**Notes of the General Meeting of Members of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc held on 28th February and 1st March, 2009 commencing on Saturday at 9:33 a.m. following the AGM**

**Welcome by President** Ieva welcomed everyone to the meeting,

**Present: Anne Jones (Qld) Mathew Krahnan (Qld), Dorte Colja (Qld), Neil Clarkson (NSW), Tom Perkins (NSW), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Ieva Peters (WA), Ross McCamish (WA), Sarah Adams (SA) Helen Bowkett (TAS), Trish Smith (TAS), Sandy Horton (VIC), Roy Noble (Hon. Member).**

**In attendance:** Beverley Wright (AON) (Sunday)

**Apologies**: Tom McCormack (Tom Perkins proxy), Jane McLoughlin, Brian Sheahan

**Register of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest:** Nil

**Registration of Votes**: QLD -7, NSW – 6, Vic – 3, WA – 2, TAS – 2, SA - 1

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

- **CS Liaison:** All States to forward their Chief Steward liaison person's email details to Dorte to follow-up.
- **CS Handbook/Newsletter:** Dorte will take responsibility.
- **Videos:** Neil has done about 7 and would like others to do some too.
- **Volunteer Policy:** Sandy advised that it would have to be put into the general policy. A soft copy was sent to Sandy who will incorporate it.
- **Registrar Archives:** Kerry stated that Jo is working backwards and she will ask for a progress report.
- **Tasmanian Quilty:** This has now been finalised.
- **Quilty Manual:** Dick and Ieva have started the manual and are waiting for Jane to send what has been done to date. Ieva will ask Dick to continue.

  **Moved** Kerry Spratt/Dorte Colja

  **That** **Dick Collyer is asked to take over the running of the Quilty Manual project with the assistance of Jane McLoughlin, Sarah Adams and Ieva Peters.**

  **Voting** Carried Unanimously.

- **TPR/CS Exams:** Dorte to review
- **Replica Quilty Cup/Buckles:** Roy is continuing to source the replica cups and buckles.
- **Nanango Quilty:**

  **Moved** Kerry Spratt/Matthew Krahnen

  **That** **an article in placed in the newsletters reminding members that they have a responsibility to ensure that they and their horse do not pose a risk to the safety and welfare to other horses and riders.**

  **Voting** Carried Unanimously

  Tom is preparing guidelines for the suspension of rides.

- **Tamworth Equestrian Facility:** Jeff has been working with them and they are enthusiastic about holding rides. The venue is free and they have a 50 acre paddock at the back. Jeff would like Chris Gates or Jennifer Gilbertson to look at it.

**Executive Decisions to be Ratified**

That the AERA accept Jeff Bonham's resignation as an AERA (NSWERA) delegate and AERA Treasurer.

That the AERA accept Tom McCormack's application to fill the vacancy for the position of AERA (NSWERA) delegate and the AERA Treasurer until the 2009 AGM.

That the AERA supplies a replacement Shield for Open Rider of the Year to Tasmania, cost not exceeding $150.00

Note: This only cost $95

Re-imbursement to Carole Dixon of $106.00 for laminated photos for Equitana

Payment of Blucher invoice of $14,850.00 as per the contract

Invoice to States for use of Blucher system

**Moved** Sarah Adams/Ross McCamish
**That** **the executive decisions are ratified.**
**Voting** Carried Unanimously

**Nanango Quilty**

A document is being developed to define the drug levy and its use.

It was agreed to accept the recommendation that a dedicated voting steward should be appointed and should be a Chief Steward.

**Moved** Ross McCamish/Sarah Adams

**That** **the ride fees for the Quilty Head Veterinarian are negotiated between the Quilty Organising Committee and the Head Veterinarian with the approval of the AERA.**

**Voting** Carried.

**Victoria 2009:** It was noted that there is no AERA Delegate on the Quilty Committee. Matthew will liaise with the Quilty Committee to follow up on government funding after the fires.

