

VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11.00 AM SATURDAY 16 JANUARY 2021

LANDSBOROUGH RECREATION RESERVE, LANDSBOROUGH

MINUTES

1. WELCOME

The President and VERA SMC welcome all members and guests to the VERA Annual General Meeting. Thank you for making the effort to travel to the meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE

As per Appendix 1

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Naomi O'Shaughnessy
- Jen Green
- Peter Laidlaw
- Caley Rees
- Lyn Taylor

4. PROXIES

Proxies were received from the following members:

- Robyn Albers
- Michael Cadman
- Sallyann Bulk
- Lyn Taylor

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM – 18 JANUARY 2020

5.1 Amendments to the Minutes

Nil.

5.2 Adoption of the Minutes

Motion That the minutes from the previous AGM, held on the 18th January 2020 be adopted.

Moved: Carol Laidlaw

Seconder: Joanne Francis
Carried.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome you all to the 2020 AGM and thanks for giving up some of your time to attend.

How do you start a speech about the year we've had without using the words challenging, unprecedented, difficult, uncertain or all of the rest of the catch phrases we have heard continuously through the course of the pandemic? You don't, so I'm going to skip past the bad stuff!

We didn't have the year we planned to have, we didn't have the rides we had booked on our calendar, we didn't get to enjoy our wonderful sport and we certainly didn't get to spend time catching up with our endurance family.

We did, however, get to do some things that we probably never want to do again, like endure lockdown, wear masks, visit the DHHS web page way too many times, use far more hand sanitiser than we've done in our whole lifetime and have some swabs stuck up our noses.

But us endurance folk are resilient; we know how to endure, and we know how to face up to tough times. Now we need to focus on making 2021 the best year we can to make up for all that has occurred in 2020.

Throughout the year the SMC met continuously, racking up 14 meetings. The SMC took on the challenge of technology and conquered GoToMeetings with varying levels of proficiency. This allowed us to meet when we were in lockdown and avoided any risk associated with the virus. It also helped to reduce costs during a year that saw little revenue generated.

We will have our Treasurer report on the financial side of things and while we made a loss, it wasn't huge. In fact, if we hadn't purchased the ETS this year we would have been in the black.

Our meeting times obviously decreased considerably without all the issues that usually arise from rides and members, which was a bit of a blessing. But all the SMC members continued to soldier on and deal with whatever got thrown our way.

I want to thank every one of the SMC for their contribution last year and in continuing to push forwards with whatever enthusiasm we could muster. Our membership was very lucky to have such dedicated people providing the strong message that we would continue on no matter what was thrown our way.

This year we say goodbye to Michael Milne and Carol Laidlaw who are stepping down from the Committee. We will miss both keenly and the skills they brought to the management table.

I also want to thank our non-committee support people who provide services to the members:

Sandra Feil – Membership Registrar
Bronwyn Cuthbertson – Logbook Registrar
Caroline Noble – Pointscore Registrar (who has now stepped down from her role)
Sioux Reid – Swabbing Steward and AERA Delegate
Russell Gillingham – Grievance Officer
Jen Green – FB Moderator
Mark Gabb – Webmaster

These people do a power of work behind the scenes and I'd like to ask for a round of applause in recognition of their contribution to the members.

The SMC have supported its members and ROs through a number of initiatives such as providing an offer of \$500 towards the cost of vets, rolling over the ride application fee from last year and rolling over the membership fees

from 2020 to 2021. We maintained a very active presence on our social media platforms and the engagement from members and non-members was very pleasing.

We tried a few new things in terms of engagement including a couple of virtual rides. Thanks to Bek Williamson for organising these and for giving our members something to aim for when we didn't have rides happening.

This year we have the challenge of re-starting our sport. We've had a fantastic response from our ROs in getting some rides on the calendar which will provide a great kick off. I'm sure everyone is as keen as mustard to get out and start riding again. I can't thank these people enough for taking on the challenge of putting a ride on the calendar. Let's show our support by either turning up and riding or turning up and volunteering.

An even bigger challenge this year is the need for everyone to put their hands up and volunteer some time to support endurance in Victoria. We need more hands on the SMC, we need people in the supporting roles such as our Pointscore Registrar and we need volunteers to assist at rides.

Please do not leave it to someone else to do the volunteering. Give up one weekend in the year to support our sport and to make sure it doesn't fold. One of the frightening statistics from the pandemic is that 70% of volunteers are failing to re-engage after the year we've had. We can't afford to live up to that statistic. If everyone does a little bit, it shares the workload around.

On behalf of the SMC, I'd like to wish you a fantastic 2021 and hope that you achieve all your endurance goals this year. Thank you.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Audited financials have been emailed for all members to look over.

Explanation of why there are difference in income, expenses and balance sheet items compared to last year (please remember our financial years run from 1/10/xx to 30/9/xx, and not as per a calendar year like our memberships).

1. The main reason there are a lot of variances in the financials between this year and last is, is due to the fact no rides were run this year and less members due to Covid. The ones that fall under this category are:
 - Aera personal liability insurance income
 - Logbook fees Income
 - Membership fees Income (as we offered the roll over for the 2021 membership, we moved ½ of the income for memberships from 2020 to 2021)
 - Ride fees Income
 - All AERA fees
 - Chief steward fees
 - Meals and entertainment as well as venue hire - no face-to-face meetings
 - Logbook/ membership refunds
2. AGM meals income – increased due to being style of meal between the 2 years.
3. Bib income and expense, there are now fewer qualified members without bibs, as the membership register did a push for them to get bibs in 2019.
4. Educations days income & expenses - due to both Landsborough income and Rosedale income being in the same year.
5. Merchandise income – as we have started the sale of merch again.

