



Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc.

Minutes of the AERA Management Committee Meeting (adjourned)

Date: Commencing at 7.30 am on Tuesday 29 September 2020

Venue: Web Conference

1. Welcome by Chair

Meeting adjourned from 20 September 2020 to conclude business from that agenda and to consider items from Subsidiary Agenda if time permits.

Mark Dunn, Vice President, chaired the meeting

2. Attendance

2.1. Committee Members Present

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

Linda Tanian, President

2.3. Proxy Votes

Nil received

2.4. Visitors

Pat Hodgetts (TEERA), Alamdar Dastani (NSWERA)

3. Register of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

Nil declared

4. Portfolio Reports –

4.1. AERA Registrar – Jo Bailey - discussed at meeting on 20 September

4.2. Website / Webmaster – Noni Seagrim - discussed at meeting on 20 September

4.3. Facebook – Noni Seagrim – discussed at meeting on 20 September

4.4. AeraSpace

Nil report received

4.5. Chief Stewards and TPRs – Mark Dunn

A few issues have been progressed / considered since the last AERA meeting.

1. The Chief Steward Accreditation Stage two exam was recently reviewed by me after consultation with DAs. An updated version of the exam has now been provided to DA CS liaisons for comment. An initial quick review of it was conducted by Dick. New questions were inserted that relate to electronic timing, equine catastrophes and a CS's role in the leadup to a ride. Less 'important' questions were removed.

Also reviewed was the accreditation process – my view is that it remains appropriate – two exams, the first of which is very basic, followed by an approx. 1.5 hour oral exam. CS

candidates must also act as assistant CSs at three rides under the supervision of an accredited CS and be suitably assessed as ready to progress.

2. The new CS chat group on FB has been active although less so after an initial flurry following its setup in June. It has been useful – a number of issues have been discussed including the ‘bloody mouth’ incident at the NSW Rock ride in July.
3. No new CSs have been accredited however I believe there are a couple in Qld going through the process.
4. I’ve responded to a query from SA that a person must be 18 to become a CS (on the basis that 18 is the minimum age for TPR accreditation).
5. Still no further requests from any DAs for TPR badges.

Discussion

Noted that there a couple of CS accreditations in progress for QERA and another application from a Tasmanian member. Dick and Mark to follow up on these so they can be concluded.

4.6. National Veterinary Panel – discussed at meeting on 20 September

4.7. Horse welfare and Invasive Treatments

4.7.1. General Report – Mark Dunn, Linda Tanian and Dr Jo Hamilton-Branigan

The HWSC has progressed a few issues since the AERA MC last met.

1. Distance to referral points – a request has been sent to DAs for data relating to rides that are some distance from potential referral points. Responses have been received from Vic, SA and Tas.
2. Invasive treatments. We’re still looking at how best to present IT data in a meaningful and useful way. We’ve made some progress, but other issues (ride restarts etc) have prevented any significant progress.

For what it’s worth here’s some current stats.

IT Statistics for 2016 to 2020 for amount given ALL

	Tom Quilty	NSWERA	QERA	SAERA	TEERA	VERA	WAERA	Total
2016	3	5	2	2	4	2	0	18
2017	6	2	7	2	0	5	2	24
2018	2	2	19	0	3	0	0	26
2019	20	21	20	0	1	2	4	68
2020	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	5
Total	31	30	52	4	9	9	6	141

3. A number of individuals got in touch, some confidentially, with HWSC Chair Mark Dunn about the ‘bloody mouth’ incident at the Rock ride in NSW in July. This followed the publication of this (sorry, poor quality) photo (and others?), which appears to show a horse bleeding from the mouth, on social media.

The incident was discussed in other forums including the AERA CS Facebook group and the AERA NVP.

Concerns were expressed about whether the apparent injury had been picked up by ride officials at the ride and / or by NSWERA officials subsequent to the ride.

Concerns were also expressed about the kind of bit being used, the manner in which the horse may have been ridden to cause the apparent bleeding, whether any AERA Rules may have been breached and about the negative image this photo may present to the wider equine community – ‘not a good look’.

HWSC Chair Mark Dunn wrote to NSWERA SMC on 25 July, alerting them to some of these concerns and:

"I bring it to your attention so that NSWERA can take whatever action it deems appropriate. I would be grateful, if you could let me know in due course, what action you take."

A reply was received from NSWERA on 27 August noting that it:

"has discussed this matter, more than once, and will be sending a response asap."

The HWSC will review the matter when the response to its Chairperson's email is received from NSWERA SMC.

Discussion

Noted that point 3 had been discussed at the meeting on 20 September. Any further action will be considered by the Sub-committee when correspondence is received from NSWERA.

Mark advised that as Chair of the Sub-committee, he is still grappling to find the most appropriate way to report in Invasive Treatments as they happen around the country. The report includes data as drawn from AERASpace but there is doubt about the value of this data.

