

Notes of the General Meeting of Members of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc held on 22nd and 23rd November, 2008 at the Best Western Airport Hacienda Motel, 560 Kingsford Smith Drive, Hamilton Qld 4007 commencing on Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome by President Ieva welcomed everyone to the meeting

Present: Anne Jones (Qld) Mathew Krahnman (Qld), Dick Collyer (Qld), Neil Clarkson (NSW), Tom McCormack (NSW), Jeff Bonham (NSW), Ieva Peters (WA), Ross McCamish (WA), Jil Bourton (SA) Helen Bowkett (TAS), Trish Smith (TAS), Jane McLoughlin (VIC), Sandy Horton (VIC), Roy Noble (Hon. Member).

In attendance: Barb Timms (Saturday), Jay Randle (Saturday)

Apologies: Kerry Spratt (NSW) Pat Hodgetts (TAS)

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

Business Arising from the Minutes

Junior Motion: The motion that was printed on the March and July Agendas was the original motion, not the amended motion and no-one picked up the error. The intent was the same in that the year they became 18 they were a senior rider. The motion that was voted on should read: **That AERA accepts in principle that the maximum age of Juniors will be raised to the year in which they turn 17.**

Jay Randle believes that the rationale states that they are 18 in the year of the ride. Jane replied that the clear intent of the motion was used for the drafting of the VERA constitution changes. All states will be calling SGM's to change their constitutions.

Jay asked what arrangements have been made for juniors in the cusp. At the last meeting, it was agreed they would return to the Junior Division as it would only affect a small number of riders. Jay was informed that they could make a representation to AERA. She replied that she is here to represent those Juniors and that there are three of them. The motion and debate should be about the whole picture and not individual cases. She was asked why she was raising this discussion now when it has been on the Agenda for 4 meetings. The motion was strongly supported and whilst there are different interpretations and wording, the intent is the same for everyone.

Jay stated that she was not here to disagree with the rules but to represent the riders who are affected. No matter when the rule was changed there will always be some riders in the cusp. The majority want the rule change and extending the Junior pool is for the greater good of the sport. It would not be feasible to apply dispensation due to pointscores, new Junior members of the same age, etc.

Ieva stated that the constitution and rules have to be followed. There are insurance consequences as the Junior age has been changed in the policy. She noted that Jay has brought this to the table before all the processes have been completed. VERA have already changed their constitution and she believes the wording is not relevant. Everyone has agreed and the minutes have been changed to reflect the intent.

Chief Stewards: Neil has offered to take over the list. Put CS only on the website and ask for a list from each State. Tom Perkins is starting a CS chatline and there is no reason that this cannot be National along with the newsletter. Neil will follow-up.

AHSA Marathon: Matthew spoke to Virginia Dobson and the event has been cancelled. Due to EI and lack of sponsorship. Concerns again discussed and the situation will be closely monitored.

Affiliation Fees: Roy reported that he has analysed the income and expenses and we are close to spending what were are earning. Dick believes that with two large Quilties coming up we do not need to increase fees. Anne is to remind State Secretaries of the Constitutional requirement to send membership lists and minutes each year.

Ieva suggested that AERA decals are printed and sent out to the membership with renewals as a goodwill gesture. Neil will get a quote for printing.

National Newsletter: Neil has started and has bought a copy of Publisher and will continue to work on the project. Tom noted that it will be a compound newsletter not a glossy magazine and suggested a different colour for each State.

Nanango Quilty: Ieva extended thanks to the Nanango club for running a great event and stepping in at short notice. She thanked Tom for handling the suspension well and thanked the AERA Delegates who went to help. She congratulated the club for winning the QORF award.

Barbara presented AERA with the Quilty booklet for the archives and wanted to extend thanks to the equine photographers who donated the photos. She accepts that there was a problem with water and noted that following the Quilty, there has been no rain and cool weather.

Ieva and Barb will liaise on a standard Quilty Entry Form.

Barbara felt very strongly about the dress code and it needs to be addressed in the event standards. Presentation/equitation should come into the Best Conditioned award.

Colleen Shaw was commended on her track marking. Barbara was asked to extend congratulations to her committee. It was done in 6 months and the event was organised in the knowledge that it would be cancelled if travel restrictions were not removed. Barbara thanked the AERA Delegates.

