



TASMANIAN EQUINE ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC

STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes

AGM

Saturday 10th January, 2015

2:00pm

Smith and Others Rd, Sassafras

Present: Pat H, Pat L, Trent Huxtable, Sonia Hodgetts, Sheleah Astell, Denise Williams, Denis Foley Jnr., Angie Clark, Helen Astell, Helen Bowkett, Tracey Nutting, Norm Thorley, Robyn Wright, Pam Shadbolt, Nicole Huxtable, Darren Duniam, David Anderson, Tony Purton and Kaye Mitchell (arrived 2:35pm)

Apologies: Robyn Nibbs, Debbie Grull, Jodi Smith, John Shoobridge, Jo Marshall, Nicole Ford, Wendy Rand, Trish Smith

Minutes of 2014 AGM:

Motion: *Minutes of the previous meeting are a true and correct record.* Moved Pat Hodgetts, Sec Denise Williams. Carried

Matters arising from the minutes:

- a) Website: at present the way the website operates means that it can only be done from Kevin's computer. Kevin intends to set it up differently at some stage. Kaye has asked Kevin to get a quote for doing this so other people could have authority to put material on and hence spread the work load. Still waiting for quote. Work in progress.
- b) Helmet cameras that were to be purchased by Hussain. Hussain has data back in UAE.
- c) Strategic Plan. Sonia has worked on this and a draft was published in the September/October. Input from members needed. Agreed that it is OK as is. No further suggestions.
- d) Database registrar for 2015. In 2014 Pam Shadbolt put in 210 hours of work, excluding memberships. Suggestion that this info be put in the newsletter to make members aware. Agreed to pay and honorarium to Pam. Amount not finalised. Thank you to Pam for her work.

President's Report:

TEERA 2014

Thankyou to the committee for the year of 2014 for the effort and time you have all contributed, this is some times a thankless job but it has to be done. This year we lose Alf Barnes and Robyn Nibbs and gain Sheleah Astell & Wendy Rand.

Thankyou also to all the ride committees who once again(and again and again) donate their time, sweat, blood and tears for the membership to enjoy all of our wonderful rides and scenery. Without these people our sport does not exist so I would encourage everyone, next time you are at a ride to take the time and make the effort to thank those that provide us the opportunity and privilege to compete week in week out.

The 2014 season saw 17 rides with well over 1200 ride entries, making it one of the best endurance seasons that I can recall. We ended the year with 263 members and over 40 Juniors which is an outstanding result and per capita making Tassie the top State for endurance. This was also showcased by our team of juniors and their team leader Sonia Hodgetts when they travelled to Queensland to compete in the Southern Cross Challenge coming in first against teams from Qld, NSW, South Africa and New Zealand. As a committee and a state we need to keep growing the sport and our membership base to keep the sport strong for many years to come so don't be scared to come to meetings or approach a committee member and put forward your ideas.

Well done to those that have won awards and to all that have achieved their own personal goals, from getting around your first 40 or 160, becoming qualified or maybe a Quilty or completing the Shazada, they are all efforts worth being proud of.

I am personally looking forward to 2015 with some exciting ideas and opportunities too, let's all get together and make it every bit as successful and enjoyable as last year.

Regards,
Trenton

Treasurer's Report: Ended up \$400 in the black. Two accounts; working account and investment account. Caravan money went into investment account. Caravan money was bought out of profit from a Quilty. Caravan money ear tagged for electronic timing. Interest from investment account spent on sending the junior team to Q'land. A lot of the money came from Quilty, so some would go to kick start the next Quilty.

Helen Bowkett asked what amount we need to retain as a minimum amount in the investment account. Haven't linked to strategic plan and made any decision of that nature yet. From now on Quilty committees have to be sub committees of the SMC. Haven't paid Pam yet.

Q'land pay database registrar for 30 hours a week. TQ12 donated \$3000 towards state champs each year.

Motion: *Treasurer's report be accepted.* Moved Denise Williams, Sec Denis Jnr, Carried.

Appointment of auditor

Election of Office Bearers: Nominated are Pat Hodgetts, Pat Lamprey, Sonia Hodgetts, Wendy Rand and Sheleah Astell. No vote as there were only five nominations for five vacant positions.

Notice of Motions:

Motion: *The newsletter continue to come out in "hard copy" with full calendar ride results and, if articles of general interest are published that the authors sign off to same.*

Rationale: Not everybody is computer literate as yet. Nice to know the author of articles. Stimulates discussion with same if author is known. Moved John Shoobridge, Sec Tony Purton. Carried. Unanimously.

Does every member get one or just a household, asked Robyn. One goes to each household.

