



Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc.

Minutes of the Committee of Management Meeting

Date: Commencing at 12.35 pm AEDT, 21st March 2020 via GoToMeeting

Venue: Note due to travel restrictions related to Covid-19 virus this meeting was conducted through the digital platform GoToMeeting.

Saturday 21 March 2020 12.35 pm to 7.00 pm
Sunday 22 March 2020 10.00 am to 2.30 pm

1. Welcome by President

Linda Tanian welcomed everyone and acknowledged the historic moment of having just held our first AGM meeting electronically and that this would be the last meeting under the current Constitution. Linda expressed her hope that this document will support us better and as the custodians of that Constitution we need to keep it alive. When we encounter situations that are not clear, we should put forward a Special Resolution at the next AGM. We will be able to put up a document that represents the Association well and works for people running the Association in the future.

Thanks to Peter for his contribution as President during what has been a very difficult year.

Given the need to adjust the agenda to allow for less time, the agenda was prioritised and the following items were discussed.

Agenda Items 1 – 10 procedural and reports (excluding item 7, Business Arising)

16.2 COVID - 19 development of a statement from AERA

13.15.2 TQ20

13.15.3 TQ21

14 Rule Changes

11 Treasurer's Report

Other agenda items will be carried forward to the next meeting.

2. Members Present

2.1. AERA Delegates Present:

Linda Tanian (VERA) (Chair), Peter Bice (NSWERA), Kerry Fowler-Smith (NSWERA), Noni Seagrim (NSWERA), Dick Collyer (QERA), Leigh Ann Sample (QERA), Kim Moir (QERA), Stella Harbison (SAERA), Pat Hodgetts (TEERA), Mark Dunn (TEERA), Linda Tanian (VERA), Sioux Reid (VERA), Sarah Dumbrell (WAERA) Elsje Brandis (WAERA).

Noni Seagrim left the meeting at 4.15 on Saturday 21 March.

2.2. Apologies

Jodie Luck (SAERA) – granted leave of service

2.3. Proxy Votes:

Nil received

3. Portfolio Allocations (incumbents named for information and red identifies non-committee personnel) – carried forward to a future meeting

4. Register of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

Addressed as arises during the meeting.

Committee Member	Point of Conflict	Reason
NSWERA	TQ21 Head Vet and Chief Steward	Proposed by NSWERA
Elsje Brandis	Correspondence item 15.1.1.1	Member of TQ20 Committee
Kim Moir	Correspondence item 15.2.2.2	Author (item not discussed)

Pat wanted it noted that she is still registered as a vet and that she has asked for her name to be removed from all chat groups. Conflict of Interest will be identified as it occurs.

5. Registration of votes

AERASpace report of Adult & Junior Riding Membership (AeraSpace, 31/12/2019), including lifetime members to confirm voting numbers proportional to 2019 membership numbers.

Voting: NSWERA - 5; QERA - 6; SAERA - 1; TEERA - 2; VERA - 2; WAERA - 2. Total 18

Elsje registered dissent and stated her belief that voting should be based on 2020 membership.

6. Previous Meeting Minutes

6.1. Amendments to the Minutes of Committee of Management Meeting held on 16/17 November 2019

Amendments as noted in the agenda.

Motion: 2020/03/01 Moved: QERA / TEERA

That the Minutes of the General Meeting of 16/17 November 2019 are accepted to include the noted amendments.

Carried unanimously

6.2. Amendments to the Minutes of Teleconference Meeting held on 4 December 2019

Nil Amendments

Motion: 2020/03/02 Moved: QERA / TEERA

That the Minutes of the General Meeting by teleconference on 4 December 2019 are accepted.

Carried unanimously

6.3. Amendments to the Minutes of Teleconference Meeting held on 9 December 2019.

Nil Amendments

Motion: 2020/03/03 Moved: QERA / TEERA

That the Minutes of the General Meeting by teleconference on 9 December 2019 are accepted.

Carried unanimously

6.4. Amendments to the Minutes of Teleconference Meeting held on 18 February 2020.

Nil amendments

Motion: 2020/03/04 Moved: WAERA / TEERA

That the minutes of the General Meeting by teleconference on 18 February 2020 are accepted.

Carried unanimously

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes – carried forward to next meeting

8. Executive Decisions to be ratified

8.1. AERA Payments approved by Executive Committee

42 payments listed as per the agenda totalling expenditure of \$38,153.21.

Discussion

Query re honorarium being paid on an annual basis for AERA Registrar; Sioux confirmed that Jo prefers to submit for this payment on an annual basis though the honorarium is offered as a monthly amount.

Peter, Sarah and Kerry confirmed that they have received refund vouchers for their flights. Kim has not yet received advice on her flights. Note that Peter's airfare has not been reimbursed by AERA at this time.

Concern expressed by Elsie about how vouchers will be used as some people may not be returning to next meeting. Linda suggested that vouchers can be transferred for a small fee.

Sioux confirmed that Deb Edwards is tracking flights that have been reimbursed and who may now have credits to be used for future flights.

**Motion 2020/03/05 Moved: TEERA /QERA
That the executive decisions are ratified.
Carried unanimously**

8.2. Other decisions approved by the Executive Committee

Nil

8.3. Decisions voted on by Delegates (16) Inter-meetings**8.3.1. Discussion re increase to AERA Fees**

Motion that AERA accepts the suggested summary of charges, inclusive of GST, as set out in the attachment, Sheet 2, provided.

Moved Sioux Reid, seconded Kim Moir

Specific Increases referred to are:

- Per event - increase of \$5.00 to \$85.00
- Per event (Vol) - increase of \$7.50 to \$80.00
- Adult Full Riding member - increase of \$3.00 to \$25.00
- Day member - increase of \$5.00 to \$12.00.

Motion that consideration of the insurance fees be deferred to the next teleconference meeting of AERA. Moved Linda Tanian, seconded Pat Hodgetts

Both motions lapsed with the matter discussed at Teleconference on 9 December 2019.

8.3.2 Motions re accreditation of officials

Motion that Sara Rodes be accredited as an AERA Head Vet.

Moved Dick Collyer, seconded Linda Tanian,

Carried by majority vote.

Voting - For - 9; Against - 0; Abstain - 1.

Motion that Charles Webb be accredited as an AERA Head Vet

Moved Kerry Fowler-Smith, seconded Noni Seagrim

Carried by majority vote.

Voting: For – 11; Against – 0; Abstain – 1.

