

Notes of the General Meeting of Members of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc held on 15th, 16th, 17th July, 2011 commencing on Friday at 1:00 p.m. – 17:50 p.m., Sat 8:36 a.m. - 7:10 p.m., Sun 8:32a.m. - 12:55 p.m.

1. Welcome by President:

- 2. Present :** Tom McCormack (NSW) Chair, Anne Jones (Qld), Mathew Krahn (Qld), Dorte Colja (QLD), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Ieva Peters (WA), Roy Noble (Hon. Member), Pat Hodgetts (Tas), Debbie Grull (Tas), Liz Rutherford (WA), Sandy Little (Vic), Gary Tweedie (NSW), Melanie Scott (SA), Sat, Sun.

The AERA Executive approved an application from Liz Rutherford to replace Ross McCamish as a WA Delegate

Visitors: Brian Sheahan, (Sat 8:30), Steve Swan, (Sun 11:15), Barbara Macdonald Timms, 3:20 (Fri Sat) Dick Collyer (Sat 10:20), Mark Freeman (Fri) 3:20

- 3. Apologies:** Sarah Adams, Katrina Westerhoff, Chris Gates

4. Register of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

Dorte declared a conflict of interest as she has applied for the MCO BMCO position

- 5. Registration of Votes:** Qld – 6, NSW – 6, Tas – 3, WA – 2, Vic – 2, SA- 1

- 6. EA Medication Control Forms:** The rule book will be changed for next year. More EA accredited swabbing stewards are required as we adopted the EA Medication controls. Policies are there that have to be followed. We need to define what the riders need to do to comply. The best way to do this is on the entry form. Pat will do.

- 7. Archives:** AERA is looking at storage options for the archives.

- 8. Constitution:** Kerry is continuing to work with John Mullins. She presented the latest version of the constitution and went through the sections. She will take the changes back to John Mullins who will submit an updated version and Kerry will distribute. The main questions were about elected delegates and board members. Ideally, to avoid conflict of interest they should be different members and not members of the SMC.

It is important to get a discussion paper to go to the AGM's by November. SMC reaction will be obtained first. Questions were asked about the availability of enough people to take up the positions especially if board members cannot be a member of the SMC. AHSAs have an independent board and decisions are made by the board who are not always informed.

It was agreed that a phase in, phase out period should be allowed and that members can be on the SMC but not on the executive.

Moved Garry Tweedie/Pat Hodgetts

That **the restrictions on Board Members not being allowed to be an executive of the SMC be ignored**

Voting Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – No, WA – Yes, Tas – No, NSW- No. Motion lost and the restrictions will apply with a one year transitional.

9. Executive Decisions to be Ratified

“that 13 Chief Steward vests are purchased for the SA Quilty”

“that the Glen Innes Endurance Club is paid \$430.”

“that the invoice to Steve Ellery Screen Printing for \$12, 287.83 is paid”

“that the AERA Executive organise a teleconference”

“that the invoice for \$86.11 for the Teleconference is paid.”

“that the account for John Mullins for \$1,571.80 is paid.”

“that the nomination from Liz Rutherford is accepted.”

“that AERA pays the event cancellation insurance for the forum of \$419.60”

“that the account for reflective tape for \$2,145.00 is paid.”

Moved Dorte Colja/Sandy Little
That **the executive decisions are ratified.**
Voting Carried Unanimously

10. **Letter from John Robertson appealing QERA decision after the death of “Cruz” at Pioneer Trek:**
Dick Collyer arrived to explain the situation. QERA believed that the matter was closed, but John took it further. The letter is the result of this.

Dick explained that there were multiple reports and correspondence. QERA set up an Independent Review Panel and spent \$5,000 investigating and reporting on the situation. The complaint was that the connections believe the horse was withdrawn but the logbook was changed at a later date to vet out metabolic. Further explanation was given and it was agreed that QERA was justified in their actions as they had sufficient evidence from 2 separate reports.

Dick asked if he could bring up some OH&S issues. A rider was riding a stallion bareback around the base. The rules are silent on bareback riding but that does not mean that the CS cannot stop them. We are guided by Occupational Health and Safety and these laws override our rules. The CS did have a right to say something.

