



MINUTES

Of the

56TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) of

The WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STANDARDBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

held in the Presidents Room, GLOUCESTER PARK
Friday 21st November 2025

PRESENT:

J Diederich (President and Chair)

H King (Vice President/Treasurer), P Borg, J Fletcher, J Schaper L Tabbakh, W Dixon, R MacKinnon, Mr D Perrella, Mrs D Perrella, D Trobe + 2 others

APOLOGIES:

W Hayes, A Walmsley, J Walmsley, M Holtham, J Coffey, G Mortimer, J Scotney, C Phatourus, R Fowler, M Fowler, H Cooper, K Cooper, W Morrison.

PROXY HOLDERS: J Diederich for J Scotney and C Phatourus

WELCOME

The President, Chair Jeanine Diederich, declared the meeting open at 6.05 pm.

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting, thanking them for their attendance at what is an important event for any Association.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of the 55TH AGM

It was Moved J Fletcher and Seconded by P Borg that the Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting held on 29 November 2024, having being circulated to members, is accepted as a true and correct record. (Carried)

Business Arising from the Minutes of the 55TH AGM

1. Breeding Incentives

The Chair reported that the items raised under General Business at the 2024 AGM :-

- An Epona type bonus for successful broodmares, and
- Breeders given a choice regarding the First Win (Breeder) Bonus – either 50% as a service fee voucher or retain the existing Bonus as is

had both been referred to C Brown, Manager Harness Special Projects, at several meetings, and had been submitted to the October 2025 Harness Racing Consultative Group. No take-up was evident at this stage but WASBA

will continue to pursue a positive result for these or other initiatives to incentivise WA breeders. While financial considerations continue to be put forward as an impediment, the expected cost of these incentives is minimal.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The Chair spoke to the 2025 Presidents Report, adding comment on items listed in the Report:

- The racing year started with some uncertainty due to the introduction of the National Rating System (NRS) on 1 January, but results from that system have produced good results for fillies and mares in particular.
- The lower Westbred Bonus paid out due to the smaller 2yo crop
- Off The Track/retirement opportunities for our horses and mares continue to be supported by WASBA – all horses racing on any night will need to be supported in their post racing careers. It is important to place them somewhere in their life after racing.
- WASBA is proud of our achievements through our industry recognition and events that include awards, presentations and financial support to the industry. We are the only organisation that provides that support. WASBA makes every effort to identify and fill gaps in the programming involving Westbreds and mares and raise these with the harness office to schedule events accordingly.
- National breeding challenges are evident – WASBA is looking to find ways to incentives breeding, as well as racing for mares
- Disappointment that all other Eligible Bodies in WA supported the stallion tax, therefore expecting breeders to continue to pay for the benefit of others in the industry. This is a completely different view to all identified breeding and other organisations across Australia, who agree the stallion tax is an unfair imposition and detriment to breeders in Australia. WASBA gave every Eligible Body a chance to present and debate alternative perspectives long before the HRCG meeting, yet none of the bodies replied.
- Marketing and communication by RWWA in our view is a failure. RWWA believe they are putting their efforts where they can achieve the greatest outcome, which is not in harness, and then blaming harness for its failure to perform. Marketing and promotion is critical to any business
- The environment for fundraising continues to be testing, but we were pleasantly surprised with the success of the raffle even though breeders are generally lacking confidence in the future. We appreciate the support of Alabar for the great prize provided in the raffle, and to Cobbitty for providing a 10% discount on services for WASBA members. Merv Butterworth was extremely generous in offering two services to champion Copy That and we certainly appreciate his generous support and wish him every success.
- Analysis shows that fillies and mares are getting a well earned improved financial result from the dual concession, with a higher number of wins and higher stakes returns despite the lower number of races run.
- WASBA future priorities will continue to centre around improving outcomes for fillies and mares and WA bred horses to both maintain the racing product in a sustainable manner, and provide the racing stock for the future.
- Other issues and priorities were referenced in the Report.

The Chair commented on the efforts of the dedicated WASBA Committee, making special reference to Treasurer Howard King and supporter Denise Trobe, particularly in relation to work needed around the raffle, and maintaining the WASBA accounts.

The Chair referenced the challenges to our industry, including misunderstanding around the benefits of the subscription based QBRED bonus system against our free Westbred Bonus system which not only pays out more in bonuses, but has also paid over \$1.26 million in places against the one win per season QBRED system. In essence the QBRED is only beneficial if your horse wins one race in its career.

The Chair noted the perceived lack of true collaboration. The lack of response to initiatives presented was generally disappointing, but would not deter WASBA from continuing our efforts to redress inequities.

