

Report on the Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc General Meeting on 5/6 July 2003

Present: Ieva Peters (WA), Jane Radney (WA), Anne Jones (Qld), Toby Crockett (Qld), Phillip O'Loughlin (SA), Denise Trollope (NSW), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Geoff Hurt (NSW), Randy Cowan (Vic), Roy Noble (Vic), Dick Collyer (Qld), Dorte Colja (SA).

Dick Collyer was accepted as proxy for Erica Williams. Murray Peal has resigned and has been replaced by Dorte Colja.

Apologies: Denise Williams and Brett Bingham (Tas). Communication with Tasmania is continuing to be a problem.

In Attendance: Helen Rich (minutes). Alan Renner, Lyn Bailey, Adrian Bailey (Saturday only).

Registration of Votes: NSW – 9, Qld – 7, Vic – 3, WA – 3, Tas – 2, SA – 1

Merchandise: Dorte Colja offered to be the AERA merchandise officer.

Treasurer: A full financial report was not presented.

Motion: That the treasurer's report be accepted with the provision that a printed report be forwarded to the delegates within 10 days of the date of this meeting.

Secretary: Problems are being experienced due to the fact that most members do not get their reports in on time. It makes it very difficult to produce the Agenda in the required timeframe.

Next meeting is 21, 22 and 23 November. The cut off date will be the 31st of October. This is the cut off date for motions etc.

International: Allan Renner addressed the meeting to explain the structure of endurance in New Zealand and their relationship with the FEI and National Federation.

In both England and NZ, horses must be 6 year old before they can commence their endurance career.

Toby gave the report on the International meeting. WEG was discussed. Regarding the two horses that died, the FEI committee decided to take no action against the riders. Not even to sanction the riders. They did say that they recognised the fact that these horses had been over ridden and this contributed to their demise. There were a lot of shortcomings within the ride itself. It was felt that if they disciplined the riders they would get off because the ride had actually been so badly managed. Their judiciary hearings are basically a court case and they have to prove beyond reasonable doubt and have the same proof as in a court of law. Toby feels they would have indeed got off on this criteria.

The FEI appears to be making an effort to fix things up. Recently a ride was actually stopped in Italy. Brian Sheahan has been appointed to the FEI endurance vets sub committee

Moved **That** it will become the responsibility of the Chief Steward or his delegate, to process IT forms at FEI rides .

Moved **That** the AERA apply to the FEI via the EFA for the secretary of the AERA IC to become a co-recipient of all correspondence regarding endurance riding.

Moved **That** the AERA underwrite the 2003 Tasmanian FEI ride to the amount of \$2500.

Moved **That** the manager of the Australian Endurance Squad be included as a member of the AERA International Committee (*AERA IC*), and that the terms of reference for the AERA IC be altered accordingly

Moved **That** AERA accept the nominations from Glenda Armitage and Peter Toft to the AERA IC

Moved **That** AERA IC call for expressions of interest to host the Australian FEI championships in 2004. That Toby Crockett, Denise Trollope and Barbara Timms, circulate a Terms of Reference document to the AERA IC and the AERA executive, within 3 weeks of 5 July 2003.

Barbara Timms agreed to compile all schedules. She will make sure they are submitted within the correct time frame.

Distance Registrar: Lyn Bailey addressed the meeting on problems she is having with getting correct information from the States. She is liaising directly with the Registrars on this.

Horse Welfare: The incident where a horse collapsed at the Chinchilla ride was discussed at length. As the member concerned is a VERA member, QERA have fully investigated the incident and made recommendations to VERA. VERA was not prepared to act on the QERA recommendations and forwarded the issue to AERA. AERA did not think that this was appropriate. Victorian delegates agreed to follow this matter up and seek more conclusive and clear reports from the people at the ride who have supplied the original evidence.

Moved **That** AERA directs VERA to reconsider the issue of disciplinary action against the VERA member as a result of the riding of the horse that collapsed horse during the running of the 2003 Chinchilla ride.

The AERA committee also asked the VERA delegates to fully take into account all reports of the incident.

Veterinary Panel:

Code of ethics/conduct

Moved **That** the veterinary code of conduct as per Annexure Q to the Agenda to the July 2003 meeting, be included in the rule book

This motion will be returned to the next meeting for a second vote.

Rest Orders and Treatment Categories

Moved **That** Treatment categories 1-5 be listed in an appendix to the rulebook

This motion will be returned to the next meeting for a second vote.

Vet-rider ratio: The following was submitted by the Veterinary panel

A 13 Ride organiser guidelines for vet-to-horse ratios

The veterinary team members will be selected after consultation between the head veterinarian and the ride organisers.

