

VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS INC. HELD AT QUEST WINDSOR ON SUNDAY 16TH MARCH 2008 WHICH COMMENCED AT 10.00AM

1. WELCOME

Linda Tanian welcomed Committee members and guests to the meeting and commented on the excellent work being done by the SMC members. Linda also advised due a very full agenda we would need to be mindful of the length of time spent on each item to ensure all matters were addressed.

2. PRESENT

SMC: Linda Tanian, Chris Gates, Jen Green, Sandy Horton, Julie Woods, Lissy Verity, Lorraine Cubbin, Jane McLaughlin, Luke Steele, Carl Adamson, Ellen Prestage, Sheryl Herbert, Adrian Cavil

Visitors: Tony Thorneycroft, Camille Thorneycroft, Rohan Stanes

3. APOLOGIES

Debi Chisholm, Alex Little

Apologies also received from Jen Moncur and Janine Smith

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion 0308001 *"That the minutes of the previous meeting on February 3rd 2008 be accepted"*

Moved Chris Gates

Second Adrian Cavil

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING

The action list from the previous minutes was addressed item by item and each SMC member reported back on completed tasks and those that required further.

6. RATIFICATION OF ON-LINE DECISIONS

6. 1 Chris Gates elected as proxy to attend AERA meetings

6. 2 Stockyard Hill ride

6. 3 Purchase of monitor by Wendy Bootle

Motion 0308002 *"That online decisions be ratified"*

Moved Jen Green

Second Jane McLaughlin

Carried. 1 Abstained

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Correspondence Inwards

- 7.1.1 Letter from L. Worden re wearing L. Hulstardt's Bib in memorium
The SMC agreed as one time only instance for Lisa to honour her friend who has passed away she be allowed to wear Leanne's bib at the next ride she attends. Letter advising same to be sent ASAP
- 7.1.2 Email from B. Timms re TQ honorary vet. (1x Attch IW 0208 001)
- 7.1.3 Email from S. Poon authorising NCER to take over ride date
(1 x Attch IW0308001)
- 7.1.4 Email from potential endurance rider Carolyn requesting information
- 7.1.5 Annual Logbook Return from Anne Jones/AERA
- 7.1.6 Emailed Letter from A. Jones outlining 2009 TQ concerns (Attch X 1 IW 0308003)
- 7.1.7 Emailed Letter from A. Jones re China Doll 13 month rule (Attch X 1 IW 0308002)
- 7.1.8 Emailed Letter from A. Jones re Logbooks (Attch X 1 IW 0308004)
- 7.1.9 WERA Newsletter

7.2 Late Correspondence Inwards

- 7.2.1 Letter from J. Moncur re lack of drinking water (Attch X 1 IW 0308 005)
Discussion on this item ensued. Whilst it is felt that suitable risk management needs to be addressed, there are already many items Ride Organisers are providing. The Risk Management Officers report, when finalised' will carry guidelines about this and other issues.
- 7.2.2 Heat Policy document from J. Moncur (Attch X 1)
- 7.2.3 Email from J. Moncur re cancelled cheques

7.3 Correspondence Outwards

- 7.3.1 Support letter to SEGEA for funding application (1 X Attch 0208001)
- 7.3.2 Letter to AERA re Rider Waiver for agenda at AERA meeting (1 X Attch 0208002)
- 7.3.3 Letter to Di Tobin re portable chemical toilets. (1 X Attch 0208003)
- 7.3.4 Letter to TGC Inc Re FEI Chief Steward requirements (Attch X 1 0308014)
- 7.3.5 Letter to Sue Parsons thanking for donation.(1 x Attch 0308002)
- 7.3.6 Report to AERA re VERA (1X Attch)
- 7.3.7 Letter to Umerg re venue change for FEI ride (1 X Attch 0308003)

