2022 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 JOC may also establish sub-committees and utilise the services of volunteer State based working delegates and specialised assistance as required.

The current JOC predominantly comprised the following members during the course of the financial year:

- Graham Smith, Chair
- Sheila Jones
- Kerry Rogers (part year)
- Jacqui Langfield (part year)
- Sue Oberg
- Narelle Kinnear (part year)
- Colleen Rutherford
- Karen Fletcher-Grieve (part year)
- Nancy Wall (part year)
- Carolyn Potts

Board Members:

- Adam King, Vice Chair JOC (Ex Officio) and Chair AHSA
- Greg Liddle
- Yvonne Downes, Committee Secretary
- Helen Dohan, Registrar, AHSA is not a Board or JOC member but provides administrative assistance and support as required to both the JOC and Board.

The Year in Review.

The year continued to prove difficult to negotiate because of the restrictions placed on all members by Covid – 19. The ability to conduct face to face judges training, seminars, workshops, exams or to meet in social environments was limited. As a result of various Covid – 19 border restrictions many horse shows and horse related activities were cancelled or restricted. These restrictions impacted on the ability of the JOC to deliver hands on local and regional training opportunities.

While the impacts of Covid – 19 were challenging the JOC worked hard at a wide range of innovative solutions to keep the positive momentum it had generated going forward.

JOC Meetings.

During the past year the JOC met on 10 occasions via Zoom. Yvonne Downes, JOC Secretary was responsible for minute taking and supported by Helen Dohan and Graham Smith. Helen Dohan has been most helpful organising and scheduling Zoom meetings and providing administrative support.

I remain grateful to all JOC committee members for their valuable input to such a wide variety of issues we considered during the year. JOC members don't always agree on every issue, but we listen to all points of view and all members are given an equal opportunity to contribute. The AHSA/JOC Board representatives – Adam King, Greg Liddle and Yvonne Downes have all shown faith and trust in the JOC and the decisions or directions we have taken during the year.

The work of the JOC has been varied with many minor administrative or urgent matters being resolved outside of the meeting processes, however all significant issues requiring any changes to rules or regulations are taken to the AHSA Board for their endorsement and approval.

Communications.

The JOC sees frequent, timely and honest communications as a cornerstone to building and maintaining trust with AHSA judges at all levels. The following is a breakdown of some of the mechanisms we have used to communicate with and educate our AHSA judges.

10 JOC Newsletters produced – over 48 pages of information provided for judges.

12 Judge Biographies – the purpose of the biographies was primarily to introduce our newer level 1 and 2 judges to the broader AHSA judge's cohort and for them to gain a higher profile to support their judging careers/progression. Feedback has overwhelmingly been very positive to date.

20 Mentoring/sideline critiquing opportunities - were provided (many others were cancelled because of Covid restrictions). These opportunities have been well received by participants and provides another tool or mechanism to enhance and support our judges training. The National Panel and Internationally Qualified judges providing this training have also indicated they have enjoyed the experiences.

Educational Seminars.

The JOC conducted 11 Zoom interviews during the year for the benefit of judges and members of the AHSA (a total of 8 hours 47 minutes educational material).

The interviews have now become a permanent record on the AHSA website and can be used by both judges and members of the AHSA for learning and development. The AHSA Judge Education Page contains links to all the Zoom seminars or interviews conducted by the JOC this year.

While Covid restrictions impacted the JOC's abilities to provide some face to face training the benefits of Zoom far outweighed any potential negative impacts. The August three part seminar series enabled judges to meet their three yearly judge accreditation requirements (Rule 2.4b) and were very well received – each session had an attendance of over 60 participants.

Since the completion of the August series the majority of the remaining AHSA judges who could not attend the seminars (possibly due to family or work commitments etc) have now viewed them and fulfilled their reaccreditation requirements.

The Zoom interviews and seminar series have been at zero cost to judges, members and the AHSA – the ability to provide high quality speakers, free of charge into

judges' homes via Zoom should not be underestimated. Anecdotally many judges were appreciative of this new initiative and the potential cost and time saving to them by not having to travel or allocate time away from family, horses, farms etc to attend a conference somewhere in their state or elsewhere etc.