8.3.2. Discussion re fees charged to AERA by TQ19

Motion Moved Mark Dunn / Linda Tanian

'That Lachlan Cameron be regarded as the Head Treatment Vet for TQ19 with his costs allocated accordingly and that Nick Hamill be regarded as an 'additional vet' for TQ19 with his costs allocated accordingly.'

***Voting For - 8 ; Against - nil; Abstain - 1
6 delegates did not vote on this issue.
The motion is carried by majority.***

Actions

Letter to TQ19 to advise on this decision - to be signed by President - secretary to action.
Advice to Bookkeeper to allocate costs appropriately and to invoice TQ19 as per decision. Secretary to action.

8.3.3. Discussion re replacement buckle for Bob Gurr

Correspondence from Kate Howie, SA, advised that Bob Gurr had lost a TQ buckle due to his home being lost in the bush fires that occurred in SA during January. No motion was made to replace this buckle, but general support was given that AERA would replace this buckle or would support SAERA to do this.

Inter-meeting motions and discussions noted.

9. President's Report – as per AGM Report

Presidents Report as per agenda.

President's report received.

10. State Reports

10.1. NSWERA Report

NSWERA Report from Tony Warren as per agenda.

Discussion

Kerry noted that there had been an email from sport and rec wanted advice re impact of Covid 19 – a move towards some State Support to sporting bodies. Kerry will report further on this.

10.2. QERA Report

QERA Report from Dick Collyer as per agenda.

10.3. SAERA Report

Verbal report provided by Stella Harbison. SAERA has held its first ride of the year and hopefully it's not the last ride. Also noted that Bob Gurr found his buckle – lost in recent fire. This was well received with great emotion when he announced this at the ride.

10.4. TEERA Report

TEERA Report from Blaine Astell as per agenda

10.5. VERA Report

VERA Report from Linda Tanian as per agenda.

Discussion

Linda reported that VERA's new ETS was used at the first ride and was well received.

10.6. WAERA Report

Verbal report provided by Elsje – disappointed that there is no report. President's report from AGM expressed pride in the WAERA Management committee many of whom are new members. WAERA have purchased a new trailer; have implemented the new constitution and the strategic plan; have incorporated a code of conduct as by-laws. Have been excited by planning for TQ20 but all scheduled rides have been suspended till end of April while we wait for clarity about COVID-19.

All state reports received

11. Treasurer's Report (Sioux Reid)

All financial reports to end of January were provided to delegates along with the budget that was approved for 2020 in November 2019.

Treasurer's report as per agenda.

***Motion: 2020/03/06 Moved: Sioux Reid / Mark Dunn
That the Treasurer's report is received.
Carried unanimously***

Discussion

Sioux spoke to her report noting that income was down compared to budget and she and Deb will continue to provide a progressive update of income and expenditure compared to budget. Of note, affiliated fees were down by \$3500 for January.

It is imperative to maintain financial viability as the national governing body. There is adequate funds to pay existing bills, mainly insurance; premiums are based on previous year's activities and this could lead to lesser cost for 2021 but insurers will probably say risk is the same so we should not anticipate a reduction in premium next year. Equestrian Australia has not yet invoiced for current year's affiliation fee so payment of that may be deferred.

Monthly progressive reports will be forwarded to all Committee members.

Kerry noted that Minister for Sport had already sought information from sporting bodies about anticipated impact from COVID-19 and NSWERA had estimated loss of between 63% and 69% of budgeted income, equating to \$99 k to \$110 k. Funding opportunities will be announced with a focus on NSW State Organisations – all States should offer similar opportunities.

Elsje suggested that groups should be proactively seeking information.

Develop revised budget for this year reflecting no rides for next 3 – 6 months and look at cost savings.

Decision that there will be no face-to-face meetings scheduled which is cost saving for AERA and DAs but also safe health measure. Note also that the change of structure brought about by the Constitution will also reduce meeting costs long-term.

Actions

All DAs to watch for funding opportunities locally and to proactively seek information.

Kim and Linda to discuss how to track funding options

Sioux to discuss with Deb the development of a revised budget with no income from DAs from ride fees etc for next 3 months and next 6 months.

Review of expenses to identify cost savings.

Linda to write to EA to ask to defer payment of Affiliation Fee.

12. National Ride Entry Statistics 2019 (2018). (Source: AeraSpace.)

Data as at 31 December 2019

Division	Endurance		Intermediate		Introductory		FEI		Total	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
NSWERA	1015	1220	699	666	949	667	32	34	2695	2587
QERA	1277	1653	1063	1139	572	624	26	54	2938	3470
SAERA	190	166	142	74	213	87	-	-	545	327
TEERA	657	388	259	281	60	97	-	-	976	766
VERA	531	388	302	321	127	205	-	-	960	914
WAERA	378	460	302	292	384	270	8	6	1072	1028
Totals	4048	4275	2767	2773	2305	1950	66	94	9186	9092

13. Portfolio Reports

- 13.1. **AERA Registrar Report (Jo Bailey) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.2. **Website (Noni Seagrim, Linda Tanian, Talea Hasko-St) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.3. **AERA Webmaster (Sioux Reid) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.4. **Facebook (Ieva Peters, Sioux Reid, Jane Radny) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.5. **AeraSpace (Linda Tanian) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.6. **Chief Stewards and TPRs (Mark Dunn) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.7. **National Veterinary Panel (Mark Dunn) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.8. **Horse welfare and Invasive Treatments (Mark Dunn) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.9. **Medication Control (Marylou Locke) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.10. **Biosecurity Committee (Linda Tanian (Co-ordinator), Pat Hodgetts, Sioux Reid, Luke Annetts, Matthew Walker, Jo Hamilton-Branigan, Bill Harbison.) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.11. **Equestrian Australia – Endurance Committee (Leigh Ann Sample) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.12. **Insurance Advisor (Report provided by Sioux Reid) – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.13. **Governance and Policy (Linda Tanian) – carried forward to next meeting**

13.13.1. AERA Constitution

Special resolution to accept Constitution presented at AGM.

Discussion

When the new Constitution is registered with Fair Trading it will take 4 – 8 weeks for this to be processed.

DAs to decide on members going forward with the new structure of 8.

The Management Committee will determine how the Executive positions will be elected/appointed, noting there will be one Vice President in the new structure.

Transition process is explained in Clause 41 of the Constitution.

