	21604	28/11/2023	165.00	Activity Statement preparation
4	Kim Moir	Payment	30/11/2023	681.00	Secretariat honorarium - November
5	Cracker Print	M0530	30/11/2023	550.00	Logbook stickers
6	Peter Johnson	939	30/11/2023	2,821.50	Database updates / fixes
7	Deb Edwards	195	30/11/2023	880.00	Bookkeeper hours
8	Jo Bailey	Payment	12/12/2023	3,300.00	Distance Registrar - payment
9	Peter Johnson	931	14/12/2023	668.68	3 mths Server + 3 mths MS Azure
10	Greg Garred	Payment	18/12/2023	1,053.20	Package and mail out of AERA items
11	Chris Nichols	Payment	31/12/2023	108.00	Webmaster honorarium
12	Peter Johnson	945	31/12/2023	5,407.88	Database updates and fixes
13	Peter Johnson	943	21/12/2023	1,033.58	ETS Boards
14	Deb Edwards	196	31/12/2023	440.00	Bookkeeper hours
15	Kim Moir	Payment	31/12/2023	681.00	Secretariat honorarium - December
16	Australia Post	1012941143	3/01/2024	30.95	Postage
17	SUREWISE	7058338	18/12/2023	5,239.63	Associations Liability

18	SUREWiSE	7058236	18/12/2023	4,585.40	Business Pack
19	SUREWiSE	7059397	18/12/2023	5,158.68	PA Volunteers
20	Kim Moir	Reimbursement	11/01/2024	199.00	Australian Registry Inv 612476
				22,884.12	

7.2. Other on-line motions and discussions

7.2.1. Ordering of multiple ETS boards

Consent sought from Linda Tanian DBSC to order multiple parts:

We have to order a replacement ETS board for TEERA. The pricing for the unprogrammed boards works out as follows because of the one-off setup costs and freight:

- 1 board = \$US435 = \$AUD653 each
- 2 boards = \$US488 = \$AUD366 each
- 3 boards = \$US548 = \$AUD264 each

Peter is suggesting that we get 3 boards due to the price savings so we have a couple of spares available should we come across the same issue.

3 boards @ \$264 is \$792.

Are you ok with this? Peter will need to order this next week as it will take a bit of time for the boards to arrive given the Xmas break.

AERA MC agreed to the proposal by email discussion.

7.2.2. Attendance at Animals in Sport and Work: Ethics and Animal Welfare Event

Motion

That AERA pays for one night's accommodation to support Sioux Reid's attendance at the lecture "Animals in sports and work: Ethics and Animal Welfare Event" at Werribee campus of Melbourne Veterinary School,

Moved Kim Moir, seconded Jil Bourton

Voting Result: For – 7 votes; Against - 0 votes; Abstain – 1 vote.

Carried unanimously

Note that Sioux Ried abstained due to conflict of interest.

8. Correspondence

8.1. Correspondence Inwards

No	Date	Correspondence Inwards	Action
1	13/11/2023	Trademarks online – progress update	Noted
2	23/11/2023	SUREWiSE – request to complete form for PA claim	Resolved
3	24/11/2023	SUREWiSE – actions required for 2024 insurance policies	Resolved
4	04/12/2023	K Morley request to contact member to advise of family emergency	Resolved
4a	05/12/2023	C Nichols re veterinary controls	Agenda / NVP

5	14/12/2023	SUREWiSE re potential claim – no further action	Resolved
6	15/12/2023	NSWERA President request to consider rule changes	Agenda
7	16/12/2023	M Berryman re VERA membership and logbooks	Resolved
8	16/12/2023	TQ25 Committee – return of Interim Event agreement	Resolved
9	18/12/2023	EA response to AERA query re TEERA Swabbing Steward	Resolved
10	18/12/2023	NSWERA documents submitted to Hearing Panel re AAF	Ongoing
11	01/01/2024	V Foreman re online membership process for new member	Resolved
12	05/01/2024	Vink Publishing quote for design and print for TQ book	Agenda
13	06/01/2024	M Grebing – query re memberships – fwd to NSW Registrar	Resolved
14	08/01/2024	Dr Tweissi re horse results – fwd to NSW Registrar	Resolved
15	08/01/2024	C Cumming nomination to AERA HOF – fwd to NSWERA	Resolved
16	08/01/2024	A Bailey, NSWERA re rule changes suggested for EADCM	Agenda
17	08/01/2024	S Lowth query re membership options – fwd QERA	Resolved
18	09/01/2024	R Maday query re membership – fwd NSWERA registrar	Resolved
19	14/01/2024	E Evans query re new membership – fwd QERA registrar	Resolved
20	14/01/2024	TQ24 Committee Minutes of Meetings x 3	Agenda
21	17/01/2024	Arabian Horse Lifestyle – EOI for design of TQ Book	Agenda
22	17/01/2024	TEERA query re cost of online membership platform	To respond
23	18/01/2024	C Smithers query re horse history ref HOF	Resolved
24	18/01/2024	H Storey via SUREWiSE – PA Insurance – fwd to NSWERA Reg	Resolved
25	19/01/2024	Gerogery Horse Sports – query re hosting an event – fwd to NSWERA Ride Calendar Coordinator	Resolved
26	21/01/2024	J Campher re OLMR for new member – fwd to QERA registrar	Resolved
27	21/01/2024	Travel Managers re European Trial ride	Resolved
28	22/01/2024	Trademarks Online- confirmed registration of TQGC	Resolved
29	22/01/2024	J Fields re place at Ethics and Animal welfare event – advised that S Reid to attend this	Resolved
30	23/01/2024	J Ord seeking horse registration form – provided and cc to NSW Registrar	Resolved
31	23/01/2024	NSWERA response re appointments to NVP	Noted
32	23/01/2024	L Yates query re OLMR – directed to help tab	Resolved
33	23/01/2024	M Wade request for confirmation of endurance history	Resolved
34	24/01/2024	D Bohm query re historical records – fwd to Registrar	Resolved
35	24/01/2024	Yamamah Team re progress of integration with app	Ongoing
36	28/01/2024	Coffee Cubicle re TQ24 – fwd to TQ24 committee	Resolved
37	29/01/2024	S Hurley, re PA form – fwd to QERA Registrar	Resolved
38	30/01/2024	NSWERA update to NVP nominees	Resolved
39	31/01/2024	J Shadbolt query re access to previous newsletters = fwd to NSW Secretary	Resolved

8.2. Correspondence Outwards

	Date	Correspondence Outwards	Author
1	16/11/2023	SUREWiSE confirming quote for 2024 insurance	KM

2	16/11/2023	DAs, Delegates, Hon Members Notes from AERA MC Meeting November 2023	KM
3	17/11/2023	ARFL re Salicylic Acid	KM
4	17/11/2023	DA secretaries re fees and charges for 2024	KM
5	24/22/2023	SUREWiSE request for PA Claim form	KM
6	30/11/2023	DA Secretaries re swabbing targets for 2024	KM
7	30/11/2023	N Clarkson response re storage of historical data	KM
8	30/11/2023	NSW ERA re storage of historical data	KM
9	01/12/2023	Recently accredited CSs re delay in providing vests	KM
10	04/12/2023	ARFL, J Keledjian re attendance at HMBALG meeting in Qld	KM
11	07/12/2023	EA re TEERA Swabbing Stewards	KM
12	09/12/2023	NSW ERA response re Hearing panel member	KM
13	12/12/2023	EA re requirement for State Membership for Swabbing Stewards	KM
14	14/12/2023	VERA re helmet tagging information on website	KM
15	15/12/2023	DAs re Online Membership Renewals	LT
16	17/12/2023	TQ24 Committee re outcomes from AERA meeting	KM
17	19/12/2023	ARFL ref report on sample B203945	KM
18	19/12/2023	RAFL ref report No RS23_02744	KM
19	21/12/2023	A Miles, TEERA re TQ25 Interim Event Agreement	KM
20	21/12/2023	M Wade response to query re logbook applications	KM
21	21/12/2023	TQ25 Committee re Interim Event Agreement	KM
22 - 25	21/12/2023	Arabian Horse Lifestyle, Horse Deals, Printcraft, Vink Publishing – invitations to quote for TQ Book	KM
26	05/01/2024	Horse Force Legal response re reports from labs	KM
27	10/01/2024	DAs and others advice re meeting on 11 February 2024	KM
28	11/01/2024	ARFL request for updates on two substances	KM
29	11/01/2024	National Sports Tribunal query re listing as specified sport	KM
30	14/01/2024	DAs re rule change re upgrade from novice to endurance rider	LT
31	16/01/2024	DAs re updates to documents for TPR procedures	KM
32	18/01/2024	DAs preliminary advice re AERA Annual General Meeting	KM
33	27/01/2024	M Wade confirmation of establishment to support employment	KM
34	31/01/2024	C Dibbens, R Hooker – follow up re research project at TQ24	KM

Motion: 2024/02/03 Moved: Dick Collyer / Jil Bourton

That the inwards correspondence is received and the outwards correspondence is endorsed.

8.3. Business arising from Correspondence Inwards

Inwards correspondence includes a lot of queries regarding online memberships and different aspects of that.

Other items relating to TQ events will be discussed at the appropriate parts of the agenda are quotes received for the design and printing of the TQ Book.

8.4. Business Arising from Correspondence Outwards

No business arising

9. President's Report – Mark Dunn

We ended 2023 with some 474 individual rides having been held. 7057 horses competed in these events with exactly 6,000 successfully completing. By comparison, in 2022 419 individual rides were held in which 5361 horses out of 6352 successfully completed.

This represents an increase in 2023 of about 10% which is encouraging however we still lag behind pre COVID numbers. For example, in 2019 479 individual rides were run with 7621 out of 9073 successfully completing. Very likely challenging economic circumstances are contributing to the sluggish return to better numbers.

The 2024 ride calendar is looking good with 94 events now listed with a high likelihood of more being added through the year. Our key event – the 2024 Tom Quilty Gold Cup – will be held in Wirrina Cove, South Australia in October.

The new AERA Online Member Management Platform went live on 1 January 2024 and, at the time of writing (24/1), 587 memberships have been processed. There has been minimal resistance from DA members to its implementation which appears to have gone smoothly.

As we approach our AGM on 27 March, I encourage all Divisions to think carefully about who they nominate to the AERA management committee for 2024. The MC needs members who have the skills, time and motivation to contribute meaningfully to AERA's work.

President's report received

10. State Reports

10.1. NSWERA Report – Annette Bailey

No report received when agenda was prepared.

10.2. QERA Report – Dick Collyer

End of year report from QERA

Extracts from QERA AGM reports

Overall, 2023 has seen a small decline in membership and a small increase in ride participation as we gradually recover from the impact of the Covid years and deal with other pressures – especially financial ones. The unexpected hosting of TQ23 certainly gave a boost to our sport, although the entries for that event showed that many members were not really prepared for it because of the short lead-up time and had other priorities.

Generally, our financial situation remains very solid, assisted by ongoing funding from the Department of Sport, but we will need to continue to keep a close eye on this as we move forward into the next few years.

Vet Liaison

We have continued to work at bringing more veterinarians into our sport, and it is pleasing to report that, again over the last 12 months, several more vets have become AERA-accredited, and several more are on that path.

TQ23 and TQ26

Late last year, VERA decided that they were unable to host TQ23 and so this event came to QERA, hosted by the Stirling's Crossing Club. Given the much shorter than usual timeline to prepare, the effort of this club to stage a world class event was outstanding and I commend the members of that club. There were, of course, a huge number of individuals and organisations contributing to the success of that event.

