

Report of AERA Meeting held on 18^h and 19th March, 2006

Present

Anne Jones (Qld) Mathew Krahnhan (Qld), Dick Collyer (Qld), Sarah Adams (SA), Graeme Gilbertson (NSW), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Jeff Bonham (NSW), Pat Hodgetts (TAS), Tony Purton (Tas) Ieva Peters (WA), Ady MacIntosh (WA) Beverley Raynor-Mason (VIC), Alex Little (VIC), Roy Noble (Hon. Member), Allan Renner (Hon Member)

In attendance: Beverley Wright (AON) 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Registration of Votes

NSW – 728 members – 8 votes
Qld – 677 members – 7 votes
Victoria – 174 members – 2 votes
WA – 193 members – 2 votes
Tasmania – 166 members – 2 votes
SA – 67 members – 1 vote

National Ride Calendar

All updates should be forwarded to Elaine Williams and Allan Renner.

Distance Awards

Request to be made for scrolls etc. to be made to Kerry by 1st May. Include verification.

International

AERA IC ordinary members are Glenda Armitage, Mal Caldwell, Debi Chisholm, Chris Gates, John Simpson, Denise Trollope, of the AERA IC are ratified

AERA IC Ordinary members must attend two of the three meetings per year to maintain their position on the committee.

Chris Gates was ratified as the Chairman of the AERA IC and Glenda Armitage was ratified as the Secretary of the AERA IC

The AERA supports in principal that Ieva Peters and Brian Sheahan attend the endurance world forum in Malaysia

AERA is looking at the idea about exchanging officials for the Tevis and Quilty.

The AERA will advertise for Expressions of Interest to fill the casual vacancy on the squad Board of Management.

The AES webpage is to be included on the AERA webpage and Mal Caldwell will liaise with Elaine Williams to organise.

AERA accepted a recommendation from the AERA IC that Glenda Armitage is appointed as the Steward General for Endurance.

Team for Aachen

The 4 top combinations were ranked. At this point it is not known how many team members will be allowed.

HORSE / RIDER COMBINATIONS IN RANK ORDER.

	Rider	Horse	Reserve
Top 4	Meg Wade	China Doll	Wybalena Lodge Schuska
Top 4	Penny Toft	Bremervale Justice	Harriett
Top 4	Peter Toft	Electra BBP Murdoch	
Top 4	Brook Sample	La Mancha Archduke	Carnarvon Cavalier
5	Jennifer Gilbertson	Bramall Jazzmin	

	Rider	Horse	Reserve
6	Joyce Corbett	Reeflex	
7	Donna Wiseman	Hirstglen Fargo	
8	Danielle O'Loughlin	Pravado	

Selection of Chef

The AERA accepts the recommendation of the AERA IC to appoint Trish Annetts as Chef for the WEG 2006.

Appointment of Assistant Chef

The AERA accepts the recommendation of the AERA IC to appoint Kerry Spratt as the Assistant Chef for the WEG 2006.

Team Co-ordinator

The AERA accepts the recommendation of the AERA IC to appoint John Simpson as the Team Co-ordinator for the WEG 2006.

The AERA endorses the appointment of two assistant veterinarians, Robyn Mather and Pat Hodgetts, at the WEG 2006.

Emma Kirby, subject to availability, is appointed as the equine therapist for the WEG 2006.

The position of Assistant Crew Manager is to be left vacant and an appointment made, if necessary, at the event.

It was agreed that the appointment of crew members is the responsibility of the team members. The media position will be discussed at the next meeting. Team management is to get together and work out a management plan.

Peter Toft submitted the following recommendations regarding the President's Cup.

- Peter would like to be nominated as the Liaison Person between the AERAIC and the President's Cup Committee to facilitate a way in which Australia can best be positioned to take advantage of the generous sponsorship on offer annually for this event.
- The President's Cup Committee need to know the following:
 1. The AERA IC would like to select its riders and horses and allow them to be officially representing Australia.
 2. More notice is required especially with the invitations.
 3. Issues relating to quarantine, export requirements (vaccinations etc.) and being an Australian off-season all need to be discussed, and the sponsor needs to be aware of our schedules.
 4. Australia is committed to sending it's best possible horses and riders to give the sponsors true value.
 5. We respect and appreciate the sponsor, the enormous sponsorship is very generous but we want, as a National body, to be better positioned to utilize it potentially to all members with international aspirations.
- It was agreed that the selection of horses and riders for the President's Cup would be done at the November AERA/IC meetings.

Drs. Joan Deetman, Fiona Thompson and Kathy Webb are accepted to be accredited as FEI Veterinarians. Recommendation to go to the EFA.

