

West Australian Harness Racing Breeders, Owners, Trainers and Reinspersons Association
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Minutes from the Committee meeting held at Byford on Thursday 13th May 2010 meeting commenced at 5.35pm.

1. PRESENT.

R. Tomlinson (Chairman), B. Coffey, S. Radalj, M. Gray, T. Ferguson, S. Hawkins, R. Gartrell, M. Hackett and R. Deadman (Secretary).

2. APOLOGIES. J. Milentis

3. ABSENT H. Johnson, R. Bell and M. Woodley

On the motion by T. Ferguson seconded by S. Radalj, Mike Hackett has been elected to the BOTRA Committee subject to confirmation at the 2010 AGM. Carried.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

The Minutes from the meeting held on 15th April 2010 were confirmed to be a true and correct record of that meeting on the motion by R. Gartrell and T.Ferguson.. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

“Reins and Sulkies” articles will continue to be posted on the BOTRA website, with future segments such as “Just a Thought” discontinued. An appropriate letter will be sent to Robbie Dewar.

The BOTRA Newsletter will be updated after further input by Committee. The botra.info website will be strongly advertised in the News Letter and the document will be circulated as soon as this updating is completed.

The botra.info website is improving. There is a need to advertise the website more widely to the harness racing fraternity. A suggestion to run competitions such as a tipping competition to attract participation and attention of the fraternity is being investigated. David Shortte of RWWA will be approached for a \$100 betting voucher as a prize.

The United Harness Racing Body is progressing slowly. The Owners Association is reticent to join this proposed industry body without full support of the Breeders Association. Inroads through special meetings, forums at various harness clubs and further negotiation between all parties will take place in the near future.

The attendance of BOTRA at the Parliamentary Review of RWWA was positive and the transcript of this meeting, when available will be sent to all BOTRA Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE.

INWARD

- 1. Doppler Consulting
Draft Letter to WASBA**
- 2. Robbie Dewar
Reins and Sulkies**
- 3. HRA
Whip Rule**
- 4. FHRC
Fremantle Pacing Cup**
- 5. RWWA
Cc letter to all clubs-Horse Stall Directories**
- 6. Parliamentary Review of RWWA
All Documents**
- 7. Harness Racing Bodies
Minutes Special meeting at Byford-22.2.2010 and 28.4.2010**
- 8. B. Coffey/T. Ferguson
BOTRA Breeders-Draft Proposal**
- 9. Golden Mile Trotting Club
Spider Fund –K. Kirke**
- 10. RWWA
Race Dates Draft 3**
- 11. RWWA
HRCG Amendment**
- 12. WATA/RWWA
Programmes meeting**
- 13. Pinjarra Harness Racing Club Inc.
Cc letter to WATA-Inter Dominion Championships**
- 14. RWWA
Sky Channel Coverage Thursday Nights**
- 15. WATA
BOTRA Cup 2010/2011 placement**
- 16. RWWA
Strategic Plan Sessions**
- 17. WACHRA
Minutes- 14.4.2010**
- 18. RWWA
Financial Administration Changes**
- 19. RWWA Stewards
First Aid Protocol**
- 20. RWWA
Agenda HRCG MEETING 5TH May 2010**

21. WACHRA

Minutes 6th May 2010

22. United Harness Racing Body

All Papers

23. RWWA

Stall Directories for Race Books

24. RWWA

Race Programmes Meeting – 2pm 30.6.2010

25. RWWA

HRCG Breeders Incentive Sub Committee meeting 19th May 2010 at 9.30am

26. National Trainers and Drivers Association

Whip Rule

27. RWWA

Minutes-Harness Racing Programmes Meeting 28.4.2010

OUTWARD

1-5 BIO JOHN/BOTRA Award

Appropriate letters

6. Parliament House

Review of RWWA

7. Doppler Consulting

Next meeting Date

8. TO All Club Secretaries

Vision Equipment; Accident Warning Lights

9. RWWA

Items for HRCG Agenda

10. Dianne Stampalia

Committee Vacancy

11. WATA

BOTRA Cup Date to remain the same

12. Greg Bond

Handicapping Issues

13. Gloucester Standardbreds

Support for Sales Classic race date to remain unchanged

14. RWWA- Richard Burt

Request for a meeting 13th May 2010 (Whip Rule).

15. Drivers Forum-12th May 2010

Whip Rule

16. RWWA

Meeting Request-Whip Rule

7. ACTION ON CORRESPONDENCE.

1. The Whip Rule.

A driver's forum held recently at Byford unanimously rejected the Harness Racing Australia Whip Rules document and endorsed the United Drivers and Trainers

Association submission. Future negotiations on the Whip Issue will be conducted through the United Drivers and Trainers Association with Greg Bond and Chris Lewis attending a meeting in Melbourne on Wednesday 19th May 2010, with representatives from all other States attending. The outcome from this meeting will be a National decision by the United Drivers and Trainers Association on the Whip Rule.

