

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE AUCKLAND RACING CLUB
HELD IN THE HUNTERVILLE ROOM, ASCOT STAND ON 29 OCTOBER 2019

- Present** D Alderslade (Chairman), T K Barry, B Cooper, V Donnison, K Gourdie, L Hutchison ONZM, A J Moore, D Nakhle, F Sing, R M Warwick, R P Wilcox, M Germain and the following members:
L W Allchorne, D R Barker, R J Bell, I Bridge, J F Bruford, C E Buckingham, M G Chitty, S E Cole, A P Dell'Isola, G J Donoghue, R N Ennis, K J R Ennis, G T Flynn, W J Gianotti, R Hawthorn, C M Jillings, C A Leishman, G F Logan, J Long, J K Masterson, A M Musson, M K Otto, D Paykel, R A Quadras, C J Sansome, W G Slee, M Spratling, M A Sumich, M A Taylor, P J Walker, R E Wells, G J Williams, J Wyatt Sargent, D Martin, C Fenwick, O Kinley & K Steven-Riley.
- Apologies** G E Vazey, P T Kiely, A C Seabrook, Sir P Hogan, D G Benjamin, M L O Williams, V M Carter, J B Bell, B R Spooner, P F Dooly, D Archer, L A Warwick, J Carter, M Carter, K Stocker, B G Neville-White, R J Chitty, P G Kenny, J P Landrigan & S Blyth.
- CEO** P Wilcox welcomed the members to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and noted the agenda for the meeting.
- Chairman** D Alderslade declared the AGM open at 4.30pm.

D Alderslade asked for apologies from the floor.

D Alderslade acknowledged the members that had passed away in the past year with a moment of silence.
- Chairman's Report** D Alderslade presented the Chairman's report of the Club for 2018/19.

The motion to accept the Chairman's report was put.
(Moved A J Moore / A M Musson)
Motion Approved
- Finance report** L Hutchison presented the Financial Report of the Club for 2018/19.

The motion to accept the Finance Report and accept the Statement of Accounts for 2018/19 was put.
(Moved A M Musson / R N Ennis)
Motion Approved
- Election of Officials** P Wilcox announced the re-appointment of D Alderslade as Chairman.

D Alderslade announced that as nominations for the four positions of Directors did exceed the vacancies there was a vote that was audited by KPMG. The following were appointed as Directors:
- Andrew Christie
 - Brent Cooper

- Frank Sing
- Geoff Vazey

D Alderslade congratulated the appointed Directors.

D Alderslade noted that Andrew Christie is new to the Board.

Life Membership

D Alderslade acknowledged Ivan Bridge's contribution to the Club over the years and presented him with a Life Membership.

Ivan Bridge accepted his Life Membership and thanked the Board.

General Business

D Alderslade asked for any General Business or questions from the floor.

G J Williams:

- congratulated the Board for the Club's amazing facilities and new stable complex.
- noted that in his opinion the \$10,000 minimum stake is too low.
- felt that there were too many security staff working when he attended a recent raceday and suggested we have some ambassadors oncourse to help people that have not been to Ellerslie before.
- believes there needs to be some collaboration between the Auckland Clubs.

D Alderslade responded that the Board discuss stakes levels regularly and noted it has an obligation to consider that issue in the context of securing the Club's finances into the future as well as what is best for the industry.

P Wilcox noted regarding security that the Club needs to be ready for anything and everything.

R M Warwick noted he would like to have the highest stakes possible. The amount of money that the Club puts into stakes, over and above the contribution from NZTR, is substantial and in his personal view, the funding policy needs attention at NZTR level, as it is not fairly acknowledging the Clubs that contribute the largest amount of money throughout New Zealand.

P Wilcox noted the Club's communications informing members and patrons about news and events. The Club endeavours to make Ellerslie the best possible place for owners to race their horses.

P Walker asked how many \$10,000 races the Club holds and suggested putting the minimum stakes up to \$15,000 or \$20,000, costing around \$75,000 additional per year.

G J Donoghue asked if the Goldstar Membership is by invitation.

