

Central District Trainers Association

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 1.00pm, 22nd July 2020

White Horse Inn, Longburn, Palmerston North

PRESENT: Matthew EALES, Kevin GRAY, David & Emma HAWORTH, Richard FENCH, Mary OULAGHAN, Donna BECK, Kirstie LAWERENCE, Jeff LYNDSEY, Kim CLAPPERTON, Frank STAMMERS, David GOLDSBURY, Roydon BERGERSON, Wendy COOPER (by telephone), Garry VILE & Paul CLARIDGE.

GUESTS: Bernard SAUNDRY & Martin BURNS

APOLOGISES: Mike BRESLIN, S BROWN, A WILSON & C BAMBRY.

Previous Minutes: True & Correct

Nom: R FRENCH

Sec: R BERGERSON

Matters Arising:

Nil

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Read and accepted by MR. VILE

TREASURERS REPORT:

Read and Tabled by Mr. CLARIDGE

Accepted: K GRAY

Seconded: K CLAPPERTON

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President: G VILE

Nom: D HAWORTH

Sec: E HAWORTH

Vice President:	R BERGERSON	Nom:	F STAMMERS
		Sec;	J LYNDS

Secretary / Treasurer	P CLARIDGE	Nom:	R BERGERSON
		Sec:	E HAWORTH

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:

Mike BRESLIN, Mathew EALES, Kirstie LAWRENCE & Garry VILE

TRACK REPRESENTATIVES:

Waverley	Bill THURLOW
Wanganui	JJ RAYNER
Awapuni	Roydon BERGERSON
Woodville	Shane BROWN
Foxton	Emma HAWORTH
Levin	Sylvia KAY
Otaki	Johnno BENNER
Opaki	Rodger ALLEN
Waipukurau	Kirstie LAWRENCE
Hastings	Lee SOMERVILLE

CENTRAL DISTRICT TRAINERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Matthew EALES, Jeff LYNDS, Mike BRESLIN, Kirstie LAWRENCE & Kim CLAPPERTON

NZTR PRESENTATION

Mr. SAUNDRY expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Trainers through the COVID Lockdown period and post Lockdown.

In terms of events since we established that the TAB finances were in trouble, we have now signed off on stake levels for the coming 2020-21 Season; stake levels have been retained.

There are positive signs in terms of turnover on NZ Racing with 2.3million occurring at the Te Rapa meeting on the weekend and 1million on the Timaru meeting.

Mr SAUNDRY indicated in the re-launch of the NZTR calendar the number of meetings would be reduced from 310 to 278 but that there would be no nomination and acceptances fees (other than Black type races) and that the industry will now be paying back to 14th place to assist Owners with expenses.

Currently the Industry is building towards an agreement with Racing Australia for IT Support in an effort to reduce cost and become more efficient.

In terms of Revenue streams with the support of the Government 'Race Fields' is under way and already 80% of overseas betting agencies have already sign up.

In the next 6 months RITA will transition to NZ TAB.

Both Bills in relation to the new Racing Act have been pushed through Parliament thanks to the efforts of Racing Minister Mr W PETERS.

There appears to be some progress in terms of having a number of Clubs in certain area's working together so that we can achieve an economic parity that will strengthen the NZTR industry and make it more economical stable.

In terms of track closures NZTR is working with both the Clubs and the Communities effected with the focus of achieving a balanced future.

And finally, NZTR currently has a focus of growing industry participation in terms of Ownership via Syndication.

Mr. BURNS then addressed the meeting.

In terms of the Programming Booklet NZTR is moving to quarterly editions with monthly updates available on-line. He raised a suggestion of Trainers collecting the Programming Booklets from local Clubs but our members preference was clearly that NZTR continue to mail them out.

NZTR are looking to reduce the number of Owners moving horses around with outstanding debts and are looking to introduce 'Rules Changes' which would mirror Australian Racing and a Templated Default Training Agreement will be available online. Having this agreement will assist NZTR who will have a dispute process available.

In terms of Welfare Guidelines the current focus is on 'Duty of Care' within the industry and also the 'Rehoming Program'. NZTR are keen to give power to the RIU to enforce the obligations of people to ensure that our animals are well cared for and not abused. They realise that there is only 1% that we need to focus on for compliance.

In terms of traceability Donna CAMERON at NZTR is currently looking to tidy up NZTR records in terms of where our 'finished horses' are' and asked for members assistance; if you have horses that have finished racing can you update NZTR by completing the forms which are available on-line. THE MORE WE CAN REFUTE THE ACTISITS THE STRONG OUR CASE TO ADVOCATE FOR THE CONTINUMENT OF OUR SPORT but it takes Data to refute the allegations levelled at the industry.

After recent accidents it is recognised that we need to re-assess how we license Track Work Riders and NZTR is working towards making it and Independent Evaluation. They don't want to take the assessment of a riders capabilities away from Trainers but want some strong guidelines introduced so that we are seen to be complying with other legislative obligations.

