

Notes of the General Meeting of Members of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc held on 21st and 22nd November, 2009 commencing on Saturday at 8:15 a.m.

Welcome by President: Ieva welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present: Anne Jones (Qld) Mathew Krahnman (Qld), Dorte Colja (Qld), Neil Clarkson (NSW), Tom McCormack (NSW), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Ieva Peters (WA), Ross McCamish (WA), Sarah Adams (SA), Helen Bowkett (TAS), Pat Hodgetts (TAS), Sandy Horton (VIC), Roy Noble (Hon. Member), Jane McLoughlin (Vic),

A proxy has been received from Trish Smith for Pat Hodgetts

In attendance: Peter Toft, Penny Toft, Jay Randle, Gay Bonham, Gayle Holmes, Kate Gadsby

Apologies: Trish Smith

Register of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

Matthew, Dorte and Anne recorded a conflict of interest regarding discussions with a QERA member and Ieva regarding an incident at the 2009 Quilty.

Registration of Votes: Qld = 7, NSW = 6, Vic =3, WA = 2, Tas = 2, SA = 1

- **National Calendar:** All states are reminded to get the information to Elaine and Dee as soon as possible.
- **Videos to DVD:** Neil has not had time to complete this task. It was agreed that he would get a quote and advise the executive.
- **Horse id:** In 2010 endurance horse logbooks cannot be issued without a microchip. Only a veterinarian can microchip a horse unless the person has the appropriate state accreditation, but a visual vet id is still required. If a scanner is not available then a visual id will be done as is currently the case.
- **BC Calculations:** Sarah reported that the trial of the proposed system recording early vetting in comparison with the current system has been very difficult. It was found in the process that not everyone has been using the current BC form. This has now been distributed to all states.
- **Logbooks:** Roy has re-ordered 1000 and made the changes to the id form.

Executive Decisions to be Ratified

“that AERA pays Ian Blucher \$5,500 as partial payment for use of RMS”

“that AERA pays for M Krahnman to attend the funding meeting for the Victorian Quilty.”

“that AERA agrees to a database meeting in Sydney.”

“that AERA agrees to pay for the printing of Voting Slips for the Victorian Quilty.”

“that AERA invites Jay Randle to attend the meeting.”

Moved HelenBowkett/Neil Clarkson

That **the above executive decisions are ratified.**

Voting Carried Unanimously. Victoria abstain.

Moved Kerry Spratt/Sandy Horton

That **the executive seek formal legal advice on cyber bullying**

Voting: Carried Unanimously.

Quilty

Victoria 2009 – Annexure

Victoria was congratulated on a job well done.

Moved Kerry Spratt/Ross McCamish

That **if the recipient of a 1000 mile Quilty buckle is also a placegetter they will receive the 1000 mile commemorative buckle plus their placing buckle. If the rider is entitled to a completion buckle they will receive the 1000 mile commemorative buckle as their completion buckle.**

Voting Carried. Anne to put into the Quilty Standards Document

Financial Report

The final financial report will be presented at the next meeting.

NSW 2010

Gay Bonham addressed the meeting saying that she wanted to come and give a presentation. A budget was handed out

Gay passed out merchandise forms and answered other questions. Letters of support received by previous Quilty Committees are to be passed on. Jane will organise.

Camping fees \$50 plus \$30 for power.

The hold times between legs of 60 minutes after each leg was felt to be too long, especially the first 2 legs when it will be cold. Gay replied that it was trialled at the State Championships and a survey of riders favoured the 60 minutes. Kim Hagon is currently seeking the opinions of the other vets. Gay was asked to ask the committee to reconsider the position.

Moved Neil Clarkson/Dorte Colja
That **the entry fees for the Manilla Quilty 2010 at \$370 Open/Heavyweight, \$350 Lightweight and \$250 Junior are accepted.**

Voting Carried Unanimously.

Gay thanked the AERA for allowing her to attend and give a presentation.

SA 2011

Sarah gave a presentation. She advised that no endurance rides have been held in the Clare Valley for over 20 years. Jan Schloss used to live in that area and Jil Bourton used to compete. They have re-established contacts and a ride has been run. At this ride, insufficient work was done on the course and alternate choices will be made to avoid rocky areas.