13.1 The following guidelines are to ensure horse welfare issues can always be dealt with, especially where horses are required to be treated during a ride. (*unchanged except for grammar!*)

[new]

13.2 For all rides run with a standard 30 minute veterinary check there **should** be a minimum of 2 veterinarians, for up to 60 horses. For each additional **30** horses, another veterinarian **should be provided**.

13.3 For vet-gate-into-hold rides, the ratio is 1 veterinarian per 15 horses.

13.4 For rides of 120 km or more, a separate additional treatment veterinarian is required, present at the ride base.

Note that these ratios do not necessarily apply to the pre ride vet check.

A13.5 It is recommended that at all rides, ride organisers request riders to pre-nominate at least 7 days prior to the ride. Failure to pre-nominate should incur late entry fees.

A13.6 If additional veterinarians are not available, it is recommended that ride organisers stop taking entry fees if the ratios are exceeded.

Moved **That** subject to the alterations shown above in red above, that AERA accept the recommendation for the changes to the guidelines for rule A13

This motion will be returned to the next meeting for a second vote.

Fees 2003 review

It was considered the veterinary fees should be increased in line with increases in other veterinary fees (races, locums – cost \$330 per day, etc). The following rates were recommended:

80 km ride: \$400

120 km ride: \$470

160 km ride: \$550

Marathon: \$300 per day

GST is additional.

The fee for a non-accredited veterinarian is 75% of the full fee.

Moved **That** AERA accept the recommendation of the vet fees but note that if GST is to be paid as an additional amount, the relevant veterinarian must issue an appropriate invoice to the ride committee showing their ABN number.

VGH Hold times

A general guide is one minute of hold time for every km of the ride. The time is divided equally between the holds, with a minimum of 40 minutes per hold, and the following additions:

Add 10 minutes if there is a compulsory represent at the end of that hold.

Add 10 minutes if the leg is considered tough for instance due to elevation, or terrain.

Add 10 minutes if the leg is 40 km or longer.

The holds should be longer after the longer legs, and towards the end of a ride.

Moved **That** AERA accept the vet panel's 7.10.6 recommendation (as shown above), and these guidelines should be included in the next amended rule book as an appendix to those rules.

One eyed horses

Brian Sheahan has made the following recommendations as part of the risk management process:

- No horse with monocular vision be allowed to enter the sport.

- Experienced endurance horse that has recently lost vision in one eye should be allowed to stay in the sport, but should complete the next ride as a novice, with a report to the SMC by the Chief Steward and Head Vet as to the horse's suitability to continue.
- Such horses should start at the rear of the field.
- The rider of such a horse must be well identified for other riders to detect.
- The rider of such a horse should put in a disclaimer.

It was recommended that a horse with monocular vision could not enter the sport under the same guidelines.

Webmaster:

Moved **That** suspended members may have read-only privileges on AussieEndurance but not posting privileges

Finance:

Moved **That** as of 1st January 2004 a registration fee will be charged on all existing Endurance horses (not including novice horses). Members will be given the choice of :

- 1) paying a once off registration fee of \$20 plus GST and any newly qualified horse requiring an Endurance Horse Logbook will pay a once off registration fee of \$50 plus GST; or
- 2) paying a fee of \$10 plus GST per Endurance horse per year to AERA."

Note that this is a procedural rule therefore this motion doesn't need a second vote.

Moved **That** a new rule H6.4 be created to read: 'an endurance horse can only enter an affiliated event if it has a current AERA registration label in its log book'.

This is a proposed new rule and will come back to the next meeting for a second vote.

Risk Management: The Risk Management Checklist form has been re-designed and has been distributed to all states. Ride committees need to be made aware that if they don't send in the necessary forms and an insurance claim is made against them, the particular ride committee will be responsible for the excess fee of \$10,000. Completed forms need to be sent to Kerry Spratt.

Riders being "Unfit to Continue"

Moved **That** the Chief Steward at an AERA affiliated endurance ride has the right to exclude any competitor from further participation if, in consultation with a First Aider or Medical Officer, it is believed that the rider is unfit to continue.

This motion will be returned to the next meeting for a second vote.

Data Co-ordination: Chris Waters contacted the AHSA but did not receive a reply. It was agreed that a sub-committee be formed to get the database underway. Toby Crockett was nominated to be the chairman. Lyn Bailey indicated she would rather not be involved. It was also agreed that whoever AERA instructs as a consultant, such person or body should not be allowed to tender for the database as this could be construed as a serious conflict of interest. The sub-committee can co-opt additional members as it sees fit.

