



# Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc.

## Minutes of Subsidiary Agenda for 8 July 2023

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

### 1. Correspondence – late

Inwards			
LI-1	30/06/23	Horse Force Legal – documentary request	
LI-2	30/06/23	SUREWiSE re member claim	Responded
LI-3	04/07/23	S Pollard Williams resignation from DBSC	Noted
LI-4	04/07/23	ARFL re Horse Force Legal response	Noted
LI-5	04/07/23	J Randle re protest of TQ results	
Outwards			Author
LO1	04/07/23	ARFL query re Documentary Request from Horse Force Legal	KM
LO2	06/07/23	SUREWiSE re member claim	KM

**Motion: 2023/07/Sub1 Moved: Kim Moir / Clare Fleming**

**That the Late Correspondence Inwards is received, and the Late Correspondence Outwards is endorsed. Carried unanimously.**

### 2. Business arising from Late Correspondence

#### 2.1. LI-1 Horse Force Legal Documentary Request / consider with LI-4 from ARFL

Discussed in main agenda.

#### 2.2. LI-5 J Randle – protest re TQ results

Discussed in main agenda.

### 3. Reports – late or addendum

#### 3.1. SAERA – not late only lost! – Jil Bourton

Figured I'd write this while still in Portugal as I'll be hitting the ground running when we return!

To date SA has run a starter/trainer, two CATE's and two 80km events and once again a very successful Easter Marathon which was dual affiliated with VERA & very well attended by members from that state. We had a record number of 21 entries in the 240km with just shy of 50% completion. All other distances were quite well supported. The first event, an 80km, held at Wirrina (TQ24) venue went off well and I believe the course was challenging but enjoyed by most - unfortunately the weather wasn't so kind.

Numbers in the intro and intermediate rides have been steadily growing since last year, picking up some new members along the way and it will be interesting to see over time if our various new initiatives help in encouraging these members to progress as Endurance riders. Watch this space.

To date we have presented four of our head vets with their personalised SAERA VET soft shell vests in which they look very smart and unmistakable - just a bit more "upbeat" than the daggy high viz numbers that have been in the ride trailer FOREVER!

We are committed to attracting more vets to the sport and making sure they are appreciated and valued.

#### Discussion

JB noted that the take-up of introductory and intermediate rides seems to be growing in SA and WA and reiterated the importance of supporting riders to remain in the sport and to consider moving through the levels.

MD noted that TEERA has this on the agenda of their next meeting consideration of how shorter rides fit into the overall framework. Also considering a policy for maximum times for shorter rides which used to be but seems to be taking longer.

KM noted that the database ride set up does allow for a maximum time to be entered with the "track closure" option.

**Report received.**

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

Report was discussed with Linda Tanian joining the meeting at 2.00 pm – minutes in the main meeting minutes.

### **3.3. EAEC Report – Dick Collyer**

Extensive report (Appendix 1) was received from Dick Collyer who had left the meeting before this agenda item was considered.

Resolved to distribute this report for email discussion.

Note next EAEC Meeting is on 10 August 2023.

#### Action

To commence an email thread with guidance to adhere to the subject – Mark Dunn.

### **3.4. NSWERA Report – Annette Bailey**

Endurance NSW had a very successful TQ23 with 65 NSW riders entering with a 76.9% completion rate. This was above the overall completion rate for the event of 71.98%. On this note, AERASpace does not appear to have the capability to provide State attendance data such as this and it had to be manually calculated. This type of data provides useful insight into the management and promotion of the sport nationally and the Quilty.

It was both exciting and rewarding that NSW took out the State Representative Teams Event and placed 6<sup>th</sup> place in both the Restricted Teams and Unrestricted Teams Event. NSW would like to see a State Junior Teams competition at future Quiltys as an enhancement to encourage juniors to qualify to ride at 160km rides. Promotion to form a junior team at the TQ23 led to four juniors successfully qualifying at the Bushgrove event to ride at the TQ23.

Our membership has increased slightly since last month. However, one of most encouraging outcomes has been the promotion of our social media platform. Over the TQ23 event, we saw nearly 10,000 hits on our Facebook page. Every week we are getting requests to join our Endurance NSW Facebook site which will hopefully translate into future memberships. Endurance NSW is also including a new byline that reflects how we wish to grow – "Something for Everyone". There is no doubt that investment in promotions is by far the best investment that we can make to reinvigorate endurance riding in NSW.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June, we discounted our Intermediate membership fees and on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, we also discounted our full membership fees to reflect the last 6 months of this calendar year. This promotion has already paid dividends with 12 new intermediate members taking up the offer. Hopefully these will convert to full memberships.