The fact that several people, including some that were eligible for Best Conditioned left the ride base early, should also be addressed in the event standards.

Chief Steward Reports: Tom stated that he agrees with Barbara about having a standard nomination form. He concurred that there were no major issues other than with water. More discussion should take place on the procedures to be taken when the ride is suspended and at what point do the results as they are stand. Guidelines should be developed.

Tom believes that the Assistant Chief Steward concept needs to grow and be fostered.

Letters and reports were tabled about incidents that happened at the Quilty. They were fully investigated and appropriate letters written.

Barbara thanked AERA for inviting her to the meeting.

Victoria 2009: Some changes will be made after receiving feedback from the pre-ride.

Moved	Matthew Krahn/Neil Clarkson
That	the Tonimbuk Quilty 2009 entry fees of \$360 plus a vet levy of \$16.50 are ratified.
Voting	Carried Unanimously

Jane advised that VERA have agreed to subsidise the entry fees up to \$2,000 for the first 20 juniors.

NSW 2010: The AERA are satisfied with how the Head Veterinarian will handle potential and perceived conflicts of interest.

Moved	Ieva Peters/Helen Bowkett
That	Tom McCormack is appointed as the Chief Steward for the 2010 Manilla Quilty
Voting	Carried Unanimously.

NSW advised that they want to sign the original agreement as their application to hold the event was based on that. The Quilty committee are perfectly entitled to accept either the original agreement or the new one.

Quilty Swabbing: The document used at the Quilty used the EFA Swabbing Procedures as required in the EFA Affiliation Agreement. It was noted that EFA accredited swabbing stewards and vets have to be used. We can send stewards to non endurance events to obtain accreditation or we can pay for an EFA steward to attend.

Database: Trish and Sandy were thanked for all the work they have done in bringing the database a step closer. A skeleton backbone has been completed that will be driven by the National Calendar. Trish has emailed all State Registrars to introduce herself. All forms under the AERA banner should be standardized and tied into the input screens. The current Ride Management System would be made redundant. The plan is to go live in 2010.

Each State charges different fees and levies so business rules can apply to each State individually. All logbook information will be recorded that will give a huge potential to mine the information for research purposes. Online membership and online registration will be looked at.

Sandy believes that the cost for the first year will be approximately \$30 – \$40,000 depending on the code involved.

Moved	Ross McCamish/Dick Collyer
That	based on the information provided by Sandy Horton and Trish Smith, they be given the authority to proceed with the database on that basis and that the position description and appointment of Trish Smith and Stuart Forge be accepted.
Voting	Carried Unanimously. Sandy and Trish were thanked for their efforts.

The Meeting closed at 5:00 p.m. and resumed at 9:20 a.m. on Sunday

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

9.1 Microchips

That as from 1st January 2010, all horses qualifying to endurance status must be microchipped to be eligible to compete.

After discussion at Nanango, the vet panel believe that compulsory microchipping should be fast tracked and not delayed for another year.

Qld – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – T, Tas – Yes, SA – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried and will be a new rule in 2009.

9.2 Introductory Rides

That Rule A45 (Introductory Ride Controls), A45.5 is amended as follows:

A45.5 Riders will ride to minimum and maximum time limits as determined by the ride committee. The minimum ride time will be calculated as a pace not faster than Novice Riding time (Refer to Rule H5.4a) ~~an average of 8 km per hour~~. Maximum ride time will be calculated to ensure no participating horse and rider is placed under stress to complete the course

The wording should be changed so that the limit is not determined by the Ride Committee but in consultation with the Chief Steward and Head Veterinarian. Some ride organisers may set the maximum to 14klm which is too fast for social rides. This would be more consistent with other rules in the book and there is no change to the intent.

Moved TAS/NSW

That an amendment is made to state:

A45.5 All horses competing in Introductory 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 14km per hour over the distance of the ride.

A vote was taken on the amendment

Qld – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – T, Tas – Yes, SA – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried

The amended motion was put to the vote

Qld – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – T, Tas – Yes, SA – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried and will be a new rule in 2009.

9.3 Horse Names on Logbooks

Move that Rule H7.3 be deleted (names on Logbooks)

Qld – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – T, Tas – Yes, SA – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried and will be a new rule in 2009

9.4 VGIH Novice Riding Time

That H5.5 be added to read:

That for VGIH times, Novice Horse Time shall be taken as time taken on course. Present times must not be included in this calculation.

