

**West Australian Harness Racing Breeders, Owners, Trainers and
Reinspersons Association**
PO Box 159 York WA 6302
Tel/Fax 96 412 105
Email botrot@westnet.com.au

**Minutes from the Committee meeting held at Byford on Thursday 4th February
2010 meeting commenced at 5.35pm.**

1. PRESENT.

**R. Tomlinson (Chairman), H. Johnson, B. Coffey, S. Radalj, M. Gray, J. Milentis,
T. Ferguson, S. Hawkins, R. Bell, M. Hackett (WASBA) and R. Deadman
(Secretary).**

2. APOLOGIES. R. Gartrell, R. Watson.

3. ABSENT J. Humphries.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

**The Minutes from the meeting held 7TH January 2010 were confirmed to be a true
and correct record of that meeting on the motion by T. Ferguson and S. Radalj.
Carried.**

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Addressed in Correspondence.

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

INWARD

1. Parliament Of Western Australia

Acknowledgement of Submission

2. Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horse Association of WA

Request for Sponsorship

3. WACHRA

Minutes 21st January 2010

4. Sandra Hawkins

Apology- whip Rules meeting

5. Kevin Jeavons

Final Submission –Review of RWWA

6. United Harness Racing Association

New Whip Regulations

7. Gloucester Standardbreds

Sponsorship

8. Winstan Thomas (Auditor)

Response to request for earlier Audit

9. Gloucester Standardbreds**Catalogue****10. RWWA-M. Skipper****Response –Information to Trainers for Feature Events.****11. RWWA-Bill Delaney****Guidelines for Stewards-Ease Out Rule****12. RWWA-Racing Ahead****Response to request for contact details of participants (in advance)****13. RWWA-HRCG****Statistics provided****14. WATA****Agenda for BOTRA/WATA meeting- 28th January 2010****15. RWWA****Hot Weather Racing Policy****16. RWWA****Player Training-Tennis****17. Rob Watson/ Steve Radalj****Comments M. Skipper response to extending acceptance times/ texting etc.****18. rwwa****Invitation to attend meeting-Harness Strategic Plan****OUTWARD****1-4 BIO JOHN/BOTRA Award****Appropriate letters****5. Byford Trotting Training Complex****Request to hold future BOTRA Committee meetings at Byford****6. WASBA****Notification of meeting (RWWA Review)****7. RWWA-Annette Fowles****Agenda Items for HRCG****8. RWWA-Annette Fowles****Request for more Statistics****9. WACHRA****Notify- Pinjarra as recipient of \$4,500.00 for the 2010 BOTRA Country Cup****10. WACHRA****Organise a meeting –Spider Fund****11. WACHRA****Request for Industry Support- Discretionary Handicapping-Standing Starts****12. Peter Anderson****Notification of Members Raffle Draw (2nd Prize)****13. Trevor Lindsay****Notification of Members Raffle Draw (1st Prize)****14. RWWA-M. Skipper****Address Feature Race Information****15. Byford Trotting Training Complex****Letter of thanks-AGM**

16. Gloucester Standardbreds

Letter of Disappointment

17. Winstan Thomas (Auditor)

Request for Early Audit

18. RWWA-Racing Ahead

Request for early receipt of participant contact information

19. Ryan Warwick

Acknowledgement of resignation

20. WACHRA

Endorsement for Pinjarra to hold the 2010 BOTRA Country Cup

21. R. Bovell- Chairman Spider Fund

BOTRA/WACHRA concerns with the Spider Fund.

