

**MINUTES OF AGM
NORTHERN BRANCH of NZ TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION
HELD AT CAMBRIDGE JOCKEY CLUB – MONDAY 20TH JULY 2020 AT 1.00PM**

NATIONAL AND NZTR MATTERS – preceded the AGM constitutional formalities with subjects discussed and noted following these minutes.

CONSTITUTIONAL FORMALITIES:

IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Forsman, Neil O'Dowd, Mark Fraser-Campin, Robert Wellwood, Roger James, Lance Noble, Stephen Marsh, Janenne Dalley, Jon Miller, Bruce Harvey, John Steffert, Averil Proud, Wendy Cooper (NZTA)

APOLOGIES: Tony Pike, Nigel Tiley, Graham Richardson, Danny Walker, Debbie Sweeney, Linda Laing, Murray Baker

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 19 July 2020 – passed as a true record
Steffert/Cooper
Matter arising – there were no matters arising

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Not available

TREASURER'S REPORT – no funds held by the branch so not applicable.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
PRESIDENT– Andrew Forsman nominated by S Marsh and seconded by B Harvey. There being no further nominations, A Forsman duly elected.

VICE PRESIDENT/S – Robert Wellwood nominated by S Marsh and seconded by R James. There being no further nominations, R Wellwood duly elected.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY/TREASURER – W Cooper appointed to look after secretarial duties.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE – W Hillis, J Steffert, K Fursdon, J Dalley, K Fursdon, S Marsh,
R James

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES – T Pike, S Marsh, A Forsman, J Richards, L Laing, R Wellwood

TRACK REPRESENTATIVES

Matamata – T Autridge - TBC

Cambridge – Stephen Marsh

Tauranga – Jim Pender TBC

Te Aroha – Gavin Opie or Scott Wenn TBC

Waipa – Keith Hawtin

Counties – N Tiley

Byerly Park – D Williams

Ruakaka – C Gibbs

GENERAL BUSINESS

Life Members – agreed that nominations should be for people who have been involved with the Trainers' Association and that those who hadn't may be embarrassed by such nomination.

Trainer of the Year – no further nominations other than those within criteria.

Suggestion made that David Smith from Dunstan should be put forward and supported by the Trainers Association for the **Contribution to Racing Award**.

Lack of support for Association by trainers – discussion in regards the lack of numbers present was raised. R James suggested trainers should be telephoned to ensure they attend meetings.

Possible restructure of the Trainers' Association – suggested consideration should be given to a neutral person leading the Trainers' Association as a spokesperson and lobbyist. It was suggested this should not be a trainer as currently in the Constitution. It was inevitable that trainers in this position will be compromised, and also, rarely had the time to contribute to the position. Is it fair on them and should it actually be a paid position for a non-trainer with the necessary skills. More unity required, not differing opinions so this person would be

A motion was put forward for the Constitution to be reviewed so the National President was not a trainer. The role would be paid and report to the Presidents of 4 branches (downsized from current 5). Legal advice to be sought. *Noble/James*

The motion was passed and will go forward to the National AGM.

Tie-Up Stalls - Concern expressed by trainers that stalls being reserved/chained up to stop other trainers using them. Te Rapa specifically identified. Is there a possibility to open up the stables at Te Rapa and clean them up? Agreed not fair to lock them off and the onus needs to be on the Clubs to provide enough stalls for allocation. Consideration to be given to portable stalls – Robert Wellwood has a contact and will follow up. To include on the next Northern Programming agenda.

Trials at Tauranga – question was asked why don't they hold trials at Tauranga. To be raised at the Programming meeting.

Open-Entry Races – Roger James suggested the current 2 win limit on R65 races be removed. This would allow more opportunity for horses at say R67 to get into fields who at present are struggling to get a start.

Synthetic Track – agreed that work should not commence on the tracks at Awapuni and Riccarton until we know how well the Cambridge track performs.

Golf Tournament – to instill some branch camaraderie, discussion was held regarding a possible golf tournament – possibly done in conjunction with the opening of the Cambridge Track. W Cooper to liaise further with M Fraser-Campin

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 3.07pm

NATIONAL AND NZTR MATTERS NOTED

Bernard Saundry thanked the trainers and participants for being patient, flexible, supportive and staying vigilant during the difficult Covid-19 situation. There had been nothing but good feedback in regards the protocols being followed.

Racing Industry Act

B Saundry reported that 2 Bills have been passed with the most recent one coming into effect 1st August that covers changes in governance, formation of Racing NZ, venues and responsibility of TAB being purely to sell bets and maximize returns to the industry. Select Committee process worked effectively and amendments made were as requested by industry. NZTR pushing quickly to facilitate the governance changes.

Stake Levels 20/21

Announcement to be made shortly but likely to continue to same level as current 2019/20 season. This is due to the cost-savings and funding being made. Will continue with no nomination/acceptance fees and paying back to 14th as there has been positive feedback to this. The extra 1kg for jockeys post-Covid will be coming off end July.

NZTR IT system migration to SNS

NZTR looking to obtain a licence to operate the Australian Racing management system – the Single National System. This would enable use of their platform and take advantage of their IT systems, economies of scale and regular improvements. Hopefully not vastly different from current Trainers' Service Centre.

Programming Booklet

Moving to quarterly basis in old quarterly booklet format that fits in the pocket. Will be updated online monthly. Next one due in 2 weeks for August/September, then in September, will revert to quarterly and cover Oct/Nov/Dec.

Trainer/Owner Reforms

Following successful Australian system where disputes had been reduced as there was a default Agreement in place. Processes require a trainer to utilize a Fees Notice with

their owners which would then mean they could rely on NZTR to enforce collection of training fees and have a facility for Disputes to be resolved.

Welfare Guidelines and Rules

The Guidelines are on the website and practical standards and measures are in place for expectations of care for thoroughbreds. Rule changes in new season to be introduced but the guidelines provide a mechanism to measure if a horse is being cared for to the required standard. Traceability to follow what happens when a horse is finished racing is an important part of the process – online system launched shortly.

Licensing and training trackwork Riders

There will be more stringent licensing requirements to ensure riders are independently assessed to an acceptable standard prior to licensing. This will be a protection for trainers. There may also be training of riders facilitated through this system. A work in progress with some urgency.

Whip Rules

Stewards have been happy how well jockeys have adjusted to the new rules. NZTR understand it is a publicly contentious issue so are watching what the rest of the world is doing e.g. UK and Ireland introduced 5-7 hits in total in a race. Further consultation with the Trainers' Association will be undertaken before any further changes made.

Fine money paid into the General Trust Fund – available to injured/hardship licenceholders.

Apprenticeship subsidies

Investigating how the subsidies being offered post-Covid by Government to see if they are applicable for racing and possibly to studs.

Immigration

Extensions to existing work visas offered due to Covid 19, but changes in the way they will work in the future being taken into account. Short term unlikely any new visas will be offered prior to the election. The hourly rate of \$25.50 will be the main determinant of the level of skill of a job – if above it will be high skill, if below, low skill.