

Notes of the General Meeting of Members of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc held on 1st and 2nd March, 2007 at the Sports House, cnr. Caxton and Castlemaine Streets, Milton commencing on Saturday at 9:55 a.m.

Present: Anne Jones (Qld) Mathew Krahnman (Qld), Dick Collyer (Qld), Neil Clarkson (NSW), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Jeff Bonham (NSW), Ieva Peters (WA), Ross McCamish (WA), Jil Bourton (SA) Helen Bowkett (TAS), Trish Smith (TAS), Chris Gates (TAS), Roy Noble (Hon. Member).

Moved Matthew Krahnman/Neil Clarkson
That **Trish Smith and Chris Gates are accepted as proxies.**
Voting Carried Unanimously

In attendance: Barb Timms, Steve Swan, Colleen Shaw, Scott and Margie Lee Madigan, Dee Berry

Apologies: Pat Hodgetts (TAS), Sandy Horton (VIC), Jane McLoughlin (VIC)

Register of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

Nil

Registration of Votes: Qld – 7, NSW – 6, Vic – 2, WA – 2, Tas – 2, SA - 1

Business Arising from the Minutes (from Action Sheet)

CS/TPR Registrar - The lists are nearly finished and will be sent to the States to check. The current procedure for TPR badges is to send the Provisional card to the State CS representative who then sends them to Graeme Gilbertson for a badge. It was agreed that the badges should go to the State Registrars to issue, then advise Graeme. Badge numbers will be allocated to each Division.

AHSA Marathon – AERA are distancing themselves from the event and seeking legal advice. The veterinary panel will be consulted.

New Microchips and Scanners – Jeff stated that they cost \$22 per chip to read the body core temperature. The cost of the pocket reader is \$875 plus GST. NSW and QERA are not happy with the performance of the pocket reader. It was agreed that thermal chips are too expensive at this stage.

Handbook Printing –

Moved Kerry Spratt/Mathew Krahnman
That **a motion of thanks is moved to Neil for the amount of time he has given to the handbook**
Voting Carried Unanimously
Moved Dick Collyer/Jil Bourton
That **we allocate up to the sum of \$3,000 to the Nanango Quilty to cover airfares to invite the Living Legends.**
Voting Carried Unanimously. It was noted that the cost to send AERA Delegates to the Quilty will be reduced this year.

Matthew asked whether the income is keeping up with the growth. Roy is to bring a budget and recommendations to the next meeting as to whether the affiliation fee should be increased.

International

The following State delegates have been nominated by their respective SMCs and their nominations ratified:

Kerry Spratt (NSW), Dick Collyer (Qld), Pat Hodgetts (Tas), Jil Bourton (SA), Jane McLaughlin (Vic), Ieva Peters (WA).

Trish Smith was accepted as the Tasmanian Delegate for the meeting.

Chris Gates was elected as the Chairperson for 2008 and Ieva Peters as the International Committee Secretary.

The IC are looking at producing a magazine to celebrate 20 years of International teams.

Moved Dick Collyer/Mathew Krahnman

That **AERA supports the continuation of the development proposal to publish 10 Years of International Riding.**

- Voting** Carried Unanimously
- Moved** Neil Clarkson/Ross McCamish
- That** **the Selection committee for the Team Vet is Trish Annetts (Chef), Barbara Timms (Squad Manager), Dick Collyer, Ieva Peters and Chris Gates.**
- Voting** Carried Unanimously
- EFA Agreement –**
- Moved** Dick Collyer/Matthew Krahen
- That** **the AERA authorises Chris Gates to continue to negotiate with the EFA on the basis of the draft document with a view to distributing an accepted reply from the EFA as soon as possible.**
- Voting** Carried Unanimously.
- Moved** Dick Collyer/Neil Clarkson
- That** **a sub-committee is formed to formulate the agreement with the EFA for a Sports Committee. The members will be Chris Gates, Kerry Spratt, Matthew Krahen and others as deemed necessary to contribute.**
- Voting** Carried Unanimously.

There was an adverse report on AussieEndurance about a young riders race in the UAE. The IC are to write to Ian Williams expressing concern about the negative impact on the sport in .

State Reports

New South Wales NSW have a new registrar – Jackie Barlow. The first Training ride is on 14th March. NSW currently has 290 members.

Queensland – QERA has secured \$120K government funding over 3 years. So far, 3 training rides and 2 80kkm rides have been run this year. QERA are now using the Annual Logbook Return and the Registrar has been able to archive shelves full of documents and clear the database.

South Australia – The *** FEI ride is waiting for funding. We need money in the bank but are confident it will go ahead. There is positive feeling in SA and the first training ride is being held today.