Letter from John Robertson re autopsies

V16.4 Page 40 needs changing and implementing immediately

Moved Kerry Spratt/Debbie Grull

That **subject to any amendments from the Vet Panel, V16.4, 16.5 and 16.7 be amended to read:**

V16.4 In the event of an equine death, in principle, a necropsy should be conducted. Prior to any necropsy being performed, the veterinarian must complete a risk assessment to establish whether the procedure can be conducted without presenting an unacceptable risk to human or animal health and wellbeing. In particular, the risk of zoonotic disease must be assessed. Should the risk assessment indicate that an unacceptable risk to health and safety is present, the necropsy is not to be conducted. In this case, the veterinarian must provide a report which is as comprehensive as possible, detailing the clinical condition of the horse and any diagnosis made.

Where the risk assessment indicates that a necropsy is able to be conducted, the following procedures shall be followed:

- a) all observations at the necropsy must be accurately recorded;**
- b) samples should be taken from target organs as appropriate to the circumstances;**
- c) blood samples should be collected if possible and submitted to a recognised laboratory for histopathology, haematology and metabolic profile ;**
- d) catastrophe report must be completed.**

V16.5 A necropsy should divide cases into two main categories:

- a) Accidental-type death due to trauma or some pre-existing problem that has reappeared under exercise conditions;**
- b) Metabolic-type death. These are the cases about which we know little and gross pathology may be quite normal. In these cases thorough collection of samples for histopathology is most important.**

V16.7 The veterinarian shall pass all fees for the treatment, euthanasia and necropsy to the owner

Voting Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA – Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Carried Unanimously.

The new motion is to be sent to the NVP and Chief Stewards. If all agree, the AERA will make a statement that the motion will come into effect immediately. Queensland and NSW members will be advised to follow current DPI guidelines and should check the DPI and State websites.

www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

A health declaration form has been developed and riders will be required to take the horse's temperature twice a day for 3 days prior to the ride. Ieva stated that she fully supports NSW and Queensland to do anything possible to ensure the safety of volunteers and horses.

Moved Matthew Krahn/Debbie Grull

That all horses participating in endurance rides in NSW and Queensland be required to complete a health declaration form until further notice and provide it to the ride organiser at point of entry.

Voting Qld – Yes, SA – No, WA – Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Carried.

11. **Letter from NSW:** A letter was received from NSWERA regarding the clash between their State Championships and the FEI Championships. They believe that they lost several entries because of this and would like more co-operation in future in setting the calendar. Ieva commented that NSW had more entries this year than last year. The AERA will try to co-ordinate in future. Once the FEI calendar is set, it is expensive to change dates.
12. **Quilty Buckles:** Roy has ordered new, better quality buckles that are due to arrive next week. They will be used in Tasmania and he proposed that they are sold to the states for \$250. He has 4 Pat Slater Cups. Anne is to remind the States that they pay for the cups and will receive a bill.
13. **NESC/EA:** The NESC was an interim committee and will now be called the EA EC (EA Endurance Committee). Expressions of Interest will be called for applications to become a member of the committee. Tom summarised recent developments following the Endurance Forum. The Endurance Forum was held and the FEI endurance fraternity had a strong presence. Five people also officiated at the Toorbul ride. Two of these officials, Ruth Carlson from Canada who is the Chairman of the FEI Technical Committee and Ian Williams, the Director of Non Olympic disciplines, looked at the fact that Australian horses were allowed to ride on National Identification documents and not FEI passports and AERA and FEI horses were using the same vet ring. The identification issue is in the rules and every other country in the world uses FEI passports. 2* and 3* events require a passport. The current affiliation agreement with EA allows us to use NID's instead of passports. With regards to the vetting, Ieva showed them the relevant section of the EA agreement. They also wanted the FEI horses to stay in the crewing area and not go back to their camps during the hold times.

These issues were the catalyst of the new draft agreement from the EA. In other countries you have to be a member of the National Federation which would mean that Australians competing in FEI rides would have to be members of EA. Clause 12 of the agreement is the issue. Until this is sorted out AERA will not be signing the agreement and will operate under the current agreement until the end of the year.

