



MINUTES

Of the

54TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) of

The WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STANDARDBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

held in the Golden Nugget Room, GLOUCESTER PARK
Friday 24th November 2023

PRESENT:

J Diederich (President and Chair)

H King (Vice President/Treasurer), P Borg, J Fletcher, G Scott, Mrs D Perrella, Mr D Perrella, W Hayes, B Morrison, M Giles, K Ward, L Thompson–Millett, D Trobe.

(6.15pm) J Schaper, R (Bob) Fowler

APOLOGIES:

A Walmsley, M Holtham, W Dixon, R MacKinnon, P McAllister, J Coffey, L Tabbakh, G Westwood, H Cooper, K Cooper.

PROXY HOLDERS: NIL

WELCOME

The President, Chair Jeanine Diederich, declared the meeting open at 6.10 pm.

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting, thanking them for their attendance.

The Chair also thanked those members who had advised that they were unable to attend and had forwarded an apology.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of the 52ND AGM

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| It was Moved J Fletcher and Seconded by P Borg that the Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting held on 25 November 2022, having being circulated to members, is accepted as a true and correct record. (Carried) |
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Business Arising from the Minutes of the 52ND AGM

1. Inter Dominion Liaison

The Chair advised that the matter had been raised with the Australian Standardbred Breeders Association (ASBA) with state breeder bodies supporting the return to a rotational Inter Dominion to provide impetus to participants in each individual state, and articles subsequently published. The Chair noted that the large number of Queensland nominations for the forthcoming Inter Dominion reinforced that a rotational Inter Dominion provided participants in each state with the opportunity to compete in a great series -

something they could otherwise not do with selected fields of 12 horses for premium races. Liaison with breeder bodies and other state representatives will continue, and any relevant opportunities will be taken to promote the reintroduction of a rotational Inter Dominion.**Action: Completed**

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The President's Report was emailed to members a day before the AGM to enable those interested to review the content, and was tabled by the Chair at the meeting.

The Chair spoke to the Report, highlighting some of the areas detailed in the Report:

- The positive impact of the improved Westbred Bonus payments and particularly the double Westsired win Bonus which is providing impetus to locally based sires;
- WASBA's increased contribution to Off The Track and rehoming support and the need for clubs and other components of the industry to make a greater contribution, given that every horse racing is likely to need either rehoming or retraining;
- The need to improve eligibility for Off The Track and retraining programs to better fit standardbreds;
- The increased content of the monthly Newsletter covering relevant news across all harness jurisdictions;
- The Owners promotional booklet being prepared by RWWA due to WASBA's persistence;
- WASBA Awards presentations and financial contribution to the industry;
- The improved results in terms of starter and winner percentages over recent years, and increases in returns to participants over the past 12 months;
- WASBA's intention to continue to advocate for change to the rules regarding free returns;
- The need for further encouragement via race programming for fillies and mares and middle tier racing, and to continue to upgrade the handicapping system and race program to address issues;
- Owners beginning to recognise benefits in the extension of the racing season;
- WASBA's efforts to introduce additional races, as well as seeing the need to support the WA based sires with higher stakes for the four Westsired Classics;
- The mixed results with our fund raising efforts and the need to continually raise the necessary funds to support our activities;
- The areas that WASBA will continue to work on to improve the outcome for our breeders and owners of mares or WA bred horses
- WASBA continuing to focus on delivering the right support to the industry at every level to progress harness racing.

The Chair then commented on the invaluable support of our sponsors and the huge effort over a number of years by our Code Director R Fowler. Through his considerable efforts, harness has received higher stakes returns as well as the higher and extended bonus payments that were strongly lobbied for by WASBA.

The Chair also noted that racing is an entertainment industry with most entertainment having an accepted financial cost. However, racing was unique in that it can provide intrinsic and incomparable rewards that other industries cannot provide.

The Chair thanked the WASBA Committee and in particular Vice President Howard King, for the considerable work done throughout the year.

In closing, the Chair quoted from the Report that “*the principle of supply and demand means attracting more owners can play a significant role in increasing future foal crops which will attract bigger fields and create a product more attractive to punters*”, and noted that everyone has a role to play in encouraging this outcome.

The Chair opened the floor for questions or comments.

A number of comments were received applauding the work done by WASBA, the success of the Stallion Raffle with a stallion of the calibre of Betters Delight being made available, as well as the support to the Committee and breeders provided by member D Trobe.