Victoria – There are 19 rides on the calendar, including 5 x 100 miles. 38 new members. The first ride is being held next weekend. In talks with the DPI, endurance across the board is years ahead of other disciplines. There is more info in the logbook than any other sport in Australia.

Western Australia - Ross reported that all is going well, with a clinic today to kick off the season. Currently there are 80 members, 4 new.

Tasmania – Helen stated that there is a new SMC – 5 vacancies, 5 new people, 2 casual vacancies. Tried to pick up on expertise in areas where it was required.

Quilty

Nanango Proposal – Visit and presentation by Nanango Ride Committee 10:00 a.m. Saturday

Barbara Timms, Margie and Scott Madigan attended the meeting. Ieva thanked them for stepping up and recognising the gap. Barbara replied that she is just one of a dedicated committee and could not do it on her own. Margie and Scott are not endurance riders. She thanked AERA for the opportunity to present the Nanango proposal. Barbara presented the Business Plan, Risk Management report and a copy of the application to Events Queensland for sponsorship.

Matthew asked for a clarification of the conditions to the proposal moving forward. The first one is that everyone in the country can get to the event and get home with no restrictions.

Barbara replied that they have been given until 30th June. It will be a couple of months into winter, therefore if the disease is still around there will be an outbreak with the cold weather. The local showgrounds have put a restriction on horses entering until 30th June. If there is an outbreak leading up to and including 30th June, the event will be cancelled but they are prepared to take the risk.

Matthew stated that Barbara needs a consensus from AERA that after a cut off date, the event can still proceed. It was agreed that 1st August will be the point of no return. Barbara stated that one of the plans is that merchandise and the Quilty book will not be ordered or printed early. It was noted that Nanango showgrounds could handle a lockdown as far as facilities etc. are concerned.

Moved Ross McCamish/Trish Smith

That **the AERA accept the proposal from the Nanango Ride Committee to host a Tom Quilty event in 2008.”**

Voting SA – Yes, Vic – No, NSW – Yes, Tas – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried.

Moved Kerry Spratt/Helen Bowkett

That **the AERA accepts the nomination of Brian Sheahan as Head Vet for the 2008 Quilty**

Voting Carried Unanimously

Moved Dick Collyer/Chris Gates

That **the AERA accepts the nomination of Tom McCormack as Chief Steward for the 2008 Quilty**

Voting Carried Unanimously

Moved Dick Collyer/Jil Bourton

That **the AERA accepts the entry fee of \$350 including GST and the Vet levy**

Voting Carried Unanimously

Moved QERA/Chris Gates

That **the acceptance of the Nanango Quilty Proposal ensures the Tom Quilty event is not compromised by being cancelled for a year and in no way affects the order of future Quilties**

Voting SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – Yes, Tas – No, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried.

WA 2007 –

Ross tabled the financial results of the Quilty but noted that they have not yet been audited.

Moved Dick Collyer/Jeff Bonham

That **AERA pays the sum of \$3,535 as financial assistance to the WAERA Quilty Committee to offset the loss of income as a result of EI.**

Voting Carried. WA Abstained. Ross thanked the AERA on behalf of WAERA.

Victoria 2009

Note that it is the AERA preference that Vic delegates be present at the AERA meeting until the Quilty.

Moved Dick Collyer/Neil Clarkson

That **a letter is written to VERA concerning the 2009 Tonimbuk Quilty Gold Cup requiring them to address issues of concern by March 30th. If these issues are not adequately addressed in the opinion of the AERA no agreement with VERA will be signed for the 2009 Quilty**

Voting Carried Unanimously.

NSW 2010 – Jeff stated that the State ride will be run as 160/80/40. Jeff announced that they are proposing an FEI ride at Tamworth.

The meeting closed at 6:10 p.m.

National Newsletter VERA have discussed with NSW a trial putting the two newsletters together. Neil to follow up, discuss with Chris and bring back some information to the next meeting.

Equine Influenza

The proposed Government levy was discussed at length, along with the Industry forum being scheduled for 14th March in Queensland. The levy would be an administrative nightmare.

Moved Dick Collyer/Chris Gates

That the AERA writes a letter of protest to the appropriate bodies about the levy.

Voting Carried Unanimously.

Motions on Notice for Discussion and First Vote

VERA Motion 1

That the age of Junior Riders be raised from 16years in the year of the ride to 18 year in the year of the ride”

Rationale: VERA is well aware that this has been raised before which does not negate the fact that the motion is valid. While there may have been in history a reason for the junior age to be below 16 that reason no longer exists and discussion at the last meeting affirmed the point that in every other part of a teenager’s life the age of transition is 18 years old. This is when they can vote, drive a car, handle and ride a stallion. AERA raises their status to adult when they cannot even get themselves to a ride or handle and/or ride any horse offered.

