



Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc.

Minutes of the Committee of Management Meeting

Date: Commenced at 9.35 am on Sunday 20 September 2020

Venue: Web Conference

1. Welcome by Chair

Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted her appreciation for all who give up part of their weekend to contribute to the sport.

2. Attendance

2.1. Committee Members Present

Linda Tanian (President) (VERA); Mark Dunn (Vice President) (TEERA); Noni Seagrim (Treasurer) (NSWERA); Kim Moir (Secretary) (QERA); Dick Collyer (QERA); Kerry Fowler-Smith (NSWERA); Jodie Luck (SAERA); Sarah Dumbrell (WAERA).

2.2. Apologies

Nil received

2.3. Proxy Votes

Nil received

2.4. Visitors

Pat Hodgetts (TEERA), Sioux Reid (VERA)

Apologies from AERA Delegates Leigh Ann Sample (QERA) and Stella Harbison (SAERA)

Note resignation of Elsje Brandis and Peter Bice as AERA Delegates.

Discussion

WAERA and NSWERA have not advised if they will be nominating Delegates in place of Elsje and Peter. Noted that voting of Delegates is only at the AGM or at a Special General Meeting.

Sarah reported that to her knowledge WAERA has had no discussion about a replacement as yet.

Kerry reported that NSWERA will look at this at their next meeting.

Action

Secretary to write to both DAs to advise that they have the option to nominate a Delegate to AERA.

3. Portfolio Allocations

Peter Bice was involved in 4 Sub-committees – AERA/ Quilty Awards; EADCM Review; Governance; Quilty Advisory Panel.

Discussion of need to include other members in each Sub-committee noted the benefit of expanding knowledge base of various portfolios and succession planning.

Jodie Luck to join AERA / Quilty Awards Sub-committee.

Dick Collyer to join EADCM Review Panel, giving 4 members that allows for potential conflict of interest.

Sarah Dumbrell to join Governance sub-committee.

Noni Seagrim to join the Quilty Advisory Panel, noting that work of this Sub-committee can be ad hoc.

The Finance Sub-Committee was formally accepted to be made up of those holding Insurance and Sponsorship/Fundraising portfolios, the Treasurer and the AERA Bookkeeper – Noni Seagrim, Kim Moir, Sioux Reid and Deb Edwards with Noni (Treasurer) as Coordinator.

Action

Portfolio Allocation Table to be updated and circulated.

4. Register of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

Addressed by pre-meeting declaration or as arises during the meeting.

Committee Member	Point of Conflict	Reason
Kim Moir	Agenda Item 8.2.4	"Named" in correspondence

Mark noted that he may have a conflict of interest related to some items on the agenda but would flag these as they occurred.

5. Previous Meeting Minutes

5.1. Amendments to the Minutes of the COVID-19 Working Group Meeting held on 14 May 2020

Amendment

"Discussion about replacing Kerry on this committee elicited discussion about whether the Working Group needed to be maintained." to read

*Discussion about replacing Kerry on this committee elicited discussion about whether the Working Group needed to be maintained. **It was determined to leave the position vacant.**"*

Motion: 2020/09/01 Moved: Kim Moir / Sarah Dumbrell

That the Minutes of the COVID-19 Working Group Meeting held on 14 May 2020 are accepted with the noted amendment.

Carried unanimously

5.2. Amendments to the Minutes of the Governance Sub-committee Meeting held on 14 July 2020

Nil amendments received.

Motion: 2020/09/02 Moved: Dick Collyer / Mark Dunn

That the Minutes of the Governance Sub-committee Meeting held on 14 July 2020 are accepted.

Carried unanimously

5.3. Amendments to the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 18 July 2020

Nil amendments received.

Motion: 2020/09/03 Moved: Kim Moir / Mark Dunn

That the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 18 July 2020 are accepted.

Carried unanimously

5.4. Amendments to the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 27 July 2020, Subsidiary Agenda

Nil amendments received

***Motion: 2020/09/04 Moved: Kim Moir / Mark Dunn
That the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 27 July 2020, Subsidiary Agenda are accepted.
Carried unanimously***

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1. Swabbing targets – item carried forward from COVID-19 Working Group

Discussion whether swabbing target would be set for 2021 based on 2019 ride entry figures given upset to calendar due to COVID-19 and reduction in ride entry numbers for 2020.

It was noted that swabbing has been done in Tasmania and South Australia but accepted that target will not be met for 2020.

Action

Agenda item for first meeting of 2021.

6.2. AERA Points and Distance Awards – item carried forward from COVID-19 Working Group

Members concurred that the lack of rides and with some DAs more affected than others, it was not legitimate to consider awarding Points and Distance Awards for 2020. DAs will self-determine at a local level and Lifetime Distance and Points will still be available.

***Motion: 2020/09/05 Moved: Dick Collyer / Sarah Dumbrell
That AERA do not run the annual points and distance awards for 2020 due to impact of COVID-19 restrictions.
Carried unanimously***

Action

Letter to DAs re decision to not hold AERA Awards, including comment re DAs right/opportunity to do own things.

Facebook post to advise wider membership.

6.3. Communication Strategy – item carried forward from C-19 Working Group

Whilst considering how AERA could best communicate with DAs in relation to the decisions made about our responses to COVID-19, there had been general discussion about how the DAs perceive AERA, with a sense that there was a generally negative regard towards AERA. It was considered that there was a need to market AERA and the service it provides to the DAs rather than the perception that seems to prevail that AERA takes money from the DAs.

Discussion

Communication with DAs need to be meaningful; this includes correspondence, meeting reports and general information provided via the website and social media. Noted that letters have provided explanations and expectations for future outcomes. Reports from meetings need to go out quickly and could provide more detail – this could also be posted on Facebook to ensure that wider membership is given information. What are MC Members reporting to the DAs they represent?

Agreement that this should be a consultative process.

Action

Letter to DAs to advise that we are looking at our communication strategy and to ask for feedback on what is relevant for DAs.

Strategic planning group to look at this and report back; Linda to provide an example of a template.

6.4. Business arising from Governance Sub-committee Minutes

Section 4.11 – the DAs only need to supply minutes and reports from their AGM and not from MC meetings, as had been required by the previous constitution.

Concern raised that the sharing of minutes is useful in keeping AERA informed about what is happening in DAs and that minutes are not necessarily available on DA websites as suggested in the Governance Sub-committee minutes. It was also noted that AERA should be aware of the financial viability of DAs, but that not all DAs are required to provide audited financial reports depending on levels of revenue. With regard to financial reports, Constitution is not aligned with State laws. Discussion that minutes

This could be remedied by a motion to modify the Constitution and build back in this requirement. Also noted that we should recognise the work and legal advice that had gone into the writing of the new Constitution and that others had considered that this exchange of information did not need to happen. Any change to the Constitution should be considered with regard to real benefit. This could be included in the Affiliation Agreement between AERA and DAs as exchange of information to support understanding.

Action

Affiliation agreement to be drafted to include that DAs share minutes – to be sent to DAs for feedback.

Change to Constitution to reword requirements regarding audits.

Sections 5 and 7.2 – reference Honorary Members.

Suggestion that listing of honorary members on website could include a link to show their history.

Action

Website Sub-committee to look at this.

Section 14.1 – requirement that members of Management Committee are voting members of the DA.

Action

Secretary to review nomination form to include a declaration that nominee is a voting member of the DA that they represent.

