

PONY CLUB VICTORIA
ABN 6432002009
STATE COUNCIL MEETING REPORT



Meeting Date: Tuesday 8 September 2020
Location: "Irving House", 73-75 Mackie Rd, Mulgrave. VIC (Online meeting)

In Attendance –

Online: Peter Favalaro (PF) - President, James Lang (JL)– Vice President, Linda Smith(LS) Vice President, Helen Simmons (HS) – Treasurer, Ian Don (ID) – NEZ, Beth McCann (BM) – NMZ, Jan Calaby (JC) – BZ, Leonie Lang (LL) - CZ, Sue Foley (SF) – MZ, , Shari Mawson – Cannon (SMC) – NZ, Carol Rotherham (CR) – SMZ, Lisa Hocking (LH) – WGZ, Rod Keast (RK) – WZ, Jan Bromwich (JB) – EGZ, Rick Gill (EO)

Visitors Mark Burnell (MB) – AHIC, Kathleen Kindler (KK) – PCV Coaching Coordinator, Suanne Waugh (SW) – PCV Communications Officer, Deryck Tindall (DT) and Gordon Robertson (GR) Crowe Horwath Auditors.

Presentation by Mark Burnell, President of Australian Horse Industry Council

Mark provided a background of the AHIC which is representation to government on equestrian related matters in particular disease outbreaks.

Current issue is a potential outbreak of African Horse Sickness which has potential to heavily impact the industry, and the National Traceability register. AHIC believe that the PIC system if more functional would work better.

Communications Officer reports.

SW presented the Communications Officer report. This year the membership renewal process went very well considering the move to mandatory credit/debit. While staff were kept very busy answering member queries, many of these were the result of clubs incorrectly completing the member details instead of members in prior years, and members not familiar with their profile. There were some clubs that required assistance but mostly members and clubs managed to navigate their way well.

Social media campaigns were working well, such as Fun Friday, Tips, and Rider's Tool Kit. OSM Database development continues.

A series of webinars is in development and shortly to be rolled out including database use for clubs, and coaches and rider webinars.

Coaching Co-ordinator Report

KK presented the Coaching Director report. Since taking on the role has been very busy with COVID disrupting normal business. A series of facebook groups has been set up all targeted at various members needs, riders, coaches, certificates, etc. There have been very positive outcomes and these will continue after the pandemic passes.

Is working with Communications Officer to produce webinars for coaches.

Auditors provided a report on the audited statements and thanked staff for their assistance. Financial statements will be distributed to clubs prior to the AGM.

Bitless Bridles: State Council determined that bitless bridles as allowed for by the PCA policy only applied to rallies. State Council determined that bitless bridles not be permitted for competition as it was a safety issue.

First Aid rules. The rules committee are considering changes, particularly for Eventing. PCA are also considering changes.

Request for full affiliation of Learmonth PC. MZ Zone Rep outlined that the club are fulfilling all the requirements of affiliation and doing well. The application is supported by the Zone

SC approved the affiliation of Learmonth PC as a Full Member.

2021 Rules: A CIP recommendation to re-instate D certificate as prerequisite for Horse Trials was not supported by State Council

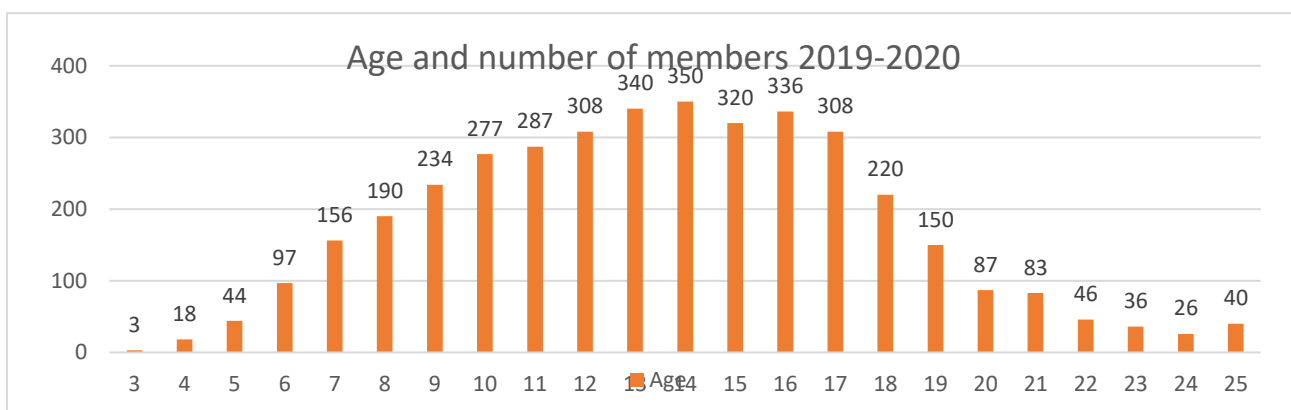
Acceptance of National Competition Gear Rules for National Championships was supported

Brooke Charteris acceptance as new SMZ Chief Instructor.

Member Categories.

State Council has been considering member categories as a means to stimulate membership within clubs. Finance and Risk committee has recommended that a new pre-junior category be established to address the lack of 7 year old's and under within the association.

Suggested New Member Category for members aged 7 and under: Little Tackers



Rationale:

Pony Club Victoria is a youth and children's organisation with a fundamental objective to provide education and activities for their equestrian journey. However, the number of members aged 7 and under is disproportionate and initiatives are required to increase new members and to encourage retention. In the full year of 2019/20 there were only 162 registered junior members under aged 7, less than 1 in every club on average.