- 7.3.8 Letter to NCER re Flynn's Creek approving change of ride (Attch x1 0308004)
- 7.3.9. Letter to NCER re support request (Attch x1 308005)
- 7.3.10 Letter to T. Thorneycroft re concerns (Attch x1 0308006)
- 7.3.11 Letter to J. Moncur re Risk Management Officer role. (Attch x1 0308007)
- 7.3.12 Letter to AERA re reinstating 2008 Points and Distance (Attch x 1 0308008)
- 7.3.13 Letter to AERA re Constitution & Agendas be on Website (Attch x1 0308009)
- 7.3.14 Letter to L. Start re concerns (Attch x1 0308010)
- 7.3.15 Letter to J. Brock re Standardbred identification (Attch x1 0308011)
- 7.3.16 Letter to RO's re Endurance Horse Registration (Attch X1 0308012)
- 7.3.17 Letter to UMERG re FEI Chief Steward requirements (Attch X1 0308013)
- 7.3.18 Letter to TGC Inc re FEI Chief Steward requirements (Attch X1 0308014)
- 7.3.19 Letter to ride organisers x 9 re prenominations policy

Motion 0308003 *"That the inwards and outwards correspondence be accepted"*

Moved Adrian Cavi

Second Luke Steele

Carried

8 REPORTS

8.1 President

The first ride has been run and was very successful given the hot weather, the return to endurance following EI and the challenges of dealing with a smaller venue. Congratulations to Lissy and her Committee for the excellent ride that they run and the very positive portrayal of endurance to a number of new comers.

A young guy turned up to practise his photography skills, heading out on the track at different points and taking plenty of photos at the ride base. I chatted to him a few times during the course of the weekend and he was absolutely amazed at the quality of our endurance horses, the care that the riders showed the horses and the ability of the horses to compete under trying conditions.

There were quite a number of riders completing their first training rides and it was great to see they be successful. The rider that drew the most attention, and won the encouragement award, was young Nikki who rode the 40km training ride bareback. Her horse had developed a bit of a girth gall prior to the ride so her Mum promptly told her she was riding bareback and off she went. Amazing stuff.

A couple of horses required treatment and the invasive treatment forms will be submitted to the Committee for review at the meeting, as well as the Chief Steward's report.

We will also have to deal with the request from the AERA Committee relating to our Tom Quilty Committee. We all need to get behind the TGC to ensure that the 2009 Quilty will be run in Victoria.

I will present the completed policies (Communication and Discounted Membership) to the meeting for review by all SMC members.

It is good to hear that Adrian has returned home from the hospital and is recovering well. I'm sure you'll all join within me in wishing him a continued speedy recovery and we all look forward to seeing him back at the SMC table when he is ready to return to the fray. I want to thank both him and Sue for their continuing work on servicing our members with logbooks during this period when his health has been less than 100%. He's shown a strong commitment to keeping our members happy.

I have had initial discussions with Jil Bourton about the State of Origin Challenge. We need to come up with some sort of format for this competition and decide on rides close to the border at which the event can be staged.

Linda Tanian
President

8.2 Treasurer

Financial Reports as attached (Attch X 8)

Motion 0308004 *'That the Treasurer's report be accepted as tabled.'*

Moved Sandy Horton

Second Adrian Cavi

Motion 0308005 *"That expenses be approved for payment"*

Moved Sandy Horton

Second Ellen Prestage

Carried

8.3 Membership Secretary

There are currently 155 members, excellent for so early in the year, with 15 new members for 2008. At this rate we should well exceed the 220 members who signed up or renewed throughout 2007.

A family of 2 adults and 4 children have joined in the past week.

8.4 Pointscore Registrar

At the time of writing there was nothing to report due to only one ride having only just been run one day previously. Janeen is awaiting a laptop with the software from Sandy Little to enable her to commence the point score for 2008.

8.5 Logbook Registrar

Annual Logbook Return (Attch X 1)

Since our last meeting a slow but steady stream of Log Book Applications have been received. Most were processed from the Melbourne Private Hospital during my recent extended stay. I must thank my good wife Sue for bringing the stuff down to me and posting it off after it was processed. The same old problems are being experienced. Forms not filled out correctly, correct forms not being used, information not being supplied etc. It will probably take a little time but hopefully we will get everyone right. I am making some allowances because I haven't been home and we have had an extended break from riding. My biggest concern is the lack of Yearly Registrations compared to last year. I hope members who have not Registered their horses for life and only do it Yearly remember the rule - No Registration –No Ride. I suggest at least another mention in the next newsletter.