6. Less small items purchased.
7. Insurance has gone up as we have no insured not just the trailers but the equipment as well.
8. Licence and rego – Both trailers are now registered.
9. Printing and stationery down so much as the year before we purchased the Rule books for members.
10. Deprecation has gone up, as we now have the ETS, which is depreciating.
11. Plant and equipment have gone up due to ETS purchase.
12. Membership prepaid – see 1.

With the year we had, we were happy we could help our members to roll their memberships, and the ROs to roll their fees they paid for last year. Here is to a better year, I hope everyone enjoys it.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be adopted.

Moved: Kerrie Gabb

Seconded: Ellen Prestage

Carried

8. ELECTIONS

8.1 Appointment of Scrutineers (2)

Helen Spencer was nominated by Ellen Prestage.

Carl Adamson was nominated by Carol Laidlaw.

As there were no further nominations Carl and Helen were nominated to the Scrutineer positions.

8.2 Stand Down of 2020 SMC Members at end of Term

The following SMC Members have reached the end of their term and their positions are now declared vacant:

- Linda Tanian
- Kerrie Gabb
- Ellen Prestage
- Carol Laidlaw
- Michael Milne
- Paul Nugent

8.3 President

The following nomination was received for the position of President:

Linda Tanian

Nominated: Kerrie Gabb

Seconded: Mezcal Manners

Result: As the nominations do not exceed the number of positions vacant Linda Tanian is declared President.

8.4 Vice President

No nominations have been received for the position of Vice President, so nominations were called from the floor.

Paul Nugent

Nominated: Martin Mizzi

Seconded: Mezcal Manners

Result: As the nominations do not exceed the number of positions vacant Paul Nugent was declared Vice President.

8.5 Secretary

Nominations were received from the following VERA members for the position of Secretary:

Ellen Prestage

Nominated: Carol Laidlaw

Seconded: Peter Laidlaw

Mezcal Manners

Nominated: Linda Tanian

Seconded: Kerrie Gabb

Result: Mezcal Manners was elected as Secretary.

8.6 Treasurer

The following nomination was received for the position of Treasurer:

Kerrie Gabb

Nominated: Linda Tanian

Seconded: Mezcal Manners

Result: As the nominations do not exceed the number of positions vacant Kerrie Gabb was declared Treasurer.

8.7 Committee

Nominations have been received from the following VERA members for the position of Committee Member:

Ellen Prestage

Nominated: Carol Laidlaw

Seconded: Peter Laidlaw

Russell Gillingham

Nominated: Ellen Prestage

Seconded: Tanya Beacham

Hans Peuker

Nominated: Martin Mizzi

Seconded: Tanya Beacham

Russell Robinson

Nominated: Kerrie Gabb

Seconded: Hans Peuker

Result: As the number of nominations received did not exceed the number of positions available all nominations were accepted.

8.8 Disciplinary Panel

Nominations were called from the floor to fill the 5 positions available and the following people were elected to the Disciplinary Panel:

- Ken Bradley
- Sandra Feil
- Bek Williamson
- Pam Cox
- Michael Milne

8.9 Grievance Officer

Nominations were called from the floor to fill the position of Grievance Officer:

Tanya Beacham

Nominated: Simon Thomas

Seconded: Russell Gillingham

Result: As the number of nominations did not exceed the number of positions available Tanya Beacham was declared Grievance Officer.

9. SPECIAL RESOLUTION

The special resolution, to update the VERA Constitution was discussed and voted.

Motion: That Clause 57 (4) be modified to read:

A member of the Management committee cannot hold a committee position for more than **six (6)** consecutive years and must retire for a minimum of one (1) year before they will be eligible for re-election to any Committee of Management position.

Moved: SMC

Seconded: SMC

For: 25

Against: 1

Carried

Note: A special resolution requires a 75% vote of approval to be successful.

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10.1 AERA Proposal – Quilty Top 10 Rugs

This topic generated good discussion from the members present. An explanation of how the original definition of the Top 10 (including only Heavyweight and Middleweight riders) was provided. A poll of people present was taken with the following result:

Inclusion of Lightweight and Junior riders in the Top 10:

Yes: 9

No: 16

VERA will notify AERA that it does not support the changing of the process for awarding the Top 10 rugs at the Tom Quilty event.

10.2 New Rules for 2021

The rule changes introduced by AERA for the 2021 year were discussed to ensure that members gained an understanding of the implications of these rules.

10.3 Pointscore Registrar

Bek Williamson undertook to take on the role of Pointscore Register for the 2021 year. Training will be provided by Caroline Noble.

11. MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 12.11 pm.

APPENDIX 1 - ATTENDEES

Members

Linda Tanian
Paul Nugent
Bek Williamson
Ellen Prestage
Carol Laidlaw
Sandra Feil
Kerrie Gabb
Mezcal Manners
Michael Milne
Nicola Pearse
Carl Adamson
Tanya Beacham
Russell Gillingham
Russell Robinson
Simon Thomas
Kasey Thomas
Nicole Porter
Shannon Decker
Joanne Francis
Heather Stuchbree
Martin Mizzi
Ken Bradley
Pamela Cox
Hans Peuker
Helen Spencer

Guests

Chris Browne
Mark Gabb
Gill Chapman
Jeff Jarman
Lyn Start
Jack Start
Tracy Harper