The integration of the AERAOnline membership platform will allow for further promotion of the sport as it becomes a tool to encourage ease of joining and renewing membership (not just for NSW but for the sport nationally).

Financially, we are stable. However, ride organising committees are expressing concerns that the cost of staging events is becoming very difficult. The flow on effect of ride affiliation fees, vet costs, insurance premiums, and other extraneous costs experienced throughout the economy are putting pressure on the viability of holding events. This is further exacerbated by increased bureaucratic requirements in order to plan and manage a riding course.

Last weekend the Snowy Zone and ACTERA hosted a workshop at Yass that was attended by 15 people to provide training in the use of AERASpace and the ETS. For this we thank Tom McCormack for his patience and involvement. Endurance NSW provided funding for this workshop.

We have also incurred costs that have not been budgeted due to ongoing matters. This is having an impact on our bottom line.

For a new committee, the last 6 months have been rather tumultuous. However, we have a great team, and we are adopting the "steady as you go" attitude as we continue to manage the sport in NSW.

#### Discussion

MD acknowledged the NSW ERA Facebook and the flow of information to that platform.

CF noted the suggestion to promote a junior team at future TQ events and will discuss further options for how an award might be sourced. This would be a team entry with the capacity to award team badges.

KFS noted there are three sets of team trophies now that are awarded to each member of a winning team and suggest this for junior teams rather than introduce another perpetual trophy to be managed.

MD noted that there had been a comment made that there were too many trophies.

#### ***Report Received***

#### Action

Proposal from NSW ERA regarding a Junior Teams Award.

### **3.5. Social Media Report – Sioux Reid**

Fellow AERA MC members,

As our esteemed President has already posted, TQ23 has been run, done & won.

It was my busiest time on AERA FB, as has been the past times I have been the social media person on the ground at TQ's. A few things I would like to discuss.

Up until the weekend I knew I was part of the AERA FB page for posting. I had not realised that my ability to do so had been hindered by being demoted to a moderator rather than an admin person.

This brought about many challenges on the weekend. I was unable to see posts in their entirety but only 'recent comments'. It also hindered my ability to fully action some matters.

As you may all be aware, following my 1st video post just prior to midnight, the post was targeted by hackers. I was made aware of this by Jen Green from Victoria and Mark Dunn. The following 3 and a 1/2 hours saw me sitting in the office trying valiantly to block and remove all hackers who were attempting to get followers to click on bogus links. Jen Green was of invaluable assistance during all these hacks.

I did attempt to contact Ieva Peters (AERA FB Admin) in WA for assistance as it was 10pm there but was unsuccessful until she saw my message the following morning.

Jen and I had already had numerous conversations regarding this type of hacking activity. I had conversations with Mark, and Chris Nicholls had the alternative TQ23 page removed from FB due to copyright infringement.

In reality these links would enable hackers to get into the 'back end' of people's computers and find passwords and financial information and access it.

There was a brief lull until 6am when they started up again. I posted to all DA FB pages with a QR code for the Mindari App and continued to block and remove all subsequent links.

Unfortunately, along with most people at TQ23, I lost internet access at 9am. It came back intermittently and when it did, I continued to post what I could and to block any hacker links that I was able to.

When I was able to get in contact with Ieva I was told Tash Ellery and Linda Tanian were also AERA FB Admin along with herself. Since that very trying and tiring ordeal I have had a few thoughts.

I wish to be reinstated as AERA FB Admin so I can monitor the page more closely. I had not realised my ability to do so was compromised to such a large extent.

As I have not seen any admin activity from Linda, I wonder whether Linda needs to be an admin? AERA MC can decide on these matters accordingly.

One of the 'problems' we have had in VERA is that there has been a strong shift to updating social media on FB only. As not all of our members are on FB this has compromised the flow of information that they have been able to access as the website was not being updated simultaneously. I have been trying to correct this by sending the webmaster the same information as I put on VERA FB, so we cover a greater social media audience.

On looking at the AERA website I cannot see much recent activity and I would like to suggest we try to do the same with our own social media. I do think there is a swing away from the various social media programs lately and I feel this will get stronger as people become more frequently hacked. The website is a safer alternative for many.

If AERA agrees I would like to have a conversation with Chris Nicholls about this matter. I also feel we could be highlighting DA event weekends and news from such more frequently and posting them to the website on a regular basis. This will hopefully increase our presence to members and reinvigorate AERA as having a stronger interest in our DA's and their members. I have included a single report from AERA FB page which shows the strongest interaction from one post at TQ23. The numbers are quite exceptional, as has been my experience with TQ posts and videos in the past.

