



VICTORIAN HARNESS RACING CLUB INC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 30th November 2019

The Sixty Fourth Annual General Meeting of Ordinary and Life Members of the Victorian Harness Racing Sports Club were convened for 5pm on Saturday 30 November 2019.

At 5.10 pm the President, Mr Emmy Mazzetti occupied the chair and a quorum was reached of 20 attendees.

E Mazzetti welcomed all Members and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were received and accepted from: Glenda Adams, Margaret Anderson, Ronald Anderson, Len Baker, Peter Beaumont, Michael Calaz, Gary Clark, Jennifer Coventry, Julie Coventry, Ian Dick, Paul Dobson, Gary Dowling, Fr Brian Glasheen, Robert Grattidge, John Holmfield, Geoff Hood, Stan Kunce, Allan Larkin, Sylvia Larkin, Justin O'Brien Anne Pollock, Rod Pollock and Joan Presti.

2. Minutes

RESOLUTION - To confirm that the Minutes of the Sixty Third Annual General Meeting of Members held on Saturday 10 November 2018 (copies of which were available at the door) are taken as read and confirmed.

The motion was moved by the Chairman.

The resolution was carried unanimously by the Members on a show of hands.

3. Reports & Financials

a) President's Report

President Emmy Mazzetti presented his 2018/19 Report to the Members in attendance. Copies of the President's Report were distributed to Members on the night.

RESOLUTION – THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED.

The motion was moved by the Chairman.

The resolution was carried unanimously by the Members on a show of hands.

b) Financials

The President called upon VHRC Treasurer Mr Elio Volpato, who presented his 2018/19 Treasurers Report and delivered the year's financials of the Club. Mr Volpato highlighted points on his report.

Key Messages (2019) on the report were as follows;

- Completion of the legal requirements to implement a change of the Club's name to Victorian Harness Racing Club (VHRC) and formally separate from Harness Racing Victoria (HRV).
- VHRC will continue to seek to conservatively increase revenue through increased membership and prudent investment of funds with the aim to achieve financial sustainability.
- VHRC will continue to support and provide sponsorship of the Harness Racing Industry including dedicating funds to bonus race prizemoney.
- VHRC will continue to improve the onsite and offsite winning experience for owner members including providing country cup hospitality to members.
- VHRC is continuing to work closely with HRV to ensure the best outcomes for the industry.

Key Outcomes – 2019

- VHRC has circa \$1.83m in cash, of which \$1.62m is in fixed deposits.
- Completion of the Strategic Plan 2019-2024 which establishes a framework for VHRC and addresses the long term direction of the club.
- The emerging themes that came out of the Strategic Plan were:
 - Growing membership should be a key priority,
 - The establishment of a permanent dedicated venue for members at Tabcorp Park and
 - The need to achieve financial sustainability.
- Bonus races continue to be well supported by clubs in FY19 with 62 of 87 and 10 of 27 mini bonus races won by club members. In FY20 there will be 81 bonus races available to be won.
- The appointment of new General Manager, Rob Auber was confirmed to those present.

Mr Auber then highlighted the following;

- During the last few months we've submitted a concept brief to HRV.
- Main goal is setting up a new members area at Tabcorp Park.
- E. Mazzetti & R. Auber recently meet with Senior Adviser (Office of the Minister for Racing) Simon Shill.
- HRV Board to meet on the 11th December to vote on our concept brief. There seems to be good support for it following meetings with the HRV Chairman and Senior Management.
- As part of the proposal HRV would like us to increase our membership numbers. The aim is to increase membership up to 1500 in 2020/21 and 2000 in 2021/22.
- Super bonus race meetings – the aim is to run 26 of these, ie every fortnight. Country clubs would tender to host these meetings. Host Club would then run a function/event for VHRC members out of these meetings.
- Part of our strategy is to capture as many owners to become members of our Club, also increasing corporate sponsorship.
- We've spoken to APG about being a major sponsor of our bonus races. They were also keen for us to run super bonus races interstate.
- We've done a deal with RSN which will involve them promoting VHRC on their weekly show.
- R. Auber said that he felt that with his work involved in many areas of the media that it can really help our Club.

The Members congratulated Mr Auber on his report/presentation.

