



MINUTES

Of the

52ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) of

The WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STANDARDBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

held in the Presidents Room, GLOUCESTER PARK
Friday 26th November 2021

PRESENT:

J Diederich (President and Chair)

H King (Vice President/Treasurer), P Borg, J Schaper, H Schaper, Mrs D Perrella, Mr D Perrella, L Thompson – Millett, R (Bob) Fowler, J Fletcher, H Cooper, P McAllister, P Barker, G Westwood, K Ward.

(6.18pm) G Scott (Auditor)

APOLOGIES:

D Trobe, A Walmsley, K Tuckey, J Coffey, M Holtham, K Young, W Morrison, L Tabbakh.

PROXY HOLDERS: H King (Vice President) for D Trobe;
P Borg for K Prendergast

WELCOME

The President, Chair Jeanine Diederich, declared the meeting open at 6.01 pm.

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting, and thanked all present for their attendance. The Chair made note of the fact that many of those present had made a special effort to attend, which ensured that the legal requirements for Associations to hold legitimate AGMs was met.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of the 51ST AGM

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| It was Moved R Fowler and Seconded by P Borg that the Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting held on 27 November 2020, having being circulated to members, is accepted as a true and correct record. (Carried) |
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Business Arising from the Minutes of the 51ST AGM

- 1 There was no business arising from the minutes of the 51ST Annual General Meeting.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The President's Report was provided to members by email two days before the AGM and was tabled by the Chair at the meeting.

The Chair spoke to the Report, highlighting that on reflection, WASBA had been very busy on a number of fronts. In effect the Report summarises what WASBA has been trying to achieve – having an impact on the racing system, getting more horses into the system and encouraging breeders. WASBA intends to be active in all areas that assist in achieving improved outcomes for the overall industry.

The Chair made mention and thanked:

- RWWA Board member R Fowler for the considerable time and effort in supporting the harness code in a difficult environment at Board level;
- Former Manager Harness Racing K Hanks for her work in the role, and her untiring efforts to progress harness;
- D Trobe for her efforts on Facebook and other areas, while still able;
- Vice President H King for his exceptional work with fund raising, obtaining sponsors and stallions and effectively liaising with studs and sponsors to enable WASBA to continue the current level of support for the industry;
- the magnificent support of WASBA sponsors, with special mention of R Fowler for his long term support of WASBA and commitment to the industry.

The Chair noted that WASBA's fund raising activities are not only to support our business but to promote and encourage breeding and breeders, creating interest in the breeding season activities and prompting the necessary decision making from breeders prior to the season commencing.

The Chair opened the floor for questions or comments.

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| <p>It was Moved P McAllister and Seconded J Schaper that the President's Report be accepted. (Carried)</p> |
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TREASURER'S REPORT

The Audited Financial Report, containing the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Income and Expenditure, was tabled at the meeting.

Treasurer H King spoke to his Report, noting the following:

- The financial position of the Association was solid;
- WASBA puts a lot of funds back into the industry including race sponsorship, trophies and garlands, on an annual basis;
- Management costs were higher due to IT upgrades;
- Income and Expenditure is on a cash basis, with timing of these payments impacting any annual comparison of the balance sheet;
- Under the Associations Act WASBA is not required to have the accounts audited but considers this is an appropriate behavior.

- The Stallion Tender is the main fund raiser for WASBA. It was hoped that our activities give value to the stallions and our sponsors,

The Treasurer opened the floor for questions or comments and in response, made note of the following:

- The Welfare expenditure was different this year due to changes in the way RWWA are now operating and supporting the Off The Track process. As a result, WASBA is in discussion with the rehoming industry to ascertain the best way to support that part of the industry going forward;
- WASBA would like to sponsor additional races and are attempting to open up dialogue with RWWA on that front;
- RWWA provided full stakes support for the WASBA races during the year, but that will not continue. It did result in WASBA not being required to provide that support.

The Chair provided additional comment, advising the meeting that Off The Track support via Standardbred shows was provided during the year as is normal practice.

With RWWA providing more funding to retrainers, WASBA is trying to target its support to encourage more Standardbreds into more show and off the track activities including led classes, broodmare classes other classes and other activities. The Chair noted that RWWA Off The Track does not support broodmares and this is an area that WASBA wants to promote as these mares have contributed greatly to the future of the industry. WASBA is investigating whether support can be directed towards ground hire, entry fees etc to make Standardbreds more attractive by offsetting costs for their new owners and encouraging more support for off-the-track standardbreds.

It is normal practice for WASBA to provide between \$2,500 and \$4,000 per year and we would expect to be providing this amount going forward.

It was expected that business pressures would make sponsorship more difficult to obtain in coming years, and a balance of \$40,000 -\$50,000 on an annual basis is preferred, to cover any down turn which might see a loss of \$20,000 in a year.

Any expenditure is intended to be strategically placed to reflect our aims.

