

AUSTRALIAN STANDARDBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25th August 2019

Harness Racing Australia's Boardroom Flemington.

MINUTES

PRESENT.

John Coffey- ASBA Chairman
David Hayes (Vice President & Tasmanian Delegate)
John Campbell (Victorian Delegate)
Brad Reid (CEO NZ Breeders)
Terry Lewis (Harness Breeders Victoria Chairman)
Andrew Kelly (CEO Harness Racing Australia)
Lee-Ann Pangrazio (SA BOTRA Delegate)
Flora Robson (NSW Delegate via Phone link)
Howard King (ASBA Treasurer & WASBA Delegate via Phone link)
Peter Watkinson (HRV Board member)
Dr Tony Britt (Vet & ASBA's Bio Security Consultant via Phone link)
Gary Newton (ASBA -Secretary)

APOLOGIES

Lois Randall SA BOTRA
Jeanine Diederich WASBA

1, WELCOME

Chairman, John Coffey, opened the ASBA AGM and welcomed everyone. He welcomed Brad Reid, CEO NZ BREEDERS and extended his appreciation to Peter Watkinson -HRV, Andrew Kelly – CEO HRA and Terry Lewis Chairman-HBV.

2 WELCOME BY STATE HOST VICTORIA- PETER WATKINSON BOARD MEMBER HARNES RACING VICTORIA

Peter Watkinson spoke about the positives HRV has achieved in recent times including Trots Vision HRV Digital Platform, Animal Welfare and the success of the HERO Program, Boosting integrity and HRV will once again waive the foal registration for the next 12 months.

3.AT THIS POINT STANDING ORDERS WERE SET ASIDE TO ALLOW DISCUSSION ON THE ASBA BREEDERS SURVEY WITH ANDREW KELLY CEO HRA.

Gary Newton, ASBA Secretary, gave an overview and highlighted areas of concern that became evident by the survey.

Foal Numbers and the number of breeders looking to either cease or downsize their numbers over the next 5 year period.

John Coffey and Howard King pointed out the decline in foals will mean the decline in the number of races.

HRA believes the current number of horse population will be sufficient to maintain race programs into the future.

John Coffey pointed out since 2014 8 farms have either closed the doors or ceased providing Fresh or Chilled semen to Australian breeders.

Two recommendations from the world trotting conference were addressed.

The first being stallion book numbers.

This issue also was apparent from the survey - limiting stallion book numbers.

Mr Kelly asked what the number is and what the advantage of doing so would be.

Mr Coffey pointed out there are many reasons for supporting Limits on Stallion Books including -
Providing a more level playing field for breeders as many breeders perceive that the elite stallions are forcing them out of the industry -

Limiting stallion book numbers would also provide more opportunities for the “ non-elite “ and especially our Colonial Stallions -

As well as help to stem the flow of Stud Fee income from Australia to Nth American owners.

The second item was the use of frozen semen from a dead or gelded stallion is limited to 1 year after such an event.

Brad Reid NZ Breeders pointed out that there would have to be a grandfather period for this law to be introduced.

Number of fillies & mares races was highlight in the survey.

Mr Kelly pointed out that pretty much all states program these races but trainers don't support them.

He added that in 2011 5% of races were for females, while last season that had increased to 13%, that being the percentage of races that stood up.

The ongoing problem of wastage was discussed with approx. 10% of the foal crop since 2014 dead and another 9% have had at least two preparations but never raced.

HRA & HRV firmly believe that the new rating system will increase the number of horses that race, and for longer. Mr Kelly pointed out Australasia has become speed ordained, The punter doesn't care if a horse runs 2.4 or 1.54 they just want to have bet.

“There is a race for every horse” is their motto

The issue of frozen semen v fresh was discussed

The number of mares that don't get in foal using frozen semen is around 40%, compared to 20% with fresh semen.

Mr Kelly mentioned the new extender which has be developed and tested by Newcastle University. HRA and the Uni are waiting on finalising a company to market the extender.

He also pointed out that HRA believes that this extender will replace frozen semen.

Mr Coffey thanked Mr Kelly and Mr Watkinson for their time today, both left the meeting at 10.45am.