Ieva attended the FEI ride and was impressed with the enthusiasm. A Secretary is needed urgently.

James Vowles has agreed to be the Head Veterinarian and Bill Harbison has been approached to be the treatment vet.

South Australia has been asked to run the Trans Tasman next year. Test runs will be done and several issues will be sorted out at the AGM.

Quilty Budget Template – Annexure G

Tom has prepared and presented a living document. Quilty Committees can use the same format each year. Changes will be ongoing and the budget will be put into the Quilty package. Tom was thanked for his efforts.

Database

A new developer has been contracted, Peter Johnson and is spending full time on the project.

The proposed meeting for interested parties was cancelled. Another meeting will be scheduled. It is intended to run parallel systems at selected rides towards the end of next year.

Sandy stated that he has spoken to Ian Blucher and he understands that we will continue using his system, with the same fee structure, until we advise otherwise.

Kerry noted that Jo McMaha and the State Registrars have been having periodic problems with the current system. Sandy advised that they will be consulted and workshops will be run. The Meeting closed at 6:45 p.m.

Re-opened 12:05 p.m.

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

11.1 Prohibited Substance Rules

That in accordance with the agreement with the EA, AERA takes all necessary steps to implement the EA Anti Doping and Medication Control rules

SA – Yes, NSW – Yes, Vic – Yes, Tas – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried. New rule in 2010.

11.2 Minimum Riding Times (TEERA)

That Rules A14.3, A 45.5, R3.6a, H5.4a are amended to read

“All horses competing in training rides shall comply with a minimum riding time determined by the ride committee in consultation with the Chief Steward and Head Veterinarian. The minimum riding time shall be calculated by dividing the distance of the ride or leg by 14 kmh or less”

SA – Yes, NSW – Yes, Vic – Yes, Tas – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried. New rule in 2010.

11.3 WA Motion – Weigh Ins

That WAERA to make a recommendation to AERA that Rule R5.7 be amended to read,

“Ride committees make arrangements for all riders to weigh in at pre ride, and at the completion of the ride, and at random throughout the ride where appropriate. A record of all weigh ins must be recorded.

SA – Yes, NSW – Yes, Vic – Yes, Tas – No, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried. New rule in 2010.

11.4 AERA VGIH/FEI Rides

That a new rule is created and the rule book amended:

“that if an AERA VGIH ride is run in conjunction with an FEI ride that the Organising Committee has the option for the AERA ride to be conducted under prevailing FEI criteria for heartrate and present times.”

and

Rule A12.1 is amended to add

“unless run in conjunction with an FEI ride as per rule XX”

SA – No, NSW – Yes, Vic – No, Tas – Abstain, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried. New rule 2010

Motions on Notice for Discussion and First Vote (Carried over to next meeting)

12.1 VERA Motion 1 (refer discussion item)

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 90klm or less, an average of the distance between standard veterinary checkpoints must not be greater than 44klm**
- b) **for rides of over 90klm an average of the distances between standard veterinary checkpoints must not be greater than 40klm; and**
- c) **the maximum distance of any one leg must not exceed 50klm.**

Rationale:

The ramification of this rule is that for any endurance ride over 80kms 3 legs are required and for any training ride over 40kms a second leg is required.

VERA discussed the issue and felt that there was sufficient evidence to support the increase of the average leg length to 44km for rides of 90kms or less without affecting the welfare of the horses. The change will assist ROs to put together their tracks.

Rides over 90km should revert to an average leg distance of 40kms.

VERA proposes a change to rule 6.1(a) that average leg distances be changed from 40km to 44km. for rides of 90km or less

12.2 Ride Abandonment (refer discussion paper)

The Chief Steward (CS) may in consultation with the Head Vet (HV) and the Ride Organising Committee (ROC) “abandon” a ride at any time prior to the commencement of pre ride vetting.

Rationale

There are several possible scenarios where a ride may need to be abandoned before Pre-Ride Vetting has commenced. In this circumstance it is my opinion that the ROC be required to refund 100% of the entry fee paid by riders whilst the refund of the pre-nomination fee (if any) is at the discretion of the individual ROC.

12.3 Ride Suspension (refer discussion paper)

The Chief Steward (CS) may in consultation with the Head Vet (HV) and the Ride Organising Committee (ROC) “suspend” a ride at any time after the commencement of pre ride vetting and prior to the last rider completing the course and having been vetted.