Report from Allan Renner

Allan expressed concern about security at FEI rides in Australia. This is critical that an agreement be made as to minimum security as if there was a positive swab it could be thrown out for legal reasons. He suggested that the camping area be roped off with one gateway and identification tags such as armbands to be worn. A steward

could be put on the entry with two stewards inside roaming about. It was agreed that rule P4 covers the situation.

Victorian Quilty 2008

Four expressions of interest have been received for the 2008 Quilty. One has been recommended. This is a submission on behalf of the Start family of Glendu Station. They are experienced ride organisers and the entire event will be held on their property of 7,500 acres. Some adjoining properties will also be used

The AERA accepts in principle the recommendation for the proposed Victorian 2008 Quilty subject to an inspection by a person nominated by AERA.

Tom McCormack is nominated to inspect the track and venue for the 2008 Quilty prior to the next AERA meeting. AERA will pay his expenses to get there.

Sheffield Quilty 2005

The Quilty Committee have their AGM scheduled for the following weekend. Tony Purton is officially nominated to the Tom Quilty Committee as the official AERA delegate.

Boonah 2006

Major sponsorship has been offered from OzEndurance. CS Energy are also sponsoring the ride. Ernie Dingo has been approached to be the ambassador.

Ernie Dingo will be invited to be a celebrity rider at the Boonah Quilty.

Anne is to write to Erica Williams, Ross McCamish, Lynne Nicole and Lyn Bailey regards judging the Pat Slater award.

Brian Sheahan, Michael Combe, Ieva Peters, Jeff Bonham, Ady McIntosh are appointed to the Disputes Committee for the Boonah Quilty.

WA 2007

AERA approves the entry fee to the WA Quilty 2007 as being \$330.00 each including GST.

AERA approves the appointment of Dr. Fiona Thompson as the Head Veterinarian for the WA Quilty 2007.

Quilty Working Party

Alex Little has been nominated to chair and co-ordinate the Quilty Working Party.

Jenny McCamish and Tom McCormack are invited to be members of the Quilty Working Party.

Correspondence

A letter, including a medical certificate has been received from NSW requesting that a NSW rider receives dispensation from wearing helmets. It was noted that he rode Shahzada with one and has competed at rides since then. Allan commented that that insurance company would accept a decision but if anything were to happen, it would affect premiums.

A letter will be written to NSWERA stating that the request is denied and refer to Rule R2.

Motions on Notice for Discussion and First Vote

WAERA Motion No. 1

That Rule R5.1 be changed to read:

Middleweight: All up riding weight of 73kg and a maximum of 90.9kg *at the pre-ride weigh in.*

Rationale:

Presently, there is no top weight definition in the Middleweight section. Adding a top scale of weight will clearly define the division between Middleweight and Heavyweight.

Dick advised that QERA's position is that we must abstain from voting on all riding rule changes until we can get member's feedback.

The Best Conditioned is calculated on 90.9. Dick believes that there is no need to alter the rule because no-one is disadvantaged by the current situation. The only “person” getting disadvantaged is the horse. Graeme thinks it is to the detriment of the rider concerned. History would be affected as the goalposts are being changed.

Matthew asked what the background to the motion is? It was put up by a heavyweight that feels that Heavyweights should ride as heavyweights and not middleweight.

Voting – QLD – Abstain, VIC – No, SA- No, TAS – No, NSW – No, WA - Yes. Motion lost.

WAERA Motion No. 2

That the AERA remove rule R5.6 as it serves no use or purpose to encourage young riders in this country.

Rationale:

Rule R5.6 presently reads:

R5.6 a rider in the Youth Division of an FEI ride will not receive National points/kilometres unless they are 16 years or older and weigh a minimum of 73 kgs i.e. no points/kilometres for Lightweights and Juniors.

This rule is blatantly discriminatory against Lightweights and Juniors, and does nothing to encourage or support our young riders. We in Australia are extremely proud of our young riders that did so well recently in Bahrain, and yet we have a rule such as this that does nothing to encourage young riders to test and learn about the FEI system at home. There is no reasoning to enforce this rule on a basis of horse welfare, fairness in competition, health and well-being of riders, or any of the usual valid reasons for rules.

Dick stated that the rationale is backwards. The reason for the rule is so that Lightweight and Junior riders are not discriminated against in FEI rides where there is no division. If there is no division in a ride, juniors under 16 cannot participate and Lightweights that cannot carry weights cannot ride. This is why the rule was put in place. It is there with the intention of removing discrimination of all our members. If FEI ride, cannot have juniors under 14. If there is no AERA Lightweight division then they cannot participate. If a Youth division rider weighs 72kg then they do not get points or distance. It is no more a disadvantage to others who cannot ride. Ady stated that the current rule is not encouraging people to ride in FEI events. Kerry stated that the problem is that it excludes some riders from entering. Another alternative would be to run a separate pointscore for FEI rides or make every FEI ride run AERA Junior and Lightweight divisions.

