

VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

(A0008959W)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

DATE: Saturday, 31st January 2009
TIME: 11.00 a.m.
VENUE: Recreational Community Building
Goldfields Recreation Reserve
Beaufort

1. Welcome

Linda welcomed all in attendance and thanked everyone for their attendance in view of the extreme weather conditions.

2. Present and Apologies

Attendance sheets record the names of all members and visitors present.

Apologies received from: Marty Degroot, Jenni Degroot, Wendy Beer, Lissy Verity, Jane McLaughlin, Debi Chisholm, Ross Chisholm, Jenny Moncur, Susan Gill, Ellen Prestage, Richard Mason, Maggie Broom, Carol Laidlaw, Peter Laidlaw, Alan Salter, Jess Herbert.

3. Minutes

Copies of the 2008 AGM Minutes were made available to all in attendance.

MOTION AGM 0109 0001 “That the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted”

Moved: Jen Green

Second: Sandy Horton

Carried

4. Annual Reports

4.1 President's Report

I'd like to commence my report by thanking all the volunteers whose time and efforts allow us all to enjoy our great sport. Without them, we would not be able to spend time riding our horses throughout the year. Not only do I want to include our Ride Organisers, ride staff, checkpoint people, TPRs, Chief Stewards and all the myriad other helpers but I'd also like to thank the wives and husbands and families who often go without time spent with their endurance crazed partner or parent. There are few sports as obsessive as endurance!

I hope that all our members have enjoyed the 2008 season. It was certainly good to be back in the saddle again after the threat of EI had passed and to be out and about with the Victorian endurance family. I hope that you were all able to, at the very least, achieve some of your goals during the year.

I would also like to register a big vote of thanks to our SMC this year. I don't think I have ever worked on a Committee where there has been such a concerted effort to work together, and most of it for the betterment of our sport! I'm not saying we've all been angels because we haven't. Sometimes there have been disagreements but in comparison with years past the Committee has forged some very strong working relationships. We've had some rather rowdy meetings, not through dissension but through jocularly and merriment. It has certainly made my job easier although I've sometimes struggled to control the high spirits.

In particular I'd like to mention two of our harder working Committee members – Jen Green our Secretary and Sandy Horton our Treasurer. Both of these people have put in lots of hours on behalf of the membership and really good results have been achieved.

And, the other group of people I'd like to thank are those folk who take on non-Committee roles. Jo Brock has been assisting Janeen, who took on the role of pointscore registrar. Jo has also been doing the EWS system manually as the Blucher system does not do the points correctly! Mary Hughes has just ended her 10 year stint as Membership Registrar and we really want to thank Mary for her contribution to the sport. On behalf of the VERA SMC I'd like to welcome Jo Francis to the role of Membership Secretary and the SMC has full confidence in Jo's ability to be an excellent representative for the Committee and providing a good service to members. We've also had Katrina Westerhoff take on the role of Newsletter Editor and Wendy Bootle has been assisting Katrina to learn the ropes. We've had Kelly Jol continue in the role of Webmaster and keeping updates happening on our website as well Simon Thomas in the role of Grievance Officer. Thank you to all these people who do that bit extra to help the Committee run and manage this sport.

Our meetings have been held on a regular 6-7 week interval throughout the year and each one has been jam-packed with things to discuss and matters to be dealt with. We had, at one stage, a member come along to see what happened at a meeting and this member was astounded at just how much work was done in a meeting. It was good to have someone come along just to see what happens and the SMC would extend an open invitation to any member who wants to give up a Sunday to come along.

Not all of the targets I had set at the start of the year were achieved. Two of the main goals were to improve membership numbers and upgrade the website. It has been difficult to find someone willing to commit the time and effort to do an overhaul on our old and very jaded website but I believe we now have a member who will be submitting some suggested new formats. This will be very exciting if we can get the website a much needed facelift!

We have been able to maintain a steady membership base and, on reflection, this is probably a better than to be expected result. Especially in the turbulent financial times that we have faced this year and will continue to face throughout next year. Petrol prices soared – never quite getting through the \$2.00 a litre price barrier (for diesel anyway) but coming awfully close. I

know that members were feeling the pinch from the high cost of fuel. I think that the financial challenges we will all be facing in the next twelve months will place a huge strain on our sport and if we could maintain numbers of people attending rides next year it would be a major achievement.

The SMC has had to deal with a number of disciplinary matters and I have to say that the members involved in these matters have acted responsibly and very professionally. It is not easy for any Committee member to face members who may be friends or riding buddies to deal with a disciplinary matter. It is a difficult situation but it has been made so much easier by the attitudes of those members so thank you to all those folk.

This year the SMC implemented a procedure to refund the full membership fees of any Chief Steward who acted in an official capacity at rides throughout the year. The SMC wants to encourage more participation from its Chief Stewards and offered this system as encouragement to do so. We have approved the application of Jo Brock to commence the process of gaining her accreditation and we all wish Jo a speedy progression so that we can get her out there and in the fray as a newly accredited Chief Steward.