The ride suspension should not exceed 3 hours but may be extended when there is reasonable expectation that the ride can be re-commenced without undue compromise to the health and welfare of the horses, riders, ride organisers, volunteers, vets and officials.

A ride “suspension” may involve closure of the vet ring and/or closure of the course not necessarily simultaneously.

12.4 Ride Termination (refer discussion paper)

The Chief Steward (CS) may in consultation with the Head Vet (HV) and the Ride Organising Committee (ROC) “terminate” a ride at any time after the commencement of pre ride vetting and prior to the last rider completing the course and having been vetted.

Rationale:

Obviously the termination of a ride is the last resort and only considered after a ride suspension has failed to alleviate or eliminate the existing danger.

The ride termination may be for a number of factors which will impact on the manner of the ride termination. In the worst case scenario, the ride base may need to be evacuated immediately, horses and riders may need to be floated from the course back to ride base or to an alternative safe area. There are many possible scenarios.

However, where possible the CS should facilitate an orderly termination of the ride including where conditions permit, the requirement for any competitors (already on course) on the last leg to complete the leg and present for vetting. Competitors who are able to do this will be considered to have completed the course prior to the termination.

Rule Clarification, Revision and Discussion Items

Novice Horse Rules

QERA would like the following amendments to Novice Horse Rules to be presented and discussed at State AGM's

H5 Novice Horse and the Novice Horse Logbook

5.1 A horse is a novice horse until all the following requirements have been complied with:

- a) **A *Novice Horse Logbook* must be registered for that horse, which must be presented when the horse is entered as a novice horse at an affiliated endurance ride - except in the case of the THIRTEEN MONTH (H.8) rule.**

- b) **At least 4 affiliated endurance rides in any riding division must be successfully completed - excluding training rides.**
 - c) **A minimum period of 200 days must elapse commencing from the date the horse successfully completes its first affiliated endurance ride.**
- 5.2 A novice horse must not be entered in an affiliated endurance ride when the total distance of the ride is more than 120 km.
- 5.3 A novice horse may only enter a maximum of five affiliated endurance rides of between 80 and 120 km inclusive in any 200 day period, retrospective from the date of the ride to be entered.
- 5.4 All novice horses in each leg of an affiliated ride shall comply with one of the following:
- a) **a minimum riding time determined by the ride committee in consultation with the ride Head Veterinarian, but in any case not less than a time calculated at an average speed of 14 km per hour over the total distance of each riding leg; or**
 - b) **shall ride behind a pace rider as defined in the TRAINING RIDE RULES. The pace rider shall not complete the distance of any riding leg in a time less than that as determined in rule H.5.4a).**
- 5.5 A Novice horse must not be entered in successive endurance rides unless there has been a minimum period of 25 days between the rides.**
- 5.6 A horse cannot progress from Novice to Endurance horse status until it is a minimum of 6 years of age.**

Rationale:

The principle of long, slow ‘legging up’ of a horse is well-accepted both scientifically and by experienced endurance riders (Butler; Clayton; Hamilton). Our current Novice horse rules are based on this principle. However, the current rules, when applied to the letter, allow for a horse which is five years and 3 months old to become an Endurance horse, and in its fourth ride in its life, be ridden at an unrestricted speed. Unfortunately this year, we have seen this situation occur several times. In one case, a horse in its first ride out of Novice status was ridden to win a ride in a sub-4 hour time, and then at 2 hours and 1 minute after vetting, had a vet called to it for major treatment which lasted for four hours and resulted in a significant Rest Order being placed on the horse. There have been several other examples similar to this, although not as serious.

Essentially, the proposed changes would mean that firstly, a horse must remain a Novice horse for at least 7 months ie a fair proportion of its first season of endurance. Secondly, a five year old horse could not become an Endurance horse, and so would be restricted in the speed it could be ridden at – keeping in mind that the Novice Horse speed is usually set at around 14 k/h, or the equivalent of a 6 hour 80km ride.

For the vast majority of our members, these proposed changes will not make any difference whatsoever to the way they ride their horses, because the majority of members would not even consider running a horse at speeds faster than 14 km/h in their first few rides out of Novice status, especially if the horse is only 5 or 6 years old.

