

Report of the General Meeting of Members of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc held on 24th and 25th November, 2007 at the Sports House, cnr. Caxton and Castlemaine Streets, Milton commencing on Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Anne Jones (Qld) Mathew Krahnman (Qld), Dick Collyer (Qld), Sarah Adams (SA), Neil Clarkson (NSW), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Jeff Bonham (NSW), Ieva Peters (WA), Ross McCamish (WA) Sandy Horton (VIC), Jane McLoughlin (VIC), Helen Bowkett (TAS), Carol Dobson (TAS), Roy Noble (Hon. Member).

Proxies were received from Helen Bowkett, Carol Dobson and Sandy Horton.

In attendance: Sarah Adams, Ian Blucher, Madan Murthy, Dee Berry, Beverley Wright, Peter Toft

Apologies: Pat Hodgetts (TAS), Chris Mahoney (TAS), Jil Bourton (SA)

Register of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest: Nil:

Registration of Votes: QLD – 8, NSW – 6, VIC – 3, WA – 2, TAS – 2, SA - 1

Business Arising from the June 2007 minutes- Action Sheet

- **Annual Logbook Return.** QERA are going ahead with this as they believe it is essential now with the EI situation. A copy of the form is to be sent to all States. It will also pick up any horses that haven't been transferred.

Treasurer – Roy advised that he has an adequate stock of buckles for the next few years. Barbara Timms is not happy with the quality of her 1,000 mile buckle. Roy will look at replacing them. Dick advised that he has another list of five people wanting the special Tasmanian buckle.

International

Tonimbuk still require funding for the FEI event. Jane advised that the ride will eventually go ahead and some costs have already been paid.

Moved Dick Collyer/Ross McCamish

That the Tonimbuk Ride Organisers be re-imbursed in accordance with the motion with reference to the AERA policy.

Voting Carried Unanimously

Beverley has resigned and was replaced on the IC by Jane McLoughlin.

EI and its implications on rides next year, specifically biosecurity for FEI rides was discussed at length. The general feeling was that it is too early to make detailed calls on the situation. We have to act in accordance with any requirements. Endurance has an advantage as we already have logbooks and microchips. Vaccination information is in the books and swabbing and medication control should be included in new books. Horses will need a vaccination every 6 months. DPI are looking at changing the waybill forms. Members will be advised to ask the vet to complete the vaccination form in the logbook but nothing can be done until it is all finalised.

The AERA IC made a loss of \$128 for the year.

BOM report. The Young Horse Championships have been deferred. The BOM is working on an endurance coaching certificate.

Trish Annetts term as Chef finishes in July this year and a recommendation was made that the appointment be extended until the end of 2008.

Moved Sandy Horton/Jeff Bonham

That the AERA IC's recommendation that the term of the current Chef is extended until the end of 2008 is accepted.

Voting Carried Unanimously

Moved Jane McLoughlin/Neil Clarkson

That the AERA IC's recommendation to call for expressions of interest for the key positions for the Malaysia World Championships 2008 is accepted.

Voting Carried Unanimously. Ieva to organise.

Ieva will also apply to the EFA for dispensation for Australian endurance horses to compete in Malaysia. At present, none are qualified.

Moved Neil Clarkson/Sandy Horton

That **changes are made to the TOR of the BOM and the membership qualification criteria for the AES and the member agreement.**

Voting Carried Unanimously

Any appeals would be made to the AERA and then go through our process.

Moved Kerry Spratt/Ross McCamish

That **the AERA accepts the nominations from Penny Toft, John Simpson, Chris Gates and Glenda Armytage for the positions on the AERA IC.**

Voting Carried Unanimously.

The FEI allows national rides to be counted as International level qualification rides provided that an FEI official is in attendance and the ride is run under VGIH.

Moved Kerry Spratt/Dick Collyer

That **the recommendation from the AERA IC that the States consider running their SC as VGIH to allow horses and riders to qualify at International level as per para 3.3 of article 825 is accepted.**

Voting Carried Unanimously. Ieva is to write to Anne to put in newsletters and send to States.

The FEI calendar is uncertain at this time. Nanango is looking at running the World Youth Championship in 2009.