This year we have the Tom Quilty being run at Tonimbuk by Lissy and her crew of hard working Committee members. We all wish the Quilty Committee the most successful Quilty yet, full of lovely warm weather and no rain. If any of you wish to offer your services to help the Quilty Committee please contact Lissy.

Drug testing was undertaken this year with no positive results received. It has taken a while to get this process up and running and we are still quite a way from getting a full regime in place. Gone are the days when we could manage with just a volunteer doing this task. Now, we need to have qualified drug stewards to undertake the processes and we are trying to get this organised. In the meantime, we will utilise EFA accredited drug stewards on a random basis throughout next year.

I hope that everyone has a great year in 2009. I am certainly looking forward to getting back on the track again. It seems such a long time since the last ride and I'm sure everybody is just like me and can hardly wait until their first ride. Good luck and take extra good care of your horses.

MOTION AGM 0109 0002 "That the President's report be accepted"

Moved: Linda Tanian

Second: Mary Hughes

Carried

Abstained 1

4.2 Treasurer's Report

Sandy Horton presented the audited yearly financials to the meeting.

Several questions were received from the floor to which Sandy responded.

MOTION AGM0109 0003 “That the Treasurer’s reports as tabled be accepted”

Moved:Sandy Horton

Second:Sue Cavil

Carried

5. Election

Elections were conducted for the filling of 3 vacancies for the position of ordinary member on the State Management Committee caused by the expiration of appointment. 2 casual vacancies also existed following the resignation from the Committee of Sandy Little and Luke Steele.

Nominations Received:

Nominee: Lorraine Cubbin

Nominated by: Fred Muller

Seconded by: Rohan Stanes

Nominee: Jane McLaughlin

Nominated by: Debi Chisholm

Seconded by: Lissy Verity

Nominee: Sheryl Herbert

Nominated by: Jessica Herbert

Seconded by: Greg May

There being more positions vacant than nominations received, these nominees were accepted.

Nominations from the floor were called for to fill the 2 casual vacancies.

Pauline Wallace

Nominated Lorraine Cubbin

Seconded Sandy Little

Pauline Wallace accepted the nomination and was welcomed to the Committee.

Appeals Committee

Nominations from the floor were called for to fill the Appeals Committee positions.

Kim Noble nominated by Maitland Wallace

Kristie McGaffin nominated by Chris Gates

Mary Hughes nominated by Jo Francis

Sandy Little nominated by Lorraine Cubbin

Sue Cavil nominated by Sheryl Herbert

Maitland Wallace nominated by Tony Thorneycroft

Mary Hughes declined to accept her nomination.

The remaining 5 nominees accepted their nominations.

Kristie McGaffin had previously advised her acceptance of a position to Chris Gates as she was not in attendance.

The new appeals Committee will consist of:

Kim Noble

Kristie McGaffin

Sandy Little

Sue Cavil

Maitland Wallace.

6. Notice of Motions

The following motion has been received:

“That from the 31st January 2009 results from FEI rides not be included in the VERA yearly Points and Distance scores.”

Moved: Lorraine Cubbin

Seconded: Fred Muller

Lorraine handed out a written rationale explaining her stance supporting this motion. Lorraine addressed the meeting and expanded on some of the points in her written rationale.

Questions from the floor and general discussion took place with quite a number of members offering input.

Scrutineers Mary Hughes and Jo Anne Francis were appointed

The motion as follows was put to the members:

“That from the 31st January 2009, results from FEI rides not be included in the VERA yearly Points and Distance scores.”

Moved: Lorraine Cubbin
Seconded: Fred Muller
For: 40
Against: 21
Abstained : 4
Carried

7. General Business

7.1 Alteration of Heart Rate requirement in Vet Gate into Hold rides

Voting, at the AERA table, on this issue has been deferred while State Associations refer this matter back to their members for comment.

Members gave input from the floor and discussed the issue. Sandy Horton , as AERA Delegate responded to Member questions from his knowledge of the discussions at AERA meetings. Chris Gates also commented from his perspective as Chairman of the International Committee. Chris advised international experience indicates that horses that are taking 30 minutes to recover are not coping well, those who recover in 20 minutes are showing they are better prepared and suited to go on the rides. The shorter recovery requirement would protect horses from continuing on through further legs of the event.

A straw poll of the members present was taken so our AERA Delegates can be aware of our members' feelings. A wide majority of members present indicated they did not wish these changes to take place. The AERA Delegates will indicate these wishes to the AERA.

7.2 Age of Juniors

Brief discussion of this issue took place with some clarification of the new rules.

7.3 Other Business

Di Tobin awarded several prizes from the Smythesdale ride.

Sandy Little wished to record a vote of thanks for Sheryl Herbert's efforts in arranging today's activities.

8. Close of Meeting