

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
HELD AT THE AIRPORT QUALITY INN KINGSFORD SMITH DVE HAMILTON
SATURDAY 5TH OF APRIL, 2008

Chairman, Andrew Deacon opened the meeting at 2 pm and in welcoming everyone outlined protocols for the meeting.

Attendance

David Briggs, Richard Bull, Michael Christie, Mary Christie, Lee Deacon, Andrew Deacon, Steven King, Yasmin Lee-Steere, Janine Leichsenring, Cathy Marsh, Susan Maxwell, Patrick Maxwell, Ricky Glen, Vicki Nichols, Tony Nichols, Jeanne Poirier, Michelle Steinmann, Pauline Stuart-Fox, Andrew Sultmann.

Apologies and proxies

Belinda Camarda, Madeleine Cannon, Vicky Franklin, Mark Hornsby, Debbie Keogh, Jillian Lake, Des MacDade, Brenda Meinhold, Ian MacLauchlan, Judy Rockemer, Joe Rockemer, John Samain, Andrew Schult, Beverly Smith, Karen Thrun, Karen Timmis, Darcy Tohill, Bob Wing, Jodie Vanstone.

Overview of IQHS during the last year

Andrew Deacon gave an overview which included registrations in the USA, operations of the Warwick Office, effects of EI, registration processes and eligibility.

AmQHA programs, Incentive Fund and Shows

Andrew Deacon outlined the aim to have shows running in Australia under AmQHA Rules and the requirement for more qualified personnel as there are currently only three judges in Australia and five Show Managers. This would be addressed by inviting AmQHA qualified coaches, judges and Show Managers to conduct seminars in Australia. Andrew also reported his discussions with other associations regarding running AmQHA affiliated shows and classes.

Pauline Stewart-Fox raised the question of the cost of being involved in the Incentive fund and the on-going cost to breeders, questioning the relative small number of American horse enrolled in the Incentive Fund in comparison to the number of horses registered each year, noting the decline of involvement in recent years. The costs would be as per the AmQHA rule 479, page 241-244. Andrew Deacon explained how money and points worked in the Incentive Fund. The Rule Book states that a stallion owner can still register a foal even if the foal owner didn't do so.

Andrew Deacon discussed a proposal to have a value added scheme on top of the Incentive Fund for Australia horses, designed to make it worthwhile to register and attend shows. The value added proposal was endorsed as worthwhile.

Members discussed how judges would become qualified, the marketability and difference between American and Australian horses, the registration process and the time line on new registrations. The benefits, service and economical fees offered by the AmQHA were considered to be the major advantages to the Australian industry.

David Briggs questioned why two identical stud books were required and the justification for the additional costs. This was explained by Ricky Glen, although the US had helped the Australian system with technology, the AmQHA would not recognize Australian foundation mares.

Report on ACCC investigation of the AusQHA

Andrew Deacon explained that a letter written by Harry Van Dyke and published in the AusQHA magazine in March 2008 made erroneous claims that Andrew was attempting to access AusQHA's data base. The ACCC is investigating the restrictive trade practice of the AusQHA requiring members to sign ownership of DNA tests to the Association and then not making the resulting DNA information available to the owners. The practice and the cost involved were discussed and it was clarified that the AusQHA rules must comply with the law and not constitute restrictive trade practices. It was also clarified that the ACCC is not investigating any costs involved; only the ownership of genetic results and that the AusQHA had until 4/4/08 to respond to the ACCC. The ACCC will conduct a video conference with the AusQHA in coming weeks, after which time if the AusQHA is not in compliance with the Act, the ACCC will progress to enforce compliance. Andrew Deacon tabled a copy of his response to Harry Van Dyke.

Review of AmQHA Convention and submission of establishing a new Appendix Registry

Comments on the AmQHA Convention were given by Andrew Deacon and Pauline Stewart-Fox. Andrew gave an overview of his presentation to the convention. The major thrust of the proposal was for an Appendix Registry allowing the AmQHA to accept all Australia horses, which also offered a two year hardship clause with a discounted registration fee for aged horses. Although it was well received the resulting vote was to take no action at this time.

General Business

Ricky Glen suggested that more information could be provided on the IQHS website regarding the Herda issue.

Reduced Fees for Aged Horses: A further explanation was given on the advantages of this proposal to the AmQHA, which would allow Australian breeders and owners to register horses with the AmQHA as previously no promotion of the benefits of AmQHA registration has been conducted in Australia.

Authorization of Meeting by AmQHA: Pauline Stuart-Fox asked if this general meeting was endorsed or affiliated by the AmQHA. Andrew clarified that the AmQHA were aware of the meeting and that it had been confirmed with David Avery and verbally approved to be held, however it was not officially endorsed or affiliated as such. It was also confirmed that it was a requirement of the AmQHA that a General meeting be held in Australia every year and that the AusQHA had not met this requirement in forty years.

Date of next meeting

It was unanimously agreed that another meeting should be convened some time in twelve months.

Close of meeting

The chairman closed the meeting at 3.20 pm