Section 18.1 (c) – audited financial reports to be provided to DAs by 31 January each year.

Concern that this is not achievable due to end-of-year being 31 December. Suggestion that this be changed to being available to DAs within 2 weeks of the AERA AGM and the approval of the Audited Financial Reports.

Action

Kerry to confirm that legislation allows for this change.

Section 22 – appointment of Co-ordinator of each Sub-committee.

Kerry advised that “Co-ordinator” was intended as a liaison person to co-ordinate the Sub-committee but would not necessarily be the same person as the chair of the Sub-committee, but the Co-ordinator does need to be on the AERA Management Committee.

Section 32 – what by-laws are required?

Any official policy should become a by-law

6.5. Business arising from the Action Sheet

- Tracking finance opportunities – information regarding Equestrian Fire Relief Grants was disseminated to DAs and posted on all Facebook pages.
- Letter to EA re Affiliation Agreement is still to do when appropriate – Linda to draft.

Meeting adjourned from 11.07 to 11.20 am.

1. Decade Teams Award – criteria and forms provided for approval. This is to recognise the achievement of a rider and horse team over at least a 10-year period and it is suggested that there could be 12 or so rider/horse teams eligible to apply for this award. This will be presented as part of the AERA Awards Night at a TQ event with a vest to be presented. This will be presented for the first time at TQ21 and application process will be similar to other AERA awards, noting that members may choose to wait for presentation at a “local” Quilty. Application form to include request for size of recipient.

***Motion: 2020/09/05 Moved: Jodie Luck / Noni Seagrim
That the Decade Teams Award is adopted.
Carried unanimously***

Action

Linda to explore options for vests – Jodie to assist.

Criteria and amended form to be posted on website with applications to close for TQ21 on 31 July 2021.

Promotion on Facebook.

2. EADCM rules – FEI have published their updated rules relating to EADCM Rules. AERA Rulebook should reflect these rules and requires to be reviewed to maintain congruence.

Action

Rulebook Sub-committee with Marylou Locke to take on this task.
Kerry to discuss with Marylou the problems they had experienced in managing this process.
3. TQ22 test event – advice from NSWERA Delegates that Tooraweenah have resolved to do a test event during 2021.
4. Adjournment of meetings – concern had been raised that there had been multiple adjournments of meetings that did not allow for new business to be dealt with. The standard procedure is for an adjourned meeting to only deal with agenda items that had been listed on the agenda. Our agendas have been busy, and it is important that people are prepared for the meeting so that time is not lost in re-visiting information that has been provided for prior consideration. Consensus that any business not dealt with at a meeting by the close of that meeting would be carried forward as priority agenda items to the next meeting or if urgent a single-topic meeting would be scheduled.
5. Cost of TQ Buckles – report Kim Moir and Deb Edwards

When it was decided to invest in the resources to make our own buckles this was about a consistent local supply, cost and design. Gerard Bou advised that he could make buckles for \$160, including all components and time. Note that average cost for the previous 5 years was \$240. AERA invested in purchase of machine. Deb advised that we have contracted G as the manufacturer, and we don't need to seek more specific details of the costings. AERA's cost is the depreciation on the machine.

Procedure to establish cost for the number of buckles required at beginning of Quilty year. TQ committee to be aware that early budget will vary depending on this information and important to have this before they promote entry fee.

7. Ratification of Online Motions

7.1. Financial Decisions

Payments from 18 July 2020					
	Payee	Invoice No	Date	Amount	Comments
7.1	SUREWiSE	81779	7/07/20	\$2,110.00	Personal Accident March - June
7.2	Australia Post	1009485833	3/04/20	\$134.00	Postage
7.3	Kim Moir	Payment	31/07/20	\$630.00	Secretary Honorarium
7.4	Deb Edwards	155	3/08/20	\$260.00	Bookkeeper 6.5 hours
7.5	Peter Johnson	771	31/07/20	\$528.00	GoToMeeting annual fee to 28/05/21
7.6	Peter Johnson	774	31/07/20	\$1,485.00	AERASpace maintenance/development
Payments since agenda was circulated					
7.7	Peter Johnson	776	1/09/20	\$173.25	AERASpace updates and fixes
7.8	Kim Moir	Payment	31/08/20	\$630.00	Secretary Honorarium
7.9	Fusion Financial Group	10680	27/08/20	\$143.00	BIAS
7.10	Australia Post	1009892364	3/09/20	\$85.03	Postage
7.11	Deb Edwards	156	3/09/20	\$380.00	Bookkeeper 9.5 hours
				\$6,558.28	

Note that MC approved purchase of 1000 logbooks (\$2843.50) and purchase of 2000 logbook covers (\$3850).

7.2. Other On-line Motions

Nil

8. Correspondence

8.1. Correspondence Inwards

No	Date	Correspondence Inwards	Action
1	17/07/20	NSWERA to WAERA cc AERA re media incident	noted
1a	18/07/20	D Feary to L Tanian re Matar Bullio camp	Fwd MC
2	23/07/20	M Longhurst, QERA re Database user access	AERASpace SC
3	24/07/20	Kwik-Kopy Statement	Fwd Bookkeeper
4	26/07/20	VERA – Minutes for Meeting - June 2020	Fwd MC
5	28/07/20	MS Azure invoice	Fwd Bookkeeper
6	02/08/20	Luke Annetts re QERA Motion 6 to LT and MD	Agenda 8.2.1
7	10/08/20	Toongabbie response to referral hospital survey	Fwd M Dunn
8	11/08/20	SAERA response to referral hospital survey	Fwd M Dunn
9	12/08/20	Equestrian Fire Relief Funding	Facebook
9a	14/08/20	H Waldrop & H Smith follow up on research project	Fwd to DAs
9b		Neil Clarkson re Shahzada date	Noted
10	21/07/20 to 09/09/20	NVP members confidentiality agreements – Harry Wever, Bruno Ros, Simon Bain, Anne Barnes, Celine Lee, Khyle Stewart, Darien Feary. Dan Sims received 09/09	Fwd to M Dunn
11	16/08/20	Korda Mentha Circular to Creditors	Fwd MC
12	17/08/20	EA Circular to Creditors	Fwd MC
13		E Brandis – resignation as AERA Delegate	Noted

No	Date	Correspondence Inwards	Action
13a		TEERA re Horse Health Declaration Forms	
14	18/08/20	WAERA advice re date for TQ21 in WA	Noted
15		NSWERA advice of cancellation of all events until 29 September	Noted
16	19/08/20	TEERA re rule confirmation	Agenda 8.2.2
17		Tenterfield Club, M Combe, re NRZ border	Agenda 8.2.3
18	20/08/20	EA - Member Update	Noted
19		KordaMentha EA Member Update	Noted
20		L Annetts re QERA Integrity	Agenda 8.2.4
21		TQ21 acknowledgement of AERA correspondence	Noted
22		TEERA – query re HHD forms and suggestions for amendments	Agenda 14.9
23	21/08/20	Confidential – Member appeal of DA decision	Agenda 8.2.5
24	23/08/20	WAERA reprocess for insurance claim	Responded
25	24/08/20	T Purton appeal of TEERA decision	Agenda 8.2.6
26	25/08/20	EA re Directors of Transitional Board	Noted
27	27/08/20	NSWERA response re horse welfare concern	Agenda
28		MS Azure invoice	Fwd Bookkeeper
29		NVP to NSWERA cc AERA re horse welfare concern	Agenda
30	31/08/20	NSWERA – response re hoods	Agenda
31		NSWERA - response re hoods	Agenda
32		TEERA – response re Equine Hospitals	Fwd to M Dunn
33		WAERA – Minutes of MC Meeting	Fwd to MC
34		NSWERA – request to purchase an ETS – AERASpace SC to confirm quote	AERASpace SC
35	01/09/20	NSW MC Members – request for TQ Manual	Responded
36		QERA – copy of letter in response to Michael Combe	Agenda 8.2.3
37	02/09/20	TQ19 – Financial Reports	Agenda 14.12.2
38	03/09/20	NSWERA – Rule change motion - 57.2, 63.9.1 and 63.9.2	Agenda 15.1.3

8.2. Business Arising from Correspondence Inwards

8.2.1. Luke Annetts – correspondence item 6

Correspondence from Luke re QERA AGM Motion 6

Discussion

Response to be drafted to this and item 8.2.4, to be signed by President, to advise that this matter has been previously discussed by AERA and that it should be dealt with by QERA.

