

Notes of the General Meeting of Members of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc held on 9th, 10th and 11th July, 2010 commencing on Friday at 1:22 p.m.

Welcome by President: Ieva welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. She said a special thanks to the Delegates who went to the Quilty and did a fantastic job. Tom is a hero, Neil did a great job with the Committee and a great job on the day. Sandy worked hard and so did Dorte and Sarah. Sarah stated that it felt like she was in a team. Sandy agreed and stated that all being on the same page made life easier. All riders knew that they would get the same answer from any of the Chief Stewards. Ieva stated that the Quilty Committee did a fantastic job and it went well. She thanked Meg for attending and stated that Ross sends his regards.

Present: Anne Jones (Qld) Mathew Krahnman (Qld), Dorte Colja (Qld), Neil Clarkson (NSW), Tom McCormack (NSW), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Ieva Peters (WA), Sarah Adams (SA), Debra Grull (TAS), Pat Hodgetts (TAS), Sandy Little (VIC), Katrina Westerhoff (Vic), Roy Noble (Hon. Member), Melanie Scott (SA), Meg Woodhouse (WA) as proxy for Ross McCamish

Apologies: Ross McCamish (WA)

Register of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

Nil. As arises

Registration of Votes – Qld – 7, NSW – 6, Tasmania – 3, Victoria – 2, WA – 2, SA – 1

Action Sheet

Videos: Quote to copy videos to DVD. Neil advised that small quantities will cost \$15 each, multiples of 20 will be under \$10. Melanie noted that Ron Malone has several videos that she will ask him about. Neil intends to visit Halifax's place and also Don McKillop. Kieran Power has some on DVD already. Neil will send an inventory to Anne to place a notice in the newsletter asking if anyone has others to contact Neil.

Replica Cup/Buckles. Roy is still getting quotes for better quality buckles. He hopes to have 3 samples by the November meeting.

AERA Decals. It was agreed that a cheaper alternative should be sought without metallic silver on them.

Quilty Cup in Hall of Fame. Design a shield with updated Quilty winners and send to Longreach and update each year. Tom reported that Louise suggested a polished red gum plaque with the cup logo as the "T" in Tom Quilty, updated each year with the winner's names. Two would be required as the first would be filled straight away. Julie Haigh sent through some photos of the cup as it is presently displayed. Anne is to write to the Hall of Fame and ask what we need to do to update the display and if the plaques would be acceptable. It would have to be written into the Event Standards that it is AERA's responsibility to update the plaques each year.

Quilty Dress Standards. Sarah noted that people are still dressing inappropriately in the vet ring and believes that we should start with the Sunday presentations and work backwards.

Quilty Letters of Support. Package together and forward to Gay Bonham. Sandy stated that he did not receive anything from Cardinia Shire until one month before the Quilty. He has asked Jessica Taylor to put together a portfolio from Manilla to pass on to Sarah. Sarah has a copy of the original documents given to Tonimbuk. It is important to pass flow on to the next organisers.

Teleconferencing. Tom advised that it is ready to go when required.

NVP Recommendations. Documentation not to allow bute in competition. This has not been done. Pat is to follow-up and speak to Brian Sheahan if necessary.

IT's recorded in Logbooks. Dorte is to continue reminding the CS. Roy will organise an IT page when new logbooks are printed. One of the change of ownership pages can be used.

Executive Decisions to be Ratified

- 1 That the AERA send some flowers to Dee Berry following the birth of her daughter
- 2 That Dorte orders 200 TPR badges from M & L in WA @ \$7.50 each + 10% GST, plus freight of approximately \$15.00 + GST
- 3 That AERA agrees to pay the invoice for John Mullins for \$2,739.66
- 4 That 3 Quilty Cups are purchased at a price of \$2,100 each, total \$6,300
- 5 That the invoice for \$2,524.50 from Peter Johnson for the database is paid
- 6 That re-imburement is made to Ieva Peters for NESC expenses

- 7 **That Kerry Spratt and Ieva Peters are re-imbursed for the award expenses**
 8 **That the AERA pays the expenses as per the invoice for the South African Team that will be recovered from the riders.**
 9 **That AERA covers the cost of the Squad Teams Entry for the Quilty**
 10 **That Caroline Windle is paid \$100 to assist with the swabbing at the Quilty**
 11 **That the invoice for Peter Johnson for \$1,584.00 is paid.**

Moved Sarah Adams/Dorte Colja
That **the executive decisions are ratified.**
Voting Carried Unanimously

Correspondence

Inwards

- A letter of complaint was received from Chris Cheney about dogs at rides. Anne is to place a notice in the newsletters reminding members that if they have a dog at an endurance it must be kept under control at all times.
- A letter has been received from John Simpson re the Media person at the WEG.