It was noted that the State Championships has been cancelled at Tonimbuk.

The Quilty Committee would like AERA to purchase the 100 safety vests that they have purchased for the volunteers to wear at the Quilty. It was suggested that they contact the NSW Quilty Committee to see if they are interested.

**NSW 2010:** Neil agreed to be the AERA Delegate on the Quilty Committee.

**SA 2011:** Sarah gave a verbal report on the progress. The first formal meeting is going to be held in April. The proposed venue is the Clare showground and there will be an away checkpoint on an 11,000 acre station. A member of the Clare council will be on the Quilty Committee. The FEI * ride will be run there in October and a trial run will be held in late September 2010. The proposed date will be the last week of September, 2011.

**Quilty Event Standards/Working Party:** The move to the 20% levy was discussed. Sandy reminded everyone that the reason it was brought up in the first place is that the States wanted AERA to take more responsibility for the event. It is a way that the AERA can play a more active role. Roy provided figures to show that the AERA paid more for the Nanango Quilty than was received from the levy.

Ross raised the perception that members believe the Quilty is starting to look like an FEI event and steps should be taken to refute this. He believes that the event should always start at midnight the maximum heartrate for the Quilty should not be over 60 bpm. That way we would be seen to be trying to preserve the traditions of the Quilty. Anne noted that this is all perception as she has not received any written complaints about the issue and we should not act on campfire gossip. Sandy is concerned that we will stagnate and be locking into the past

Sarah and Matthew stated that they support Ross in this. Helen believes that we are reacting to rumour and that members will get used to competing at 64 bpm and therefore will not like returning to 60bpm at the Quilty.

**Moved** Matthew Krahnen/Ross McCamish

**That** **an amendment is made to the Event Standards 4.12 to read that the maximum heartrate for all legs should be set no higher than 60 bpm.**

**Voting** NSW – Yes, Vic – Yes, TAS – Abstain, Qld – Abstain, WA – Yes. Carried.

**Moved** Ross McCamish/Sarah Adams

**That** **if the Quilty Organising Committee wish to change from a midnight start, they must make an application to AERA.**

**Voting** NSW – Yes, Vic – Yes, Tas – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried. Anne wished it to be noted that she is against this as she believes it is a backwards step and the whole issue is based on perception.

The inclusion of National Championship was discussed with some believing that it should not be part of the wording. If this is removed, it leaves nothing in this country that can be called a Championship ride. It was agreed to leave it as it is and take back to the membership at the AGM's.

**Pat Slater Cup:** Sponsors are required for the Pat Slater Cup. If no-one comes forward the cost may be paid by the States on a Proportional basis.

**Database:** The database is progressing well and Trish hopes to have a demonstration system at the next meeting.

**Motions to be Re-tabled for Second Vote – Rule Changes**

10.1 **Heartrate in VGIH rides**

**that rule A12.1 P. 6 be amended to read the heartrate is to be set no higher than a maximum of 64 bpm.**

NSW – Yes, VIC – No, TAS - No, SA – No, QLD – Yes, WA - Yes. Carried. New Rule 2010

10.2 **VGIH Presents**

**that V8.8 P.38 be amended to read:**

**When a horse is timed into a VGIH checkpoint it has 20 minutes for rides up to 119 in distance and 30 minutes for rides for 120klm or longer within which to present.**

NSW – No, VIC – Yes, TAS - No, SA – No, QLD – Yes, WA - Yes. Carried. New Rule 2010

10.3 **Maximum Times**

**That V8.10 is amended to read:**

**within the maximum times as per rule V8.8**

NSW – No, VIC – Yes, TAS - No, SA – Yes, QLD – Yes, WA - Yes. Carried. New Rule 2010

