

NZ TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION (INC)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Sunday 10th September 2023 at 1pm
Chairman's Room, Ellerslie Racecourse

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE: Shaun Clotworthy, Moira Murdoch, Michael Pitman, Robert Wellwood, Paul Claridge, Kezia Murphy, Jim Burns, Avril Proud, Wendy Cooper

GUESTS: Mike Clement, Brady Jones, Victoria McArthur, Bruce Sharrock, Darin Balcombe, Matthew Williamson

APOLOGIES: Gary Vile, John Wheeler, Sally McKay, Tony Pike, Andrew Forsman, Roger James, Cameron George, Justine Sclater

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE LAST AGM – 5 September 2022. Passed as true and accurate record.
There were no matters arising *Clotworthy/Claridge*

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS – FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023 - Approved
There were no matters arising *Clotworthy/Wellwood*

ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT - attached

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Shaun Clotworthy nominated – *Wellwood/Pitman*

There being no further nominations, Shaun Clotworthy duly elected.

ELECTION OF TWO NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

Moira Murdoch – *Clotworthy/Wellwood*

Michael Pitman – *Murphy/Burns*

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

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY/TREASURER- Wendy Cooper appointed

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR (IF APPLICABLE) – unanimous agreement this is not required

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS' COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE – Tony Pike due for reappointment this year.
Unanimous he be reappointed.

DETERMINATION OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION – To remain at zero. Representatives from NZTR confirmed current agreement in MOU in regards the funding of NZTA. MOU requires updating for new season.

REMITTS AND NOTICES OF MOTION (INCLUDING LIFE MEMBERSHIPS PROPOSED)

There were no remits from the Branches. However the following were put forward and ratified for Life Membership:

- Jim Wallace
- Alby McGregor

There being no further constitutional business, the AGM concluded at 1.27pm

NOTES TAKEN FROM MEETING HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER WITH GUEST SPEAKERS:

RIB - Mike Clement

Mike thanked trainers for their guidance and cooperation on racedays with people on the ground.

Welfare –

2 tragedies – RIB is obligated to understand what happened to ensure prevention in the future. Worksafe have 365 days to investigate and report. They have not chosen to take action on Taiki's death. RIB is not subject to the Official Informations Act. RIB reports will be kept to relevant bodies. Acknowledgement that NZTR did step up.

Animal Welfare – high standards in TB industry, only small number let industry down.

Stable Audits start in 2 weeks – 47 in North, 30 in Central, 18 in Canterbury and 15 in Southern. Main issues likely to be (based on harness audits)

- Traceability – NZTR looking into compatibility with existing software platforms such as Ardex and Prism.
- Safe Facilities – fencing, water...
- Staff licensed – Robert Wellwood advised of warning issued for staffmember retrospectively. He felt it was harsh considering they were ensuring they were compliant and now have a black mark against them.

Mike advised RIB wanted to work with people and not charge them but in extreme circumstances, charges may be necessary.

Discussion on problems with receipt of licences from NZTR – double-ups, wrong addresses. Matthew Williamson will look into it – had been problems with updating addresses.

Data has been compiled on charges for whip and careless riding offences since changes in the rule. Details attached.

Penalty Guidelines – some situations may seem harsh but consequences need to be taken into consideration.

Abandonment Reporting – RIB produce reports following every abandonment. Should these be published in a sanitized format for transparency? NZTR to discuss further with RIB and possibly add report as appendix.

Discussion on recent Avondale abandonment. Issue was raised earlier in the day so questioned why decision left till later to abandon last 2 races. It is understood there are issues with track management and advice being provided. NZTR advised AJC will need to provide a plan to return to racing. Bruce also alluded to NZTR's Constitutional ability to step-in and the limitations in the Racing Act that restrict this.

Withholding Times – Is a Guideline only – trainers want it to be published. Why aren't they the same as Australia – both in timing and in publicity? Darin said NZTR to look further into this.

Lab Review – from integrity point of view must be robust and exact. Start the process for review this year.

Out of Competition testing – Michael Pitman asked who makes decisions? He raised question about testing done at 2 level meetings at Riverton and Invercargill. Mike advised there were reasons for the testing which he would keep confidential.

Bruce - The RIB operates under an approved budget by the Minister. They only need to act within the budget.

Operation Inca – Jim Burns followed up from last AGM on this topic. Only 2 trials to go but hearing dates adjourned. RIB cannot comment, these are police matters.

NZTR

Geo-blocking/Racing Act – Bruce has undertaken numerous engagement with both National and Labour parties. There is a need to make the Act more robust for the future sustainability of our industry so we are not so dependent on wagering performance for stakes and infrastructure expenditure.

\$15million additional Funding – 58% due to Thoroughbreds, so \$8.7million. Bruce advised effectively this is covering the deficit that was budgeted for prior to the addition. This has gone from a \$6.8m deficit to a \$1.5m surplus.

Regeneration Fund is separate – example is Pearl Series funding..

NZTR's priorities:

- Rationalisation Focus
- Geo-blocking proceeding
- Head Office relocation to Cambridge (by Xmas 23) with Wellington cleaned out October 24.

Wellness Program - Victoria McArthur working with Andrew McKerrow (who is employed by Salvation Army who in turn is contracted by racing). His position is safe and well supported.

Survey going out to industry to identify what problems and issues are, then build a program to suit.

Will be set up as a charitable trust – beneficial across the industry.

South Island - Michael Pitman and Kezia Murphy have concerns about the CJC's performance and accountability . Stakes are not the issue, it is dealing with management over infrastructure and training provisions. NZTR concerned about this and were not aware the depth of the matter.

Apprentice Qualifying Barrier Trials – Matthew Williamson said proposal ready to go, but Amy Johnson was called away urgently overseas for a family tragedy. Due back 18th September so will be fast-tracked. Safety is crucial so jump outs will be run under trial conditions. Since the death of Megan Taylor, required standards have lifted significantly.

Approved Riding Equipment – Brady Jones reminded that helmets must be within a certain date and vests in good condition. Thanked trainers for implementing safety stirrups.

CPD – Continuing Professional Development – Focus will be on Employment/Immigration, Health & Safety and the Rules.

There being no further business the discussions ended at 3.35pm