Moved Dorte Colja/Sandy Little
That **John Simpson is appointed as the Media Liaison person for the WEG at Kentucky in a self funded capacity**
Voting Carried. Kerry Spratt and Ieva Peters abstained. Ieva will write to John.
- Kerry read out a letter from the NSW Office of Fair Trading outlining changes to the Incorporation Act. They will be running training sessions and she would like approve in principal for someone in NSW to attend the seminar.

Reports

Tom outlined a plan to assist the Divisions with tangible items and suggested an annual grant per division for 2-3 years. He would like to see a National standardisation of rides in the form of marking, signs, scales etc. He would like to set goals and put in place a financial plan.

Roy expressed concern in the lack of membership growth across the States. He stated that the average membership of 1,800 has been static over the last 6 years. Tasmania's membership has increased and the costs will be amended accordingly. He would like figures from each State broken into member for 10 years or more, 5 years up to 10, 2 to 5 years and new members.

Quilty Buckles. Matthew provided several Quilty buckles as samples. Roy stated that the current overlaid buckles do not suit our needs for the future. He has contacted Diablo and asked for 3 samples to be made in the same shape but they must have a facility to engrave on the back.

Moved Kerry Spratt/Tom McCormack
That **the AERA President liaise with the Board of Management and the NESC to develop the best future model for the BOM, NESC and AERA for ratification at the November meeting.**
Voting Carried. Ieva Peters abstained.

Tom stated that he would like to look at re-visiting the honorariums. He also advised that he has not been approached by anyone on this matter.

Moved Matthew Krahnem/Tom McCormack
That **the honorarium payments to all positions is increased by 25% effective 1st July, 2010**
Voting Carried. Ieva Peters, Anne Jones, Roy Noble abstained. Anne is to advise Jo McMaha and Dee Berry. This is the first review since agreements were made up to 10 years ago.

Moved Tom McCormack/Sarah Adams
That **the AERA**

- a) **Establish a National Standard in regard to equipment used for the safe conduct of an Endurance ride. The National Standard to incorporate course and road signage, identification of officials, electronic scales and any other related items deemed appropriate**
- b) **that the AERA prepare and distribute, at no cost such identified items on a staged basis from 2011-2013 inclusive to achieve the National Standard by 1/1/14. A sum of \$2500 per division per annum is to be budgeted.**

Voting

Carried Unanimously.

NESC Report

Ieva stated that she met Grant Baldock, the new CEO of EA at the meeting. EA had a budget of \$2,000 for the meeting and asked AERA to cover the balance of up to \$400.

It was noted that positions expire in November and it is important for the current members to re-nominate to retain the continuity.

Moved Matthew Krahn/Sarah Adams

That **the outstanding account for the NESC meeting is paid but we investigate further to clarify who is responsible for costs with a view to reduce meeting costs.**

Voting Carried Unanimously. Ieva is to contact Marina Northcote.

There are 3 horses and riders going to the WEG and the horse and rider agreements have been signed. More 3* events are needed and it was recommended that the Tom Quilty, State Championships and FEI 3* events take priority when accepting calendar dates. The costs of FEI rides needs to be looked at.

There will be an officials course in Brisbane in October and it was suggested that all SMC's try to send a member to attend. It is being help on 15/16/17 October. Ieva will advise the SMC's. Cost will be approximately \$150 per person.

Glenda Armitage is the only person in Australia that should be issuing swab kits. This has been brought in to make sure that every swab kit is distributed and returned. No swab kits are then lost or "disappear". There also needs to be a paper trail following the kits.

The Endurance official list has been updated on the EA website for Medication Control.

A Medication Sheet was suggested to be kept with the AERA horse's logbook. This would be in the best interests of the owner of the horse. A new page could be added to the next edition of the logbooks to enable a Medication Sheet to be used.

The current EA agreement expires on 31/12/2010. It was agreed that the agreement in the current form is quite relevant. The main point is that EA have agreed that our members do not have to be members of EA.

Veterinary Panel

Moved Anne Jones/Dorte Colja

That **Monika Baffy, Arun Ramachandran, Madelaine Baltaussen, Rebekah French and Grace Forbes are accepted as accredited veterinarians.**

Voting Carried Unanimously

Recommendation:

That a new rule is introduced for AERA:

A horse with the clinical signs of synchronous diaphragmatic flutter ("thumps") is eliminated for metabolic reasons. Insert at V4.2c and move V4.2c to V4.2d

Ieva is to check that it can be included in a FEI schedule.