P Wilcox noted that Goldstar Membership was created at a time when the Club was looking to raise funds. The Club is appreciative of what the Goldstar members did in its time of need, but now that the Club is better placed financially it is no longer accepting new members into Goldstar.

R E Wells:

- congratulated the Club on the September newsletter and noted he would like to know more about what is going on with the Club throughout the year.
- noted the pond area is looking very good, with the fence around it now. He added that there are areas around the course that need maintaining.
- noted there is not a lot of room behind the starting gates at the 2400 mark and asked the Board to look at the quality of the fencing in this area by the leased land.

P Wilcox responded that the Club does not shorten the distance of 2400m. It moves according to the rail position. He would speak to the Club's Track Manager about the fence and make sure it is re-fenced so that it is visually attractive.

R E Wells suggested removing some of the plant material from the brick wall from the corner of Mitchelson and Walpol Streets.

P Wilcox noted the Club has started this process on Mitchelson Street and the brick wall that is yet to be done is the lessee's, but the Club is committed to making it look good when time permits.

R E Wells noted he is concerned about the orange cones that are put out in surrounding streets on big racedays.

P Wilcox responded that the Club has to adhere to the Club's traffic management safety plan. The council places the cones on the surrounding streets in line with their requirements.

R E Wells noted a report stated the Auckland population has risen by 70,000 over the past 5 years and he feels the Club needs to get more people oncourse.

P Wilcox noted the challenges in that regard. Last year the Club had 6,000 more attendees than the year before and if the Club could make a gain of 6,000 each year it would be very positive. There is a focus on marketing to make people more aware of what we do and getting them to come and have a good experience at Ellerslie.

R E Wells noted he has had an interest in racing for many years and would like to see the Club maintain excellence in everything we do.

P Wilcox noted his appreciation.

J Wyatt-Sargent asked if the Board had any concerns about the Messara Report.

D Alderslade responded that there are aspects of the Messara Report that the Board do not particularly support. The main one being the proposal to nationalise all assets. The Board has opened channels of communication with other Auckland Clubs and feels if they collaborate it opens up great opportunities for racing in the Auckland region.

D Alderslade noted the call to privatise the TAB. The Board has met with RITA and a paper is being prepared showing the pros and cons. D Alderslade added that his personal view is that we cannot be paranoid or

xenophobic about the TAB being managed solely in New Zealand, if that is not going to produce a commercial model which in the future is going to work for NZ. D Alderslade suggested we should be looking at what is the best return for what we are producing, with certain safeguards and promotion of NZ racing.

D Alderslade noted the venue scenario is a very delicate subject. In his view we have to reduce the number of tracks and put our focus and money into the remaining tracks to provide comfortable facilities to racegoers.

M A Sumich noted his main concern is the figure of 57,000 people that attended over 19 racedays last season. He added that after doing the maths. It works out to an average of 3,000 per raceday and asked after taking the top racedays out are we getting under 1,000 on some racedays?

P Wilcox responded that there are 6-8 well attended meetings and the rest we have to work hard to attract oncourse attendance. Increasing attendance is however a priority with the whole team.

M A Sumich noted one way to increase attendance is to have more racemeetings at Ellerslie.

D Alderslade responded that is not just the Club's decision as we have to work with NZTR. The Board thinks the current programming is not conducive to what NZ racing needs. He added that a lot will depend on what comes out of the Messara Report in terms of the number of venues and the projected number of meetings held in the Auckland region. In the Messara Report the Club is slated to convert to a Strathayr track and if that eventuates we could hold meetings in the high twenties. A lot also depends on what happens in the Waikato and the Greenfields proposal for that region.

P Wilcox added that another issue is the media's coverage of the sport of racing. They appear to be more open to the negative aspects of racing than the good news stories.

M A Sumich asked if the Club closes the gates on Boxing Day and if so, what is the cut off number.

P Wilcox responded that the police dictate the numbers safely allowed oncourse.

R Bell thanked the Board for the contribution of their time to serve on the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 5.34pm

Signed _____ Date _____