In closing, the Chair referenced the disparaging public remarks made by representatives of the other equine code and the need to recognise racing as an entertainment industry that has provided significant funds for government infrastructure over many decades, and deserves to be recognized and receive some recompense for that contribution.

The Chair quoted from the Report “no breeding = no horses = no industry” - there is no trainer who can train, or owner who can own, if a horse has not been bred.

The Chair opened the floor for questions or comments.

It was Moved D Trobe and **Seconded** J Schaper 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 referred to the change in auditor for 2025, commenting that it is not compulsory for WASBA to provide audited accounts but this process was a sound practice that ensured all our financial activities were in order. H King then provided an overview of the accounts:

- Results are similar to previous years.
- the Association is in a sound financial position. However, expenses are higher than revenue, which means in the long term WASBA will need to either raise more funds or reduce spending.
- The timing of the Report is on a cash basis, which may result in income and expenditure falling into different reporting years.

The Treasurer opened the floor for questions or comments.

The Treasurer reported the lower cost of this year’s audit by auditor Nathan Scott.

Moved J Fletcher and **Seconded** Mr D Perrella that the Financial Report for the 12 months ended 31 August 2025 be accepted. **(Carried)**

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Treasurer H King noted that the service provided by new auditor N Scott was both professional and cost effective, and Mr Scott would be approached for the role in 2026, should he wish to continue.

H King recommended that WASBA continue with an annual independent audit.

It was Moved W Dixon and **Seconded** J Fletcher that WASBA continue to arrange auditing services, with H King to arrange for auditing of the 2025/26 accounts when appropriate (**Carried**)

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

J Diederich moved aside from the Chair to enable Declaration of Committee positions.

Committee member P Borg took the Chair to announce that retiring Committee members J Diederich, H King, L Tabbakh, W Morrison and J Coffey had all re-nominated for Committee positions with all nominations conforming to the requirements of the Rules. With the same number of nominations as vacant positions on this cycle, 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.

A vacancy remains on the Committee. The Chair noted that the Committee would welcome any eligible member interest in a Committee position.

NOMINATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

J Diederich returned to the Chair.

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 members R (Bob) Fowler and M (Marilyn) Fowler

The Chair detailed the long association of Bob and Marilyn as members of WASBA, with Bob also serving a period as President, with Marilyn's assistance. Bob has been a long term sponsor of WASBA, providing both cash and stallion services to support WASBA endeavours.

Bob has extensive involvement in harness racing through his stud Allwood Farm, through importation of stallions and mares, through the provision of racing stock and the commitment to a variety of trainers to give them a grounding in the industry. He has also provided support to clubs, is a highly successful businessman across a diverse range of businesses and we are grateful for his involvement in our industry. Bob has represented harness on the RWWA Board for over 8 years until July this

year, and will step into a new role as Alternate Director once this is signed off by the Minister.

Bob and Marilyn have always contributed to WASBA through their sponsorship, attendance at events, and willingness to contribute in other ways.

It was **Moved** J Schaper and **Seconded** D Trobe that Bob and Marilyn Fowler be accepted as Life Members of WASBA. (**Carried**)

Life Membership will be awarded in conjunction with the WASBA 2025 Award function.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair opened the meeting for discussion on the General Business item to identify initiatives that could be put forward to RWWA for consideration.

1 Discussion item – Breeding and Racing initiatives.

Attendees commented that under the new programming initiatives, many horses were winning where they otherwise were not.

No initiatives or concepts were put forward. The Chair noted that feedback was always welcome.

2 Discussion item – Stallion Tax.

D Trobe commented that perhaps there was some ignorance regarding how the stallion tax worked and who was actually paying for the tax.

General discussion ensued with attendees commenting that the stallion tax was doing nothing to encourage breeding despite the spoken aims of the tax being to encourage breeding from Australian based stallions. While there was suggestion of potential benefits to encourage support for the tax, there is nothing of a potential benefit to those paying for the tax.

As the peak breeding body, the consensus was that other WA Eligible Bodies should have deferred to WASBA's position on the stallion tax and followed WASBA in opposing continuation of the tax. Some view it as beneficial without considering its impact on those who pay the tax.

The tax is a burden on Australian breeders who are deciding to breed less or not at all. WA breeders are obligated to choose the best stallion within their price range (the effect of the tax has been to take some stallions beyond range of many breeders) so that they can be competitive against imported horses - mostly New Zealand stock - who have been purchased as ready to race stock.

Those in attendance were unanimous in their support of WASBA's position on the stallion tax.

3 General.

D Trobe commended WASBA for their support for the industry, which was unique in the WA industry.

H King led final comments, thanking the Chair for her efforts throughout the year.

MEETING CLOSE

With no further matters raised, The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.55pm

...J Diederich.....
President

.....
21 November 2025