Matthew pointed out that a lot of FEI rides do run AERA divisions. It makes it difficult to administer as there are differences in heart rates. Allan pointed out that Australia is different, most countries have the same rules and run under the FEI system.

Sarah believes that a solution would be to lift the weight from 73kg to 75kg for the Middleweight division. Statistically the population has increased weight. Historical data would again be a problem. Dick suggested that it should be put on the agenda for the world forum that the age at which juniors can participate should be lowered.

Sarah noted that points can be awarded at a state level. Kerry stated that the rule change originally came from Lyn Bailey who was having problems working the system out for pointscores.

Alex believes that if we are going to deny points to lightweights and juniors then we should deny points for all riders in FEI rides. This would be detrimental as it would not encourage people to enter.

Graeme believes it is all the more reason to have a separate FEI pointscore. Horses and riders should be given lifetime distance. That would not help the FEI cause either.

Allan stated that in the FEI rules is a children’s event that takes the age back to 12 but only includes jumping, eventing and dressage. Article 124 in the FEI rule book. The NF could write to the FEI to request FEI include endurance in this rule. It is also possible to change the age limit in a country. This would not help the lightweights..

Voting QLD – Abstain, SA- No, TAS – No, Vic – No, NSW – No, WA – Yes. Motion lost

Moved WA/NSW

That An amendment is made to rule 5.6 to add... Note, this rule does not apply if an AERA Lightweight and AERA Junior division is held at the same event.

Kerry stated that at the moment if there is a Lightweight and Junior division the people get the points. Alex stated that with the addition to the rule, a Lightweight who wins the FEI ride in the Youth Division will get recognized with AERA Lightweight points.

This amendment is simply clarifying the existing situation.

Voting QLD – Abstain, SA – Yes, Tas – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried.

The 75kg weight issue should go to the AGM's for discussion.

WAERA Motion No. 3

Rule R13.6 to be amended to: Any rider or owner whose horse has been known to progress to laminitis, renal failure, hepatopathies, CNS related disturbance, (as a result of participation at any affiliated event) will be asked to show cause to the State Management Committee why they should not be suspended.

Rationale:

AERA Rule R13.6 presently reads:

R13.6 Any rider or owner whose horse has been known to progress to laminitis, renal failure, hepatopathies, CNS related disturbance, will be asked to show cause to the State Management Committee why they should not be suspended.

The intention of this rule was that it would apply to horses that become ill due to participation in an affiliated endurance ride. If that is the case, then the rule should state that. As it reads currently, if someone's horse gets laminitis (at any time), they risk suspension. H18.10 should similarly be amended to refer to horses getting ill as a result of participation in endurance competition, not because something happened to them some other time. The consequences of endurance competition are far-reaching and longer term, the actual proving of that link could be a very different and difficult thing.

This is relating the rule to the event. If a horse ever founders or suffers maladies the SMC can write to you and say that you cannot compete. Kerry stated that on the other hand is it going to let people off the hook because you cannot prove that it is as a result of the ride. Pat stated that once the horse has left the ride base then you lose control.

Sarah moved an amendment to state “**any AERA affiliated event**”. Seconded by Ady McIntosh

The amendment was put to the vote.

Voting – Qld – Abstain, SA – Yes, Tas – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – Yes, WA – Yes. The amendment was accepted. The motion now reads:

Rule R13.6 to be amended to: Any rider or owner whose horse has been known to progress to laminitis, renal failure, hepatopathies, CNS related disturbance, (as a result of participation at any AERA affiliated event) will be asked to show cause to the State Management Committee why they should not be suspended.

Pat cannot see how the rule can be enforced. We can suspect but not prove. Dick stated that there would have to be clear circumstances where the horse can progress as a result of the event. Pat advised that the vet would not commit themselves to say that the horse died as a result of the event. Allan stated that the key words are to show cause and produce evidence.

Voting QLD – Abstain, SA – Yes, Tas – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – No, WA – Yes. Motion lost.

WAERA Motion 4

Rule H18.10 be amended to read: Horses (through owner or connections), that are known to progress to laminitis, renal failure, hepatopathies, CNS related disturbance (as a result of participation at any affiliated event) will be asked to show cause why the horse should not be suspended (in addition to any suspension as in Rule H18.7 above).

Rationale:

As per above, WAERA Motion 3

Voting QLD – Abstain, SA – No, Tas – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – No, WA – Yes. Motion Lost.