If this is passed then all States will have to hold a SGM to change the Junior age prior to next year. For implementation 1st January, 2009.

Voting SA – Yes, Tas – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA - Yes Carried 2nd vote next meeting.

Vet Panel Motion 1 to AERA:

P2.2 Omeprazole, prescribed and administered under the control of a veterinarian, at the recommended doses for treatment and prevention of gastric ulceration is exempt from the provisions of these prohibited substance rules.

Rationale:

Concern for horse welfare and the finding that equine gastric ulcer syndrome is common in many horse populations, especially those under physiological and psychological stresses of training, competition, transport etc has seen omeprazole being an allowed medication in a number of equine disciplines and states. Although some at the meeting were concerned that allowing the use of such medications might encourage bad management practices, it was also recognised that well managed horses can have ulcers, and as a multi-factorial problem it can be a significant cause of pain, discomfort and reduce performance in endurance horses. There has been no survey done of endurance horses in Australia but we could expect that our horses are similar to other populations, where the prevalence of EGUS can be at least 50%. There is no indication that omeprazole has any effect on exercise performance or heart rate or recoveries in normal horses, so there is no evidence that this medication will confer a competitive advantage. There is suggestion that horses suffering from gastric ulceration may have reduced athletic performance, and removing the source of that pain and discomfort will allow them to participate without compromising their welfare.

Trish stated that Tasmania do not have enough data to make an informed vote.

Voting SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – Yes, TAS – No, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried 2nd vote next meeting.

Vet Panel Motion 2 to AERA

Body condition score:

MOTION: That body condition score be assessed as part of the initial examination and recorded in the log book at each ride. The following scoring system is recommended.

Rationale:

Concerns have been raised about horses in very light condition competing in endurance. There is good evidence linking adequate body condition with performance, eg from the Tevis Cup. It is possible that poor condition may reflect inadequate nutrition or disease processes.

In some states, horses run very lean. Not a good look. Can have alternative and have fat ponies. It would be possible to be vetted out but not for this reason alone.

Chris pointed out that the motion does not say it is replacing anal tone. Matthew stated that the reason the vet panel want it put in is that they would like to make a decision pre-ride if they feel the horse is not in appropriate condition. For example if it starts at 4 and if it goes down below that it could vet out. It is not an issue for 95% of horses in 95% of conditions. Historical data would be available if there is a need to give rest orders, and would give them the ability to give an accurate judgement. The statistical information would be invaluable.

Ross asked whether it is going to give the capacity to vet out pre-ride. Yes. Under the current rules it can be done now. It standardises and protects horses that run lean all the time.

Voting SA – Abstain, Vic – Yes, NSW – No, Tas – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried. 2nd vote next meeting. Anne is to ask the vet panel to give a clarification on purposes and do we need another column or remove anal tone.

QERA Motion 1 – Logbooks and Microchips

that all horses with blue or yellow logbooks must be microchipped and have veterinary identification.”

Rationale:

At present, many horses in the Red Zones in NSW and Qld have been microchipped by the DPI and horses entering rides in the first rides of the season are also being microchipped if the DPI are conducting bio security checks. After June 2008 it will be an industry decision whether to microchip or not. The Government would like all horses to be microchipped as they would be able to identify the multiplication of horses registered in more than one Association. Commercial benefits could come later after EI has been resolved. AERA need to be proactive and put in place procedures to microchip all horses with a logbook and riders should be prepared to do this.

Matthew stated that AERA has a chance to be pro-active for a change. Identification issues will no longer happen. There will be an extra level of traceability for the life of the horse. 85-90% go to endurance status. Neil stated that in NSW most get it done after the ride. It would cost more money if done pre-ride. Another hassle for average member.

Ross advised that most WA members agreed that microchipping for a yellow logbook is a good idea.

Dick stated that if the microchip is done at the ride, the Registrar would need to be advised of the number. If a person attended a ride with the intention of microchipping, the CS could deal with it at pre-ride and the chip could be inserted post ride.

It was noted that the AJC are now using microchips.

Jil believes that AERA should have made it compulsory when logbooks were first introduced. Matthew replied that he has spent a lot of time since 25th August sitting around tables at meetings representing horses. We have microchip systems in place and are much further ahead than any other sport. It is only a matter of time before it will be compulsory like the NLIS system in cattle. It is not a matter of if but when and we are trying to be proactive not reactive.

Ross agreed with Matthew but wants to amend the motion.

Kerry stated that she went to meetings too and they were impressed with our horses being microchipped but also with the logbooks as the horse was identified.