Noted that this data provides opportunity to respond to concerns from other bodies about how we manage Horse Welfare, and that the accurate reporting on this is important. This is an ongoing task for AERASpace Sub-committee.

There has been ongoing encouragement to DAs to upload reports and this seems to be getting better.

Action

Mark to consider how we can be confident that data being presented from AERASpace is congruent with actual events of Invasive Treatments.

4.7.2. Report on Horse Catastrophe

Nil to report

4.8. Medication Control

Nil to report

4.9. Biosecurity

No report received

Reference to Correspondence Inwards from TEERA on 17 August

TEERA raised concern that the wording on forms is confusing as it asks for 3 days temperature logs but provides the option for a further temperature to be recorded on ride day.

Amended forms were presented for consideration.

Action

Mark and Kim to review these to bring back to November meeting.

4.10. Governance and Policy

4.10.1. See Attachments:

- *14.11.1 AERA By-law for adoption of new rules*

Nil discussion – noted that this records the process as it occurs now.

***Motion: 2020/09/ Moved: Dick Collyer / Sarah Dumbrell
That the AERA By-law for adoption of new rules is adopted.
Voting: Carried unanimously***

- **14.11.2 AERA Rulebook SC Terms of Reference**

Discussion

This had been discussed at the last meeting and it was agreed to remove the last dot point in “functions” - **act as a decision-making body in the event of a Rule related dispute**. It was agreed that the Sub-committee was not a decision-maker and was accountable to the whole group.

It had also been agreed to invite Marylou Locke to join this sub-committee and it was noted that she had accepted this invitation.

**Motion: 2020/09/ Moved: Dick Collyer / Sarah Dumbrell
That the AERA Rulebook Sub-committee Terms of Reference, with the noted amendment are adopted.**

Voting: For – 6; Abstain – 1; Absent – 1

Kerry Fowler-Smith apologised that she had not been able to read this and hence abstained from voting.

- **14.11.2.AERA Finance SC Terms of Reference**

Noted that this was a late item and will be held over to discuss at the Finance meeting on 19 October 2020.

4.10.2. Policy, Strategic Planning, Restructure

Nil report

4.11. Tom Quilty Gold Cup

4.11.1. TQ19

TQ19 Financial Reports received and had been provided to MC Members and Delegates

There were no comments or queries

Dick noted that these reports had been received by QERA, as the DA with responsibility for financial underwriting of the Tom Quilty Gold Cup 2019, and the reports had been found to be satisfactory.

Reports received.

4.11.2. TQ21

TQ21 Report and revised budget, as of 29 July, were received and had been provided to MC Members and Delegates.

Discussion

Queries re TQ Yearbook content with regard to contributions from DAs and whether or not to include information on National Points and Distances from 2019 and 2020 – resolution that TQ21 should invite contributions from each DA who will determine what their contributions will be; that there is no requirement from AERA that National Points and Distances data will be included but this may be used if there is a need to fill space.

Appointment of TQ21 Chief Steward. It was determined that Sarah Dumbrell did not have a conflict of interest in this matter.

**Motion: 2020/09/ Moved: Dick Collyer / Noni Seagrim
That AERA appoints Tom McCormack as the Chief Steward for TQ21.**

Voting: Carried unanimously

Appointment of 2IC Vet – Noni Seagrim confirmed that Matt Walker, as Head Vet for TQ22 was not available to attend TQ21 in Western Australia. Discussion that the Head Vet for TQ23, if

known, could be appointed. Agreed that this item would be carried forward to the November meeting.

Biosecurity Plan – it was noted that the final plan should be available at the March 2021 meeting, but an update with amendments following earlier discussions had not been received. Sarah reported that TQ21 was awaiting confirmation from AERA that the Biosecurity plan was accepted before it was presented to Westcoast Vets as the referral hospital. Noted that Biosecurity Plan should be in-line with the current AERA Biosecurity document on the website, which does not include adjoining areas. Discussion also about an “out of Hendra area” requirement which had been agreed as 14 days. AERA requires a firm proposal from TQ21 / WAERA.

Operations of ETS – members agreed that there was concern about paying for the costs of people to travel interstate just to run the ETS. There was also support that WAERA could source someone locally who could be supported to learn this, though acknowledging that with no local Electronic Timing System it would be difficult to provide an opportunity for practical learning. Tony Perry, TEERA, has expressed interest in attending TQ21 and Mark will explore further what this means regarding cost.

AERA financial support for attendance of Sandy Little and Bronwyn Cuthbertson to assist with data entry – again there was general agreement that AERA was not willing to meet travel costs for two people to travel interstate to support data entry. Noted that the TQ Event Standard does say this will happen but acknowledged that this was written at a time when the database was less familiar. WAERA to be asked to consider again who may be available locally.

