



MINUTES

Of the

53RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) of

The WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STANDARDBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

held in the Presidents Room, GLOUCESTER PARK
Friday 25th November 2022

PRESENT:

J Diederich (President and Chair)

H King (Vice President/Treasurer), P Borg, J Fletcher, G Scott, J Schaper, Mrs D Perrella, Mr D Perrella, L Tabbakh, R (Bob) Fowler, G Westwood, K Ward.

(6.15pm) D Trobe

APOLOGIES:

A Walmsley, J Walmsley, M Holtham, W Morrison, W Dixon, R MacKinnon, E Dewar, P Barker, J McIntosh, R Tither, L Thompson–Millett, P McAllister, H Cooper, J Coffey

PROXY HOLDERS: NIL

WELCOME

The President, Chair Jeanine Diederich, declared the meeting open at 6.04 pm.

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting, and thanked all present for their attendance. The Chair made note of the fact that their attendance meant that the legal requirement for Associations to hold legitimate AGMs was met, and this was a fundamental requirement for the organisation to continue to operate effectively in support of the industry. The Chair also thanked those members who had advised that they were apologies and unable to attend.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of the 52ND AGM

It was Moved J Fletcher and Seconded by J Schaper that the Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting held on 26 November 2021, 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 52ND AGM

There was no business arising from the minutes of the 52ND Annual General Meeting.

General Business item 10.1 was brought forward to enable current RWWA Code Director R Fowler to provide the meeting with some background on his role.

The minutes will be recorded in the order that business occurred at the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1 Future RWWA Harness Code Director Role.

The Chair advised that members had been given the opportunity to speak in support of their interest in nominating for the position of Harness Code Director on the RWWA Board, with the understanding that the current Director R Fowler would retire from the role at the end of the current term in 2024. As the expected interest had not eventuated, the Chair requested R Fowler provide the meeting with a brief summary of his role as a Code Director.

Mr Fowler spoke of the regularity of meetings, the need to scrutinize significant meeting agendas and papers, the requirement for travel to interstate meetings where still required, the need to allow for the additional representation required on several other Boards and review groups that the initial appointment instigated, such as representation on RISE, which manages the entire Australian harness code business and statistics; the Harness Racing Council of Australia; the RWWA Finance Board; Animal Welfare; and the Welfare and Hardship Fund,

Mr Fowler spoke of the very heavy commitment required – there was always a fear that missing a meeting would be detrimental to the industry. As the Harness Code Director he is still required to act in the best interests of the whole WA racing industry. Mr Fowler reported that the other two code Directors were of high quality and ensured that a greater level of support was getting through to the industry.

Mr Fowler reported that he did need to manage the different interests of the Eligible Bodies and this was not always an easy task. He was proud that he had been able to deliver, through the RWWA Board, a 3 year plan that provided some certainty to the industry, and he was hopeful that there would be a continuous rolling plan that would give the industry comfort.

Mr Fowler commented that the Code Director needs to be passionate, committed, have a good administrative and business background, education, be able to work within operational protocols, manage conflict and achieve consensus. He noted that it was a very important role that needed resilience and strength of purpose.

Mr Fowler was pleased that he had been able to deliver a much greater distribution for harness than originally proposed, and was looking forward to some new initiatives being delivered in the coming year.

The Chair thanked R Fowler for his response.

H King advised the members that if they were aware of anyone who might qualify for the role, to request they make contact with WASBA.

The Chair commented that this was a critical role and a replacement Code Director would need to be identified in the next 12 months. With the TAB situation resolved, it was imperative that the harness code had the best representative.

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 the work done by Code Director R Fowler to provide a greater distribution to harness, which included increases to the Westbred Bonus and Epona Bonus, for which WASBA had lobbied extensively.

There was also redistribution of the stakes percentages at the same time as stakes increases, to the benefit of all runners.

The Chair then touched on:

- WASBA's contribution to Off The Track and rehoming support and the need for a closer relationship between off the track and the racing industry. Nearly every horse racing will need to find a new home and the industry needs to do better to ensure the horses that are bred can find new homes for life;
- Providing news and information to the industry, with any feedback welcomed;
- WASBA Awards presentations and financial contribution to the industry;
- WASBA's efforts to introduce additional races, allowing for a best fit with the HWOE system. The number of nominations being received for the WASBA races is indicative of the need for that type of race, particularly for mares;
- The need for RWWA to include country middle tier races as other states do, to assist those horses and connections;
- The help provided by former WACHRA President Bruce Jones in WASBA race presentations;
- The introduction of stallion book limits and our desire to change the situation reference free returns. The impact of limits on the racing population is yet to be seen, and may require adaptation of our racing system;
- Extension of the racing season has been helpful;
- Both handicapping systems should be subject to comparison and review to keep improving in the best interests of the industry;
- Credit should be given to RWWA for keeping WA racing during Covid19;
- Breeding numbers are a risk going forward – reduced numbers means meetings are less sustainable;
- Microchipping of foals by RWWA has provided more certainty;
- The Off The Track scope should be broadened towards other aspects including adult riding;
- RWWA's Perception survey did signify a lack of responsiveness from RWWA, particularly around handicapping and addressing industry – particularly trainer - concerns. To their credit RWWA intends to hold quarterly seminars – the industry needs to push for the topics they want addressed;
- The success of Sian Hughes in improving The Trots WA Facebook site;
- Successful fund raising by WASBA through the three main events, and the need to continue to raise the necessary funds to carry out our aims;
- Breeding numbers remain a concern and although our request for bonuses for the existing broodmare pool has been rejected we will continue to push this