Moved **That** a subcommittee consisting of Toby Crockett and Anne Jones be formed to investigate data bases and report back to the next meeting.

AERA Book: Vink Publishing is proceeding with the book and it is hoped that it will be completed by November.

EWS Review

H.18 Horse Early Warning System and Suspensions

H18.1 Refer to RIDER EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND SUSPENSIONS (R.13) rule for information about the early warning system for riders.

H18.2 Each State Management Committee - on behalf of the AERA Inc. - will maintain records of each rider and horse successful completions and non-completions at all affiliated rides within their state. Non-completions will attract penalty points as detailed below:

Reason for non completion	Points
Vet out pulse 66 bpm or over	15
Vet out pulse under 66 bpm	10
Vet out non-invasive metabolic	10
Vet out mild metabolic	15
Vet out severe metabolic	30
Vet out lame – once only	6
Vet out lame – second consecutive	12
Vet out lame – third consecutive	18
Vet out other back	6
Vet out gall or injury	4

Horses withdrawn in accordance with the WITHDRAWN HORSES (H.17) rule as well as out-of-riding-time non completion which pass the veterinary inspection do not attract non-completion penalty points.

H18.4 Non-completion penalty points are reduced by six points for each successful completion.

H18.5 Metabolic disorders as described above are defined as:

- a) 10 points – mild metabolic disorders that do not require invasive treatment.
- b) 15 points - mild metabolic disorders – such as Ty-Ups (Exertional Rhabdomyolysis) other mild muscle conditions, Synchronous Diaphragmatic Flutter (Thumps), mild heat distress, very mild GIT conditions.
- c) 30 points – more severe metabolic disorders – include Exhausted Horse Syndrome (Fatigue Related), Endotoxaemia, the more severe GIT crises ie. diarrhoea, colitis, impactions, paralytic ileus, hyper/hypomotility colics, moderate to severe heat stroke.

H18.6 If a horse accumulates 30 or more non-completion penalty points, the Division Horse Welfare Officer will determine whether the rider/owner of the horse needs to be cautioned in writing.

H18.7 Any horse (through owner or connections) that vets out with a pulse rate of 70 bpm or over, three times during consecutive affiliated rides will be notified in writing and suspended from competition for a period of up to 12 months.

H18.8 Any horse (through owner or connections) having been cautioned in writing, who then accumulates more than 45 but less than 60 penalty points must enter all affiliated endurance rides under novice rider and/or novice horse status until two novice rides are completed successfully, unless in breach of rule H.18.7 above.

H18.9 Any horse (through owner or connections), having been cautioned in writing, who then accumulates 60 penalty points or more, will be asked to show cause to their State Management Committee why the horse should not be suspended (in addition to any suspension as in rule H.18.7 above).

H18.10 Horses (through owner or connections) which are known to progress to laminitis, renal failure, hepatopathies, CNS related disturbance will be asked to show cause to the State Management Committee why the horse should not be suspended (in addition to any suspension as in rule H.18.7 above).

H18.11 Horses (through owner or connections) which vet out on gait at three consecutive rides will be asked to show cause to the State Management Committee why the horse should not be suspended (in addition to any suspension as in rule H.18.7 above).

H18.12 A horse suspended by a State Management Committee will be deemed suspended by all other State Management Committees

R13 Rider Early Warning System and Suspensions

R13.1 Refer to HORSE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND SUSPENSIONS (H.18) rule for information about the early warning system for horses.

R13.2 If a rider accumulates 30 or more non-completion penalty points, the Division Horse Welfare Officer will determine whether the rider or owner of the horse needs to be cautioned in writing.

R13.3 Any rider whose horse vets out with a pulse rate of 70 bpm or more, over three consecutive affiliated rides which does not contain a successful completion for that rider, will be notified in writing and restricted to novice status for a period of time determined by the rider's State Management Committee. Further **unsuccessful completions** whilst under this novice status may invoke rider suspension for a period of time determined by the State Management Committee.

R13.4 Any rider having been cautioned in writing, who then accumulates more than 45 but less than 60 penalty points must enter all affiliated endurance rides under novice rider status until two novice rides are completed successfully.

R13.5 Any rider, having been cautioned in writing, who then accumulates 60 penalty points or more, will be asked to show cause to their State Management Committee why they should not be suspended.

R13.6 Any rider or owner whose horse is known to progress to laminitis, renal failure, hepatopathies, CNS related disturbance will be asked to show cause to the State Management Committee why they should not be suspended.

R13.7 Any rider or owner whose horse vets out on gait at three consecutive affiliated rides which does not contain a successful completion will be asked to show cause as to why they should not be suspended.