All states will take this to their AGM's.

Best Conditioned Sheet (SAERA) – Trial and confirmation of current BC Sheet

I have had a query from a member in SA regarding the Best Conditioned sheet. It appears that not all States are using the most up to date version. The current one has been sent to the States.

Teleconferencing/Video Conferencing (NSWERA)

Horse Names/Logbook Amnesty

Moved Dorte Colja/Ross McCamish

That the AERA implement an amnesty to horse owners whose logbooks do not carry their registered breed name until the 31st March, 2010.

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

Reports

Treasurer

Moved Tom McCormack/Ross McCamish

That the affiliation fees are increased by \$5 + GST for each adult rider and that this is indexed to CPI.

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

International

Ieva read the report from the AERA IC meeting.

AERA IC recommends to the AERA that all state divisions examine introducing a levy charged on a per rider entry basis for the purposes of creating a fund to be used to support FEI events in that state.

Anne has already sent a letter to the States in this regard. The States need to send the recommendation to their AGM's.

The AERA accepts that the Terms of Reference to be changed to include that the BOM approves all membership renewals and new memberships and has the right of refusal.

It was agreed that the membership fees for the squad need to be increased by 10%:

Members: \$55 + GST = \$60.50

Horses: \$22+ GST = \$24.20

Family (two cohabiting adults + their dependent children) \$150 + GST = \$165.00

An interim panel is to be used as a selection committee for 2010.

Recommendation to the AERA: that 9 names are put forward for consideration in 5 person selection panel: Anne Barnes and Ieva Peters (WA), Sarah Adams (SA), Pat Hodgetts (Tas), Linda Tanian (Vic), Kerry Spratt and Alan Lindsay (NSW), Jan Tyrrell and Barb Timms (Qld).

Moved Tom McCormack/Sandy Horton

That That the AERA accepts the AERA IC recommendation that the appointment committee of the selection committee will consist of the current AERA IC Chairperson, Jennifer Gilbertson (rider representative) and the current Chef d'Equipe

Voting Carried Unanimously.

Recommendation to the AERA: that they accept the nominees for the selection committee and that it will act in accordance with the EA guidelines. The 2010 selection panel of five: is appointed from the following group of people: Anne Barnes and Ieva Peters (WA), Sarah Adams (SA), Pat Hodgetts (Tas), Linda Tanian (Vic), Kerry Spratt and Alan Lindsay (NSW), Jan Tyrrell and Barb Timms (Qld). It may be necessary to expand this list.

Moved Tom McCormack/Jane McLoughlin

That the AERA accepts the AERA IC recommendation to accept the nominees for the selection committee and that it will act in accordance with the EA guidelines. The 2010 selection panel of five: is appointed from the following group of people: Anne Barnes and Ieva Peters (WA), Sarah Adams (SA), Pat Hodgetts (Tas), Linda Tanian (Vic), Kerry Spratt and Alan Lindsay (NSW), Jan Tyrrell and Barb Timms (Qld).

Voting Carried. Kerry Spratt, Ieva Peters, Sarah Adams, Pat Hodgetts abstained.

The AERA/FEI ride calendar was amended and the changes discussed. Ieva will distribute. The AERA IC adopted the new policy.

Motion to the AERA: That the AERA approve the reimbursement to the Australian Chef D'Equipe, World Youth Championships, Hungary, that Trish Annetts, to the amount or \$3,320 as a partial reimbursement for her airfare and accommodation.

Moved Dorte Colja/Neil Clarkson

That the AERA accepts the AERA IC recommendation to reimburse to the Australian Chef D'Equipe, World Youth Championships, Hungary, that Trish Annetts, to the amount of \$3,320 as a partial reimbursement for her airfare and accommodation.

Voting Carried.

It is noted that the Team Veterinarian was given \$3000, and unexpected funding was received from Equestrian Australia to the amount of \$9,000.

Motion to the AERA: That the AERA IC reimburses Robyn Mather to the amount of \$320 for her accommodation expenses incurred during the World Youth Championships, Hungary.

Moved Dorte Colja/Neil Clarkson

That the AERA accepts the AERA IC recommendation to reimburse Robyn Mather to the amount of \$320 for her accommodation expenses incurred during the World Youth Championships, Hungary.