During our normal endurance year we do not get interactions this strong, but I do still feel we could be doing more to increase our presence throughout the year.



Discussion

SR noted that she has now been added as a Fb Administrator.  
 Aim to integrate some of the social media information to the website as it seems “tired” with minimal updates.  
 Content needs to be sourced and be shared to both platforms.

Action

SR to connect with AERA webmaster and formulate a plan.

### 3.6. EADCM Report – Sioux Reid

Fellow AERA MC,

There will be more pressing EADCM matters to discuss on Saturday.

This is a very brief report as I have not had a full discussion with Mart-Lou Locke as yet.

We did have a short discussion at TQ23 and it appears the ‘problems’ with swabbing continue to be the same.

Basically the whole process sits in the mystical realms in people’s minds. The rules are very precise and very difficult to interpret for many. The process is also not fully understood and is frequently seen as stressful to the random person’s responsible.

DAs are still not ordering or reporting through Mary-Lou which makes her role very difficult to administer.

Some DAs are ordering straight from ARFL and returning their kits without informing Mary-Lou of the details. Horse numbers swabbed at a ride, kit numbers etc. This means it is impossible to correlate how effectively/proactively DA’s are adhering to the recommended swab numbers per DA.

A few years ago, as a swab steward, I devised a form to be given to CS & HV to fill out, prior to the start of leg 1, for random swabs to be done & the horses to be done at rides other than State Champs & TQ.

I know that Mary-Lou, as a CS, always presumes a ride is going to be swabbed and the random choices are pre-selected and ready should a swabbing steward attend.

This is not the case at VERA rides.

I would like to suggest that we try to formulate a dot point list for CS to have this form ready for all rides on the calendar and one for PR’s to demystify the entire process of swabbing and make it very basic and easy to understand.

There is a flow chart hand out that I have given to PR’s (from EA?) when I have swabbed but I honestly do not think it is much help. Still all in legal jargon and fairly uninteresting.

I do believe that if we can break it down to an easier document that swabbing will be less stressful for all involved.

Discussion

The *Selection of Horses to be Swabbed Form* to note selection process is available but is not referenced in the rules. Updated forms were promoted to the DAs last year when the forms were updated and added to the website.

Noted that QERA is receiving information from ARFL regarding results of swabbing. Other DAs are not receiving this. This should be done for all or not and cc Marylou so she is receiving this information.

Noted that there has been a lack of training opportunities for swabbing stewards (this was noted in the EAEC Report). AM offered an observation that the cost of becoming a swabbing steward including membership of EA and suggest this is something that DAs should look at. CF noted that this has been discussed by NSW ERA.

Suggestion that AERA negotiate waiving of EA membership fee for volunteers and advocate for more courses. Also noted that swabbing is DA responsibility.

Action

Kim to seek understanding about how it has come to be that QERA is receiving this advice.

Keep on EAEC agenda to maintain availability of courses.

**3.7. TQ Manual final review**

Dealt with in main agenda.

**3.8. Reports relating to two horse deaths**

Dealt with in main agenda.

**3.9. Rule change for Ride and Tie**

Work has been done to review rules related to this and will be forwarded for the next meeting.

**4. General Business**

**4.1. NSWERA proposed rule change**

CF advised that NSW ERA will be bringing forward a proposed rule change regarding Rules 57.2 and 57.3.

The AERA Secretary noted that no information has been received.

KM referenced the AERA By-law Adoption of New Rules on the [AERA website](#)


Action

CF to follow up with NSWERA.

**5. Meeting Closure**

There being no further business Mark Dunn thanked everyone for their contributions and declared the meeting closed at 4.40 pm.

**President: Mark Dunn**

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

**Date:** 28/9/23 \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 1 EAEC Report – Dick Collyer

As the AERA representative on this EA sub-committee, I attended this meeting. I put 4 items for consideration on the Agenda:

### 1. The situation with regard to Terms of Reference, procedures and EOI for Team officials, selectors and applications for the World Championships for Young Riders (France, September).

EA have responded with general information on the process for this for the non-Olympic disciplines.

### 2. Nomination of the WEC Gold Medal winning team at Compiegne in 2000 to the EA Hall of Fame.

It was argued at the meeting that the nomination should include all members of the Australian endurance team, not just the 4 who comprised the Team Gold winners.

It was pointed out after the meeting that the EA Hall of Fame was currently “not functional” so they were happy to take a nomination but gave no guarantee of when it would be processed.