8.2.2. TEERA re Rule Confirmation – correspondence item 15

Request that AERA clarify intent of Rule 67.12.1 and reference to 63.3.3. Note this is referenced at Agenda Item 15 Rulebook Sub-committee report.

Action

Response provided to advise that a rule change has been presented to attempt to clarify this rule.

8.2.3. Tenterfield Club re NRZ border – correspondence item 16

Letter from Michael Combe, President of Tenterfield Club to QERA with copies to AERA, NSWERA and to NRZ President and Representative to QERA. Michael was recommending suspension of NSWERA/QERA boundary indefinitely, suggesting this will allow resumption of rides within the NRZ at the earliest time.

Note AERA also copied into response from QERA, and from Karen Lee, NRZ rep to QERA.

Action

Response to be drafted to advise that any change to borders requires a Special Resolution from NRZ members and not just from one club. Also, to remind that rides in NRZ Zone must be affiliated with QERA as the primary affiliating body.

8.2.4. Luke Annetts – correspondence item 20

Correspondence from Luke Annetts requesting that AERA consider a list of concerns raised with regard to the integrity of QERA Management Committee and the decisions they have made.

Kim Moir declared a conflict of interest given she had been named in this correspondence.

Action

Response to be drafted to be signed by President, to advise that these matters raised should in the first instance be dealt with by QERA.

Meeting adjourned from 1.00 pm to 1.30 pm

8.2.5. Confidential – DA member appeal re DA Decision – correspondence item 23

Correspondence was received from a DA member requesting that AERA review decision by the DA under rule 3.12.

Discussion

Agreement that AERA had no jurisdiction in this matter and that rule 3.12 did not apply.

Action

Response to be drafted as per the discussion and to be signed by President.

8.2.6. TEERA Member – correspondence item 25

Request from Tony Purton that AERA review a ruling of a CS at a Tasmanian event.

Discussion

Process was discussed and agreed that there is no process for appeal through AERA as it was considered that all appeal processes have been followed on the day and at a subsequent Management Committee meeting.

Action

Response to advise that AERA considers that the processes followed were appropriate and there is confidence that TEERA has met its obligations in this matter. Also, to advise that AERA is reviewing the relevant rule to ensure clarity.

8.2.7. NSWERA – correspondence item 27

This was in response to correspondence from Mark Dunn, Horse Welfare Sub-Committee seeking information about a photograph that appeared on Facebook.

To be dealt with at Agenda Item 14.7 Horse Welfare report.

8.2.8. NSWERA – correspondence items 30 and 31

These letters were responses to requests from AERA, regarding a local rule that was seen to be contrary to a recent interpretation of a rule, with reference to wearing of hoods. Correspondence item 38 was subsequently received from NSWERA with proposed rule change.

Dealt with at Agenda Item 15.1.4 – relevant rule changes.

8.3. Correspondence Outwards

	Date	Correspondence Outwards	Author
1	21/07/20	NVP members requesting Confidentiality Agreements	MD
2	25/07/20	NSWERA re Facebook post relevant to Horse Welfare concern	MD
3	26/07/20	Stirling's Crossing response to TQ19 Invoice	LT
4	01/08/20	NSWERA rule re hoods	KM
5	01/08/20	QERA Member - acknowledgement	KM
6	04/08/20	C Nichols response re EA and Affiliations	KM
7	05/08/20	Veterinary Surgeons Board	LT/KM
8		Follow up request to NSWERA re Horse Welfare concern	MD
9	06/08/20	Dr M Williams and K Moir re research project	LT
10	07/08/20	Far North Endurance Riders Assoc – ETS Quote	KM
11	09/08/20	Veterinary Surgeons Board response	LT
12	12/08/20	Dr M Walker re research project	KM
13		N Clarkson re Shahzada	KM
14		DA Secretaries – AERA Meeting notes	KM
15	17/08/20	DAs and AERA MC re meeting date and timeframes	KM
16	19/08/20	DAs re Ride Calendar for 2021	KM
17		Shahzada Ride Committee re 2021 dates	KM
18	20/08/20	DAs re Review of CS Accreditation process	KM/MD
19		TQ21 responses to queries in report	KM
20		WAERA re dates for TQ21	KM
21	26/08/20	NSWERA follow up on correspondence re Horse Welfare concern	MD
22	28/08/20	DA Secretaries – request to forward on email re research project	KM
23	29/08/20	Acknowledgement of correspondence from EFR team	KM

8.4. Business Arising from Correspondence Outwards

No queries raised from items of Correspondence Outwards.

9. President's Report

Late Report on Subsidiary Agenda

10. State Reports

10.1. NSWERA Report

Nil report received

Verbal report provided

NSWERA had a couple of rides in July and August and then COVID-19 restrictions shut down activities again. There is an expectation that restrictions will lift on 29 September and members are ready to run a ride if possible.

NSWERA were granted fund through NSW Government Grassroots Funding and provided \$1000 each to 15 clubs and has \$30,000 to NSWERA.

NSWERA State Championships event is scheduled for 27 – 29 November but this will be dependent on restrictions lifting to allow enough lead up rides.

10.2. QERA Report – Dick Collyer, President

Membership We have had a significant resurgence in membership applications, obviously related to the restart of rides since July.

Finances The “Jobkeeper” allowance for our registrar, has given us a good cushion for one of our largest fixed expenses, and this has been assisted by the government’s “tax boost” payments. Memberships and Ride Fees are now flowing again, so we are doing OK.

Ride Calendar and CV19 All rides have had to have a Health Department approved Covid-safe Plan. Since the restart of rides in mid-July, QERA has held 10 rides with total ride entry numbers of 1088.

2020 State Championships These will be held in October at Stirling's Crossing.

End of Year Awards We have decided to retain our traditional end of year awards, although we may only recognize top-5 rather than top-10, depending on participation rates over the next 5 months. We feel that our members deserve these goals and incentives, even though the riding season has been shortened through means beyond our control.

AGM This is scheduled to be held on Saturday, 12 December.

Discussion

QERA has been lucky with rides being open since mid-July and several rides run with big numbers attending. There has also been a ride in Charleville – this club has not held a ride in 5 years and numbers were bigger than they have ever had.