Prefer to put full ride results in, including best conditioned.

Helen Bowkett made the point that some feel that because you have to send it through SMC then there is a form of censorship and that puts people off submitting articles. Trent and Denise responded that there needs to be some level of censorship. Can't recall any articles being rejected. Robyn Wright. If people want to write articles they need to know that editor will look at it first. SMC have to protect membership from hurtful comments from others. If an article is edited the author should be made aware of this before publication of the newsletter. Probably 2 years since anything controversial has come to the table.

Motion: *That TEERA consider the introduction of half yearly membership for 2015.* Moved Pam Shadbolt, sec Pat L.

Second half of the year only. Have to full year public liability insurance. Full year insurance is \$55 Angie suggested that they should pay more than half of the year. If membership this year is \$120, then half yearly membership would be from 1st July and \$15 less than full year membership. Carried 15-1.

Submitted by QERA:

16.2.1 Motion - That rule H3 3.3 be changed from "A horse must be six years of age before it can start in a 160 kilometre AERA endurance event" to "A horse must be seven years of age before it can start in a 160 kilometre AERA endurance event".

This will be up for discussion and first vote at the March AERA meeting after being held over while additional data was collected/provided.

Rationale:

We had riders at a Quilty in SA that wanted to enter a young horse, and were not happy when they couldn't. Not all endurance horses are Arabians. Have a problem with distance but not speed. Perhaps we should be limiting the speed and not the distance. Sometimes it's a combination of both, but mostly its speed. While it's commonly accepted that Arabs mature later than other breeds, if you over stress any horse they are still susceptible to damage, regardless of the breed.

From the NVP:

Given the data and information that has been accessed and analysed by Dr Debbie Grull, in particular comparing 6 and 7 year old horses, there is no evidence to specifically support that age change for horses.

Perhaps at this stage a more comprehensive rule, that provides protection for horses of any age, might consider how many years of active competition are required before we consider a horse adequately mature to undertake a 160 km event.

Figures compiled from AeraSpace data from 2003 till current (27/3/2014) for all horses that had an age in the database

All data is from 160km rides

Age	% of total for age group				
6	Complete	198	52.38		
	Disqualified	2	0.53		
	Gall or injury	3	0.79		
	Heart Rate	9	2.38		
	Lame	123	32.54		
	Back	0	0.00	35.71	Other vet parameters %
	Metabolics	1	0.26		
	Metabolics mild	3	0.79		
	Metabolics non-invasive	2	0.53		
	Metabolics severe	3	0.79	2.38	Total metabolics %
	Retired/DNE	11	2.91		
	Withdrawn	23	6.08		
	Total	378	100		
				38.10	Total Vet out %

Age	% of total for age group				
7	Complete	343	47.51		
	Disqualified	2	0.28		
	Gall or injury	1	0.14		
	Heart Rate	14	1.94		
	Lame	264	36.57		
	Back	4	0.55	39.20	Other vet parameters %
	Metabolics	1	0.14		
	Metabolics mild	6	0.83		
	Metabolics non-invasive	8	1.11		
	Metabolics severe	8	1.11	3.19	Total metabolics %
	Retired/DNE	22	3.05		
	Withdrawn	49	6.79		
	Total	722	100		
				42.38	Total Vet out %

Age	% of total for age group				
8+	Complete	2212	54.48		
	Disqualified	8	0.20		
	Gall or injury	10	0.25		
	Heart Rate	101	2.49		
	Lame	1182	29.11		
	Back	10	0.25	32.09	Other vet parameters %
	Metabolics	15	0.37		
	Metabolics non-invasive	37	0.91		
				35.47	Total Vet out %

Metabolics mild	32	0.79	3.37	Total metabolics %
Metabolics severe	53	1.31		
Retired/DNE	94	2.32		
Withdrawn	298	7.34		
Out of Time	4	0.10		
Late for Vetting	1	0.02		
Not started	3	0.07		
Total	4060	100		

Additional Rationale supplied by QERA:

1. There is general agreement on the scientific evidence relating to horse maturity based on the progressive bone fusion that occurs in a horse's musculo-skeletal system. See the article below.
The key point is that fusion of the horse's spine does not happen before 5 1/2 years old and may be later than this. In other words, a lot of hard riding of a horse before this age runs the risk of back/spinal injury to the horse. The fact that many horses are over-ridden when young probably explains the predominance of back/ hip/sacroiliac issues in horses.
2. It is generally agreed that it takes 3 seasons to prepare a horse for a safe attempt at its first 160km ride. Even horses that are started in endurance at the 5 year old threshold will only have two years of building up if they do their first 160 as a 7 year old. If they do it as a six year old, they may only have had one season of work – there have been several examples of this recently.
3. Once, there were only a few 160 km rides on each Division calendar (sometimes only one) and this was usually in the winter. This meant that the horse was rising 7 when it could be started in such a ride. Now, with the endurance season extended, there are 160km rides late in the year (eg Red Range in Oct/Nov), which means a horse may have just turned 6 and therefore be eligible to enter. This happened in 2013, when 2 horses were just a few days past their sixth birthday on entry to this ride.