QERA has now been invited by AERA to host TQ26, and the new SMC will soon call for expressions of interest from our Ride Organisers for this, with the probable venue to be decided in about mid-2024.

Your State Management Committee

The State Management Committee has met regularly during 2023, with a combination of face to face and zoom attendance. Technology has allowed for long distance attendance at meetings by some members and this has been particularly valuable for Kristie from the Far North and Xanthe from the Northern Rivers. While, personally, I don't think there is anything better than a meeting with people around a table, it is great to be able to have representation from zones other than the Southeast at our management meetings. Unfortunately, Matt Gadsby resigned from the SMC in the second half of this year and Pandora Bevan was invited to join as a casual member. Pandora had already been recruited to assist with the production of the QERA Yearbook.

At our meetings we deal with quite a considerable amount of work, and often a lot of management work is done electronically in between meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Winkel

At the time of writing this report, the year-end accounts have not been finalised, but I am anticipating another loss this year. Memberships are roughly on a par with 2022. Ride entries increased this year thanks to better weather conditions and TQ23, resulting in additional revenue (and additional expenses!). QERA received funding of \$18,010 from the Dept of Sport & Recreation for the period from 01/07/2023 to 30/06/2024.

At this stage, apart from any increase in Public Liability, I will not be recommending any increase in 2023 membership fees. Once again, we will need to look at ways of improving cash flow for the 2024 financial year in order to remain viable.

The 2023 financial statements will be on the website prior to the AGM and printed copies will be available at the AGM. You should find these reports easily understandable. I am more than happy to answer any questions or give further explanations if needed. I would like to thank my fellow SMC members for their support and the work and dedication put into the smooth running of our association.

Report from Colleen Shaw – QERA Registrar

Memberships for 2023

		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Adult Riding	Male	66	70	77	81	100	90	96	106	126
	Female	217	209	224	249	303	277	274	309	308
Intermediate Adult Riding	Male	3	3	4	3	3	10	3	1	2
	Female	12	15	14	16	27	27	18	11	7
Junior Riding	Male	5	7	10	11	18	13	13	19	14
	Female	36	39	38	36	42	40	29	43	48
Intermediate Junior Riding	Male	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	2
	Female	0	3	3	6	2	1	2	2	0
Life	Male	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
	Female	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Non-Riding	Male	3	5	6	5	6	8	6	8	5
	Female	8	9	8	3	11	4	10	10	10
Honorary	Male	1	1	1						
	Female	1	1							
TOTAL		358	368	391	415	516	474	455	512	524

Logbooks issued:

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
New Novice Logbook	109	112	168	184	180	161	161	195
Upgrade Logbook	64	57	70	29	80	67	62	75
Open Logbook (Second book)	30	17	19	21	40	30	19	26
Ownership Transfers	29	13	15	15	20	22	15	19

Other:

Year		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Events Run		32	26	30	19	37	37	30	31
No. of Clubs that ran rides		17	13	17	10	21	24	24	25
New Members	-Adult	25	42	44	60	52	42	45	46
	-Junior	8	17	15	17	22	22	17	22

Kim Moir – QERA EOY Report

As Ride Calendar Coordinator I have the privilege of communicating with Ride Organising Committees and as riders, I encourage you all to join a committee in your area. There are many jobs to do in organising a ride and many can be done pre- and post-ride so everyone who is riding can assist in some way.

As we started 2023, I had endeavoured to have the year’s Ride Calendar set in plenty of time so that people could map out their year to prepare multiple horses and to arrange work and family responsibilities. Just after we had published our 2023 Calendar, Victoria Endurance Riders Association advised that the Tom Quilty scheduled for September 2023 was not going to happen. QERA was successful in bidding for this event and our calendar was totally re-formed. Thank you to all the clubs who moved dates and especially to Colleen Shaw and Chris Nichols who are always available to do updates to the calendar on AERA Space and on the QERA Website. As I write this the 2024 calendar has just been uploaded and there are 37 events listed plus two NSW rides that are dual affiliated. It is looking like a very busy year for riders, horses, and administrators.

AERA Delegate and Secretary

As one of the QERA representatives to the AERA Management Committee, I have continued to hold the position of Secretary for another year. Since the move to digital meeting during COVID, The AERA meets at least 6 times per year instead of three but generally all business is covered in one day.

AERA, as the coordinating body for the sport of endurance in Australia performs key functions that apply nationally including development and management of the AERA Database; maintain the AERA Rulebook and monitor compliance; provide pathways for accreditation of officials; ensure financial management of the Association including negotiation of insurance; to oversee and to contribute to the running of the Tom

Quilty Gold Cup' recognitions of members' achievements nationally. This is how the AERA income that comes from the fees and charges that each Division Association pays to AERA is spent.

AERA introduced the online nomination system during 2022 as a new income stream. Income earned from this is less money that must be sourced from the DAs and is money currently being spent in other nomination platforms.

AERA hosted a meeting at TQ23 to seek input from members to contribute to discussions about the future of the Tom Quilty. There was a strong message from the attendees that the TQ should continue to rotate between the States.

Olaf Lochtenberg 2023 SMC End of Year Report - QERA Horse Welfare Liaison, Early Warning System and Nth Ride Trailer Co-ordinator.

Early Warning System:

During the 2023 endurance year there was 5 EWS notifications issued. Significantly 2 of these were riders returned to novice status. I had extensive conversations with both of these riders who were both disappointed to miss particular rides in the calendar. Overall QERA riders and horse owners should be proud of the EWS result. It shows growth in our awareness of horse welfare, and I believe it shows that our members are listening to our vets and growing in awareness of practices.

Swabbing Steward:

I would like to thank Bronwyn Hew who has once again worked closely with me to attend as many endurance rides as possible and swab a variety of horses.

During 2023 Bronwyn was present at Lake Manchester, Stirling's Crossing, FAW, 'The Don' ride (Inglewood) Tom Quilty and the Qld State Championship. 30 QERA horses were swabbed over the course of the year. This number excludes the 14 horses swabbed at TQ23 and 3 FEI horses swabbed at Stirling's Crossing. Due to the nature of the testing process, there are still outstanding results from many of these rides however I can confirm there were 2 positive results returned from one of these events. The details of these will be available on the AERA website in due course. I can also advise that all 14 horses swabbed at TQ23 returned clean results.

The northern Ride trailer was used at all Stirling's events, FAW, TQ23, Biggenden, Murrumba, Widgee. Supplies from the trailer were also taken to Wiangaree ride and Qld State Championship ride to ensure sufficient stock on ride bases. Stirling's Crossing club purchased significant supplies in preparation for TQ23.

Kristie Sheehan Chief Steward End of Year Report 2023

This year started with four Provisional Chief Stewards who were carrying over from last year. Through the year another 2 people have become Provisional CS. Out of these 6, 3 have become qualified, leaving the other 3 still to complete to become qualified and are all at varying stages. Congratulations to those who have now become qualified.

There has been a couple of Chief Stewards who have run a TPR course this year. Thank you to those who did. Clubs are always needing TPRs in their line-up of volunteers.

Some Clubs still have a lack of Chief Stewards close to their ride location and should possibly encourage members to apply to become a CS, so they are not having to pay for a CS to travel distances to their event, and in some cases request monetary assistance from QERA for this.

State Championships End of Year Report 2023 – Kristie Sheehan

The QLD State Championships was held on the 26th of August 2023 in Inglewood and was hosted by Lockyer Valley Endurance Riders.

The weather was possibly a little hotter for the time of year, however from all accounts the riders did their best to manage this.

It was Stephanie Malmberg's first time as a Chief Steward for a State Championship, and she was assisted by Dick Collyer.

The Head Vet was Harry Wever, Treatment Vet Sarah Rodes, with the Line Vets being Kirsty Nicholson, Ellie Hill, and Alex Chick.

The course consisted of sandy soils with small stones scattered throughout, with varying sections of gravel roads and bush tracks across all five legs. The course was mostly flat with a couple of creek crossings which riders crossed each leg.

The Ride Organising Committee had a strong volunteer base which made for a smooth running of the ride.

Allison once again got some beautiful keepsake trophies and there is a spreadsheet of all perpetual trophy recipients. I have been given this list from Cindy Holden so it can be arranged to have these returned for next year when the time comes. The Widgee Club will host the State Championships for 2024 and the Ride Organising Committee are already hard at work preparing for this event and hope to have a successful and well-run event for everyone to enjoy.

Virginia Barber Portfolio Report: End of Year Youth Development

Junior camp 7th, 8th and 9th July was a success. I will send through all info to Karen for QLD Gove funding as per last year. We only had small numbers, 7 riders attend along with parents who participated in the info sessions and joined us on Saturday's training ride. Hayley Elliott from Prydes attended and presented a fantastic talk on nutrition, had some give away merchandise and sample bags. We had lots of open question time and chats about rules, ideas, strapping and on course rider etiquette. The juniors worked very hard on some basic flat work, with the goal to improving a ridden BC work out, riding balanced, gaits, footfalls, leg aids, trot and canter leads. Other training ideas to help build muscle for your endurance horse, pole work and making training fun, building your horses confidence, some games and the favourite activity was jumping. We also focused on some team building for the juniors. We were also blessed to have Sarah Sullivan attended on the Saturday afternoon to take photos.

Xanthe Webb – Northern Rivers Zone and TPR Portfolio Annual Report

The Northern Rivers Zone held two of the three proposed rides this season. Tenterfield hosted a successful ride with a challenging track in May. This was a great lead into TQ23 for many. Kyogle Country Endurance Riders returned to the Wiangaree ride base this year. Numbers were significantly lower than previous years. However, those who braved the tick spray and bought Fire ant free hay on site enjoyed spectacular scenery, good track and a friendly atmosphere. Richmond River Riders were unable to run the New Italy ride due to track conditions after the 2022 floods.

Endurafest – International Team Event, Inglewood, 31 May, 1/2 June, 2024.

This event continues to take shape, and will look something like this when details are finalised and approved by EA and the FEI:

- Only 1 Team per National Federation.
- Teams of 4 with the top 3 scores to count and 1 drop score.
- Each NF can have a reserve rider.
- If something unexpected arises to 1 of your athletes and you do not have a reserve athlete you can still compete as a team of 3.
- Athletes can use their own horses if they choose to or for Athletes who do not have horses based in Australia or are not bringing their horses over to Australia, the event organisers will provide a pool of borrowed horses for your team.
- There may be an opportunity for additional overseas athletes outside of their NF team of 4 to compete in one of the other FEI events the following day, on an Australian-based lease horse. However, that would be up to the Athlete to source their own appropriately qualified lease horse for an FEI event.

Discussion

Appreciation noted of robust and transparent report

10.3. SAERA Report – Jil Bourton

South Australia had a reasonably good riding season last year with 12 endurance events and two very successful C.A.T.E.s . We affiliated two SA rides with VERA and likewise two VERA events were affiliated with SAERA giving some of our members the opportunity to compete across the border. Incidentally our most successful “border raid” was the Victorian Championships at Mia Mia where one of our longtime members, Tracy Brandon, came home with the cup riding her well prepared mare, TMB ES Pure Silver. Yours truly also finished in the Top Five, in a fairly competitive event with combinations also from NSW. Most of our rides showed a modest profit even with rider numbers tapering off later in the season and the SAERA finances have finished up in good shape by the end of the year.