R13.8 Non-completion points are reduced by six points for each successful completion.

Moved That AERA accept the changes to the EWS as proposed by the vet panel with amendments as shown above

This motion will be returned to the next meeting for a second vote.

Canowindra Quilty: Some complaints have been received regarding the issuing of rest orders at the Canowindra Quilty.

Moved **That** AERA authorise David Brown to review the rest orders issued at the Quilty if the riders approach him via Anne Jones and ask him to do so

The Horse welfare subcommittee is to come back to the next meeting with suggestions for procedures that could be used for issuing and reviewing of rest orders.

Pat Slater Cup: A letter has been received from Peter Toft suggesting an additional award at future Quilty rides to be named 'The Pat Slater Cup'. Geoff Hurt already has \$270 in the bank for this purpose. Chris Gates, Toby and Peter Toft said they would be happy to sponsor the award.

Moved **That** AERA introduce an additional Quilty award to be called 'The Pat Slater Cup' with the final guidelines still to be worked out.

Equitana: Carol Dickson wants to take on a stall at Equitana in a good position next to Horseland. VERA happy to supply \$500.

Moved **That** AERA supports Equitana in Melbourne in November 2003, at a cost of \$500.

Quilty Cup Trusteeship: Ron Males has indicated that he would be happy to be a Quilty trustee and has suggested Erica Williams as a second trustee

MOTIONS TO BE RE-TABLED FOR SECOND VOTE – RULE CHANGES FOR 2004

1. “that M2.3 is amended to read:

 If any horse and/or rider is found to have been misrepresented in any affiliated ride, the horse and/or rider will be disqualified from that ride *and/or the owner and/or the person responsible for the horse at that ride* will be subject to suspension *or other disciplinary action* as determined by the State Management Committee.”
2. “that H24.5 is amended to read:

 The rider and/or responsible person of a horse which has received invasive treatment must complete the relevant sections of the Invasive Treatment form. *Failure to do so will risk suspension.*”
3. “that Rule H.4.4 be amended to read:
 - a) Information, excepting entry details, about a horse competing at an affiliated ride can only be entered onto the page of the logbook designated for that ride, by a ride veterinarian or nominated ride official.
 - b) Any required alterations to rectify incorrect information already entered into a logbook can only be made by the head veterinarian or nominated ride official who must sign the change. The incorrect information should be crossed out so it is still readable and the correct information placed along-side.
 - c) No information already entered into a logbook can be altered using whiteout or similar substance.”
4. “that Rule V.5.1.b) be amended to read:

 “a gate-into-hold, heart-rate-gate (or similar) examination.”
5. “that rule H 13.1 is amended to read:

 ‘Horses may be ridden with or without shoes, but in all cases the shoes and hooves must be in a suitable condition for the competition. Horses which are shod at the start of the ride may cross the finish line without one or more shoes, or may have a lost horseshoe replaced on course in accordance with the outside assistance rule (R10). Boots and pads are allowed.’
6. “that Rule V2.11 be added:

 “that if the head veterinarian deems that a horse is compromised sufficiently that it requires invasive treatment, the person responsible for that horse must comply with directives from the head veterinarian to have the horse treated. Failure to comply will be reported to the chief steward who will refer the matter to the State Management Committee for disciplinary action.”
7. “that at the discretion of the Head Veterinarian, any horse may be required to represent for a veterinary examination in the period of 1 – 2 hours after each horse finishes its ride.
8. Rule A17.2(d) Course Marking

 In the absence (or withdrawal) of a suitable entrant to act as a Pace Rider, the Ride Committee will mark the training ride course with cumulative distance markers from the ride base, preferably every 5 klm but minimally every 10 km.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE FOR DISCUSSION AND FIRST VOTE – THESE MOTIONS WILL RETURN TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING FOR THE SECOND VOTE AND IF PASSED WILL BECOME RULES IN 2004.

1. “that it is recommended that stallions be under control with a suitable bit or hackamore (not including a halter), when outside their yards, and being led at ride bases, other than when being ridden or part of an endurance ride.
2. “Any horse requiring invasive treatment due to metabolic condition during or as a result of the event may be eliminated depending on the nature of the treatment and severity of the episode. The event being defined as from the pre-ride veterinary check until 2 hours after the end of ride veterinary check for that horse. At that time, at the discretion of the head veterinarian, a further vet check may be undertaken.”
3. “That in any 28 day period a horse cannot compete in more than one 160 km or longer ride”
4. **Rest Orders**
“that H22.2a) is amended to read:
the horse is not permitted to compete at future affiliated rides for a period of time sufficient for that horse to recover from its injury or stress (up to a maximum of *twelve* months).”
5. “Suspended members are ineligible to participate in any national awards for the period of their suspension”.
6. **FEI Pointscores**
“that no rider in the Youth Division at an FEI Ride will receive State or National Points/km unless they are 16 y.o. or older and weigh a minimum of 73kg i.e. no points/km for Lightweight and Junior.”

