



# Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc.

## Minutes from the Subsidiary Agenda for 22 January 2023

These items were received after the cut off time for inclusion in the main agenda for the AERA Management Committee Meeting.

### 1. Meeting opening

This meeting opened at 3.05 pm following the AERA Management Committee Meeting for the main agenda.

### 2. Attendance

#### 2.1. Management Committee Members Present

Mark Dunn (President & Treasurer) (TEERA), Kim Moir (Secretary) (QERA), Noni Seagrim (NSWERA), Belinda Hopley (NSWERA), Dick Collyer (Vice President, (QERA), Jil Bourton (SAERA), Sioux Reid (VERA), Natasha Ellery (WAERA).

#### 2.2. Apologies

Andrew Miles

#### 2.3. Proxy Votes

None received

#### 2.4. Visitors

AERA Delegates - Kerry Fowler-Smith, Mark Norton (NSWERA); Terry Sweeney (WAERA).

Honorary Members – Pat Hodgetts.

Gertraud Norton joined the meeting from 3.10 pm to contribute to the discussion of Ride to Time events.

### 3. Correspondence – Late

Inwards			
LI-1	14/01/23	EA re swabbing outcomes	Ongoing
LI-2	15/01/23	A Martin, VERA re membership forms	Resolved
LI-3	17/01/23	ARFL response re timeframes	Resolved
LI-4	17/01/23	SAERA request for TQ Manual	To do
LI-5	19/01/23	SUREWiSE response re Ride and Tie activity – new Comm pack	Noted
LI-6	20/01/23	Member response re swabbing	Ongoing
LI-7	20/01/23	SUREWiSE re Ride and Tie	Agenda
LI-8	20/10/23	NSWERA re Ride to Time	Agenda
Outwards			Author
LO1	17/01/23	ARFL re timeframe	KM
LO2	19/01/23	2 x letters to members re swabbing	KM/DC/BH
LO3	20/01/23	TQ22 Committee re finances	KM
LO4			

Note correspondence item LI-8 had not been listed in the agenda.

**Motion: 2023/01/Sub1 Moved: Dick Collyer / Jil Bourton**  
**That the Late Correspondence Inwards, as amended, is received and the Late Correspondence Outwards is endorsed.**  
**Carried unanimously**

### **3.1. Business arising from Late Correspondence**

#### **3.1.1. LI-1 EA re swabbing outcomes**

Discussed in main agenda

#### **3.1.2. LI-7 SUREWiSE re Ride and Tie**

Discussed in main agenda

#### **3.1.3. LI-8 NSWERA re option to offer “Ride to Time” events**

##### **Noni Seagrim spoke to the correspondence**

NSW ERA Management Committee have presented this to support the interest in running an event that does not contradict anything in the AERA Rulebook. The aim is to implement these as a trial in 2023 and would be run under “local rules”. The further aim would be to add these to the Complimentary Rulebook to implement from 1 January in 2024.

Belinda Hopley also spoke to this correspondence. Belinda had considered this with reference to current rules and procedures. Aware that the optimum time will be varied to suit the variables on the day, such as weather.

##### Discussion

KM – comment that this would require changes to the database.

NS – not asking for database changes at this stage and aware of the level of work that would be required. In the trial phase, it would be recorded as a separate 40 km event, but all calculations would be done separately and manually.

DC – concern that there is conflict with the rules for intermediate and introductory rides that clearly state that they are “non-competitive”. The competitive aspect is riding to an optimum time, with riders all seeking to achieve that optimum time. If the horse is compromised riding to that optimum time, they can claim that they were riding to the time that was set by the ROs. Suggest that optimum times are for short, timed events such as show jumping and eventing. Optimum time can be based on a formula, with consideration to a number of jumps, distance between jumps, etc. Dick’s stated his view that setting an optimum time for a longer time event for a number of horses of varying fitness levels, with all the presenting variables of terrain and weather, was not possible. Dick believed this was not in keeping with the belief in endurance that you ride your horse to the conditions with a minimum time set. Dick did not support the proposal as it stands.

Gertraud Norton – entered the meeting to discuss this.

Gertraud advised that the idea emanated from a workshop held in NSW which was aimed at drawing ideas from about how to revive the sport. The aim of this strategy was to keep shorter-distance riders in the sport by giving them something to help them feel part of the sport. This was put forward as a concept that happens in New Zealand and has been implemented successfully there. There has been a sense that there was a want for some element of competition for shorter distance rides.

NE – recognise the drive from NSW members to think outside the box to encourage people into the sport but have similar concerns regarding optimum time, also noting that optimum times as used in short events are based on distance and speed across a specific distance and shorter than an introductory or intermediate ride. Allocation of point scores may change our ethos about non-competitive rides, contradicting our rules.