One of our core values is recognising that everyone's equestrian journey is different and we need to cater to this difference.

Most other sports have dedicated programs for this aged member which aims to provide an entry point to the sport that is based on fun, and learning using a modified participation model. Children in this age group have different learning requirements and ability to remain engaged than older children. It is easy to lose children and their parents if the fundamental reason they are coming to pony club is not being met, ie they are not having fun. Short, sharp programs with an emphasis on age appropriate fun are the common denominator in all these programs from other sports.

Children that are engaged and having fun are more likely to be longer term members. If we were to attract just 200 more members, either through attracting new members or retaining existing members at aged 7 over 10 years the cumulative effect would mean an estimated 1000 member increase as these new members move through the age groups (allowing for attrition). An increase of 200 is not much more than 1 new member aged under 7 per club.

Eligibility:

Children aged 7 and under. Eligibility will be optional - Parents can choose for their child to participate as a Junior or as a Little Tacker. Like the Adult Member, Little Tackers will be optional for clubs to offer. Little Tackers can still work towards Certificates. Not available for graded competition. Membership can be upgraded to a full junior membership at any time.

Price:

It is recommended that the annual price point be set at 50% of the current Junior Member price for the PCV component (\$76). This is a considerable discount and includes insurance which will cost the same as the current Junior insurance. PCV will make less margin, which is offset against an increase in members in these age groups. Clubs are able to charge what they like for this category (as they are for all categories) however it is hoped that in the spirit of the objectives of Little Tackers club costs will also be 50% of regular junior membership.

Program:

To be developed in conjunction with the CIP with advice from SF from Midland Zone. In principle it will be a reduced hours program to recognise the attention span and physical limitations from small children. There are some clubs already holding limited programs for younger members. There will be some core requirements which will be formed as part of the program development. Clubs will be required to call this membership Little Tackers (or another agreed name) if it is offered. While the name Little Tackers is suggested, this name is only a recommendation. It was suggested that a competition be held to choose a suitable name.

Promotion.

The advantage of having a specific program for younger children will allow it to be promoted and therefore attract members.

Motion: That State Council adopt this member category for the 2021 year. CIP to develop a program with advice from Sue Foley that will be suitable for this age group prior to November 2020. PCV to commence promotion.

Moved JL seconded LL All in favour. Carried.

Volunteers aged 80 and over.

Gow Gates have been requested to include volunteers aged over 80 in the policy without having to individually notify the insurer.

PCVEC Sale Update.

The PCVEC sale is expected to be unconditional 14th September.

Mulgrave Sale Update

No further progress due to Covid restrictions.

Update on Safety by Rules Committee.

JL provided a summary:

A first draft is complete and will be available for comment and with an aim to deliver by end of year. Will involve training for Course Builders, TD's and other officials.

There will be a need to phase in the recommendations to avoid overwhelming clubs.

Request for payment plan for PCV memberships

It is not possible to provide payments through the OSM system. Clubs can implement their own payments for members for club fees outside of OSM if they wish. EO to inquire with Zip Pay.

President Report

PF advised that nominations had closed with all State Council renominating. A nomination had been received from Central Zone from Des Haliday and Leonie Lang had withdrawn.

This year has been difficult and looking to 2021 to be much better.

Executive Officer Report

Much time has been spent with the audit and grant application process. We have been very successful with grants. Continue to meet weekly with Sport and Rec and all other sports with input into DHHS directions. The membership renewal process went well this year though it kept staff busy.

Finance Report

Annual report to include a PCVEC P/L

\$200K grant, first \$100k to be received before end of Sept.

July-August reports tabled noting that MYOB requires adjusting to match audited statements. This will be done when accountant has final adjustments advised by auditor. Currently working on unadjusted accounts. The adjustments are not material.

Audit reports include a signed solvency statement.

Treasurer advised caution with the cash proceeds from the sale of PCVEC and the government grants. Funds need to be invested into capital programs that grow the association.

Noted that the loyalty to the Pony Club brand has been strong with membership renewals showing a stronger than expected return.

Governance Update

Notice of meeting to be sent by end of week to member clubs. Information on AGM and SGM to be sent to members. Currently working through a process to best run the voting at the SGM.

Zone Reps are strongly encouraged to promote the SGM and AGM to their clubs once the notice of meeting has been sent.

COVID-19 Update

Not a lot of change with Stage 4 lockdown in metro Melbourne and Stage 3 in Regional. It is expected that there will be some relaxation as infections continue to drop. Currently no on-the-ground activity at clubs though a lot of effort is being put into online engagement with a lot of success.

Following a discussion the following was resolved:

Motion:

Rally attendances be reduced from 5 for juniors to 2. Associates to remain at 2 also

The name of Associates Member change to Senior Member

The age of Associate (now termed Senior) Members be increased to 18 and above, with Junior Members under 18 years.

Between October 2020 and March 2021 it will be permissible to record a rally attendance at 2 clubs each month to assist with qualifying for State Championships.

Clubs need to be encouraged to hold more than 1 rally perm month to allow value from memberships for time lost, and to be able to record attendances to enable to qualify for state championships

GFMR: With the event being held in June and shorter days, State Council resolved to drop the number to games to 8. This should assist with practice. Zone Reps to request feedback from their clubs. Look at quick game and games with similar equipment to shorten the day. Need to push to have teams in especially Musical Ride and teams of 4.

As the GFMR is being held in June, it must be using an all weather arena.

Discussed what will happen with Horse Trials. Committee has not met yet but will discuss. There will need to be an EOI for a venue. HT Committee to make recommendations

Next meeting 10 November 2020.

Meeting close 2.25 pm