

VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

MINUTES - STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Date 9 April 2022

Meeting Start 9.05 am

1. WELCOME BY PRESIDENT

The President welcomed all to the meeting once the quorum had been validated and thanked the SMC members for attending the meeting.

2. PRESENT

Linda Tanian, Kerrie Gabb, Paul Nugent, Hans Peuker, Ellen Prestage, Paul Bryson

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from the following Committee Members:

- Lyn Taylor, Damien Little, Mezcal Manners (leave of absence)

No apology was received from Russell Gillingham, Sandy Little, Sheree Bishop and Russell Robinson

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Conflict of Interest register was confirmed

Committee Member	Point of Conflict	Reason
Linda Tanian	Tom Quilty 2023	Committee Member
Kerrie Gabb	Mark Gabb (Webmaster) Tom Quilty 2023	Personal relationship Committee Member
Paul Nugent	Bek Williamson Lancefield Ride	Personal Relationship Ride Organiser
Paul Bryson	Marty Bryson, Daisy Bryson	Personal Relationship
Sandy Little	Bronwyn Cuthbertson, Damien Little	Personal Relationship
Damien Little	Bronwyn Cuthbertson, Sandy Little	Personal Relationship
Sheree Bishop	Snake Valley Dash Ride	Ride Organiser

5. VISITORS

The following members attended the meeting from 11 am:

- Louise Mackey, Jenny Shepheard

6. MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2022

6.1 Amendments

Nil

6.2 Adoption

Motion No. 01/04/2022: That the minutes from the meeting held on 5 March 2022

Moved: Ellen Prestage

Seconded: Hans Peuker

Carried

6.3 Business Arising

Nil.

7. RATIFICATION OF ONLINE MOTIONS

Linda pointed out that the invoices for payment motion had not been passed due to a lack of response from the SMC members. Linda requested that everyone be a little more committed to checking emails.

Paul Nugent suggested that we allow the Treasurer to pay the bills up front and then just present them to the meeting for approval. This is how it has been done in the past and worked quite well. Paul Bryson noted that when he was Treasurer both the Treasurer and President had to approve payments. Kerrie indicated that she was not comfortable with the suggestions.

The Committee discussed these suggestions and determined that the current process would remain in place.

Motion	Moved	Seconded	Vote	Outcome
That the Mil-Lel Marathon, to be held on 15-18 April 2022, be dual affiliated	Ellen Prestage	Paul Bryson	Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstained: 0 No vote: Damien Little, Mezcal Manners (leave of absence), Sandy Little, Sheree Bishop	Carried
That the following invoices be approved for payment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">AERA – Inv 1279 - \$2,797.00AERA – Inv 1280 - \$1,902.00Damien Little - \$300.00Hosting Aust – Inv 79907 - \$149.00Hosting Australia – Inv 79455 - \$29.90	Kerrie Gabb	Ellen Prestage	Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstained: 0 No vote: Damien Little, Mezcal Manners (leave of absence), Russell Robinson, Russell Gillingham, Paul Nugent, Paul Bryson, Sheree Bishop, Lyn Taylor	Lapsed due to lack of votes

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8. CORRESPONDENCE

Actions arising from correspondence:

- Motion No. 03/04/2022:** That sponsorship for the Strapping Area, at a cost of \$1,000, for the TQ23 event be paid.

Moved: Hans Peuker
Seconded: Ellen Prestage
Carried

Ellen to write to the TQ22 Committee and advise them of the sponsorship package supported by VERA.
Kerrie to organise payment.

- Ellen to advise Mez of approval for her request for extension of her leave of absence
- Ellen to advise AERA and Lyn Taylor that VERA's CS representative will be Lyn Taylor
- Follow up to be completed with the VERA Vets to see if there is any EOIs for the role of VERA Vet Representative at the Quilty event

9. REPORTS

9.1 Treasurer

Late payments (shown in red text) have been added to the tabled invoices:

Name	Details	Amount
Hosting Australia - Inv 79907	Email spam filter	\$149.00
Hosting Australia - Inv 79455	Domain renewal	\$29.90
AERA – Inv 1280	Affiliation and horse fees	\$1,902.00
Damien Little	Reimbursement - Ride Sec for Brimpaen, Lancefield and Eldorado 1	\$300.00
AERA – Inv 1279	Liability Insurance fees	\$2,797.00
Australia Post	Postage Account	\$23.25
AERA	Inv 1298 – Affiliation and Registration Fees	\$1,202.00
AERA	Inv 1297 – Insurance	\$1,160.00
Equestrian Australia	MCP Course Fees	\$100.00
	Total	\$7,663.15

Motion No. 03/04/2022: That the tabled accounts be paid.

Moved: Kerrie Gabb
Seconded: Paul Nugent
Abstained: Damien Little
Carried

Motion No. 04/04/2022: That the Treasurer's Report be received.