NS – comment at the meeting from a vet that had attended the events in NZ and he did not perceive any horse welfare issues. Note that horses still have to pass the same vet assessment and points will be given for vet scores – penalties will apply for B and C scores. We would need to separate this from the rulebook and it would be a complimentary type of event, not an introductory or intermediate ride but hoping this would count

towards one of the two 40 km rides to be completed by a rider to move on to and endurance event. Noni suggested this could also be another way to cater to riders who may be less able to move on to longer rides.

KM – suggest that they need to do two 40 km rides before they progress to a more complex 40 km ride and maybe even should be an endurance rider to deal with the complexity of this.

DC – don't doubt the intentions of trying to stimulate interest in the sport but current data shows that intro and intermediate rides are getting more popularity and we already have an end-of-season competition for those events. Notion of an optimum time – how is this calculated and what is it based on. Also comment from one vet does not provide a strong enough sample.

BH – optimum time is generally the medium time between minimum time and maximum time. Not thinking this is different to setting a minimum time with horses coming in bang on time with poor vet parameters but still passing; still expected to ride to conditions to get best score; timing system can accommodate staggered starts; entry to ride to time event, anticipate that the rider may be doing more work at home to be able to present the horse to vetting as quickly as possible with best heart rate. This would not count towards the point score.

GN – find terminology of optimum time confusing and suggest a “target time” would better explain the aim.

JB – suggest that optimum or target time would not be published so would not influence the way a ride is managed. Again reference to the other variables. Riding to a target time suggests a level of skill for the rider.

NS – clarify that the comment re the database is about not calculating the scores but ride would be recorded as a usual 40 km ride. This is being offered as a trial and think that objections so far have not identified any rules that are being compromised only principles.

GN – looking at the NZ database and the ride results suggest that many riders ride as they always have. This concept gives a bit of competition that is not speed related but is based on management. Vet also reported that a larger proportion of shorter distance riders were willing to ride a longer distance as they felt more confident in how to manage their horse. The current system does not allow them to see how they are progressing in management of their horse.

DC – can't see why our current system is not preparing people to do an 80 km ride in any different way to a ride that is competitive. Current table 5 shows that intro and intermediate rides are non-competitive. Some of the comments made are optimistic and rules are made for the worst-case scenarios. Concern that riders will not be skilled to do this.

NE – can't see that this will encourage people to move up to the next level. We have that progression already.

MD – thanks to all for their comments and generally there is a sense that this has some issues that we may need to work through. Noni's letter is asking us to offer an opinion as to whether the local rules proposed for this event conflict with the AERA Rulebook. The issue of “competitive” was raised but we have an element of this with “best managed”. Recommend that NSWERA MC Members take on board everything that they have heard and consider whether they want to run this ride. Believe this can go ahead as a trial.

NS – intended as an award similar to the “best managed” ; trying to provide an opportunity for a different ride style; NSWERA have consulted rigorously with CSs and others; doing the right thing by providing advice to AERA and aim to circumvent any negativity. It is a complimentary award and we would run it as a trial.

DC – current rules do not include a “best ridden” calculation, and there is no such things as an optimum ride time, nor a process for calculating time penalty points. Best managed is based on current rules and parameters and conceded that not to advise the optimum time could make this more acceptable.

NS – this suggested change would have to be taken back to the committee but may consider it just to let us try it.

MN – award is given to the intermediate rider for management of horse according to various parameters. This is a competition.

DC – the current award is quite different. It is a cumulative award under the current rules and does not include time or speed.

MN – this is less than minimum time and is about giving a structure to measure progress.

MD – intermediate criteria suggest a fine line.

NS – how would it be as an award not a separate competition – an award for an optimum/ target time and other parameters

MD – sense that MC is not clear on this

KM - suggest we still need to consider this further as it was only received on Friday, and we may not have had a clear understanding of the rules that might need to be considered. We do need to consider it robustly and value the time that has been put into this by NSWERA members.

MD – thank you to NSWERA for presenting this and noted that the discussion has been useful.

#### Action

To distribute for further discussion.

***Belinda Hopley left the meeting at 3.54 pm***

***Gertraud Norton left the meeting at 3.55 pm***

### **3.2. Reports – late or addendum**

#### **3.2.1.Database Sub-committee Report**

Discussed in main agenda

#### **3.2.2.NSWERA Report – Noni Seagrim**

NSWERA has been working towards our AGM scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> of Feb which will be our first one to be live cast to the membership thanks to the wonders of modern technology and also our first AGM with all electronic voting.

Just prior to our last AERA meeting a workshop was held to discuss the promotion of the sport, this yielded a subcommittee being formed to identify and pursue ways forward.