Our AGM and EOY awards evening on January 14 was well attended and saw in some new members to the SMC and also a new president in Lainie Ray. One of last year’s rooky committee members, Julia Field stepped up to the secretary role and Tracy Brandon took on the Vice presidency. Our first meeting for 2024 was done face to face and was a “bedding in” affair with a lot of admin protocols to be updated before we can properly function. Meanwhile we have a healthy-looking ride calendar so far but a few dates to fill later in the year, before and after the TQ.

A new “volunteer” policy was presented to members and adopted for trial over 2024 where in people intending to run a ride will get an automatic \$50 discount off their membership if they submit their ride application before the Early Bird membership cut-off date. The policy also addresses first time RO’s with a mentorship from those with experience who have a tried-and-true venue and track they can offer to facilitate such people learning “the ropes” – this will hopefully take the pressure off “serial” RO’s who are getting a bit worn out and also take the pressure off the SMC & it’s members who organised most of the rides last year.

Having said that I’ve already put my hand up for a C.A.T.E. and two rides this year ... I’m just nuts I guess or too dumb to quit!

The TQ24 subcommittee, I believe has secured some helpful sponsorship and at last has been able to access the term deposit created after our last TQ, which, having been invested 7 years ago, has been subject to completing all the bank’s protocols to access and transfer into a working account. At least now they have some much-needed funds to move forward with.

After a long discussion with one of the TQ24 mc members in which she relayed to me the need for the AERA to “take on” more of the annual administration of the event including, among other things, a contracted ride director, I felt the need to put some points up for discussion by the mc which are in a separate document for Quilty business.

At this stage it is my intention to remain on the AERA mc for another term and our members appear to be happy with that.

Jil Bourton

10.4. TEERA Report – Mark Dunn

Since TEERA's report for the November 2023 AERA MC meeting the Tas state championships were held (18 November) and the annual awards night was held (3 December).

The state championships were run out of the TQ25 ride base at Sassafras and was the first opportunity to test out some of the infrastructure and ride base flow planned for TQ25. The vet ring was relocated from its usual position and this worked well. Ride base entry and exit points were new and this too worked well.

The 160km event was won by Jess Goulding on Beer St Bewitched (also BC) and the 95km event by Shane Neilley riding Woodsong Indiana Rose (also BC).

The awards night provided an opportunity for those who achieved success through 2023 to be acknowledged. A number of awards recognising the achievements of lesser mortals – eg best strapper – were also presented.

The 2024 calendar is looking very positive with 12 events already locked in and the potential for others to be added through the year. The TQ25 test event will be held on the weekend of May 11. Our TQ25 ROC met recently and, while it is early days, they appear on track to deliver a first rate TQ in 2025.

The TEERA Annual General Meeting will be held on 1 March. Seven nominations have been received for the five vacant SMC positions. The successful nominees will be announced at the AGM.

10.5. VERA Report – Sioux Reid

Our AGM has been held and our VERA SMC remain almost the same except for the retirement of Damian Little, Kerrie Gabb and Louise Mackey. Sandy Little was re-elected to the committee with Sherree Haines-Bishop becoming Treasurer. No other nominations from the floor were put forward.

There was one special resolution voted upon to delete 57.4 which states a member of the MC cannot hold a position for more than 6 years with a minimum retirement of 1 year. The rationale for this being that members are elected for a 2 year term and may not be re-elected if they are not satisfactory to the membership and that people electing to be on the SMC are not always easy to source and we should try to keep those of value for as long as possible. The votes to accept this was above the required 75% present at the meeting.

On a disappointing note, there were only 40 members at the AGM. Given the cost of hiring the venue and the minimum number of meals agreed with the venue, this venue has outrun its popularity. A question has been put to the members for their suggestions for 2025.

2023 has come to a successful close and we are headed into 2024 and our 1st ride of the season, a training ride at Eldorado 3-4 Feb. Closely followed by the Snake Valley Dash 17-18 Feb. The rest of the year is looking sparse atm with only 4 other rides on the calendar, May, July, September and November. Disappointing as there was a big push last year to encourage new RO's from members of the committee putting their hands up to be mentors. There will be some of the usual rides to go up on the calendar but there is plenty of room for more. It would be sad to see a further decline in our membership should this continue unchecked.

We look forward to 2024 regardless and of the present VERA SMC entering their 2nd year together with more cohesion and new ideas to come.

Best wishes in 2024 to AERA, other SMC's, all riders, horses, support crew, RO's and the TQ24 committee.

Discussion

Mark Dunn noted that VERA AGM had passed a resolution to remove restrictions on terms of office for members of their management committee and a similar motion will come to the AERA AGM.

10.6. WAERA Report – Richard Summerfield, WAERA President

It was an interesting 2023 with the passing of our president Terry Sweeney, the stepping up of Brian Pullin to President, and myself as Vice President. At the AGM, I was elected as President, a great honour I must say, with Anna Erickson as Vice President (previous President) and Lyn Summerfield retaining the position of Treasurer. Brian will continue on as Chief Steward Liaison Officer, a great asset. Denise Darlow, our secretary, has also retired from the position with Bonnie Martin taking on the role. Like all secretaries, a mountain of work handled with great professionalism. Many thanks. I am sure Bonnie will handle the same position with equal efficiency. The team is also made up of a mixture of existing and new committee people with a great amount of enthusiasm to manage a busy year. So far, the WAERA website and the Facebook account was revamped and up and running before the 1st January. Great effort. Tash Ellery will continue as our AERA delegate this year with another delegate to be selected at our next SMC meeting.

2024 will be an exciting year. We have 16 rides on the calendar this year, ranging from Denmark in the South to Merredin in the west. Commencing at Wilga in March, ending at Collie in October, with the South Australian Quilty to finish it off. Several of the rides will also be elevated, with 2 x 160km rides enabling qualification to enter the SA Quilty. New rides at Gidgegannup and Noggerup could be very interesting tracks with beautiful scenery. We are also looking into the reducing rate of membership numbers we've been having over the last few years. We are in the process of creating a questionnaire to send to existing and ex-members to see why this is happening. The committee is also looking at possible avenues to provide publicity and education to Pony Clubs, which may encourage interested riders to attempt and, or possibly branch off into endurance.

One of the other major challenges for this year will be to create a Quilty committee and a venue for the next Quilty event in WA.

That's about it for now. Looking forward to a busy year.

Secretary note – great that they are already thinking about TQ27!

Division Association reports received

11. Treasurer's Report – Mark Dunn

Google Drive Documents

11.1 AERA November Profit & Loss Budget Analysis

11.2 AERA November YTD Profit & Loss Budget Analysis

11.3 AERA November Profit & Loss with Year to Date

11.4 AERA November Balance Sheet

11.5 AERA Aged Receivables Summary as at 10th October 2023

11.6 AERA Item List Summary as at 10th October 2023

11.7 AERA September Category Profit and Loss Statement

11.1. Treasurer's Report – Mark Dunn

Report provided on 19 December with November financial reports.

November accounts attached FYI. As always, the best file to review to get a sense of things is the AERA Nov YTD Profit & Loss Budget Analysis.pdf.

No significant change on past months – we're pretty much on budget.

While the file cited above shows a surplus of \$42k, this is a little illusory as there are a number of annual charges paid in December (national registrar, stock management, depreciation).

We will end the year close to budget.

Just for noting the overdue accounts from TEERA have now been paid by them.

Little to add now (29/1/24) to what was reported at our November meeting however, by the date of this meeting we may have received a copy of the auditor’s report covering financial year 2024.

We operated very close to budget through 2023 and our balance sheet is strong. One highlight of the year was the income derived from the online nomination system – this came in over budget at \$15,057 (budget \$12,324).

We have set a budget for 2024 that sees minimal increases in fees to DAs and have set in place insurance for 2024.

We have still not finalised a mechanism for better utilising our cash flow through short term interest bearing deposits with Westpac. I may be able to comment further about this at this meeting.

Work is progressing on setting in place appropriate AERAspace reporting mechanisms to allow our book-keeper to properly administer membership payments.

Motion: 2024/02/04 Moved: Sioux Reid / Wayne Hegarty
That the Treasurer’s Report is received.
Carried unanimously

Mark Dunn spoke to his report and noted that the Auditor’s Report is not yet available

Discussion

It was noted the amount invoiced from Peter Johnson for January was one third of the budget allocated for database expense and much of the work highlighted was related to Membership Renewal. The total expended on Membership Renewal in 2023 was also higher than had been budgeted as was the income from online nominations in 2023 was \$15,000.

12. Insurance Report

Personal Accident insurance

So far this year there are 193 members who have taken out PA Insurance, number includes 22 Juniors. For the same period last year, there were 108 PA policies paid for, including 13 juniors. The larger number this year are no doubt due to the “early bird” special offered by NSW ERA.

There were 3 claims made last year on PA policies, all related to incidents occurring not at an event. These claims resulted in a total sum paid out of 9,696.50.

Over the 7 years of cover with this company we have had a total of 27 claims and payouts totalling \$86,862 – biggest year was 2018 with 12 claims.

Discussions with QERA and NSWERA Registrars have resulted in PA forms now being uploaded to Person’s Records in the database, and discussions with SUREWiSE suggest that they should have a list of members who do have PA cover. This came from a confusion that arose when a member sought advice on a possible claim and was advised that the activity was not covered by Volunteer PA policy.

13. National Ride Entry Statistics 2023 compared to previous 4 years

	2023	2022	2021	2019	2018
NSWERA	1848	1831	1874	2587	2695
QERA	2457	1916	2426	3470	2938
SAERA	399	336	382	327	545
TEERA	802	593	798	766	976

VERA	841	998	516	914	960
WAERA	785	773	919	1028	1072
Totals	7132	6447	6915	9092	9186

Noted that ride entries are trending in the right direction though still not at pre-COVID numbers.

14. Portfolio Reports

14.1. AERA Registrar – Jo Bailey

Nothing of note to report, still chugging away at data entry of old rides, I try to average one complete ride update per day (not always done daily but sometimes update 3-4 rides on same day).

Hall of Fame applicants rolling in thick and fast due to social media promotion.

I have moved house and have a new postal address:

Po Box 55, MURRURUNDI NSW 2338, Email: baileyjo68@gmail.com

Presented for your information

Secretary noted that consultation with Jo Bailey and Kerry Fowler-Smith (AERA Awards Sub-committee) confirmed that date by which applications must be made for AERA awards is 20 July 2024.

Action

All forms to be updated with dates for applications to be submitted by for TQ24 and to change mailing address.

Post on Facebook to remind members to apply mid-May 2024.

