



DRAFT

MINUTES OF NZTROF 2024 AGM
held Tuesday 26th November 2024 at 2.00pm at Te Rapa Racecourse
and via Zoom

Present:

Executive Members:

- Bernard Hickey (President/Chairman) – Hawkes Bay
- Sally Blyth (Vice President) – Auckland (via Zoom)
- Allan Fenwick – Manawatu (via Zoom)
- Jill Lunn - Waikato/BOP
- Ian Hackett – Wanganui/Taranaki (via Zoom)
- Pete Faulkner – Central South Island (via Zoom)
- Neil Miller (Co-opted) – Auckland

Executive Officer:

- Denise Mayhew

Members:

- Berri Schroder – Waikato Reserve
- Joan Egan – Waikato
- Mike Gething – Auckland
- Jenny Cowan – Waikato
- Lynne Forsman – Waikato
- Ann Browne - Waikato
- Stephen Lindsay - Waikato
- Mark Verran – Manawatu Reserve (via Zoom)
- Lex Paterson – Auckland Reserve (via Zoom)

Apologies:

Lee Somervell – Hawkes Bay

Pat Woollaston - Auckland

1. Welcome

President Bernard Hickey (Chair) opened the NZTROF 2024 AGM at 2.00pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Moved that the Apologies as presented be accepted. *N Miller/M Gething. Carried.*

3. Condolences

The Chair asked for a pause of silence to remember those members who had died in the previous year. Sadly there are too many to name, but they include Tom Lowrie, Gwynyth Webb, Barry Gerard, Margaret Trillo and Mark Taylor.

4. Minutes of AGM 19 November 2023

Moved that the Minutes of the AGM held on 19th November 2023, as posted on the NZTROF website, be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

B Hickey/B Schroder. Carried.

Matters Arising: Nil

5. President's Report: Bernard Hickey

The President spoke to his written report, which was taken as read and is available on the NZTROF website.

He noted that the Federation did not carry out any project work over the past year as it was waiting to see how the scene lies with NZTR and Entain in terms of our push for the Owners Federation and the other Recognised Industry Organisations to become members of NZTR. Because of this there had not been a big drive for further memberships. Our submission has the support of the other RIOs and is gradually coming to fruition.

The President, the Vice President, and Allan Fenwick, had a positive meeting with NZTR consultant Mark Freeman last week as a follow up to the NZTR Recognised Industry Organisations Survey. Mr Freeman had a series of questions, which were answered, and will be writing a report that we will have an opportunity to view before it goes to NZTR.

The Executive and the Executive Officer were thanked for their contribution over the past year and President Hickey noted that we have been very vocal on the Members Council, where he has been raising matters of importance to Owners.

Financially we are in a good place, having made a profit in the last financial year.

The President is looking forward to the Executive considering the Federation's direction in the new year and putting in place a strategic plan.

Moved that the President's Report be received. *B Hickey/J Egan. Carried.*

6. Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st July 2024

(Available on the NZTROF website)

Moved that the Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st July 2024, prepared by Shelley Tweedy & Associates, be received. *B Hickey/S Lindsay. Carried.*

7. Annual Subscriptions and Capitation Fees

Moved that the annual subscription (Single \$60, Dual \$65) and capitation fees remain the same for the 2025/2026 year. *B Hickey/M Gething. Carried.*

8. Nomination for President

A Fenwick expressed Manawatu's confidence in President Hickey.

B Hickey was nominated by Manawatu branch, seconded by Auckland branch. He was duly elected.

9. Confirmation of Delegates of Regional Associations

The Regional Delegates and Reserves were confirmed.

- Auckland: Sally Blyth; Reserve – Lex Paterson; Welfare: Mike Gething
- Hawkes Bay: Bernard Hickey; Reserve – Lee Somervell
- Waikato/Bay of Plenty: Jill Lunn; Reserve – Berri Schroder
- Manawatu: Allan Fenwick; Reserve – Mark Verran (Manawatu AGM is to be held on 4 December)
- Wanganui/Taranaki: Ian Hackett; Reserve – Brian O'Dea
- Central South Island: Pete Faulkner

10. Appointments of Patron, Accountants and Co-opted Executive Member

NZTROF Patron: A R Galbraith KC

NZTROF Accountants: Shelley Tweedy & Associates Ltd

Co-opted Executive Member: Neil Miller as Editor of the Owners Bulletin

Nominated by B Hickey, seconded by S Lindsay, they were duly confirmed.

11. Auditor or Reviewer

President Hickey noted that the Constitution requires that the appointment of an Auditor or Reviewer be considered. He pointed out that the Financial Statements are prepared by a professional firm of accountants.

Moved that no Auditor or Reviewer be appointed. *B Hickey/S Lindsay. Carried.*

12. General Business

Strategic Plan and Constitution

President Hickey noted that with the NZTR review in progress, we need to consider our strategic approach in conjunction with the Constitution, and develop a strategic plan that includes how we would operate if we became fully funded by NZTR. Entain is on board with us receiving the funding from NZTR and with supporting us for Owners' Race Days. He intends to call a one- or two-day Board meeting for this purpose.

The Executive Officer will make a start on updating the Constitution to bring it in line with the new Incorporated Societies Act, using the template on the Incorporated Societies website as the base document. There was a suggestion that AI could be employed to merge our current Constitution into the template, and this will be looked at.

Owners' Bulletin

President Hickey thanked Neil Miller for all his time and effort on the Owners' Bulletin and expressed the hope that the next issue would be less stressful. The deadline for copy for the Summer 2025 issue is 3rd January. There was a comment made that it would be nice to see more articles from the South Island.

Submission to the Trainers Association on Horse Hitting

A member drew the meeting's attention to a submission made to the Trainers' Association mooting that when a jockey is behind the tenth horse in a race, they should not be allowed to use their whip. The concern was expressed that should this be brought in, there would be an associated safety issue as jockeys already had a lot to do in a race. It was noted by another member that there is already an app available that can report how often and how hard a jockey hits their horse. President Hickey will contact the Trainers Association to obtain more information.

Watering of tracks

The issue of the watering of tracks was raised by a member.

President Hickey's understanding is that tracks are managed by the Racing Integrity Unit and the Track Manager, with ultimate responsibility falling on the Track Manager. There are protocols in place for how tracks should present on race day.

One member expressed concern that available technology was not being used to obtain scientific and statistical data to measure the state of the track.

President Hickey will have this matter added to the agenda of the upcoming Members' Council meeting.

Winning Post Bar, Ellerslie Racecourse

J Lunn expressed her surprise and concern that entry to the Winning Post Bar at Ellerslie Racecourse, historically the Owners and Trainers bar, is now only permitted for those with a TAB account.

President Hickey pointed out that NZTR has protocols for Clubs in terms of what they should offer Owners and said that he would raise this with NZTR.

Nomination and acceptance fees

The matter of a lack of published information on nomination and acceptance fees was raised. President Hickey said that he will make enquiries about this with the NZTR Operations Manager.

NZTR Board

The President advised the meeting that NZTR had appointed and welcomed Di Humphries and Paul Humphries (unrelated) to the Board, and thanked Mike Clarke, who is resigning, for his contribution.

There was no further business, and the meeting closed at 3.05pm.

Denise Mayhew

Executive Officer, NZTR Owners Federation