2. On the motion by T. Ferguson seconded by M. Gray, a letter received by BOTRA requesting support from the Hardship Fund for Craig Murphy was endorsed. Carried.

3. A Cc letter to the WATA from Pinjarra requesting consideration for the sprint heats of the 2012 Inter Dominions to be held at Pinjarra was supported in principal. WACHRA has already sent a letter of support to all concerned for this initiative and this letter will be circulated to all BOTRA committee. A letter will be sent to Pinjarra indicating BOTRA support.

4. A copy of the Schedule for Programmes Meetings will be sent to all Committee persons.

5. A letter drafted by B. Coffey indicating BOTRA support for the WA Sales Classics to be run later in the season than February will be circulated to Committee for comment before being sent to Gloucester Standardbreds, RWWA, WATA, WACHRA and WAHROA.

On the motion by M. Gray seconded by B. Coffey, Inward Correspondence was received and Outward correspondence endorsed. Carried.

8. BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

9. FINANCE

A Financial Report from 31.8.2009 to 30.4.2010 indicated a Credit Balance of \$31,335.73.

The Term Deposit is currently \$12,524.15

On the motion by T. Ferguson seconded by M. Gray, Greg Bond has volunteered to cover his own expenses incurred with the trip to Melbourne on the 19th May 2010 on the basis of being granted Membership for his wife and himself for the next four years. This request was approved unanimously. Expenses incurred by Chris Lewis for the same trip will be covered by BOTRA. Carried.

On the motion by R Gartrell seconded by S. Hawkins the Financial Report tabled was received.

10. REPORTS ON INDUSTRY MEETINGS

1. Spider Fund.

There are still problems with the financial reporting and general operations of the Spider Fund. R. Tomlinson will attend the next Spider Fund meeting.

2. Hardship Fund

Meetings held when necessary- The Craig Murphy request to be discussed in the near future.

3. Harness Racing Consultative Group

The qualifications of the Catcher/Clerk of Course will be assessed by RWWA Stewards in future. Horses and Riders will be tested for their ability to perform the duties prior to being employed.

Portable Accident Warning Lights are currently under review.

The plight of the Breeding Industry in this State is to be addressed by a Sub Committee consisting representatives from the Eligible Harness Racing Bodies.

4. Handicapping Sub Committee

Report Forthcoming

5. National Trainers and Drivers Association

Outcome of the meeting of the United Drivers and Trainers Association held on Wednesday 19th May 2010 regarding amendments to the Whip Rules should be available by the next BOTRA meeting.

6. Proposed United Harness Racing Body

Forums to be scheduled at major harness racing centres after further negotiations take place between all industry groups

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Bio John/BOTRA Award winners for April 2010 are-David Thompson and Debbie Padberg. Appropriate letters will be sent to all concerned.

The Constitution of the Hardship Fund will be emailed to B. Coffey to be placed on the BOTRA website and placed in the BOTRA Newsletter.

A major Sponsor for the 2010 BOTRA Cup is required. R. Gartrell will further investigate and discuss this matter with Greg Bond.

The BOTRA Membership structure is still under consideration and recommendations for introducing Credit card and bank transfer payments will be

further discussed. Committee is requested to consider all attractive options to increase the membership of BOTRA and report back next meeting.

Handicapping of Trotters will be documented by Sandra Hawkins and presented to BOTRA for approval and support.

The BOTRA Quiz and Auction Function was discussed in length. The preferred venue at this stage will be a bowling club, south of the river, capable of holding the function. Nominated possible dates for the function are Sunday 3rd or Sunday 17th October 2010. All Committee are requested to become involved in this important fund raising event.

Letters will be sent to the WATA and Red Pepper Catering for Sponsorship for this function.

All Committee who attend any industry meetings are requested to take notes and inform B. Coffey with relevant information to enable postings on the botra.info website.

Errors within the RWWA administration are forcing too many re draws of race fields. A classic example was the on air blunder with the Oaks barrier draw. There is an urgent necessity to rectify this problem and to review the current system where a single horse is entered into a field after a redraw and not a complete redraw of the full field.

The WATA "Nights of Thunder" will be run with heats and the final on the same night and this may concern some participants.

A forum for young drivers to gain experience will be held by the WATA involving Trevor Warwick and Fred Kersley.

The press release involving significant changes to the Fremantle Cup will be responded to by BOTRA with a letter indicating that there was no consultation with the industry and the decision to change the conditions of this race on short notice should be reversed for this year. Further consultation with industry participants must take place before implementing any future changes. BOTRA will organise a meeting with leading trainers to further discuss this issue.

12. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- 5.30pm **THURSDAY 10th June 2010 at the Byford Trotting Training Complex