- 13.13.2. Policy, Strategic Planning, Restructure – carried forward to next meeting.**
- 13.14. National Ride Standard – carried forward to next meeting**
- 13.15. Tom Quilty Gold Cup**
 - 13.15.1. 2019 – Queensland – carried forward to next meeting.**
 - 13.15.2. 2020 – Western Australia**
 - 13.15.2.1. TQ 2020 Report**

Report received as per agenda.

Linda noted that the report shows that they have been working very hard and getting things in order.

Discussion

Correspondence had been received from TQ20 suggesting postponement of the event. This letter was subsequently withdrawn by WAERA who had not endorsed it and they as a group, of which TQ20 are sub-committee, have the right to make a decision. AERA also has a right to discuss this in terms of risk management of a TQ happening this year or not happening; and also need to consider options of what we might offer.

Dick – impact financially for AERA with possibly no Quilty this year and if it goes to WA in 2021 that would be a no-income event, possibly loss for AERA. But AERA is committed to having the Quilty around the country.

Elsje – from WA membership perspective, it is more difficult to attend events in other States. Has not been involved in AERA finances before so can't comment on that. Challenge for TQ20 will be now to manage sponsorship already received and they have expended some money in early preparation. There has been a precedent for postponement when VERA didn't do one which was picked up by QERA. Disappointed if we couldn't hold one given we were affected by EI in 2007. Encourage AERA to look favourably on postponement.

Noni – understand that WA wouldn't want it cancelled and neither would we; not sure if it is a financial issue for WA but would be for AERA; suggest we wait and see -in a couple of months we should know more and by September we should be back to normal.

Pat – would like to make every effort to have the event go forward this year; unique situation is that all stats are affected by current situation; if it has to be put back a year, so be it – try to accommodate as many riders as possible.

Sioux – looking from Treasurer's perspective – we stood to lose money this year and have always considered that as the reality of a TQ in WA. We are also looking at major disruption to our income from other sources. We expect to get good income from NSW Quilty – is there an option to run two? Gives the opportunity for WA to attend and run a Quilty. Think it is too early to tell and expect the decision may be taken out of our hands. Need to support all DAs.

Stella – turbulent times and can't predict – out of AERA's and TQ20's control – decision will be made for us or could all blow over. If cancelled I don't think wider membership will be concerned with regard to other things going on.

Leigh Ann – think it is too early. If it doesn't go ahead there may be government grants to assist with sporting events.

Peter – think decision will be made for us – highly likely that state borders will shut down; support thinking about two Quilts in one year but no idea how long this will go on. Think we keep working ahead with what we know.

Sarah - too early to call but leaving the decision until August is too late with regard to planning; don't think that two Quilts in one year will work for WA which would end up just being a glorified State Champs; understand the financial issues for AERA; option to skip a year – leave TQ21 with NSW and give WA option to do TQ22.

Kim - admire tenacity of the TQ20 committee to keep momentum going until 2021. Need to consider timeframes for what needs to be done now – magazine, merchandise etc.- how late in the year could a Quilty be held in WA – don't think we can do two in one year.

Kerry – need to begin to think about contingency planning – referenced what we know about COVID-19 restrictions and impact on number of attendees; thinking that mid-June may give us more indication about how controls are working; can't say about TQ21 but AERA needs to start the dialogue sooner than later.

Mark – agree that we should do all we can to have a Quilty in WA – unlikely to be September and can it go later which is a better option than running two in one year.

Linda – happy to take back to VERA MC to discuss option of their plans going back by one year.

Summary

Keep the conversation going with TQ20 and WAERA about what contingency plans can be put in place and what is a reasonable final date by which to make a decision about TQ20 being run this year in WA. Consensus that AERA's ongoing discussions with TQ20 will be represented by Mark, Peter, Linda and Kim and with reps from WAERA.

13.15.2.2. TQ Budget – sent with delegate documents

Budget, as presented with agenda, shows anticipated profit of \$11,600; buckle numbers have been adjusted to 75, from 115 in previous budget. Note that budget was provided prior to COVID-19 concerns.

Elsje, TQ20 Committee member spoke to the budget:

- Still some minor adjustments to be made to the budget;
- TQ20 is hopeful of a significant grant from Tourism; Jetstar grant is a maybe; Premier Coal have committed to \$5000 sponsorship;
- A contingency amount of \$5000 has been allowed for;
- Budget to be revised based on 95 entrants, considered worst case scenario, with consideration to impact of fires, drought etc that may reduce numbers.
- Elsje commended sponsorship team for their efforts.

13.15.2.3. TQ Agreement, Officials and AERA Delegate

Head Vet - Anne Barnes; Treatment Vet – Emma McConnell was accepted as TV, but this is dependent on consent from Murdoch University; On-course Vet – Arun Ramachandran.

Joan Deetman is offered as a replacement Treatment Vet if required.

No advice from NSWERA re 2IC Head Vet – Kerry to follow up with this.

Motion; 2020/03/08 Moved: Elsje Brandis / Peter Bice

That Joan Deetman be accepted as the replacement Treatment Vet for TQ20 if Emma McConnell is not able to attend.

Carried Unanimously

Standard letter, adjusted as relevant to TQ20, is ready to go to DAs for appointment of Chief Stewards. The letter to vets can go so DAs can begin the process, with caveat that we are still finalising the Biosecurity Plan. Pat emphasised the need for letter to vets to include advice on qualifications and that they are being appointed as a line vet.

Discussion about sending letters now to support the process of selection acknowledging that restrictions due to COVID-19 may impact on event and that no flights should be booked until final decision is made by WAERA / TQ20 and suggested that this will be discussed at the next WAERA meeting on 5 April 2020, subsequent to any recommendation from AERA relevant to COVID-19

Action

Correspondence to go to DAs re representative vets and CSs in the next week

13.15.2.4. TQ Biosecurity Plan

***Motion: 2020/03/09 Moved: Mark Dunn / Kim Moir
That the minutes of web conference meeting re TQ20 Biosecurity on 10 December 2019 are adopted.
Carried unanimously***

***Motion: 2020/03/10 Moved: Peter Bice / Kim Moir
That the minutes of web conference meeting re TQ20 Biosecurity on 18 March 2020 are adopted.
Carried unanimously***

Discussion

Draft biosecurity Plan received and forwarded to all delegates prior to the meeting.

Noted as a comprehensive document.

Concerns raised

Pages should be number for easy reference.

Reference to financial responsibility for treatment of horses must reflect what is in TQ Event Standard and persons responsible have to pay for consumables with a small mark up. Any labour component / consult fee is covered by the Treatment Vet fee that is paid by AERA.