10.4 **Heart Rate Criteria**

**That V8.12 is amended to read:**

**horses which do not meet the heart rate criteria as per rule V8.8are eliminated.**

NSW – No, VIC – Yes, TAS - No, SA – Yes, QLD – Yes, WA - Yes. Carried. New Rule 2010

10.5 **Re-presents**

**That V8.15 is amended to read:**

**Ride time will cease as the horse and rider cross the finish line at the end of the ride. The final veterinary examination will be the same procedure as for the sectional checks, except that there is no-represent and must take place at any time within thirty minutes of finish time.**

NSW – Yes, VIC – Yes, TAS - No, SA – Yes, QLD – Yes, WA - Yes. Carried. New Rule 2010

**Motions on Notice for Discussion and First Vote**

11.1 **Junior Weight in Best Conditioned (WAERA)**

**that Rule H15, BC Horse, 15.10 (a) Junior – upper limit 72.9kg.**

**Rationale:**

Lightweight riders have an upper limit of 72.9kg on the Best Conditioned horse calculations, as do Middleweight riders (90.9kg). The same should apply to Junior riders.

Ross stated that when calculating BC awards the Lightweights only take into consideration a maximum weight of 72.9. There are some juniors that weigh very light and others heavyweight and it will make a difference now that the Juniors are older. It was felt that this would be discriminatory for the horses that have carried the weight.

NSW – No, VIC – No, TAS - No, SA – No, QLD – No, WA - Yes. Motion Lost.

11.2 **VGIH Rides (QERA)**

**"that Rule A12.1 (Ride Organizer Guidelines for Vet-Gate –Into-Hold) from 'The heart rate is to be set no higher than a maximum of 60bpm' is amended to read**

**'The maximum heartrate of 64bpm has a maximum present time of 20 minutes and the maximum heartrate of 60 bpm has a maximum present time of 30 minutes."**

**Rationale:**

This was the change of heartrate motion that was accepted by the members at the AGM

This motion contradicts 10.1 that has just been passed.

NSW – No, VIC – No, TAS - No, SA – No, QLD – Yes, WA - No. Motion Lost.

11.3 **International Rides (QERA)**

**that the Constitution of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc be changed as follows:**

**PART II. Section 4, l) which now reads "To encourage, promote, and conduct Endurance Rides with international standing within Australia and to negotiate or contract with any organisation or administrative body as may be necessary"**

**be changed to**

**"To encourage, promote, and conduct Endurance Rides with international standing within Australia, to provide for Australian horses and riders to qualify for international competition and to negotiate or contract with any organisation or administrative body as may be necessary."**

**Rationale:**

At present, the AERA sanctions and supports Australian riders and horses to qualify for international competition, but does not accept the responsibility of providing the qualifying rides, this being left up to motivated members operating on an individual basis.

This proposal accepts the innate responsibility of the AERA, as the governing body of Endurance Riding in Australia, to provide suitable means for all of its members to be able to qualify for international competition.

This cannot be dealt with as it can only be done as a Special Resolution at the AGM. Refer to AERA Constitution, Section 44. It was also noted that the AERA Constitution is very difficult to amend.

QERA withdrew the motion

11.4 **Pre-Ride briefing for Novice Riders (QERA)**

"that Rule R 3.5 Novice riders must attend the pre-ride briefing and will not be permitted to participate in the ride if they have not attended.

**Be amended to read:**

**Novice riders must attend a pre-ride briefing and will not be permitted to participate in the ride if they have not attended.**

**Rationale:**

Some competitors are required to work on Saturdays. This will allow them to arrange for someone to present their horse for Pre-Ride Vetting and attend a one-on-one pre-ride brief at a later time. This motion was presented at the QERA AGM and passed with our postal voting system.

Neil stated that if this was passed, large rides could have 10 pre-ride briefings. All riders should hear the same briefing. Multiple briefings could give different information or miss some information.

