

ESNZ Endurance

National Forum

2 July 2016

Forum started at 9.15am

Present: Louisa Muir, Susan Reid, Sharon Nisbett, Ashley Cole, Alison Higgins, Daryl Owen, Wendy Farnell, Barbara Avery, Petra Paterson, Jenny Chandler, Richard Armstrong, Emma Tylee, Mark Tylee, Ray Tylee, Carla Barakat, Jeanette Francis, Jan Bambury, Peter Birkett, Teresa Birkett, Robyn Peters Beryl Sagar, Don Sagar, Sarah Addy, Hilary Webb, Heidi Bulfin, Mike Bragg, Joanne Loveridge, Sue Drinnan, Selwyn Boler, Michelle Boler, Braden Cameron, Raewyn Carter, Ron Guest, Sue Billigheimer, Chris Enstrom, Ursula Keenan, Natalie Paroli, Daniel Paroli, Murray Smith, Brigitte Smith, Andrea Smith, Shane Dougan, Sylvia Ireland, Leanne Ireland, Natasha Guest, Sonia Swinbourne, Tosca Warren, Judy Warren, Vicky Glynn, Mark Davies

Welcome

Louisa Muir welcomed everyone to the forum, went through the agenda for the morning and introduced Vicky Glynn.

Champs Events

The Board has been running all Championship events. The Board is proposing that the North Island Champs and South Island Champs revert to being club run and Nationals remains with the Board. Sharon Nisbett said that the finances this year have been disastrous in running all three events. It is proposed that the Board pay the FEI fees for these events and \$5,000 to the host club. The Board will also provide buckles. In return levies on entry fees will be paid back to the Board. Our discipline survives on levies and club affiliations. The income has been falling for two years in a row, and this year is worse than last year. We can't keep on that way. Sharon hasn't been able to invest anything for ten years. When Start fees were taken away we lost that income. Sharon believes clubs have greater local resources than the national body.

Petra Paterson asked for confirmation of the \$5,000 grant to the host club. Sharon confirmed. This would make it a lot more affordable for clubs.

Shane Dougan said his club would have issues with the finance side and would struggle to find enough personnel. Louisa said that the Board Events Committee could provide support in resourcing people. Ashley Cole said that the Events Committee couldn't provide people but social media was a good place to ask for personnel.

Teresa Birkett asked what the biggest cost is for a Champs event. The answer is vets and travel. Alison Higgins suggested we offer an amount to vets and foreign officials for them to accept or negotiate. It would then be up to those officials/vets to get themselves to the venue and we would feed and accommodate them when they got there. Jenny Weston worked with the Board to regulate the fees but this had led to higher vet costs. Heidi Bulfin said that one vet she approached said they had been offered more to work a ride in Australia. Entry numbers in Australia are higher

than here in NZ so our vets are not as busy. Ursula Keenan said the officials course went a long way to developing international exchange of vets and officials. Louisa agreed that this is certainly a good thing to be working on. Dates are now known for these events so it is good to be organising/sourcing officials and vets early. Chris Enstrom suggested asking for expressions of interest. Sharon said that this was a good idea.

Mark Tylee said that Sharon had a good point about all vets being sourced from one person. Vets are being told what they need to charge. Ashley said that the previous year she had spent considerable time trying to source a foreign vet but they kept cancelling. This year the plan involved having Jenny Weston source them. This has led to greatly increased costs, which is not a great result. The lesson has been learned. Ursula asked if sourcing vets was difficult because there is no infrastructure for this. The biggest problem is asking important people to pre-plan their weekends and plans change. Wendy Farnell suggested that the Officials panel should be involved in this.

Ross Hill asked if we actually need vets. The answer was a definite yes. Mark said that vets earn good money in their own practices so some are reluctant to work for less than their normal rate.

Louisa Muir summed up that the Board knows there is an issue with vets. Clubs are to run the Island Champs this season and the Officials Panel will liaise regarding sourcing vets. Alison Higgins clarified that the \$5,000 will be paid if the club is running both CTR and endurance. If only running one discipline then the amount would be reduced.