7. ACTION ON CORRESPONDENCE.

- 1. A letter will be sent to M. Skipper (RWWA) in response to his reply to the request by BOTRA to extend nomination times and to text/internet participants.**
- 2. All future relevant BOTRA correspondence will be sent to Kevin Jeavons.**
- 3. Appropriate letters will be sent to the sponsors and winners of the Bio John/BOTRA Award.**
- 4. A letter will be sent to Bunbury Trotting Club (Cc WACHRA) seeking their opinion on changing nomination closure times to Wednesdays.**
- 5. Letters will be sent to all Clubs requesting support for the discontinuance of Discretionary Handicapping- Standing Starts.**
- 6. A letter to B. Delaney expressing thanks for the actions taken at the recent Pinjarra meeting when horses were allowed to be withdrawn without penalty due to excessive heat. A request for a fully written clarification of the heat policy will also be made by BOTRA.**
- 7. A letter will be sent to Gloucester Standardbreds (Frank Bratovich, Cc Dianne Stampalia) indicating BOTRA will support the Catalogue launch for next year's Yearling Sales.**
- 8. There were some detrimental comments on the presentation this year's Yearling Sale Catalogue. Standard criteria for yearling inspections and other matters will be addressed after the 2010 sales are finalised.**
- 11. On the motion by S. Radalj seconded by M. Gray a \$300 donation will be made to the Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horse Association of WA. Carried.**

12. Two representatives from BOTRA (Rob Tomlinson and Brett Coffey) will attend a meeting at RWWA headquarters at 11.30am on Wednesday 10th March 2010 for a preview of the Harness Strategic Plan. It has been resolved to conduct the next BOTRA Committee meeting on the Thursday following this meeting i.e. Thursday 11th March 2010 at 5.30pm.

13. A letter will be sent to Jarrad Humphries terminating his service with BOTRA in accordance with the Constitution, for lack of attendance to Committee meetings.

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

8. BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

9. FINANCE

A Financial Report from 31.8.2009 to 31.12.2009 indicated a Credit Balance of \$34,569.33.

The Term Deposit is currently \$12,524.15

10. REPORTS ON INDUSTRY MEETINGS

1. Spider Fund.

A letter requesting a further meeting with WACHRA to discuss the future of the Spider Fund and related matters will be sent.

2. Hardship Fund

Meetings held when necessary

3. Harness Racing Consultative Group

No Meeting

4. Handicapping Sub Committee

No Report

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Special Pinjarra race meeting “Summer Sizzler” to be held on Monday 1st March 2010 has been supported well by many sponsors and is progressing towards being a very successful event.

The Bio John/BOTRA Award winners for January 2010 are-Dylan Quadrio and Alister Thompson. Appropriate letters will be sent to all concerned.

The future structure of the BOTRA Committee was briefly discussed and will be confirmed after other Industry groups consider their position and the direction they will take in the Harness Racing Industry in future.

Handicapping and Programming issues are of major concern to participants. BOTRA has organised a sub committee consisting of Trevor Warwick, Greg Bond, Terry Ferguson and Steve Radalj to investigate the current problems. Meetings with interested participants will be scheduled at Byford, Bunbury, Wanneroo, Narrogin and Northam in the near future.

Any issues with the Breeding Industry will be addressed by an organised BOTRA sub committee immediately after Handicapping and Programming concerns are addressed.

The Whip Rule was discussed. Harness Racing NSW has softened its approach with penalties to offenders. The National Body has requested Harness Racing Australia to attend the next meeting and BOTRA will be represented by Ryan Bell and if available Chris Lewis.

The future of the Trotters in this State depends on a breeding strategy for the future after stability and a direction is given by the peers within the industry.

The BOTRA Quiz and Auction Function will be discussed next Committee meeting.

A meeting will be organised with RWWA Stewards for 1pm Wednesday 24th February 2010 to discuss the following matters of concern...

- 1. Standing Starts- Starter Inconsistency**
- 2. Clarification on rules when fines are applied to offenders**
- 3. Stewards Penalties are inconsistent**
- 4. Whip Rules/Rein Use**
- 5. Stewards Inquiries-information/ details not published**
- 6. Clarification of Heat Rules**
- 7. Other matters**

Future strategy for securing membership of BOTRA was discussed. With contact details now available in Racing Ahead, a News Letter and Membership form will be mailed to all listed participants. The possibility of free membership with BOTRA will be investigated.

The BOTRA website is in disarray and Robbie Dewar will be approached to adopt the role of controller of botra.info.com.au. An appropriate letter will be sent.

There are still concerns with the inconsistent racing surface at Gloucester Park.

There was further discussion on claiming races. The recommendation to review the current strategy on pricing claimers that affects handicapping and introduce random barrier draws irrespective of price was suggested. This matter will be further discussed.

12. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- 5.30pm **THURSDAY 11th MARCH 2010 at the Byford Trotting Training Complex