Moved Pat Hodgetts/Debbie Grull

Voting NSW - Yes, TAS - Yes Vic - Yes SA - Yes Qld - Yes WA - Yes. Carried Unanimously. 2nd Vote in November

Recommendation: That the NVP Chairman submit to AERA a change to rule H24.6:

24.6 A horse who is successfully vetted through at the completion of a ride may subsequently receive intravenous fluids without compromising its qualification in the ride.

Tom believes that the rule should either be removed or tightened. Matthew asked whether it is appropriate that a rider should receive a trophy when a horse is being treated. We need to put a situation in place where there is no impediment to a horse getting treatment. Tom would hate to see it removed as he feels that it would encourage people to ride to the limit. Matthew stated that as a sport, we cannot allow horses being treated while the rider is collecting a trophy.

It was agreed to take the issue to the SMC's to discuss. Pat is to ask the vet panel for a response to our concerns. An alternative is to put in place a new rule for punishment for withholding treatment.

Moved Melanie Scott/Sarah Adams
That **Pat Hodgetts is appointed as the liaison for the National Vet Panel**
Voting Carried Unanimously

Vet to rider ratios: It was agreed that pre-nominations are recommended. The ratios will be sent to the SMC's as recommendations.

The Body Score has been in place for 2 years now and feedback is required. QERA feels that vets are not making full use of it by refusing entry to horses with a body score of 1. Dorte stated that Jo Hamilton-Branigan is currently working on it and she will ask if the body score information can be mined.

Fees

These have not been increased for two years, and it was agreed to increase these by 10% for 2011. Therefore the fees set are:

80 km ride \$550 + GST

120 km ride \$620 + GST

160 km ride \$770 + GST

Marathon \$400 + GST per day

Non-accredited vets to receive 75% of full fee.

Moved Sarah Adams/Meg Woodhouse
That **the veterinary fees are accepted with the option to negotiate.**
Voting Carried. Pat Hodgetts and Debbie Grull abstained. Anne is to advise the States.

It was also agreed that the fees paid to the Quilty Head Vet and Head Treatment Vet should be increased; the Quilty agreement has not changed in this regard for over 10 years. Therefore the minimum fee for each of those positions is set at \$2000.

Moved Sarah Adams/Sandy Little
That **the Quilty Agreement is changed to state that the Quilty Head Veterinarian and Head Treatment Veterinarian be paid \$2,000.**
Voting Carried Unanimously. Anne to change the Event Standards.

A further recommendation was that there would be an automatic increase of the veterinary fees by 4% annually for all rides, occurring January of each year.

Moved Sarah Adams/Dorte Colja
That **Veterinary Fees should be a minimum of 2.5% or CPI whichever is the greater and this should be placed as ongoing on the Action Sheet to be discussed for 2012.**
Voting Carried.

The Meeting Closed at 6:01 p.m. and re-opened on Sunday at 8:23 a.m.

Database – Ieva Peters/Dee Berry/Jo McMaha/Tom McCormack

Peter sent Dee a disk to test and she has come up with a page of comment/questions that she is discussing with Peter. QERA are happy to do anything they can to facilitate the system. The objective is to get Peter at an event and run alongside. QERA will meet some of the costs.

Moved Tom McCormack/Neil Clarkson

That **AERA pays 50% of the costs capped at \$1,500 towards the costs associated with bringing Peter Johnson to a QERA ride for the purposes of live testing of the database.**

Voting Carried Unanimously.

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

VERA Motion 1 – Training Ride Leg Lengths

That Rule A6.1

6.1 At all affiliated endurance and marathon rides:

- a) **an average of the distances between standard veterinary checkpoints must not be greater than 40 km; and**
- b) **the maximum distance of any one leg must not exceed 50 km.**

Be amended to read:

- a) **for rides of 85kml or less, an average of the distance between standard veterinary checkpoints must not be greater than 42.5kml**
- b) **for rides of over 85kml an average of the distances between standard veterinary checkpoints must not be greater than 40kml: and**
- c) **the maximum distance of any one leg must not exceed 50kml.**

Voting - NSW - Yes , TAS - No , Vic - Yes , SA –No, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes – Carried, new rule in 2010.

Motions on Notice for Discussion and First Vote

QERA Motion 1

“that a horse having successfully obtained endurance status, having complied with the requirements of the Novice Horse Rules H 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4, be granted Provisional Endurance Status for a period of not less than 12 months from their first successful novice ride completion.”

Debbie believes that the Provisional Horse rule will create problems with administration as it adds another level. It is more than a welfare issue as it will also affect the financial side of the sport and the market. Many people would not be in the sport if they did not have the opportunity to sell their horses. It would add more cost to keep the horse longer and she believes that if a horse is fit and capable, it should be allowed to shine.