NSW – No, VIC – No, TAS - No, SA – No, QLD – Yes, WA - No. Motion Lost

**The Meeting closed at 5:45 pm and re-opened Sunday 8:30 a.m.**

11.5 **Prohibited Substance Rules**

**"That the Prohibited Substance Rules are amended as per Annexure H**

Changes to accommodate the EFA Testing procedures

Kerry stated that she is not prepared to vote on the changes as she does not fully understand them. She believes that the section on Drugs should be removed and a statement inserted to read:

**We are obliged to comply with the EFA Medication control program in force and will change from time to time.**

This would save on work and printing costs. A link can be put on the website along with the link for the human drug testing policy. The ASADA website provides a list of substances banned for humans. www.asada.gov.au

Kerry and Sandy agreed to re-work the Prohibited Substance section in the rule book and bring it back to the next meeting. Glenda should be seconded if required and the vets should be kept in the loop. Kerry is also to send the wording for a notice in the newsletters.

11.6 **Overseas Riders**

**R7 OVERSEAS RIDERS** (delete IN FEI EVENTS)

**7.1 to be deleted and replaced with:**

7.1 Overseas Riders competing in any Australian Endurance Ride/Event must -

a) Provide proof of membership of their National Federation (NF)

b) Ride under AERA Novice rules if their Endurance status does not meet AERA rider qualifications (see R3) or equivalent qualifications set down by their NF.

c) Pay a day membership for each event to cover them for Public Liability Insurance, or pay a full Annual membership of a Division of the AERA.

7.2 Overseas Riders who compete in Australian FEI Rides must also -

a) Present a Letter of No Objection (LNO) from their NF

b) Meet any qualification criteria set by the AERA from time to time

**Rationale**

This came out of the last meeting following the incident with the overseas rider being disqualified in Tasmania.

Trish pointed out the International member clause in the constitution. Kerry replied that there is a difference between an international person coming to ride to an international member. If someone cannot provide proof of their qualifications, they have to ride under novice rules.

NSW – Yes, VIC – Yes, TAS - Yes, SA – Yes, QLD – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried first vote.

**Moved** Kerry Spratt/Matthew Krahnen

**"that an International rider shall be entitled to compete in unlimited events as referenced in Clause 7.4 of the AERA Constitution."**

NSW – Yes, VIC – Yes, TAS - Yes, SA – Yes, QLD – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried first vote.

11.7 **Minimum Riding Times**

Trish has concerns about the wording to A45.5 as a Chief Steward in Tasmania says that it does not read correctly although they do know the intent. It was noted that it is the same as the Training Ride rule 14.3 and 5.4a. It was suggested that the wording should read:

**14.3 All horses competing in training rides shall comply with a minimum riding time determined by the ride committee in consultation with the Chief Steward and Head Veterinarian.**

**The min riding time must be calculated using the total riding distance travelled at an average speed of not faster than14klm per hour .**

It was agreed to put a clarification in the newsletters and Helen is to look at the wording and bring it back to the next meeting.

**Rule Clarification, Revision and Discussion Items**

**Yellow Cards (QERA)** - Trial progress – Matthew advised that QERA are implementing the system and working through the issues. It has been amended to work within the current rules. QERA will report back.

**Best Conditioned Sheet (SAERA) –** We have devised a calculation sheet for scoring Recoveries in VGIH rides. This sheet will be an attachment to the standard BC sheet or computer read out of BC scores. Sarah advised that SA have not had a ride yet this season to be able to trial it so it will be carried forward to the next meeting.

**Invasive Treatments for Intro/Training Rides and for Owners/Trainers**

1. Vet cards to be retained by ride committee and forwarded to Horse Welfare Officer along with IT forms and original entry form.

2. A form letter to go to non member in question offering advice re IT and a possible RO (depending on the severity )

3. Numbers to be issued to day member's horses so that they can remain in the data base for any future scrutiny.

It was agreed that at least these are some practical steps to follow to be able to keep track of these riders and their horse should the need arise. However as such horses are not "registered" with the AERA, have no log books and therefore no ID it will be difficult to police. Basically if we have the horse's name and an ID number that's about the best we can do apart from relying on honesty of the rider.