Definitions include - "**Hendra Risk Area** Local government areas identified by Queensland and NSW state governments" – government only lists where Hendra cases have occurred.

If these are going to be used, they must be accurate, eg some Queensland LGAs are listed as NSW and adjoining areas to Upper Hunter Shire are not included.

There is a risk in identifying areas as this implies that other areas are not risk areas.

Risk should not be associated with geographic areas but by where bats are known to be, and this is not a static population.

Is there a statute of limitations – many areas have had one identified case of Hendra more than 10 years ago?

AERA Biosecurity for Endurance Events does not include adjoining Local Government areas.

Website for WA Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development does not state quarantine period for Hendra. Noted from discussions that it is a requirement for horses to be out of an area where Hendra has occurred to be able to access an off-site equine referral facility.

Equine referral facility needs to be named in document and provide a statement about any restrictions to accepting horses.

Web conference discussions had also identified that exclusion testing is not an option as WA is less exposed to this so testing is not readily available.

Elsje stated that she would take comments back to the committee and that she had confidence in the people developing this plan as qualified vets. Elsje also noted uniqueness of WA is being so far removed from this risk.

Action

Kim to draft a response to TQ20 Committee and circulate to members, to include a request for updated version that provides specific information about vet hospital.

13.15.2.5. TQ Buckles

Suggested number of buckles to be ordered for TQ20 is 75 – this would be an outlay of around \$12000. This would have a big impact on AERA reserves if TQ20 doesn't go ahead.

Kim to follow up with G to work out best strategy to have buckles ready for TQ20 but with minimal early outlay. Note that buckles are not year specific so can be carried forward to next event.

Video presentation of 100-mile buckle. There is the potential to require three of these for this year. Design approved. Kim to advise G.

Day 2 report from discussions with Gerard Bou – Kim Moir

Gerard has currently in stock 9 buckles (not paid for yet by AERA) and 5 castings. To make the anticipated 75 buckles by September, at minimum G will have to order 60 castings which would mean an outlay of \$1800 to \$2000. He could hold off buying silver until June, by which time he would have to commence manufacture then.

Discussion

Consideration that if the Quilty does go ahead in September 2020, people would probably be accepting that buckles may not be available for all completions.

Concern that numbers may be lower as it has been a hard year for many members and that AERA planning should be with worst case scenario in mind.

Action

Kim to advise G to put all work re TQ20 on hold until further notice, probably in 4 – 6 weeks.

13.15.2.6. AREA responsibilities to TQ20

TQ20 Agreement - to be signed with inclusion of vets and officials as known with tba for reps from TQ21 once known; send agreement to Linda for review and then send to WAERA and TQ20 to sign before it comes back to AERA for signing.

AERA Representation at TQ20

Linda is happy to attend as AERA President.

Kerry has withdrawn her offer to attend – she could best assist with data entry and Sandy Little and Bronwyn Cuthbertson have contact TQ20 and offered their services as volunteers generally or for data entry specifically – TQ20/WAERA to put forward someone to assist to build competency at a local level. To confirm who will ensure agreements are signed for the TQ and PS Cups.

To confirm who will receive team entries and payments – (note from Kim - Sarah received 100 badges at July meeting).

Note that accommodation already booked included accommodation for 4 AERA representatives.

AERA Perpetual Trophies – Linda undertook to do this at November meeting these need to be chased up to ensure that they are all present for the awards with engravings updated. Includes Newbridge and Shareym Awards.

Pat Slater Cup

Pat Slater Cup judges – these need to be selected, approached and organised. Generally, it's 3 people from the host state, plus 2 from other states. You will need someone at the TQ to organise the PS Cup event and the judges, scoresheets, sashes, etc.

Suggestions from WA Delegates for appropriate people to be included in the panel and then we can look at who might – names by July meeting

Pat Slater Cup sashes – These need to be ordered soon – Ieva Peters has contact.

Action

Kim to confirm supplier and cost.

AERA Awards – Kerry will order rugs, clothing and trophies from usual suppliers and arranged to have them delivered to an address in WA.

Elsje suggested delivery in Collie to minimise handling. TQ20 to supply frames for certificates.

Action

Elsje to advise Kerry of delivery address and to advise Committee of need to buy frames.+

AeraSpace – as noted above, TQ20 Volunteer Coordinator has received an offer from Bronwyn Cuthbertson and Sandy Little to assist at the TQ20 and have suggested that they could do data entry. Elsje confirmed that this is assistance that is required by TQ20 and someone may work with them to learn the process better, so we are upskilling others.

ETS – to confirm if Tom is available to do his or to ask if Tony Perry from Tasmania could do this. Peter to follow up.

TQ20 Book – work has been done to update all data.

All documents, as listed in the agenda, were confirmed as what is usually provided for inclusion in the Book will total 27 pages. This is paid for by AERA on a pro rata basis.

Action

Elsje to confirm with editor and to let Kim know if they can accommodate all pages.

Kim to forward documents.

AERA Sponsorship

Request from TQ20 re sponsorship for Thursday night schedule – see 15.1.2.1

13.15.3. 2021 – New South Wales

Kerry and Peter spoke to a PowerPoint presentation that had been provided by TQ21. Information included:

- Background of committee as a cohesive group of people who have been involved in endurance and ride organising for many years, some as long as 45 years.
- Tooraweenah situated 500 kms north-west of Sydney with local services and access to more in towns of Gilgandra, Coonabarabran and the larger regional centre of Dubbo, 45 minutes away.
- Committee presented as President – Anthony Blessing; Vice President – Peter Bonham; Secretary – Sonia Bonham; Treasurer – Sara Worner; members – Leonie Blessing, Linda Logan, Ken & Jenny Sandford, Jade Zell, Alison Khinicki, Ben & Kirsty Gale, Tess and Marion Shulz, Betty and Ben Harvey, Kylie Moppett, Damien & Lisa Bonham, Paddy Gale. Kerry described them as a diverse and experienced group of people and noted that they had run TQ91.
- Ride base is also a showground and has some basic infrastructure with toilets, canteen and other buildings; camping is across the road with no powered sites.
- Track described as a challenging national event track, through private property, farming trails and national parks; not a flat track but not a gut-buster – and rocky in places
- Leg lengths – 40, 37, 40, 27 and 16. Elevations of up to 370 metres (on first leg) from ride base which is at 400 metres.