14.2. Website / Webmaster – Chris Nichols

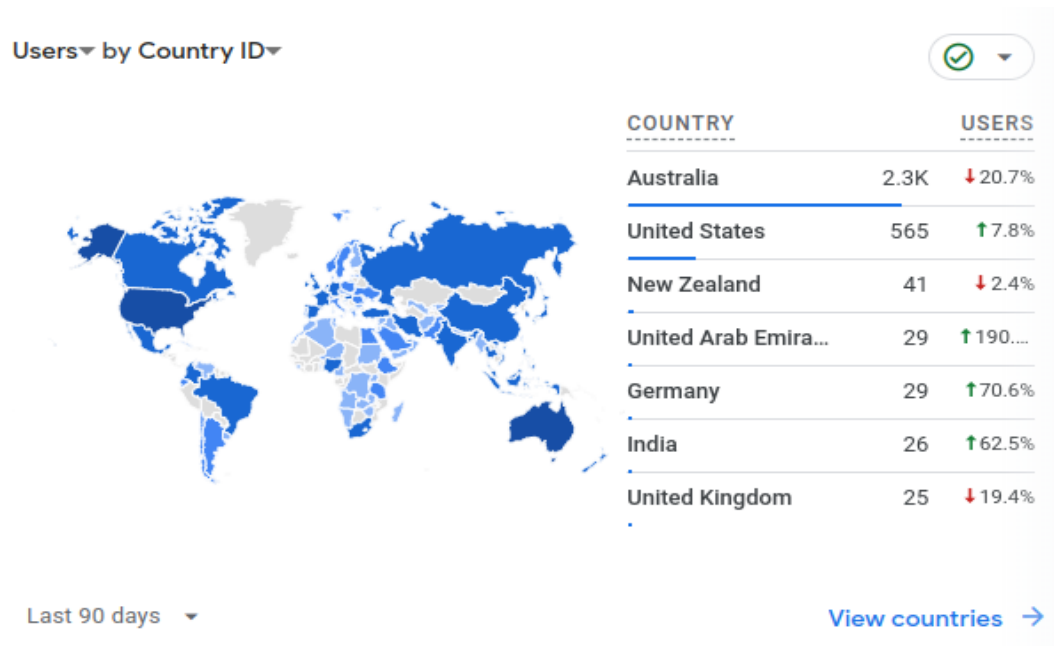
Not a lot to report, the website at the moment is mostly maintenance, and adding updated documents and HOF horses and riders.

Top 10 most visited pages on our site:-

- 121000 Visits to our home page
- 11907 Contact page
- 9482 Rules and Policies
- 6715 News and Updates (I wasn't sure this part of the website was being used, but clearly it is)
- 5475 Decade Teams
- 5106 Forms
- 3761 Insurance
- 3734 Spirit of Endurance
- 3182 History
- 3059 Starting Endurance - First Training Ride

These are a running total from when the page went online.

Our website is being viewed from the following countries:-



Action

JB to enquire from webmaster if there was a ride in traffic to the website in response to recent advertising in Horse Deals.

14.3. Communications and Promotion

14.3.1. Social Media – Sioux Reid

Social Media has been a little quiet of late due to the Xmas period and school holidays.

We average 3-4,000 engagement per post with some lively discussions but none of note lately. I do keep an eye on posts as they are put up, mainly the ones that could cause adverse commentary but have had nothing to concern me so far.

The two Vales were well received by members albeit sadly. An important part of honouring past members and other people important to our sport and their contribution.

The least engaged post was concerning the rulebook. Go figure!

Members are added every month but as this is a self-sought occurrence it isn't something we actually manage.

Gender ratio remains higher with 83.5% female:16.5% male with the far largest state being Qld followed by NSW and Vic with 1 person difference between them.

I have emailed Chris Nichols (today) to see whether he feels there is an advantage to sending him Facebook posts to include on the www. However, I am aware Kim already sends him numerous articles. I look forward to his reply.

That's about all for this meeting. Ticking along nicely but nothing particularly noteworthy to date.

Discussion

Agreement that when people respond to a post they can be invited to join which increases direct memberships and also connections through mutual friends of anyone invited to join – strategy to build membership and therefore traffic.

Also noted that three posts went up at the same time and usually posts would be spread out to allow more “air time” for each post. Importance of maintaining regular posts so that activity is constant.

14.3.2. Promotion – Jil Bourton

Email to Horse Deals following our advertising in January 2024

As I hold the promotions portfolio in the AERA, this has of course been handballed onto me. I have noted the next few months deadlines. I'm thinking along the lines of us having a quarterly presence in your publication and would suggest this could include a feature article as well as something like the ad we just produced, even maybe the same ad for continuity? I would however like a bit of information/statistics regarding the distribution and reader numbers if you could give me some indication that would be great. Also I'm thinking it would be to our advantage to be included in your online publications – was that included in our most recent deal or is that an add on? I must say I hadn't bought a Horse Deals for a long, long time but of course I wanted to see how our piece looked, so I bought this issue and was pleasantly surprised to see so many interesting articles, many of which are product based I know – but worthwhile reading. Is your promotion one of a “life style” magazine rather than just straight buy & sell? That is the impression I got anyway which I think these days is a better fit.

We have an AERA management committee meeting early in February so hopefully by then (if not before) I will have had a chance to formulate a plan for the year (and have it approved) so we can move forward with a more permanent listing perhaps? Any comments of offers you would like to shoot my way will be gratefully received and considered.

Response from Horse Deals

- 1. *quarterly presence in your publication and would suggest this could include a feature article as well as something like the ad we just produced, even maybe the same ad for continuity:*** I can confirm that we would be able to honour the price of \$517 inc GST for a 1/2 page advert in any future advert campaigns, which is a 10% discount. If you wish to add an advertorial to this 1/2 page advertorial of between 400-500 words would be \$457.60 inc GST, hence giving you a full page.
- 2. *information/statistics regarding the distribution and reader numbers:*** Nationally distributed monthly publication with a readership in excess of 50,000 per month.
- 3. *Also I'm thinking it would be to our advantage to be included in your online publications:*** There is not currently an E-magazine, there is however a website of www.horsedeals.com.au that receives an astounding 2.5 million page views per month, (digital advertising opportunities on the platform are Mreca & Leaderboards linked to your website). The AERA purchased only a print advert in January. There is 'news' on the web where it is possible to purchase sponsored content and on occasion a general interest story is added, I would be happy to discuss this further if you are not familiar with digital products.
- 4. *to see so many interesting articles, many of which are product based I know – but worthwhile reading.*** Any articles with promotions attached are actually advertorial (paid for). Articles included are educational, broad discipline appeal and are provided by regular expert/qualified contributors and HD employed journalists. Occasionally there are approvals from reader contributions however there are strict

guidelines regarding topics, disciplines, previous coverage of persons locations and profiles. All reader contributions are forwarded to an editorial team for consideration. Editorial also covers topics pertaining to the planned monthly features. You would be welcome to send in anything for consideration. There is often the opportunity for gallery content (images provided by contributors of events) that have potential to be included in print or Online - happy to discuss the guidelines.

5. ***I will have had a chance to formulate a plan for the year (and have it approved) so we can move forward with a more permanent listing perhaps? Any comments of offers you would like to shoot my way will be gratefully received and considered.*** As mentioned a discount could be offered, however for guaranteed prices and to protect against any price rises I would recommend that you sign a booking contract, this would be for a minimum of 4 adverts in a 12 month period and is then price protected.

Horse Deals has certainly evolved over the last 38 years and offers a range of general equestrian interests and educational features both in health and training. There is a constant assessment of feedback and continuous improvement. I would be delighted to assist with the AERA as it promotes the wonderful inclusive sport of Endurance and look forward to ongoing communications. Should you have further queries do not hesitate to let me know.

Discussion

JB suggested same ad to be run quarterly during 2024 – April, July to tie in with an article about the Shahzada, and in October about the Quilty. This had been suggested as an “advertorial” which would incur some cost. JB to negotiate exemption from the cost given our not-for-profit status.

Support for this with ideas to use article from the QERA yearbook, eg article about Taylor Grogan junior rider who completed Marathon and Winton to Longreach rid, and also opportunities for members to submit articles. Noted that promotion will support considerations for National Sponsorship.

JB to ask if DAs will get same discount – welcome to forward anything for consideration -

Motion: 2024/02/05 Moved: Jil Bourton / Dick Collyer

That AERA expend funds to advertise in Horse Deals in April, July and October editions of Horse Deals.

Carried unanimously.

Actions

JB to have further discussions with Horse Deals about maximising promotional opportunities with reference to articles, discounted advertising for DAs, opportunities for gallery content – to bring back a costed proposal before the next meeting.

14.4. AERA Database Sub-committee – Linda Tanian

14.4.1 Draft AERASpace User Access Policy

14.4.2 Draft AERASpace User Access Agreement

Linda Tanina joined the meeting from 13.30 AEDT and spoke to her report.

Online Membership Renewal

This went well and possibly exceeded expectations with, to date, 735 member paid (Secretary note - compared to 577 for the same period in 2023). Earlier membership take-up may be influenced by NSWERA early bird offer. General feedback has been good but some people did need assistance, with changes being made on the go.

Further complications caused by the data already there with misinformation about people and horses and many duplications. Frequent problem has been with different emails being used and minor typos creating different accounts for the same person or horse.

This will lead to a data-cleansing process and will liaise with registrars to begin the process of tidying this up.

The NSW ERA strategy of early bird memberships certainly increased memberships for January and did cause some problems for the DBSC – greater number of issues did come from NSW members but they also had greatest number of members signing up for 2024. DBSC is thinking about things logically and not always looking at it from the user perspective.

Registrars have been busy and some of the previous manual operations were done not realising that system had taken care of this, eg noting take-up of PA Insurance, resulting in some double ups. Perhaps education could have been done more explicitly.

Payments to DAs for first month have been done, though there was some delay in getting information from Treasurers about banking details.

Feedback is sought from Treasurers about the process – understanding and ability to reconcile. Feedback also sought from AERA Bookkeeper – is information enough to allow her to reconcile?- is there more to be done.

DAs have been great in implementing the system consistently.

MD – comment that there was a lot to do and all challenges seem to have been resolved.

GN – expressed concern that data was not correct for some horses that had been entered in the TQ23 event with names spelled incorrectly and parentage was not accurate or no parents listed. Also some misspellings regarding stud names. Linda clarified that it is not within the DBSC's remit to correct historical data but are keen to do some "data cleansing". KM noted that now that owners have access to correct details via the online nomination system, they may take the opportunity to correct this information. NE suggested that errors may have been when the horse was first registered and information was not known.

Action

GN to send names through to Linda who will forward to the relevant registrars to correct.

Online Nomination System

Linda noted that there is a good start to the year with all early rides signed up to AERA Online. There is still some work to do around the management of the lists of riders and horses so people can set the status of horses. Still some thinking to do around this and will seek feedback from Registrars about how they have done this.

There has been an added function for NSW ERA's swabbing levy fee to all rides so this can be shown as a separate fee and were able to use functions that had already been implemented for Quilty nominations.

Changes to recording of junior connections – parent / guardian, emergency contact and who is responsible person for the junior at a ride. One of these doesn't appear in the database and only applies to each ride so may take more time.

Capacity to copy across data from one ride to the next – some are date sensitive so doesn't readily carry over and there is further complexity for those with multiple rides in any one year.

End of year update

This was carried out successfully in one day with information in the release notes. KM asked about the option to elect not to receive emails and this is only an option for VERA members. This is on the VERA Membership form and they asked that this be included in online memberships.

TQ24 updates

A number of items were listed in the report that may be updated for TQ24. TQ24 have not yet responded to these suggestions. KM reported that she had talked to Event Director, Tom McCormack and he had advised that their main concern would be around management of campsites and having the capacity for someone on the committee to have access to be able to note changes and not have to refer to Peter Johnson for every change. This was with reference to being able to allocate sites for sponsors, to manage cancellations and swapping campsites. DBSC sees this as a priority to do this and going forward, everyone benefits from this.

Product Road Map

This was put together for the business plan and presents the DBSC ideas on further development of the system. Some of these are ambitious with other things that have been worked on, but noted here just to let MC know these things are still on the agenda. The integration with the Yamamah App has not been completed nor has the payment of ride fees. Quote for Yamamah app has been provided but noted that this is not a big item because of work already done to integrate with Mindari. It is still not known how much work it will take to work with Yamamah to make the changes we need to have in place to accommodate our data eg Quilty winner, divisions etc. Awaiting on advice from AERA regarding the quote provided to do this work.

