



**Minutes of the Board of ESNZ Endurance
Held from 8.30pm on 9th December 2019
Zoom Meeting**

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|-----------------|------------------------|----|
| Present: | Marie Wakeling (Chair) | MW |
| | Sue Billigheimer | SB |
| | Daryl Owen | DO |
| | Paula Adams | PA |
| | Jess Kennedy | JK |
| | Jenny Weston | JW |
| | Shane Dougan | SD |

In Attendance: Jo Lankow – Endurance Administrator & Minute Taker JL
Vicki Glynn – ESNZ Secretary General from 8.50pm VG

1. Welcome:

Marie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Discussion on FEI Rules and Championship Events

- Need to sort out the best way to deal with the FEI Rule changes that are going to impact on our championship events for this season.
- What happens from next season onwards is another discussion that will need to be had.
- The members are the ones who need to decide what happens but need to make sure the right questions are put to them.
- Have a referendum/survey as that will allow the Board to make a decision based on what the members want.
- Need to know if the members are happy to continue with combined championship classes or if they would prefer separate CEI and CEN championship classes.
- Based on comments from members to date the general feeling in both Islands seems to be a preference for CEN however there are likely to be a small number of members with a strong preference to retain CEI rides either to make their horses more attractive for sale or because they wish to represent NZ internationally.
- Can't make a decision not to hold CEI partway through the season. If no CEI classes were to be held at Nationals then the decision needs to come from the members and the process needs to be transparent.
- If a survey is done Jo can check the eligibility of those who participate to ensure they are all members.

Vicki joined the meeting at 8.50pm

Vicki doesn't think the NZL vote at the GA was counted. There were 120 able to vote. 94 voted for and 19 against with no abstentions so some votes didn't get counted. When there were so many voting for the changes Vicki didn't think it was wise to vote against, as the relationship between ESNZ and the FEI needed to be considered and there was nothing to be gained by voting against. Additionally, Vicki had been instrumental in getting some of the amendments made. Had votes been recorded then she would have voted against.

Sue commented that most of the members had definitely wanted to vote against the rules. Vicki said the FEI didn't want the rules implemented until 1st July 2020 but the ETC wanted them from 1st January.

Vicki felt the only people who benefit from FEI events are those wanting to sell horses or wanting to compete at WEG/WEC.

Shane commented that Wairarapa Club doubt they will hold FEI events in the future. It wasn't just about the cost to hold the events but all the other things such as presentation times, minimum weight for juniors, qualifications etc.

Vick said the FEI were going to vote for a minimum weight of 55kg vs 60 kg but she didn't think that was right and asked for the first vote to be for no minimum weight. That was only lost by 7 votes.

Daryl said the qualification and number of officials required would also be an issue but Vicki advised that we may be able to get exemptions for those things from the FEI and that was one of the reasons why she didn't want to vote against the rules. Any request for exemptions would need to be on a case by case basis for events and couldn't be for all CEI rides in NZ over a season.

Marie stated it was costly for the clubs to hold FEI events and most of these events incurred a loss, with the added cost of more foreign officials and not knowing if exemptions would be applied, it was now starting to get unmanageable and unsustainable for the clubs to hold FEI events.

Shane had spoken to Peter Toft and Peter was still going to support our sport this season regardless of whether we continued to run CEI events or not this season.

Vicki said that the FEI had announced at the GA that it was the last chance for Endurance to sort their issues and get the rules right otherwise the FEI may remove Endurance as a discipline. Sue commented that the Endurance countries may remove themselves from FEI Endurance.

Jenny questioned whether it would be fair to drop CEI classes partway through the season. Some riders could be aiming for qualification for World Champs and may have planned their season around being able to enter CEI at the Champs events.

After much discussion a decision was made to do a survey and it was decided to ask the following three questions::

1. Do you want separate CEI and CEN championship classes at the Nationals YES/No?
2. Do you wish to ride in a CEI class at Nationals YES/NO?
3. If Yes to question 2 then are you prepared to pay a premium to ride CEI YES/NO?

- The survey to include a link to the 2020 FEI rules only, not to the individual changes.
- It was decided that the Island Champs needed to go ahead as planned with CEI classes being held, either combined with CEN or as separate classes. That would be up to the OC to decide what was best for their event. If separate it would also be up to the OC to decide if the entry fees for both would be the same or different.
- If only CEN at champs events then would still need three vets on the VC plus a treatment vets but no foreign vet or official would be required.
- Jo to set up the survey and give the members a week in which to reply.
- Marie to prepare a notice to be sent out to the members.

- TC to prepare rules for the 2020/2021 season in case the decision is made to go with CEN only.

Daryl said the members who had spoken to her felt the Board would not do anything and the status quo would remain. Daryl has stressed to those members that the Board can't make the decision regards CEI v CEN. That has to be made by the members.

Vicki asked the question if Endurance needed to part of ESNZ if we weren't holding FEI events. Shane said yes as it gives our sport kudos being a discipline of ESNZ. And it also gives our results legitimacy. Marie and Sue both said that among their discussions with the members no one had mentioned wanting to not be part of ESNZ.

Jess suggested we should ask the membership and put it to a vote at the AGM

Daryl doesn't want foreign riders to have to join ESNZ and a club to compete in CEN rides. Whether or not foreign riders needed to join ESNZ was not a decision the Endurance Board could make. But Jo advised the Board could exempt the foreign riders from joining a club.

3. Other matter for discussion

Code of Conduct – Jess asked about the Endurance Code of Conduct but was advised we use the ESNZ one.

Cheque Signatories and Internet Banking access – Sue enquired about progress for getting Murray Ingram set up as a signatory and for Internet Banking. There was some confusion over Murray vs Warrick who already has access rights but still hadn't received his password.

A resolution was passed to have Murray Ingram as a cheque signatory and have access for the Internet Banking and Warrick Allan to be removed as a cheque signatory.

Moved: Shane/Sue

Club Schedules – the TC to draft a statement advising the clubs and officials to forward schedules to Paula and that will save Jo having to do anything with the schedules.

Marie thanked Vicki for joining the meeting.

Vicki said she doesn't think people appreciate how hard she fought at the GA and now wonders if it was worth it. The FEI had advised her when she arrived that they had the numbers to put the rule changes through.

Sue replied that the Board appreciated the work she had put in but the members just think it was a case of voting yes or no.

It was difficult to get the members to understand that we are just one vote out of 120.

Vick said she had been summoned to a meeting on day two to ask how she was going to vote. She did the best she could but could not get enough changes made to make the rules viable for New Zealand.

Marie said we just need to battle on and that the membership will let the Board know what they want.

Vicki commented that most equestrian sports are user pays so if it costs more to enter CEI then those riders should be paying more.

Daryl asked what was going out to the members the following day. Marie is going to draft an announcement

Daryl also commented that the rule changes had actually made the decision on CEI versus CEN easier to make.

4. Close of Meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

25. Next Meeting

To be held at Palmerston North on 15th February.