Qld – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – T, Tas – Yes, SA – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried and will be a new rule in 2009.

9.5 Heartrate in VGIH rides

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

The NSW Committee feels that the issue and 8.6 below is significantly important that the members need to be consulted at the AGM. Consequently, the AERA is requested to hold over the second vote on this matter until NSW (and preferably the other divisions) have had an opportunity to poll their members at their AGM.

Qld supports NSW in that move and a motion is going to the AGM. Neil stated that it is a fundamental rule change that should be supported. We need to clarify to the members, in particular, those that are concerned above a move to FEI that this is not going to be the case. Tom stated that the reality is that it is

up to the Head Vet. They can still stipulate 60bpm but where AERA and FEI rides are run in conjunction, the choice is to have 64bpm at both rides.

Trish drew attention to the fact that A12 is guidelines not rules so 64bpm could be used. The heading needs changing to Rules not Guidelines.

If required the 60bpm can be put into the Quilty guidelines. Ride organisers want to hold 1 star FEI rides. This change makes it easier for those ride organisers and we are trying to encourage them to hold these events in conjunction with AERA events to make it more practical and have more ride entries.

Jane suggested that A12.1 is deleted and there is an addition to V8, V16 that the heartrate at a VGIH ride is to be set no higher than a maximum 64 bpm. A12 should be left as guidelines where V8 is a rule relating to how VGIH will be conducted. Leg lengths were also discussion.

Ross stated that it should be taken back to the members and explained how it is going to work. NSW want to take 9.6 to 9.9 to the AGM's. Matthew agrees that a standard rationale should be presented. Anne read the QERA rationale and will send to the Delegates.

Moved NSW/QLD

That **Motions 9.5 to 9.9 are deferred until after the State AGMs**

Voting Carried Unanimously

9.6 VGIH Presents

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

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

Deferred

9.7 Maximum Times

That V8.10 is amended to read:

If the horse's heart rate exceeds the maximum heart rate set for that ride, the horse must represent within the maximum times as per rule V8.8

Deferred

9.8 Heart Rate Criteria

That V8.12 is amended to read:

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

Deferred

9.9 Re-presents

That V8.15 is amended to read:

As for sectional checks except that there is no re-present.

9.10 Riding Divisions

Moved QLD/NSW

That amendments are made to the following rules to comply with the change of age of Juniors.

R5.1 Junior Riders who are 17 years or under in the year of the ride

R5.6 A rider in the Youth Division of an FEI Ride will not receive National Points/kilometres unless they are 18 years or older in the year of the ride and weigh a minimum of 73kgs i.e. no points/kilometres for Lightweights and Juniors.

Qld – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – T, Tas – Yes, SA – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried and will be a new rule in 2009

9.11 Drug Testing Protocols

Moved QLD/VIC

That all rules relating to swabbing procedures and prohibited substances be amended to conform with the EFA National protocol for swabbing.

Qld – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – T, Tas – Yes, SA – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried and will be a new rule in 2009
EFA required accredited stewards and kits from NSW racing. Accredited stewards from other disciplines can be used. Officially there was no phasing in period. Ieva is to send a copy of the protocols to the State Divisions. They are on the EFA website.

Motions on Notice for Discussion and First Vote

Change drug testing rules. Dick is to go through the rule book and make amendments

Yellow Cards (QERA): QERA would like to discuss the possibility of introducing a Yellow Card system to caution riders/connections as they believe it would act as a deterrent to future incidents and would alleviate the CS having to report to the SMC. Queensland is to discuss at the AGM and set up a trial.

Best Conditioned Sheet (SAERA): SAERA would like AERA to consider "upgrading" of the Best Condition Score sheet to include a "Vet time" or "Present" score which would reward the horse for quick recoveries especially when running VGIH rides, and now it could also be applied to rides that run "Early Vetting". It would not be applicable to Standard Half Hour Vetting.

NSW would not support this. When early vetting was passed, it was suggested that people would want the time recorded. In large rides the time presented is not recorded. Victoria and SA are recording that time.

SA is going to trial it and see how it goes. Compare the BC sheets with the current ones and see if the results change.