Other ideas suggested as a “wish list”

Online annual returns and ownership transfers may come from the ability to manage the list of riders and horses.

Online logbook registrations – not about being able to do everything online as manual work is still required by registrars, but the request for a logbook can be done online and then information is passed on to logbook registrars.

Ride fees payment – option for AERA to take ride levy out before transferring to the Ride Organisers. ROs do still accept nominations on the day – why is this. KM – an issue for a multi-day ride is riders want to see how one day goes before they enter for the second day and suggested offering a full refund on second day nomination up to before the pre-ride vetting to get rid of the rush at the end of one ride to nominate for the second but also to lessen the on-the-day nominations. LT noted they can do online at the ride but also need to understand how many manual nominations are happening and why. NE confirmed that WA also asks for all nominations to be done before the event – can one ride stay open for longer? But this may take a major change. LT – important to understand how big the problem is whether it is worth the cost.

MD – asked if DBSC can come back with costings for each task so we can consider the value compared to the cost. LT also acknowledged that the committee and Peter have been very busy and will benefit from some down time.

Yamamah app

As reported this should take about 10 hours so estimate a cost of around \$1000 and this is reflective of a lot of the work being done previously to integrate with Mindari. Work will be with Yamamah team to get the specifics or our reporting to match with their set up.

JB – think to proceed with the final steps and consider this is good for promotion.

AM asked about who is paying for this upgrade – at present this is our cost. LT commented that Mindari and TQ23 had sponsored the cost of this and Yamamah could also be asked for a contribution.

GN – asked if this was for any ride and who benefits. GN had not known that integration with Mindari was happening and felt that more data going overseas would encourage more interest from international buyers, unwanted in this case.

KM responded that work done for Mindari was well spoken about and was done to also use the electronic vetting system. Information is available on the public AERASpace.

GN – unhappy that data from TQ23 was visible on Mindari before AERASpace.

KM responded that this was to allow for use of the electronic systems which was well received by spectators. That was probably a one-off. Normally data will go to AERASpace and then to Mindari / Yamamah.

LT – depending on access to internet, when an update is done it goes to AERASpace, Mindari and Yamamah but ROs may not be aware of the correct set up to make all three happen together. LT to send out info to ROs to advise them on how to set up for updates.

GN – concerned that this was done without consulting with the membership and objected to this.

LT noted this is available on AERASpace now – ROs don't have to do the upload to the overseas entities and there was a lot of discussion about this.

DC – noted that there are buyers and there are sellers – some of our members are sellers and

Motion: 2024/02/06 Moved: Dick Collyer / Natasha Ellery

That the Database Sub-committee will proceed with work to integrate AERA Results with the Yamamah App.

Voting: For – 7 votes; Against – 1 vote

Carried by majority.

LT asked about the correspondence about online memberships – KM to send advice on correspondence that was relevant to OLMR and other DBSC processed.

FEI Rule Changes

KM noted that FEI rule changes have been published and there are some new completion categories. LT noted that DBSC is aware of these and are scrolling through all rule changes and what needs to be updated.

Lists of officials

MD noted that reports list every CS that has ever been in the database and asked if this can be set up so that status goes to lapsed when required number of rides attended to maintain accreditation has not been completed. LT has been looking at this and will report back. Asked if the system can validate “working with children”. JB looking into requirements for each state. JB also asked if record of vets and CS can be included in ride reports. LT noted that these are to of the required roles that must be entered before the ride can be finalised. KM noted that ride report shows CS and Head Vet. LT – info re CS would have to be uploaded before the ride to get the information.

LT to bring back to table with costing,

Discussion

User Access Policy – some minor changes highlighted in the document to “tidy up” rather than change content. Resolved to accept the changes to the policy.

User Access Agreement – when this was discussed early in 2023 it was agreed that this would be a tick box agreement. The attached form is now being sent to individuals to sign and return before access is given to the database. Currently every time you sign in you have to tick a box to say that you have read both documents. KM introduction of a paper document when we are doing everything else without a paper trail. JB – not a user, but seems that the status quo works – user name and password seems to provide security.

Advise to DBSC that MC does not think this is necessary but can come back with a rationale.

Horse registration on line – KM does number of horses being registered justify the cost? There may be 200 transactions per annum. Registrar will have to do the manual process basically as is done now so no major gain. Agreed not to progress with this at present.

Ride fee payments and annual returns not to be progressed at present and focus on bedding down current works in progress. All to come back with costings.

14.5. Chief Stewards and TPRs – Jil Bourton

TPR documents were all updated pertaining to the new title of Temperature & Pulse Rate Stewards – thanks Tash and Kim.

Chief Steward documents – any changes noting TPR's – still to be done.

2023 saw the accreditation of only a small handful of new Chief Stewards across Australia.

Without spending a vast amount of time searching, I've yet to find a full list of CS's across Australia. Does one exist?

I went to all states' websites and only South Australia (7), Victoria (5) & Tasmania (5) have CS lists that I could find. Incidentally, Tasmania was the only website where I could find a list of TPR's (it looked like the whole membership - a very long list!)

Are there lists actually in the database (AERASPACE) already ? If not can this be actioned during 2024 ? Along with any updated accreditation status etc.

Could Kim send an email asking all states to update their lists of Chief Stewards & TPR's, also DA's need to be encouraged to create initiatives to train up more CS's and TPR's before those of us who remain, become a "threatened species"!

I corresponded with Mark regarding AERA sponsoring a nationwide CS drive/info-training initiative (similar to one years ago with Tom and G) but it would possibly fall into the too hard basket, I don't think I would be confident enough to hold these myself and honestly don't know where I could find the time, [Having said that, I first started Chief Stewarding (and ride organising) back in the mid '80's and even though I might officiate only once or twice a year I have done the "hard yards" for many decades (too dumb to quit) – I'm still first and foremost a RIDER] I'm thinking a State based approach would probably be more achievable. The bottom line is we need to create some incentives to entice & develop new ride officials, so people need to put their thinking caps on!

Belinda and I had a recent conversation and brainstorm resulting a few ideas below:

- Need for updated CS lists from all DA's AND to be included and easy to find on their websites
- Accessible list on AERASPACE
- A hard copy rule book provided for all active and accredited CS's
- CS's and Vets to be listed on ride results uploaded to AERASPACE - would be a good way to keep track of eligibility status

Discussion

Contact numbers for CSs and TPRs have been available on some DA websites and it was discussed that this is probably not okay to do without consent and it is better to rely on the lists of officials as available to Ride Organisers through the database. Again this is only as good as the information that is in the database.

Noted that it is on the agenda for the DBSC to have a flag show to confirm status of CSs and TPRs.

Retired ones cannot be deleted because their names are linked to events. This is also relevant to vets' records. Contact numbers can be removed for those who are no longer active.

WAERA appoints a CS Liaison Officer who is responsible for allocating CSs to events and also noted the loss of two significant CSs last year – passing of Terry Sweeney and retirement of Deb Symington but Deb will stay involved to mentor new ones coming through.

JB noted that a state-based recruitment process is probably most relevant.

Hardcopy rulebook – discussion about whether AERA would do a print run of current rulebook but consensus that due to annual updates this is not efficient. Suggestion that Ride Organisers have a current version printed to have at their ride.

Action

Confirm with the DBSC that it is on their task list to have a process to confirm currency of status of officials.

Note option for Ride Organisers to have a copy of current rules at their event in Meeting Notes.

Meeting adjourned from 11.14 to 11.30 am

14.6. National Vet Panel – Mark Dunn, NVP Liaison

The NVP met on 5 December 2023 and considered a number of issues.

The new vet training and accreditation course has now had 22 registrations with 17 of these actually paying. 5 vets have completed the course and been issued with certificates of completion. There is a view amongst NVP members that there is a need for a separate Treatment Vet module – the sentiment is that treating a metabolically compromised endurance horse is highly specialised work that cannot be dealt without specialised training.

In light of the removal of the respiration count in vet assessments, NVP members discussed whether other parameters might usefully be added to the logbook, for example 'surface factors' or 'demeanour'.

The NVP suggests the addition of an 'Other' column to cover all factors not specifically listed.

There was also discussion as to whether the 'Overall' component was needed. It was agreed that it is needed as it is possible to obtain an overall 'D' even if all other scores are Bs, Cs etc. An action from this was that this should be communicated to vets through whatever communication channels are available.

There was consensus at the meeting that the treatment record form needs review. Bruno Ros has volunteered to have a look. He has been provided with an editable version of the invasive treatment form. NVP members discussed at length under what circumstances a horse can be vetted out after successfully completing and then receiving invasive treatment. They believe the existing Rule, where the treating vet(s) has some discretion, is the best option.

On a related note, the NVP suggests the definition of 'veterinary control' be amended. It currently includes: *'b) the head veterinarian signs off the horse's logbook or vet card and c) the ride secretary has signed and released the horse's logbook or vet card.'*

Members feel the meaning of 'released' is unclear and recommend the passage above be amended to: *'the ride secretary and head veterinarian have signed the horse's logbook or vet card'* which better references a clear point in time.

NVP members considered whether and when it is appropriate for the NVP to conduct a clinical review of equine catastrophes and, where appropriate, that counsel be provided to vets involved in such incidents. Such counsel should take an educative, non-critical approach much as occurs in many areas of human health care. Mark to look at review of equine catastrophe protocol and NVP TOR to incorporate this principle.

NVP members considered whether electronic heart rate monitors should be available for use in the vet ring. Making it clear that they can be used could be done by adding a clause to the vet Rules - *'Electronic heart rate monitors may be used to measure the horse's heart rate'*.

NVP members feel it would not be appropriate to incorporate this into the Rules at this point. Clearly, the TQ23 chief steward and head vet felt that it was within the Rules to use these at the event and it is open to future chief stewards and head vets to make the same decision. Issues of concern raised were that there would need to be some sort of validation of any electronic HR monitors used and that these may need to be appropriately maintained and calibrated.

AERA requested that the NVP consider whether the use of temperature reading microchips should be acknowledged and recognised as a valid means of assessing a horse's temperature.

NVP members agreed that the use of these should be encouraged, acknowledging that while their use has not been 'officially' shown to correlate with rectal temp, unofficial trials at events in Qld have resulted in good correlation. Members also noted that continuing to require rectal temps in Horse Health Declarations is a good behaviour training / safety tool.

Secretary Note

Advice received from NSW ERA that their NP nominees are Rhys Powell and Chris Dowey.

Discussion

Vet training - 9 vets have now completed the online training at time of meeting.

Treatment Vet training - consideration that we need to create another module for training of Treatment Vet, acknowledging that this would be a big task – work in progress.

Logbooks - adjustment to logbook to add another column for vets to note “other” but resolved not to do this as the column “vet comments” can be used for this. Noted that Respiratory Column will still be used but will be assessed by vets and not TPRs’

Vet out for IT post ride – discussion about previous 2-hour rule but noted that this was problematic with incidents of people not seeking veterinary assistance to keep their completion. Also noted that level of IT care would be important in determining the decision about a completion status being retained or not and concern expressed that this may not be being applied consistently. The current rule is seen as giving some discretion to the vet and Chief Steward but also is linked to the horse being under vet control until the logbook is released by the Ride Secretary. Sign off of books can be done as they are being processed and people who are finished and ready to go can leave – suggestion that the book is released when signed by the Head Vet and Ride Secretary.

