



CIRCULAR 2204

To: All Clubs & Kindred Bodies

Date: 17 June 2022

2022 HRNZ ANNUAL CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE – FRIDAY 14 & SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER 2022

The 2022 Harness Racing New Zealand Annual Conference will be held in Christchurch at Addington Raceway, 75 Jack Hinton Drive, Addington, Christchurch. The Conference will commence with lunch at 12.00 pm on **Friday 14 October**, with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on **Saturday 15 October 2022 commencing at 1:30 pm**. A formal programme and registration form for the Conference will be sent out in due course. Accommodation has been reserved at The Pavilions Hotel.

NOTICES OF MOTION FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notices of Motion will be published on the HRNZ website and distributed to clubs/kindred bodies at least one month prior to the AGM.

Clubs or kindred bodies that wish to propose remits or items of correspondence for consideration at the AGM will need to forward these to HRNZ **no later than Friday 12 August 2022**. Please feel free to contact me with any queries with respect to appropriate wording for draft remits or correspondence items before publication.

HRNZ CONSTITUTION REVIEW

At the HRNZ AGM in November 2020, clubs and kindred bodies agreed to a change in the voting model which was to be implemented for a period of two years, to 17 November 2022. The key features of that new voting model were that it capped the maximum number of votes per club at 16 and it took account of voting for clubs that had not been issued a betting licence in the preceding racing year.

HRNZ is considering potential new governance structures and alternative voting models and would value input from clubs. With this in mind, it is HRNZ's recommendation that the current voting model be rolled over for one more year. This would allow clubs and kindred bodies to provide their input and for HRNZ to present options for an updated governance structure and voting model for discussion at the 2022 Annual Conference. Following those discussions, it would be HRNZ's intention to present a final voting model and governance structure at or before the 2023 Annual General Meeting for approval.

There needs to be consideration of the number of Board members and the role of the Board. The tentative view of HRNZ is that the number of Board members should not necessarily increase and some of the management roles of the Board should be undertaken by the Chief Executive or his or her delegate. Where appropriate (such as in the case of licensing) there may be a need for a participant

to have the Board review decisions if the participant is dissatisfied with the decision of the Chief Executive. This requires consideration of what should be the role of the Board or the Chief Executive and his or her team. Club and kindred body input is invited.

HRNZ recognises there are a number of options open for consideration for the appointment of Board members. This could include the continuing with direct appointments, having regional elections, having open elections, appointments by an appointment panel, or a combination of one or more the above. Clubs and kindred bodies may want to suggest other options. In relation to voting, votes are presently assessed by reference to betting licences. Some may prefer one vote per club. Others may suggest an alternative voting structure.

Clubs and kindred bodies are invited to provide suggestions for a new HRNZ governance structure and voting model by **Friday 12 August 2022** (this will not be a remit or correspondence item – it will be used for discussion purposes at the Annual Conference). It would be of assistance if any response could address:

- a. The number of Board members.
- b. The role of the Board and any decision-making function a club or kindred body considers should be retained by the Board.
- c. Preferred options for electing or appointing Board members.
- d. Preferred voting options by clubs and kindred bodies.
- e. Any other matter a club or kindred body asks to be considered.

2022 HRNZ AWARDS

With the change in racing season, the 2022 Harness Racing New Zealand Awards will likely be held in early March 2023. An announcement confirming the date will follow in the next few months.

2022 HRNZ BOARD ELECTION

In relation to the 2022 HRNZ Board Election, HRNZ will be calling for nominations for the two club/kindred body elected vacancies at the beginning of July. A separate circular will follow in due course.

2022 HRNZ INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

HRNZ will shortly be advertising for the one Independent Director vacancy available in 2022.

Should there be any matters in this circular that require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Gary Woodham
Chief Executive
Harness Racing New Zealand Inc