Matthew asked how she would combat newly qualified horses being ridden in under 4 hours. It is too late after the event. Debbie replied that it does not happen all the time and there is a process of penalising poor horse welfare. She believes that the Novice Horse rules are enough. More education is required and we cannot come up with enough rules to control the cowboy element of the sport. This rule would impact on the financial side, the cost of producing endurance horses, the market for endurance horses, individuals, conglomerates who produce endurance horses to sell and who also make horses available to jockeys who would not have the opportunity to participate.

Matthew replied that he is fully aware of the commercial side of the sport and he has never allowed it to have an impact on any decision making on horse welfare. Several of the disciplinary rules are the subsequent result of people overriding horses. When it comes to that stage, it is too late for the horse. 14kml per hour is still going to give the horse a chance to shine especially at a Quilty. It is a reasonable time. He fully accepts another layer of administration and 90% of the rule book has evolved as a result of cowboys. He has been in the sport a long time and at the beginning there was nobody there to enforce any rules. Unfortunately as time went by, respect for horses and rules were lost. He does not believe it would impose a huge impediment and does not think that the consequences have been seriously considered. Personal gain has overridden them.

The Australian Novice Horse qualification process is widely viewed as the best process in the world. The FEI has instigated their own level of qualification, largely based on our system. This system is adding value to marketing horses for export. Buyers who come to Australia know that horses have gone through a qualification process for

the horse's welfare and potentially have not been compromised. Sandy agreed but believes the biggest problem is the extra 12 months. He has seen older horses overridden. Matthew replied that it will be easier on the horse being pushed 12 months later and we have to use what means we can to protect them.

Voting – NSW – No, Tas – No, Vic – No, SA – No, Qld – Yes, WA – No. Motion Lost. Ieva stated that she would like to acknowledge Queensland for bringing the motion back and thanked Debbie for a carefully constructed argument. She would like to see more action on it. Matthew replied that he has data on fast rides for young horses. Melanie stated that she was horrified when she saw it happen in Queensland.

QERA Motion 2

“that an additional Endurance Horse Division be introduced and be known as a Provisional Endurance Horse. This division will require provisional horses to be ridden at a speed no greater than an average speed of 14km per hour.”

Motion Withdrawn

QERA Motion 3

That new rule A11.7 is added into Administration of Ride Rules

A11.7 A Ride Committee shall accept ride entries from any member of any division, unless a relevant SMC has previously given that Ride Committee authority to refuse ride entry to a particular member.

Motion Withdrawn

Logbooks/id

It was agreed that if visual brands match then action should be taken, if there is no brand, we do not do anything. If any costs are incurred, the person who brings the matter forward should pay. Matthew reported that he has spoken to Harold Williamson about the issue. The AHSA are fully aware that breeders submit documentation to the society that shows horses are branded when they are not. They are also not interested in pursuing horses that are not branded or microchipped.

The AERA policy is that:

AERA confirms interest in the correct identification of a horse – ie the brand/chip matches documentation information is an accurate record and matches any breed records/registration.

Once in receipt of a logbook, if there is a dispute over the identity (eg horse id does not match breed registration (brand/id/DNA or other recognised method) then the State Division will take whatever steps necessary to establish identity.

Failure to co-operate with steps to confirm identity may result in disciplinary action which could result in suspension of the horse.

If an incorrect identification is reported to a state, then the SMC should try to organise a visit to the horse. If this is rejection then a Chief Steward can do it at a ride.

If the horse does not have a logbook we are only interested in branded horses. We need to recognise our links to AHSA to promote and support the breeding of superior livestock. Registered horses should be competing under their registered names. Claims of mid-identity will only be investigated where there are legible brands, microchips and papers.

Moved Tom McCormack/Matthew Krahn

That H7.4b, is amended to change Division Registrar to Division SMC
If a Division SMC becomes aware that a horse registered with a breed association has been issued with a logbook in a name different from its registered name, the SMC must require the member responsible for that horse to return the logbook so that the name of the horse is changed and the database is adjusted accordingly.

Voting NSW-yes, TAS – Yes, Vic – Yes, Sa – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried. Next meeting for 2nd vote.

Equitana

- Moved** Tom McCormack/Meg Woodhouse
- That** AERA pays \$1,550 towards the Equitana 2010 stand with the proviso that VERA supply the manpower and promotional material.
- Voting** Carried Unanimously

International Horse Identification, Dee has provided the policy that QERA use. Anne is to distribute to the States for adoption. It was suggested that a copy of the import identification document is also requested.