Option to consider that if the logbook as been signed off by the vet, that is saying that the horse is released from the vet care related to the ride – any treatment after that would be by private arrangement. Horse can be on site for a long time after signing off of logbook due to other horses still in competition, or riders/ owners engaged in volunteering at the event. This is about the relationship between the treatment and the horse’s participation in the event.

Motion: 2024/02/07 Moved: Dick Collyer / Jil Bourton
That the AERA Rulebook Sub-committee review Rule 51.3 and bring back a recommendation to the next AERA Management Committee Meeting.
Carried unanimously.

Review of Horse Catastrophes – discussion whether there is a role for a member of the NVP to discuss horse catastrophes with relevant vets. Consensus that this was in general a positive approach.

Action

Review of Terms of Reference and Equine Catastrophe Protocol – Mark Dunn

Electronic HR Monitors - agreement with NVP that this did not require a rule change at present but to keep in mind. Noted that FEI rules allow for this and recent FEI rule change requires that if a horse is representing within it hold time for HR a second monitor should be used.

Use of Microchip Scanner to record temperatures – agreed that this be allowed when possible but not a rule change.

Note that DAs need to confirm with Secretary who will be on NVP for 2024 to 2026.

14.7. Horse Welfare and Invasive Treatments – Dick Collyer

The HWSC is looking at this AERASpace data for 2023 and will present a report for the AERA AGM.

AUSTRALIAN ENTRY STATISTICS 2023

Division	Endurance	Intermediate	Introductory	FEI	Total
NSWERA	842	579	396	31	1848
QERA	1158	740	503	56	2457
SAERA	179	94	126	-	399
TEERA	398	269	135	-	802
VERA	408	240	151	-	799
WAERA	222	235	328	-	785
Totals	3207	2157	1639	87	7090

2023 VETTING STATISTICS - AERA ENDURANCE – Endurance Rides

State	Entries	Completed	DNE	Wdn.	Lame H/R	Met.	Disq.	Time	DNF
Other									

NSWERA	Division Total:	842	584	7	79	91	27	4	0	0	0
	50										
QERA	Division Total:	1131	859	0	8	157	13	14	2	0	0
	78										
SAERA	Division Total:	164	121	0	9	17	0	3	0	0	0
	14										
TEERA	Division Total:	398	295	0	18	44	20	0	1	2	0
	18										
VERA	Division Total:	408	301	0	40	44	3	2	1	0	0
	17										
WAERA	Division Total:	177	138	1	0	26	3	0	0	0	0
	9										
AERA	Grand Total:	3120	2298	8	154	379	66	23	4	2	0
	186										

:

2023 VETTING STATISTICS - AERA ENDURANCE - Intermediate rides

State	Division	Entries	Completed	DNE	Wdn.	Lame	H/R	Met.	Disq.	Time	DNF
Other											
NSWERA	Division Total:	975	862	14	12	42	27	1	0	0	0
	17										
QERA	Division Total:	1269	1107	28	3	49	38	3	0	0	0
	41										
SAERA	Division Total:	235	209	2	0	8	4	1	0	1	0
	10										
TEERA	Division Total:	404	349	2	0	13	30	0	0	0	0
	10										
VERA	Division Total:	391	319	3	26	14	13	0	0	0	0
	16										
WAERA	Division Total:	608	543	1	0	31	20	0	0	0	0
	13										
AERA	Grand Total:	3882	3389	50	41	157	132	5	0	1	0
	107										

Fluid Usage Statistics from 01 January 2023 to 03 December 2023

	80-119km	120-159km	160km
Horses treated:	16	1	10
Total fluids given:	665	1	123
Average fluids given:	41.5625	1	12.3
Nil outcome:	2	0	2
Rest order:	12	1	8
Euthanasia:	2	0	0

IT Statistics for 2019 to 2023 for amount given ALL

	Tom Quilty	NSWERA	QERA	TEERA	VERA	WAERA
2019	20	21	20	1	2	4
2020	0	0	10	2	0	0
2021	1	1	17	3	0	0
2022	7	7	13	0	1	0
2023	4	3	21	2	2	3
Total	32	32	81	8	5	7

AERA Rest Periods from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

40km Ride	< or = 5 days							6 to 10 days					> 10 days						
	Total surveyed	Category Total	Completed	V/O HR	V/O Lamé	V/O Metabolics	V/O Other	Category Total	Completed	V/O HR	V/O Lamé	V/O Metabolics	V/O Other	Category Total	Completed	V/O HR	V/O Lamé	V/O Metabolics	V/O Other
Number of Horses	547	3	1	1	1	0	0	7	6	0	1	0	0	537	507	13	15	1	1
Percentage			33.3	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0		85.7	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0		94.4	2.4	2.8	0.2	0.2

80km Ride	< or = 12 days							13 to 20 days					> 20 days						
	Total surveyed	Category Total	Completed	V/O HR	V/O Lamé	V/O Metabolics	V/O Other	Category Total	Completed	V/O HR	V/O Lamé	V/O Metabolics	V/O Other	Category Total	Completed	V/O HR	V/O Lamé	V/O Metabolics	V/O Other
Number of Horses	846	4	4	0	0	0	0	109	89	1	18	1	0	733	654	11	64	3	2
Percentage			100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		81.7	0.9	16.5	0.9	0.0		89.2	1.5	8.7	0.4	0.3

80 - 120km Ride	< or = 19 days							20 to 26 days					> 26 days						
	Total surveyed	Category Total	Completed	V/O HR	V/O Lamé	V/O Metabolics	V/O Other	Category Total	Completed	V/O HR	V/O Lamé	V/O Metabolics	V/O Other	Category Total	Completed	V/O HR	V/O Lamé	V/O Metabolics	V/O Other
Number of Horses	1487	224	188	3	30	2	2	270	238	4	26	2	0	993	865	15	108	3	4
Percentage			83.9	1.3	13.4	0.9	0.9		88.1	1.5	9.6	0.7	0.0		87.1	1.5	10.9	0.3	0.4

Discussion

Dick Collyer spoke to the data presented, noting that this is just data as available from the database noting there was still some inconsistencies in that is uploaded and recorded. Also advised that this data has been presented to the HWSC and an overview report will be prepared for the AGM, noting the importance of being able to show good data and also that we are looking at this should we be asked to respond to any concerns about horse fatalities.

GN – one glaring omission is that there should be a report on horse deaths so these can be easily reference in the event of an enquiry. Also whether we are seeing a trend in any of the data gathered. Suggested that reports need to go wider to be meaningful.

WH – did not agree that reports on horse deaths should be public.

DC – Horse Catastrophes have been reviewed as per our rules and reports have been provided to the DAS. All data should be considered as national data. DAs may consider their own data with regard to any local trends.

SR – suggested that data recorded as DNE is not accurate.

KM – looking at trends can be skewed by how data is allocated – horses from one DA competing in another DA – how is data included

SR – numbers for DNE is not accurate for VERA? Also that clinical review of horse deaths as discussed at agenda item 14.6, reference NVP, could be useful.

DC – number of horse deaths has not been significant. There may be some benefit in reporting on horse deaths and important to be transparent. Three last year and one was an accident causing catastrophic injury.

14.8. EADCM Panel review – Mark Dunn

There has been no new activity since our last meeting.

The AAF recorded at the 2022 Victorian state championship event remains a work in progress as of 24/1/24 however this may have changed by the date of this meeting.

Noting that the owner of the horse had given a report at the NSWERA AGM, Mark Dunn reported that a positive swab at the 2022 VERA State Championships was for a steroid. This went to a hearing in December 2023 and the finding was that the infraction was confirmed and sanctions were applied as per the rulebook. An appeal was immediately lodged and was on hold while negotiation was attempted to settle. AERA wants to have an outcome that is in keeping with the rules. AERA has sought legal advice and that the matter is ongoing.

Sarah Pollard Williams noted that the substance is found in plants and NSW ERA strongly believes that any future cases should be referred to the National Sports Tribunal

14.9. Medication control – Marylou Locke

14.9.1 Report from ARFL

Swabbing data provided by Marylou Locke

	2023								
State	Ordered by	Swabbing Steward	Date	Event	kits ordered	number of kits sent to Lab	Bloods	Urine	RESULT
TAS	Dr P Hodgetts	P Hodgetts	18/2/2023	CCEB	6	1	1		negative
OLD		B Hew	3/05/2023	Lake Manchester		7	7		
QLD		B Hew	4/08/2023	Far and away		8	8		
QLD		B Hew	30/04/23	Stirling Classic		7	7		
Tas		P Hodgetts	5/06/2023	CASTRA		2	2		negative
Tas		P Hodgetts	21/05/23	sun coast		1	1		negative

QLD		B Hew	6/03/2023	Inglewood		3	3		
Qld		Earle Olaisen	24/6/23	Quilty		13	13		negative
WA	Dr A Barnes	Dr A Barnes	29/07/23	Collie back to base	4	1	1		negative
QLD		B Hew	26/08/23	QLD State Champs		4	4		negative
WA		Dr A Barnes	7/01/2023	WA champs		3	3		negative
NSW	Earl Olaisen	Earl Olaisen	23/9/2023	Wattagan Mountain	4	4	4		negative
Vic	Sandy Little		29-1/9/2023	VERA state champs	6				
SAERA			October	SA state champs		5	5		
Tas	Andrew Miles		18/11/2023	Tas State Champs	7	5	5		
NSW	Earl Olaisen	Earl Olaisen	11/05/2023	NSW State Chaps		11	11		negative
Total					27	75	75		

Swabbing data per DA

- NSWERA 15 swabs
- QERA 42 swabs
- SAERA 5 swabs
- TEERA 9 swabs
- VERA 0 swabs
- WAERA 4 swabs.

Discussion

Marylou’s report suggests that QERA, TEERA, SAERA and WAERA have met their targets for 2023.

DAs are encouraged to meet their targets acknowledging that there are a number of factors that impact on this.

Kim Moir reported that since she provided this report she has been able to see that results from TEERA State Champs are all clear. She has not received the sample numbers from VERA or SAERA so has not been able to check on these results.

Jil Bourton noted that the issues in SA that has prevented information being provided to Marylou. Three were swabs done at the State Champs and at another ride but no information has been provided about those samples.

Sioux Reid to follow up on information about VERA Swabbing. Sioux Reid will also be renewing her membership to EA to return to the role of swabbing steward for endurance events.

Report received from ARFL

SALICYLIC ACID

The Animal Care and Ethics approved 3 group administration study with Racing NSW horses to attempt to identify and differentiate those administered medications against a group feed lucerne hay (identified to contain elevated levels of natural salicylic acid) is set down to take place late January early February 2024. Results and outcomes from this study will be summarised and presented to the AERA as soon as possible upon completion.

20-HYDROXYECYDSONE

The Association of Official Racing Chemists (AORC) has a Committee called the AORC Analytical Data Review Board (ADRB) comprising of serving members of the AORC. The Board offers a service whereby analytical data is scrutinized by three independent third-party experts.

As a Fellow of the AORC, I utilised this service for sample B203945. Please see attached the report from the ADRB panel.

Discussion

There has been no outcome yet into the lab's research into the apparent increased presence of Salicylic Acid.

Also noting that an independent review of ARFL work has been done re testing of 20-HYDROXYECYDSONE was as per standards. This was done in response to the statements presented with regard to this ongoing matter alleging that the laboratory procedures were not adequate.

14.10. Biosecurity – Dick Collyer

Nothing to report

14.11. EA Endurance Committee – Sonya Ryan / Dick Collyer

14.11 AERA Horse logbook_FEI

1. Reporting of positive swabs (AAFs) at FEI rides.

This statement has been received from Genevieve Longman, Integrity and Complaints Officer, EA.

