

West Australian Harness Racing Breeders, Owners, Trainers and Reinspersons Association
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Minutes from the Committee meeting held at Gloucester Park on Thursday 3rd December 2009 meeting commenced at 5.40pm.

1. PRESENT.

R. Tomlinson (Chairman), H. Johnson, B. Coffey, S. Radalj, R. Gartrell, J. Milentis, T. Ferguson, S. Hawkins, T. Warwick, M. Roberts and R. Deadman (Secretary).

2. APOLOGIES. R. Bell, M. Gray, R. Warwick.

3. ABSENT J. Humphries, R. Watson,

Standing Orders were suspended at 5.40pm with the Chairman welcoming Trevor Warwick to the meeting. An extensive insight into International procedures and initiatives in Harness Racing, particularly in the United States were discussed. Some highlights of discussion on International Harness racing were the handicapping system flexibility based on stakes, the ability of participants to place there horses in a race where it can race competitively and earn, the ability to achieve longevity of the horse through this flexibility.

It was thought the introduction of a sprint lane would be beneficial to enhance the current product at 800 metre tracks and consideration for all mobile racing over sprint distances should also be considered. The glaring differences in comparing the International product with our own is the significant support Harness Clubs, particularly in the US, receives from on course Casinos (pokies), larger population and participation base and greater horse numbers. The local product is betting turnover driven which is currently experiencing a downturn.

The splitting of stake money on the basis of ---50%- 25%-12%- 8%- 5% paid to 5th place also worked well internationally and helped maintained numbers of participants in the game.

The need for change in the local Industry is obvious and the introduction of some of the less radical and achievable ideas (for WA) as discussed with Trevor Warwick will be explored further in the hope that in the future they may be implemented to attract the betting dollar that is sadly on the wane at the moment. Samples of race programmes, conditions and other information from American Harness Racing Clubs and tracks were circulated to the Committee.

The Chairman and Committee expressed their thanks to Trevor Warwick for his informative discussion and standing orders were resumed at 7pm.

Sandra Hawkins was welcomed to the meeting.

Standing Orders were again suspended at 7pm to allow election of Office Bearers for 2009/2010.

President

R. Tomlinson nominated and duly elected

Senior Vice President

R. Gartrell nominated- Declined

B. Coffey nominated and duly elected

Vice President

S. Radalj

Spider Fund

H. Johnson and J. Milentis

Harness Racing Consultative Group

R. Tomlinson and R. Warwick (TBC)

Handicapping Matters

J. Humphries (TBC)

Hardship Fund

R. Tomlinson

Race Programme Meetings

R. Tomlinson, S. Radalj and T. Ferguson

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

The Minutes from the meeting held 5th November 2009 were confirmed to be a true and correct record of that meeting on the motion by H. Johnson and J. Milentis. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Addressed in Correspondence.

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

INWARD

1. DOCEP

Information

2. Rob Watson

2yo & 3yo Racing-Concerns

3. RWWA

HRCG Agenda 26.11.2009

4. RWWA

Harness Programmes Committee-Minutes

- 5. RWWA
Privacy Policy**
- 6. Winston Thomas
Audit Report**
- 7. WATA
Communications**
- 8. WATA
Sectional Times**
- 9. Dot Williams
Invoice- Lucrative Kate**
- 10. RWWA
Licensing and Registrations on the move**
- 11. RWWA
Curator Training**
- 12. RWWA
Field Selection Points-Concession**

OUTWARD

- 1. RWWA Stewards
Invite to AGM**
- 2. Letter to Industry Participants (not sent)**
- 3. RWWA-Dudley Corbett
Curator's Seminar**
- 4. Byford Trotting Training Complex
Trials at Byford on Wdenesdays**
- 5. Invoices-BOTRA Cup; BOTRA Quiz and Auction**

7. ACTION ON CORRESPONDENCE.

1. In future, the BOTRA Correspondence List will be emailed to all Committee prior to Committee meetings and any queries from this list will be answered at the meeting. The correspondence will not be read out (unless requested) as has been the practice in the past.