Ieva and Chris had a meeting with the EFA and were able to extend the current agreement until 1st July, 2008.

Franz has drawn up a new agreement but it requires changes.

Dick went through the changes that Ieva will make and forward to the delegates. The biggest change is setting up a National Endurance Ride Committee (NERC) as a sub-committee of the EFA that would replace the AERA IC.

The NERC consists of five members, all of whom must be members of the EFA and a division of the AERA to be able to hold office. There is still a lot of work to be done on the document and there may need to be a change in the AERA constitution which would make it very difficult.

It was agreed to invite Franz to the next meeting. Ieva to follow up.

Moved Matthew Krahn/Neil Clarkson

That **AERA endorses the recommendation that the AERA IC continue to negotiate with the EFA regarding the agreement on the basis of the document tabled and discussions for the AERA IC and AERA meetings.**

Voting Carried Unanimously.

WA Quilty 2007

There is some leftover merchandise that is available for sale.

Moved Kerry Spratt/Jeff Bonham

That **we defer the outstanding cost of buckles and affiliation fees related to the WA Quilty until the first meeting in 2008, to allow for the investigation of funding options.**

Voting Carried. WA abstained.

Victoria 2008

Jeff reported that NSW would be willing to defer the Quilty for 12 months. VERA thanked them for their co-operation.

Moved Matthew Krahn/Ross McCamish

That **the 2008 Tonimbuk Quilty is postponed until 2009 and that the sequence of subsequent Quilts be altered accordingly.**

Voting Qld – yes, Vic – Abstain, NSW- yes, TAS – yes, WA – yes. Motion Carried.

Moved Dick Collyer/Sandy Horton

That NSW be permitted to run their Quilty trial event earlier than required by the Quilty Event Standards.

Voting Qld – yes, Vic – yes, NSW- yes, TAS – yes, WA – yes. Motion Carried.

The meeting closed at 5.45p.m.

The meeting re-opened on Sunday at 8:18 a.m.

Quilty Role of Head Veterinarian

Moved Sandy Horton/Ross McCamish

That the AERA adopt the conflict of interest guidelines as tabled by Brian Sheahan and that they be incorporated into the Quilty agreement.

Voting Carried Unanimously

National Newsletter

The National Newsletter is on hold. Victoria did not suggest anyway that it could be done that would be acceptable. QERA are happy to proceed with a limited run. The concept of a National Magazine was discussed, perhaps twice a year. Neil will do costs and stated that he cannot print it but would be willing to put it in print ready form. Neil stated that he is not against a glossy concept but prefers a magazine, not a newsletter. Anne believes that the current newsletters are not efficient in their current form. There is a lot of white space and articles are duplicated.

Equine Influenza

Peter Toft arrived at 1:45 p.m. Saturday to discuss Equine Influenza and the Pleasure and Performance Horse Industry (PPHI) and his role in it. He believes that most endurance rides in NSW and Qld should be able to operate at the beginning of the season. He is working with the Government to ensure compliance is established.

The PPHI has been afforded a portal system using state of the art technology, of \$400,000 to set up a database that will also cross reference other databases. Other proposals included securing funding for Simon Goddard to take over 2 portfolios. One of the proposals currently before government, which that has been agreed in principle, is that all horses that have been affected in the red zone in SE Queensland will be blood tested and microchipped. There will also be opportunities in all states to tap into financial systems but this may be more feasible to come from states on an individual basis rather than AERA. There is a \$15,000 grant available to Queensland Clubs pertaining to bio-security. What will change is how we will negotiate with the Government in future. Other organisations receive huge amounts of funding whereas the Boonah Quilty received nothing.

Compliance guidelines – vets at ride already, horses identified. Horses personally identified with blue book. It may be necessary to refuse day membership and all horses will require a veterinary identification in their blue logbooks. Events may also be restricted to a limited number of venues and courses.

Peter advised that there will be a meeting of organisers of all sections of the industry in a couple of weeks time.

Kerry explained that NSW have different named zones and that they are looking at running intra zone rides. All the thoroughbred racing horses are currently being vaccinated.