- Accommodation available in caravan park, with cabins, and motel and option of local billeting.
- Proposed Head Vet is Matthew Walker and Chief Steward is Tom McCormack.
- Anthony Blessing is also the event director.
- Date is 2 – 4 July 2021

Motion: 2019/03/11 Moved: QERA / WAERA

That AERA accept the recommendations from NSWERA of Matthew Walker as Head Vet and Tom McCormack as Chief Steward.

NSWERA declared a conflict of interest.

Voting: NSWERA – Col; QERA – yes; SAERA – yes; TEERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA – yes

Note the TQ Event Standard requires that the TQ Committee includes an AERA Delegate or AERA appointee and two members from the host DA or appointees. It is also required that an AERA Advisor is appointed, who is external to the committee, who can report back to AERA on the functioning of the committee to provide all aspects of a TQ event – this as most recently been in the capacity of the Chief Steward appointed for the event.

AERA representative to TQ21 committee

Peter Bice, nominated by Kerry, seconded by Dick Collyer

All in favour – Peter was duly appointed as the AERA representative on the TQ21 Committee.

Suggested that Tom McCormack would be the AERA Advisor, but the ensuing discussion identified confusion about the two roles and members were asked to refer to the Event Standard and to bring their thoughts back to next meeting.

One of the significant tasks undertaken by the AERA Advisor is to report on the test event to be held within the two years prior to the TQ date. It was noted that the TQ21 Committee had run the NSW State Championships in July 2018 at the same venue. Kerry was to provide the CS report from that event to inform the committee.

Taking into account the unusual circumstance brought about by COVID-19, it was accepted that the appointed TQ21 Committee was not going to be able to host an event this year that could be assessed as the test event and that AERA would accept the 2108 State Championship event as the test event, extending the requirement in the TQ Event Standard by 12 months, on provision of the CS report from that event. It was noted that there is capacity within the TQ Manual for flexibility.

The unusual circumstances that may potentially affect both TQ20 and TQ21 should be discussed with both TQ committees and DAs to be involved in the decisions that may be made later.

It was also noted that ongoing planning around TQ21 was not to disregard the challenges being faced by TQ20 and WAERA.

Actions

Peter to provide feedback to TQ21 about what reporting is required to answer questions posed by members, to include:

- Comprehensive Draft Budget with suggested ride fees;
- Further information on location including anticipated weather conditions for that time of year and the specific location;
- Facilities re camp sites, power, toilets and showers to be provided, referral equine hospital, accommodation capacity that is available and booking plan, internet and mobile phone service;
- Sponsorship plan and known amounts;

- Track communications and other risk management processes, including biosecurity plan.

Kerry to provide contact details to Kim of person who should be added to AERA Reportees list.

Peter to advise Tom McCormack of his appointment as AERA Advisor for TQ21.

NSWERA to consider who may attend TQ20 as 2 IC as Matt Walker is not available to attend.

13.15.4. Tom Quilty Manual – carried forward to next meeting

14. Rule Changes

14.1. Motions for a second vote

14.1.1. TEERA re Rule 6.3

Rationale

There was an incident at a recent 100 miler in Tasmania where a rider recorded a (too) high heart rate at a compulsory represent after leg 3. The vet allegedly told the rider to go around and come back for another go. The rider said she queried this with the chief steward who allegedly advised that this was correct.

The usual practice / precedent is that only one attempt at heart rate is allowed at represents but this is not specifically stated in the rules. Tasmania moves that this be incorporated into rule 6.3 as below with the addition of the highlighted words.

6.3 All horses must satisfy the heart rate criteria within the maximum present time as shown in Table 10. Horses have a maximum of 2 attempts to pass the heart rate criteria within the maximum present time on all legs except for the final leg **AND ANY REPRESENT**, when the horse is permitted only 1 attempt. Horses that do not satisfy the heart rate criteria within the maximum present time shall be eliminated. If the horse passes the veterinary inspection, the horse and rider shall not begin the next leg until the expiration of the hold time for that leg. A rider who begins the next leg prior to the expiration of their hold time may be eliminated by the chief steward depending upon the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.

Motion: 2019/11/29 Moved: TEERA

That Rule 6.3 be amended to include the words “and any represent”

NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; SAERA – no; TEERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA – yes

Carried by majority – 17 - 1

Passed on first vote to be represented at meeting in March 2020.

Mark stated that TEERA was happy to put this directly to delegates without further discussion for a second vote.

Motion: 2019/11/29 Moved: TEERA / QERA

That Rule 6.3 be amended to include the words “and any represent”

NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; SAERA – no; TEERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA – yes

Carried unanimously

Passed on the second vote to be implemented as a rule change from 1 January 2021

14.2. Motions on notice for discussion and first vote

14.2.1. TEERA re Rule 62.5

With reference to the final AERA Equine Catastrophe Notification Protocol, as unanimously agreed to by delegates at the November AERA meeting:

In the first instance, delegates should 'endorse' it as AERA policy.

Also as unanimously agreed to by delegates at the November AERA meeting, a Rule change is in progress to incorporate it into the Rules.

Motion:

That Rule 62.5 be amended by adding a) to the first sentence, adding sentence b) and incorporating the final Protocol into the Rules as Appendix 1.

Rule will now read:

62.5 a) Where a horse catastrophe occurs, the chief steward shall verbally notify both the relevant DA President or Secretary and the AERA President or Secretary within 48 hours of the horse's death.
b) Thereafter the information flow procedure shall be as described in Appendix 1 to these Rules.

Rationale is as above.

Mark spoke to motion – was discussed at November meeting following a catastrophe when info flow did not happen as it should – decision was to embed the process in the rules and add the full process as an appendix.

Discussion resulted in Amendment to the rule change

Rule will now read:

62.5 a) Where a horse catastrophe occurs, the chief steward shall verbally notify both the relevant DA President or Secretary and the AERA President or Secretary within 48 hours of the horse's death.
b) Thereafter the information flow procedure shall be as described in Appendix 1 to these Rules.

Motion: 2020/03/12 Moved: TEERA / QERA

That Rule 62.5 be amended by adding a) to the first sentence, adding sentence b) and incorporating the final Protocol into the Rules as Appendix 1.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; SAERA – yes; TEERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA – yes Carried unanimously.

Passed on first vote and will be carried forward to the AERA Meeting July 20 for a second vote.

14.2.2. QERA re Rule 52.2Rationale

The motion for this rule change was discussed at the 2019 QERA Annual General Meeting and was subsequently voted on by members with the motion carried.