E. Volpato thanked all our Members for their support throughout the year.

RESOLUTION - THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND THAT WE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE SIGNED ANNUAL REPORT AND APPROVE FOR IT TO BE LODGED WITH CONSUMER AFFAIRS.

The motion was moved by the Chairman.

The resolution was carried unanimously by the Members on a show of hands.

4. Auditors

RESOLUTION - To appoint Auditors (Latrobe Business Solutions Accountants & Advisors) until the 2020 AGM of Members, at a fee of \$2,000 plus GST, recommended by the Committee.

The motion was moved by the Chairman.

The resolution was carried unanimously by the Members on a show of hands.

E. Mazzetti then handed the chair to Vice-President Carol Bass for the Election of Committee.

5. Re-Election of Committee

Committee members of the Club must retire and stand for re-election on a three-year cycle, in accordance with Clause 37 (a) of the Constitution.

Ms Bass advised the meeting that the following Committee Members being eligible and having signified their candidature for the Committee, seek re-election:

- Emmy Mazzetti
- Elio Volpato

Pursuant to rule 57 the following Committee Members who were co-opted during the year, offer themselves for formal election:

- Terry Suhan
- Paul Dobson

RESOLUTION –THAT FOR THE PURPOSES OF CLAUSE 37 (A) OF THE VHRC CONSTITUTION, THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEMBERS BE RE-ELECTED:

- Emmy Mazzetti
- Elio Volpato

And that the following be formally elected:

- Terry Suhan
- Paul Dobson

The motion was moved by Carol Bass as the Chairman.

The resolution was carried unanimously by the Members on a show of hands.

Ms Bass then handed the chair back to E Mazzetti to continue the meeting.

6. General Business

a) Special Resolution – Amendment to Rules

RESOLUTION - TO ADOPT THE UPDATED RULES TABLED AT THE MEETING.

Ms Bass confirmed that following withdrawal of HRV from the Committee of the Club at last year's AGM, the Club's rules have been adjusted to reflect that HRV will no longer have representatives on the Committee. We have also changed the references to 'Committee' to 'Board' and clarified the number of board members (previously stated as up to 9 persons, now states minimum of 6 and maximum of 9 persons).

The document has been confirmed by HRV and is recommended to the membership by the committee.

The motion was moved by Carol Bass.

The resolution was carried unanimously by the Members on a show of hands.

C. Bass advised that the updated rules will now be posted on the website in the next couple of weeks.

b) Special Resolution – Life Membership Nomination

RESOLUTION – THAT ELIZABETH CLARKE BE NOMINATED FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO VHRC.

C. Bass read out the nomination details for Elizabeth Clarke, acknowledging and highlighting her wonderful contribution to VHRC and to the entire harness racing industry. Elizabeth joined the VHRC Committee as a representative of Harness Racing Victoria and proved to be a great liaison/conduit between the Club and HRV.

Elizabeth was a great supporter of our bonus race meetings and was a regular representative for bonus race presentations.

In her time on the Committee, Elizabeth made an enormous contribution to the Club by providing sage advice on all aspects of its operations and was a driving force in the decision to engage the Ray Andrews Group to review the structure and operations of the Club resulting in the development of the Club's strategic plan which was completed last year.

Elizabeth's background in racing administration has been invaluable in providing assistance to the Committee when considering complex issues. Elizabeth also worked very closely with our past Treasurer, Neville Walker in regard to the Club's finances.

R. Auber also acknowledged Elizabeth's wonderful service to the industry as a Committee Member and for representing us on the advisory council. R. Auber also acknowledged that Elizabeth is a great ambassador for our Club.

The motion was moved by Carol Bass, seconded by Terry Suhan

The resolution was carried unanimously by the Members on a show of hands.

7. Presentation of Recognition Badges/Plaques

30-year recognition badges awarded to:

- Natalie Kontek (Kohut)
- Stan Kunce

40-year recognition badges awarded to:

- Margaret Anderson
- Ronald Anderson
- Gary Dowling
- Brian Glasheen
- Geoff Hood
- Justin O'Brien

50-year recognition plaques awarded to:

- Alan Faux
- Leonard Baker
- Peter Beaumont
- Robert Grattidge
- John Holmfield
- Allan Larkin
- Sylvia Larkin
- Joan Presti

Mr Emmy Mazzetti the chair of the meeting thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the formal part of the AGM at 5.55pm.