Events will have to be run in accordance with DPI requirements for biosecurity. They will probably require a minimum prenomination of 14 days. The EI status of all horses will be required. In the short term, we are faced with the situation that all horses will have to have a blue logbook with Vet id and microchip.

NSW will be running 2 sets of competition. There will be no requirements for microchipping in the green zone. It is important to communicate to members and ride organisers especially on how to cope with biosecurity guidelines.

Anne is to write to the states advising members that they need to make themselves aware of requirements for biosecurity and Ride Organisers need to be made aware of their conformance. Queensland will soon be publishing a set of guidelines and will have a Ride Organisers meeting in the new year to advise.

Moved Kerry Spratt/Matthew Krahen

That the AERA accepts the running of events within the divisions subject to compliance with the regulatory requirement e.g. DPI.

Voting Qld – yes, Vic – Abstain, NSW- yes, Tas – yes, WA – yes. Carried.

The motion basically means that AERA is not going to interfere with the running of rides in divisions and the states can run without interference.

Motions on Notice for Second Vote

9.1 Early Vetting (Early Vetting Reports – Annexure U

Where standard vetting applies, the Chief Steward, after consultation with the Ride Organiser, shall determine that each rider must ensure that their horse is presented for vetting; either

a) 30 minutes after crossing the finishing line at the end of each riding leg, OR

b) within 30 minutes after crossing the finish line at the end of each riding leg but not before such time after crossing the finishing line as determined by the Chief Steward after consultation with the Ride Organiser.

The Chief Steward must announce whether a) or b) shall apply prior to the commencement of the ride.

Voting Qld – yes, Vic – yes, NSW – yes, Tas – yes, WA – yes. Carried and will be a new rule in 2008

9.2 Veterinary Panel Motion – Re-presents

V.4.(d) A veterinarian may require any horse to re-present for another veterinary examination before its official out-time. Failure to comply with the represent prior to the official out-time will result in disqualification.

Amendment moved by Jane McLoughlin/Ross McCamish

V.4.(d) A veterinarian may require any horse to re-present for another veterinary examination at a specified time prior to allowing the horse to commence the next leg of the event. Failure to comply with the direction of the veterinarian will result in disqualification

Voting on the amendment - Qld – yes, Vic – yes, NSW – yes, Tas – yes, WA – yes. Carried

Vote on the motion - Qld – yes, Vic – yes, NSW – yes, Tas – yes, WA – yes. Carried and will be a new rule in 2008.

10. Motions on Notice for Discussion and First Vote

10.1 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.

Debate: Dick believes that the rationale is incorrect although he believes in the change. Every constitution in Australia will have to be changed. WA and NSW support the concept. WA had a unanimous mandate at the AGM to try and get it changed. We would have to look at pointscores, kids in the cusp, distance. Etc.

It was agreed it should be taken to the members and bring it back to the March meeting. The agreement in principle is that the age limit should be raised. It would be effective in 2009 subject to AERA making changes, and each State Division making constitution changes.

Moved VERA/WAERA

That AERA accepts in principle that the maximum age of Juniors will be raised to the year in which they turn 17.

Voting Qld – yes, Vic – yes, NSW – yes, Tas – yes, WA – yes. Carried.

Consideration will have to be given about how the transition is handled if it is passed and what would happen if all states do not agree. Insurance issues should also be considered.

Insurance - Visit by Beverley Wright – 10:00 a.m Sunday

Ieva thanked Bev for coming. Bev handed out the information on the policy for next year. There will be no change in the amounts payable with only minor changes to the conditions, in most cases to increase benefits.

Matthew asked whether there are any specific exclusions relating to EI in particular if a ride is held and the Ride Organisers are accused of spreading the disease. Bev replied that the policy will respond as for any claim. At the end of the day, it comes down to proving it. That would only happen if the Ride Organiser fails to follow regulatory requirements. If they have done the right thing then it is not an issue.

Statements should be put in the newsletters not to delay paying membership as still covered for PA and PL irrespective of attending rides

Will invoice 50% and then assess in March. PA Premium is \$34.50, Junior \$18.40 pm

Bev noted that SA still needs to enforce waiver forms for members and non members to limit the liability of AERA, regardless of the different legislation. SA might have to set up a safety code. SA members will also require a waiver if they ride in other states. There has only been one registered safety code so far and this has been for the miniature pony association. SA should advise Bev of what they are doing in this regard.

