

## Minutes ESNZ Endurance Board 29 January 2022

### ESNZ Office, Wellington 9 am

**Present:** Nick Page, Sue Reid, Marga Marshall, Sue Billigheimer, Hanna Whitehead, Jenny Weston.  
And visitor Tony Parsons.

**Apologies:** Ron Guest.

Sue welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly new Board members Marga Marshall and Sue Billigheimer, and Tony Parsons as part of the Advisory Team.

**Previous Minutes:** approved (minor edits) 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. ACTION: Jenny to advise Jo

MOTION: "Approved as true and correct records of the meetings" Jenny / Sue (unanimous)

**Matters Arising:** 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 meeting in Christchurch didn't go ahead, in-person meeting in Wellington 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022 instead.

### Agenda Items:

- Request from Jane Ferguson and Leanne Ireland that the Junior Camp be held in the South Island this year.

Motion "that the Board approve this request and support bids to secure sponsorship for this event" Sue B / Hanna

- AGM date – South Island venue, 2<sup>nd</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> July Board meeting (and also on the evening of Fri 1<sup>st</sup> July). Need a venue (ACTION: Marga to find a suitable venue) and organise a venue for a dinner. Forum in the Saturday morning and AGM in the afternoon. Morning and afternoon tea to be provided.
- Island forums – discuss the advisory team report, club structure. Sun 15<sup>th</sup> May North Island at Palmerston North 1 pm (NI Board members to attend). Sat 21<sup>st</sup> or Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> May South Island NEC (SI Board members + Chair + ask Tony Parsons to attend – Board approves paying Tony's flights).
- Add Sue Billigheimer to Club Liaison FB page. (Action: Jo)
- ACTION: Sue R to reply to Ola Schreurs (from previous letter)
- ACTION: Sue R to write follow up letters to Sarah Hamer & David Marshall

### Financial Report:

Latest report was reviewed and approved. Hanna is keen to apply for grants for the sport for a range of activities but will need evidence of previous expenditure and approval in ESNZ Endurance Board minutes for each application. Need to develop draft budget for the 22/23 year – ACTION: Ron to draft a budget.

Applications for grant funding – Hanna to provide the details to develop a resolution at the next Board meeting.

Discussion about grants versus sponsorship and needing to consider gst implications. Need to apply as ESNZ rather than ESNZ Endurance and check with ESNZ that other disciplines aren't applying for the same funds.

Further discussion that the financial position isn't sustainable – need to continue to reduce expenditure as well as encourage participation so more entries. Probably need to look at increasing ride levies (affects budget).

**ACTION:** Sue B / Nick apply to ESNZ Board for exemption for the ESNZ casual day membership for riders competing up to 25 km as this may encourage shorter distance riders to attend.

#### **General Business:**

- Nick Page raised the point about communication going directly to FEI – should be a Board agreed approach. This has also happened in the past with individual members (not necessarily Board members) and they have been advised to address the FEI through the NF. FEI are good at advising people to contact them through the NF. There was general agreement that all communications should go through the proper channels i.e. as a Board position and/or through the NF.
- Nick Page met with Julian Bowden (ESNZ CEO) on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January and discussed a number of issues:
  - TMP – this issue seems to be particularly difficult in the South Island due to riding along the side of roads as part of the course. TMP requirements vary according to the extent that the road is part of the course and there can be differing requirements with different Councils, often now need to have a qualified person go round and check all the signage every 2 hours. Julian Bowden is happy to approach the relevant South Island Councils to see if they would support local sport with grants to assist the TMP requirements for events. One option is to raise funds to train one person (probably just in the South Island initially) to be the qualified person but then that needs them to be available to attend each event. Could also approach Councils or TMP companies for sponsorship. Canterbury were able to get a 50% discount for a TMP recently but even so, this was still \$1,000.  
**ACTION:** Nick to provide details to Julian about what the specific requirements are (Canterbury Club will have this info) – Marga will get this info to Nick.
  - Dealing with legal issues – we don't have the resources to deal with even vexatious issues so these can be costly for the sport or for clubs. There are some lawyers on ESNZ Board who may be able to provide some advice on a basic approach.
  - FEI rules becoming more difficult – need to convey to FEI that some of these rules aren't workable in the NZ setting.
  - Meeting with Julian was very constructive and Julian is willing to help us with difficult issues.
- Development Seminars – been in abeyance pretty much for the past 24 months due to COVID. Seek feedback as to whether there would be interest in seminars.
- High Performance – **ACTION:** Sue R to talk to Senior and Junior riders about interest in becoming an Elite rider as that seems to be the best way to compete overseas.
- Trans-Tasman competition – also COVID affected. Start planning for a competition in the 22/23 season (in Australia)

#### **Advisory Team Report Discussion – led by Tony Parsons**

This activity started at the North Island Champs in February 2021 and Tony and Ron have talked to a wide range of people. Main focus was that we need to maintain the international pathway. Quickly became obvious that everyone was saying the same thing. Report submitted 1<sup>st</sup> September. Some of Tony's thinking has changed since then. Tony was impressed by the North Island Champs (held

previous weekend to this meeting) and felt that the culture was very good and pleased to see the inclusion of shorter distance events. Large number of DRNZ riders compete at shorter distances. Speaking to DRNZ riders, they are aware that if they want to compete internationally they now realise that ESNZ is the pathway to FEI competitions.

A number of things that Tony and Ron feel need to be addressed:

- Club structure – some have disappeared and others are in danger of disappearing – Board needs to be aware of the human resourcing that keeps clubs going – needs to understand what is happening with each club. Some clubs are already working together to put on Champs events.
- Sport Administrator – many competitors don't understand the amount of work that is done by the Sport Administrator. Need to consider succession planning and also if there are more automated or computer-based ways to manage some of the workload.
- Need more of a social media presence and other ways of marketing to riders who might be interested – focus at a local level.
- Also some big gaps in our calendar (regions) e.g. Northland, Auckland, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Nelson.
- FEI requirements – could be pragmatic ways of applying the rules – should be able to adapt the rules to the local requirements. For example, could we request not requiring a second treatment vet for CEI3\* when there were only 2 CEI entries on the day. Other disciplines aren't completely following the rules. Take a more relaxed approach and needs cooperation and agreement between the officials. Can be trickier with foreign officials and they need to be aware of what is feasible. Over-zealous application of the rules just puts people off ESNZ events.
- ESNZ Endurance (with EA, Canada etc where CEI is only a very small part of their sport) should be making FEI more aware of the difficulties the rules are creating for us.
- Culture at ESNZ events kept coming up in discussions but Tony now thinks this was more some individual personalities.
- Discussion with other bodies – just doesn't seem logical to have the rider base split between different organisations. Tried not to dwell on the historical reasons that this occurred. Is it possible to bring the sport back together? Can't really wait for some of the personalities to disappear. A lot of the new people in other organisations don't have any baggage and some are seeing that they could/should align with ESNZ. How do you maintain status of officials, bring in new officials, keep the sport up-to-date? Should be asking DRNZ this – they might be interested in development. Need to understand their systems and how their rules protect horse welfare. Tony's opinion – some DRNZ rides could qualify as novice ESNZ rides (maybe if there are some ESNZ officials involved at the event). DRNZ could affiliate as a club – but why would they? We need to understand what their long term goal is. Discuss the calendar with them to not clash in a region. It has got to be done at an official level but courteously. Needs members of the Board involved.
- Tony and Ron are keen to see things move forward but needs Board approval and involvement.
- MOTION: "That the board agrees to move forward with a sub-committee of the Board to work with Tony and Ron to open discussions with parallel distance-riding organisations

Nick / Hanna (unanimous)

ACTION: Tony to talk to Greg Bickerton and see if 3 of the DRNZ committee would like to have a discussion with us (Tony, Ron, Sue B)

**Discussion:**

- Lots of other things that we can do to grow/improve our sport – marketing etc. Hanna showed one of the video clips from North Island Champs on Instagram

**Next Meeting:** Zoom meeting Wednesday evening 16<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 pm to cover approval of grant applications and the progression of any other issues.

Meeting closed 2.40 pm