There is concern that horses being put on rest orders having competed in an endurance ride are then being entered in other disciplines.

Motion: 2020/03/xx Moved QERA/

That Rule 52.2 be amended to include the words “or any other competitive ride or race”.

52.2 A rest order may require that a horse not be permitted to compete in an endurance ride or any other competitive ride or race for a defined period of time, up to a maximum of 12 months. The time period imposed should be sufficient for the horse to recover from its injury or stress and incorporate a period of time for the horse to recommence training and regain fitness.

Discussion

QERA advised that this had come to the table because a member had completed at a flat race event with a horse that had been placed on a rest order the week before, after receiving treatment for metabolic compromise.

Discussion highlighted the challenges in policing this but the inclusion of this as a rule was seen as providing a disincentive with the opportunity to discipline a member if it was identified that this had occurred. Concern that a rule should not be added that we cannot enforce and that generally people do the right thing.

Amendment to the Rest Order Form could provide this information to members.

Suggestion was made that QERA should come back with more detail but QERA felt there was sufficient to decide on a rule change; AERA would then consider how to implement.

Motion: 2020/03/12 Moved QERA/SAERA That Rule 52.2 be amended to include the words “or any other competitive ride or race”.

NSWERA – abstain; QERA – yes; SAERA – yes; TEERA – no; VERA – no; WAERA – no

Carried by majority: For – 7; Against – 6; Abstain – 5

Passed on first vote and will be carried forward to the AERA Meeting July 20 for a second vote.

14.2.3. QERA re rule 4.1 Table 4

Motion: 2020/03/xx Moved QERA

That Rule 4.1 Table 4 be amended to read “Marathon Ride - A single ride where a minimum (excluding any elevation legs) of 240 km is completed over at least 3 consecutive days”.

The Rulebook currently defines a marathon as

"A single ride where a minimum (excluding any elevation legs) of at least 80 km or more is ridden each day for 3 or more consecutive days"

It is considered that this change will allow Ride Organisers to have some flexibility in planning of leg lengths over 3 – 5 days.

Discussion

Traditionally the FAW Easter Marathon had allowed a longer day on Day 1 resulting in a shorter last day. The flexibility to vary the leg lengths completed each day was considered beneficial psychologically for riders and for people packing up to go home. The current rule has been in the rulebook since 2016.

Question about whether it is appropriate to set a minimum limit for each day, eg 100 km on day 1 and 2 with 40 km on day 3 – is there a horse welfare issue about this?

Consider that this could be left to Ride Organisers of what is only 4 or 5 rides per annum. Comment that this would work well for Shahzada.

Motion: 2020/03/13 Moved QERA/ NSWERA

That Rule 4.1 Table 4 be amended to read “Marathon Ride - A single ride where a minimum (excluding any elevation legs) of 240 km is completed over at least 3 consecutive days”.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; SAERA – yes; TEERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA – no

Carried by majority: For – 16; Against - 2

Passed on first vote and will be carried forward to the AERA Meeting July 20 for a second vote.

14.2.4. QERA re rule 26.5

Clause 50.2 was changes as of 1 January 2019, but the rationale put forward to change this motion had not included changes that should have been applied to other parts of the Rulebook to support the change.

Rule as per 1 Jan 2016 – version 1

- 50.1 A *logbook* shall only be used for the horse named and identified in the *logbook* and shall be used in all *rides* affiliated with the AERA or a DA with the exception permitted in Clause 50.2.
- 50.2 A horse that has been issued with a *logbook* may enter an *introductory*, *intermediate* or *micro-marathon ride* utilising a *vet card* provided the correct name of the horse and the AERA horse number as recorded in the *Logbook* are recorded on the *Vet Card* and *AeraSpace*.

Rule as per 1 Jan 2019 – version 2

- 50.1 A *logbook* shall only be used for the horse named and identified in the *logbook* and shall be

used in all *rides* affiliated with the AERA or a DA **with the exception permitted in Clause 50.2.**

- 50.2 If a horse **that** has been issued with a *logbook*, that *logbook* must be used when that horse is entered in an affiliated *introductory, intermediate or micro-marathon ride*.

Note that rule change put forward now is to remove the highlighted words in version 2 as the exception no longer exists in 50.2. There would also have to be changes to 45.2 and table 17 to remove the reference to the exception allowed in the rule version 1.

Motion:

Motion that 50.1 and 50.2, table 45.2 and table 17 be amended as per the rationale.

The rule will now read

- 50.1 A *logbook* shall only be used for the horse named and identified in the *logbook* and shall be used in all *rides* affiliated with the AERA or a DA.
- 50.2 If a horse has been issued with a *logbook*, that *logbook* must be used when that horse is entered in an affiliated *introductory, intermediate or micro-marathon ride*.

Discussion that ensued raised concerns about horses that have a logbook that is almost used and the horse changes ownership and then that person has to become a member to renew the logbook. It was noted that this rule change did not alter anything about logbooks – it was just about making the logbook consistent.

Motion: 2020/03/14 Moved: QERA/ NSWERA

Motion that 50.1 and 50.2, table 45.2 and table 17 be amended as per the rationale.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; SAERA – yes; TEERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA – abstain

Carried by majority: For – 16; Abstain - 2

Passed on first vote and will be carried forward to the AERA Meeting July 20 for a second vote.

14.2.5. VERA re Rule 63.9

VERA requested that discussion of rule 63.9 be added to the agenda with reference to horses wearing hoods in the vet ring and with regard to inconsistency in the approach to this by Chief Stewards. No motion has been presented to change this rule, but VERA is seeking direction as to whether hoods are covered under this rule.

NSWERA then presented a motion

Motion: 2019/11/31 Moved: NSWERA

That: a new rule be added and the sections of Rule 63.9 be renumbered thereafter:

63.9(2) Compression hoods are allowed.

Motion: 2019/11/32 Moved: Linda Tanian/ Dick Collyer

That this motion be delayed to allow DAs to discuss with their Honorary vet

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; SAERA – no; TEERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA – yes

NSWERA advised that they had discussed this at their AGM and provided an amended motion and further rationale.

Motion: 2020/03/ Moved: NSWERA

That horses are permitted to wear hoods at all times, including at all veterinary examinations at endurance rides.