Mark believes that we should be able to offer choices to our riders and FEI is the next level up from the Quilty, Shahzada, Far-a-way etc. We should not make it more difficult for riders to achieve their ambitions. People should not be denied the opportunity to compete internationally.

Debbie believes that we need to recognise a symbiotic relationship. Survival of the sport is having the young professionals coming through the ranks. There are many who could not compete unless they have an avenue to sell their horses. Qualifying through the FEI is a requirement.

14. **FEI Championships:** The AERA has received an application from OZ Endurance to host the event as part of the 2012 Endurance Festival to be held on the full moon 5th & 6th May, 2012.
15. **Appointment of new MCP BMCO.** Three applications were received for the position and discussions were held in camera with a secret ballot taken. Dorte Colja was appointed to the position.
16. **BOM Report:** Present: Barbara Macdonald Timms, Trish Annetts, Jennifer Gilbertson. Visitors: Mark Freeman, Ieva Peters and Kerry Spratt. Apologies from Chris Gates and Anne Barnes.

Much of the discussion was about the structure of the Squad and the best way to service the needs of the members of the AERA. Each rider attending the World Championships must be a member of the AES.

The YHC Selection Policy has been approved by the EA High Performance Manager. The nominated entry list has to be submitted at the beginning of November. Grooms need to be nominated as well. Official Grooms at World Championship events are a part of the team and there are 2 per rider. The Trans Tasman could be in November in NZ.

An invitation to South Africa was received too late to send a team. An E of I on the AES chatline received no response as it was one week before the Forum and Toorbul event.

There has since been an invitation to a 2* CEI event in May next year. AES has been keen for some time to have a reciprocal event. In 2012 a Tri Nations event is planned between South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. Expressions of Interest will be called. Suitable horses, accommodation etc will be required. It would be a 2* 120km event.

A Squad Camp will be held at the Quilty on the Wednesday prior to the event. Penny Toft resigned from the BOM on the 9th May, 2011.

The Young Riders 2011 World Champs will be fully funded - four riders and five horses, two grooms per rider, Chef and Vet. Airfares, accommodation and stabling, etc. will be paid.

It was suggested that a workshop is held to discuss International matters. A fresh approach, with fresh people is needed. We also need a high performance coach.

Moved Matthew Krahnen/Kerry Spratt

That we write to the EA stating our concerns about the current draft agreement and that we forward payment of \$4,973.10 for the first half of the year on the understanding that we are operating under the agreement which expired in 2010.

Voting Carried Unanimously.

The interim NESC was not as functional as the AERA IC. The new EA EC needs to be proactive. There has been no reporting from the NESC to AERA.

Once the agreement is sorted out an International workshop will be held in Brisbane.

17. **National Calendar:** Anne is to send another reminder about updating the National Calendar on the AERA website.

18. **Quilty Website:** The domain name www.tomquilty.com.au has been registered for Quilty Committees to use. Past Quilty information can also be put on there.

19. **Accredited Veterinarians**

Moved WA/Sandy Little

That Anna Erickson and Toni Cockburn be accepted as accredited AERA Veterinarians

Voting Carried Unanimously

20. **Insurance:** Dee Berry has resigned as the Insurance Officer

Moved Kerry Spratt/Matthew Krahnen

That a motion of thanks is moved for Dee Berry for her efforts as insurance officer

Voting Carried Unanimously.

Anne is to write a letter of thanks and send a notice to the newsletters asking for Expressions of Interest.

21. **Database:** Steve presented reports from Peter Johnson and gave each State a request for information re pointscores etc. that he needs as a matter of urgency. He explained that he is working with Madelaine Fisher, a QERA member to produce program specifications for Peter Johnson. He has also been working with Peter Johnson who believes that once the specification is complete there will be 2 months work.

Transfer of information should not be a problem. Steve feels there will be no problem integrating any timing system.

22. **Motions to be Re-tabled for Second Vote – Rule Changes**

11.1 **Rule change to permit Elevator Rides in Training Rides.**

Amend A19 as follows;

A19 GENERAL RULES

All AERA inc. Rules and procedures apply, except as provided within these ELEVATOR RIDE RULES.

19.1.0 Endurance Rides

All the existing rules from 19.2 to 19.12 remain unchanged except for the numbering sequence. Also, for consistency change the word “riders” to competitors” throughout the existing section.