10.3. SAERA Report – Jodie Luck, SAERA rep to AERA

SAERA has now successfully run a training ride and an 80km ride most recently at Point Pass. There were reasonable numbers for SA considering that not many of our members had horses in work. It was the first time a ride has been run in this part of the state in a very long time and it was really well received. We have our third ride this weekend with nominated numbers an improvement on our last ride which is terrific.

Our Bunnings BBQ fundraiser held in early August saw another \$1070 raised to go towards the ETS! We are slowly but surely getting there which the SAERA SMC is very excited.

We are due to have an SMC meeting in September and plans for our 2021 calendar will be discussed now that we have a 2021 TQ date and Shahzada dates have been confirmed.

Discussion

There is one more ride for the season. Jodie reported that there has been difficulty in getting responses to forestry permit applications. SAERA has been running the rides that have been on the calendar. SAERA have advised they will purchase an ETS.

10.4. TEERA Report – Blaine Astell, President TEERA

I sincerely hope all of the committee and their families are keeping well in this pandemic, and hope that all states can return to some form of normality in the not too distant future.

This is our first divisional report since the impact of Covid-19 on endurance in Tasmania. During this period, we have had to cancel four events due to restrictions imposed by the government on social gatherings. Fortunately- Tasmania eased restrictions on the 13th of July, to allow 500 people at outdoors gatherings. This enabled us to open the season back up. We approached the four clubs that had their rides cancelled, to ask them to reschedule, but seemingly there was some apprehension around doing so. There was a lot of enthusiasm to return to endurance as soon as possible and seeing as though the first return ride was not scheduled for 6 weeks, the TEERA SMC decided to add an additional ride to the calendar on the first of August to kick start our season again, this ride was ran by the SMC.

The first and subsequent rides have been subject to a strict Covid safety plan, mainly driven by Mark Dunn, and have gone off without many issues. The enthusiasm to return was affirmed by very strong entries for Tasmanian standards, for the first two returning rides. The SMC have been so encouraged by the enthusiasm it has decided to add an additional ride to the calendar on the 12th of September, this ride will again be organised by the SMC.

There are 5 rides scheduled for the remainder of our season, culminating in the state championships on the 20th & 21st of November. We are hopeful that if Tasmania remains Covid free that we will be able to see this season through.

Discussion

One ride since this report was done – only one ride less that we would normally have.

10.5. VERA Report

Late report on Subsidiary Agenda

10.6. WAERA Report

We continue to feel very fortunate: life feels almost back to normal here, apart from the wearing of masks in the vet ring and ongoing reminders to please observe social distancing. Personally, even a socially distanced campfire with a beer in hand is very therapeutic. Our sympathies go to those states not yet able to hold rides: not being able to ride may seem like a minor issue to many people, but particularly for endurance riders, our identity seems to be so enmeshed with our rides and our horses.

WA has held 4 rides since resuming the season, with another scheduled for the weekend of the 5th of September. Ride entry numbers are strong, with 75+ entries for most rides. Everyone wants to ride everything due to the shorter season – although this can lead to issues with recruiting enough volunteers. WAERA is continuing to explore ways of encouraging volunteering. We are also considering a workshop later in the year for potential ride organisers/chief stewards/TPRs to increase the skills of our volunteer base.

WAERA took the decision to reimburse our members with 50% of their membership fees due to the shortened season. We of course were not able to reimburse insurance payments. We would encourage AERA to look at ways they may be able to make a similar reimbursement, in line with the advice provided by the ACCC for sporting clubs and their members.

I want at this point to pay tribute to the foresight of Ross McAmish and other WAERA members who established the Collie racetrack as a permanent ride base for WAERA. With the uncertainty around COVID rules and the increasing difficulty of getting access to some of the tracks closer to Perth, Collie has been invaluable as an option to hold rides, often at short notice.

We now have the date locked in for the TQ2021, which hopefully will avoid the AFL Grand Final and will maximise riders' ability to attend both Shahzada and the Quilty. So much uncertainty still remains, but our hard-working sub-committee now has the opportunity to take a deep breath and dive back into organising the event. We thank them for their continuing dedication.

Anna Erickson
WAERA President 2020

Discussion

Next ride is the State Championships over the weekend of 3 – 4 October. This is the same weekend as now scheduled for TQ21 and at the same venue, so this may provide a good indication of how the Quilty will be. WAERA has an agreement with Collie racecourse that allows a number of rides to be run from there. All rides have been well attended.

President's and DA reports received.

11. Treasurer's Report

Again, not a lot of time has passed since the last meeting and there is not a lot to report on that is not detailed in the Finance Teams' report.

As at 31st of August 2020 our net bank balance is at \$110,329 thanks to a good boost from the rides that have gone ahead since July.

The Finance Team have been continuing to work on planning a financially stable future for the association to see us through the next few years, please give the report careful and due consideration. Sincerest thanks to Kim, Sioux and Deb for their hard work.

Treasurer's report received with acknowledgement that AERA is in a better financial position than had been anticipated earlier in the year.

Discussion

Query re amount showing in Aged Receivables from Tumut Club – this is for hire of the ETS and has been paid. Amount showing as owed by QERA has also been paid.

11.1. Finance Team Report – Deb Edwards, Sioux Reid, Noni Seagrim, Kim Moir

Report from Finance Sub-committee and updated budgets for 2021 to be discussed at Finance Meeting scheduled for 19 October 2020.

11.2. Management of AERA merchandise

The payment for packaging and mailing of AERA merchandise (stationery and track marking resources) has been the same since at least 2016 at 20 cents per item. For this, items are wrapped and taken to the Post Office, in most cases as an urgent order. To date this year 1571 items have been dispatched for a fee of \$314.20. This is still to be invoiced and is usually done as one invoice at the end of year.

Recommend this be increased to 40 cents per item.

Discussion

Any increase will come out of overall profit margin if not passed on. There is a general mark-up of 10% but not consistent on all items – some are more, some are less. Currently all costs are covered in sale price. Option of a percentage of cost fee to be considered.

Agreed that this increase should be offered as an interim measure with this fee to be consider at November meeting with other fees.

Motion: 2020/09/06 Moved: Kim Moir / Dick Collyer

That AERA increase the fee paid of handling of AERA merchandise to 40 cents per item

Voting: For – 7: Against – 1

Kerry Fowler-Smith wanted it noted that she voted against this as she did not believe the increase was enough.

Carried by majority

12. Insurance report – Sioux Reid

Pre-renewal report provided to initiate discussions for renewal of policy for 2021.

Some minor corrections were noted.

Points of note included:

- Importance of AERA being aware of what claims are in process; currently SUREWiSE is accepting forms signed by DA Secretaries but we would not know about these until a claim is being processed.
- Kendal asked what cost for PA would be if this was not an opt-in; this would bring each PA premium down from \$136 to \$104 for Senior Riding members but would require a minimum of 1100 members. Note that this is an income stream for AERA with an admin fee of 10.
- Predicted revenue across all DAs and for AERA is less than anticipated and this should give a reduction in premium for 2021. Initial response from insurer is that this could support a reduced premium.
- AERA's customer history of 4 years places us well for policy renewal with other equine groups reported as finding it difficult to find brokers willing to provide policy cover. Notable reduction in endurance activity may support a reduced premium.
- The determination of what is consider "professional" equine activities is determined between the claimant and SUREWiSE.

