

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AHSA LTD

Judges and Officials Committee (JOC) Report

The AHSA - JOC is the official Arabian judges training, examining, assessing and appointing authority for AHSA Judges. The committee is also responsible for managing show rules and show gradings for all Affiliate Shows and for certifying other show officials.

The current JOC held its first meeting in November 2020 and comprises the following members and:

- Graham Smith, Chair
- Sheila Jones
- Jacqui Langfield
- Sue Oberg
- Colleen Rutherford

Board Members:

- Greg Liddle, Vice Chair JOC (Ex Officio) and Chair AHSA
- Yvonne Downes, Committee Secretary
- Karen Fletcher-Grieve, Working Delegate on an as needs basis
- Helen Dohan, Secretary and Registrar, AHSA is not a Board or JOC member but provides administrative assistance and support as required to both the JOC and Board.

The JOC may establish sub-committees and utilise the services of volunteer State based working delegates and specialised assistance as required.

The Year in Review

The preceding year has been difficult for the JOC to negotiate because of the restrictions placed on all members through Covid – 19. The ability to conduct judges training, seminars, workshops, exams or to meet in social environments has been severely limited. As a result of various Covid – 19 border restrictions the majority of horse shows and horse related activities were also stopped or restricted – these restrictions also impacted on the ability of the JOC to deliver local and regional training opportunities.

While the impacts of Covid – 19 were disappointing and frustrating to the whole of the AHSA it has enabled the JOC to focus on some other administrative processes that it might not normally get the chance to.

The JOC assisted the Board with the revision and update of the AHSA Competition Rule Book (February 2021) and Show Organisers Rule Book (October 2020). The JOC has commenced reviews of judge's examination papers and procedures; reviewed the feasibility and viability of providing more hands on module based training for judges; reviewing judging ethics and integrity training, and introduced a trial of show judges mentoring probationary and other candidates at shows.

In addition a trial of ringside critiquing by accredited judges to explain the process and systems used by judges for each particular class being judged in the ring has commenced. Following a request from Queensland State members the JOC has commenced implementing a Judges Honour Board aimed at recognising judges that may be retired or deceased.

The Board of the AHSA had also advised the JOC that it had clear expectations that the JOC should be open, welcoming and friendly to all levels of judges and officials. The JOC has embraced this challenge and has increased its emphasis on more frequent and informative communications. The newsletter has been revised to include more timely information about rule changes, and also an opportunity to learn about other judges through the inclusion of biographies on judges. The newsletters will also have regular key date updates on opportunities to utilise mentoring, critiquing or seminar attendance at various local, regional or State shows.

Most importantly the JOC is trying to facilitate more face-to-face meetings and seminars with judges at mutually convenient times and places such as our recent Australian Championships Show at Boneo and also the East Coast Arabian Championships Show at SIEC. These meetings also provide a great opportunity for judges to ask questions in a relaxed, friendly and collegiate environment. Queensland has established a State Judges Committee and has already commenced successful show mentoring and sideline critiquing.

The JOC has been reaching out to both domestic and international horse societies and associations to share training and educational material for our judges. The JOC has also been working with both the Board of the AHSA and Helen Dohan to assist with an upgrade to the Judges pages on the AHSA website. These upgrades include the provision of educational pages for all levels of judges and will include a wide range of interviews and training videos on all aspects of horse conformation, movement and historical information regarding the Arabian horse. It is anticipated this upgrade will be finalised shortly.

It should be noted that the JOC is a sub-committee of the Board of the AHSA and is accountable to them for JOC operations. This structural relationship provides the necessary checks and balances to ensure the integrity of the work of the JOC and alignment with Board strategic directions.

To date the relationship and reporting structure has worked well – it has been respectful and has often resulted in a better or shared understanding of issues. This in turn has resulted in better outcomes for our AHSA judges.

Finally, the year has been challenging for all of us but I remain pleased with the progress of the JOC in such a short period of time on the range of issues mentioned above. The JOC looks forward to helping all our Australian Judges and Officials further in 2021-22.

Graham Smith