In 5 years time, breed societies will require microchips.

Moved Ross McCamish/Chris Gates

That an amendment is made to the motion to read “as from 1st January 2010, all endurance horses must be microchipped to be eligible to compete”.

Voting SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – Abstain, Tas – Abstain, Qld – Yes, WA – yes. Carried and the amendment becomes the motion..

Jeff can understand any horse obtaining a yellow logbook from a date having a microchip but it would be an administrative nightmare to get current books done. Dick replied that if we get into trouble with a disease again we are ahead of the situation.

Helen stated that she came through quarantine through NSW and Vic and TAS from Shahzada. No-one checked the horse’s identification. The process of vaccination will require a microchip.

The amendment was put to the vote.

Voting SA – Abstain, Vic – Yes, NSW – Abstain, Tas – Abstain, Qld – Yes, WA – yes. Carried 2nd vote next meeting.

QERA Motion 2 – Insertion of Microchips

“that Rule H6.2 Every horse issued with an Endurance Horse Logbook must be identified either by:

be amended to read:

a) a microchip implant plus certified veterinary identification of same - the details of which will be recorded in the Endurance Horse Logbook for that horse.

Rationale:

The DPI have been microchipping horses on arrival at ride bases and have found that a local anesthetic is not required. Removal of the requirement to microchip 6 days prior to competition is not necessary in these circumstances and therefore would not be a breach of rules if bio-security measures are undertaken.

Anne explained that two of her horses were microchipped by the DPI before the ride and without local anesthetic. If members wish to microchip before the ride in this manner then it gives the flexibility to do so.

An amendment was moved

Moved Dick Collyer/Ross McCamish

That the motion is amended to read

a) a microchip implant plus certified veterinary identification of same - the details of which will be recorded in the Endurance Horse Logbook for that horse. The microchip must be inserted more than 6 days prior to that horse competing in an affiliated endurance ride; if a prohibited substance e.g. la is administered during this procedure.

Voting on the amendment SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – Yes, Tas – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried and now becomes the motion.

The amended motion was put to the vote. SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – Yes, Tas – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried. 2nd vote next meeting.

EI Impact on Pointscore (VERA)

Moved VERA/SAERA

That the motion that from the November 2007 minutes “That the national pointscore be suspended for the 2008 season due to EI restrictions” is rescinded.

Voting SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, Tas – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried.

Database

Steve Swan was introduced. Steve is the new QERA representative and a RMS Portfolio has been created on the QERA SMC. At present, the database cannot proceed any further until a quote is received from

Madan. All states should continue to develop the Blucher system. Madan is attending a ride and SA should forward an update on how it went.

Steve asked whether it will tie into the new database. Ian and Madan will work together on this as it was one of the specifications to ensure there was integration.

Steve will co-ordinate user manuals

Recommended Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

Anne tabled an overnight email from Sarah with a quote for Phase I of \$11,000 and asked for agreement in principle.

More information is required on what \$11,000 gives.

Yellow Cards (QERA)

QERA would like to discuss the possibility of introducing a Yellow Card system to caution riders/connections. We believe it would act as a deterrent to future incidents.

This would not give any new powers to a Chief Steward, who can already disqualify a rider, or connections, for rule breaches.

What the changes achieve, is to draw a public "line in the sand", as to what behaviour is acceptable, or not, at an endurance event. The showing of either card is representative of just where that line exists and what it represents, as a public display of disciplinary action, which can be taken in an immediate manner.

It would give immediate action for problems at rides that would save going through lengthy disciplinary procedures at the SMC. It gives the Chief Stewards more official control.

Anne and Kerry are to design a yellow card and draft a procedure by the next meeting. Abuse to the SMC/RO/CS or any official should be included. The Chief Steward report would need changing.

Logbook Names (NSW)

Why do we have to write horses names on every page of logbooks when each book has its unique serial number printed on every page. Duplicates a lot of work

This would require a change to the rule book as currently the Registrar is required to put the horse's name on each page. (See Rule H7.3). NSW will bring an amendment to the Rule to the next meeting.

Quilty Bibs (NSW)

Can the AERA please look into obtaining a set of rider bibs for successive Quilties rather than each committee "re inventing the wheel".

Dick advised that he has 365 ride bibs that he would sell to any Quilty committee.

FEI Passports (NSW)

We wish AERA to protest the requirement for horses to have FEI passports when competing within Australia.

The process was explained – AUS has had special dispensation over the years to use our logbooks instead of the appropriate FEI/EFA identification documents. The FEI has since insisted that all National Federations must use the same documentation. This is an FEI directive, not from EFA or AERA.

Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on 26/27 July, 2008.

The Meeting closed at 2:30 pm.