



## Newsletter - December 2021

### Christmas Message:

A very sincere and heartfelt Christmas greeting from the JOC to all our judges, officials and volunteers throughout Australia. As we keep hearing in the media 2021 will be a year that we will all remember because of the impacts of Covid. It has impacted not only our society and way of life but also globally every country.

On reflection, if I was ever given the option of where I would like to be locked down it would be Australia – for all the negatives we have endured with border closures and other restrictions we are lucky to be Australians and live in this great country. Many other countries and citizens have not had the luxury of the health care systems we have, a strong economy, the availability of food and produce and even basic services such as water and electricity.

I hope you get some time during the holiday season for your own reflections amongst spending time with family and friends.

None of us really know what 2022 will hold but I am grateful to be part of the Arabian Horse Society of Australia (AHSA) community. I wanted to thank you for your contributions as AHSA judges during the year. Being a judge requires commitment and dedication on so many levels and I am very grateful to all of you in these unique times for your contributions to the JOC and AHSA over the preceding year.

Enjoy your holiday time with family, friends and of course beautiful arabian horses. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### JOC – A year in Reflection:

#### JOC Meetings.

During the past year **the JOC has met on 10 occasions via Zoom.** – meetings have tended to last for approximately 2 hours. Yvonne Downes, JOC Secretary is responsible for minute taking and is supported by Helen Dohan and Graham Smith. Helen Dohan has also 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 have 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/directions we have taken during the year.

The work of the JOC has been varied with many minor administrative/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 then 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 you our AHSA judges.

### **JOC Newsletters.**

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

December 2020. 4 pages

January 2021. 8 pages. 4 Judges Biographies. 7 mentoring opportunities.

May/June 2021. 5 pages. 1 Judge Biography. 4 mentoring opportunities.

July 2021. 2 pages.

September 2021. 11 pages. 3 Judges Biographies. 6 mentoring opportunities.

September 24<sup>th</sup> 2021. 1 page.

October 2021. 5 pages. 3 Judges Biographies. 1 mentoring opportunities.

November 2021. 1 page.

December 2021. 11 pages 1 Judge Biography. 2 mentoring opportunities.

**12 Judge Biographies** – the purpose of these biographies was primarily to introduce our newer level 1 and 2 judges in order for them to gain a higher profile and 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/mechanism to enhance and support our newer judges training. The National Panel and Internationally Qualified judges providing this training have also indicated they have enjoyed the experiences.

### **Seminars.**

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

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.

## **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) Australian Championships, Boneo.
- 2) East Coast Championships, SIEC.
- 3) 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.**

Early in 2022 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 year will assist in this process. While I 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 examinations etc.

The easing of Covid restrictions will hopefully see many more shows return throughout Australia and as such a high 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 you our AHSA judges and officials.

## **Victorian Judges Meeting and Seminar:**

It was such a pleasure to be able to attend the VADOBA Non-Pro and Youth Show on 4<sup>th</sup> December at Werribee Park following the easing of lockdown restrictions and to provide opportunities for both a judge's meeting and seminar. Special thanks to Victorian JOC representatives Sheila Jones and Kerry Rogers for providing their help along with judge Vicki Reid and AHSA Board member Gudrun Martini.

The VADOBA committee were most welcoming and supportive of these JOC events and in particular Kate Dertell and Kerryn Aldridge. We really do appreciate their support in helping to promote these activities for our AHSA judges.



(L to R, Vicki Reid, Kerry Rogers, Sheila Jones, Graham Smith and Gudrun Martini.)

Graham Smith

Chair, JOC - AHSA Ltd

## Judge Biography

### **Bryan Geoghegan, Level 1, Chippendale, NSW.**

Although I can count my judging appointments on one hand (thanks to Covid) you would have all seen me at the major shows. I am the tall person in the background of many horse stand up photos in my roles as Ringmaster, Chief Steward, Judge Wrangler, Decorator or bad joke teller! That's me in centre ring along with many other amazing volunteers. I help to keep the show and classes running on time and at the same time keeping competitors entertained.

I have been privileged to steward for some of the most well-known judges in the world including our Australian judges. I make sure that I ask questions, pick their brains and observe, observe, observe. I have learnt so much by being a volunteer, not only am I giving back to the industry I love but I am also learning, growing and evolving in my skills to judge the arabian horse and its derivatives.

My first solo experience was the Versatility Challenge at State Titles which was open to all breeds. It certainly tested my skills, but I loved it! Since then I have judged the coloured ring at an all breeds show before the Covid pandemic hit. I have kept my hat in the ring (pun intended) judging the hotly contested Fashions on the Field at the prestigious East Coast Championships in 2021 and will be back in 2022! I have had the opportunity to learn from judges from all over the world and now count many as my friends. Hopefully I will be able to travel soon to visit some of them!



Some of you may know I am a litigation consultant in my day job and I love my work trying to determine liability and to win the legal battle! I also have a passion for photography and have taken up that challenge though I am yet to snap some beautiful arabs, but they are certainly on my bucket list.

The Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd  
Post Office Box 415 RICHMOND NSW 2753  
Ph: 02 - 4577 5366 Web: [www.ahsa.asn.au](http://www.ahsa.asn.au)

