

Notes of the General Meeting of Members of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc held on 10^h and 11th March, 2007 at the Sports House, cnr. Caxton and Castlemaine Streets, Milton commencing on Saturday at 9:31 a.m. at the conclusion of the AGM

Present

Anne Jones (Qld) Mathew Krahnman (Qld), Dick Collyer (Qld), Sarah Adams (SA), Neil Clarkson (NSW), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Jeff Bonham (NSW), Chris Mahoney (TAS), Chris Webb (Tas) Ieva Peters (WA), Richard Jeggo (WA) Beverley Raynor-Mason (VIC), Roy Noble (Hon. Member).

In attendance: Beverley Wright (AON), Sarah Adams (Sunday).

Apologies: Pat Hodgetts, Jane McLaughlin, Ross McCamish, Dee Berry

Register of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

Nil

Registration of Votes

Queensland – 8 votes, NSW – 6 votes, Victoria – 3 votes, WA – 2 votes, Tasmania – 2 votes, SA – 1 vote.

Business Arising- Action Sheet

- Quilty Buckles – **The special Tasmanian Buckles have been received**
- **Videos** – Jeff advised that it will cost \$5 per video to copy onto DVD. Neil has offered to so it.

Moved Dick Collyer/Beverley Rayner-Mason

That the AERA authorises Neil Clarkson and Jeff Bonham to copy historical videos onto DVD for archival purposes up to a value of \$2,000. When complete they are to be sent to the Secretary.

Voting Carried Unanimously.

International

Dick read the International report.

Moved Dick Collyer/Kerry Spratt

That funding be available to the 2007 Trans Tasman event to the value of \$2,500.

Carried Unanimously.

Moved Matthew Krahnman/Beverley Rayer-Mason

That the spare AERA laptop (presently with Graeme Gilbertson) be provided to the AERA IC for use by the AES Squad Manager.

Carried Unanimously.

Moved Dick Collyer/Kerry Spratt

That expressions of Interest are called for the Squad Manager's position and the BOM members (5) by two weeks prior to the next AERA IC Meeting.

Carried Unanimously

Moved Dick Collyer/Kerry Spratt

That the AERA IC will fund the airfare for the Squad Manager to attend the Squad Camp for the WA Quilty 2007. All other Squad Camp expenses to be covered by the ROs.

Carried Unanimously

Brian Sheahan, Chris Gates and Trish Annetts are going to the Paris forum. AERA is making a presentation on behalf of the Zone

A sub-committee of Matthew Krahnman, Jil Bourton, Kerry Spratt, Pat Hodgetts, Beverley Rayner-Mason, Trish Annetts and Glenda Armitage was formed to look at the EFA Agreement and the Drug Policy. Trish and Beverley are to look at anti-doping in humans. The current AERA drug policy should be compared with the EFA one.

Kerry is to analyse the EFA Protection and Privacy policy and see what is adoptable. Judicial areas are bound by the Constitution. The sub-committee is to clarify clause 7 and look at clause 8. A proposal is to be finalised by the next meeting.

Malaysia has met the criteria for the World Championships with one practice ride. There are still concerns especially with getting horses out of the country. Another trial ride is going to be run.

WA 2007

Matthew and Dick will attend. Dick will help CS. Beverley is riding. Jil will assist with pencilling or admin, Chris is a CS, Pat will be vetting, Jeff will attend with the child bride and look after the teams event and help with swabbing. Neil may be strapping, otherwise he will assist and is a CS. Kerry will help with the admin.

Victoria 2008 – Submission from Tonimbuk

Moved Matthew Krahn/Ane Jones

That AERA sends Dick Collyer, Ieva Peters and Tom McComack to meet with the Victorian Tom Quilty Committee at the ride base at the earliest possible convenience to discuss and finalise the Quilty Event Agreement

Voting QLD – Yes, NSW – Yes, TAS – Yes, SA – Yes, WA – Yes, Vic – Abstain.

Quilty Working Party

It was agreed to invite the members of the Quilty Working Party to be on the Quilty Advisory Committee. They are to be asked to come up with a Terms of Reference for a Committee and models and thank them for a job well done.

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

1 That Rule V1.1 is amended to read:

For horse welfare purposes, every horse at an affiliated event must be under the control of one or more AERA accredited veterinarians, one of whom will be designated the Head Veterinarian. The Head Veterinarian's decision is final on matters of horse health and welfare.

Voting: NSW – Yes, TAS – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried and will be a new rule in 2008.

