



VICTORIAN HARNESS RACING CLUB INC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 28th November 2020

The Sixty Fifth Annual General Meeting of Ordinary and Life Members of the Victorian Harness Racing Club were convened for 5pm on Saturday 28 November 2020.

At 5.07pm 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: Helen Dobson, Phil Walshe, Bob Smith, Bill Hutchison, Peter Bilan, Dawn Leppard, Marg Saffron and Tony Logan.

2. Minutes

RESOLUTION - To confirm that the Minutes of the Sixty Forth Annual General Meeting of Members held on Saturday 30 November 2019 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 2019/20 Report to the Members in attendance. Copies of the President's Report were distributed to Members prior to 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) General Manager's Update

General Manager Rob Auber reported that whilst it's been an interesting/challenging year for everyone that he was pleased to highlight the following;

- Thanks to Kelly for organising these online member functions
- We've taken into account the Ray Andrews report which was an assessment of the club which VHRC invested in. This report provided a snapshot of where the club was at and where the members would like us to be.

- Taking all that information onboard we've really tried to evolve everything that's come out of that document, and I've always felt that it's going to be a strong 3 year project. This is the first of those three years.
- One of the things the Club took on board was changing the Club's name back to the Victorian Harness Racing Club and it was about branding the new name and the club. We feel we've been able to achieve that both through administration, media (Trots Vision, etc), etc. VHRC should be really pleased with how Trots Vision has evolved with the parade ring sponsorship. The engagement through Trots Vision has increased by 100% over the last 12 months which is a great achievement.
- A lot of promotion through RSN and my media involvement
- We've been working very closely with the whole HRV Board and Executive Team, HRV CEO Dayle Brown and his team
- We've also tried to engage a number of our stakeholders in the industry eg
 - Australian Pacing Gold (APG). We're very thankful to Peter Watkinson and the APG team who have come on board with VHRC to launch the VHRC-APG-APTS super bonus race series. Hopefully with the VHRC, APG & APTS branding that we will be able to prosper going forward.
 - Caduceus Club – E. Mazzetti spoke about this earlier. We have great respect for the Caducues name and a lot of people in that group have contributed so much over many years to the game. We're just working on some fresh ideas to grow the name so I'm really grateful that they've come onboard to grow with VHRC.
- Demographic of our membership base – a large percentage are in the 60+ age group. Therefore, when we look at the next generation we need to be able to get new people onboard and in particular the younger generation.
- New branding/Fresh look – We've been working on new branding/creating a fresh new look. We've engaged Stacey Gadway on a contract basis who has been assisting us with new branding/marketing. We've been hitting social media quite strongly and will continue to do so.
- One thing we've established is a new event – VHRC Caduceus Group 1 Night of Nights which will be held at Crown. The Caduceus Award will certainly be presented on that night. Also, in respect of two great icons, acknowledging them into the future – so we've introduced the Lang Medals – two for the Drivers (Pacers & Trotters) – Graeme Lang Medal (Pacers & Trotters). Hopefully with that it will bring a new audience. We're looking at having a big launch on that night so anyone who would like to support that night it would be fantastic if you could come along. We've engaged Crown's number one band Chunky Jam and they'll be entertaining the crowd on the night as well.
- We're also going to be setting up 2-3 Members nights at Tabcorp Park Melton on a race nights throughout the year.
- We put forward a major sponsorship proposal with TAB, for potentially being our major corporate partner.
- Next week we plan to release the VHRC Group 1 Corporate Partners package – we are aiming to set up a strong business coterie group that will invest in VHRC and HRV going forward to for many years to come.
- We're looking at new ways to increase membership through bonus races, social functions, corporate partners, etc. The combined effort of getting all these things to function correctly we believe will enable us to grow our membership.
- Setting up a strong Merchandise arm for harness racing through our website is also something we are going to be doing next year.
- A lot of work has gone in, and I want to thank Kelly Ternouth very much for all her work.
- Thanks to all the Committee for their support of Kelly and I throughout the year.