- QERA and TEERA members are covered for Ambulance through their State Government systems; the policy provides ambulance cover of \$2000 through a Personal Accident policy and \$5000 through our Volunteer Cover. Members need to be aware of this.
- Kendel will provide further information on Cyber Insurance. Our current insurance would not have adequate cover for the level of security & risk management should members financial details be breached by cyber theft. This will be explained for the September meeting.
- Kendel will have relevant information that AERA requires for a policy renewal quotation for the next meeting on 19 October 2020.

Actions

Seek confirmation about who SUREWiSE requires to sign off documents so AERA can put the appropriate process in place.

End of year correspondence to DAs to include information about what Personal Accident covers.

DAs also to be reminded that Day Membership forms must be kept for 7 years and to confirm legal requirement for documents for Junior Members to be kept, with suggestion that this is for 7 years after the turn 18 years.

Need to develop a Document Retention Policy.

Review of Agenda

Two hours of meeting time left; agenda items prioritised to deal with

1 Rule Changes

2 NVP Report

3 Horse Welfare Report

Other items to be done as per agenda if time allows.

13. National Ride Entry Statistics 2019 compared to 2020. (Source: AeraSpace.)

Data at 3 September 2020

Division	Endurance		Intermediate		Introductory		FEI		Total	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
NSWERA	208	1220	242	666	115	667	-	34	565	2587
QERA	359	1653	526	1139	353	624	-	54	1238	3470
SAERA	28	166	43	74	68	87	-		139	327
TEERA	103	388	122	281	61	97	-		286	766
VERA	-	388	40	321	43	205	-		83	914
WAERA	90	460	103	292	81	270	-	6	274	1028
Totals	788	4275	1076	2773	721	1950	-	94	2585	9092

Noted that numbers show approximately one third of anticipated annual ride numbers to date, but better than had been considered in March.

14. Portfolio Reports

14.1. AERA Registrar – Jo Bailey

Database

Plugging away on old data, currently working on South Australia early eighties as per request from SAERA member to update record for distance scroll purposes.

Quilty Scrolls

List sent to Kerry Fowler-Smith of applicants for horse and rider distance scrolls that would normally have been presented at Tom Quilty.

Missing data form

Some years ago AERA had a form that competitors (past and present) completed and sent to me with any details of data missing from their records, I have looked for this form but cannot seem to find it.

Could a new form be designed and sent to all states for inclusion in newsletters and placed on AERA website? This form helps me to find what data is missing from AERASpace and also allows for correction of misspelt or change of name records to be merged together, it would be great for both horse and rider.

I did receive a form from AERA but can advise that it was not the one I was thinking of, I believe Tom McCormack initiated the form I have mentioned and that it was quite a few years ago now.

And sorry but I have to change my postal details again due to moving for work purposes:

Contact Details

My contact details are as follows:

Po Box 492

GLEN INNES NSW 2370

PH: **0419 478 422**

Discussion

Contact details have been updated and form was discussed as business arising from previous minutes.

14.2. Website / Webmaster – Noni Seagrim

Nil to report aside from the usual updates.

Discussion

Report on the numbers accessing the website and what they are looking for would be useful data to gather.

Action

Noni to look at what reporting is available.

14.3. Facebook – Noni Seagrim – change title to Social Media

Facebook has been relatively quiet with just the usual announcements from the committee and a few interest posts

Instagram, I have been quite busy with other stuff in the past few weeks and have neglected Instagram, will get it going again!

Discussion

At present there is just Noni and Sioux posting to the Facebook page; Jane occasionally posts related to EA/FEI matters; Ieva posts very occasionally.

Improvement of this is part of our communication strategy and a third person with this as a focus would assist.

Action

To put up a post for someone to join the AERA Social Media team to assist in maintaining an active and interesting Facebook and Instagram presence.

14.4. AeraSpace

Nil report received

14.5. Chief Stewards and TPRs – item carried forward to Adjourned meeting**14.6. National Veterinary Panel – report from meeting on 6 August 2020****1. Vet fees**

The current fee schedule was discussed. There was agreement that the fees were well short of an appropriate professional fee for the services provided, for instance compared to racing; however, it was noted that Ride Organising Committees (ROCs) were limited in what they could pay as vet fees are a significant part of ROC costs.

It was noted that vets officiate at these events for many reasons other than financial including being able to provide a (equine) community service.

It was noted that it is often difficult to get (young) vets for rides, in part because of the low fee but also because many vets are reluctant to give up their weekend.

There are recommended fees for vets to charge, but there may be further negotiation with ROCs. Given the range in duties between different vets at rides, it was suggested that the fee schedule could be further delineated into head/treatment/line vet rates.

Action items:

- Two members will work on further refinement of the fee schedule
- State vets to ensure the vets in their states know the current fees and are aware that they can negotiate (eg for travel).

2. Current veterinary matters and rules for consideration (see rules at <http://aera.asn.au/national-rules/>)**Blood rule**

A number of emails and photos have recently circulated in the endurance community about a horse that had been photographed with a bloody mouth at an event. It has been suggested that the bit used may have contributed to this and may not be appropriate for use in endurance.

Action: The following rules on gear and on the presence of blood have been worked on by members and are put forward for consideration by AERA. (Appendix 1)

Hoods in the vet ring

There was brief discussion on the recent action by NSWERA to implement a local Rule allowing hoods to be worn in the vet ring. It was acknowledged that this issue is the subject of ongoing discussion between NSWERA and AERA and that, for now, there was little NVP could achieve by getting involved.

3. Biosecurity**Hendra**

Anne invited comments on issues related to the Hendra virus. Discussion included vaccination and the division amongst members and vets regarding this dissent; risk of a Hendra case at a ride with the risk being related more to the origin of the horse, rather than the location of the ride, and therefore what constitutes a Hendra “zone”; and how to implement appropriate WHS measures to work at rides.

Actions:

- Two members who have worked at rides with unvaccinated horses from areas that may have Hendra will prepare for further discussion a document on WHS guidelines and treatment of horses at such rides.
- One member will prepare a paper on what may be considered “hot zones” for Hendra virus, noting the concern regarding the origin of a horse at a ride (Appendix 2)

- Insurance questions to be asked of insurers by AERA regarding responsibility for disease outbreaks arising at or as a result of a ride (eg Hendra; equine influenza; Strangles as a notifiable disease in some states):

1. Whose responsibility is it legally to ensure a safe workplace from the perspective of animal disease (there are concerns raised that the vets, as recognised professionals with respect to animal disease, would therefore be the people who could have reasonably foreseen a disease risk and also may be ultimately responsible for managing a disease situation, or responsible for ensuring that as much as reasonably practicable, the risk is eliminated). Therefore, if there is a disease situation at or arising from an endurance ride, who may be liable?

Note from A Barnes - Disease transmission may also include Covid19 and responsibilities around that, presumably this is a legal issue that has yet to be explored

2. Whose responsibility is it legally if a ride has to be shut down or quarantined, if animals cannot be taken from a ride base, if people at the ride cannot resume or continue with their work or daily businesses because there has been quarantine? Presumably there might be insurance claims for loss of income, care and treatment costs of animals, accommodation for people to stay somewhere and look after the animals, etc – as may have happened at Warwick with the equine influenza outbreak?

4. Referral points

Mark flagged that AERA is looking at the issue and is gathering relevant data.

Darien noted that:

- referral points are needed as they are better equipped than your normal ride facilities
- Rides need better than 'the local vet down the road'.
- Education of vets re endurance induced colic is important.

