

# PONY CLUB VICTORIA

Inc # A00134135

## REPORT STATE COUNCIL MEETING



Meeting Date: Tuesday 5 February 2019  
Location: "Irving House", 73-75 Mackie Rd, Mulgrave. VIC 3757

### Opened 10.15 am

#### In Attendance –

Peter Favalaro (PF) - President, James Lang (JL) – Vice President, Sue Muirhead (SM) Vice President, Ian Don (ID) – NEZ, Rod Keast (RK) – WZ Coral Byrne (CB) – BZ, David Stammers (CZ), Val Armstrong (VA) – for EGZ, Sue Foley (SF) – MZ, Beth McCann – NMZ, Shari Mawson – Cannon (SM) – NZ, Graeme Johnstone (GJ) – SMZ, Lisa Hocking (LH) – WGZ. Rick Gill (EO)

#### Apologies –

Geoffrey Tulett - Treasurer, Jan Bromwich EGZ

### 1021 Director Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Nil

The meeting agreed that everything discussed at State Council is in confidence, including documents. After the meeting a summary report (this report) is produced that is public and for State Councillors to take back to their zones to report with.

#### State Treasurer

It was with much regret that Geoff Tulett has resigned as treasurer due to work commitments. Geoff's work was very much appreciated including much better financial reporting and practices. An EOI has been advertised for a replacement.

#### Governance planning

Zone Representatives had previously sent questions to clubs in their zones to provide feedback on the governance changes presented at the SGM October 13 and provide a report to State Council at this meeting, in order to develop a strategy to move forward. Zone Reps reported that there was some misunderstanding on sending in the same format which did delay sending out the questions in some zones. Not all zones were able to receive responses in time for this meeting.

Zone representatives gave an outline on the reports received to date. In all less than 30 clubs out of 181 had provided responses with the response rate too small and varied to make any reasonable conclusions. The responses were very mixed as far as supporting or not the proposed changes.

Council discussed the process on the lead up to the SGM, including the appointment of proxies. Appointment of proxies is set in concrete within the constitution and there is little that can be done with the process. Also discussed was the initial planning in 2017 that had left clubs out of the loop with their input, all agreed that that did not help. A better communication plan needed to be in place to ensure members had full information from the start. In addition, some of the processes that a new board would operate under needed to be more fully outlined including the nominations committee and board policies. These should be in place before an SGM to avoid doubt.

Council considered more time was required to gather club feedback. A special meeting is being held on 11 March to consider governance and to develop the next strategic plan 2019-2021.

#### Finance Policy

Policy formally approved by SC. EO reported that the amount of outstanding accounts has improved dramatically as now everyone was very clear on the rules around payments. Clubs are thanked for their efforts to ensure all payments are made on time. There are very few clubs with accounts outstanding.

### **Online Entries**

Zones are encouraged to ensure all zone events are conducted through MyPonyClub and to encourage their clubs to use MPC. The online entry system has all forms included in the entry process, there should now be no need to complete any paper based forms at all. All clubs should now be having their members pay their membership online. Aside from being easier to all – member, secretary and PCV staff, and having the money in the club account straight away, it avoids errors in data entry which often crop up when the members want to log onto their profile and it prevents them from accessing their profile to enter an event.

### **Mentor Program**

EOI for club mentors did not get too far with the issue being payments for travel. This issue has gone away to some extent, however with the bulk of any funding being for travel the program is stagnating. Executive had recommended that the budget for the Mentor Program be forwarded to zones as some zones were conducting their own. EO advised that the program required a rethink and discussions had been held with Sport and Rec about continued support. Coaching Director and EO have been working on some revisions and have a good idea where to head. It was agreed that whatever is produced needs to be consistent across the state, and some of the initiatives in some zones was working. The budget is to remain within PCV and used to produce resources and support zones to deliver. Sue Foley, Shari Mawson-Cannon, EO and Coaching Director to collaborate to develop.

### **Day Membership**

EO outlined that Pony Club is about clubs, and not about insurance. PC is one of the very few sports or even the only sport that actively encouraged participation without having to be a member. If someone wanted to ride they can simply turn up to the appropriate event, pay a \$10 fee to cover insurance – which goes to the insurance company not PCV - (or \$0 if they belong to EV or HRCV and can show their membership), plus whatever fee the club imposes and ride. All PCV members pay in excess of \$160 per year of which around \$25 is for insurance. The rest covers development of the sport, managing risks, coaching and resources, training etc. This means that the members who pay their \$160 are subsidising those non-members who pay nothing, and in real terms are costing PCV money. EO outlined that it is a core principle that PCV being a club based organisation that anyone who participates should be a member even if it just for a day, and therefore contribute. SC resolved to keep the current situation as is, that participants who have insurance elsewhere continue to not pay any fee to PCV, and those that did not have insurance pay an increased fee of \$15 effective July 1.

Adult competition annual memberships were discussed and was deferred to April SC meeting.

### **Blocking out a day for State Training workshop**

It was raised by the CIP that a date could be blocked out for state training. In the past it has been difficult to set a date as there are always events on any given weekend. Council considered it not practical to block out a date and recommended that the program needed revamping to attract participants. The program is in the midst of being redeveloped. SC recommended that several workshops be conducted.

### **Removing age restrictions on certificate testing.**

Certificates are competency based. All age limitations are to be removed from certificate testing and to be recommended ages only, effective immediately.

### **Open up entries to all teams and change of format.**

A motion from the GFMR committee recommended changing the games to Saturday and the flat events Sunday as this would suit competitors better. In addition, all riders who qualify should be able to enter the event, and not just restricted to a limited number of teams from each zone. Some zones were very strong in games and some zones struggled to field a team at all. Zones teams would be allocated based on zone rankings until available places are filled. Both initiatives were supported by SC. Effective from and including the 2019 GFMR.

### **Shade marquees at PCVEC.**

State Council supported a request of EO, GFMR and PCVEC committees to purchase several PCV branded marquees. TO be used for gear check, first aid and as required. It is essential that PCVEC be better branded.

### **Strategic Planning**

It is essential that PCV has in place a strategic plan that is endorsed and 'owned' by the State Council. The current plan expires this year, and in addition to having a strong plan that provides a means to achieve our vision, is also suitable to base our next funding application to SRV. A draft plan and rationale has been provided to SC members and is heavily based on the Members Survey which all clubs now have a comprehensive report on, the results of a strategic planning session at the State Conference in October, and from feedback from club, zone and event visits. A date of 11 March has been set aside to devote to planning. Governance and budget will also be discussed as these tie in.

### **Zone Rep remuneration**

Zone reps are paid a small amount to assist with the costs of attending meetings and this has not been reviewed in many years. EO to come up with a proposal that is a fairer way to offset cost of attending meetings.

### **Meeting closed 5.30pm**

Next meetings 11 March, 2 April.