Our current 'Whip Rules' are aligned to Australia and we continue to face Industry pressure from activists. Our Whip Rules are nowhere near as strict as those in Europe but at this stage while they are on the mind of NZTR there is no changes planned at this stage.

Finally in terms of 'Immigration' the government' is looking to cap the number of immigrates in certain area's whilst introducing incentives to employ NZ-ers.

Commented [p1]:

GENERAL ISSUES

KAPITI CLUBS

Mr. HAWORTH asked Mr. SAUNDY for a meeting with NZTR in terms of the resolving some issues between the Kapiti Clubs (OTAKI / LEVIN & FOXTON) as there is a growing population in this area and is seen as an area of opportunity for the Industry.

After some discussion between the two Mr. SAUNDY undertook to organised a meeting between representative of the 3 Clubs to plan a way forward.

FOXTON

Although we recognise that FOXTON Racecourse still presents one of the best surfaces in the CD area there is no plans by NZTR to re-introduce racing at this venue.

FIBRE OPTIC VENUE USE POST LOCKDOWN

Mr. SAUNDY explained that the decision to use only course which have fibre optic available was made by RITA because of the financial situation of the industry and the cost associated with racing at Non-Fibre Optic tracks. To use tracks that needed Satellite input to transmit races costs the industry \$120,000 per month irrespective of the number of time that it is used and because of the uncertainty of what Racing would look like Post COVID RITA made the decision to grant license's for only Fibre Optic track when we re-commenced racing.

Mr. SAUNDY eventually conceded that RITA (&NZTR) should have communicated this out to the Industry so that participants could have been given the chance to understand better.

In terms of the future NZTR are re-visiting the costs of installing more Fibre-Optics to tracks where possible but again that is dependently largely on the location of tracks and the overall infrastructure of NZ Telecommunication.

Along these line members encouraged NZTR and NZ TAB to consider better use of venues at the right time of the year.

NZ FOAL CROP

The NZ Foal crop continues to decline and is down to approximately 300 foals this season

ROI FROM INDUSTRY

Mr LYNDY asked Mr. SAUNDY when NZ participants could expect an increased Return on Investment. Currently Australia is returning 48% whilst NZ is only achieving 19% thus investment in our industry is dwindling.

Mr SAUNDY indicated that there was a meeting with all 3 codes the following day but turnover during the COVID Lockdown was distributed as follows

44% Gallops

40% Greyhounds &

16% Harness

It is believed that the increase in Greyhound racing was largely due to more availability during the evenings but shows how reliant we were on Australian Racing to generate income. As an industry we need to work with other International Betting Agencies to maximise ROI. Early indications of NZ Turnover post COVID is strong largely due to the size of the fields.

TRACKSIDE RADIO / RACING PUBLICATIONS

Trackside Radio was dispensed with by RITA because of the \$2m pa costs but recent developments mean that audio coverage of Trackside is available via the ROVA app or via Bluetooth to your car radio.

The Race Form Publication is expected back in the new season.

TAUHERENIKAU TRAINING TRACK CLOSURE

Mr. STAMMERS expressed concern of the Wairarapa Clubs recent decision to close the Training Tracks at Tauherenikau and asked what NZTR position was. Mr SAUNDY stated that they cannot force the Wairarapa Club to retain tracking track at the course that this was a Club decision.

NB: Both CDTA as a Branch and NZTA had advocated to the Club to try to persuade them to retain an option for locals to train on the track but the Club had declined citing economic reasons for the closures.

NATIONAL & CDTA GENERAL BUSINESS

NZTA Executive had been acknowledged for their professional input into the Racing Act

1. IMMIGRATION

As indicated by Mr. BURNS the industry faces more pressure in the short term to employ NZ-ers. NZTA involvement is still ongoing but they are hoping to get some standardisation to the paperwork.

2. TRAINER OF THE YEAR

Jamie RICHARDS.

3. NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Tony PIKE nominated by CDTA. There has been a suggestion that a neutral person should be leading the NZTA as a spoke person / lobbyist. It was suggested this should be not be a trainer as currently in the Constitution as it was thought that inevitably that person would be compromised and rarely had time to contribute to the position. CDTA members were not supportive of this amendment believing that Mr. PIKE has done an outstanding job representing the NZTA

4. STRAPPER AWARD NOMINATION

Given current COVID concerns this will be delayed until later (if required)

5. APPRENTICE SUBSIDIES

Definitely need to keep investigating how the subsidies being offered post COVID by Government apply to NZ Racing and possibly Studs.

6. OPEN ENTRY RACES

Point of conjecture at ALL Branch Meetings. Need to ensure reviews are conducted on a weekly basis but the feedback is that Tim ALDRIDGE is doing

a very good job and is very approachable. The upshot is that they are here with us until 1st October and while we would like to return to normal this is unlikely other than R65 & Maidens.

7. CDTA GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 2020 CDTA Sires Golf Tournament never took place due to the COVID Lockdown. The organising Committee were exploring option for a smaller pre-Xmas tournament but had already booked in the tournament for Good Friday 2021. Members available to assist are encouraged to get involved.

MEETING CLOSED 3.20pm