11AM STANDING ORDER RESUMED

4. VOTING RIGHTS.

David Hayes (Tasmanian Delegate)
John Campbell (Victorian Delegate)
Lee-Ann Pangrazio (SA BOTRA Delegate)
Flora Robson (NSW Delegate via Phone link)
Howard King (ASBA Treasurer & WASBA Delegate via Phone link)

Attendance of Delegates was recognized and Delegates confirmed. **Carried**

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES ASBA AGM AUGUST 2018 HELD IN MELBOURNE.

Moved David Hayes and Seconded John Campbell.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Micro chipping

Clarifications of HRA's three year policy before review on whether to continue with freeze branding. **Secretary to email, HRA for clarification.**

The WA Vet Act is being reviewed separately and WASBA are requesting that as part of that review consideration be given to allow suitably qualified persons to administer microchips.

Currently they have to be administered by a qualified vet.

General feeling is that licensed technician should be able to insert microchip.

What do stewards require and what data base will be available on a standardbred ownership after racing.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

All agenda correspondence has been circulated about phone link ups

Other correspondence include

Emails to HRA re ASBA AGM
Invites to AGM.
Account for Website hosting
Account for Breeders Crown

Moved correspondence be received John Campbell and seconded Lee-Ann Pangrazio

8. PRESIDENTS REPORT.

John Coffey's president report was received and attached as appendix

9. TREASURERS REPORT

A copy of the profit and loss and balance sheet for the period of 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019 was distributed pre meeting to all delegates and executive.

Treasurer reported that because of the small interactions it doesn't need to be audited but once again needs to be lodged with Consumer Affairs Victoria. He also said ASBA should send a copy of bank statement to State Delegates.

Treasurer's report moved by Howard King and seconded Lee- Ann Pangrazio **Carried.**

A motion was also tabled to once again pay 50% of interstate delegates' air fares who attended AGM.

Moved John Campbell seconded David Hayes **Carried**

A honorarium of \$500 for expenditure and work effort incurred by the Secretary was minuted and passed in 2016 AGM minutes but as yet hasn't been taken by current secretary, which was moved by David Hayes and seconded by John Campbell **Carried**.

Business arising from Treasurer's Report:

It was approved to once again invoice the states for \$1 per foal registered in that state, however, treasurer pointed out that only Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia responded and paid last year. **Action-Howard King**.

It was also suggested that secretary writes to prospective sponsors such as APG, Major Studs and feed companies. **Action- Gary Newton**.

10. STATE REPORTS

NSW, West Australia and South Australia are appendixes

John Campbell read Victoria's report

David Hayes read Tasmania's report -126 foal's last season

Queensland- no report.

NZ Breeders. Brad Reid gave an overview of the industry in New Zealand and also distributed a copy of NZ Breeders Business Plan for next three years.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Chairman, John Coffey, suggested that we send a copy of the survey to all HRA executives with the view of holding a forum with them and some breeders in the future.

It was also suggested that as reported with HRA some education needs to be held on the advantages and disadvantages of frozen semen. Terry Lewis HBV said the new **TRACKBRED** on line will have a vet section each month.

Chairman John Coffey suggested that HBV lobby HRA to fund hard copies of TRACKBRED as most breeders are not computer savvy.

Tasmania is looking to bring in a rule only allowing a horse to race five times in any 28 day period. Dr Tony Britt questioned where the evidence to implement a rule of this nature was coming from.

It is believed some research was done by thoroughbreds in USA

Flora Robson, NSW Breeders, reported that APG sale in Sydney next year will have around 12 trotting yearlings included in their sale. It is to be confirmed as to whether these yearlings will be eligible for the APG \$50,000 races as 3yo's.

There is some negativity around the trotting sale being held at night after the pacing sale in Melbourne. Brad Reid reported Christchurch Yearling Parade of both Trotters and Pacers on the Tuesday morning and early afternoon - then sell the Trotting Yearlings Tuesday afternoon commencing at 4pm. The Pacing Yearlings then sell on the Wednesday commencing at 11am.

He also reported that since New Zealand Bloodstock has taken over the sales in that country Marketing and promotion of the sale and yearlings in the sale have increased.

It is essential that Australia and New Zealand work together on projects such as limiting stallion books and use of semen of dead or gelded stallions.

12 ELECTIONS OF OFFICE BEARERS

All current Executives were elected unopposed.

Next meeting Via Phone link up in October

ASBA AGM was closed at 12.47pm John Coffey thanked all delegates and Brad Reid, NZ Breeders, and Terry Lewis, Chairman of Harness Breeders Victoria, for contributing to full and productive meeting.