2. A letter will be sent to the Byford Trotting Training Complex to seek their views on the initiative by RWWA to conduct trot trials on Wednesdays. No response has been received from Byford as yet.

3. A letter will be sent to the WATA thanking them for the opportunity to participate in meetings organised to improve communication between both Industry groups.

4. Sectional Times will be further investigated by WACHRA (HRCG Agenda responsibility M. Roberts) and further discussions will be held by BOTRA with the WATA. To be further discussed.

5. An Email will be sent to M. Skipper (RWWA) confirming BOTRA support for the RWWA initiative for field Selection Points-Concession Drivers.

6. A letter will be sent to Byford Trotting Training Complex requesting consideration for the use of their premises for future BOTRA Committee meetings that will continue to be held on the first Thursday of each month at 5.30pm. (or earlier)

7. A letter will be sent to M. Skipper (with Cc BOTRA letter to Byford) indicating BOTRA would support Wednesday Trials at Byford, however believes the matter now rests between Byford and RWWA.

8. BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

9. FINANCE

The Financial Report from 31.8.2009 to 31.10.2009 was tabled and indicated a Credit Balance of \$30,527.49.

The Term Deposit is currently \$12,524.15 (Maturity Date-5th January2010)

It was resolved to increase the Secretary's monthly expense allowance from \$10 to \$50 payable from December 2009.

The Finance Report tabled was received on the motion by T. Ferguson seconded by R. Gartrell. Carried.

10. REPORTS ON INDUSTRY MEETINGS

1. Spider Fund.

No meeting

2. Hardship Fund

Meetings held when necessary

3. Harness Racing Consultative Group

Meeting held 26th November 2009

4. Handicapping Sub Committee

No Report

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

A meeting with RWWA Stewards was rescheduled to 25th November 2009 the Agenda----

- 1. Sectional Times (truly run races)- Stewards were not supportive of radical change, however will monitor and react to slowly run sectional times particularly when field compaction causes interference.**
- 2. Ease out Rule- Stewards not in favour of returning to former racing pattern because of safety issues and cleaner racing that is currently experienced. There is still participant support for the current Ease out Rule.**
- 3. Dress Code- is currently in decline and is now in the hands of the Stewards/WATA for their necessary action.**
- 4. Trainers-Arrival time and acceptance obligations- Stewards maintain that the procedures in place are satisfactory.**
- 5. Standing Starts- Stewards accept that the current problems associated with standing starts are their responsibility and will work to rectify procedures with the official starters. The recent procedure change by standing horses at right angles to the tape did not work and is discontinued.**

The Bio John/BOTRA Award for November and December 2009 winners are

Gary Jones, Mark Reed, Ryan Bell and Aiden DeCampo.

The BOTRA Membership Raffle closed on November 30 2009 and will be drawn at the next Committee meeting to be held on Thursday 7th January 2010.

The matter of protests over incorrect whip use was again discussed. Stewards have made it clear that protests can be entered by connections when incorrect whip use occurs. The margin by the winner always plays a major role in protests that are being considered.

A service to Lombo Mandingo will be advertised in the Sporting Notices for \$350.

A submission from the Square Trotters Association was presented in print by Sandra Hawkins and will be circulated to all Committee members.

The Awards night will be further discussed by R. Tomlinson with Richard Burt.

M. Roberts was thanked for his attendance and his contact details will be sent to all Committee.

A request for the Parliamentary Review of RWWA- submissions to be extended until the 24TH December 2009 will be made by BOTRA and WACHRA.

A copy of the Kirke Bourne submission (Albany) will be recovered and presented to the Committee in due course.

Geoff Foster (WACHRA) will be requested to review the Spider Fund Constitution to explore any intentions by BOTRA/WACHRA of an administrative change.

12. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- 5.30pm THURSDAY 7th January 2010 at the Byford Trotting Training Complex (TBC)

THESE MINUTES HAVE YET TO BE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD