

## **Minutes of the ESNZ Endurance Board meeting 1 May 2021**

**ESNZ Offices, Wellington 9 am start**

**Present:** Sue Reid, Ron Guest, Kevin James, Jenny Weston, Trevor Copland, Nick Page

**Apologies:** Pip Mutch, Jo Lankow

### **Meeting Administration**

**Conflicts relevant to the Agenda:** Sue and Ron (members of Kohuratahi Club) re Hosting agreements for championship events.

**Minutes of Previous meeting:** Approved by email, ratified at this meeting.

**Matters arising:** Nothing that isn't covered in the agenda.

**Action List:** Completed except – JW hasn't been in touch with Lizzie Maundrell re Man V Horse; PM to report back on adventure racing discussions with Tina Moore; KJ hasn't provided suggested rule changes in writing prior to the meeting but has some ideas to come up in Discussion.

### **Items for decision**

**Endurance grants for championship events:** Previously suggested that the grant money could be used as seed funding to underwrite the event (and be returned?); alternatively that, should the event make any money, then a portion of the profit be returned to ESNZ Endurance. Clubs often need some up-front money for expenses that will be incurred prior to any income coming in. Quite often clubs don't know whether any grants they apply for will be successful or not and it is only just before the event that they receive notification. This year's Nationals was exceptionally well-run and ended up being very well-funded through hard work, great grant applications and willing sponsors. Grants for championship events is the single biggest expense for the sport (paid out \$19,000 in the current year). We don't want clubs to be overly reliant on funding from the Board and not seeking grants or sponsorship. However, we still want clubs to put their hands up to run Championship events. The sport is still running at a loss due to reductions in income and many fixed operating costs and we need to make some changes. Whilst we can hope to get income from sponsorship and/or grants, these aren't guaranteed so can't be listed in a budget. One of the major expenses are the grants to the clubs for hosting Champs events. The decision about a proportion going back to the Board e.g. 50 or 60% of a profit (never to exceed the total amount given in the grant) could be made by the membership at the AGM. Do we try and instigate a change for the 21/22 season or run the status quo for another 12 months? Discussion around whether we can afford to wait another 12 months – don't believe that we can. Take a proposal to the Forum before the AGM. Additionally, the clubs and members need to come up with fundraising efforts to assist with the running of championship events. One way or another, the members fund the sport so it is simply a money merry-go-round. Some members feel that all the money just goes to ESNZ but that isn't the case other than horse and rider registration.

Can ESNZ staff assist at all with grant applications? Are there any others among the membership who could assist? For example, Jo Forrester was very successful for Waitaki Nationals. Clubs need to be incorporated and be able to provide annual accounts to make them eligible for many of the more important grants. ESNZ may be able to apply for national grants but will still rely on clubs applying for regional grants and sponsorship.

*Action: Sue Reid to write to ESNZ to see if they could provide some staff time to assist with applying for grants.*

*ACTION: Letter to go to each of the clubs that hosted a Champs event in the current season – NP to write to Waitaki, KJ to write to Mackenzie and SR to write to Ruahine. (send to Jo to put on letterhead).*

*Action: proposal will be that a proportion of profits (50-60%) be returned to ESNZ Endurance; this could change in the future. Also to adjust the Championships agreement to be \$6k for National Champs and \$4k for each of the Island Championships.*

**Motion:** that the Board approves the above proposal for Champs grants and takes this to the Forum then AGM for approval. *Sue / Nick carried*

**Hosting agreements for championship events:** reviewed by the Board and suggested changes to be made.

*ACTION: JW to get a word doc version and make the suggested edits.*

**Endurance rules:** discussion around current rules:

- 1) Claiming rides and that they need to be claimed by 1<sup>st</sup> May – discussion about number of rides that could be claimed and the process for claiming and whether it can be managed at the ESNZ Office.
- 2) Age of juniors being able to be ride as open riders – used to be 16, now 18. Age for ESNZ membership as a junior is up to 15.
- 3) Rules on page 9 – doesn't mention having to pre-ride weigh – feel this is OK, this is a safeguard for the rider.
- 4) Lead rein class – to start after all other classes have started is in the rules. Could just be common sense as to when there is a gap in the programme – have been instances where 80 km horses go out fast on their second loop and spook the horses and riders in the lead rein class.
- 5) Elevator rides – Kevin's opinion they should only be for novice rides, not for open rides. This was very contentious at the last Forum and AGM. Agreed to trial it for this season. For various reasons, the 60 km and 120 km championship at Nationals on the Sunday ended up being elevators. Can be very confusing with needing to have separate riding times for each loop. Take this to the membership for discussion and decision at the AGM.
- 6) Staying on base after a big ride – current requirement is 2 hours up to 100 km and then 12 hours. Discussion about whether this time held on base (unless departure is approved by a veterinarian) should be increased for rides of 120 km or more. This will be problematic when there are rides of 120 km or longer on the last day of an event. Leave as status quo for now.
- 7) Page 24 Championship rules – requirement for CEN classes but not a requirement for CEI or combined classes. Another contentious issue to be decided by the membership at the AGM.

*Action – Kevin to provide details around proposed wording of rule changes ASAP.*

Documents and business for the AGM needed to be out by 30 April for the AGM.

**NI Calendar for approval** – noted by the Board, to be approved at the AGM

**SI Calendar for approval** – paper not provided. Discussion that most clubs had been approached to shift at least one ride by a week or so. Had heard back from most clubs with agreement to change but had not heard back from Mt Linton about any changes until just before the Board meeting and

they have not agreed to the requested change and have requested some of the events to include 100 and 120 km rides. This is still with the TC.

*ACTION: JW to finalise and circulate to the Board.*

Discussion about the development of ride calendars and how clubs have to work together to develop a programme so that one club's events don't impact on other clubs' events and also encourage riders to attend Championship events. We want clubs to be welcoming to all riders who might want to attend. Concern that an entry was refused at the recent Mt Linton ride, the entry was made well in advance, the club were still advertising their event then 2-3 days before the ride advised that the entry could not be taken due to a lack of space. However, there were only 6 competitors on the day. The Board expressed concern that bona fide competitors were turned away – the reasons for which were unclear. This does not make things a level playing field for points rides and even for opportunities for lifetime kilometres.

*ACTION: SR to write a letter to Mount Linton club about how the calendar is set and that affiliation means you are part of a wider sport.*

**AGM** – 26<sup>th</sup> June, times are currently subject to change. James Cook Hotel, Wellington. Do we want to give a presentation? Tony and Ron would be happy to present. Agreed that the presentation would be 30 minutes at the end of the Forum – will require a datashow and screen for a powerpoint presentation.

Board Meeting on the Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June (7 pm) at ESNZ Office and also on Sunday morning (9-12 noon).

Nominations for volunteer award – ask clubs to nominate one person each.

*ACTION: Jo to email the clubs asking them to put forward any nominations, also the Board had discussed some possible nominations.*

ESNZ Endurance AGM and then most of our prizegivings.

Jenny and Ron have to re-nominate if they are interested in standing again. Of Susan, Nick, Kevin, Pip and Trevor – 2 have to stand down and re-nominate. Drawn by ballot: Trevor and Susan.

**Grant applications** – discussed earlier under championship grants and champs hosting agreement.

**Clubs unaffiliated / fun events** – there was discussion around the affiliation agreement and concern that Mount Linton club has been running fun rides (non-affiliated) either on the day of a calendared ride or the day before/after and these weren't affiliated and no levies were paid. This has been happening all season with small entries in affiliated 40 & 80 km rides but no levies being paid for competitors in the shorter distance rides.

*ACTION:SR letter to Mount Linton club about the requirements of affiliation are and make it clearer in the affiliation agreement for 22/23 season that any events similar to Endurance/CTR held by an affiliated club must be run as affiliated events unless permission has been granted by the Board – for example the Board may approve an introductory “give it a go” day. Particularly any events run over the same weekend as a calendared ride would be affiliated and levies need to be paid.*

### **Items for Discussion**

**Fundraising update** – nothing to update, Jenny still to contact Lizzie Maundrell re Man V Horse opportunity. Also see earlier items about support for grant applications.

**EPOC machine** – report considered, the machine is now old technology and costs with maintaining the machine and consumables have increased significantly. Fewer entries at the Champs events at the moment too so less likely to be used.

*ACTION: JW Letter to Logan and Susie Latta thanking them for their generous donation.*

**Junior/Young Rider camp**- concern that the proposed expenditure is very high especially food costs – expect that parents will need to contribute with baking and some food provision and helping with the cooking so don't need koha (March 15 meeting papers). Would be reasonable for parents to cover costs for covered yards etc. Needs to be advertised as this is now only 5 weeks away.

*ACTION: SR to discuss with Jane and Leanne.*

**Strategic/Forward planning** – reviewed the strategic plan. Remove the page re TARGET. 0-1 years nearly all accomplished except support the clubs to grow the sport and making participation easier. Move some things from medium term to short term. Developing and recognising officials. Need to attract more officials. Many officials are getting older and wanting to step away from endurance so we need to ensure there is a good pool of officials. Need to hold more officials courses and encourage more members to participate in officials courses – this is a good way to become more familiar with the rules. Will there be a Nationals officials training course?

*ACTION: RG write to OTP re more training opportunities.*

Also move technology to the short-term plan – particularly for frequent updates of Champs and other significant events.

Mentoring – at club level that club members can support new members – make this more visible.

Move sponsorship/grants into the short term as an action. Other countries have had competitors with serious financial backing, whereas in NZ there isn't the money in the grass roots of the sport.

Medium-term: long term sponsorship for the sport; retain/increase numbers in FEI competition. Need to lobby FEI that the changes in the rules are unworkable in countries like NZ. We now have two separate sets of rules. Retaining FEI events – need to maintain the quality of our events (vets, officials rules etc) to protect horse welfare.

Long-term: retaining FEI events.

*ACTION: JW to update the strategic plan*

**Inwards correspondence** – letter from Nelson club, not planning to run any rides in 21/22 season. Discussion about the reduction in clubs and the burden of hosting Champs rides. Would rides in districts with local ride organisers be any better than the current club structure? Would this affect applying for grants?

*ACTION: Jo Reply to Nelson Club – unfortunate they are unable to run rides, hope they will be back soon.*

## Reports

**Finance** – reviewed finances to end 31 March and draft budget

MOTION: That the Board approve the financial report and the draft budget Sue / Jenny moved

**Technical committee** – the Board accepted the TC report and approved the draft North Island Calendar.

**Task Force and ToR** – Report received. Consider bringing someone else in from outside the sport. There is no budget for this activity. Tony and Ron to develop pro-forma questions and do phone interviews with people in the sport and people who are outside the sport. Discussion on the ToR and some changes suggested e.g. Advisory Group rather than task force. To contact riders who have done one ride or two rides and not come back and ask them why?

*ACTION: RG to adjust the ToR as per suggestions.*

**General Business** – In general waiver for entering rides, waiver of rights for photographs taken at the event. Some concern about photos getting out in the public domain which may not be flattering to the sport. Waiver reviewed using track changes.

*Action: Jo to distribute revised waiver to the clubs, up to clubs to modify as they see fit but recommend that this one is used.*

### **Items for Information**

**Outwards correspondence – nil**

**Next meeting** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 7 pm, ESNZ Offices in Wellington

**Meeting closed** 3.25 pm