

**MINUTES OF AGM
SOUTHLAND BRANCH of NZ TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION
HELD AT ASCOT PARK – TUESDAY 14TH JULY 2020 AT 1.30PM**

- 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: Sally McKay, Ellis Winsloe, Jo Dalton, Barrie Blatch, Nikki Blatch, Mac Henry, Ray Dennis, Tony Dennis, Robert Dennis, W Cooper (NZTA – by telephone)

APOLOGIES: None received

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 17 July 2019 passed as a true record
E Winsloe/S McKay

Matter arising – there were no matters arising

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

S McKay reported that Covid had brought the season to an abrupt end. She expressed disappointment that despite losing meetings, Southland only got one extra meeting in July. It had been a successful season for Southland trainers, many travelling horses and have Group and listed success. She is expecting a good season ahead.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President – Robert Dennis was nominated by E Winsloe and seconded by B Blatch. He declined the nomination. S McKay was nominated by N Blatch and seconded by J Dalton. She accepted the nomination and there being no further nominations, S McKay was duly elected President.

Vice President – Robert Dennis nominated by A Dennis and seconded by E Winsloe. There being no further nominations, Robert was duly elected Vice President.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY/TREASURER

J Dalton was appointed secretary.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE – any trainer who wants to be involved

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES: S McKay and Robert Dennis

TRACK REPRESENTATIVES –

- Ascot Park – S McKay
- Gore – E Winsloe
- Wyndham – Robert Dennis
- Riverton – G Eade
- Winton – J Phillips

GENERAL BUSINESS

Shortage of trackwork riders

W Cooper had been advised there would be no more new visas being granted prior to the election. Renewals of visas were recommended due to the change in system to an hourly rate distinction between low and high skill level jobs (\$25.50 per hour). Trainers' Association working with an Immigration Advisor to try and improve systems for trainers which will hopefully streamline the immigration process and make it easier.

Getting local people upskilled or taking on apprentices will continue to be promoted. The funding for apprenticeships will hopefully be available for the industry.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 2.24pm.

NATIONAL AND NZTR MATTERS

Bernard Saundry thanked the trainers and participants for being 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.

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 the website and practical standards and measures are in place for expectations of care for thoroughbreds. Rule changes yet 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.

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 watching what the rest of the world is doing e.g. UK and Ireland introduced 5-7 hits in total. 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 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.

Questions asked of NZTR:

Radio coverage of Racing – Tony Dennis asked if there was any way this would be coming back in some form. Bernard advised the \$2million being saved was being directed into stakes. The move is towards a digital presence as per Trackside 1 & 2 being on the NZTR platform. Other digital platforms were being looked at.

Fields/Form in newspapers – similar response that the \$900,000 saving is being directed to stakes. There is discussion with NZME and Stuff regarding content opportunities.

Open Entry races – concern that horses not getting treated fairly under this system, with maideners in same race as 3 win horses. There will be a “hybrid system through to August and September, but then things should go back to normal.

Winter Cup – Ellis Wlnsloe asked if the stakes would be the same as last season. B Saundry understood this was to be the case. The open-entry system meant good horses were carrying 63kg and this wasn't fair on them.

Jumps Racing in South Island – decision had been made in April due to Covid and travelling of jumps jockeys.

Youth Development Fund – Robert Dennis asked Marty if there was a refund forthcoming as previous years for trainer licences for those under 30. Marty to follow up.