



# TASMANIAN EQUINE ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC

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## BREAKFAST MEETING

Ride Organisers & State Management Committee

Sunday 6 November, 2016

8.30am

Gowrie Park

1. **Present:** Pam Shadbolt, Sonia Hodgetts, Pat Lamprey, Mark Dunn, Greg Johnson, Graham Bucknell, Kellie Rockliff, Dennis Foley Jnr, Allan Wyllie, Tracey Wyllie, Greg Henry, Bev Rouse, Brian Rouse, Donna Venn, Pat Hodgetts, Jake Tammens, Laurie Nicholl, Nicole Ford, Debbie Grull, Sandy Little, Bronwyn

**Apologies:** Sheleah Astell

2. **Introduction**

Pat Hodgetts welcomed all to the meeting. The SMC called the meeting in response to a number of issues, which escalated since September where a ride was run with only one vet. The riders and horses were not compromised but it is against the rules. Rides with smaller entries have struggled to find the money for a vet and the SMC has been asked on a number of occasions to help with the costs. If TEERA paid \$700 for a vet for 14 rides each year, it is not sustainable.

Pat put the following questions to the meeting:

- How can we cover costs?
- Should we increase membership fees?
- Is there any way TEERA can subsidise a vet?
- Should we look at what we give for prizes and trophies?
- Increase ride entry fees?

The mainland run a user pays system where it is now over \$1.00 per km to enter a ride.

3. **Increasing membership fees**

Current break down of \$175 being for membership is as follows:

FULL \$175		JUNIOR \$85
AERA	30	15
TEERA	70	35
Public Liability	20	20
Personal Liability	55	15

Each Rider is also charged a \$2 levy by AERA. TEERA now pays this. Will increase to \$4 in 2017.

- Difficult for TEERA to do all that is asked from \$70 and \$30 from each member.
- Point was raised that some riders only do one ride per year. If we increase the membership fee, we are going to lose those riders.
- If we hit people with a higher membership, people are not going to join.

4. **TEERA subsidising vets**

- Is it too much to expect TEERA to pay the full cost of a vet? Would half be more reasonable? Discussion around how to pay for it – could the capping fees paid to TEERA be increased so TEERA can pay for half of a vet's fees?
- Financial difficulties for ride organisers are also due to the scheduling of rides throughout the year. Travelling distance for riders to events such as the Southern rides and Pyengana can also work to disadvantage those clubs. Rides held in months with bad weather can also suffer. Calendar allocation the responsibility of TEERA SMC.

- Second problem for some clubs is the differences in entries and riders who actually show up. Basing the amount of vets on the number of entries can lead to an over-estimate and therefore perhaps the club funding an extra vet which is not needed.
- If the ride goes 'into the red' due to the cost of a vet, can TEERA make up the difference? Caution raised about this principle as it could cause clubs to become 'lazy' and rely on a subsidy. Lengthy discussions that losses for each club need to be heard on a case by case basis. It needs to be looked at as an entry number versus the cost of two vets. If TEERA is set up to subsidise clubs that go into the red, it will need to be a formal, non-subjective process with rules and accountability – perhaps in the form of a checklist. Clubs will also need to work with TEERA.

## 5. Volunteers

Great suggestion raised that we allocate a spot on the membership form for members to tick which club they can volunteer for, and whether they can help out pre-ride, during, or post-ride. A list of volunteer roles should also be prepared to go with this. That information can be fed back to the clubs and they then have a pool of volunteers they can contact if they need to.

## 6. Raising the ride entry fee

- TEERA entry fees have not been going up by a substantial amount over the last few years. Other costs have. It would be a big shock to riders to jump to \$1.00 per km for next season. Would increased ride fees for rides such as Pyengana and STER mean even less entries?
- Pat H shared some figures she had prepared for each club if the ride organisers raised their entry fee to \$80 for an 80km ride. Each club would have made a profit based on their entries. She referred back to the discussion on TEERA subsidising vets for ride organisers and said that if clubs had charged this amount, as well as 'helping themselves', that is, looking for sponsorship or raffles etc and still made a loss due to lower numbers, then that would certainly be a case reviewing whether a subsidy was viable.

## 7. Proposed solutions for 2017

### (a) Non-refundable nomination

Pam S will investigate a 'Global Booking system'. Sandy Little explained that this system of 'Try-Booking' is used in Victoria. This will enable riders to pay a \$20 non-refundable nomination fee directly to clubs. This system will apply to all entrants in all distances. Riders will then pay the remainder of their entry fee on the day. Pam to talk to Mark Dunn and nut out a system. Then contact Kevin and Jodi to see what we need to do.

### (b) Ride entry fee recommendations for ride organisers for 2017:

**\$75 for 80km, \$50 for 40km.** It is up to ride organisers to decide fees for rides outside the standard 80km and 40km.

### (c) For ride organisers to access a subsidy through TEERA, they must have at least charged the recommended \$75 entry. TEERA SMC members will work to provide a checklist and ensure that this is available to ride organisers for next year. Work in progress is to clarify the process.