### 3. Availability and Training of Swabbing stewards, after a specific request from NSWERA that there were insufficient accredited stewards available to get stewards to swab at their rides.

It was pointed out that courses had been run in the last 5 years and that a new course was unlikely to be held in NSW until 2025.

### 4. EA representative to attend AERA MC meetings as per the MOU:

*“The AERA will have one (1) EA representative co-opted on any/all AERA meetings. Either the EA Endurance Sports Services Officer or a member of the EAEnC. The role of the representative will be to act as a liaison between the AERA and the EAEnC. As well as to ensure EA has the ability to understand and oversee the development processes and progress of Endurance Nationally.”*

It was suggested that it would be good to have both an EA report to AERA and an AERA report to EA so both organisations are across any changes/developments.

An EA UPDATE on this was: Unfortunately, it won't be a viable option for an EA staff member to attend full-day AERA meetings held on weekends, would suggest that an EA staff member could possibly attend for a small amount of time if there was anything directly relating to EA. EA would still like to receive the AERA Meeting Agendas and Meeting minutes, as per the AERA & EA MOU.

#### Other issues discussed were:

##### 1. FEI Endurance Officials

Sonya Ryan to was to speak further with Robyn Parnell FEI Endurance TD about the Endurance Foundation Course for Officials

##### 2. The EAEnC Budget - must be spent before the end of financial year 30.06.2023

\$3000 was granted for the 22/23 FY, to be used towards Foundation Course for Officials?

Sonya asked what else can the budget be spent on?

Examples are:

- Development of sport at EA/FEI level; Programs – for FEI riders/officials; Clinics – for FEI officials/riders; EAEnC Meetings – face-to-face, travel expenses etc; Sponsor/help subsidise Officials travel for FEI events e.g., TD's travel; Prizes for EA National Championships; Discipline EA/FEI level Performance Medals

### **3. Workshop for young Riders with a Sports Physiologist –**

Moved to AAR Di.S from HP was looking into this, waiting on a further update.

Caiwen Cusworth to follow up with Di Saunders for an update.

**4.FEI Endurance Ride Requirements – need to educate FEI endurance riders more about the requirements** (information currently on hand on the EA website, however, the riders are not looking for the information on the EA website, also need to be familiarising themselves with the FEI Endurance rules

**5. FEI Novice Qualifier Requirements Information** – EA would like to make AERA ride website results more user-friendly/compatible with the FEI database & entry system Novice Qualifier information/data entry requirements.

- Going forward Endurance Riders/owners will need to start the FEI endurance ride documentation requirements much further in advance. Would recommend a minimum of 4 weeks in advance prior to entering an FEI event.
- FEI Endurance Ride OC's need to have the Definite Closing Date for entries at least 1 week prior to the event commencing (not 2-3 days out from the event).
- Novice Qualifications are currently a very time-consuming task and the AERA ride results do not match up well with the Novice Qualifiers requirement fields in the FEI Database (one of the biggest issues is the 40km training rides that don't have placing, but the FEI system still requires a placing to be inputted). EA will be reverting to what was done a few years ago with Novice Qualifiers with Riders/Owners having to complete a Novice Qualification application form (which can be located on the EA website) and submitting the form to EA. Riders will need to work out their own Novice Qualifiers based on the results on the AERA website. The Novice Qualifier forms will need to be properly completed with no missing field for EA to process them. The riders/owners can then submit the Novice Qualification form either when completing their Passport /FEI Horse Registration application or when submitting their FEI Event entries to the event OC's and the Event OCs could forward the Novice Qualification forms to EA along with their entries.

It would still be handy if the AERA ride results were a little bit more compatible with the FEI database requirements for the Novice Qualifiers, as the application forms will still need to be cross-checked. It was suggested if 40km ride results on the AERA website could be put into order by finishing time that may assist.

- Novice Qualifiers are updated at the time that the FEI entries get inputted into the FEI Online entry system.
- FEI Riders/Owners need to familiarise themselves with FEI rules as they are different from AERA rules. They also need to make sure they follow the other FEI event requirements such as temperature logging through the FEI HorseApp. – If riders/owners know they are going to be out of service at the event then they need to ensure that all temperatures are logged leading up to the event before leaving home and then once back in range again after the event updating the temperatures in the app straight away. As the app won't let you backdate further than 3 days.

Caiwen to send EA website information links on FEI event requirements through to NOS (DONE & CC to update EA website with Novice Qualifiers application form moving to different page locations

### **6. Draft Endurance Pathways document submitted – now updated and on the website**

**Next meeting: Thursday, 10 August, 7pm**