2 That “this should conclude no later than 30 minutes prior to ride start time be added to Rule A11.3 g)

Voting: NSW – Yes, TAS – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried and will be a new rule in 2008

Motions on Notice for Discussion and First Vote

QERA Motion 1 - Responsible Person

That the matter of the responsible rider is reviewed in relation to the emergence of ‘Jockeys’, who are unable to verify that a horse is free of prohibited substances. and that AERA develop a form to be signed by either the trainer or the owner of the horse agreeing that they take full responsibility if banned substances are found to be in the horse’s system.

Rationale: British endurance rider Alice Beet was fined and banned for three months after a horse borrowed horse tested positive for a banned substance. This ban was applied even though the FEI's judicial committee accepted the horse was under the exclusive care of Atlantic Endurance SARL's employees until the morning of the event and agreed it was "most likely" the substance entered the horse while in the "owner's" care.

The judicial panel concluded: "This case highlights the difficulty of cases in which the rider is not the owner of the horse. This is becoming increasingly problematic in view of the relatively high number of such cases that have been submitted to the FEI judicial committee, most commonly in endurance riding."

While the panel ruled it would be unfair for riders of borrowed horses to be let off, "otherwise blame may

always be transferred to third parties", it also stressed riders must ensure borrowed horses were free from prohibited substances.

In the absence of a written statement assuring that the horse is free of banned substances (statements that the Committee suggested riders obtain) there is no practical way for the rider to 'ensure borrowed horses are free from banned substances'.

Debate: Dick stated that the FEI have re-examined the situation and ruled that a rider cannot absolve themselves of all responsibility. Under the rules the rider can be held responsible. We have a responsible member signature on the entry form and the onus should be on the rider to ensure the responsible member signs the form. The medication control policy is under review and the sub-committee should look at the EFA policy carefully to make sure that the issue is covered.

QERA Motion 2 – Prize Money

That the rules be amended to allow prize money to be awarded on the basis of the best conditioned horse results.

Rationale: While Endurance Riding has grown significantly over the last decade, for many ride organisers obtaining sufficient sponsorship remains problematic. Allowing prize money to be awarded would raise the profile of the sport and make it easier for ride organisers to finance rides.

Debate. Currently no prize money is allowed. A big issue is that we are a not for profit organisation and this could be in direct conflict. Awarding for Best Conditioned could be very subjective as far as the vet score is concerned. The Ride Organisers and officials are acting in a voluntary capacity and the awarding of prizemoney could cause some resentment.

Voting: NSW – No, TAS – No, SA – No, Vic – No, Qld – Yes, WA – No. Motion Lost.

QERA Motion 3 – Mini Marathon Rules

That these Mini Marathon Rules be proposed to AERA for inclusion in the AERA Handbook

MINI-MARATHON RIDE RULES

1. MINI-Marathon Ride Definition and Interpretation
 1. An affiliated ride, conducted as a single event where a maximum of 50klms are ridden each day for three or more consecutive days, may be called a "Mini-Marathon.
 2. **These MINI-MARATHON RIDE RULES are to be read in conjunction with all AERA Inc. rules and procedures.**
 3. **Local rules can apply but they must not be in conflict with any of the AERA Inc. rules and procedures, and will need to be sanctioned by the State Management Committee where the ride is being held.**
 4. **These MINI-MARATHON RIDE RULES will take precedence over other rules and procedures where there is a conflict or contradiction.**
2. MINI- Marathon Ride - General Rules
 1. **A Mini-Marathon is a non-competitive event. No places are to be recognised. Points and Distance are not recorded for Division or National Points and Distance Awards.**
 2. **Only horses which are a minimum of 5 years of age on the day of the ride, and which have all permanent teeth erupted and in wear, and which have been issued with an AERA Logbook are eligible to enter.**
 3. **Early Warning System points will not accrue for horses and riders who vet out.**
 4. **Only Division Riding Members who have previously completed at least 2 affiliated Training Rides are eligible to enter. Day Members are not eligible.**

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5. All riders are restricted to a pace as designated under the Training Ride Rules. (ie to be determined by the Ride Organisers, but no faster than 14kph)
 6. Day one of the ride must be at least 40 km in distance.
 7. The total distance of the ride must average 40 km or more for each riding day.
 8. Each leg must be ridden in the correct order and within the time limits as set by the ride committee.
 9. All successful horses are eligible for best managed horse awards, if one is given.
 10. Each competitor's riding time will be recorded daily. These times should be made available at the completion of each day.
 11. It is advisable to hold a riders' meeting at the completion of each day, because veterinarians and the Chief Steward may be rostered over different days of the event. The names of these key personnel must be announced at this meeting.
 12. The veterinary team may require lameness tests and general inspections of some or all horses prior to the start each day.