It was Moved L Thompson–Millett and **Seconded** D Trobe that the President’s Report be accepted. **(Carried)**

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Audited Financial Report, containing the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Income and Expenditure, was tabled at the meeting.

Treasurer H King spoke to his Report, noting the following:

- The increase in both revenue and expenses;
- The timing of the Report is on a cash basis, with some income and expenditure falling into a different reporting years, and therefore costs and income not being directly related. As an example, the payment of the 2023 Raffle prize is in the next reporting year;
- The success of the Raffle prize countering a lower result in the Stallion Tender, with this being expected to be more difficult going forward;
- The Association is in a sound financial position;

The Treasurer opened the floor for questions or comments and in response, made note of the following:

- The promotional stakes is the stakes supplement that WASBA pays to the clubs for the WASBA \$14,000 races;
- The breeder subsidies includes the \$500 stallion service vouchers that were drawn for the first time in 2022 to encourage membership, participation in the Stallion Raffle and Stallion Tender, and impetus for breeding.

Moved W Morrison and **Seconded** J Fletcher that the Financial Report for the 12 months ended 31 August 2023 be accepted. **(Carried)**

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The Chair referred to the Agenda item regarding appointment of an Auditor and referred to Auditor Mr G Scott for comment.

Mr Scott commented that the accounts prepared by Treasurer H King were of a very high standard and he confirmed his previous advice to H King that he would continue to accept the role of Auditor if required, on the basis of H King continuing as Treasurer.

H King advised the attendees that under the Associations Act, WASBA is not required to have the accounts audited but it was good practice to do so, ensuring that WASBA is accountable in every respect.

It was Moved P Borg and **Seconded** D Trobe that Mr Garry Scott FIPA, CPA continue to provide Auditing services for the next (2023/24) Financial Report. **(Carried)**

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair reported that retiring Committee members included the Chair J Diederich, H King, L Tabbakh, W Morrison and J Coffey and all retiring members had renominated for positions on the WASBA Committee. No other nominations were received. All nominations conformed to the requirements of the Rules.

After a short discussion the Chair noted it was not necessary for an alternate Chair for the process of election of Committee members as the same number of nominations were received as there were vacancies. Therefore, under Rule 18(1) of the Constitution J Diederich, H King, L Tabbakh, W Morrison and J Coffey were declared as Elected Members of the Committee until the expiration of their designated two year term under the Constitution, or if prior, under Rule 24.

No vacancies remain on the Committee. However, the Chair noted that the Committee would welcome any member interest in a Committee position.

NOMINATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Chair noted the nomination for Life Membership which was in accordance with the requirement that Life Membership be considered only at the Annual General Meeting, from nominations received and approved at a prior Committee meeting.

President J Diederich spoke in support of Life Membership of WASBA for Dr Ed Dewar

President J Diederich detailed the extensive involvement of Dr Dewar in harness racing and particularly breeding over a 50 year period, his overall success in standing stallions including the great Halwes, his astute purchase of mares including the New Zealand bred Remit, with over 100 winners tracing directly to her. A daughter of Remit was two times Australian Broodmare of the Year and a granddaughter was Australian 2yo and 3yo Pacer of the Year as well as later being the granddam of another Australian Broodmare of the Year. Dr Dewar's list of Group 1 wins includes multiple Golden Slippers, Pearls, Derbies and Oaks.

The Chair noted that Dr Dewar had been on the WASBA Committee for a short time and a member of WASBA for as long as WASBA has a record of membership. He is numerically the leading individual breeder in WA and the leading breeder of Gloucester Park winners. It will take some time for anyone to surpass his record as a breeder and a member of WASBA and his contribution to breeding in WA.

It was Moved J Diederich and **Seconded** P Borg that Dr Ed Dewar be accepted as a Life Member of WASBA. **(Carried unanimously)**

Life Membership will be awarded in conjunction with the WASBA 2023 Award function, at this stage expected to be held in March 2024

GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no General Business items listed on the Agenda. The Chair noted that there were a number of areas where WASBA was pursuing outcomes, as detailed in the Presidents Report and with the appointment of Cameron Brown as Head of Harness Racing and Special Projects there would be issues that WASBA needed to consider and address over time.

Harness Code Director R Fowler commented on the good working relationship he had with Cameron Brown in the latter’s role at Harness Racing Australia, and his expectation was that WASBA could successfully work with the new Head of Harness Racing to progress any solutions.

MEETING CLOSE

With no further matters raised, The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.45pm

...J Diederich.....
President

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24th November 2023