About Maturity and Growth Plates (By Dr. Deb Bennett)

Owners and trainers need to realize there's a definite, easy-to-remember schedule of bone fusion. Make a decision when to ride the horse based on that rather than on the external appearance of the horse.

For there are some breeds of horse--the Quarter Horse is the premier among these--which have been bred in such a manner as to LOOK mature LONG before they actually ARE. This puts these horses in jeopardy from people who are either ignorant of the closure schedule, or more interested in their own schedule (racing, jumping, futurities or other competitions) than they are in the welfare of the animal.

The process of fusion goes from the bottom up. In other words, the lower down toward the hooves, the earlier the growth plates will fuse--the higher up toward the animal's back you look, the later. The growth plate at the top of the coffin bone, in the hoof, is fused at birth. What this means is that the coffin bones get no TALLER after

birth (they get much larger around, though, by another mechanism). That's the first one. In order after that:

2. Short pastern - top & bottom between birth and 6 mos.
3. Long pastern - top & bottom between 6 mos. and 1 yr.
4. Cannon bone - top & bottom between 8 mos. and 1.5 yrs.
5. Small bones of knee - top & bottom on each, between 1.5 and 2.5 yrs.
6. Bottom of radius-ulna - between 2 and 2.5 yrs.
7. Weight-bearing portion of glenoid notch at top of radius - between 2.5 and 3yr
8. Humerus - top & bottom, between 3 and 3.5 yrs.
9. Scapula - glenoid or bottom (weight-bearing) portion - between 3.5 and 4 yrs.
10. Hindlimb - lower portions same as forelimb
11. HOCK - this joint is "late" for as low down as it is; growth plates on the tibial & fibular tarsals don't fuse until the animal is 4 yrs old! So the hocks are a known a "weak point". Even the 18th-century literature warns against driving young horses in plow or other deep or sticky footing, or jumping them up into a heavy load, for danger of spraining their hocks.
12. Tibia - top & bottom, between 2.5 and 3 yrs.
13. Femur - bottom, between 3 and 3.5 yrs.; neck, between 3.5 and 4 yrs.; major and 3rd trochanters, between 3 and 3.5 yrs.
14. Pelvis - growth plates on the points of hip, peak of croup (tubera sacrale), and points of buttock (tuber ischii), between 3 and 4 yrs.

And what do you think is last? The vertebral column (spine) of course. A normal horse has 32 vertebrae between the back of the skull and the root of the dock, and there are several growth plates on each one, the most important of which is the one capping the centrum.

The spine does not fuse until the horse is at least 5-1/2 years old. This figure applies to all horses, small scrubby, range raised horses to huge Warm Bloods. The taller your horse and the longer its neck, the later full fusion occurs. For a male (is this a surprise?) you add six months. So, for example, a 17-hand TB or Saddlebred or WB gelding may not be fully mature until his 8th year. Something that owners of such individuals have often told me that they "suspected."

The lateness of vertebral "closure" is most significant for two reasons.

One: in no limb are there 32 growth plates!

Two: The growth plates in the limbs are (more or less) oriented perpendicular (up and down) to the stress of the load passing through them, while those of the vertebral chain are oriented parallel (horizontal) to weight placed upon the horse's back.

Bottom line: you can sprain a horse's back (i.e., displace the vertebral growth plates) a lot more easily than you can sprain those located in the limbs.

And here's another little fact: within the chain of vertebrae, the last to fully "close" are those at the base of the animal's neck--that's why the long-necked individual may go past 6 yrs. to achieve full maturity. So you also have to be careful--very careful--not to yank the neck around on your young horse, or get him in any situation where he strains his neck."

ABOUT DR. DEB: Deb Bennett, Ph.D., is a 1984 graduate of the University of Kansas, and until 1992 was with the Smithsonian Institution. Internationally known for her scientific conformation analysis, "Dr. Deb" has made a career out of

conveying a kind of "X-ray vision" for bone structure to breeders and buyers. Her background in biomechanics helps her explain how conformation relates to performance ability. You can Google her to learn more.