3. MINI-Marathon Ride - Rest Days

1. Rides longer than three days may have rest days. Rest days must be announced before the ride commences. A rest day is defined as 24 hours rest.
2. Some circumstances (fire, flood, etc.) may require a change of rest days. Any alteration must be approved by a majority vote from riders still competing, in consultation with the designated ride officials and the ride committee.

4. MINI-Marathon Ride - Start Times and Rest Periods

1. The ride committee may elect to have a shot-gun start each day, or may allow riders to nominate their own departure times for any leg or legs of the event.
2. The maximum time horses are allowed on course each day must be announced prior to the commencement of that day but may be subject to change due to exceptional circumstances.
3. In the case of mini-marathon rides with travelling ride bases, rest periods are at the discretion of the ride committees, subject to these rules.

Rationale: These were accepted as guidelines, this motion is to transfer them to Rules. A minor change has been added to 1.1

Debate: Neil stated that he started at the Shahzada training ride before becoming a member and he is now here. He believes that the problem is insisting that a rider do 2 training rides before attempting a marathon training ride. It is just a training ride. Dick explained that times have changed and we now have to be more aware of risk management. These rules should be read in conjunction with the novice horse and rider requirements. A singular event is against the novice rider rules. Very few people are affected by this issue. Is it in the spirit of our rules to allow a beginning endurance rider to begin with a 120kml training ride. Neil sees it as just a training ride. They are still only doing 40kml per day. A way around is to run 3 separate training rides. The end of leg examination cannot be classed as a pre-ride examination. We are fulfilling our duty of care and it is not acceptable for someone coming off the street and doing 120kml.

We are only talking about new members and only a maximum of three rides are affected. These rules are following the standard set in the rest of the rule book.

Voting: NSW – No, TAS – No, SA – No, Vic – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Motion Carried and will be brought to the next meeting for a second vote.

QERA Motion 4 – Vetting Time

That Rule V4.1:

At each standard veterinary check, each rider must ensure their horse is presented for veterinary examination 30 minutes after crossing the finish line at the end of each riding leg.

Is amended to read

At each standard veterinary check, each rider must ensure their horse is presented for veterinary examination within 30 minutes of crossing the finish line at the end of each riding leg.

Rationale:

- 1) Horse welfare: Your horse may be in a suitable condition 5-10 minutes after completing the leg and remaining vetting time is taken up walking, rugging, unrugging, stressing the rider and the horse. Then once the horse is taken to the vet ring sometimes it takes up to 15 minutes to return to your camp with your horse successfully vetted. Before the horse has a chance to recover, eat, drink and rest, it is time to depart on the next loop.
- 2) The vet ring: At large rides quite often the vet ring is congested. This is contributed to by a large number of novice horses completing the legs in or about minimum novice time. By allowing horses to vet 'within' 30 minutes it would distribute the novice horse congestion over a longer period of time, therefore relieving the vets of some pressure, as some horses will present quickly and some may well present at their 30 minutes.
- 3) The rider: If you prefer the current system the rule change will no way interfere with your methods. However, those who would choose to vet their horse early have a longer break in camp between their strapping time and their departing time. Once their horse is in the yard recovering the rider also has a chance to have a cup of tea.

PLEASE NOTE BY CHANGING THIS RULE IT WILL IN NO WAY AFFECT THE DEPARTING TIME ON THE SUBSEQUENT LEG.

Debate: This motion was accepted at AERA to be run as a trial in 2006. Jeff stated that it was brought up at the NSW AGM and their members wanted some guidelines before accepting it as a trial. It is up to the ride organizers and Chief Steward to agree on how it is run and to sort out administration procedures and whether a represent is allowed.

NSW delegates were instructed to advise AERA that they would like a National set of guidelines. A set of guidelines in a trial period defeats itself. Rides that trial the new system should provide a report on how it was run and feedback from officials and riders. The guidelines are to do whatever the Ride Organisers and Chief Steward want within the proposed rules.

Voting: NSW – Yes, TAS – No, SA – No, Vic – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Motion Carried and will be brought to the next meeting for a second vote.