The annual logbook returns were discussed. They enable the AERA to keep a current record of competing horses and an archive of retired, sold or deceased horses. In QLD these are submitted annually with membership applications by the members. We will publish these in the newsletter and website after a modification regarding sale details of the horses has been made.

Details of ownership labels and the importance of these was also discussed-we will continue to remind members and ride committees about ownership label requirements.

With an up coming harness event, the need for Endurance and Novice Harness Horses to have a separate Harness Logbook was discussed. Training and introductory Harness drives are able to be completed on a day vet card. Members of the ride committee were present at the meeting and they will ensure they are familiar with these requirements.

8.6 Calendar Co-ordinator

The Stockyard Hills ride has been approved for 20th April. The small alterations to the Newstead @ Maldon ride have been addressed. Julie reminded Ride Organisers about the application procedures and Carl's role as Insurance Officer. Even small details such as the change of a ride venue need to be forwarded on. Julie also mentioned it was time to start considering the 2009 State Championships so that a suitable date can be applied for. The Newstead/Maldon ride had some small mistakes in the published flyer and it was clarified that there will be offered:

Harness 20, 40, 80km events

Riding 20, 40, 80km events (including Pony Club K Certificate 40km)

The Harness rules are in the Members handbook and they need to be publicised prior to this ride.

Julie also pointed out some of the stationery and forms downloadable from the website are out of date. Jo Brock will be contacted to amend these.

Julie and Carl clarified some of the ride application procedures.. Carl will clarify/simplify the process and report back to the committee.

Discussion was generated regarding the calendar guidelines. Multi day events were welcomed by most as a way to save on fuel and general attendance costs. Discussions also took place regarding the scheduling of more rides and the possible merit of having 1 week spacing as long as the rides were not in the same region.

Chris Gates also reported on emerging trends and figures from the USA (AERC) which indicated older people are more likely to take up endurance riding.

Motion 0308006 *"That the ride calendar guidelines restricting rides to fortnightly intervals be reviewed."*

Moved Chris Gates

Second Jen Green

For 7 Against 4 Carried

8.7 Newsletter

The Jan/Feb issue was out 2 weeks later than usual due to waiting for AGM stuff to be available for publication, I will attempt over the next 2 issues to get things back on schedule.

This will mean that the editorial deadline date for the next issue will be 17th March for the Mar/Apr issue, for posting to members approx 7th April, allows time for pre-noms for Stockyard Hill.

This issue will probably be a little on the thin side.

Subsequent issues will be

May/June	deadline	May 5 th	for posting	23 rd May
July/Aug		7 th July		25 th July
Sept/Oct		1 st Sept		19 th Sept
Nov/Dec		3 rd Nov		21 st Nov

I am currently revising the complimentary mailing list as details of new committee members come to me with Mar/Apr newsletters, I will forward a copy when it is finished. The ones currently on the list are newsletter editors, AERA delegates from the states, and various members of the AERA international committee such as Barb Timms. Roy Noble is also on the list as Honorary Treasurer of AERA.

I have had a request from Helen Ward of the Tonimbuk Quilty committee for a copy of our newsletter and have forwarded one to her. She would like to profile some of the TQ committee members and I think it is appropriate that perhaps a couple of pages per issue should be given to this.

I also have a request from Helen to be added to the complimentary mailing list and seek your approval to do this please, the cost to VERA for the year will be approx \$30.

Advertising

Carole Dixon Smith has paid for her first issues advertising and I have forwarded this cheque together with a copy of the invoice to Sandy H. Also forwarded a late payment cheque from Australian Equine Alliance for advertising

in September '07 issue. I will contact them to see whether they are wanting to resume their advertising now the EI scare is over, Catherine McAlpine from Splitters Creek has also indicated she will resume her advertising.