It was agreed that members should not ring AON directly but go through Dee – 5483 6540

AERA Website – needs to be kept updated with cancelled/altered rides

EI guidelines are enforceable under the Exotic Diseases Act.

Distance Registrar

It was agreed that ride distances should be rounded to nearest klm Also a recommendation is to be made to the states that the AERA is not happy to accept courses marked solely by GPS due to accuracy concerns.

A notice is to be sent to State Secretaries advising that manual mastersheets for VHIG must have the hold time for each leg and requires the in time plus the vet time.

EI Impact on Pointscore

Ieva read the statistics for each state. There is no need to make any changes as there has only been one ride in FNQ with 6 riders, the Quilty and one ride after the Quilty.

Moved Ross McCamish/Dick Collyer

That the 2007 normal season prevails and the 2007 pointscore is calculated in the normal way.

Voting Qld – yes, Vic – yes, NSW – no, TAS – yes, WA – yes. Carried

Moved Ross McCamish/Dick Collyer

That **the national pointscore be suspended for the 2008 season due to EI restrictions.**

Voting Qld – yes, Vic – yes, NSW – no, TAS – yes, WA – yes. Carried

Accredited Vets

Moved Matthew Krahn/Ross McCamish

That **Janine Kingston be added to the list of Accredited vets.**

Voting Carried Unanimously

Recommendations and matters arising from Vet Panel meeting at Quilty

a) Ride fees – yet again these minimum fees do not seem to have been adequately circulated to ride organisers. Recommendation to let the fees sit as a minimum, with acknowledgement that individuals can negotiate additional fees.

The minimum fees therefore are set at:

80 km ride: \$450 + GST

120 km ride: \$520 + GST

160 km ride: \$605 + GST

Marathon \$330 per day + GST

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

To maintain accreditation, a veterinarian must vet at least one ride per year.

Recommendations. BFS to adapt seminar presentation for use by each state.

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.

Take back to States and put motion back up next meeting.

MOTION 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.

Take back to States and put motion back up next meeting

Thermosensitive microchips

All thoroughbred foals will in future be micro-chipped with chips that also read temperature, and we **recommend that all endurance horses should in future also have those same chips, and clubs should purchase appropriate scanners so we can make use of this technology.**

Take back to States. Jeff is to investigate the costs of microchips and scanners

Chair of NVP for 2007-8

While previous convention has been that the head veterinarian of the Quilty becomes the next NVP Chair, based on his inability to side-step last year and the excellent job he has done this year, John Robertson is to remain in the position, voted in unanimously.

Database

Sarah introduced Madan and Ian. Ian gave a presentation of his Data Management System.

Sarah thanked Ian for the overview. The problems with continuing to develop the database with Access were discussed and it was agreed that AERA should facilitate a web based solution and that Madan should review the situation and provide a proposal. While this is happening, we should encourage more use of the present system and the States need to be more pro-active with this. Ian's system can be found at www.endurancedb.com.au

A vote of thanks was recorded to Ian for the fantastic work he has done.

Data can be transferred from the existing database. The old Omnis database will be a different exercise. Madan will evaluate whether we convert the existing system or start from scratch. It was agreed that he would send the proposal to the executive around 20th January.

Moved Ross McCamish/Sandy Horton

That we accept Sarah Adams' recommendation for the development of the database and that Sarah proceed with the next stage of development which would include:

- a. Statement of Madan's expertise**
- b. Listing of the requirements for the database**
- c. Quote for scoping system**
- d. Time line for the scoping study,**
- e. A quote for the design and time line,**
- f. Build quote and timeline,**
- g. Testing protocol and quote.**

Voting Carried Unanimously.

Distance Awards - Due to the cancellation of the Quilty, it was agreed that the 2007 awards would be organised by the States and presented at an appropriate function/event.

Rule Book

Moved Sandy Horton/Ross McCamish

That AERA approves the printing of the 2008/9 rulebook.

Voting Carried Unanimously.

General Business = Nil

Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on 1st/2nd March, 2008.

The Meeting closed at 2:25 pm.