7. **Training Ride Rules Re-write**
TRAINING RIDE RULES

A14. Training Ride - General Rules

- 14.1 All AERA Inc. rules and procedures apply, except as provided within these Training Ride Rules and excluding the RIDING SECTIONS (R.7) rule.
- 14.2 Training rides are non-competitive - completion times, distance and placings are not *recognised for points/distance scores*, and there are no best conditioned horse awards.
- 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, but in any case not less than a time calculated at an average speed of 14 km per hour over the distance of the ride.
- 14.4 All horses competing in training rides shall comply with a maximum heart rate criteria of 55 bpm or below on all legs of the ride.
- 14.5 *A Novice Horse and/or rider may only enter one training ride per day.*
- 14.6 *At all Affiliated training rides, horses must comply with Rule H3.2 (Horse Age).*
- 14.7 *If a horse has been issued with a logbook, that logbook must be used when that horse is entered in an affiliated training ride.*

A15. Training Ride Riders

- 15.1. Training rides are open to both novice and endurance riders.
- 15.2. Riders under 10 years of age must be supervised by an adult rider at all times.
- 15.3. *There are no riding divisions for training riders. Riders do not need to weigh.*
- 15.4. All riders must attend the pre-ride briefing, or risk disqualification.
- 15.5. All riders entering training rides must be identified as training riders.
- 15.6. All riders must conduct themselves in accordance with the Member Conduct Rules M1 (Code of Conduct), M2 (Membership Rights and Responsibilities) and M3 (Guidelines for Right of Appeal Against a Ride Decision).
- 15.7. All riders must comply with Rule A39.3 (Safety Helmets).

A16 Training Ride Distance

- 16.1. The ride distance will usually be between 40 km and 60 km per day. State Management Committees must sanction proposed rides over or under this distance.
- 16.2. Training rides of more than 41 km in total distance must have a standard one hour veterinary check and hold, preferably halfway along the course.

A17 Training Ride Controls

At all affiliated training rides, at least one of the following procedures must be used:

17.1 Veterinary Check Point

- a) Standard veterinary checks or vet-gate-into-timed hold checks pre-ride, midway through the ride and at the finish.
- b) These are conducted the same as for an 80km or more ride.

17.2 Pace Rider

- a) A pace rider is a person nominated by the ride committee who is an endurance rider, but not necessarily riding an endurance horse in that ride. The pace rider will be clearly identified at the pre-ride briefing.
- b) Novice riders and riders of novice horses in the training ride must not pass the pace rider. If there are a large number of entries, the ride committee may (if they wish) nominate two pace riders.
- c) If the pace rider is unable to continue for any reason he or she must - if on the course - delegate the function to another suitable rider and advise the Chief Steward or nominated person by whatever means available, or, if at a veterinary checkpoint, advise the Chief Steward or nominated person, who will appoint another pace rider for the remainder of the ride.
- d) In the absence (or withdrawal) of a suitable entrant to act as a pace rider, the ride committee will mark the training ride course with cumulative distance markers from the ride base, preferably every 5km, but minimally every 10km.

17.3 Heart-Rate-Gate

- a) At a heart-rate-gate the horses are stopped at a predetermined place along the course and the heart rate checked by a veterinarian or nominated person. If the required heart rate is not achieved within 30 minutes, the horse is disqualified. There may be a trot-by past the vet to check lameness.
- b) Time spent at a heart rate gate is considered riding time and is not deducted from total riding time. An accredited Chief Steward or nominated person must be present.

A18 Training Ride Awards

A18.1 All successful training riders must receive a completion award.

A18.2 Lucky draws for successful competitors are permissible.

Quilty Event Standards Document: The committee went through the existing Quilty Event Standards Agreement point by point and made several changes.

2004 RULES & RULE CLARIFICATION

Moved **That** the meeting accept the rule book changes and amendments as recommended by Erica Williams and as approved and changed at this July 2003 meeting

The changes and the above motion will come back to the next meeting for a second vote. Please contact Anne Jones or Erica Williams for more details if required

Personal GPS systems: This was discussed with agreement that for now, GPS systems are not allowed to be used at rides.

Moved **That** the use of personal GPS is regarded as outside assistance

Top 10 distance horses : Top 10 distance horses in each division are no longer printed in the newsletters and the Quilty Book. Agreement they should be.