There was brief discussion about how many horses go on to referral points. This varies across states but is a small number.

Anne noted that referral points need to know how to treat endurance horses (as their needs are often different to non-endurance horses).

5. Vet accreditation and training

Darien spoke to her previously circulated discussion paper.

Mark signalled some support from AERA for a change to the existing process but noted discussion to date had been limited.

Actions:

- Request that AERA endorse an official training programme, being developed through an established continuing education provider, as the only official training recognised for accreditation of Australian endurance veterinarians. This programme will require substantial intellectual and financial investment, to ensure a suitable, accessible programme of education for endurance veterinarians to officiate and treat at a high level. If other means of accreditation remain, especially if other procedures are cheaper or less rigorous, the investment in an official programme will not have as useful results.

- Two members to refine the discussion paper and bring it back to the next NVP meeting.

6. Veterinary registration

It was noted that a recent opinion from a state Vet Board had ruled that ALL vets officiating at an endurance ride need to be registered in Australia unless acting in a non-clinical capacity. This accords with AERA's current position.

Discussion

Biosecurity – Mark reported two members are working to bring some recommendations back to the group and he had a sense that progress was being made; comment may be sought regarding rules 16.5 and 14; concern about potential liability in the event of an “outbreak”. Dick reported that this has been a significant issue in Queensland and have consulted with Biosecurity Qld and WH&S – advice is that vet is responsible for advising on what is in front of them and Ride Organiser is responsible for operating by a Biosecurity Plan that is consistent with industry standards.

Mark to follow up with Dick so that information is available to NVP.

Noted also that Insurers have advised on vet cover.

Training and accreditation of vets – any significant training will require an intellectual and financial investments. Mark would like to see a more rigorous accreditation process. There is consideration of a course being offered by Sydney University that would offer a series of modules tailored for endurance vets but not an academic unit. Caution from others about making training a requirement that may be difficult for vets to give time to with support that this would be more relevant to Treatment Vets. There are resources available eg what is on website now could be enhanced; Bill Harbison had a package. Ongoing.

Vet fees – reminder this is an honorarium and consideration that as an hourly fee it is not too bad. Queensland has paid slightly more for Head Vets and Treatment Vets who are often doing longer hours. NVP may bring some recommendations to the next meeting.

Summary – sense that this group has been busy and this has been a positive experience. Part of rationale to reform was to improve the relationship with vets.

14.7. Horse welfare and Invasive Treatments – item carried forward to adjourned meeting

14.8. Medication Control - item carried forward to adjourned meeting

Nil to report

14.9. Biosecurity - item carried forward to adjourned meeting

Nil to report

14.10. Equestrian Australia – Endurance Committee - item carried forward to adjourned meeting

Late report received from EA meeting

14.11. Governance and Policy - item carried forward to adjourned meeting

14.12. Tom Quilty Gold Cup - item carried forward to adjourned meeting

14.12.1. TQ19

14.12.2. TQ21

14.12.3. TQ22

15. Rulebook Report – Mark Dunn and Dick Collyer

1. Rule 16.5 (and parts of Rule 14) has evolved in the last few years to try and incorporate consideration of issues related to Hendra vaccination status. It is the view of some stakeholders that some of the changes are problematic and were made for political reasons. Regardless, 16.5 remains unclear and open to interpretation as to its meaning.

Earlier in 2020, the SC did some work on Rule 16.5 in an attempt to resolve some of these concerns. Given the resurrection of the AERA NVP and its recent interest in Hendra related issues

as they relate to endurance, the SC **recommends** an opinion be sought from NVP before further progressing the review of the Rule.

The Rulebook Sub-committee also put forward two rule changes for a first vote with reference to Rule 63.9 (wearing of hoods) and Rule 67 as it relates to gait assessment.

Discussion

Terms of Reference presented for consideration.

Suggestion that there should be 3 members, currently only 2, and that they could be given the responsibility to adjudicate when there is a dispute about the meaning or intent of a rule. Consensus that this would be acceptable with a recommendation to be put forward to the full committee which could be done on-line if required

Action

Terms of Reference to be re-drafted to bring to next meeting

Mark to invite Marylou Locke to joint this Sub-committee.

15.1. Rule Changes for a first vote

15.1.1. Rule 63.9 – motion from Rulebook Sub-committee

Rule 63.9 At each veterinary inspection:

63.9.1 each horse shall be presented unsaddled, without any tack, bandages or leg protection.

The SC notes the NSWERA decision to implement a local Rule allowing the wearing of compression hoods in the vet ring. AERA has previously considered this issue and believes the wearing of these hoods contravenes 63.9.1.

Recommendation:

In order to provide complete clarity, that 63.9.1. be amended to specifically reference hoods.

Rule 63.9 At each veterinary inspection:

*63.9.1 each horse shall be presented unsaddled, without any tack, bandages, **hoods** or leg protection.*

Discussion

Mark noted that he had listened to many opinions and had consulted widely, and he was happy to consider any further information.

Dick noted that the meeting with NSWERA on 17 July 2020 had provided more information and that there were two matters to deal with:

- 1 NSWERA have made a local rule that is clearly in conflict with the interpretation made by AERA.
- 2 NSWERA have suggested a trial period.

Dick also noted that he and Tony Warren, NSWERA President have a different view as to whether hoods are deemed to be tack but there was also the option to make an exception.

Noni stated that the proposal for a trial period was a rough draft and NSWERA are willing to work with AERA to make this workable if we feel it is worth pursuing.

Kim raised the concern that if we accept hoods as a means of contributing to the control of a horse in the vet ring and an official requires it to be removed and the horse then reacts and injures someone, who is liable? Also noted that this could not be considered as the only means of controlling a horse and those responsible for the horse must still be working towards controlling behaviour without this aid.

Pat raised her concern that the vetting area was not a place for conduct of trials. Pat also noted that there is general acceptance that a calm horse is more likely to have a low heart rate so wearing of a hood could result in a horse that would be vetted out, being allowed to continue.

Dick expressed concern that a trial period would be difficult to assess as there is lots of information being put forward as to benefit of hoods and that information would only be anecdotal.

Noni suggested that trial would be more about whether or not this was interfering with a veterinary assessment and that the hood was more a calming influence over external stressors.

Linda queried whether a hood could be seen as an external aid.

Noni responded that various products are being used as calming aids.

Dick responded that there is generally some science behind what a horse ingests but did not believe the same could be said about hoods and asked if there were any industry standards regarding how much compression.

Pat commented on the range of information available but summarised that to reduce heart rates by external means was not in the spirit of endurance and people should be working towards preparing their horses to behave well in the vet ring.

Kerry sought to compare hoods to companion horses – this has been allowed in the vet ring for a long time to calm horses; moving out of the immediate TPR area has been allowed, supplementary preparations have been allowed and some are not regulated. Nothing is convincing that AERA can't allow hoods.

Mark reminded that NSWERA has a local rule that is contrary to AERA's interpretation of this rule and asked if they were going to continue with this rule for the rest of 2020.

Kerry responded that they would continue to resolve the rule change discussion.

Linda asked again if NSWERA would continue to allow this rule.

Kerry responded that she did not know.

Dick reiterated his view that the allowance of the local rule is based on an incorrect interpretation of "tack" and this is why it should not be allowed and he did not consider that the case had been made for an exception.

