

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held by Conference Call

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at midday



**IN ATTENDANCE:** Tony Pike, Nigel Tiley, Michael Pitman, Andrew Forsman, Gary Vile, Andrew Carston, Sally McKay, Jim Burns, Moira Murdoch, Paul Claridge, Lance O'Sullivan, Anna Furlong, Jamie Richards, Donna Beck, Diane Walker, Anne Harvey

**APOLOGIES:** Pam Robson, Matthew Pitman

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM AGM 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019** - Passed as a true and accurate record

There were no matters arising

*Claridge/McKay*

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2020** – Approved

There were no matters arising

*Pitman/Carston*

## ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Tony Pike reported that it had been a very unusual 12 months with many issues going forward. Not expecting any drastic changes envisaged till the new Board in place at the TAB. He understands turnovers are up and costs are down so hopefully there will be a bit more money for distribution this season. It's good to see horses back racing but still issues with rating bands and horses missing out on starts. Hoping that in next year or two things start looking a bit more positive.

## ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Prior to the election the remit from the Northern Branch was discussed. The motion put forward was: "for the Constitution to be reviewed so the National President did not have to be a trainer. The role could be paid and report to the Presidents of 4 branches (downsized from current 5). Legal advice to be sought."

The motion was discussed at length with Andrew Forsman advised that Branch was in favour – as the view was there could be a conflict of interest and better represented by someone with a bit more time and could do the job justice.

Donna Beck felt it demeaned the Association if the role was held by a non-licenceholder.

Michael Pitman – advised that an admirable job had been done over the years by trainers. Tony always been approachable. Personally would like him to stay in his role.

Tony Pike said that sometimes he believed it was difficult to give the job full justice and at times not to have a conflict of interest. Would need to find the right person with right connections could be a good lobbyist. Still happy to do with it for next 12 months. Lines can be blurred with personal views.

Gary Vile – believes it has merit and should be looked into with further discussions to be held.

The remit was voted on by the trainers on the call – the result was 9 in favour and 7 against. The motion was passed.

Nominations were then called for President:

Tony Pike nominated – Pitman/Carston

There being no further nominations, Tony Pike duly elected.

**ELECTION OF TWO NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS**

Moira Murdoch – Pitman/Pike

Michael Pitman – Beck/Vile

There being no further nominations, Moira Murdoch and Michael Pitman duly elected.

**APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY/TREASURER-** Wendy Cooper appointed

**APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR (IF APPLICABLE)** – not required

**DETERMINATION OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION** – To remain at zero

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.24pm

**THE NZTA AGM WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED WITH AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM NZTR INCLUDING DR ALAN JACKSON, BERNARD SAUNDRY, MARTY BURNS AND TIM ALDRIDGE.**

Members who were not NZTA Executive remained on the call with Brent Gardiner joining at 12.38pm

**NZTR ISSUES RAISED WERE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Trackwork Rider Licensing** – NZTR paper discussed. NZTR seek a unified response from NZTA to the proposal. Discussion included

- Donna Beck – sees a considerable need for assessment but industry is full of experts and much of the work is on-the-job training. Second point raised was existing riders shouldn't have to go through the process.
- Lance O'Sullivan sees a need for riders and will always put new riders on the trotting ring, but different levels of ability - if we get it wrong there are consequences. Wonder if the proposal though is too tough to implement?
- Nigel Tiley thought proposal equivalent to Pony Club D Certificate. He felt every public track has its own rules and regulations and every rider for first time should have a health & safety induction. He suggested a waiver of liability could be introduced and a legal document signed prior to assessment. A stipe could view them riding work and sign off. Don't think need to go to the extent of the proposal. Video footage irrelevant – this may not actually be the person applying.
- Sally McKay – surprised the thoroughness of this when there is no competency test for a trainers' licence. It is them who are liable for making decisions regarding trackwork riders. More horsemanship skills needed to be up to standard for trainers for new licences.
- Anne Harvey – who is deemed as competent to sign riders off? Does that absolve trainers from responsibility?
- Bernard agreed with Sally's point and work being undertaken at NZTR and NZTA will be consulted. In response to Anne – put a minimum criteria in place – how do we identify that riders are competent?
- Michael Pitman – two worst accidents have occurred at private facilities. Very difficult away from the track. Thinks the monthly assessment day at 4-5 venues would work.
- Multi-choice questions – many would have no idea. Many not wanting a career in racing – just want to earn money.
- Proposal – yes assessment needed – not too complicated – some knowledge of health & safety – horse handling/care via the multi-choice – not too hard.
- A stipendiary steward may not be required as there are others who do have ability to do this
- Tony Pike – always going to be accidents. Want to reduce liability. Followed procedures – can't be held accountable.
- Bernard would like a sub-committee from Trainers' Association to get together with NZTR to finalise a more simplified paper. Tony suggested it be also put through Worksafe.
- Clarified at end of meeting that the reference to "carrying a whip" was part of an example of a multi-choice question and in fact was an incorrect answer – it was not policy.

**Trainer/Owner Reforms**

Engagement with Owners' Federation and Trainers' Association – mirrors Australian system. Process to support trainers for payments and enable earlier dispute resolution. Further information to come out. Support indicated at roadshows for this initiative.