Jan/Feb issue took just on 60 hours work to complete and was posted 15th February.

Chris Gates also reported on a suggestion from a NSWERA member to combine the NSW and Victorian newsletters into a single booklet. Discussion ensued regarding the possible merits and downsides of such a proposal. Some benefits including more information for all, reduced duplication of standard forms and notices. Better advertising for rides and suppliers and no loss of state content. An informal poll showed the SMC were interested in the concept. Chris will follow this up with NSWERA and bring a proposal to the next meeting.

The SMC also agreed Helen Ward, the TQ Publicity officer may receive a complimentary newsletter.

8.8 Honorary Vet Panel

Nil to Report

8.9 Zones

Ellen Prestage gave a verbal report on the GERZ Zone and also tabled the minutes from the recent GERZ meeting.

Ellen was very pleased that the Gippsland zone would be hosting a good number of rides this year and also wanted to commend two young ladies running their first later in the year-Shandell Bengtsson and Jenna Pinzone. She described the efforts of the two girls to ensure the event would be very successful including for applying for grants which should be approved soon. Ellen also mention teams for GERZ rides are on again with good response at Yarrabubba. A query was made as to the supply of the former VERA Encouragement award. Ride Organisers present commented they had provided the awards them selves

8.10 AERA

Chris Gates acted as the VERA Delegation at the most recent AERA meeting. Chris gave a verbal report describing the meeting content including affiliation with the EFA, body condition scoring in logbooks and also compulsory microchipping. The SMC discussed these items and their merits or otherwise.

Motion 0308007 *"That VERA direct AERA delegates to vote in the negative to the 2nd vote regarding compulsory microchipping at the next AERA meeting"*

Moved Adrian Cavil

Second Jen Green

Carried

8.11 VERA Webmaster

Kelly is in the process of moving house and will be settled after Easter.

A new link on the website homepage will navigate to meeting minutes. This will enable The members to access online, current and archived meeting minutes.

8.12 2009 Tom Quilty

812.1 Minutes 08 02 08 (1X Attch)

8.12.2 TQ Report 20 02 08 (1 X Attch)

812.3 Event Directors report Feb 2008 (1 X Attch)

8.12.4 TQ Event Agreement (1X Attch)

8.12.5 TQ Event Standards

Lissy Verity passed out copies of some of impressive publicity and articles from various magazines and papers.

Linda reported back on each item in a recent letter from AERA about the 2009 Victorian Tom Quilty. The Tom Quilty committee are enthusiastically providing information to meet all the requested points.

Motion 0308008 *“That Linda Tanian and Chris Gates work with the Tonimbuk Gold Cup Inc. Committee to assist them to comply with the requests outlined in the AERA letter dated 6th March 2008”*

Moved Adrian Cavil

Second Jen Green

Carried Abstained 3

8.13 Insurance Officer

Carl Adamson tabled a verbal report and described to processes needed to be followed to obtain appropriate insurance for rides.

He also informed the SMC that AON, our insurers do not offer any cover at all for members over 80 years of age. It was agreed that this matter needs to be referred to AERA for clarification and follow up.

8.14 Risk Management Officer’s Report

Jenny Moncur had forwarded all SMC members with a comprehensive risk management in sport booklet and also a heat management in sport article. She is currently compiling a Risk Management Policy.

8.15 Ride Reports

Yarrabubba-Lissy Verity

Lissy tabled a written report on the ride which was well attended. Discussion ensued regarding several incidents in the report.

The Committee also feel it would be timely to undertake some education of members and ride organizers regarding vehicles on course.

Lissy advises Parks Victoria will assist the TGC Inc. with providing official identification for officials to avoid these types of occurrences.

In Camera discussion took place regarding another incident raised in the ride report.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Ride Delegates

It has been the practice of past Management Committees to appoint an SMC member as a Ride Delegate. This may be an opportune time to review this role and decide if it still has value to our Ride Organisers.

After discussion of this issue and input from present ride organisers it was agreed the delegate role had become obsolete and that the policy be discontinued.