EA receives notification from the FEI of a positive swab result from swabbing conducted at FEI events. The FEI handles the positive result, conducts the testing, and prepares the documentation. EA acts as an intermediary forwarding correspondence received from the FEI to the Person Responsible.

EA is only involved to the extent that we ensure the PR receives all the information provided by the FEI and we act as a contact point in Australia should the PR require one. Once the matter has been finalised, EA are notified of the outcome, then if directed by the FEI, EA will contact the event organisers to advise them. This would occur in circumstances where event organisers would need to alter results and or redistribute prize money if the PR was disqualified.

The only circumstances where EA would notify AERA/ Event organiser prior to an outcome being reached is when a provisional suspension is in place. In those circumstances EA does notify the relevant parties to ensure that the provisional suspension is able to be enforced.

Whilst a process is ongoing and no outcome has been determined, EA cannot disclose positive swabs as this could potentially prejudice the FEI process and breach our confidentiality requirements.

2. The Australasian Team Challenge – Endurafest – Inglewood – 31 May, 1/2 June, 2024

- Only 1 Team per National Federation.

- Teams of 4 with the top 3 scores to count and 1 drop score.
 - Each NF can have a reserve rider.
 - If something unexpected arises to 1 of your athletes and you do not have a reserve athlete you can still compete as a team of 3.
 - Athletes can use their own horses if they choose to or for Athletes who do not have horses based in Australia or are not bringing their horses over to Australia, the event organisers will provide a pool of borrowed horses for your team.
 - There may be an opportunity for additional overseas athletes outside of their NF team of 4 to compete in one of the other FEI events the following day, on an Australian-based lease horse. However, that would be up to the Athlete to source their own appropriately qualified lease horse for an FEI event.
- A number of EOIs from other countries have already been received – New Zealand, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore.
EOIs for pool horses have been circulated and so far there are between 20 and 30 horses that have been nominated.

3. New FEI Rules for Endurance

A number of new rules have been passed and will start from 1 January, 2024. Some of these will make it easier for ROs in Australia to fulfil the requirements for officials, etc.

FEI Endurance Rules as of 01.01.2024 Mark-up version: [FEI Endurance Rules - 1 January 2024 - Mark Up_0.pdf](#)

FEI Endurance Rules as of 01.01.2024 Clean version: [FEI Endurance Rules - 1 January 2024 - Clean_0.pdf](#)

Plus - FEI General Regulations 2024 Mark-up version: [FEI General Regulations -Effective 1January2024-mark-up.pdf](#)

FEI General Regulations 2024 Clean version: [FEI General Regulations -Effective 1January2024- clean.pdf](#)

Plus - FEI Veterinary Regulations 2024 Mark-up version: [2024 Veterinary Regulations - marked up version.pdf \(fei.org\)](#)

FEI Veterinary Regulations 2024 Clean version: [2024 Veterinary Regulations - clean version.pdf \(fei.org\)](#)

4. AERA logbooks /passports

Sonya and her neighbour, Holley (who prints the AERA logbooks) have done this and the mock-up will be sent as a separate document.

Next meeting: probably next week - so might have more to report on at the AERA meeting.

Discussion

Note EAs response to query about exchange of information where a horse entered in an FEI ride affiliated with AERA – this will not happen unless there is a positive outcome.

Endurafest – planning going well and 4 countries have confirmed their participation and a good number of horses have been put forward for the teams competition.

Logbook – need to decide if logbook would be changed for everyone or just FEI horses – comments provided from QERA Registrar. All rides would be recorded in the merged logbook and this would only allow for FEI 1* events – an FEI passport will still be required for 2* and 3* events. Also this mock up still has to be confirmed as acceptable to EA which will be discussed at next meeting scheduled for 15th February.

Noted that the Owner ID pages have been removed and so owners will have to go straight to full vet ID

Actions

Dick to confirm whether this new logbook is acceptable to EA and whether Owner ID pages can be included.

Mockup version to be send to DAs for comment and encourage them to discuss with their Registrars.

FEI Rule changes – noted that horses of 6 years of age entering their first 1* event must be competed no faster than 16 km /hr. Also fewer officials required which should help our Ride Organisers.

To discuss this with Database Sub-committee re need to up date database to fit with new FEI rules.

Dick Collyer advised that Caewen Cusworth is leaving EA and her replacement has not yet been advised.

Meeting adjourned from 12.50 to 13.30 pm.

Agenda suspended to meet with Linda Tanian DBSC Chair 13.30 - 14.24pm

14.12. Governance and Policy -

Nothing to report.

14.13. Tom Quilty Gold Cup

14.13.1.TQ 24 – SAERA

14.13.1 231004_TQ Minutes 4 October

14.13.1 231109_TQ Minutes 9 November

14.13.1 231206_TQ Minutes 6 December

Tom McCormack reported via the secretary that things are progressing well; sponsorship is over \$20,000; Tom has planned a site visit during second half of March to finalise camping arrangements.

Mandy Penney, Secretary noted that another meeting was held in January but minutes have not been ratified yet. Email address has been set up – info@tomquilty.com.au

Discussion

Sioux Reid, as AERA's representative on the TQ Committee, has not been involved to date but has been in contact with TQ24 Secretary and will be sent the link for the next meeting, to be held on 21 February and has asked for previous minutes that have yet to be ratified. Sioux will consider the option to travel to SA when Tom plans to be there.

Actions

With reference to the TQ Book, whoever is taking on liaison for the magazine will have to be in contact with the sponsorship person so we can work out costs of advertising and who is liaison for local input to the TQ Book

Correspondence to go to DAs to Vets and CSs letter to go

Look for someone to attend the next AERA meeting which is 6 months out from the event and for updated budget, biosecurity plan and all other reports. JB – noted that Melissa Bright is in charge of sponsorship for TQ24. Sioux to discuss who will be liaison for content to the TQ Book.

Progress of TQ Book for AERA - Kim to consult with TQ23 person and send something to members and to develop a format that can be used for future committees.

Review of specs given for quotes and align with tasks to support flow of info to designer and printer. JB and SR to liaise about this.

14.13.2.TQ25 – TEERA

14.13.2 TQ25 Minutes of meeting on 12 January 2024

Discussion

Ratify appointment of Khyle Stewart as Head Vet and Andrew Miles as Chief Steward. It was confirmed that they are both available for TQ24. MD noted that Khyle had been 2IC Head Vet at TQ21 and has been around for many years.

Motion: 2024/02/08 Moved: Dick Collyer / Jil Bourton

That the appointments of Dr Khyle Stewart as Head Vet and Andrew Miles as Head Chief Steward to TQ25, and their attendance at TQ24 is ratified.

Mark Dunn abstained.

Carried unanimously.

KM noted that there was no mention of merchandise in the minutes. AM Responded that this has been discussed but not the most pressing of matters. The logo is determined and now that they have moved to monthly meetings, this will be caught up with.

14.13.3. Tom Quilty Gold Cup – Future Options

TOM QUILTY GOLD CUP – MOVING FORWARD. January 30 2024 - Jil Bourton

Background

I have attended all but seven TQ events since the State rotation started in 1986 (38 years ago). Ridden in 23 and been on 3 TQ Organising committees – as secretary x 2 and President x 1. Have mentored several riders to complete their first Quilty over the years.

On reading again the report Mark put together from the TQ Future Options discussion at Stirling's Crossing, there are two consistent points that were echoed throughout -

- 1) Majority of members want the TQ to continue as a rotational event around the States
- 2) The AERA should take more "ownership" of the TQ, providing more support and creating more consistency in the yearly organisation of the event.

I feel with these two points in mind we should be formulating an "Action List" with achievable timelines, to try and move forward on changes needed to ease the burden on State committees, maintain consistency and prevent continual "reinventing of the wheel" year after year – which seems to lead to a lot of frustration and burn out on individuals who have bravely volunteered to keep this amazing event going.

In a way we have already started this process with taking on the production of the "Year Book", an integral and much looked forward to part of every TQ, so it's timely, I believe, to keep up the momentum. The nature of "the beast" prevents big changes in a short time frame which is why I strongly recommend an Action List with desirable achievement dates.

Really the event has truly evolved since I've become involved and the AERA *has* implemented many improvements for State RO's during that time and as a TQ organiser from the "older" days all those initiatives have been well accepted and appreciated.

When I started endurance riding in 1983 it was just a dream that I'd ever ride in a Quilty but fortunately for me, and all members throughout Australia, it started its State roster just a few years later. That "new beginning" has created our Quilty Family which is such a beautiful tradition to retain. I would hate to see it

all end up in the “too hard basket” because we can’t muster up the determination to maintain it as the truly unique and iconic Australian equestrian event that it is.

Discussion

Look at other things that AERA can do towards the organising of the event.

DC – people need to refer to the manual – a lot has changed and we are not “continually changing the wheel” if people refer to the manual. Acknowledge it is an onerous task and would hate to lose the local element from person on checkpoint gate through to sponsors. It is a partnership and think the model as it stands is doable providing guidance as to who is responsible for what.

JB – maybe the biggest concern is the cost and the need for sponsorship. Believe that a major sponsor to be locked in for several years would be a great help to each TQ Committee. Maybe a three-year contract would be more realistic. If we can attract a significant sponsor that should be managed by AERA.

AM – have read the manual and have considered what else AERA might do to lighten the load but other than a long-term significant sponsor can’t think of anything else that would not be done at the local level.

DC – the issue of cost and sponsorship is always a concern but the history would seem to be that they make money, much of that coming from sponsorship. Cost for riders can’t be avoided.

KM – contact was made with RMW by TQs 21, 22 and 23 with no response. A connection has now been made and hopefully some success will come from that.

Acknowledgement that personal connection can get a better outcome than a request to a general email.

14.13.4.TQ Book

14.13.4 Vink Publishing EOI for TQ Book – design and print

14.13.4 Kerri Hill EOI for TQ Book – design only

14.13.4 Printcraft EOI for TQ Book – print only

14.13.4 Example of Advertising marketing

	Design	Print	total inc gst	Cost per item					
Vink 200	\$8640	\$2,587.20	\$12,439.92	\$60.00					
Vink 250	\$8640	\$2,977.70	\$12,779.77	\$51.00					
Vink 300	\$8640	\$3,370.40	\$13,211.44	\$44.00					
						KH + Vink printing if costs remain			
Kerri Hill 200	\$6500			\$32.50	\$12.93	\$45.43			
Kerri Hill 250	\$6500			\$26.00	\$11.90	\$37.90			
Kerri Hill 300	\$6500			\$22.00	\$11.23	\$33.23			
						KH + Printcraft printing			
Printcraft 200		\$3,828.57		\$19.14	\$32.50	\$51.64			
Printcraft 250		\$5,827.02		\$23.31	\$26.00	\$49.31			
Printcraft 300		\$6,571.66		\$21.91	\$22.00	\$43.91			

KM - my thought was to merge Vink with Kerri Hill but he may charge more for print if he is not also doing the design. Note that the cost is so high per magazine because we are ordering so few – the Arabian Horse Lifestyle magazine retails for \$10 whereas quoted give best cost per magazine at \$45 per magazine. There will be a cost to TQ24 for the magazines to provide to their riders and sponsors. AERA also needs to get an understanding of the advertising committee to sponsors and that would also be charged to TQ24. Note that some advertisers are in the magazine every year.