Ron Guest asked if clubs are running Champs events who would have responsibility for the conduct of the event. If a club wants to be innovative and run other fundraising type rides will the Board step in to say they can't do it. Wendy and Louisa said that it would be up to the club.

Chris asked for clubs to be kept informed by the Officials Panel of what is happening with officials and vet costs.

The two day format was intended to cut costs and this approach worked. Ron asked if it was time to relook at North Island Champs and South Island Champs. Are separate Island champs still the best option? The feeling around the room was that it was.

Ray Tylee pointed out that the number of clubs has greatly reduced, so less people competing. Also, often a whole family is working rather than just one person. This makes it more difficult to get ground personnel for rides.

Tosca Warren asked where the \$5,000 came from. This has been the figure for a number of years. Susan Reid said that clubs would be able to apply for local grants. Mark Tylee said that under the current structure if it is unsustainable for the Board then it is also unsustainable for clubs and members. Shane Dougan said that if the Board is running events then people are not so thrifty if they're spending 'Board money'. Alison Higgins agreed that this has been the case. Sharon said that \$5,000 is a starting figure that is viable for the coming year. It can be revised if needed. Richard Armstrong reiterated that clubs used to fundraise ahead of time to run Champs/FEI events.

Jan Bambury said that looking at vets and costs, can we make vets work a bit harder and run more classes. Louisa agreed that this could be done.

CEN/CEI discussion

Wendy said that the Board has been working hard on how to run joint CEN/CEI rides. For a start we were given the impression that this was possible. FEI have now come back and said that we are not able to start CEN and CEI at the same time. Comment from the floor was that the rule change should be withdrawn from being voted on at the AGM as the one and only option that was presented at the North Island forum of how it would be implemented is now confirmed as not being allowed, therefore affects members who have voted via proxy based on that information. Ron Guest said we were aware this wouldn't be acceptable to FEI. Alison put the proposal together and we had to discuss options. Option one was to run both CEI and CEI together for a single title, Option two was for separate titles and Option three was for CEN to ride for a completion buckle only. Alison said that the rule change allows CEN championship events and FEI is possibly changing their rules. This rule change would allow us to have the infrastructure in place if this happens. Currently we are not allowed to start CEN and CEI at the same time. To be a level playing field everything has to have exactly the same rules. Mark said that he had no problem with the scenario we were sold at the North Island forum. Petra asked if FEI has any interest in our CEN rides and would they even see the results of them. Wendy confirmed that our foreign officials and judges have to sign off that we have adhered to all rules, and we can't ask them to commit fraud. Teresa Birkett asked if anyone had gone back to Switzerland and explained our local predicament. Wendy said that yes, we have. Alison said if we ignored the FEI and ran them both together and FEI decided to disallow it then it would be our FEI riders who would suffer. Vicky Glynn stated that FEI has a global responsibility and unfortunately sometimes we get caught in the backwash.

Wendy said that the FEI endurance rules are up for review. These will be online in July. It is vitally important for ALL MEMBERS to check these and report back to us with their comments.

Ursula asked for clarification that we're arguing on this now but it may not even be an issue after the FEI rule changes. Ashley said people still need to come up through the levels either way to be able to do a 160km ride, so whatever happens with the rules this will take people a little time anyway.

Barbara Avery said that if the vote is approved then it is up to the Board and the Technical Committee to implement it. Louisa said that the Board will stand by the undertaking to have a three year trial period to allow people to come up through the levels. Chris Enstrom asked if the stand-down rules for CEN would be the same.

Ursula clarified that this rule change would mean that clubs had the option of running classes or not but were not required to offer all classes.

Start Fees

Sharon said that she has prepared a paper re finances and bringing in more income to the sport. She has looked at reintroducing a Start Fee. Alison asked if it is easiest to add this to ESNZ registration renewals. Sharon said that this would likely incur an extra charge on our ESNZ contract so she and Jo were working on a way to be able to do it independently of ESNZ. Louisa pointed out that at the current rate our sport would run out of money in six years if we do nothing to remedy the income situation.