9.2 Half Yearly Memberships/Discounted Memberships

At the August meeting a letter had been received from Geoff Jolly regarding half yearly membership. At the meeting a motion was put, and defeated to allow half yearly memberships. Given the low numbers of members this decision should be reviewed and revisited. Half yearly memberships could be seen as a way to encourage people to join and may result in a full year membership the following year. became a member, i.e. if a person paid a half-yearly membership fee they were still charged a full year's insurance levy. Membership fees for 2008 were not increased to reflect the effort to maintain membership.

After discussion on this issue It was felt the policy should remain as is.

Discounted Membership Policy Draft (Attch X1)

The draft policy was discussed and agreed that the it be put to the members for further input.

Motion 0308012 "That the draft Discounted Membership Policy be approved by the SMC and it will be published in the VERA Newsletter for member feedback."

Moved Chris Gates

Second Jen Green

Carried

9.3 Notification of Risk Management/First Aid personnel in ride application

Debi Chisholm has suggested that the ride application process be improved by requiring the notification of the personnel who have been appointed as Risk Management Officer and First Aid Officer for all rides.

This item held over until next meeting due to time constraints.

9.4 Bib Policy

A brief discussion showed that the policy still needs further refinement prior to it being adopted. Lorraine CUBbin will report back at the next meeting.

Motion 0308013 *"That VERA purchase an additional 30 x Orange bibs"*

Moved Jen Green

Second Sandy Horton

Carried

9.5 Awarding points for FEI rides.

More discussion took place regarding this issue. A brief history of the issue was put forward by several SMC members. Informal polling of the attendees at the AGM indicated approximately a 50-50 split when asked if points should be awarded or not.

Motion 0308014 *"That points and distance be awarded for FEI rides in the LWT, MWT and HWT riding divisions for the division in which they would normally ride providing that the weight carried by the rider is equal to the normal weight requirements."*

Moved Sandy Horton

Second Chris Gates

Carried Abstained 1

NOTE: Points for Juniors is under review awaiting the introduction of the lifting of the age limit for Juniors to 18 years of age.

8.6 Ride Trailers

This issue has been briefly discussed previously. Now that we have a dedicated Insurance officer Carl will follow this up and report back to the committee.

Carl also advises he is compiling an assets register which will form part of his insurance duties.

8.7 Communications Policy (Attch X 1)

This item held over until next meeting due to time constraints

8.8 Unauthorised On Course Assistance/Driving on course

Several times friends and family of riders have been seen on course in vehicles with out the necessary permission from the chief steward. This has recently come to a head when several groups of riders reported having to negotiate passing a vehicle driven by a rider's family member on a narrow bush trail in a State Forest. The situation was not only dangerous to the horses and riders and occupants of the vehicle but also jeopardises the permit conditions from Parks Victoria that allow our rides to be conducted within these parks.

This item was discussed during the Yarrabubba Ride Report.

8.9 Logbooks issued in incorrect names

The Logbook Registrar has brought to the SMC's attention several horses competing under names and ages other than their registered names and ages.

Motion 0308011 *"That for the purposes of Rule 7.5 a.i the fee is the current price of a logbook"*

Moved Jane McLaughlin

Second Sandy Horton

Carried

8.10 Junior Training riders

A recent SMC passed the motion that:

Where both legs are =40km that a Junior be allowed to ride the daylight leg of the 80km Affiliated ride with their parent or a nominated responsible adult"

This concept was previously dis-allowed by AERA in 2001.

Motion 0308014 *"That the motion referring to Junior Training Riders be rescinded"*

Moved Sandy Horton

Second Chris Gates

Carried 2 Abstained

8.11 Pre Nomination Policy

Several small concerns need to be discussed. People who cancel pre nom cheques after posting them and the fact that 14 days minimum often precludes people from making a decision about their next ride based on results of a ride the fortnight prior. As rides are often a fortnight apart, perhaps the 14 days could be reduced to 7 days.

This item was held over due to time constraints.

9. NEXT MEETING

April 20th at Quest Windsor at 10.00am

10. MEETING CLOSURE

5.00pm