2008 Tom Quilty Cancellation (VERA): Clarification of AERA minuted version of postponement of 2008 Vic TQ. The minutes have been ratified.

Moved	Tom McCormack/Helen Bowkett
That	the AERA confirms that the Tonimbuk Quilty was postponed after consultation with the VERA Delegate and at no time was it stated that it had been cancelled.
Voting	Qld – No, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – Yes, Tas – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried.

Invasive Treatments for Intro/Training Rides and for Owners/Trainers: How should these be handled. Jil is to discuss and put in recommendations

Outside Assistance (QERA): Dick stated that there has been some discussion about what it means. At the State Championships, a Japanese rider fell off (more than once). Another rider put her on her own horse until the Japanese rider's horse was located. She vetted out at the end. Some believe it was outside assistance whilst others do not think so.

It was agreed that if assistance comes from within the competitor base it is not outside assistance and commonsense prevails.

It was noted that there has also been concerns raised about overseas riders being put on horses that they are not capable of handling.

Treasurer : Roy reported that there is no debt. There are enough Quilty buckles for Victoria and half of NSW. We have 1,100 Logbooks in stock and Quilty cups in stock. The new logbooks have the body score instead of anal tone. Anne is to send a notice to the vets and Chief Stewards to use body score instead of anal tone.

The insurance has increased by about \$2 per member. Roy will send out the costs to each State.

International : A debrief on Malaysia was held yesterday. In terms of the result, Australia did not do well although Trish Annetts was very happy with the team. A list of recommendations has been made.

Membership of the Board of Management of the Squad has been changed. Jennifer Gilbertson will be offered the position.

A final report was received from Allan Renner. His term on the FEI has finished and Brian Sheahan has been elected as the representative for Australasia. The contribution Allan Renner has made has been appreciated. The

FEI now has a Novice horse system and logbooks are being introduced. Allan has been very persistent in pursuing issues with horse welfare.

Applications were received from Trish Annetts and Peter Toft for position of Chef for the Australian Team. The IC recommends that Trish Annetts is appointed.

Moved Sandy Horton/Jil Bourton
That **Trish Annetts is appointed to the position of Chef for the next 2 years.**
Voting Carried Unanimously.

Invitations have been received for 3 members to go to the Presidents Cup. There has also been an invitation to ride in South Africa and it was agreed to invite expressions of interest to squad members. The selection criteria has not been decided but invitations of this kind are usually orientated to up and coming riders to get international experience.

Moved Matthew Krahn/Neil Clarkson
That **AERA recommends to the AERA IC to consider encouraging members with limited or no overseas experience to apply for the Australian Team for S Africa.**
Voting Carried Unanimously

Discussion was held on who is eligible to represent Australia in Kentucky and at rides such as South Africa. The TOR for the squad are on the website. Only members who have been on the Squad for over 12 months are eligible for selection in WC and WEG but there is no restriction on other rides. It was agreed that squad requirements should be promoted more.

3 seminars are planned for accreditation of FEI judges and veterinarians.

EFA Agreement – part of the agreement is for the IC to become a discipline committee of the EFA. The IC believes that direction should come from AERA. Dick stated that the same arrangement has been done in other disciplines. The model that is acceptable to us should be sent for discussion.

Only the International will be involved as a sub-committee of the EFA and it is mainly a reallocation of administration. Having closer ties to EFA will help with policies, swabbing, coaching, steward accreditation, access to government funding etc.

A model and TOR is required for the next meeting so that it can be discussed. Chris can second others to assist him.

Moved Sandy Horton/Trish Smith
That **Chris Gates continues to lead the investigation and task force for the EFA Agreement and reports back to AERA as the earliest opportunity and no later than the next AERA meeting.**
Voting Carried Unanimously
Moved Ross McCamish/Dick Collyer
That **a letter of thanks and gratitude is sent to Allan Renner for his work on the FEI EC**
Voting Carried unanimously

Correspondence:

- Deanna Trevena has requested that the National Anthem be played at the Quilty.
It was noted that it was played at Nanango along with the Quilty song. It will be put as a recommendation in the Quilty guidelines.
- Letter from Julie Sutton regarding a new equestrian facility at Tamworth that could be used for endurance events.
Jeff stated that it is an unbelievable venue with 700 stables and a huge carpark. It has world class facilities. There is some access to tracks but he is not sure to what extent. It would be a very flat course. Mike Rowlands is the manager and he is helping with the Quilty. It would be worth someone from the IC looking at the facility. The venue hire is free. The only problem could be access to tracks. NSW are looking into it.
- Correspondence has been received from TEERA and Sonia Hodgetts regarding a disqualification of an overseas rider at a TEERA ride as she only paid for day membership.
It was explained that overseas riders can ride if they provide proof of qualification and membership of their national federation. Several riders rode at the Quilty under these circumstances.

