

331. **ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Kylie Jonkers (Chair) [KJ], Noni Seagrim [NS], Belinda Hopley [BH], Talea Hasko-Stewart [THS], Duncan Satchell [DS], Andrew Jonkers [AJ], Tony Warren [TW], Kim Stephens [KS], John Howe [JH] (part meeting), Peter Kelly [PK], Sarah Pollard Williams [SPW]

**Minutes:** Helen Rich [HR]

Update on how the on line meetings work. There is a comment box that you can use otherwise unmute yourself and KJ will monitor this so everybody gets a chance to speak.

Not been a good week. Sad to see Kerry, Alam, Annette and Sharyn resign from the SMC. Thanks to all of them for their contributions. Wealth of knowledge has stepped away. We have made contact with the next three people who nominated. Sarah Pollard Williams is thanked for taking up the position. Gertraud Norton has said no as did Kim Stephens who has decided to stay on as a Zone delegate. There are two positions available.

**Resolved** to leave things as they are and remain in caretaker mode until the AGM. Agreement that this resolution be posted on social media. NS to post this to Facebook.

## General and New Business

332. **Sponsorships – Zilco signed, Feed XL? Radincon?**

Discussion on Zilco.

- NS has had this agreement signed off and returned to Zilco. Nothing further to report on this.
- NS will follow up on Monday and double check that it has been received.
- It can then be announced on social media.
- NS is getting a general update/information letter organised to send to the ROs.
- The plan is to send a list of rides to Zilco.
- Send an outline of the agreement to all ROs notifying what is expected.

Annette Bailey [AB] has a list of rides prepared. THS will speak to AB about this.

BH suggests when we get the forms back they are put with the ride booking form so they are kept together.

KS has questions about sponsorship. Is Radincon still involved in the sponsorship for next year? We have not spoken to them as yet. KJ would like to see this moving forward. THS could move forward with this as she was involved in drafting this. AB has sent Talea what she had.

It was noted that AB was the main contact reaching out to the sponsors. She has advised the proposed sponsors that she is stepping aside and handing over to THS and someone else from the SMC. This only happened this morning. Checking to see whether Radincon are still keen. Have nothing as yet. THS will try to follow up on this.

**Resolved** that we should keep moving forward with getting these things done. So many ideas half way there. We need to show our members we are achieving things. Chase those things down in the New Year. Would be awesome to have these things sorted before the AGM.

DS advised that he missed a meeting but saw one comment from BH that we failed to reach an agreement about Radincon. He read it to mean that this wasn't going forward. NS said that comment related to this time last year. They approached us last year and it became quite difficult to reach a middle ground which worked for everybody. Didn't go through this time last year but AB picked it up and ran with it and got it moving forward. Thanks to THS and AB for the work that they have put into that.

333. **Rides for approval**

Mogendoura date change. Looking at running their event last weekend in August. Week after Shahzada and week before John's River. **Approved.**

Mudgee had to find a new date. Offered 22 and 23 October. Weekend after Brookvale. KJ to touch base with Brookvale ride committee. **Approved** subject to Brookvale's input

Tumbarumba – dropped their FEI event and decided to run a twilight event. Same distances. Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>. One concern would be if people can get there in time. 100k ride. Noted that NS has resigned from the Tumbarumba club.

General discussion on this ride, mainly concerning the proposed start times and risk assessment policy. KJ said she had had no consultation with this RO in relation to their proposed ride.

**Resolved** that KJ have a chat with the Tumbarumba ride committee and discuss their risk management plan. She is to report back to the SMC as to how she goes with this conversation.

334. **Subcommittee Representative**

Discussion on the positions left vacant by the recent resignations.

**Resolved as follows:**

- SPW take over workshop subcommittee and promotions
- Happy for Annette to stay on the promotions subcommittee.
- International – THS to take this on.
- Sponsorship - THS
- Merchandise – leave this one with AJ
- Governance – KJ
- Grants –NS to take this on as grant correspondence comes to the secretary. Kerry Fowler Smith has offered to assist until the AGM.
- Treasurer – Discussion on who would be best to take on this position
  - KS was nominated but this goes against the AGM directive
  - Can the position remain vacant until the AGM?
  - KS willing to continue as the bookkeeper until the AGM
  - AJ suggested for the position.