QERA Motion 1

that the following additions are made to AERA Rule A 11.4.05

- (c) i. **re-schedule the start time**
- ii **suspend the ride by extending the hold time for a period sufficient to allow the relevant issues to be resolved but for no longer than a maximum time of two hours**

- (d) **reduce the total distance of the ride providing that the reduced distance complies with Rule A2.1 (excluding the Tom Quilty, National Championships and State Championships), and providing that all riders have, in the opinion of the Chief Steward, an equality of opportunity to complete the altered distance**

- (e) **where the total distance of the ride has been shortened, no places will be given but completion will be recognised.**

Rationale:

Currently, in extreme or unplanned for circumstances, the only options available under the rule is for the ride to be re-routed or cancelled. These additions to the rules would give further options. They would allow for a ride to have a pause of up to two hours so that Ride Organisers can have some time to sort out the problem, if possible. Or, they would allow for a ride to be shortened if it was not possible to overcome the problem. If the ride was shortened, it must still comply with the required distance to be an endurance ride (ie 80km) or a training ride (ie 40kms).

The 'shortened distance' rule is not able to be applied to either the Quilty or the State Championships, as both the Events' Standards for these rides insist that they are 'no less than 160kms'. Also, the AERA Constitution gives a similar guarantee of the distance of the Quilty, and the QERA Constitution gives the same guarantee of the distance of the State Championships.

Dick explained that this motion arose from the discussions from last year. At the QERA AGM Point e was added. Members believed that if ride was shortened only distance given, not places. The strategy is gone and it is difficult to fairly award places. It will not allow for the distance to be reduced for the Quilty, National championships etc. These events could have a name change. FEI allows distance to be shortened. Will get points on FEI system but not national.

Voting Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, NSW – Yes, WA – Yes, NT – Abstain. Passed first vote.

QERA Motion 2

that the following is added to the AERA Riding Rules:

RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Where Ride Organisers, in complying with the relevant Risk Management Policy of their Division, apply safety procedures to any aspect of the ride, riders, strappers, volunteers and visitors are required to observe these procedures or face disciplinary action by the Chief Steward or his or her nominee.

Rationale:

All Divisions are required by law, by the AERA and by the AERA's insurer to have a Risk Management Policy which complies with the Australian Standard. This requirement, while already supported by a variety of the AERA Rules, needs a clearly stated rule to clarify the fact that members must comply with Risk Management procedures.

This motion is also a carry over from last year. No specific reference to a risk but ensuring that risk is identified and recognised. Tony stated that it seems to be bringing in the same rule that was introduced at the last meeting. It seems to be guaranteeing no gallop finishes. The Chief Steward has the right to say it is not appropriate.

Kerry believes it is a great idea but how is disciplinary action going to be imposed against volunteers and visitors. The police can be called. Under rules, the rider is responsible for their crew. Volunteers can be told to leave – that's the disciplinary action. Allan stated that at the Queensland State Championships onlookers around the finish line were told to move back by the Chief Steward. This is deemed to be disciplinary action.

Voting Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Tas – Yes, Vic – yes, NSW – Yes, WA – Yes. Carried to next meeting

Insurance

The AERA IO will be paid a monthly honorarium of \$200 plus expenses commencing 1/1/2006.

A vote of thanks was moved to Allan for his efforts during the past year in securing the insurance for AERA. It was agreed to seek costing on a national newsletter.

Visit by Beverley Wright

Beverley handed out a document to explain insurance processes and procedures and explained the existing insurance coverage and other coverage that is available.. It was agreed that the correct name of the event should be used and the States agreed to comply with the requirement.

Allan stated that he would like to take the opportunity to thank Bev for attending. She has been very helpful and efficient. Appreciation was shown. Bev stated that the level of claims is acceptable.

AON has committed to providing \$1500 sponsorship and Bev has been given permission to increase this to \$2,000.

Webmaster

It was agreed that as AussieEndurance has been re-opened for some time a notice should be placed that no posts will be forwarded in future from members who are eligible to be re-activated and post.

Database

It was agreed that Sarah will speak to Dave Williams, Ardex and Linda Tanian. The specifications need to be completed and a process put in place.

AERA Restructure

Motion from QERA

That the AERA appoint a sub-committee of 3 independent people to examine a new management structure for the AERA focusing on a more modern and efficient organisation model able to cope with the way sports organisations need to be managed in the 21st century. This review to be complete within 6 months"

Voting Qld – Yes, SA – No, Tas – No, Vic – No, NSW – No. Motion lost.

Moved Graeme Gilbertson/Sarah Adams

That the AERA appoint a sub-committee of 3 people to examine a new management structure for the AERA.

Voting Carried Unanimously.

Matthew Krahnem, Allan Renner and Jane Radny were nominated.

Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on 1st/2nd July, 2006.

The Meeting closed at 3:40 pm.