Moved: Kerrie Gabb
Seconded: Ellen Prestage
Carried

9.2 Rides

Ride Reports

Incident forms have been sent to AERA and Surewise for the two incidents which occurred at Snake Valley and Lancefield rides.

Linda reported on the GERZ Championships, which seemed to go well. No invasive treatment conducted, and the riders seem happy. A couple of riders went the wrong way – one was turned around and one returned to base by a different route being subsequently disqualified.

A horse with a different microchip to that recorded in the logbook was identified and information sent to the appropriate State Registrar.

It was identified that a 10km ride was included on the ride flyer for the Legendary-Penn Quilty Qualifier that had not been approved by the SMC. A request has now been received from Ken Bradley for the addition of the 10km event. It was also identified that despite the other rides being requested to be run on the Sunday they are running on the Saturday.

Motion No. 05/04/2022: That the addition of the 10km event and the change of ride day to the Saturday be approved for the Legendary-Penn Quilty Qualifier Ride.

Moved: Paul Nugent

Seconded: Paul Bryson

Carried.

VERA and AERA Calendars to be updated and notification provided to the Ride Organiser.

The meeting was suspended at 9.55 am due to a loss of quorum and was recommenced at 11.12 am.

The ordinary business of the meeting was suspended to discuss the complaint by Jenny Shepherd.

Jenny provided information in support of her complaint including:

- The pre-ride meeting consisted of a big discussion where the head vet said everyone had been challenging the vet decisions during the day
- The CS backed this up and said that people were disrespectful
- Both people advised that this was not going to be acceptable for the following day and that the vets were not to be challenged
- Advice was provided that a panel would be utilised to determine outcomes for lameness
- When Jenny had finished the ride and been TPR'd she walked towards the Head Vet, who was available, but was directed to another vet
- This vet trotted Jenny up and then wanted a re-trot and organised a panel
- This surprised Jenny as she thought her horse was fine
- The vet panel determined that the horse was lame and was vetted out
- One of the vets came to Jenny and said the horse was very lame in the back end
- Jenny's fellow riders were smiling at her and given the thumbs up to indicate the horse was fine
- Jenny didn't think the horse was lame, but she did not question it at the time and left the vet ring
- Jenny and her crew immediately trotted the horse up across some varied and rough terrain, taking a video, showing that the horse was not lame
- Jenny took the video to the Head Vet to show that the horse wasn't lame, and the vet agreed that it was not lame
- Jenny was directed to the CS who said that this incident was not the worst of it all, the whole weekend had been a nightmare with people getting vetted out when their horses were not lame and lame horses being passed as sound
- To Jenny, the worst of all this was that the horse was not lame
- She left the vet ring as she did not get any result but did not want to be disrespectful and pursue the matter
- Jenny felt that the panel approach should not have been used as the vets did not seem experienced and the head vet should have had the final say
- After returning home, the next morning the horse was running around and rounding up other horses and was not lame at all.
- Jenny felt that if she had been able to go to the head vet for the final trot up, she would have got through the ride

Kerrie clarified that the video taken was of the horse being trotted up after the vet check and not during the vetting. Jenny confirmed this and advised that videoing in the vet ring was not allowed under the rules.

Jenny advised that when she submitted her complaint, she asked that the head vet be contacted straight away so that she could be asked about the situation while she remembered the issue.

Jenny was thanked for her comments and for attending the meeting. Unfortunately, the Chief Steward was not available at the meeting and further investigation would be required. Discussions need to be held with the Chief Steward and the SMC would then determine an outcome. This will be communicated to Jenny. Jenny left the meeting.

Louise Mackey (RO) advised that she thought the comments about what the head vet said at the pre-ride was over-exaggerated and that Judy decided how to run the vet ring as is her right. Any video from outside the vet ring should be disregarded as it does not constitute evidence of what happened in the vet ring.

If Jenny did approach Sandy Little and he made the comments, it is disappointing as he should have upheld the rules and said that the vet's decision is final. If the comments are correct, he could have provided a better explanation and felt it was a breach of confidentiality. It made everyone look like they didn't know what they were doing. It gave Jenny scope to put in an official complaint because of his comments.

Louise also expressed disappointment that the head vet said it wasn't lame rather than saying it was panelled and was vetted out. Everyone knew the vetting times on Saturday as these were on FB and the ride flyer so they knew when they should have been organised.

Louise left the meeting.

The SMC discussed the matter and determined:

1. The rules indicate that the vet's decision is final, that any complaints must be made before the rider leaves the vet ring and that the SMC can only determine if the CS has made a mistake in interpreting the rules, which does not apply in this case as the decision was made by the vets.
2. Need to talk with the Chief Steward to confirm comments made to Jenny

A meeting will be convened to discuss the matter with the Chief Steward.

The meeting returned to the order of standard business.

Ride Support Personnel

Verbal report from ride support personnel with all rides progressing well at this stage.

