

Tasmanian Endurance Club meeting
Riverlands, Longford 17 July 2021
Agenda

Meeting Opened: 10:00 am

Present: Tony Purton, Kaye Mitchell, Graham Bucknell, Greg Johnson, Heather Johnson, David McCoy, Maryanne Napier, Pam Shadbolt, Pat Lamprey, Amelia Napier, Debbie Wylie, Angie Clark, Tania Perry, Felicity Perry, Grace Huxtable, Tony Perry, Andrew Miles, Debbie Grull

Apologies: Tara Nicklason, Trish Smith, Melissa Kelly, Trent Huxtable

Welcome and opening comments

TEERA President Andrew Miles welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He noted that he wished the meeting to have an informal approach to discussion and that one aim was to improve communication between clubs and the TEERA SMC.

Sharing key items of 2021 Strategic Plan

Mark Dunn spoke briefly to the TEERA strategic plan, noting that it is a dynamic document, constantly being reviewed and updated as circumstances dictate. He highlighted its key points which is that TEERA aims for sustained slow member growth, the staging of two promotional events a year (north/south), and financial sustainability.

Some points made during the discussion were that:

- Some, not all, Ride Organising Committees (ROCs) have expressed challenges with holding and endurance event that breaks even financially
- Some ROCs consist of a few key people, and would like a few more people to join their ranks for the future sustainability of their event.
- There is, therefore, a need to recruit younger people to take over from them.
- The influence of 'large stables', who contributed to the sport by adding to entry numbers, has diminished in recent times.

The TEERA cash reserve

Much of the discussion that followed was focused on the large cash reserve held by TEERA, its origin and the possible uses to which it could be put.

The reserve came from cash surpluses generated by Tom Quilty events and from the sale of a caravan TEERA once owned.

It was noted that the conventional wisdom is that this reserve should be kept 'for a rainy day' with no clear idea about what that might mean. One person suggested the original thought was that its purpose was to be a contingency should TEERA ever be sued. However,

TEERA, through AERA, has ample insurance to cover all possible events and this is, in all likelihood, not necessary.

The TEERA SMC agreed in 2020 that \$60,000 of the total should be reserved for this 'rainy day'.

It was suggested that decision to spend this money needs to take into account and respect the historical efforts of past members, comply with the stated objects of TEERA, as expressed in its Rules of Association, and the Associations Incorporation Act and , also, align with the general Australian sports governance principles. It was subsequently pointed out that the TEERA Rules of Association in particular are broad and almost any reasonable use of the reserve would be compliant with the TEERA Rules' objects.

After extended discussion, it was taken to be the view of the meeting that the cash reserve should be tapped in order to develop the Association. SMC has been tasked with preparing draft Terms of Reference and criteria for effective and appropriate use of the cash reserve. It was noted that consultation with the membership should be an integral part of this process.

Some suggested uses for the money included:

- Accommodating vets at rides
- 'special' rides
- Support for marathons and mid-year 160k rides
- Supporting the establishment of new clubs

Governance

There was a brief general discussion about whether or not TEERA should take a more central role in the administration of individual rides as is the case in some other states. The feeling of the meeting was that no change to the existing arrangements is needed.

As noted above, most events at present are run by a few key people and their ability to continue is uncertain. There is, therefore, a need to recruit younger people into clubs to take over from them.

It was also acknowledged that the emergence of new clubs should be encouraged.

Access to public lands

The meeting understood and accepted that, as previously advised to clubs, FORICO and SST now require that all approaches to them for access to their land should now be made centrally through a single person – at present, Felicity Perry.

Parks and other forest operators are, at present, not subject to the same arrangements.

It was noted that ride briefings should specifically mention that having access to the properties is a privilege and riders should take care to treat them appropriately.

Some landholders now require a 'welcome to country' as a condition of accessing their land.

A suitable form of words is:

'I begin today by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today and, on behalf of all here today, pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.'

Vetting times

The meeting discussed briefly the advice, recently circulated to clubs by email that, where possible, vetting times should allow for the greatest possible number of people to participate, for example by allowing Saturday morning vetting for 80k riders.

It was acknowledged that this is almost always the case.

It was suggested that 20/40k rides could perhaps start later in the day so that attendance for these rides is a one day rather than two-day commitment.

Vet gate into hold rides

The meeting was informed that the strategy underpinning the original offer by SMC to support VGIH rides financially was to provide new vets with an opportunity to experience the format. A such, expressions of interest to SMC for financial support for VGIH rides are more likely to succeed if this is the case.

Two or three VGIH rides a year were seen by the meeting to be desirable. To optimise the usefulness of the format, 40/80 rides should generally seek to incorporate an extra leg into their ride.

The meeting congratulated CCER on the recently staged and highly successful 'Pink' ride.

Electronic Timing System

It was agreed that, ideally, someone from each club should be able to set up the ETS hardware. In the leadup to each ride in future, the officiating chief steward will liaise with the ROC to identify such a person(s).

Novice riders' attendance at ride briefings

The Rules note that all novice riders must attend the ride briefing however this has not happened at a few recent rides.

Risk (insurance) is associated with non-attendance in the event of misadventure on track involving someone who was not at the briefing.

It was agreed a roll call will now be conducted at ride briefings and that any novice rider not in attendance may be disqualified by the chief steward. It was agreed that specific notice of this be added to each ride entry page.

It was also agreed that the re-instatement of the Rule of the Week feature on Facebook would be a useful initiative.

Ride Trailor

It was noted that Tony Perry and family take great care of the trailer and contents. The meeting acknowledged and expressed its gratitude to Tony and family for the work they put into this.

A Standard Operating Procedure document will be circulated to clubs detailing their responsibilities with the trailer

Club of the year award

The Club of the year award has been awarded for the last two calendar years only. The meeting agreed that a more appropriate award would be for the 'Ride of the year'. A shield rather than a cash prize was agreed to be a suitable award.

The meeting discussed how the choice of the winner would be made. It was suggested members could vote but also noted that any vote could be 'massaged'. In the end, it was agreed that, while the SMC would place strong stead on a member vote, the decision will be made by the SMC using the previously circulated selection criteria:

The SMC will decide this award each year at the end of the season, considering such things as:

- The outcome of a member vote
- Innovative approaches by clubs to events
- Difficulties overcome by clubs in staging their event(s)
- Rider numbers attracted to the club's event(s)
- Any other issue the SMC believes relevant.

Meeting closed at midday with TEERA President Andrew Miles thanking people for their attendance.