Rationale

- There is no defined rule to permit or omit the use of hoods currently.
- They are becoming very popular with many competitors in all states of Australia.
- To the best of our knowledge, there is no scientific evidence to support that they have any affect or not, therefore it could not be considered an advantage if worn by a particular horse
- If it does in fact keep a particular horse calmer in the vetting area, it's then a much safer place for officials and volunteers alike
- Most officials already allow a companion horse to vet alongside a fractious horse so to allow a horse to wear a hood, that may or may not have the same desired result would seem like a reasonable practice.
- They do not impede the ability of the veterinary examination as they do not cause any obstruction to the mouth, nose, ears or eyes.

Discussion

QERA and WAERA had consulted with Honorary Vets and general opinion was that there was no need to allow this.

Concerns raised included that there was no evidence to support this other than anecdotal. Anecdotally people had stated that their horse was calmer wearing a hood with statements about heart rates reducing.

The rule as it stands is clear and one exception may lead to others.

Wearing of a hood may conceal issues such as rubs or in worst case scenario track marks.

As rule stands, hoods may be worn anywhere except in vetting area.

Motion: 2020/03/15 Moved: NSWERA/

That: the proposed rule change is amended to read

That a new rule be added and the sections of Rule 63.9 be renumbered thereafter:

63.9(2) That horses are permitted to wear hoods at all times, including at all veterinary examinations at all endurance rides.

Motion lapsed for lack of a seconder

Motion: 2020/03/16 Moved: NSWERA/ QERA

That: a new rule be added and the sections of Rule 63.9 be renumbered thereafter:

63.9(2) Compression hoods are allowed.

Note QERA seconded to allow a decision to be made.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – no; SAERA – no; TEERA – no; VERA – no; WAERA – no

Motion lost. Voting: for – 5; Against – 13.

Action

Advice to Chief Stewards so that the rule as is, is consistently applied.

15. Correspondence Inwards

15.1.1. Correspondence Inwards – discussion items – others carried forward to next meeting

15.1.1.1. TQ20 Seeking AERA Sponsorship

Elsje spoke to the correspondence - TQ20 Committee requested sponsorship of \$2200 to go towards the Sponsors Welcome function scheduled for just before the AERA Awards. It was suggested that this

sponsorship would be offset by funds allocated for Top 10 Rugs that TQ20 had now secured sponsorship for. Elsie declared a conflict of interest preventing her from further contribution to the discussion.

Sioux clarified that Top 10 Rugs had previously been sponsored by Newmarket Grandwest, now SUREWiSE. AERA now receives \$5000 discount on insurance.

Discussion identified concerns about the AERA budget being already under stress and that we are already sponsoring or forward-paying other items; it was suggested that this is the AERA award night, usually run in conjunction with a function to acknowledge sponsors, but should be an AERA expense, whilst others saw the AERA Awards evening as a small impost on the organising committee to provide the venue and the time in the program.

Kerry asked that it be noted that she was concerned about providing this financial support.

Motion: 2020/03/17 Moved:

That AERA will agree to sponsor the Thursday night program to amount of \$2200.

The motion lapsed for the want of a mover.

It was agreed that further information was required regarding what the budget for the meet and greet part of the evening was and to clarify what benefit there would be for AERA in providing this further sponsorship.

Action

Secretary to write to TQ20 and ask for this information.

- 15.2. Late Correspondence Inwards – carried forward to next meeting**
- 15.3. Correspondence outwards – carried forward to next meeting**
- 15.4. Late Correspondence Outwards – carried forward to next meeting**
- 15.5. Business Arising from late correspondence – carried forward to next meeting**

16. General Business

- 16.1. Letters on No Objection – carried forward to next meeting.**

16.2. COVID 19 and rides – AERA Discussion Paper

Document 16.2 COVID 19 and rides provided to delegates

Discussion points

Insurance – Noni asked if there was written confirmation that there is insurance cover for events that do go ahead. Sioux said that she had sent an email advising that she had consulted with Insurers and their advice was that as long as we do not go against any government advice current at the time, we are covered. Noni confirmed that she had seen Sioux' email but would prefer to see written advice from the Insurer. **Action** – Sioux to seek written statement from Insurers via Kendel Spannon.

Kim suggested that Risk Management Checklist could be amended to include a section referring to most recent advice about emerging issues but concern from others that this changes daily.

Mark spoke to the document

Mark had written this as a discussion paper and stressed that it did not represent AERA's position. He has offered to recommendations that might be the way forward for AERA.

Recommendations included in discussion paper:

- That AERA communicates to Ride Organising Committees, through their DAs, that they should carefully evaluate whether or not their ride can be safely staged. AERA does not consider, at this time, that rides need to be universally cancelled or postponed. This advice will be reviewed regularly.
- or
- That AERA communicates to Ride Organising Committees, through their DAs, that it recommends no rides be staged until at least 20 April. This advice will be reviewed regularly.

Mark invited comments from others.

Dick – there have been some discussions at QERA level and is on the agenda for next MC meeting in one week. Personal position is that all events should be postponed for an extended period of time with ongoing review to support the government policy on social distancing. Also has a view that endurance events are safer than many other activities, but government has asked for halt to unnecessary activities. Example of ride due to run in Queensland – will be small numbers on large private property and probably very able to run within guidelines – and good for them to do a ride. Inclined to think that our members would support the first recommendation but understand that others will support the second.

Elsje – WAERA has already decided to suspend all rides till end of April and will review this at next MC meeting on 5 April. This was based on concern for volunteers and awareness that the virus is spread through physical contact. They would therefore be supportive of the second recommendation.

Noni – has been heavily involved in this issue from a DA perspective and is also part of a committee hoping to run a ride on weekend of 28/29 March. Personal view that in the best interest of the sport rides should continue while we are allowed to do this. Encouragement should be to members to make their own decisions. She would support the first recommendation and considers also that endurance is safer than other activities because of how it is set up. The second recommendation would mean changing the entire calendar and not in the best interest of our members.

Pat – personal view is that endurance rides are not essential. Within our community we have an aging population and within TEERA many of our ride officials are aged and Ride Organisers considered it was not fair for these officials to potentially be placed in an at-risk situation.

Sioux – news is constantly changing and feel that Ride Organisers can make their own decisions as to how safe it is to run a ride within their state and within guidelines provided there. Legally we are covered as long as we are compliant with current government guidelines. If we don't decide to suspend, we can offer more guidelines to ROs such as capping numbers, all pre-nominations etc.