- Member Profile videos - Each month we'll be profiling someone who has had a major role/contribution towards our Club.

b) Financials

The President called upon VHRC Treasurer Mr Elio Volpato, who presented his 2019/20 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;

- We have endeavoured to position the Victorian Harness Racing Club (VHRC) to meet the significant impact of Covid-19 and to take advantage of post Covid-19 opportunities to improve our Club.
- VHRC will continue to invest funds in a prudent manner with the objectives of:
 - Safety of principal funds
 - Liquidity sufficient to meet the club's payment obligations and future projects including increasing our membership base and the development of plans for the VHRC Members & Owners Bar at Tabcorp Park.
 - Yield consistent with a market rate of return/risk basis.
- VHRC will continue to work in partnership with Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) and all industry participants to ensure the best outcomes for the harness racing industry.
- VHRC will continue to support and provide sponsorship of the harness racing industry including dedicating funds to bonus race prize money.

Key Outcomes – 2019

- VHRC has circa \$1.74m in cash, of which \$1.6m is in fixed deposits.
- Appointment of a General Manager whose duties include overseeing the day to day operations, growing membership base and developing plans for the VHRC Members /Owners Bar at Tabcorp Park.
- Bonus races continued to be well supported by clubs in FY20 with 50 of 63 won by VHRC members. In FY21 there will be 26 Super Bonus race meetings scheduled – for each race at these meetings VHRC will offer \$2,000 in bonuses for members to win which includes \$1,500 for the owner and \$500 for the trainer.

E. Volpato said that he was available at the end if anyone had any queries. He 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 2021 AGM of Members, at a fee of \$2,040 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.

5. Election of Committee

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

Mr Mazzetti advised the meeting that the following Committee Members being eligible and having signified their candidature for the Committee, seek re-election.

- **Paul Dobson**
- **Aris Imbardelli**

We are pleased to advise that we have also received a nomination from Fred Crews to join the committee.

- **Fred Crews**

RESOLUTION –THAT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE VHRC CONSTITUTION, THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEMBERS BE RE-ELECTED:

- Paul Dobson
- Aris Imbardelli

And that the following be formally elected:

- Fred Crews

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.

To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution which is proposed as a Special Resolution, as previously advised in the Notice of Meeting to Members.

C. Bass read as follows;

A. Following discussions between VHRC and the Caduceus Club regarding the future of the Caduceus Club, we are pleased to advise that the members of that Club have agreed to affiliate with the VHRC. The Caduceus Club is in the process of being wound up and we welcome their members as VHRC members. As many of our purposes reflect each other, it was agreed that:

1. Caduceus name will continue to be used as the 'social arm' of VHRC;
2. Caduceus Club history will be acknowledged by VHRC;

3. VHRC will continue to induct a VHRC Caduceus legend annually (subject to there being an appropriate inductee);
 4. As part of transition, Caduceus Club life members as at 12 November 2020 will receive equivalent membership in VHRC.
- B. Terminology in the Rules has been amended from Committee to Board, President to Chairman and Vice President to Vice Chairman
- C. Clause 12 (annual subscription) has been adjusted to reflect the change of racing season and therefore membership period.
- D. Membership classes have been adjusted to be more specific
- E. Additional deletions requested by HRV legal counsel – clause 55.7 and 55.8(c) and (d) as these are not applicable to VHRC

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.

7. Presentation of Recognition Badges/Plaques

C. Bass read as follows;

Due to this meeting being held by zoom we are unfortunately unable to do physical presentations of our badges and plaques. She then read out all the people who have reached these wonderful membership milestones and thanked all these members for their long term support of the club.

30-year recognition badges awarded to:

- Joe Pugliese
- Ivan Cotchin

40-year recognition badges awarded to:

- Pat Prendergast
- Robert Adamson
- Peter Bilan

50-year recognition plaques awarded to:

- Donald McKenzie

Mr Emmy Mazzetti the chair of the meeting thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the formal part of the AGM at 5.38pm.