Medical Armbands

It was agreed that medical armbands could be included in standard equipment and would be issued with membership. The armband would contain emergency numbers/medical conditions/allergies. Melanie suggested that the entry form could also include an emergency contact number.

Discussion on the Body Score

It was noted that Body Score takes up a column on the logbook but is only used pre-ride. It could be put in a box. The NVP would have to advise what they would want if they had another column. Animal Welfare legislation in each State should be checked. If the body score is less than 2 and greater than 4 in Tasmania, it is not acceptable on welfare grounds.

Quilty

Victoria 2009

Financial reports were received and it appears that the event made a substantial profit.

- Moved** Matthew Krahn/Melanie Scott
- That** **the AERA write to the 2009 Tonimbuk Gold Cup Incorporated, given that such a large profit was a result of the Tom Quilty Gold Cup, that the \$5,000 given to them as a “hardship” relief is returned to the AERA.**
- Voting** Carried. VERA abstained from voting

NSW 2010

Neil showed the camp site map that was professionally done by surveyors. He also did a comparison of completion rates per camp area. Some of the closest camps did not have as good a completion rate as the ones further away. This proved that the completion rate was not related to where people were camped in relation to the vet ring.

AERA is to thank the Quilty Committee for an excellent ride and their hard work. It was a very well run ride.

Chief Steward Report

Tom stated that in future a Chief Steward will be in attendance at all times in the vet hospital and the Event Standards should be changed to reflect this. Tom believed the event went extremely well and the concept of arrival gate laneways helped the flow. The same system will be used in future. Chief Stewards should have the same coloured vests. Giving a number to vets was good for reference and they should have vests similar to Chief Stewards with a number on them. The system needs to keep improving. People collecting logbooks could have wristbands with the rider number on. Strapper bibs would be ideal if they can be sponsored. A temporary screen should be available to shield horses if they have an accident in the vet ring.

Tom believes that each division should nominate one Chief Steward and they should assist them financially. The Quilty Committee would have to accommodate them but the group needs to be expanded, keeping the nucleus together.

A vote of thanks was give to Tom for an excellent job.

SA 2011

The date and venue of the Quilty has been changed.

Sarah advised that there is a SMC meeting on 19th July and the SMC resignations, including the President will be tabled then. Tom and Louise are visiting in August. The budget is under review and will be distribute as soon as possible. There will be an interim report and budget for the next meeting.

Tasmania 2012 – Annexure W

The Agreement has been signed and whilst another 160kkm ride does not need to be run over the proposed course, the State Championships could be run there in 2011. Pat stated that all is coming together very well at the moment.

Awards – Kerry Spratt –

Moved	Kerry Spratt/Sandy Little
That	the AERA recognise lifetime distance achievements for horses in any division at 3,000, 5000, 6500, 8000 10,000 klms and at every 1000 klms thereafter. These achievements will be recognised with awards presented at a Tom Quilty event as soon as practicable after the achievement of the distance. In principal the awards will comprise of those in the attached list.
Voting	Carried Unanimously

Ieva thanked Kerry for a job very well done with the trophies appropriate and effective.

Chief Steward/TPR/Horse Welfare – Dorte Colja/Melanie Scott –

It was agreed to look at the red and yellow card system at the end of the year. It works well as a deterrent and gives the Chief Steward another tool. NSW have a constitutional problem. If other States would like to trial, then they can contact Dorte. Jo Hamilton-Branigan is working on the IT forms. Dorte has the updated TPR course notes, exams and badges.

EADRA Meeting

Matthew reported on the EADRA Meeting that he attended. The industry has to make a presentation to the government by December or have one imposed on us. Most people are happy to advocate a levy on bags of horse feed. All other industries have an agreement. He met and spoke with several people – Harold Williamson (AHS), Grant Baldock (EA), Mike Bond (Animal Health). Groups have been set up to identify different pros and cons. We do not want a national register as it would be expensive to administer. Everyone in Queensland has to have a property PIC number and this is going to be put on the entry forms.

They have also had discussions with the racing industry. Once an EADRA is in place, the government fund the cleanup and are liable. It works in conjunction with the Ausvet Plan. It will be a zero based levy and only activated when an event occurs. The levy is collected for 10 years, therefore the cost of the cleanup will be divided by 10.

Constitution – Kerry Spratt/Ieva Peters/Tom McCormack/Matthew Krahn/Melanie Scott

The AERA constitution is in the process of being changed and lengthy discussions were held on what these changes should be and if we should continue operating as an Association or a Company Limited by Guarantee. Work is continuing on this.

General Business

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on **5/6/7 November**

Meeting Closed: The meeting closed at. 3:52 p.m.