

MAAA Federal Secretary Report

It is hard to believe this is my second conference with the MAAA, and I am looking forward to the outcomes and learnings that will come as we enter a new period of leadership.

Area Approvals:

In the last 12 months I have spent considerably more time on the Like for Like Area Approvals, working with Tim to try and keep clubs in the air. Unfortunately, the initial “rubber stamp” idea of these seems to have reverted to an almost standard application process, and the Like for Likes are no longer a quick option. There are a few clubs that are still waiting and I would like to thank the States (and clubs) for their patience on this.

Competition:

There has been a large increase in the number of international competitions and competitors. It is wonderful to receive the full spectrum of information, from event planning details to the qualifying members to official letters of Australian team placement offers. The International Procedures MOP is due to be updated and will hopefully be one of the early ones under review for 2024.

Management structure / Rules:

As a relative newcomer to the MAAA I have a unique perspective on the way the organisation is run – I have no ties to an Ordinary Member and no vested interest in promoting a particular discipline.

In my other role, which is similar to this but dealing with farmers in Victoria, we have a Board made up of 16 people; trying to reach a decision is a challenge at the best of times. So with a Council of 26 the challenges are far greater. When you further take into consideration the Statement of Rules – which states that a minimum notice of 3 weeks for Council meetings is required – dealing with unforeseen issues is a huge challenge. I know a discussion on the structure of the MAAA is taking place this weekend, so I would ask you to keep this in mind when discussing potential changes. All of you make up the MAAA and you are bound by rules which effectively make emergency meetings impossible. This is perhaps something that should be marked for change.

Looking forward:

While the MAAA is often reactive by nature, there seems to be a gentle shift into taking a proactive stance on a number of issues. This will be a key element of future success as we strive for maintained – and ideally increased – membership numbers. We must work together for grass-roots members, not individual states or groups.

I appreciate the patience of the Executive, who have to deal with my endless questions and emails. I also appreciate those members of the Council who I am gradually beginning to know as individuals through email and phone calls.

Thank you for the last 12 months