Printcraft has done previous TQ Magazines and QERA Magazines and it might be worth chatting to them to see what we might change to bring down the costs. Note printing cost is \$20 per magazine and we need to identify income from advertising.

Kerri Hill has done similar work in designing Arabian Horse Lifestyle.

Action

Kim to discuss with suppliers and document process for TQ24.

Kim to consult with TQ23 people to identify advertisers and TQ24 to identify local advertisers.

15. Rule Book

15.1. Rulebook Sub-committee report – Mark Dunn

There are a few matters under consideration that we should discuss today. No 2. Below is presented as a formal Rule change proposal in the relevant part of the agenda.

1. There is some work in progress on the Ride and Tie Rules – this will come back to a future MC meeting.
2. Rule 27.4 currently says:
The presentation of a current DA membership card shall prima facie be proof of membership. If a rider cannot produce a current DA membership card for whatever reason, the ride secretary may validate the membership through AeraSpace. If no membership card is produced and the membership cannot be validated through AeraSpace for whatever reason, the rider cannot enter a ride requiring such membership.

Given that memberships are now processed through AERASpace, this might be changed to:

Validation of membership through AERASpace records shall prima facie be proof of membership. A DA Membership card will still be accepted as proof of membership. If the membership cannot be validated through AeraSpace for whatever reason, or by presentation of a current DA Membership card the rider cannot enter a ride requiring membership.

3. **From NSWERA President** (correspondence received 8 January 2024 ref EADCM rules) - note that AERA has sought advice from NST about this.

The following email is to provide possible draft wording to amend the EADCM Rules that are in place to include the National Sporting Tribunal (NST) into the rules.

I would like to preface the following by stating that these opinions are based on the experiences of the NSW DA to date in regard to the AAF issue that we have been managing for the past 11 months and is before our DA Hearing Panel now awaiting a final decision.

Within the EADCM rules, there must be opportunity to utilise the NST or an equivalent independent sporting tribunal, to arbitrate complex issues surrounding positive swabs of both prohibited and controlled substances in our sport as follows -

- Should the Person/s Responsible (PR) refute the findings of both the A and B swabs and rejects that there has been any violation of the EADCM rules, the matter is immediately referred to the NST for resolution and settlement.
- Any costs incurred by the PR associated with their attendance at the NST or equivalent independent sports tribunal, including but not limited to any submissions or evidence and legal costs, will be the responsibility of the PR.
- All decisions resulting from attending the NST or equivalent independent sports tribunal will be binding on PR and on the AERA and its Divisional Associations, including any fines, suspensions, or disqualifications that may be imposed, removed or amended.

Rationale -

- By having such or similar wording written into both sets of EADCM rules, the PR understands exactly what the process will be, should they refute the findings of the A and B swabbing tests. They also cannot argue that they don't wish to attend an independent tribunal as it is written into the rules.
- I believe our sport is too small to provide the necessary requirements surrounding adjudicating such complex cases.
- It is very difficult for DAs to find amongst their volunteer base, the necessary skill and time to comprehend the level of complexity of the EADCM rules.
- The NST removes the issues of confidentiality and perceived bias that remain tangible in a small sport, such as endurance riding in Australia.
- The NST ensures that the PR receives a fair and equitable tribunal in a timely manner.

4. Helmet tagging

We considered this in 2022 when FEI / EA foreshadowed that helmet tagging would be mandatory at FEI / EA affiliated events from 1 July 2022.

The AERA MC endorsed a 'watch and wait' stance on as it saw some pitfalls, for example, when do tags expire? A helmet tagged as compliant may become non-compliant a week later if standards change. How is this managed?

Do we need to change our policy which is, at present, that tagging is not required at AERA affiliated events?

Discussion

Ride and Tie – this will have to come back to the next meeting.

Rule 27.4 – a motion to be brought forward.

NSWERA – request to look at EADCM rules but will wait till case is resolved

Helmet tagging – this has been discussed previously and suggest that we still watch and wait. Natasha Ellery advised that another discipline has found it difficult to re-negotiate insurance without a helmet tagging policy. Endurance does have minors competing.

Action

Mark Dunn to seek further advice from SUREWiSE

SR – noted recent discussion on concussion policies – juniors to be sidelined for 3 weeks – note this will come back again. Natasha Ellery advised that PCA has already had a 3-week out-of-competition

requirement for concussion. This was discussed last year and DAs were to confirm their own policies.

Action

Mark Dunn to review current EA Guidelines and bring back to the next meeting.

15.2. Proposed rule changes for a first vote

15.2.1. Proposed rule changes – Rule 27.4 – as per report

The presentation of a current DA membership card shall prima facie be proof of membership. If a rider cannot produce a current DA membership card for whatever reason, the ride secretary may validate the membership through AeraSpace. If no membership card is produced and the membership cannot be validated through AeraSpace for whatever reason, the rider cannot enter a ride requiring such membership.

Given that memberships are now processed through AERASpace, this might be changed to:

Validation of membership through AERASpace records shall prima facie be proof of membership. A DA Membership card will still be accepted as proof of membership. If the membership cannot be validated through AeraSpace for whatever reason, or by presentation of a current DA Membership card the rider cannot enter a ride requiring membership.

Motion: 2024/02/09 Moved: Sioux Reid/ Kim Moir

That Rule 27.4 is changed to read “Validation of membership through AERASpace records shall prima facie be proof of membership. A DA Membership card will still be accepted as proof of membership. If the membership cannot be validated through AeraSpace for whatever reason, or by presentation of a current DA Membership card the rider cannot enter a ride requiring membership. “

Carried unanimously for first vote

15.3. Proposed rule changes presented for a second vote – carried forward to next meeting.

15.3.1. Rule Change Proposal – S2 Complementary Competition (Carried forward from AERA MC Meeting on 12 November 2023)

Motion: That the Ride and Tie Rules detailed below replace those currently in the AERA Rulebook S2 Complementary Competition Rules

Ride and Tie - GENERAL RULES

1. All AERA Inc. Rules and procedures apply, except as provided within these Ride and Tie Rules.
2. All Novice horses and or Riders including day Members competing in Ride and Ties shall comply with a minimum riding time determined by the ride committee in consultation with the Chief Steward and Head Veterinarian. The minimum riding time shall be calculated by dividing the distance of the ride or leg by 14 kms per hour or less.

3. All horses competing in Ride and Ties will comply with a maximum heart rate criterion of 55 beats per minute or below on all legs of the ride. Horses must be a minimum of 4.5 years of age on the day of the ride.
4. A Horse may enter only one Ride and Tie event per day.
5. Each team will consist of two persons who are members of a Division of the AERA Inc or are day members. The minimum age for participation is 12 years old on the day or the ride.
6. Each team must tie its horse and switch from rider to runner and runner to rider at least two (2) times during an event. Teams may tie as many times as they desire anywhere along the trail as long as the ties do not obstruct the trail or are not made in designated "No Tie Areas."
7. Allowable tie points are anything that exists along the course for all participants to tie to unless in designated 'no tie' areas. Artificial ties are not allowed. Hand ties are not allowed unless with the express permission of the Chief Steward.

[An artificial tie is anything that does not exist along the course for all participants to tie to. For example, a participant cannot carry a metal stake and hammer with them and create an "artificial tie" as they go. Trees, fences, roots, bushes etc. are all allowable ties since all participants can use them. A "hand tie" is when support personnel hold the horse for the team.]

8. Both riders and the horse must be present at all vet examinations. Only contestants may take a horse through the vet checks before, during and after the ride.

9. It is not permissible for both members of a team to use their horse at the same time for forward movement. "Tailing" (meaning the rider dismounts, grips the horse's tail and allows the horse to pull him/her) is allowed but it is not permissible for one team member to ride while another tails.

10. A team has not completed the event until both human teammates and their horse have reached the finish line.

RIDE AND TIE RIDERS

1. There are no riding divisions for Ride and Ties. Riders do not need to weigh.
2. All riders must attend the pre-ride briefing or risk disqualification.
3. All riders entering Ride and Tie rides must be identified as Ride and Tie riders.
4. All riders must wear an equestrian standard helmet that complies with the Equestrian Standards in Australia, the U.S.A. or Europe, current at the time of manufacture.

RIDE AND TIE DISTANCE

1. The ride distance must be between 5 kms and 40 kms.

RIDE AND TIE AWARDS

1. All successful ride and tie teams must receive a completion award.
2. Placing awards are allowed.

Motion: 2023/09/14

Moved: Dick Collyer / Clare Fleming

That the Ride and Tie Rules as presented replace those currently in the AERA Rulebook S2 Complementary Competition Rules.

Voting: KM – abstain; JB – abstain ; CF – yes; DC – yes; SR –yes; NE – abstain; WH – yes; MD – yes.

Voting outcome: For – 5 votes: Abstain – 3 votes.

Carried by majority and passed for a first vote.

Discussion

MD reminded that this has come from the need to align these rules with what was passed for implementation in 2016. Belinda Hopley has provided advice on shortcomings of the rules as they are now and also responses from Talea Hasko Stewart responses to questions put by AERA. Comments from Belinda re shortcomings.

Options are to allow the rules that are sub-optimal to remain; or to run the same motion and maybe replace with these rules. If we don't change this now what is in place remains until 2025.

DC – this needs more work; this is not an endurance competition and is in the complementary competition. This may not ever need to be entered into the database. There has not been time to read the comments received this morning.

Consensus that this is carried forward to next year and Clare and Mark to do some work on the rules to represent.

BH suggested that we adapt these rules to make it fit and the year after we can review again to make it better. This would at least make it possible to run the event. The main issue is that rule require everybody to be full riding member which they had not realised previously. None of the changes suggested by BH have been shared with others and is further complicated by the responses received this morning from NSW ERA via Tahlea Hasko Stewart.

MD – not happy to accept these rules, with amendments as has been recently presented by Belinda and notes from Tahlea Hasko-Stewart. Suggestion that the DA can introduce an interim class of membership to satisfy the existing rule.

16. General Business

Hall of Fame – DC noted that there has been discussion of this on Facebook with some comments suggesting different criteria for this. Any DA can bring this to a meeting if they wish.

17. Next meeting dates

27 March – AGM and Committee Meeting to determine Office Bearers. Reminder to all to ensure that nominations for MC Members are received and advised of Delegates.

6/7 April – this meeting date had been confirmed but it was requested we consider evening meetings . This is complicated by the different time zones but also meetings may not take so long as we would not have to require breaks. KM noted that time is better used if everyone comes prepared having read everything. We will be back in AEST. Jil noted that she would prefer not to do evening meetings but will participate in the trial and have the next meeting as a day meeting. KM noted it is often a struggle to find a weekend when there is no ride somewhere. SPW noted also that they are struggling to find someone willing to come to the AERA MC due to a full day meeting. DC if we have a meeting in April and May we may only need one evening and may be able to reduce the frequency of reports. JB as a compromise can we have a night meeting and a day meeting. AM good compromise – loss of a day's work – but support a trial.

	Mtg times AEST
NSWERA	7.30 – 10.00 pm
QERA	7.30 – 10.00 pm
SAERA asct	7.00 – 9.30 pm
TEERA	7.30 – 10-00 pm
VERA	7.30 – 10.00 pm
WAERA	5.30 – 8.00 pm


Consensus that we trial this for April meeting for 10 /11 April commencing at 7.30 AEST.

Option for a meeting in May to be discussed and then July, September and November.

18. Meeting closure

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 3.31.

President: Mark Dunn

Signature:  _____

Date: 19/4/2024