



# MINUTES

Of the

## 55TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) of

The WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STANDARDBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

held in the Presidents Room, GLOUCESTER PARK  
Friday 29th November 2024

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### PRESENT:

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J Diederich (President and Chair)

H King (Vice President/Treasurer), L Thompson–Millett, W Hayes, P Borg, J Fletcher, W Dixon, R MacKinnon, L Tabbakh, J Schaper, G Scott, W Morrison

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### APOLOGIES:

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A Walmsley, M Holtham, J Coffey, G Mortimer, Dom Perrella, Denise Perrella, S King, D Trobe, J Scotney, R (Bob) Fowler, H Cooper, K Cooper, P McAllister.

**PROXY HOLDERS:** H King for D Trobe

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### WELCOME

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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 and voiced appreciation for those members who had forwarded an apology.

The Chair expressed her condolences to the family of recently passed member K Ward.

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### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of the 54TH AGM

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| It was <b>Moved</b> J Fletcher and <b>Seconded</b> by P Borg that the Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting held on 24 November 2023, having being circulated to members, is accepted as a true and correct record. ( <b>Carried</b> ) |
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### Business Arising from the Minutes of the 54TH AGM

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Attendees acknowledged there was no business arising from the 54<sup>TH</sup> AGM

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### PRESIDENTS REPORT

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The Chair spoke to the 2024 Presidents Report, highlighting some of the areas detailed in the Report:

- The year was characterised by uncertainty but there definitely were positives in financial reward to owners and breeders
- The 2023 foal crop showed an increase, and the 2024 foal crop was expected to be similar
- The increase in Epona benefits should see gains in the future
- WASBAs contribution to Off The Track and rehoming support was noteworthy, with the working relationship with the Standardbred Pleasure and Performance Horse Association of WA (SPPHAWA) very positive, resulting in benefits to standardbreds (WA and mares) in the show entries and the show ring
- RWWA's commitment to Off The Track was a positive, but more involvement of industry representatives is necessary to address shortcomings
- The support for Off The Track from clubs and other organisations appeared to be below par
- WASBA Awards presentations and financial contribution to the industry continues to be exceptional through the provision of rugs, garlands trophies, stakes supplements, breeding vouchers and the annual awards in conjunction with the WA APG Yearling Sale
- Continuous improvement in terms of starter and winner percentages over recent years and the need to ensure that programming under the soon to be introduced national system will continue the upward trend
- Owners were benefiting from the extension of the racing season, but work needed to occur on fixturing of juvenile races in particular
- Nationally there had been a notable decline in breeding
- The free return situation remained an issue, with little progress to date in reverting to previous rules regarding breeder options
- Noting the improvement in returns for fillies and mares, a lot still needed to be done to further encourage their careers via race programming for fillies and mares, as well as general middle tier racing
- Breeding organisations continue to oppose the stallion levy unless it is targeted at agreed breeding options
- Slot racing needed to find their own funding source
- The return of the rotational Inter Dominions was a strong recommendation from a previous WASBA survey
- The success of the two new Narrogin \$14,000 races introduced in collaboration with the Narrogin club. The need to program more \$14,000 races targeted at WA bred horses
- The expected lower results from fund raising and implications for the future
- 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's intention to continue to advocate for change to the rules regarding free returns and evidence of testosterone from ovarian tumours
- The monthly Newsletter covering relevant news across all harness jurisdictions
- The timing of some RWWA actions impacted breeder confidence.

The Chair commented on the invaluable support of our sponsors, especially Alabar, Woodlands Stud and Allwood Stud Farm, and the huge effort over a number of years by Code Director R Fowler.

The Chair thanked the WASBA Committee, noting the resignation of Committee member Peter McAllister and his contribution to development of the WASBA constitution and general business acumen.

The Chair singled out the efforts of Vice President/Treasurer Howard King, and member Denise Trobe for the considerable work done throughout the year, especially to make the WASBA Stallion Service Raffle a success.

The Chair referenced racing in terms of being an entertainment industry that needs to be acknowledged as such, with associated costs but significant rewards even if these aren't financial.