And then add as follows.....

19.2.0 Training Rides

19.2.1 Training Rides that are designated as elevator rides must be a minimum distance of 40 kilometres and a maximum of 65 kilometres and comprise 2 legs.

19.2.2 Riders must successfully complete the first leg before they elect to elevate up to nominated maximum available distance of 65 kilometres or less.

19.2.3 All riders in an elevator ride enter for the maximum available distance.

19.2.4 Ride committees must charge the same entry fee for all competitors.

19.2.5 Ride committees must issue completion awards to riders who have successfully completed leg 1 as well as riders who successfully complete the maximum distance.

19.2.6 Riders who elect to “retire” from the elevated ride after successful completion of vetting after Leg 1 shall have their logbooks marked as “Retired”.

Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA –Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Motion carried. New rule in 2011

11.2 **that the word “competitors” in the AERA Handbook section is replaced with “riders”, with the exception of the Harness section.**

Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA –Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Motion carried. New rule in 2011

23. **Motions on Notice for Discussion and First Vote**

12.1 **VERA Motion 1. Rule V5 page 37**

The VERA SMC moves that the following two clauses be added to rule V5.

Rule V5.3. On presentation if the horse’s heart rate exceeds the maximum set for that leg of the ride it will be eliminated.

Rule V5.4. The time of presentation at the vet ring will be recorded in the logbook as the ‘vet time’ by the chief steward or delegated official.

Rationale: Early vetting has been accepted by riders with open arms and is recognized by many as being the best system for vetting horses. The pressure to strap a horse to a set heart rate is reduced as the clock is already stopped and the horse and rider have a little bit longer recovery time after vetting early. Both horses and riders are more relaxed. This system has been use for some years now and riders would not be happy to return to presenting exactly on the half hour. The VERA SMC believes that the above additions will enhance the early vetting system and are a timely review of this rule.

At present the rule book does not prescribe that a horse can only present once to the vet ring for the heart rate check under this system of vetting. The VERA SMC believes that the wording of the proposed rule V5.3 will do this allowing for the first leg maximum pulse of 55 and then a maximum of 60 for all other legs in endurance rides. It also covers multi leg training rides where the maximum is 55 for all legs.

Many riders have asked for the ‘present time’ to be recorded in the logbook. This allows them to calculate the ‘strapping time’ for each leg, for different horses and for the same horse at different rides. All have

expressed the view that this is a valuable training tool, a good way to gauge the recovery time of a horse and an indication of its aerobic fitness.

Most importantly knowing how long a horse has been in camp before presenting to the vet ring is an important indicator to the veterinarians as to the horse's general condition. A horse with a high heart rate and low gut sounds five minutes after crossing the finish line is a different proposition to a horse with a high heart rate and low gut sounds twenty-five minutes after crossing the finish line. This proposal has the support of VERA state vet Helen Spencer.

Debate: There are two parts to early vetting. There is nothing to stipulate that you only get one chance to present. The time of presentation is the second part. Riders want the present time written in the logbook.

Matthew stated that he agrees with the amendment to V5.3. He does not agree to writing the presentation time in the logbook. The rule was never designed to do that. At large rides it would be very difficult to prevent holdups with the logbooks and would require another official to record the times. He believes the change is more motivated as a promotional tool for horse people who do not get an opportunity to do VGIH rides. It would be very difficult to put into place.

Dorte stated that if the majority of members want that then rides should be VGIH. Another of the original reasons for the early vetting was because members did not want VGIH as they believed that "FEI" was taking over.

Tom stated that NSW run their rides in the same way as QERA and write the 30 minute time in the logbook. With AERA vetting it is not possible to write the presentation time. Melanie also supported Matthew's view.

Sandy stated that the logbooks can be handed out when the rider crosses the line. Riders turn up on time as there is no pressure as riding has already stopped.

Dorte asked if riders are given the books, they come to the Chief Steward and there is a backlog of riders. How do you control who is first. Sandy replied that they will work it out themselves.

Moved	Sandy Little/Ieva Peters
That	the motion is spread into 2 parts, V5.3 and V5.4
Voting	Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA –Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Motion carried

Rule V5.3. On presentation if the horse's heart rate exceeds the maximum set for that leg of the ride it will be eliminated.

Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA –Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Motion carried. Next meeting for 2nd vote.

Rule V5.4. The time of presentation at the vet ring will be recorded in the logbook as the 'vet time' by the chief steward or delegated official.

Qld – No, SA – No, Vic – Yes, WA –No, Tas – Yes, NSW – No. Motion Lost

12.2 QERA Motion 1

“that H5.3 is amended to read:

H5.3 A novice horse may only enter a maximum of four affiliated endurance rides of between 80 and 120 kilometres inclusive in any 90 day period, retrospective from the date of the ride to be entered, and only 2 rides in any 22 day period.

Rationale: The Independent Review Panel made this recommendation to prevent a novice horse entering more than 2 rides in a multi day ride.

Dorte stated that the Independent Review Panel looked at consecutive 80 klm rides over 5 days. Technically a novice horse can do 5 rides in a row. The rule covers horse welfare issues and prevents novice horses being fast tracked.

Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA –Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Motion Carried. Next meeting for 2nd vote.

12.3 QERA Motion 2

“that Rule A17.4a be deleted.”

Rationale: The original intention of the clauses under this rule offers the C/S and H/V in consultation to choose to have vet checks or heart-rate gates in the middle and at the finish of a training ride or to opt for a single leg ride with a nominated pace rider. The requirement for the latter is somewhat watered down by A17.2(d) which is repeated again word for word in A17.4. Perhaps an error of “cut and paste” that slipped past the editor. The wording of this rule is clearly creating confusion and needs to be amended. The repetition also needs to be eliminated. Furthermore AERA Rule A17 is referenced from AERA Rule R3.6 (Novice Rider) and H5.4 (Novice Horse) and it is easy to understand why there is inconsistent interpretation and implementation of this rule by officials and the membership.

Because of this highly relevant analysis, we felt it necessary for the AERA to re-consider the clause, and whether or not 17.4 should be included at all.

Ieva asked why not delete A17.2d and leave A17.4a

Moved Matthew Krahnen/Liz Rutherford
That **the motion is amended to remove A17.2d and leave A17.4a**
Voting Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA –Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Motion Carried.

The amendment became the motion and was voted on.

Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA –Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Motion Carried. Next meeting for 2nd vote.

12.4 QERA Motion 3

“that a new rule A9.8 is created, Whilst officiating at an affiliated event, a Chief Steward must have ready access to a current copy of the AERA Members Handbook”.

Rationale: Most Chief Stewards do carry a current copy of the Members Handbook. This rule makes it a requirement

Ieva stated that if the Chief Steward does not have a rule book they should not be appointed.

Qld – Yes, SA – No, Vic – No, WA –No, Tas – Yes, NSW – No. Motion Lost

12.5 Ride Suspension

Moved Kerry Spratt/Debbie Grull
That **A11.4cii is amended to read:**

ii. suspend the ride by extending the hold time for a period sufficient to allow the relevant issues to be resolved. The ride suspension should not exceed 2 hours but may be extended when there is a reasonable expectation that the ride can be recommenced without compromising the health and welfare of the horses, competitors, ride officials and volunteers.

Voting Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA –Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Motion Carried.
Next meeting for 2nd vote.

12.5 Represents

Moved Matthew Krahnen/Melanie Scott
That **H14.2 and V1.8 be amended to read**

At the discretion of the HV any horse may be required to represent for a metabolic assessment in the period of 1-2 hours after the horse finishes the ride. This assessment does not involve a trot out. The status of the horse’s completion at the end of the ride cannot be altered unless the horse subsequently receives IT, in which case, Rule H24.6 shall govern whether the completion status may be altered.

Voting Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA – Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Motion Carried and will be brought to the next meeting for the 2nd vote.

24. **Ride Suspension, Abandonment, Termination Guidelines to be finalised:** Tom stated that it was not meant as a rule but a guideline that the Chief Stewards can refer to. We need to ensure hold times etc. are recorded properly. Riding time reflects the real time. The computer also needs to be able to cope or manual records kept. The rule states the ride is suspended for 2 hours. It needs to be extended if there is a reasonable expectation that the ride can re-start.

Moved Dorte Colja/Ieva Peters

That the guidelines for ride abandonment, suspension and termination are accepted.

