

**MINUTES OF AGM
CANTERBURY BRANCH of NZ TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION
HELD AT RICCARTON – WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY 2020 AT 1.00PM**

- Bernard Saundry and Marty Burns from NZTR joined at the start of the meeting by conference call to discuss NATIONAL AND NZTR MATTERS prior to the AGM proceedings. Issues discussed follow minutes of AGM

IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Carston, Anna Furlong, John Blackadder, Michael Pitman, Matthew Pitman, Steve Tyler, Lance Robinson, Lynley Driver, Peter Corbett, Robyn Mauger, Virginia Mackle, Wendy Cooper (NZTA by telephone)

APOLOGIES: Neil Ridley, Kevin Hughes

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 17th July 2019 passed as a true record.

Carston/Furlong

Matter arising –

Program Booklet – amendments finally being made

Second trainer – no funding from NZTR for subsidy

Handicapping – working OK. Confirmed the extra 1kg will be coming off end July

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President – Andrew Carston nominated by Michael Pitman and seconded by John Blackadder. There being no further nominations, Andrew Carston duly elected.

Vice Presidents – Matthew Pitman and Anna Furlong nominated by Andrew Carston and seconded by Michael Pitman

There being no further nominations, Mathew Pitman and Anna Furlong both duly elected.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY/TREASURER

Wendy Cooper appointed to undertake duties as required.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Lance Robinson, Kevin Hughes, Neil Ridley, Michael Pitman, Peter Corbett and John Blackadder all duly elected.

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

M & M Pitman, A Furlong, John Blackadder and as invited.

TRACK REPRESENTATIVES

- Riccarton – Matthew Pitman & Danny Champion (TBC)
- Ashburton – TBC
- Timaru – Michael Daly
- Rangiora – Robyn Mauger

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS – Tony Prendergast to be put forward for ratification at National AGM.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT – Tony Pike to be supported

TRAINER OF THE YEAR – No further nominations than current criteria winners

GENERAL BUSINESS

OMAKAU RACING AT CROMWELL – Meeting was unanimous that the Friday and Sunday on 27 and 29 November should be changed. Whilst both are being run at Cromwell, it was agreed that the Friday should be the Feature Day run by Otago RC, and the Sunday the Industry Day run by Omapere. There were a number of reasons including the best horses getting the best track, the meeting. A letter of support to be written to the Otago branch and for further discussion at their AGM tomorrow.

B LICENCE TRAINER – The question to be raised with NZTR how a Permit to train licenceholder can be listed on the NZTR website with 7 horses in work. It is understood horses can be turned out after racing to reduce numbers, however according to the rules, it must be for a minimum of 28 days.

RICCARTON – concern expressed that there will only be able to work horses on slow work tracks once the synthetic track starts being installed. The course proper will need to be utilized for fast work.

TRIAL FEES INCREASES – Robyn Mauger advised that the trial fees had gone up substantially at the recent Rangiora trials in comparison to pre-Covid times. There was no notification advised. This had occurred recently in the Canterbury area. W Cooper to follow up with NZTR.

A Carston expressed his disappointment at the turnout at the meeting which had been promoted widely. M Pitman agreed that those who complained the most did not utilize the forum to air their views.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2.20pm.

NATIONAL AND NZTR MATTERS

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.

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 and regular improvements.

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, then will revert to quarterly.

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.

Welfare Guidelines and Rules

The Guidelines are on be 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 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.

Whip Rules

Stewards have been happy how well jockeys have adjusted to the new rules. NZTR understand it is a 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.

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.

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.

Roadshows August

NZTR will hold a series of roadshow throughout the South Island which will more indepth information on many of these issues.

Questions asked of NZTR:

Licensing of trackwork riders

Michael Pitman raised the system not working with delays in ID cards not being received. Michael to send email to Bernard with details of instances.

John Blackadder – asked if Worksafe have a process for assessment of trackriders?

Marty understands Worksafe look for processes and documentation of assessment.

Michael Pitman asked if David Walsh is responsible with assessing trackwork riders.

Responsibility with employer as well as issuer of licence. Program is being looked at

and NZTR is aware of the problem now. NZTR understands criticism and frustration

and needs to work towards a solution in a timely fashion. Worksafe overriding racing

industry without knowing or setting up processes for trackwork riders. Someone at

NZTR should make direct contact with John Blackadder – he wants an explanation of

what a licence for trackwork rider means. Bernard to come back via Wendy.

Lance Robinson said he has staff wanting work, advising they have a trackwork licence, but haven't actually ridden trackwork.

Programming booklet – suggested these are sent in bulk to Clubs for pick-up by trainers.

Licence Renewals – possible ID Cards could also be sent for pick up. Suggested that send staff ID's out to employers. NZTR to consider options.

Apprentice subsidies

It is understood they are likely to be for existing apprentices. Do not hold off on licensing new apprentices at this stage.

Prizemoney structure – maintaining current levels likely. M Pitman suggested to keep \$15,000 minimums and take levels off the top would look after grass level. NZTR will discuss at Board level.