Note that the revised budget reflects income from 100 entries with a completion rate of 65%. This requires 65 buckles to be ordered in March.

Question whether 6 line-vets are required – TQ21 committee expressed concern that a vet team of 10 was too many for potentially only 100 entries. The event standard requires this and adheres to the principle that each DA will be represented on the vet team. It was also acknowledged that attending a Quilty is a different environment and provided a positive learning experience for all vets attending. Consensus that there will be 6 line-vets, with 5 coming from other states as per the standard.

Noted that TQ21 Agreement has not yet been signed and that it is required to have advise on how any surplus will be used.

Action

Letter to TQ21 to summarise these discussions in response to their queries.

4.11.3. TQ22

Nil report received.

Request that some form of report is available for future meetings.

Kerry asked that a copy of the TQ Agreement be sent again so they can determine what information needs to be provided to have the agreement signed. It was noted that there are reviews of the TQ Manual and supporting documents that may include an Interim Agreement.

Action

Copy of TQ Agreement to be sent to NSWERA and TQ21.

Noni to follow up with TQ22 re reporting to AERA

Move to subsidiary agenda with late items

5. President's Report – Linda Tanian

The pandemic continues to impact on our sport with shutdowns now in both NSW and Victoria. It's been great to see the rides happening in other states with great numbers in attendance and lots of happy riders/strappers/volunteers enjoying the social side of rides. Photos abound on social media and everyone is really loving the return to endurance. Victoria has just had a roadmap out of restrictions published but the detail is not yet available on community sports.

Restrictions on travelling interstate, as a result of closed state borders, have impacted on some parts of the membership's base and restricted their ability to attend events. These restrictions are likely to stay in place for some time and members will need to be content to be competing in their own state only for a little while longer.

We have lost the services of Peter Bice who now has some health challenges to face. I'd like to recognise the service that Peter has given, not just to AERA but also to NSWERA and to the Shahzada event. We wish Peter all the best for a healthy future.

And we have also lost the services of Elsje who is also facing her own health battles. Our thanks go to Elsje for eliciting some robust conversations and for her contribution to endurance as well.

I'd also like to acknowledge the hard work that everyone has been doing in the midst of the pandemic, organising rides and participating in their DA activities. It's not an easy mix to juggle, particularly when you include employment, life in general, trying to train horses and all the other myriad aspects that get in the way of our allocated tasks. Sometimes it's not easy to keep up with the raft of matters that come before the AERA table. Thank you all for your contribution to our sport.

President's report received.

Action

Letter to be written to Peter Bice given his long-term involvement as an AERA Delegate and as an AERA President.

6. VERA Report – Linda Tanian

Endurance life in Victoria has been so very different this year. We continue to watch on in envy as other states get their rides happening. We commiserate with NSW members who have a hiatus forced on them at the moment. We know only too well what it is like to not be able to ride.

Dan the Man has come out with his roadmap for getting out of restrictions and Melbourne will face another 2 weeks of lockdown with slightly eased restrictions. This impacts a few of our members who haven't been able to get out and ride. For our regionally based members they will be able to continue riding but the maximum number of people will be increased to 5 (provided they are from only 2 households). Some tough levels of infection must be met before we get to the next stage (Step 3):

- Daily average number of cases in the last 14 days in regional Victoria is less than 5
- There are less than 0 cases in regional Victoria with an unknown course in the last 14 days

We don't have the full details as yet on when community sport can restart.

While all this is going on, we are still keeping busy on the VERA SMC. We've just launched a new item on our list of VERA Merchandise, and it's been a real hit. We have a buff with the VERA logo that can be used as a face covering when out in public so a really great bit of publicity. Attached is a pic of our Merchandise Officer, Mez, modelling the buff. We've had interest from one of the other states about the item, which is fantastic.

We've just started up another ISO ride so that people can have a goal to aim for while they are training their horses waiting for when we can get to run an event again.

VERA had received a number of requests for refunds or rollover of memberships as a result of the lack of rides. This was discussed at our last committee meeting and it was determined that VERA would rollover memberships from 2020 to 2021 if the member wished to apply for this. While it will mean a loss of revenue for us it does give our members incentive to re-join next year. We have had quite a few members who have indicated that they will continue to support VERA by paying their membership next year (all of the VERA SMC will be doing this) so the loss will probably not be that drastic. VERA has good reserves, and we will cover the fixed costs associated with the membership rollover from the 2020 membership and still have a little in reserve.

We also have some plans for additional activities to keep our membership engaged. This will be put up on our FB page and will be around a competition, with a discount voucher for ride entry, as the prize as well as running some Q & A sessions with our members.