Ride Information

Ride	Vaccination Status	Chief Steward	Head Vet
Snake Valley Dash	Fully vaccinated	Sandy Little	Lesley Hawson
Lancefield	Fully Vaccinated	Sandy Little	Lesley Hawson
Eldorado	No requirements	Sandy Little	Judy Mulholland
GERZ Championships	No requirements	Linda Tanian	Ash Greeves
Legendary-Penn Quilty Qualifier	No requirements		Narelle Cribb
Murray River Ride			
Eldorado #2		Linda Tanian	
Ararat			
Quilty Test Event/VERA SC			
Dergholm Championships		Linda Tanian	Judy Mulholland

ETS

Ride	Transport to Ride	Returned After Ride
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Lancefield	Paul Nugent	N/A
Eldorado #1	Paul Nugent	Linda
GERZ Championships	Linda	Linda
Legendary-Penn Quilty Qualifier	Linda	Matt Milne
Murray River Ride		
Eldorado #2		
Ararat		
Quilty Test Event/VERA SC		
Dergholm Championships		

9.3 Assets Officer

No progress made yet on the trailers.

9.4 Horse Welfare Officer

Paul advised that the two outstanding rides would be finalised in AERASpace today.

Linda and Ellen to do an article on the EWS for the information of all. Ellen to see if Robyn Albers is interested in doing the rules on the FB page again.

9.5 Logbook Registrar

Linda to update the logbook form to correct the errors.

9.6 Merchandise Officer

Kerrie advised that she is still waiting on information from Sheree on the square to confirm the details of use with the merchandise. No sales of merchandise have been made recently.

9.7 Point Score Officer

Paul raised that Bek asked what the final determination is on the way the calculations are to be done. Linda to check what we were going to do in relation to this action and let the SMC know the outcome of the investigation.

9.8 TPR Coordinator

The SMC discussed ways in which we could get people to become TPRs. Running another TPR school may result in further TPRs being available at rides. Linda to put up a post on FB and the website seeking expressions of interest to become a TPR Steward.

9.9 Veterinary Coordinator

Linda to follow up with Russell again to see if any progress has been made with the request to assist David obtain some vets for the Dergholm ride.

9.10 Grievance Officer

It was explained to the SMC that this matter had not followed correct process. The person making the grievance had decided to bypass the requirements of the Constitution and go immediately to the Grievance officer instead of following the correct steps.

9.11 Governance Sub-committee

As none of the Governance SC members were available this matter was deferred to the next meeting. This could be discussed at the meeting to further consider the complaint made by Jenny Shephard.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 Fund Raising Opportunity

Kerrie reported that no paperwork has been received from Sheree yet.

10.2 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Sheree has not yet provided any options for commemorative merchandise. Hans will bring some of his old newsletters to a ride to allow them to be scanned and added to the FB page/website.

10.3 TQ23 Association

Actions arising from this discussion item:

- Kerrie to open a bank account separate to the VERA account for the Quilty association
- Kerrie will investigate an accounting package and whether we can run the Quilty transactions under our own accounting package
- Ellen to accept the offer from Michael Milne to do the audit for the Quilty Association and other assistance

Alternatively, if this entity is not the preferred choice of the current VERA committee - let me know and I will draft docs to be signed to close the association.

10.4 TQ22 – CS Nomination

As Lyn Taylor was the only person to submit an EOI to be the VERA CS representative she will be nominated to AERA.

10.5 Swabbing Seminar

A further session of the swabbing seminar will be organised to cover those people who couldn't make it to the first session.

10.6 VERA Teams Entry for TQ22

Linda to pull together the process with dates and distribute to the SMC. Contact Dale Williamson to organise the rugs. Determination needs to be made on who the Team Selectors will be – usually our Honorary Vet and an SMC representative.

11. LATE ITEMS

11.1 Late Correspondence Outwards

- Jen Green – Thank you letter for running the New to Endurance seminar
- Sarah Pollard Williams – Thank you letter for running the New to Endurance seminar

11.2 New to Endurance Seminar

We ran the New to Endurance seminar online on Wednesday just past. Had 31 attendees and it all seemed to go very well. Sarah and Jen gave very good presentations on vetting and food/training while I covered what happens on the actual ride and gave an overview of rules.

We had a mix of some endurance riders, some folk who had only done one or two rides and some who hadn't done any so a good cross section.

Plenty of questions were asked and answered during the session. Lots of good feedback on how worthwhile this was.

I've already had a call from one of the other states asking how it went and how to organise a session as they would like to follow in our footsteps.

A very worthwhile exercise for us.

Ellen advised that she had received some requests to run another seminar on VGIH prior to the Mia Mia ride – This was approved by the SMC.

11.4 Late Correspondence Inwards

Ken Bradley – Applying for the addition of a 10km distance to the Legendary-Penn ride

12. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

No general business was raised.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next VERA SMC meeting is scheduled for 22 May 2022.

14. MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 12.09 pm.