TEERA made an honest mistake and they would be happy to reverse the decision if they have the correct protocol. Helen stated that protocols for overseas riders need to be in the rule book. It is in the AERA constitution.

Moved Helen Bowkett/Matthew Krahnen
That **R7 be amended to include the correct protocols for overseas riders and include a reference to the AERA Constitution.**
Voting Carried Unanimously. Jil is to look at ASAP.

Helen stated that TEERA is happy to reverse the decision and re-instate the rider.

Insurance: States are to supply their 2009 draft calendars and a list of Ride Organisers to Dee as soon as possible. The calendars are also to be sent to Elaine.

Veterinary Panel: Following the National Vet Panel meeting at Nanango, 18/9/08, the panel makes the following recommendations to AERA:-

1:-Veterinary accreditation:-We recommend that veterinarians seeking approval for accreditation :-

a-attend 3 rides

b-apply to their SMC for approval

c-SMC contact their state vet panel chairman to approve the accreditation

d-the state vet panel chairman contacts the head vet(s) of the rides attended to determine if the applicant is worthy of accreditation

e-the state vet panel chairman advises SMC to recommend to AERA that the veterinarian be added to the list of accredited veterinarians

f-the applicant is notified by SMC of their inclusion onto the approved vet list

Agreed

2:-The current endurance veterinary seminar, as developed by Brian Sheahan for FEI compliance, covers all relevant aspects of the vetting process and treatment issues for both FEI and AERA accreditation and should be accepted for AERA accreditation. Once accepted, this course should be added as a prerequisite for accreditation for those applicants who have vetted at 3 rides.

Agreed

3:-To remain on the accredited vet list, vets should attend at least 1 ride every 2 years and attend an accreditation course at least every 3 years.

More clarification is required.

4:-Since AERA has signed the agreement with EFA, there is an automatic adoption of EFA/FEI medication rules, including the legal use of Regumate and the need for competitors to fill out treatment advice forms prior to competing.

We request clarification for riders and veterinarians regarding allowed and declared medication rules.

The rules are being updated.

5:-Vets and other officials affected by conflict of interest (COI) issues should apply to their SMC for an exemption to the rule preventing them from officiating at rides where close family members participate. Once notified, the SMC can then advise the chief stewards who can then have the responsibility to manage the situation. For the Quilty, the vet should write to the AERA directly.

More information needed

6:-The minimum fees for accredited veterinarians for 2009 are:-

80km ride:\$500 + GST

120km ride:\$570 + GST

160km ride:\$700 + GST

Marathon \$370 per day + GST

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

Recommendations to be distributed

7:-Horse ID's must be done by veterinarians who are accredited by "the Keeper of the Stud Book", Randwick, to identify thoroughbreds.

Some identifications done by E.I. vets were blatantly inadequate and should not be accepted.

This recommendation is not practical. The introduction of microchips will alleviate some Id problems.

8:-We recommend that the proposed delay in compulsory microchipping be abandoned in favour of immediate requirement for microchipping to maximise the benefit of the huge numbers of horses microchipped during the E.I. control programme.

This is not possible due to the procedures for rule changes.

9:-The use of thermosensitive microchips should be adopted .

It was agreed that the cost of the chips and the fact that new scanners would have to be purchased would make this not practical at this time.

10:-John Robertson remains as chair of the national vet panel for '08-'09.

Executive Decisions to be Ratified

Financial Assistance to Carole Dixon for promoting AERA at Equitana

Hire of Car for Quilty Delegates

Moved	Sandy Horton/Helen Bowkett
That	the executive decisions are ratified.
Voting	Carried Unanimously

Meeting Closed: The meeting closed at 2:55 p.m. Ieva wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for 28th February/1st March, 2009