Discussion

Members noted the challenges still being faced by VERA members due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Report received

7. Equestrian Australia – Endurance Committee – Jodie Luck

Linda and I were welcomed warmly into the meeting.

Like AERA, the EAEC has found itself struggling with the uncertainty that 2020 has presented. Applications for FEI rides have not been particularly forthcoming, but there have been some verbal promises of rides on the calendar for 2021 which the committee is hoping to come to fruition. Applications submitted in 2020 will have no fees attached as an encouragement.

Lots of work went into the Endurance camp by the subcommittee and it was planned to go ahead in a similar format to last year being held during the Bullio Ride. However, with things unable to proceed, again because of Covid limitations, the camp will now be held in 2021.

Australia is hosting the Trans-Tasman in 2021 at Stirling's Crossing and the New Zealand team will be approached regarding a possible date of the June Long weekend (12-14th)
The EA Special General Meeting is being held tonight (15/9/2020) regarding the Voluntary Administration Process.

FEI rules- pending General Assembly in November 2020. A brief discussion was had regarding the banning of removal of sensory hairs and when the best time to make this assessment would be for endurance horses at an event.

Linda and I were keen to hear about what the EAEC's plans were for a pathway to international competition for our riders firstly and also if they had plans as to how to generate more interest in running FEI rides in Australia to enable our horses and riders to gain qualifications now that the rules have made things more difficult for this to be achieved.

The EAEC is continually working on these exact two questions and they were on the agenda for the meeting. However, 2020 and all things COVID related has held back any forward progress in either of these areas and this discussion is at the top of the list and open ended at this stage.

Linda thanked the EAEC for their invitation to AERA to attend and for our warm welcome. She also reciprocated the gesture with an invitation to the EAEC members to attend our up and coming AERA meeting this Sunday

Next meeting to be held in mid-November.

Report received.

Discussion

Kim noted that the Trans-Tasman event, if able to occur, will probably be in early May in line with rides already on the calendar to be hosted by Stirling's Crossing Endurance Club, including the QERA State Championships scheduled for early July.

8. Late Correspondence

Date	Correspondence Inwards	Action
04/09/20	QERA – copy of letter sent to M Combes re NRZ and boundaries of QERA/NSWERA	Agenda item 20/09
04/09/20	Karen Lee, NRZ Rep to QERA – comment re boundaries	Agenda item 20/09
09/09/20	Dan Sims via Mark Dunn – Confidentiality Agreement	Noted
10/09/20	NSWERA – response to meeting invite	Noted
13/09/20	T Warren, NSWERA President re exclusion from meeting procedure	Agenda
16/09/20	Equestrian Australia update for members, creditors and stakeholder	Noted
	L McCormack re storage of TQ 50 th Anniversary Books and trophies	Agenda
	M Davies – update on ManeHub developments	Agenda
17/09/20	M Andersson query re horse identity	Responded

Date	Correspondence Outwards	Author
10/09/20	NSWERA re meeting to discuss correspondence exchange ref local rule	KM
18/09/20	M Andersson response to query re horse identity	KM
	K Maher, J Green, Emma Cole / Jolene Cole, D Grull re TQ Trophies	KM

8.1. Business Arising from Correspondence Inwards

8.1.1. Tony Warren, NSWERA President – complaint re exclusion of members

Tony Warren expressed concern that NSWERA members had been excluded from the discussions about arranging a meeting to discuss the question of the NSWERA local rule about wearing of hoods.

Action

Letter to Tony advising how this occurred and acknowledging that this exclusion was done in error.

8.1.2. Lou McCormack – re TQ 50th Anniversary Books and old trophies

Lou still holds 11 of the TQ 50th Anniversary Book and also old BC trophies; she needs to move these.

Discussion

Noted that there are AERA historical items stored with Neil Clarkson and Steve Swan that also need to be decided on, as far as future storage is concerned. No know storage space immediately available.

Suggestion that the books could be used as AERA Awards, either lifetime or decade teams awards, but concern that this is not consistent with what has been given previously and that some recipients may already have a copy of this book. Kerry expressed concern about postage of clocks traditionally given for 5000 km awards but agreement that the traditional award should be given.

Action

Members to consider options and discuss by email.

Kim to respond to Lou that this is subject to ongoing discussion.

8.1.3. Mindy Davies – update on development of ManeHub

This correspondence provided an update on the development of ManeHub as a potential nomination system to interact with AERASpace. Mindy was also offering to do a product demonstration.

Decision to postpone discussion to allow input from AERASpace Sub-committee as well as full committee.

Action

Mark to discuss with Linda Tanian so preparation can be done before next meeting.

Kim to write to Mindy to advise on this outcome.

9. Next Meeting Dates

Next meeting scheduled for 14 November 2020 at 10.00 AEDT.

10. Meeting Closed

Meeting closed at 9.02 AEST