Voting Qld – Yes, SA – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA – Yes, Tas – Yes, NSW – Yes. Motion Carried.

They will be put into the rulebook as guidelines.

25. **Australian Endurance Forum:** Tom welcomed Brian Sheahan to the meeting to give a debrief on the forum. He was also asked to give a Hendra update. A lockdown will not be introduced yet. Ride Organisers should introduce bio security measures – taking temperatures for 3 days prior to the ride, complete a health declaration form and protect TPR's by taking temperatures wearing gloves. Disinfectant should be made available. All vets attending have to have a Personal Protection outfit. A Hendra bio security kit is available.

Brian stated that we should look at longer term problems and what to do if a horse dies at an event. Brian would like an epidemiologist to do a document for us and is happy to cost a report from him. Individual groups have also asked the DPI to develop biosecurity for events. Barbara commented that a horse can have the virus for 2 days before it becomes sick. Brian should proceed with a quote from Nigel Perkins..

Brian stated that he has received no negative feedback from the forum. The problems came from the Toorbul ride afterwards and EA have now come back with a new agreement. Brian will be disappointed if endurance is the only one that is forced to comply with the rule book. NZ also want the same dispensation that Australia has.

There is an issue with cost if we are forced to comply with the rules.

Brian discussed the 2 hour/IT rule. When it was written discretionary fluids were not on the horizon. Now, if riders ask for fluids they can get them at the discretion of the Treatment vet before the 2 hours is up.

However horses are under veterinary control if the logbook is retained. If riders refuse direction the ride organizer can call the RSPCA. Under FEI rules the person gets a yellow card.

The 2 hour rule came originally from the FEI. It is hard to police if riders are hiding horses. There should be a hold period. The rule has been dropped from FEI. It should be changed from 2 hours to a hold period, however they are still under control if the vet/cs is still holding the logbook.

Pat asked what happens if the treatment vet needs to refer a horse to the hospital but the owner cannot afford treatment and asks the vet to euthanize the horse. Brian replied that it is not a logical parameter. The horse is under the treatment vet, the vet wants to refer so the owner is obliged to take the horse to hospital where it will be examined. It is at that stage the owner can decide to treat or euthanize. The decision to do a post mortem should be done after a risk assessment is done by the vet. The least amount of time should be spent on the post mortem. Nigel Perkins does not believe Hendra should be an excuse not to do a PM. The vet should work out what is necessary and target what is required.

26. **Powers of the Chief Steward (VERA):** Should chief stewards have the power to grant time penalties and/or deduct time from riding times. Several scenarios can be imagined. A rider stops to help another rider. A rider is known to have taken short cut but has passed through all the checkpoints.

Time penalties have been given in the past. It is not in the rules but Chief Stewards have full control. It is not possible to have a list of incidents where riders can claim. Chief Steward should exercise discretion and use commonsense. If the rider is not happy, then they have the right to appeal to the SMC.

27. **Stallions (VERA):** Are the rules relating to the control of stallions strict enough? Yes some stallions only require a piece of cotton, but some believe this to be the case for their stallion when they may not have as much control as they think.

Chief Stewards can give advice. Most are not a problem. VERA is to bring a rule change back to the next meeting. P28. H11.2.

28. **Inactive Members (VERA):** Should a qualified endurance rider who has not ridden for a fair while do their first ride back at novice time? Expectations in the sport have changed over the years and what was acceptable ten years ago may not be viewed in the same light today. Rules and processes have also changed.

VERA has had several old members come back after 10 years. QERA has had a motion in place for a long time, that if the member has had continuous membership they can re-enter the sport as an open rider. If they have not had a current membership for 2 years then they must complete one ride as a novice rider. QERA felt that these members were not up to date with current rules and procedures. VERA can handle it at State level.

29. **Use of Hobbles (WAERA):** Ieva stated that this came from their AGM. Chief Stewards also have a duty of care to prevent dangerous situations evolving. There should be no exception for any horse. Use of hobbles is unacceptable and show poor horsemanship skills.

Ieva stated that her understanding of the context is horse containment. Hobbles are used to prevent the horse walking the fence.

Voting Qld – No, Vic – Yes, WA – Yes, Tas – No, NSW – No. Motion Lost.