**MOVED** Noni Seagrim, Kim Stephens

**THAT** Andrew Jonkers be appointed Treasurer of the Association until the 2022 AGM

**Carried** Unanimous

Online membership has been discussed.

335. **ATO forms**

KS commented on accounts in general with particular reference to Xero and the ATO in relation to GST. We need a name to go onto the form for the ATO. The ATO needs to recognise Xero for GST purposes.

KJ asked if we can hold this over until the AGM. KS said she would have to talk to the Accountant. We have another GST due at the end of December.

KS advised it doesn't matter who it is. KJ would be the best option at the moment. The form is not available on line you have to talk to the ATO and KS has the form. The two people who are on the form currently are Kerry Fowler Smith and John Howe.

**Resolved** to put KJ on this form. KS to fill the form in and send to KJ and she will post it off to the ATO.

**Resolved** to notify the incoming SMC members of the current position with the ATO suggesting that the new committee nominate someone who does not need re-electing in 2024. KJ can hand it over at the AGM. .

John Howe signing off from the meeting at this time [8:51]

336. **Xero/CommBiz removal of Sharyn/Alam/Kerry**

KS and TW are still authorisers of the accounts so Sharyn Coulston, Alam Dastani and Kerry Fowler Smith can be removed. **Resolved** to remove the X SMC members from the Combiz accounts.

TW suggested that if they have dongles they need to be returned to the branches. These people need to be advised to return these dongles to their local branches.

337. **Audits**

We need to look at the audit for the AGM. KS advised we do have an audit report done for 2021. What Bob Peirce has done is incorrect. He did a balance sheet of the financial year as opposed to the calendar year. We work on a calendar year. KS said she emailed him twice and asked SC to chase him up twice. We have his report. KS has not put his account up for payment as it is not correct.

General comments on the need for an audit. The need to be able to contact the auditor and communicate with him.

There has been a lack of communication between Bob Peirce and KS. Prior communication was through JH and there has never been a problem. Bob does do us a very good deal which would be hard to match. HR is a neighbour of Bob Peirce and if there are any problems communicating with him, she would be able to assist.

**Resolved** that HR contact Bob Peirce and ask him to get in touch with KS to organise for two years of audited accounts.

338. **AGM Accommodation/Fuel for Helen/Jax**

Discussing reimbursement of fees for fuel and accommodation for HR to attend the AGM and prepare the minutes.

**Resolved** that Helen Rich and Jax Barlow will be reimbursed for their fuel and accommodation expenses for attending the AGM as paid employees. Payment to be made on receipt of the appropriate invoices and receipts.

General discussion on how the AGM will work with the new proposed format.

- The meeting will be recorded.
- Most of the on line queries will be by typed messages.
- In public chats this platform will record the messages.
- People on the phone would need to say their name so we know who they are.
- If they are not on their computer we will not know.
- There is the potential problem with people on the phone.

Query as to the practicality of phone ins.

- Should we allow phone link in?
- Not everybody is computer literate.
- Need to ensure no one is disenfranchised.
- For the few people involved, it's a good option.

KJ will ask that members make their comments clearly. Members should come on via the app or come on line. Nearly everyone has got a smart phone. There would be the case where some people have poor internet or phone connection they need to be catered for as well. Strongly encourage everyone to use the app. If you ask a question, you say your name.

**Resolved**

- people should be able to phone in but perhaps we can look at what we can do at our end to facilitate that.
- Look into this further.
- Is there a premium version of GoToMeeting or something else.
- Need to give everyone every opportunity to participate.

KJ advised this AGM will be a learning curve for all of us. Need to try and facilitate everyone. Have to work around it. Hopefully people will come to the AGM but obviously, the majority of others will join on line.

### 339. **Correspondence/Statement approvals**

(a) DRAFT letter to Brian Swan re Ride To Time

Are members of the SMC happy with the draft presented? To be read in line with the rules that BH has drafted. Need to have a phone conversation with Tom McCormack to make sure that the timing system can work with this concept. KJ to ring Tom McCormack.