In closing, 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.

A positive outlook is critical to the success of the industry and to attract new owners and breeders. 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.

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| <p><b>It was Moved</b> L Thompson–Millett and <b>Seconded</b> J Schaper that the President's Report be accepted. (<b>Carried</b>)</p> |
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## TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Treasurer H King thanked auditor G Scott for his work and spoke to his Report, noting:

- The increase in expenses over revenue.
- The timing of the Report is on a cash basis, often resulting in income and expenditure falling into different reporting years. An example is the payment of the 2023 Raffle prize, which fell into the current reporting year while the income was in the previous year.
- The Stallion Tender produced a fair result. However there is increasing difficulty in obtaining the stallions that breeders wish to use.
- The overall result from the Stallion Raffle and Stallion Tender was as good as we could expect in the current circumstances.
- Breeder subsidies were higher with the provision of more \$500 service fee vouchers.
- While the balance is lower, the Association is in a sound financial position.

The Treasurer opened the floor for questions or comments.

**Moved** L Tabbakh and **Seconded** P Borg that the Financial Report for the 12 months ended 31 August 2024 be accepted. **(Carried)**

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## **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

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Treasurer H King thanked Auditor Mr G Scott for his work over recent years, noting that Mr Scott was stepping down from the role.

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. He therefore recommended that WASBA continue with this process.

**It was Moved** J Schaper and **Seconded** W Morrison that WASBA continue to arrange auditing services, with H King to arrange for a new independent auditor for the 2024/25 accounts. **(Carried)**

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## **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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The Chair reported that retiring Committee members were J Fletcher, P Borg, M Holtham and J Schaper, with P McAllister retiring earlier in the year.

The four retiring Committee members renominated for vacant positions. Additionally, member J Scotney nominated for a vacant position. No other nominations were received. All nominations conformed to the requirements of the Rules.

Under Rule 18(1) of the Constitution the Chair declared that J Fletcher, P Borg, M Holtham, J Schaper and J Scotney were Elected Members of the WASBA 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 interest in a Committee position from any member.

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## **NOMINATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

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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 member Denise Trobe

The Chair noted that D Trobe had received a Ladies of Pacing dedication to Harness award, for her significant contribution to the industry. However, awarding Life membership of WASBA related to her work in support of WASBA not the industry as a whole.

President J Diederich detailed the extensive support that D Trobe had voluntarily provided to WASBA over at least a decade, including attendance/assistance at race presentations and assistance with awards, significant contribution with Facebook articles and photographs, feedback and liaison with industry participants, as well as going above and beyond to assist WASBA with raffle sales, to the extent that the 2024 raffle delivered better results than expected.

**It was Moved** J Fletcher and **Seconded** L Thompson-Millett that Denise Trobe be accepted as a Life Member of WASBA. **(Carried)**

Life Membership will be awarded in conjunction with the WASBA 2024 Award function, at this stage expected to be held in March 2025

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## GENERAL BUSINESS

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### 1 Discussion item – Breeding and Racing initiatives.

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

The Chair noted the two initiatives that WASBA were currently promoting:

- An Epona type bonus for broodmares, based on a mare being able to accumulate bonuses based on her winning progeny in each season. The expected annual cost had been calculated at \$150,000 which was a very modest amount of money for the expected benefit to the industry.
- Give breeders a choice, to take half the First Win (Breeder) Bonus as a breeding voucher on microchipping of a foal, or wait for the full First Win Bonus on that horses' first win. This was calculated to be cost neutral for RWWA but would give impetus to breeders at the right time of the season to make breeding decisions.

Attendees indicated their support for these initiatives. W Hayes believed that the second option involving the First Win Bonus would be extremely likely to have a positive impact on breeding numbers.

J Schaper noted that RWWA have funding pressures. The Chair commented that the First Win option was cost neutral to RWWA and was expected to have immediate and positive results.

No further concepts were put forward. The Chair suggested that any feedback on the topic would be welcome at any time.

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## MEETING CLOSE

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With no further matters raised, The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.57pm

...J Diederich.....  
President

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29<sup>th</sup> November 2024