30. **Membership of AHIC (MK):** Matthew stated that the AHIC is recognised by Animal Health Australia as the peak body. They have recently had elections and new, active people are involved. If we became a member we can nominate someone at the next board elections. Kent Wells is on the board along with several non-racing people. We need to position ourselves within the industry. EA has a seat on the board but they may not represent the same view as us. 30 votes - \$2,500.

Moved Dorte Colja/Sandy Little

That the AERA joins the AHIC in 2012 at a cost of \$2,500.

Voting Qld – Yes, Vic – Yes, WA – Yes, Tas – abstain, NSW – Yes. Motion Carried. Roy and Matthew to liaise and Tom will attend meetings.

31. **Horse Welfare (TEERA):** Debbie raised Horse Welfare issues after attending the forum. She discussed her ideas. We need to be proactive not reactive. A welfare checklist might get riders thinking about what they are doing. Equitation is a big issue. There are discrepancies between horse and rider qualifications. A novice horse can do an 80 klm ride. Riders have to do 2 training rides. We need to create a vision document and an education program with lots of modules. AERA should develop the modules and conduct weekend seminars. Place a document in the newsletters as a self quiz. Vets should be encouraged to talk to riders about body score. Debbie is to design one page to put in newsletters – a questionnaire about how well do you know your horse.

32. **Junior Age at the Quilty(NSWERA):**

that the minimum rider age for entry into the Tom Quilty be altered from 12 years to 10 years, subject to the rider meeting all other qualification requirements.

Rationale: a rider is able to enter any other 160km ride before they are 12.... why not the Quilty if they are otherwise qualified?

This is not a rule but is in the Quilty agreement. NSW feels that there is no reason why the age should be different. If restricts some potential juniors from competition.

Matthew is against the change. He can remember not being able to ride in the Quilty until he was 12. Juniors will have ridden in a 160klm ride before the Quilty, but in a smaller ride compared with the Quilty with 200-300 horses. There is also more hype at the Quilty. The majority of kids are capable but as a parent, he would not want it. Also the adult companion could vet out leaving someone else with the responsibility.

Sandy agrees. A long time ago the age was set to 12. They can do more 160klm rides between 10 and 12. The biggest challenge for a 10 year old is to stay awake.

Voting Qld – No, SA – abstain, Vic – No, WA – No, Tas – No, NSW – Yes. Motion Lost.

33. **SA Quilty:** James Fowles is organising the vets and needs a response about the State vet from the States.

SA propose to incorporate the Pat Slater Cup judging into the fittest horse judging to save time. There is a concern that it may take some kudos from the Pat Slater cup.

The disputes committee will be James Vowles, Tom McCormack, Ieva Peters, a member of the SMC and Sue Arwen.

The Pat Slater Cup Judges will be: Ron Malone (Chair), Jill Ross, James Vowles, Meg Wade and Maggie Winn.

Reserves: Matthew Krahn, Dennis Sugars, Jil Bourton.

Moved Melanie Scott/Matthew Krahn

That **the SA Quilty Committee seeks approval from AERA to increase the vet levy to \$20 per rider, per horse.**

Voting Carried Unanimously

34. **Tasmania 2012 :** Debbie noted that communication between the Quilty Committee and TEERA is improving all the time. Pat reported that at the moment, sponsorship is not going well. They are still looking for a Ride Director and someone to take on the Risk Management portfolio.

Pat is the President of the Group. If they can get a Ride Director, she will be the Head Vet otherwise Anne Barnes will do it.

Moved Pat Hodgetts/Dorte Colja

That **Robyn Mather is appointed as the Treatment Vet and Geoff Parsons as the Track Vet**

Voting Carried Unanimously

Pat stated that they will trial a timing system

35. Matthew advised that he is the liaison between the Quilty Committee and QERA/AERA. The documents have been signed. Vern is looking for sponsorship.

36. **Draft IT forms:** New IT forms are close to being finalised. A cost estimate clause for treatment will be added. The forms will be printed in booklets with 3 copies. The 3rd copy will go to the AERA horse welfare person.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on **18th, 19th and 20th November, 2011.**

Meeting Closed: 12:55 p.m.