QERA Motion 5 – Distance for Horses in Rides over 80km

That an addition is made to the rule book that says: “If a horse is entered in a ride of 120km or more , it may be retired from that event at the end of any leg and receive distance recognition but no points or completion prizes providing that:

1. **It has successfully completed 80km or more of that event on the course as marked.**
2. **The Chief Steward must be notified immediately after successful vetting that the horse is being retired from the ride.**
3. **The horse may be either novice or endurance status.**

This rule to be read in conjunction with withdrawn horse rule H.17.

Rationale: : Quite often tired horses are pushed further than they should be because the only other option is to withdraw. The hope is that more people will enter longer rides with the option to retire and still get some recognition for the distance covered without the need to push the horse beyond its capacity and risk vetting out altogether. Basically it is a horse welfare issue.

Debate: Matthew stated that at the Quilty a rider enters and pays fees, but if they pull out they do not get recognition for the miles they have done. This should be allowed as long as 80km have been completed. Neil stated that Shahzada was tried to be run as an elevator but was not successful. Most riders will withdraw if there are problems and do not expect any recognition. Problems noted were the difficulty it would be for the

Registrar and the possibility that a rider chasing distance on the pointscore could go to a 160klm ride and withdraw when they have completed the desired klms. Another rider could take the risk and vet out.

Voting: NSW – No, TAS – No, SA – No, Vic – No, Qld – Yes, WA – Abstain. Motion Lost

WAERA Motion 1 - Appeals

That Rule M3.2 is changed as follows:

A member has the right to appeal a decision regarding the placings after the presentation. An appeal must be lodged in writing to the Chief Steward or Ride Organiser within one hour of the notification of placings.

Rationale: Occasionally a member may not be aware that there is a discrepancy with the placings until after the presentations. Placing a time-frame around the right of appeal regarding the placings at a ride will also eliminate the possibility of a member appealing a decision months after an event.

Note: The AERA Members' Handbook would need to be altered - Rule M3.2 would become M3.3, M3.3 would become M3.4, M3.4 would become M3.5.

Debate: Currently a member can appeal a decision three months after a ride. This rule tightens up the procedures. There is a difference between an appeal and a correction.

Voting: NSW – Yes, TAS – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, Qld – Yes, WA – Yes. Motion carried and will be brought to the next meeting for a second vote.

WAERA Motion 2 – Riding Weights

That Rule R5.1 is changed as follows:

Lightweight - Nominated riding weight of less than 73kg at the pre-ride weigh-in.

Rationale: Presently a Heavyweight rider may choose to ride in the Middleweight division - this is of no advantage to the horse or rider. The same should apply to Lightweight riders.

Debate: This came from a discussion from a Lightweight rider who was on the border between Middleweight and Lightweight and did not want to carry weight if she entered Middleweight and lost some during the ride. Anne advised how easy it is to carry a couple of kilos of weights and therefore should not be a factor in determining division.

Voting: NSW – No, TAS – No, SA – No, Vic – No, Qld – No, WA – Yes. Motion Lost.

Insurance

Roy would like approval to pay insurance cover of \$1200 to cover the Quilty buckles.

Moved Matthew Krahnen/Chris Mahoney

That AERA takes out insurance cover with AON for the Quilty buckles held in stock. The premium as quoted to an approximate value of \$1,200.

Voting Carried Unanimously

Visit by Beverley Wright – Saturday, March 10th.

Beverley Wright attended at 3:05 p.m. Saturday. She provided an information kit for all states that gave a current status and update on insurance. A complete manual was provided for Dee. Wrist bands were provided and Pregnancy information has been sent to newsletters.

She explained that PA insurance has been increased by about \$5 or \$6 per member due to the number of claims. It is important to ensure all ride organisers report any incidents to AON as soon as possible. It is important that risk management is done when grounds are hired.

An amendment has been made to the claim form to simplify it.

Dee should send a copy of any PA claim forms that happen at rides to the State SMC as they may have more background information. Copies of incident reports can be sent to Dee.

AON should be notified of any threats regarding legal action immediately.

Ieva thanked Beverley for attending.

Safety standards in SA. All states are different. SA are looking at throwing waivers out and introducing safety codes in their place. Sarah is looking into the impact as regards to waivers required by a national organisation but they also need to register a safety code.

Veterinary Panel

1. The within 30 minutes rule.

It's noted that the panel has been asked to comment "after the event". We think that it could be very advantageous to both horses and thinking riders. Riders need to be aware that presentation prior to 30 minutes (as with vet gate into hold) makes metabolic evaluation more difficult and may lead to more horses having to represent prior to departure. We presume that unlike VGH, riders only get one chance to present within the 30 minutes. We are still confused about which states are actually using the rule this year.