Murray Smith said that two years ago Jim Ellis showed that our income should even out between losing start fees and increasing levies. Sharon replied that ride levies are down so this hasn't worked. Sonia Swinbourne asked how this would work with low distance riders. Alison said that this for registered horses so shouldn't affect unregistered entries. Hilary Webb asked how this would work with the next level up (novice and intermediate riders). Ursula confirmed that this is a return to what we had three years ago. Vicky Glynn said that ESNZ collected Start Fees for other disciplines so would be happy to collect them on our behalf as well. It would be sensible to raise revenue this way. Sharon said that the Start Fee for novice, intermediate and CTR horses would be \$30 per year and \$50 for Open and Graded. If a horse became Open during the season then the difference of \$20 would be payable prior to the horse starting in an open class. Louisa asked for clarification from the floor in support of this.

25 for, 7 against, 3 abstain

Trans Tasman

Alison said that she has been in touch with Australia regarding getting the Trans Tasman exchange going again. There were various questions still to be decided on. CEN? CEI? Juniors and Seniors? Or just Seniors? Alison thought that combining ages would be too much pressure on the pool of available horses. Thoughts from the South Island forum were to focus on a team event rather than individuals, maybe with each team including an Elite rider. Sue Reid said that from a Juniors point of view the Southern Cross exchange is only with Queensland. Sylvia Ireland said that the Trans Tasman previously was three juniors and three seniors, which ran very well.

Shane said that every second year would be preferable. Heidi Bulfin asked if this would run in WEG years. It would be sensible to have it in odd years to avoid a clash. It is most likely that the Australians will want to have CEI rides. Teresa said that if CEI then juniors would not be able to start at the same time. Andrea Smith said that the previous Trans Tasman fizzled out because it was too often and too big.

Vicky Glynn

Vicky gave a presentation on membership trends across the ESNZ disciplines and spoke about what projects ESNZ has upcoming. A copy of her presentation is available on request.

A question was asked as to how ESNZ is planning to safeguard us against Hendra. Vicky said that we are currently waiting to take the lead from Australia on this but we have little direct threat in NZ at this point.

There is a new database coming and this will be better able to collect information on the various disciplines. There is little data available currently on percentages for endurance because they do not process our results and since we have no start fee there is no direct link to members doing endurance. Vicky talked about ways other disciplines are trying to break barriers. For example dressage has 'recreational dressage' to encourage people to come and have a go.

Community members number less than 1,000, with a total ESNZ membership of 6,000. There has been an 81% uptake of renewal after the first year of free full membership.

Sharon asked about the rollover date for insurance because it effects the Nelson club's fundraising applications.

Vicky said ESNZ is in negotiations with landowners around the Christchurch NEC to develop endurance tracks from the centre. There are also negotiations under way around Woodhill Sands.

Sharon asked if we could get FEI funding to get Australian vets for our events. Vicky said that according to FEI we are too developed to qualify for funding.

Vicky is putting forward a proposal for us to be exempt from global drug testing for Clean Sport. This is a \$35NZ fee administered from Zurich and instructed and organised from Zurich. Ashley asked for clarification of how ESNZ accounts for the currency fluctuations when FEI amounts are charged in Swiss Francs. Vicky explained that ESNZ has to make a best guess on what this will be in NZ dollars, but it is impractical to have a fee that is constantly changing.

Arab Society

Ursula said that we should be working closer with the Arab society. Alison put together the calendar and contacted the Arab Society. She was given the date of their January show as a clash for North Island Champs. A request has been made to change the NI Champs date to the following weekend, or to have the Arab Society move their date.

Louisa summed up that this relationship is developing.

Officials

Ron said that the Officials Panel ran two courses and they are happy to arrange training as required. The FEI course was very successful with 54 starters for various courses. They went through the rules and also what is in the best interest of the sport – when to bend a little. There has been talk of a stewards course, because we currently only have two. We will need to fly someone in to NZ to be able to run this course. Foreign exchange of officials in being undertaken. Another thing yet to be addressed is the development of officials. We will need to invest money for this to develop a database.

Vicky Glynn said that the issue of the age restriction of 70 years has been raised with FEI as an issue as we are losing good people as they pass this limit.

Forum ended at 12.00