Voting Carried.

Motion to AERA: That the owners of the Australian horses (4) are reimbursed to the value of \$700 per horse.

Moved Dorte Colja/Neil Clarkson

That the AERA accepts the recommendation that the owners of the four Australian horses are reimbursed to the value of \$700 per horse.

Voting Carried.

Motion to AERA: That Narelle Cribb is appointed as the Assistant Team Veterinarian for the WEG 2010.

That Chris Gates is appointed as the Crew Manager for the WEG 2010.

That Paul Monger is appointed as the Assistant Crew Manager for the WEG 2010.

That Ieva Peters is appointed as the Assistant Chef d'Equipe for the WEG 2010.

That Anton Reid, Harry O'Brien, Ian Symington, Deb Jewell, Kerry Spratt, Jane McLoughlin, Pat Hodgetts are appointed as Crew Members for the WEG 2010.

That Noni Seagram is appointed as Crew Members for the WEG 2010, subject to parental consent and under the care of a responsible guardian.

That the Chef d'Equipe is permitted to accept Crew applications prior to the event.

Moved Sarah Adams/Neil Clarkson

That the AERA accepts the above positions.

Voting Carried.

Recommendation to AERA: That AERA make some commitment towards the concept of the coffee table book and some guidance about what would be expected. Perhaps appoint someone to work with John.

This has been deferred until the next meeting, with apologies to John Simpson, and will be put on the Agenda

Sports Committee: The interim Committee positions for 2010 will be the IC Secretary, the Chef, the Squad Manager and the Current IC Chair. A procedure should be developed to appoint an appointment panel. The AERA should retain control.

Motion to AERA: That the AERA IC recommends to the AERA that they adopt the EA National Endurance committee document and the addendum to the current EA/AERA agreement (both documents noted “20 November 2009”).)

Moved Kerry Spratt/Ross McCamish
That **the AERA accepts the AERA IC recommendation to adopt the EA National Endurance committee document and the addendum to the current EA/AERA agreement (both documents noted “20 November, 2009”)**
Voting Carried.

**AERA Restructure
National Newsletter**

Neil presented a sample of a newsletter along with one sent from Emma Holland who would be interested in the position of newsletter editor/co-ordinator. Sarah believes more thought should be given to content.

Moved Jane McLoughlin/Tom McCormack
That **the States take the sample newsletters to the AGM’s and each state provides AERA with a report on the response and an assessment of feasibility prior to the next AERA meeting.**
Voting Carried. The report should contain existing costs and whether they feels that additional costs should be absorbed or passed on. Anne to reply to Emma and start working on a Position Description.

Correspondence

- Incorrect name for Tuldar Saladin. A letter from Keith and Bev Sutton was read. No response has been received from Wayne Johnson as yet. Anne advised that two members of the QERA SMC looked at the horse and despite 2 veterinary identifications showing no brand, close inspection revealed a very faint brand. They are confident that the horse is Tarrangowa Crescendo. Brook Sample has been asked to return the logbooks to the QERA Register to amend the name.

Additional Reports

Insurance

The insurance renewal has been received. Public Liability remains the same at \$30, \$5 for non-riding members and day members \$10.

Personal Accident has been increased from \$22.50 to \$57.00 for adults and the junior rate remains the same at \$18.40. Sandy commented that despite the increase it is still very reasonable for the benefits given.

Veterinary Panel

Terms of Reference for National Vet Panel

Moved Tom McCormack/Sarah Adams
That **the Terms of Reference for the National Vet Panel are accepted.**
Voting Carried

Anne is to advise the NVP not to use halves in body scoring, just whole numbers.

Recommendation: NVP to write to AERA to suggest that AERA develop its own medication forms, based on the FEI forms, and these forms should be available with the ride entry forms and online.

Anne is to ask the NVP to develop the forms.

Recommendation: NVP Chairman to ask AERA if they can talk with AON and see if AON can offer professional indemnity insurance at a reasonable rate for accredited vets.

Anne will ask Dee to ask AON if the vets are members of the State Divisions whether it would simplify things for vets for insurance.

Next Meeting: 13th /14th March, 2010

Meeting Closed: The meeting closed at 4:15 p.m.