2. Hoof examination using boots:-

Given that we now embrace the use of fitted and stuck on boots/shoes we accept that horses should not be subjected to routine removal for examination any more than they are asked to remove metal shoes or pads. Ultimately the criterion that matters is "are they lame". However, if a vet feels that there is evidence that the horse is suffering as a result of the device, we reserve the right to inspect further and/or require evidence at future checks that the condition has not worsened eg if sand has entered the device as happens with brush boots or pads causing rubbing or bruising. It might be that the vet may require evidence of a change in gear or fitting of the gear that might help but could lead to a vet out at the next check if the change fails to prevent deterioration. This happens currently with galls and saddle rubs. The rider would have the right of appeal to the head vet via the chief steward as with all other rules.

3. Re-presents (from Anne Barnes)

On a point for clarification:

Checking a horse before it goes out again is great – for peace of mind for both me and the rider. While the rules specifically allow for a re-present of horses in the vet gate into hold system – Rule V7.13, I have always been in doubt as to whether the rules actually allow me to give a “conceded pass” for horses in the standard 30 minute check and then make a final decision at a re-present. I would be pleased to hear others’ interpretation of that rule (V4) where there is no mention of a re-present. I have been told in the past that it means I must make a decision based on how the horse looks at 30 minutes. (Whereas the VGH rule acknowledges that horses may be presented quickly off track and checking gut sounds etc might be better done after a period of recovery).

Leave silent for time being until the trial results come in. Advise SMC’s to contact RO’s and ask for information from trials.

Database – Ieva Peters/Anne Jones/Sarah Adams

Sarah attended on Sunday morning to present her report.

The States are going to have to be heavily involved with the implementation and AERA should undertake a review of the structure and role of administrator or registrar. Sarah then went through the powerpoint presentation.

States are to look and key requisites and advise Sarah.

Issues to be addressed are:

- Privacy should be given consideration. Access to data could be sensitive especially with regards to the EWS.
- States should be responsible for purchasing their own hardware to enable the database implementation
- It is critical that historical data is extracted.
- Each state registrar will need to have their own system that can be uploaded to the National Registrar.

- Sarah is to contact Ian Blucher to provide the latest version of the software for QERA. VERA have moved away from the system in favour of their own.
- AERA hardware will be upgraded if necessary and the executive can make this decision.
- Sarah requires her own hardware.

Moved Anne Jones/Matthew Krahn

That a new laptop is purchased for the database co-ordinator including appropriate internet access and that any upgrade required for the AERA administrator be sent to the executive for approval.

Voting Carried unanimously

Discussions should be held at State level the cost to use the database at rides. It has been increased from 55 cents to \$1.10 per rider. This will be for 3 years and then Ian will sign over the copyright.

Moved Matthew Krahn/Ane Jones

That subject to the amendments proposed that AERA accepts the letter of appointment offered to BGS and that the AERA executive has approval to sign the letter.

Voting Carried Unanimously

Strategic/Operation Plan Update

Jil and Beverley will have a look at the existing plan with a view to updating it.

AERA Restructure

The re-structure appears to be on hold pending the implementation of the database. Several issues do need to be looked at – maintaining continuity of leadership. The current structure could be made to work better than it has especially in regard to sub-committees. Would it be appropriate to have less delegates.

Ieva is to look at identifying portfolios that can be done outside. Dick is to write TOR for the Rule Book Committee. Chris stated that Tasmania will get more involved in the database and will ask if he needs any assistance.

National Newsletter

The cost is \$4.40 incl GST per member which would relate to a reduction in overall cost of membership.

Matthew advised that Queensland supports the proposal very strongly. There is a huge duplication of information between the states. Each division will gather newsworthy information and forward it to the publisher. The publisher has agreed that editorial content will be fair. Dick will check whether state specific inserts can be done. Being on newsstands will raise the profile of the sport.

Moved Dick Collyer/Ane Jones

That we adopt the national newsletter proposal as submitted by Vink Publication.

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

Anne is to send a letter to the States to advise them of the decision. Dick is to liaise with Sharon Myers and ask about minutes, state centric inserts, whether it will be distributed per member or membership. Aim for July/August for the first edition.

Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on 29th/30th June and 1st July, 2007.

The Meeting closed at 2:43 pm.