

JUDGES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2017 Annual General Meeting of The Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd.

Core Aim of the JEC:

- To appoint judges and maintain a list of persons competent to act as judges of Arabian Horses at any Show whether promoted or sponsored by the Society or otherwise.
- To train and educate judges of all levels in the requirements necessary to best perform the task required of a judge so appointed to each particular level. In furtherance to this to re-evaluate or re-assess as necessary any and all judges to maintain and or expand on their qualifications.
- To develop strategies to ensure that the ethical principles of judging or being a judge are followed maintained and upheld, in furtherance to this to develop, add, adjust, remove or enforce any rules guidelines protocols and systems that upholds a high level of sportsmanship and Fair Play in competition.
- To develop and encourage systems of assessment that uphold the core aims and fundamental principles of the Standard of Excellence for the Pure Arabian and the Derivative Breeds

Functions of the Sub-Committee:

Some of the functions of the JEC are but not limited to;

- To encourage the development of regional judges' groups.
- To organise or conduct workshops, seminars training days, examinations, assessments and meetings for judges and trainee Judges.
- To maintain the rule book and to ensure that practices are in place to assure that these rules are upheld
- To inform judges of rule changes, updates, seminars, training days, open Judges meetings or re-accreditation requirements.
- To maintain a list of Judges and develop progressive ways of maintain and distributing this list.
- To grade horse shows and develop guidelines for these gradings to ensure that an expected standard for shows is maintained.
- To deal with concerns or complaints from members or people in regard to shows, Judges, officials and/or affiliate events.
- To maintain and keep on file things like but not limited to: Judges contracts, judges returns, reports, letters, examinations and assessment results, show statistics.
- To develop relationships with similar judging bodies, groups, organisation or clubs within Australian and globally
- To develop and implement procedures and practises that protect the welfare of horses at shows.
- To develop and maintain a high standard for risk management at all Arabian affiliate events.
- To write various reports as needed
- To submit reports, updates and suggestions to the Board for ratification.
- To develop and deliver budget strategies for the running and servicing of the JEC
- To develop guidelines and procedures for the running and servicing of the aims of the JEC

Chairman of the JEC: Allan Preston

Members of the JEC: Leonie Williamson, Deb Watson, Karen Fletcher-Grieve, Clint Bilson, Yvonne Downs, Glenys Lilley, Gudrun Martini - retired mid-term

Auxiliary Members of the JEC: Graham Smith – NSW, Selina Ahel – TAS, Kate Dertell – VIC, Jose Potts – SA, Deb Watson - QLD - until becoming a board member

The JEC is by far the most time demanding and complex sub-committee that the Society has. It has multi-layered functions that encompasses and supports all the key aspects of the Society. Over the years the JEC has had to evolve and keep abreast with the ever-changing and developing format of horse shows. Over the last decade, the amount and the variation of classes included in show programmes have expanded exponentially. Along with this comes associated factors like advanced Judges training and necessary judge's re-accreditation, more considerations and changes in OH&S policies for shows. As well as greater demands from insurance companies expanding on their risk management needs and increasing their restrictions on insuring for what they consider high risk activities. These factors make for a rule book that is in constant review and amendment by the JEC. Another area that has posed substantial challenges and time demands for the JEC is social media - in an era where people's opinions, thoughts and views are openly and freely broadcast it poses a great risk to the integrity of Judges, shows, officials, the Breed and the Society with often incorrect or misleading information and self-benefiting opinions being needlessly broadcast to members and the greater

public. It is extremely time consuming as well as becoming almost impossible to counteract the damage that this misinformation does and the dissolution that misleading views and opinions are causing.

The JEC regularly receives complaints from members about AHSA Judges, many of these complaints turn out to actually be civil matters, having nothing to do with any actions or indiscretions as an officiating Judge but more as their actions as a civilian. Alarmingly many of our members seem to have a misconception of just what actions the JEC is constitutionally and legally empowered to preside over and often become frustrated and angry with the Board when the JEC is unable to act on what the member feels should be the outcome of their complaint.

To better support and improve communication with AHSA judges, especially judges from regional areas around Australia, the JEC sub-committee was expanded to include some auxiliary committee members from geographical regions around the country. It was thought that these auxiliary JEC committee members could liaise with the JEC on any concerns observations or suggestions from the judges, shows or horse activities in their state or region. Unfortunately, the inclusion of an auxiliary committee proved ineffectual as little to no reports, concerns or suggestions were forthcoming directly to the JEC.

With the development of the new Society website a planned enhancement of the old Judges page to a Judges self-managed profile site for Judges is also in the development stages, unfortunately this has taken longer to develop than was initially hoped due to several factors including the reformatting of all Judges information with many judges having to be chased to supply their required information. Along with this, the necessary and more pressing upgrade of the Society's entire data base and with this the implementation and inclusion of the Riding Pony Stud Book to our system. I am sure that all our judges are most understanding that Society income related restructuring must take precedence. In the interim an up to date judges list has been maintained and made available to all show organisers on request.

A new look Badge has been developed for AHSA Judges inclusive of the new logo, another new addition is that all Judges on the AHSA International A and B list will have the honour of having an Australian flag included on their official AHSA judges badge.

Allan Preston