4 yes, No 11, 1 abstain. Motion rejected.

General Business

Discussion Items:

- a) On course tracking and communications. Norm Thorley and Rick Polden to present a summary of costs and benefits. Rick an apology. Not GPS tracking but check point timing. Tom has tasked us with developing timing and tracking in the field.

At Takone have internal internet. One to two check points at Takone.

Looking at \$400 for a reader for each check point. Trialling low power public address system for announcements.

AERA are looking at readers which use the same card.

Sonia: If we say we will give \$1500 how many events will NTARC cover?

Wouldn't want to override clubs which use other checkpoint people. The technology has to be used by ACMA who license amateur radio people.

Cards would be tested before supplying to riders. Pat has spare bibs Green and yellow bibs. Which could have a pocket sewn in to test cards.

Tom to trial different pocket locations. General consensus was we support it.

Trent thanked Norm.

Motion: *TEERA support and give funding to the amount requested of \$1500 to NTARC for purchase of RFID equipment.* Moved Helen Bowkett, Sec Pat L. Carried. Unanimously

- b) Review of life membership. Call for three people to be on a subcommittee, one of whom must be on 2015 SMC, to develop criteria for life membership. Helen Bowkett, Pat H. Tracey Nutting agreed to form the sub-committee.
- c) Biosecurity: Discussion of the development of a possible form for horses attending rides that have not been resident in Tasmania for at least 29 days. Can't be policed. Relies on integrity of owner. Issue for state of Tas. DPI/PWE is not concerned with this. A horse can come down from a Hendra area and be competing in Tas in 5 days. Agreed that this is a risk management issue. General consensus was to proceed with developing a biosecurity form.
- d) Discussion of next Tasmanian Quilty (2018).
New mayor from St Helens will give full support. Remember there were three changes of mayor prior to TQ12 Quilty!
EOIs needed for 2018 Quilty by the end of June. Norm suggested that we ask what support various municipalities could offer. Wagin estimated \$800 income was generated in the Wagin community as a result of the Quilty.
- e) Competitive finishes.
Tony: It is a competitive sport. Don't like it when there is no gallop finish.
Need to discuss where to finish rides safely and then hold positions. At Wagin,

after crossing the line, riders had to hold position and there was a limited time to get to ride base in order. Helen Bowkett commented that most rides are on public roads and the public should not have to deal with that.

Also some discussion of the ambiguity between a gallop and fast canter.

Some consider that riders should be able to sort it out before the end of the ride by either agreeing to hold hand or making a break in the later legs. Kaye made the point that it can be hard on a horse to create a break and in some circumstances is less stressful to do a short gallop. Also, it is unfair to criticise a gallop finish when competitors are informed of a line being in place.

- f) AERA's request for a short term loan to be repaid with interest after TQ15. AERA have no cash but \$50 000 gold buckles. Plus extra special gold buckles for TQ15. Dave asked if all states had been approached. Trent responded yes, but only NSW and Tas are in a financial position to assist. How are AERA going to make \$20 000? $\$50 \times 50\% \text{ completion rate} = \$45 000$. Also, once money comes in from the states, they will have funds for insurance as well.

AERA have gotten themselves into a cash flow situation. Have to pay money up front for all insurances. We pay AERA every 3 months and this will help them recoup loaned money.

Helen Bowkett commented that not enough detail was given in the AGM agenda and more members would likely want to be involved in this decision had they know the magnitude of this loan request. Some members indicated that a request for a loan rings alarm bells and Trent conceded that there is an element of risk involved.

Tony: Has our solicitor looked at it? Who is our solicitor? No This would involve more expense.

General consensus that if we don't give them a loan then they won't be able to pay insurance and we won't be able to run rides. Someone asked if AERA could pay their insurance monthly.

AERA reps convey TEERA's dismay at AERA's book keeping. Tas riders get buckles on the presentation day.

Motion: *TEERA loan AERA \$20 000 in accordance with the documented loan agreement.* 11 for and 3 against. Carried.

- g) Cost of Quilty entry and Quilty buckles.

Kaye commented that AERA might weigh up the cost of buckles against the affordability of the Quilty for the average person. Is it about the process/participation or the end product (buckle)?

- h) Angie: TPRs. Some would TPR but don't want to pay membership. Not in rule book that you have to be a member to be a TPR. It is on the TPR test that you have to be a member. To maintain TPR status have you have to do one per year. Couldn't we just strike them off the list if they do the wrong thing. Agenda this for Feb meeting.

- i) Risk management policy to be an agenda item for next meeting and to have it put on to website and accessible to everyone.

Meeting Closed: 5:30pm