It was agreed that whilst it is a very small problem, it is good to have guidelines. These can be inserted in the rule book in the IT section. Put on the Agenda at the next meeting for the first vote as H24. If anyone has any changes/additions then advise Anne.

**EWS Review (QERA) – Progress –** There is an on-going discussion on this with the Vet Panel.

**Out of Time Disqualification (QERA) -** If a horse is disqualified for being out of time and subsequently vets out, should there be a rule to clearly state how it is handled similar to the Withdrawn horse rule?

It was agreed that the horse is still in the ride until it is seen by the vet. If it passes the vet check, it is disqualified, if it fails the check, then it is considered a vet out. Heartrate takes precedence over lameness for EWS points.

**Logbooks (VERA)-**The logbooks need the logbook number on all pages, that includes the ID pages. There needs to be provision for the AERA number to be included on all four ID pages. There also needs to be a section on the Vet ID page for inclusion of the Vets name and date of ID.

Roy stated that the number is now on the id pages and the new ones also have the bodyscore. There are 82 logbooks left then the new ones will be used. The name of the vet and date of id will be changed at the next print run.

**Treasurer's Report –** AERA made a loss this year and it was noted that the affiliation fees have not been increased since November 2002. Increases were deferred last year due to EI. Roy will prepare a proposal for the next meeting. There may be other ways to increase income besides the affiliation fees.

**Secretary -** The late reception of reports etc. was once again discussed. It was agreed that there would be a 10 day cut off. Any reports that are not received at this time will not be included or tabled but will be available at the door. It is then up to the members and the States to hold the delegates responsible for not doing the reports on time. Notices of motion will be emailed as they come in. Motions for second vote can be referred to in the minutes for discussion at SMC meetings.

**International** – Matthew read a report of the International meeting.

Chris Gates was re-elected as Chairman and Ieva Peters as Secretary. Jil Bourton was appointed to the casual vacancy.

The magazine that John Simpson originally proposed is now a coffee table book. It was felt that it would be expensive and needs a business plan.

Roy is also to put forward proposals for increasing the revenue base of the International Committee. It was noted that some costs will be borne by Equestrian Australia when the sports committee has been set up. It is important, however to retain our financial activities.

The Board of Management report identified the need for a National coach. The Chef's position is becoming too much for one person to handle and a coach will be required for the sports committee.

**Moved** Ross McCamish/Neil Clarkson

**That** **the AERA accepts in principal that the AERA IC create the position of national coach and calls for expressions of interest subject to a job description and that the position is unpaid by the AERA**

**Voting** Carried Unanimously

The Selection committee for the Youth World Championships was agreed as follows:

**Selection Committee for the Young Riders' Championship, Hungary, Trish Annetts, Barb Timms, Chris Gates, plus two others from this committee. Sarah Adams and Kerry Spratt were nominated.**

Sarah stated that she may be riding for the owner of some of the horses going to Hungary and will step down as a selector due to a perceived conflict of interest. Jill Bourton has offered to take her place.

Kerry noted that NSW have received a directive from their AGM that the NSW Delegates cannot approve any expenditure for the International Committee from the general funds.

**Moved** Sandy Horton/Ross McCamish

**That** **the AERA approves funding for the team vet for the Young Riders championships in Hungary to a maximum of $3,000.**

**Voting** NSW – No, VIC – Yes, TAS – Yes, SA – Yes, QLD – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried.

It was noted that all IVTs and Rest Orders at FEI rides come under the control of AERA.

**Moved** Matthew Krahnen/Sandy Horton

**That** **That AERA ratifies the recommendation from the AERA IC that that Glenda Armitage is appointed the AERA Medication Control Officer for Endurance in Australia.**

**Voting** NSW – Yes, VIC – No, TAS – No, SA – Yes, QLD – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried.

All swabbing kits have to be sourced through Glenda.