Sarah noted that hoods are not widely used in WA and WA vets had spoken out against the wearing of hoods in the vet ring. Sarah asked how easily they are removed. Noni advised this could be done quickly

Kim noted that this debate had been ongoing for half an hour and suggested we move to vote on the motion as presented, also noting that this has to come back to November for a second vote.

Kerry asked if this motion is passed what will be done with the alternative motion put forward by NSWERA and the suggestion of a trial period. Kerry also noted that the order in which they are voted on was highly determinant of the outcome and if they had not been paying attention to incoming emails, they would not have known this was to be discussed.

Kim advised that the motions were ordered on the agenda as they had been received and that emails could be provided to support this.

Kerry requested that it be minuted "that there is some information that the whole of the NVP have not considered the issue of hoods officially".

There was no advice provided about who had not been party to the NVP discussions, but Mark noted that the minutes and the report had been circulated to all NVP members.

***Motion: 2020/09/07 Moved: Mark Dunn / Kim Moir
That 63.9.1. be amended to specifically reference hoods.
Rule 63.9 At each veterinary inspection:***

63.9.1 each horse shall be presented unsaddled, without any tack, bandages, hoods or leg protection.

Voting: MD – yes; KM – yes; SD – yes; KFS – no; NS – no; JL – yes; DC – yes; LT – yes.

Voting result: For – 6; Against – 2.

Motion passed on the first vote.

Action

Letter to NSWERA to advise that their local rule is in contravention with the AERA Rulebook and ask what action they will take to rectify this.

Letter to NSWERA confirming the order in which the motions were received to confirm their ordering on the agenda.

15.1.2. Rule 67 – motion from Rulebook Sub-committee

Following a request to AERA from TEERA, the SC has reviewed Rule 67.

AERA Rulebook SC Review of Rule 67 as it relates to gait assessment

Of relevance is:

67.3.3 The veterinarians shall record their votes (pass or fail) on voting slips and hand them to the chief steward. Any member of the voting panel may call for an additional examination (e.g. another trot up) prior to voting.

And

67.12 At an individual veterinary inspection (excluding any appeal):

67.12.1 in the absence of panel voting, the horse may be trotted up a maximum of 3 times after which a decision must be made by the veterinarian pursuant to Clause 64.2 or 65.2 respectively. As a minimum, the final trot up should be witnessed by the head veterinarian.

At a recent ride in Tasmania, a horse was trotted out twice for the line vet and then a panel was called. The horse trotted out for the panel and then a panel member requested a second trot out (Rule 67.3.3), making four in total. The horse was deemed lame.

The rider appealed on the basis that only three trot outs are allowed. The CS at the ride (Mark Dunn) declined the appeal on the basis that 67.12.1, as written, allows for more than three trot outs, as there was a panel.

The CS informed the rider that, as the appeal related to a Rule interpretation it could be further appealed to the SMC. This was done and the SMC dismissed the appeal on the basis that because a panel member requested a second trot out (67.3.3), four trot outs were allowable (67.12.1).

TEERA has requested AERA review the Rule in order to 'make it clearer'.

The Rulebook SC believes the Rule as written does cover all scenarios but could be made clearer. However, we believe the sentence 'As a minimum, the final trot up should be witnessed by the head veterinarian.' Is problematic.

What does that mean? The head vet 'assists' the line vet to assess the final trot up? This seems to run counter to the non-communication principle panels should abide by and is best left out.

The clause relating to appeals (67.5) provides for the involvement of the head vet when required.

Recommendation:

That 67.12.1 be amended to specifically reference 67.3.3 and to remove the final sentence.:

67.12 At an individual veterinary inspection (excluding any appeal):

*67.12.1 When a decision is made by a single vet, the horse may be trotted up a maximum of 3 times after which a decision must be made by the **line** veterinarian pursuant to Clause 64.2 or 65.2 respectively. **Where a panel is used, the line veterinarian may allow a maximum of two trot ups before requesting a panel. A panel member may request one additional trot up in accordance with Clause 67.3.3. The horse may be trotted up a maximum of two times for the panel after which a decision must be made.** ~~As a minimum, the final trot up should be witnessed by the head veterinarian.~~*

Discussion

Dick noted that this is to clarify the intent and not change it, so it is rewording.

Mark noted that there had been a misunderstanding from some members that there was a maximum number of 3 trot outs. With one vet there can be 3 trot outs but with a panel there can be 2 trot outs for a single vet; a panel can be called, and this can result in a further 2 trot outs. It was clarified that a failure to trot did not count as a trot out.

Motion: 2020/09/08 Moved: Mark Dunn / Dick Collyer

That 67.12.1 be amended to specifically reference 67.3.3 and to remove the final sentence.:

67.12 At an individual veterinary inspection (excluding any appeal):

67.12.1 When a decision is made by a single vet, the horse may be trotted up a maximum of 3 times after which a decision must be made by the line veterinarian pursuant to Clause 64.2 or 65.2 respectively. Where a panel is used, the line veterinarian may allow a maximum of two trot ups before requesting a panel. A panel member may request an additional trot up in accordance with Clause 67.3.3 ~~As a minimum, the final trot up should be witnessed by the head veterinarian.~~

Voting: MD – yes; KM – yes; SD – yes; KFS – yes; NS – yes; JL – yes; DC – yes; LT – yes.

Carried unanimously

Motion passed on the first vote.

15.1.3. Rules 57.2, 63.9.1 and 63.9.2 – motion from NSWERA

Rationale:

The positive effects from use of Compression Hoods on nervous, unsettled, or anxious horses is widely documented anecdotally from owners and trainers around the world since hoods were brought onto the market a few years ago.

The Compression Hood works on the facial pressure points and has no scientific proven effect on heart rate, is not known to mask pain or to change the metabolic state of the horse, thereby not risking the welfare of the animal.

The Compression Hood is a thin lightweight and breathable material and has not been known or documented to cause any rubbing or discomfort to the horse in normal use. Furthermore, a Compression Hood is able to be removed within seconds without the need to remove the headstall or other tack on the head of the horse, should the examining veterinarian have concerns about something concealed by the use of the hood in the vet ring.

The incident where a horse would be perceived to have an unfair advantage over another in a Fittest Horse judging would be very negligible given that the Heart Rate used for the Fittest Horse score is the heart rate taken at the finish of an endurance event, where most horses (if they are still wearing them) would be unlikely to still be unfamiliar or anxious in their surroundings. To further counter, a relaxed experienced horse with a genetically faster recovery or lower resting heart rate would have a huge advantage over a young excitable horse in unfamiliar surroundings.

Arguably a removable, external method of relaxing a horse should be encouraged before calming pastes and vitamin supplements which, to varying degrees alter the chemical balance within the horses body even if they are within the acceptable levels or substances allowed in competition.

The Compression Hood can be likened to Barrier blankets in horse racing which provide, in laymen's terms, a security blanket that helps lessen external stimulus and have a calming affect without interfering with the performance of the horse.

Anything that may improve both horse and human safety as well as help provide a calm and relaxed experience should be considered. Be the horses young and inexperienced attending their first events or very fit highly strung athletes at the top of their game and we urge due consideration for the allowance of Compression Hoods in the vet ring at AERA Events.

We present the following motion for rule amendments for consideration and voting. Amendments are underlined and in red font.

Motion: 2020/09/xx Moved: Noni Seagrim, seconded Kerry Fowler-Smith

That: Rules 57.2, 63.9.1 and 63.9.2 be amended as follows:

57.2 Spurs, crops, whips and standing martingales are not permitted. Compression hoods and blinkers are permitted but any method of restricting the forward vision of a horse is not permitted.

