

VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date 28 September 2021
Time 7:32PM

1. WELCOME BY PRESIDENT

Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed thanks to all for giving up their time for this special meeting.

2. PRESENT

Linda Tanian, Mezcal Manners, Kerrie Gabb, Paul Nugent, Russ Gillingham, Hans Peuker, Ellen Prestage

3. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from the following members:

- Russell Robinson

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest by Committee Members

Committee Member	Point of Conflict	Reason
Paul Nugent	Letter of complaint from Lyn Taylor	Subject of the complaint

5. VISITORS

The following visitors were present at the meeting:

- Lyn Taylor

6. LETTER OF COMPLAINT FROM LYN TAYLOR

A letter of complaint was received by AERA from Lyn Taylor. AERA reviewed the letter and determined the matter was more appropriately dealt with by VERA. The letter was forwarded to VERA and distributed to all SMC members.

The SMC is simply to consider if there are grounds for taking disciplinary action as per Clause 20 of the VERA Constitution. If there are grounds, then the Disciplinary Panel needs to be formed to deal with the matter. VERA does not determine anything else in regard to the letter of complaint.

Prior to consideration of the matter Russell Gillingham raised that question about whether Linda Tanian had a conflict of interest given her name was mentioned in the letter. Linda responded that the letter was a complaint against Paul Nugent by Lyn Taylor regarding the manner in which Lyn felt she had been treated and that she was made to feel like Paul considered her to be a liar.

As the letter was not a complaint against Linda there was no conflict of interest. This matter was debated for some time. In the end the Chair called an informal vote on the matter to determine whether a conflict of interest existed with the following outcome:

Does a conflict of interest exist for Linda Tanian?

Yes: 1

No: 4

Abstained: 2

The SMC determined that no conflict existed.

Paul was asked to speak to the complaint.

Paul indicated that this matter had been raised as a grievance with an outcome being reached. The agreed outcome was that Paul was to write a letter of apology, which after being received as to be published on the VERA website. Following the meeting Paul changed his mind and did not want to honour the agreement.

After further discussion with the Grievance Officer the agreed outcome was that Paul would write a letter of apology to Lyn. This has not yet been received by Lyn. Paul stated that he does not believe he called Lyn a liar. Paul stated that he doesn't know anyone in NSW so did not know how any information could come from a NSW member in regard to the claim from Lyn that she had falsified documents and sent these onto AERA. Paul said that he had only discussed the matter with Lyn Taylor and Mark Dunn.

Paul advised that he believed he was doing his due diligence in following up on the matter and that his intent was not to question Lyn's integrity.

The SMC was asked if they had questions for Paul and there were no requests for further information, so Paul was asked to leave the meeting. Linda advised that a text message would be sent, due to the lateness of the meeting, to advise the result of the SMCs deliberations. Paul accepted this communication method. A follow up email would be sent as well.

Paul Nugent left the meeting at 8.27 pm.

Lyn Taylor was asked to join the meeting, which she did at 8.29 pm.

Lyn was advised that all of the SMC had received and read a copy of the letter she sent to AERA and was informed that Paul had given his version of events. Lyn was then asked to speak to her letter of complaint.

Lyn went through her version of events. She stated that the reason for writing the letter of complaint to AERA was that she felt it would not be dealt with fairly given that Paul was the Vice-President of VERA. She stated that Paul has put her reputation on the line and questioned her integrity and status as a CS and that Paul is calling her a liar. Lyn provided details of the conversation that ensued between her and Paul and that she felt it was not appropriate at all that she had been approached in the first place.

Lyn expressed how upset she had been by the calls from Paul and that she felt that her standing as a Chief Steward in Victoria had been tainted. She felt that she would not be invited to attend rides as a Chief Steward, which left her feeling very upset.

Lyn stated that two people from NSW has asked her what is going on. Lyn did not want to mention who they were. Lyn stated that she has not received the letter of apology.

Linda asked if the SMC had any questions for Lyn.

Russell Gillingham asked for details of the people from NSW who had been in contact with her about the matter. Lyn advises that she would not give the names as she was quite concerned that there would be some fallout on these people if she disclosed who they were.

There were no further requests for any additional information from Lyn. Lyn was thanked for her attendance at the meeting and for the provision of the information she had provided. She was advised that a text message would be sent providing information on the outcome of the meeting, given the lateness. This would be followed up with an email confirming the information.

Lyn thanked the SMC for organizing a meeting and left the meeting at 8:45pm.

Following Lyn's departure, the SMC discussed the matter and Linda acknowledged how hard this is for everyone to determine the appropriate action that needed to be taken. The SMC agreed that it is difficult to find the truth in this matter given that it was a conversation between two people with no witnesses.

It was determined that the matter did not need to be referred to the Disciplinary Panel. The following is the required outcome:

- A letter of apology is to be sent by Paul to Lyn
- The apology is to be sent via email to Lyn's email address (taylors1303@gmail.com)
- The email needs to be received by Lyn within 4 days, i.e., by 9.30 pm on 2nd October 2021
- Paul is to advise the SMC when the email is sent
- Lyn is to advise the SMC when the email is received
- If this action is not successfully completed the SMC will meet to discuss this further

Linda is to send a summary via text to both Paul and Lyn. This is to be followed by an email with the above details.

Due to the lateness of the meeting, it was determined that the second matter on the agenda – the Training ride – would not be discussed at this point.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at 9:20pm