aspect. It is a misunderstood fact that many unsuccessful race mares make successful broodmares, and owners of those mares need encouragement;

- No breeding means no horses, which results in no industry.

The Chair thanked:

- Vice President H King, as well as D Trobe, who have both contributed significantly to support the industry and WASBA despite their major health concerns;
- R Fowler for his efforts on the RWWA Board. Without his passion, expertise and perseverance, the industry could not have achieved the recent gains in distribution.

It was Moved J Schaper and **Seconded** P Borg that the President's Report be accepted. **(Carried)**

The Chair opened the floor for questions or comments.

R Fowler left the meeting at 6.34pm

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 expectation that both the Stallion Raffle and Stallion Tender would struggle but were ultimately successful, thanks to our generous sponsors;
- Expenditure was higher this year, with about the same level of income;
- The financial position of the Association remains solid;
- Income and Expenditure is on a cash basis, with some income and expenditure falling into a different reporting year to what it refers, such as the raffle prize;

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

- Under the Associations Act WASBA is not required to have the accounts audited;
- WASBA has done more work with respect to rehoming;
- The interest rates are producing good results at present, although this is a recent occurrence and is not reflected in the reported accounts;

Moved J Fletcher and **Seconded** Mr D Perrella that the Financial Report for the 12 months ended 31 August 2022 be accepted. **(Carried)**

The Chair provided additional comment:

- that the Association needs to retain a reasonable financial cushion in the event that money needs to be paid back to Tenderers and raffle winners, as has occurred recently;
- this current year, which will be reported in the next accounts, WASBA is providing breeding vouchers to member breeders who meet certain conditions. This was met very positively and is likely to be our approach going forward;
- WASBA will investigate creating some additional races if agreement can be made with RWVA with respect to appropriate stakes that fit with HWOE.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The Chair confirmed that it is WASBA's intention to continue to have the accounts audited. Treasurer H King supported this approach as good practice, which also ensures that WASBA is accountable in every respect.

G Scott confirmed his willingness to continue in the role of Auditor for the forthcoming year.

Moved L Tabbakh and Seconded D Trobe that Mr Garry Scott FIPA, CPA continue to provide Auditing services for the next (2022/23) Financial Report. (Carried)
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ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair reported that retiring Committee members P Borg, J Schaper, M Holtham, P McAllister and J Fletcher re-nominated for their vacated Committee positions. No other nominations were received. 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 P Borg, J Schaper, M Holtham, P McAllister and J Fletcher were declared as Elected Members of the Committee until the expiration of their designated two year term under the Constitution, or if prior, under Rule 24.

The Chair thanked the returning Committee members for their continued support for WASBA.

No vacancies remain on the Committee.

NOMINATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Chair advised that Life Membership was only considered at the Annual General Meeting, from nominations received during the year and first approved at a Committee meeting. Any member could nominate another member for Life Membership

There were no nominations for Life Membership during the year.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2 Opinions on the future of The Inter Dominion

The Chair introduced general discussion on the Inter Dominion and its future direction, with comments coming through the 2021 WASBA Eureka Slot Race survey that participants wanted a rotational series again.

The Chair commented that while there was some discussion about the champion horses not all wanting to travel, it was also relevant that the rotational series provided opportunity for around 75% of the field to be made up of local horses and this was a big attraction to participants for the series to be rotated.

Members commented that Harness Racing Australia appeared to be focused on the new Slot race to the detriment of the Inter Dominion and its prize money, and an eastern states based slot race did not assist WA. It was noted that the last Inter Dominion series in Western Australia was successful despite the significant promotion of thoroughbred racing during that time. It was also identified that under the previous financing terms of the Inter Dominion, that some states simply could not contribute the amount necessary.

The Chair provided further comment that funding mechanisms had been discussed with another Eligible Body and there was support for spreading a very modest cost across the entire industry. This was a feasible approach and would raise significant sums that would make a rotational series viable, without any State having to provide more than a realistic amount of funds through their work with sponsors.

Attending members were in support of WASBA undertaking liaison with other organisations to bring the series back in focus, including raising the matter with Harness Racing New Zealand.

<i>Action: WASBA to liaise with other harness racing bodies regarding the Inter Dominion</i>

MEETING CLOSE

With no further matters raised, The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.52pm

...J Diederich.....
President

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25th November 2022