63.9 At each veterinary inspection:

63.9.1 each horse shall be presented unsaddled, without any tack, bandages or leg protection, excluding the use of compression hoods and headstalls/lead ropes

63.9.2 horse rugs **and compression hoods** are to be removed when requested by the inspecting veterinarian.

Discussion

The earlier voting on the changes to rule 63.9 negated the parts of this motion relating to rule 63.9. The rule change relating to rule 57.2 could still be discussed, with consideration to providing further definition that hoods should not cover ears or eyes.

Motion: 2020/09/09 Moved: Dick Collyer, Mark Dunn

That Rule 57.2 be amended to read:

Spurs, crops, whips, standing martingales and ear plugs are not permitted. Compression hoods and blinkers are permitted but any method of restricting the forward vision of the horse is not permitted.

Voting: MD – yes; KM – yes; SD – yes; KFS – yes; NS – yes; JL – yes; DC – yes; LT – yes.

Carried unanimously

Motion passed on the first vote.

15.1.4. Rule 57.1 (Horse Tack) and Rule 42 (Code of Conduct ensuring the welfare of horses) – Mark Dunn, NVP Liaison on behalf of NVP

Rationale: these Rule changes are proposed in the context of photos circulating in the endurance community apparently showing a horse haemorrhaging from the mouth at the Rock ride in NSW in July. Concerns have been expressed by a number of individuals that the horse appeared in distress during the ride. NVP believes the proposed changes strengthen the intent of the Rules by explicitly including the changes.

Changes suggested in red or struck through and highlighted in grey.

57. HORSE TACK

57.1 It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure that their riding tack is 'fit for the purpose', safe and that all tack and material placed on a horse fits appropriately and does not **cause harm or injury to irritate the skin** of the horse.

42 Code of Conduct Ensuring the Welfare of the Horse

Insert as a new

Rule 42.2 Veterinary inspection if blood is visible on a horse:

If blood is visible on a horse during the ride (including on-course, at ride base, or during veterinary inspection) the horse must be examined by a ride veterinarian. If the veterinarian determines that

- (i) the horse has free flowing blood from an injury or orifice, and/or
- (ii) continuing in the ride will in any way endanger (or risk endangering) the welfare of the horse, the horse should be eliminated.

If the visible blood is directly caused by tack, the tack must be modified safely, for horse and rider, to the satisfaction of the head veterinarian before the horse can be allowed to continue in the ride.

Renumber 42.2 as 42.3 and adds clause d)

It shall be a *serious infringement* of the Code of Conduct Ensuring the Welfare of the Horse, if at an event, any rider, trainer or support personnel, irrespective whether the horse is under veterinary control or not:

- a) avoids or delays (or attempts to avoid or delay) presenting a horse for veterinary assistance, if they should have reasonably suspected that the welfare of the horse was compromised or potentially **compromised**.
- b) seeks (or attempts to seek) the early release of a horses' logbook or vet card in order to avoid or delay (or attempt to avoid or delay) presenting a horse for veterinary assistance, if they should have reasonably suspected that the welfare of the horse was compromised or potentially **compromised**.

- c) refuses invasive treatment for a horse after the head and treatment veterinarians at a ride indicate that the immediate welfare of a horse is compromised and requires invasive treatment.
- d) fails to inform a ride official or a veterinarian of the presence of **free blood from any injury or orifice** (regardless of whether it is still visible).

Discussion

Amendment

Motion:2020/09/10 Moved: Mark Dunn / Kim Moir

Rule 42.2 Veterinary inspection if blood is visible on a horse:

If blood is visible on a horse during the ride (including on-course, at ride base, or during veterinary inspection) **whilst under veterinary control**, the horse must be examined by a ride veterinarian. If the veterinarian determines that

- (i) the horse has free flowing blood from an injury or orifice, and/or
- (ii) continuing in the ride will in any way endanger (or risk endangering) the welfare of the horse, the horse should be eliminated.

If the visible blood is directly caused by tack, the tack must be modified safely, for horse and rider, to the satisfaction of the head veterinarian before the horse can be allowed to continue in the ride.

Voting: MD – yes; KM – yes; SD – yes; KFS – no; NS – yes; JL – yes; DC – yes; LT – yes. Amendment carried unanimously

Concern raised that this could mean that a minor injury on course would require veterinary assessment. Clarification that this would require the rider to advise the vet when presenting for vet inspection and the rule refers to free flowing blood.

Concern also raised that the failure to inform in 42.3 d) is regarded as a serious infringement when a rider may not see a minor injury. Clarification that there is opportunity for a rider to explain circumstances through an investigative procedure.

Motion: 2020/09/11 Moved: Mark Dunn / Dick Collyer

That rule 57.1 be amended to read

57.1 It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure that their riding tack is 'fit for the purpose', safe and that all tack and material placed on a horse fits appropriately and does not **cause harm or injury to ~~irritate the skin of~~ the horse.**

And

That a new rule 42.2 be added and that rule 42.2 is renumbered as 42.3 with the additional clause d)

Rule 42.2 Veterinary inspection if blood is visible on a horse:

If blood is visible on a horse during the ride whilst under veterinary control, the horse must be examined by a ride veterinarian. If the veterinarian determines that

- (i) the horse has free flowing blood from an injury or orifice, and/or**
- (ii) continuing in the ride will in any way endanger (or risk endangering) the welfare of the horse, the horse should be eliminated.**

If the visible blood is directly caused by tack, the tack must be modified safely, for horse and rider, to the satisfaction of the head veterinarian before the horse can be allowed to continue in the ride.

Rule 42.3

It shall be a serious infringement of the Code of Conduct Ensuring the Welfare of the Horse, if at an event, any rider, trainer or support personnel, irrespective whether the horse is under veterinary control or not:

- a) avoids or delays (or attempts to avoid or delay) presenting a horse for veterinary assistance, if they should have reasonably suspected that the welfare of the horse was compromised or potentially compromised.*
- b) seeks (or attempts to seek) the early release of a horses' logbook or vet card in order to avoid or delay (or attempt to avoid or delay) presenting a horse for veterinary assistance, if they should have reasonably suspected that the welfare of the horse was compromised or potentially compromised.*
- c) refuses invasive treatment for a horse after the head and treatment veterinarians at a ride indicate that the immediate welfare of a horse is compromised and requires invasive treatment. d) fails to inform a ride official or a veterinarian of the presence of free blood from any injury or orifice (regardless of whether it is still visible).*

**Voting: MD – yes; KM – yes; SD – yes; KFS – no; NS – no; JL – yes; DC – yes; LT – yes.
Carried by majority: For – 6; Against – 2
Passed for first vote**

Correspondence to NSWERA re photo that was posted on Facebook from the ride at the Rock

Noni reported that the NSWERA Management Committee has investigated this matter. They have discussed with the attending vets who examined the horse and with the trainer. The horse passed vet inspection and the trainer has been written to and asked that they take measures to ensure this does not happen again.

Kerry assured the table that a letter from NSWERA is forthcoming and will be sent as soon as she can.

16. General Business

Nil

17. Meeting closed

This meeting was adjourned at 4.30 with all unfinished business to be carried forward.

18. Meeting dates

Reconvene this meeting on Tuesday 29 September at 7.30 pm