We have drafted and submitted for AERAs consideration some proposed rules for a Complimentary competition "Ride to Time" that we hope to trial in 2023 in NSW. We hope that this will encourage members and provide an added incentive for participation.

The first half of our calendar year is filling up well and we hope that all our ride committees get some reprieve from the bushfires, floods and pandemics that have plagued them in the last couple of years, no pun intended!

#### ***Report received***

### **4. General Business**

#### **4.1. Sponsorship updates**

##### **4.1.1. Mindari App**

No response yet to letter.

#### 4.1.2. Invitations to attend World Championships

WhatsApp message to invite Kim Moir and Mark Dunn and 2 others to attend the President's Cup and the World Endurance Championships. Flights and accommodation paid for by Al Wathba in collaboration with Mr Saheed whom some of us met at TQ22. The emphasis is on wanting to build international relationships. They consider the President's Cup is their equivalent to the Tom Quilty. Also included is a driver and attendance at various events/functions - probably 17 - 27 January but can adjust to suit individual needs.

Concern expressed about potential perceptions of the membership about accepting this offer, but this is an FEI hosted event and what riders aspire to participate in and we seek to encourage members to attend. There will be Australian riders participating. If AERA MC members are unable to attend suggestion that the invitation could be offered to a member of the EAEC. Discussion also about whether not accepting the invitation would have impact on potential sponsorship options.

Natasha Ellery and Noni Seagrim expressed interest in going if work and family commitments can allow.

**Motion: 2023/01/Sub2 Moved: Dick Collyer / Jil Bourton**  
**That AERA accept this invitation with Natasha Ellery and Noni Seagrim proposed to attend as AERA representatives.**  
**Carried**

#### Action

Secretary to provide contact details to Tarsh

#### 4.1.3 TQ Sponsorship Al Maghaweer Stables

Their offer is still on the table but no written confirmation. Wanted to know how it would be used to support the sport with a focus on horse and human welfare, support of this TQ and raising the profile of the sport.

#### 4.1.4 RM Williams

There has been no response to our application as yet.

## 5 General Business

### 5.1 Annual General Meeting

#### **Secretary Note – offered again as a reminder about what your DA will be asked to provide**

Date **is 22 March** – a mid-week evening as has been the custom for the last 2 years.

Comments below are to aid DAs about matters to consider, relevant to AERA, while they are holding AGMs.

- Nominations of AERA MC Members, who are required to be voting members of the DA, must be received at least 21 days prior to the date of the AGM. Term of each member is 2 years and may serve for no more than 3 consecutive terms, and then must stand down for at least 2 years.
- AERA MC Office Bearers are appointed by the MC and this will be done at the short MC Meeting held after the AGM.
- In considering the appointment of members to the AERA MC, DAs should consider whether the appointee has time to fully participate in meetings and discussions of AERA and to hold a portfolio.
- Appointment of Delegates who exercise the voting rights of the DA at General Meetings
  - The number of delegates appoints is one per 100 members or part thereof to a maximum of 5 votes. Based on the number of voting members each DA had the previous year (2021), the number of Delegates will be:
  - NSWERA – 4; QERA – 4; SAERA – 1; TEERA – 2; VERA – 2; WAERA – 2 (15 votes)
  - If you appoint less delegates than you have votes, or a delegate is not able to attend, you need to advise now many proxy votes a delegate can cast.

- There is no form for appointment of Delegates or for proxy voting by delegates – just let the Secretary know before the meeting.
- If your DA wants to nominate an Honorary Member to AERA this must be received 28 days before the AGM. This appointment is for life; Honorary Members have no voting rights.
- DAs are the AERA members, along with Honorary Members, and as such we must keep a register of members, specifying the name and address of each person and the official address of each DA. Please provide this when you forward your AGM Minutes, annual reports and financial reports within 30 days of your AGMs.

MC Members to remind their DAs and formal notice will be provided in due course. Note also that information from DAs supports the information that we are required to provide to the Insurer.

## 5.2 Any other reports

Pat Hodgetts advised that the Horse Welfare Sub-committee noted that there had been 182 IT Reports logged during 2022. Belinda has offered to provide some analysis of these reports when she has access. Pat suggested that this number is higher than ever before, and it may be that these reports are now being more diligently recorded.

Belinda had noted that she still did not have access to the database.

### Action

Secretary to follow up with Database Sub-committee to confirm access for Belinda as Chair of Horse Welfare Sub-committee.

## 6 Meeting Closure

Closing comments from the President thanked all for their contributions and noted the work that was achieved. Reminder that next meeting will be the AGM and hope to see current members return in some capacity.

Meeting closed at 16.18 pm

**President: Mark Dunn**

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 25/4/23 \_\_\_\_\_