KJ advised the idea for this event came out of the workshop weekend. Some members have been to NZ where this is running. Put up for discussion and Zone One have decided to go with it. In NZ they have a series competition.

Discussing the rules proposed.

- Will this potentially weaken endurance riding?
- Will it be open to non AERA members?
- Riders have to be members, same vetting rules, and same horse welfare standards.
- Just an extra set of rules.
- Still have to abide by our novice horse rules.
- Have to be at least a day member of the association.
- When they sign up why not make them an intermediate member?

(b) DRAFT Ride to Time rules (massive thanks to BH for putting these together)

**Resolved** that it should count as a 40 BH. Should go towards the intermediate point score and intermediate membership. Everything else is exactly the same except for the fact that we don't have a competition for it as yet and it's called 'ride and time'.

BH gave an explanation of her reasoning for some of the rules that she has written. She still has a few things to check with the AERA. No minimum time associated with this competition.

**Resolved** that those present are happy for these events to take place. Mt Lagoon and Scenic City to run with this.

(c) DRAFT Letter to Caitlin Langley and the other form letter signees

NS asked for comments on her draft form letter.

(d) Family Membership

NSW currently lists family membership as two adults and two children, living at the same address. Request from the AERA subcommittee: is it ok if a family lives at separate addresses? For instance divorced parents, one kid with mum and one with dad. NSW is the only state with this stipulation. A family is a family, no matter where they are living.

**Resolved** to remove 'living at the same addresses from the membership forms and get in line with the rest of the country.

340. **General Business**

(a) **SMC resignations**

Considerable discussion took place on the resignations of SMC members and recent events in general. There were a number of differing views expressed for the reasons for the problems within the SMC. .

The meeting minutes and email trail show no evidence of bullying and would show nothing but support for the members of the SMC.

Noted that the recording of minutes this year has changed. This is as a result of what took place at last year's AGM. What you have now is more a record of a meeting. Not the usual almost verbatim set of minutes. Generally comments are removed; naming people is kept to a minimum. When people look at the minutes they won't see exactly what happened at a meeting. It was also noted that members can attend any meeting they wish.

Some of the views expressed were as follows:

- Purported bullying of SMC members
- Rudeness in some emails
- Talking over the top of people
- Lack of respect shown for differing opinions
- Personality conflicts
- Over reaction of certain SMC members to questioning
- Hidden agendas.

Disappointment was expressed at some of the comments that have been put on social media by departing SMC members.

Question was asked as to whether the comments made by those present at this meeting should be recorded in the minutes. Differing opinions offered. **This is still to be decided.**

**Resolved** that the SMC simply put out a statement with regard to the events of the past few weeks, or the past year explaining matters from the point of view of the current SMC members.

Approved minutes are to be sent to THS for the website.

**Resolved** that the minutes from the workshop can be put on the website.

**Query** as to whether the SMC candidates have to attend the AGM in person. Is there a resolution about this? KJ. said there isn't a rule about this but it would be better for them to be there.

NS added to the discussion. There is nothing in the constitution that nominees have to be there in person to be elected, but it would be in the best interests of the membership that nominees attend the AGM. It is strongly recommended that they be there.

Noted that it's not just the AGM that people need to attend it's the meeting after the AGM where they appoint positions as well.

(b) **Instructions to Vets**

SPW advised that she has seen in the draft minutes from the last meeting that there was mention of Georgia Ladmore information sheets to vets. The AERA is putting together a training program on this. KJ said this is regarding vets and some not following our guidelines as well as they should and how we can make this better. We did know about the AERA is preparing something in this regard. THS spoke to Georgia at the promotions workshop and mentioned that the SMC is considering putting notes together for new vets. Georgia said she is already working on key points/notes and is happy to work with the SMC if we proceed.

(c) **AGM matters**

Continue to move forward towards the AGM.

SMC please get your AGM reports in to NS ASAP.

TPR course on 8 February. NS to put this information out.

341. **Next meeting dates**

KJ will have a look at dates and come back to the SMC with suggestions.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:08

**These Minutes of NSWERA SMC were approved at the SMC Meeting on 13 January 2023 as per Item No. 346.**