**Moved** Matthew Krahnen/Neil Clarkson

**That** **Glenda Armitage is reimbursed by the AERA for her airfare and one night of accommodation to attend the MCP Steward's course.**

**Voting** NSW – No, VIC – Yes, TAS – Yes, SA – Yes, QLD – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried.

A discussion was held on swabbing costs. QERA have a drug testing levy so are able to pay $200 per day plus travel for a swabbing steward to attend rides. Each state is to determine how it is collected. It was agreed that Anne would remind the states about the requirement for a Medication Control Officer and it is their responsibility to allocate funding to conduct swabbing and suggest a levy.

A ride application received from NSW to hold a one star 80klm event on 7June 2009 was approved. It was decided that there would be no impact on the FEI Championship ride.

The AERA IC accepted the recommendations from Brian Sheahan regarding Conflict of Interest.

Meg Wade has been invited to speak at the International Society for Equitation Science in Sydney o 12-14 July. Jennifer Gilbertson and Kerry Spratt will go and Barbara Timms would like to go as the Squad Manager.

Website: Equitationscience.com/Sydney2009

**Moved** Matthew Krahnen/Sandy Horton

**That** **the AES pay the travel expenses, conference fees and accommodation for the AES Squad Manager to attend the abovementioned conference to a maximum of $1,200.**

**Voting** Carried Unanimously.

**Correspondence:**

- AERA Awards. A complaint was made from a Victoria member about the bridle and breastplate awarded to a Junior winner and that she had no idea what the RM distance awards are. Kerry stated that she always goes to great lengths to make sure the prizes for the horses and riders are of equal value and she does not accept that they are more appropriate to ride completion. The RM distance awards have been in place since 2004 as a commemoration of his death. The majority have always wanted functional prizes, not trophies.

- NSW re newsletter

Ieva stated her disappointment that her letter was not answered and that no action was taken to retract the incorrect information in the newsletter. She has nothing more to add.

- NSW – letter about registration and ownership labels.

The relevant rule was noted and NSW can submit a motion to the next meeting if they wish it to be changed, bearing in mind that the rest of the country uses labels. Anne is to send out a notice to the states that current NSW logbooks with stamps should be accepted.

SA, TAS, Vic, NT delegates left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**VERA Fundraising Ride**

**Moved** Neil Clarkson/Dorte Colja

**That** **AERA sponsors the Victorian Fundraiser ride for the Red Cross Victorian Bush Fire Appeal for a rug to the value of $200.**

**Voting** Carried.

**Insurance – Beverley Wright attended on Sunday morning**

Ieva introduced Beverley who stated that the insurance has already been renewed, therefore she is here to answer questions. An information kit has been provided for each state that contains a summary of the cover for 2009. The coverage is basically the same as last year.

Day membership covers one event, not per day. Beverley advised that they will continue their $2,500 sponsorship and asked whether we would like more wristbands.

Beverley re-iterated the need to have updated ride information on our calendars and website so that Certificate of Currency forms can be issued.

**TPR and Chief Steward Registrar –** Dorte has agreed to take responsibility of this portfolio.

**Clarification of Age for TPR Stewards**

There is nothing in the documentation regarding the age of TPR's but they have generally been accepted at 16. Matthew expressed concern about disputes with young TPR's

**Moved** Ross McCamish/Tom Perkins

**That** **TPR's and CS be officiate in the year they turn 18 years old.**

**Voting** Carried.

**Moved** Ross McCamish/Tom Perkins

**That** **existing TPR's and CS who do not fulfil the above requirement will maintain their accreditation.**

**Voting** Carried

Dorte will change the TPR and CS documentation.

**Next Meeting: 3/4/5/July, 2009**

**Meeting Closed: 3;30 p.m.**