Stella – personal view and shared with most people on SAERA that Australia as a whole is not taking this seriously enough. In grand scheme of things rides, points and distances don't really matter. I am not prepared to take risks for the people I am surrounded by. Whatever AERA decides, government will probably act ahead of us. SAERA has cancelled our Easter marathon, but we did leave it until the forestry removed the permit. Support the second recommendation.

Leigh Ann – strongly in support of the second recommendation – agree with everything that has been said. If AERA takes a stance to recommend that we shut down rides for the next 4 weeks and see what happens. Uncertainty is frustrating – we are all in an uncomfortable position – support government and support humanity – we can still self-isolate and ride our horses.

Peter – supporting first recommendation – would like confirmation of insurance. We need to be able to assure ROS who can assure volunteers that they are covered by our insurance. Need to consider aspects of an event that need to be managed with regard to social distancing, eg weigh-ins, presentations. Believe that a ride can be run with minimal risks. 500 persons capping should not be difficult to manage.

Sarah – need to look at what is happening internationally – in a week's time decision will be out of our hands. WAERA made the decision to suspend rides till end of April partially based on the age group of our riders and volunteers. Trying to get people to socially distance themselves at a ride is going to be extremely challenging. I am supporting WAERA's decision to suspend to the end of April and this is a massive decision for them considering that they are hosting the TQ this year. Medical group is saying that August /

September is when we will be most affected. If a COVID-19 case was linked to a ride this would be politically a nightmare considering that all other disciplines are cancelling. The agility national are in WA this year and they have just cancelled. I do not want endurance riders to be seen as cavalier in all of this.

Kim - the first recommendation is a safe place and I think there are a lot of things we can do to manage a ride safely that perhaps other equestrian events cannot. The second recommendation is just a recommendation and I understand it would be a very courageous thing for us to say no rides for month. Stirling's Crossing still has a ride on the calendar for Easter and it is a day-by-day thing and we have discussed many things that we can do to manage the risks.

Kerry – first and foremost we must follow government directions and they are continually changing. NSW still talking about indoor events ok with 100; they have added a minimum of 4 square metres per person. Outdoor events are no more than 500 – we would have to think about how to manage pre-ride talks for example. These are things we know, and we know we have insurance cover if we meet all government requirements. Other than that it's legitimate for us to say to ROs that they can continue to hold events if they comply not a lot of variance from state to state but should be referring everyone to recommendations on Health Departments' websites, state and national and to any other reputable websites. Agree with all the suggestions about how to minimise risk. I do not believe we should be cancelling anything.

Linda – conflicted because as a rider I want to ride but as someone who is employed in an essential service aware that we all have a responsibility to do anything possible to ensure that the virus does not spread. As someone representing AERA, I consider that we should be asking all of our members and all of our DAs to cancel all rides for a specified time. We can recommend strategies but as Sarah alluded to people will not think about this – social distancing will not happen. People will not know they are a carrier. This was brought home to me when VERA ran a ride last weekend and I was aware that we had placed older people at risk. We can ride our horses at home. The sooner we do this, the sooner we will get through the virus.

Mark – contributions were terrific and show we have thought about it. TEERA's position is to follow first recommendation - my personal view is to stop all rides. A ride scheduled for next weekend has been cancelled because we couldn't get enough volunteers. I have advised RO of our Easter event that I will not be a CS. Would ROs be covered if AERA said no rides. Need to look at legislation along with other relevant guidelines. My inclination is to put out recommendation 1 with a list of things to do – it doesn't make it impossible to do a ride, but all boxes have to be ticked. A lot of things will impact on TQ20. And the other caveat is that none of this will probably matter and it will be taken out of our hands. My recommendation is that we run with the first recommendation and that a group of us work to put together a set of words.

Discussion re Recommendation 1

Mark to work at re-drafting the document with input from Kerry and Kim to assist with review, to circulate again to members.

Dick suggestion that the sentence "AERA does not consider, at this time, that rides need to be universally cancelled or postponed" be removed with the focus on ROs considering whether it's appropriate to run their ride, add the conditions discussed and include reference to correspondence from Minster for Sport; aware that information is already two days old and everything is very fluid – seems that endurance complies with most of the requirements listed to attend a community sporting activity.

Elsje noted her concern that as a community we need to halt rides and our duty of care to our older members, who should not be disadvantaged, eg for points, because they can't attend a ride due to risk to their health – we want an even playing field. Re insurance – we cannot not ask for answers because we don't want to know the answers; and concerned about how to quantify toilet cleaning

Linda summarised that a couple of people will work on a statement to present both sides – that rides can go ahead with appropriate risk management and compliant with government recommendations; also to include reference to social responsibility and to insurance cover if Sioux can get confirmation in writing.

Day 2 review of statement

AERA Statement presented again with some minor adjustments.

Note that intent of this document was not to restrict rides, leaving that to ROs or DAs to determine, but to provide advice to maintain currency of information from legitimate sources and to list some strategies to support running rides with consideration to safety, health and hygiene. Note also that information is rapidly changing. The AERA Statement should provide a strong discouragement to rides continuing. Also, AERA Statement should reflect the exceptional circumstances of the day, what is constitutionally correct and consider the diverse needs of all members.

Consensus that AERA does not have the ability to say to DAs not to run rides but ROs would have to be compliant with current government recommendations and directions and with any decision by AERA to be covered by insurance.

At this point in time the running of an endurance ride must comply with government guidelines and AERA would not determine this to be a necessary activity and the travel associated with it would not be necessary travel.

Any rides that do occur should be in the context of risk assessment and risk mitigation, with consideration to all factors. Example locality, ie not high population area, may mean smaller numbers attending and not such high-risk population, and ability to support social distancing.

Concern also that AERA should provide leadership and encourage social responsibility, acknowledging that MC members have their own views whilst also representing members.

Document should not contain numbers, eg number of people who can gather, or other specifics that may be is harder to maintain currency.

Noted that some DAs have acted, and others have been awaiting statement from AERA.

Motion: 2020/03/18 Moved: TEERA / SAERA

That we endorse the COVID-19 statement and publicise it.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; SAERA – yes; TEERA – yes; VERA – no; WAERA – no

Carried by majority. Voting: For – 14; Against – 4.

Action

Statement to DAs to post on their websites and Facebook pages.
Posted on AERA Website and Facebook page.

17. Late Reports – carried forward to next meeting

18. Meeting Dates

Meeting to be continued on date to be determined.

Next scheduled meeting – 18/19 July 2020 - tbc

19. Meeting Closed

Meeting was adjourned at 2.20 on Sunday 22 March 2020.,