### **1% levy on stakes to welfare**

- Outline at AGM in November for introduction 1 Feb 2021. Approximately \$500,000 invested programmes and initiatives. Network of retrainers and processes for Traceability.
- Donna Beck concerned how money spent – guarantee that 100% what comes off stakes goes to welfare – not administration.
- Bernard - Meaningful, measurable, and transparent and NZTR have to be accountable.
- Michael Pitman – how do you enforce the traceability aspect? Who is the accountable person? Responsibility for person accountable in regards rehoming. SR24 form to be completed– the duty of care is to find a good home if horse sound and good temperament. Euthanasia acceptable where horse not viable to be rehomed. No comeback from NZTR.
- Bernard Saundry – very few instances where not being done properly – just need to cater for them due to anti-racing movement.
- Wendy Cooper – in draft default of Training Agreement that facilitates the need for owner to be responsible for rehoming on retirement if relevant.

### **Open Entry & R74 races**

- Tim Aldridge understood the Open Entry races were less than ideal. It was an attempt to reward owners and they have increased betting. R74 races introduced in last two weeks for horses' in early 60's, early 70's – had solid fields
- Tony Pike – horses missing out. Horses were winning out of their grade but did have ability. But going forward can see in next 6-12 months horses not having opportunity to race and being retired.
- Tim - 700 more horses raced this season at this time. Trying to divide races to cater or run consolation races where possible. Ran 12 races at Woodville but is a logistics problem and causing staffing problems.
- Nigel – agree with Tony. Need to be aware that many owners are ready to walk – Open Entry horses not competitive and some not able to get a start.
- Tim – understand need for flexibility - ready to card more racemeetings to cater.
- Tony – more than splitting races – programming structure not working. Need to restructure how it works through country. Will continue to have horses miss starts. R74 was a quick fix but they have become very structured and will be same problem going forward. Need to start from scratch and restructure whole program right throughout the country.
- Gary Vile – no B plan – if horse draws 18 then can't scratch as nothing the following week
- Tony – maybe need some kind of tiered structure with different ratings on Saturdays to mid-week/Sundays – better utilise horse population and maintain horses we have. Foal crop continues to reduce.
- Need as a group to sit down to restructure – owners need to have hope there are races where there horses can be competitive as unlikely to reinvest.
- Tim – need to maintain field sizes.
- Need to be pro-active not reactive.
- Michael – benchmark R65 for horses have won more than 2 races. Tim says that's where the logjam is and providing benchmark exacerbating situation.
- Tony and Bernard & Tim agreed that group to get together to look at something going forward to better utilise existing horse population.

### **Stakes paid back to 14th**

- Bernard advised NZTR Board have asked for update in November – mixed views being received.

- Tony horses placed 1st to 4th starting to get too close to those unplaced. Tony thinks eighth or tenth. Rewarding mediocrity – unfairly hammered.
- Bernard – requested compile feedback from NZTA to NZTR
- Michael – 54%, 18%, 9%, 3% and pay back to 10th
- Tony – free nominations/acceptances rewarding them anyway. Administration minor issue as dividing up such small amounts for group of owners getting ridiculous.

### **Programming Booklet –**

- Wendy Cooper advised feedback positive on new format
- Lateness of recent book accepted as 3 weeks late by Tim Aldridge
- North Island/South Island program – merge CD and North? With less racemeetings perhaps makes sense to merge them. NZTA to form view
- Reminders Page – emails have been sent to Tim Barton.

### **NZTR Governance structure**

- Wendy advised Trainers' Association have not been approached by Gallop South proposal for a change in the Constitution for more regional representation on the NZTR Board.
- Alan Jackson – NZTR Board meeting with Members' Council this afternoon and will release their appropriate arrangements following legislative change. Robust discussion. Enhancements within NZTR and Members' Council – no support to go back to regional representation.
- Tony – no support for the Gallop South proposal – back to the future
- Alan – Racing NSW and Racing Victoria have moved away from regional representation on boards, as have other major sporting associations.
- Wendy had spoken to Garry Chittick – whilst he is keen for regional representation, he advised that he felt 6 was too many
- Nigel – unanimous that Members' Council do not support paper
- Tony – asked about TAB Board and CEO replacement.
- Alan advised that DIA are looking at asking for nominations for the selection committee. Unlikely to see a change of board till April next year. Fundamentally it is insolvent so concern in regards who would want to apply. Nothing moving fast in government. There are some positives coming through – Australian racefields coming through and going straight to the codes.
- Bernard - Better engagement in Australia and numbers are up. 2% of turnover, 6% of racing, so opportunity there.
- Alan – better information to see what marketing is working. Point of consumption tax not through yet

Jim Burns understand every horse must trial before racing being introduced in Queensland. Few trials in South, so would not be practical. Tim Aldridge said no, just a barrier certificate was required.

Paul Claridge – wanted feedback to dialling back track to Dead 5 for jumping races. Tim advised decision by Trainers' Association. Neither Nigel nor Tony had problem with this as felt Ellerslie track can be too firm.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 1.38pm