The guest speakers have included a mix of international and domestic judges as well as chosen experts in their fields. It is always a balancing act trying to meet everyone's requirements (we have a wide cross section of judges with differing educational and training needs from level 1's to National Panel (Internationally Qualified). However, I remain very proud of our achievements to provide such quality speakers and training opportunities in arguably one of the most trying years in our country's history.

The speakers included:
Janet Court, UK. International ECAHO judge and A list Disciplinary Committee member and international show manager. Has judged widely throughout the world.
Jonas Salzman, Kuwait. International ECAHO judge and Bait Al Arab (Kuwait State Stud) manager. A relatively young judge but already with an enviable record of achievement both as a judge and farm manager.
Jacquie Webby, NZ. International NZ judge, Past President of the NZ AHBS, journalist by profession and author (co-author of the AHSA's Hoofprints in History) and recognised breeder. Frequent visitor to Australia having judged at many of our high-profile shows including the Australian Championships.
Johanna Ullstrom, France. Internationally acclaimed breeder, handler and animal welfare advocate. Also widely regarded for her training videos and compassionate training techniques.
Dr John Walker BVSc, NSW. Internationally acclaimed veterinarian (FEI) and expert on identifying lameness. Assisted Olympic Gold medallists and notable trainers such as Gai Waterhouse and Richard Freedman (responsible for the health and maintenance of Makybe Diva).
Lisa Stevens BA (Soc Sci), BSc. (Honours) MA App Psych (Sport). Arguably one of Australia's leading sports psychologists (ie Swimming Australia, Vic Institute of Sport, Paralympic Equestrian team, Western Bulldogs, Carlton, Geelong and many other high profile organisations). 1987 Australian Women's Show – jumping champion.
Trevor Brand, NSW. Past President of the Australian Carriage Driving Society and the current Coaching Coordinator. Has a lifetime of experiences as a competitor and official.
Sharyn Hungerford, Qld. Board member of the AHSA and National Panel Judge. An active competitor who is widely regarded and respected with over 30 Australian National Championship titles to her credit in a broad mixture of disciplines.
Cathy Padgen, NSW. A National Panel (Internationally Qualified) judge who has competed successfully both as a competitor and judge at the highest levels. Has a love and affinity for side-saddle classes.
Christine Jamar, Belgium. Arguably one of the world's leading breeders acknowledged through her success with Jadem Arabians. An internationally recognised and acclaimed judge who has judged extensively around the globe. Has bred or owned multiple world champions and is a trusted advisor to many leading farms internationally.

Open Judges Meetings.

The JOC listened to judges' feedback when they suggested having meetings at shows (such as the Australian Championships) as a far more practical way of conducting meetings – due to the fact we already have a "captive" audience in that

they were already at a show competing or watching. Covid restricted numbers at these meetings but we still had good attendances with the overwhelming feedback being that they were appreciated, and that it was nice for judges to meet and talk in a positive, friendly environment. The open meetings included:

1) 2021 Australian Championships, Boneo.
2) 2021 East Coast Championships, SIEC.
3) 2021 VADOBA Non-Pro and Youth Show, Werribee.

Budget.

The JOC requested a small operating budget part way through the year of $1,000 – this request was approved by the Board. The JOC members largely volunteer their time and cover any out-of-pocket expenses themselves (although we should not expect this to be the case all the time). Expenditure of some $400 was the only expense incurred during the year for new judge badges.

The Year Ahead.

The JOC will meet to consider key strategic priorities it may pursue to assist the Board and AHSA judges across Australia – the feedback you have provided during the past year will assist in this process. While we have been happy with the work completed by the JOC in 2021– we also need to make the time and space to be able to focus strategically on what our longer-term goals and aspirations are for the AHSA judge's cohort.

Many day to day or administrative items will continue to require ongoing work such as maintaining and improving the website and associated documentation, training materials for judges, organisation of seminars, judge meetings in various states, mentoring opportunities, Rule Book updates and review, production of JOC newsletters, and examination processes and documentation etc.

The easing of Covid restrictions will hopefully see many more shows return throughout Australia and as such a higher demand for judges. The JOC also has a role to help judges that have perhaps not judged in the last few years with additional one on one training and support (if requested).

2022 promises to be a challenging year again for Australia and the JOC but after surviving 2021 we are well placed to continue moving forward in a positive way to support both the Board and our AHSA judges and officials.

Graham Smith