Moved J Fletcher and **Seconded** P Borg that the Financial Report for the 12 months ended 31 August 2021 be accepted. (**Carried**)

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The Chair commented that the Association wants to not only operate professionally but be seen to do so. WASBA is therefore recommending that the accounts continue to be audited. Treasurer H King also spoke in support of WASBA continuing to ensure this important process continues.

Auditor G Scott entered the meeting at 6.18pm

G Scott confirmed that he is happy to continue in the role of Auditor for the forthcoming year.

Moved H King and **Seconded** L Thompson – Millett that Mr Garry Scott FIPA, CPA continue to provide Auditing services for the next (2021/22) Financial Report. **(Carried)**

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair reported that retiring Committee members J Diederich, H King and J Coffey re-nominated for their vacated Committee positions. New nominations were received from L Tabbakh and W Morrison. All nominations conformed to the requirements of the Rules.

The Chair advised that as there were the same number of nominations as there were vacancies, under Rule 18(1) of the Constitution J Diederich, H King, J Coffey, L Tabbakh and W Morrison were declared as Elected Members of the Committee until the expiration of their designated term under the Constitution, or if prior, their resignation from Committee.

No vacancies remain on the Committee.

NOMINATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

P McAllister spoke to a paper included as an Attachment to the Minutes, detailing the contribution to WASBA and the harness industry by Committee member John Coffey

P McAllister began by summarising John Coffey's association with WASBA:

- John has been a member of WASBA since 1975. He has been on the Committee from 1975 through to 2008 and rejoined the Committee in 2016.
- He was Secretary from 1976 to 1979, Vice President in 1983/84 and President from 1996/97 through to 2003/04.
- John has been breeding and promoting Standardbreds and supporting breeders in a variety of career roles for a very long time, particularly in WA.
- John's support for the breeding industry overall does need to be recognised, His knowledge of breeding, of bloodlines and of the animals themselves is without challenge, as is the many demonstrations of his care and concern for their welfare.
- He was always hands on, selling yearlings at the Sales, Manager of Pinjarra Trotting Club, Bloodstock Agent to prominent owners, WATA Committee member, General Manager and Studmaster at Alabar and other roles linked to breeding and the industry.
- He has been a very good supporter of WASBA and breeders for a very long time.
- His knowledge of the industry, direct assistance to breeders and imparting his knowledge at seminars, and overall support and commitment to the industry, it is a surprise that he has not already been recognised as a Life Member.

It was Moved P McAllister and **Seconded** H King that the nomination of John Coffey for Life Membership of WASBA be accepted. **(Carried unanimously)**

GENERAL BUSINESS

1 Advance Australia Concept.

The Chair gave a brief history of the Advance Australia concept and gave an outline of the results of the WASBA Advance Australia concept survey. The results were gathered in a week in order to respond to HRA within the two week timeframe.

The response to HRA was based on the results of the survey, which were available at the meeting for those interested.

The Chair advised that principally, the majority of respondents did not agree to funding coming from breeders to support a race concept that would benefit very few, and wanted to see that if any money was raised it needed to support the grassroots level.

Feedback from Victoria and NSW was absolute rejection of the concept.

The Chair also reported that HRA had requested feedback on the current system of allocating Group races (principally on the level of race stakes). Recognising that this was not a perfect system, WASBA had responded that no change was desirable as the stake levels are not sufficient reward for owners. WA does not want to lose any of its group races, even those that are restricted, as winning a group race is the only tangible reward to owners in lieu of adequate stakes. Harness does not have the ability to increase the stakemoney reward.

R Fowler supported this view on the current categorisation of Group races.

2 WASBA Races and Awards.

The Chair referred to the Presidents Report in terms of Awards and Race stakes and other rewards that WASBA provides to the industry and requested indications from the attendees that this continues to be appropriate.

The initial responses were supportive of WASBA continuing in this manner.

The Chair noted that WASBA does provide to breeders of the aged category award, an equivalent trophy award to the RWWA awards to ensure that breeders are not receiving less recognition than owners for the horse that they produced.

The Chair also noted the APG Awards night allows owners and breeders to mingle in a social and vibrant environment to promote greater interest in the annual Sale and in being involved in harness racing. It was also quite efficient for us to operate in this manner. Our main aim is to create that more social environment that encourages participation.

In response to comments from R Fowler, WASBA will continue to review the Annual trophy Awards to determine if other suitable awards can be provided.

3 Future Directions.

R Fowler as a member of the RWWA Executive, expressed his enthusiasm for the industry.

R Fowler indicated that during the remainder of his tenure he would continue to work vigorously to improve rewards for harness participants and encourage breeding. He would continue to seek funds for Westbred orientated racing to secure the future of harness racing in WA.

There were no other matters raised for discussion.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked those in attendance for their important role in supporting WASBA.

MEETING CLOSE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.51pm

...J Diederich.....
President

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26th November 2021