

**West Australian Harness Racing Breeders, Owners, Trainers and Reinspersons Association**  
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**Minutes from the Special Committee meeting held at Byford on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 meeting commenced at 5.40pm.**

- 1. PRESENT. R. Tomlinson (Chairman), H. Johnson, S. Radalj, M. Gray, R. Gartrell, T. Ferguson, S. Hawkins, R. Bell, M. Hackett (WASBA), B. Hamilton (Consultant), R. Dewar (Journalist) and R. Deadman (Secretary).**
- 2. APOLOGIES. B. Coffey, J. Milentis.**
- 3. ABSENT M. Woodley**

**It was resolved to transfer the Agenda for this BOTRA meeting (25<sup>th</sup> March 2010) to the BOTRA Committee meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Tonight's general meeting is to discuss issues of BOTRA and Industry importance.**

**Robbie Dewar was introduced to the meeting at 5.45pm to discuss his possible association with the botra.info website. After discussion it was resolved to secure R. Dewar's services (on a trial basis) as a Journalist to promote BOTRA and Harness Industry matters on the botra.info website. At this stage stipend of \$60.00 per weekly article on the website has been negotiated and this will be reviewed on performance that could lead to a monthly tenure and stipend of \$250.00.**

**It was intended that all articles presented by R. Dewar be sent to R. Deadman and B. Coffey for editing and appraisal before appearing on the website. R. Dewar will be sent the contact details of all BOTRA Committee for future reference.**

**The Chairman thanked R. Dewar for his attendance.**

**The inconsistency with application of the current whip rules by RWWA Stewards was discussed at a special meeting between Drivers/Stewards held on Wednesday 25th March 2010. The RWWA Stewards accepted that there had been different interpretations of the rule by certain Stewards and generally the new whip rules have been adhered to by drivers.**

**Copies of the proposed submission by the National Trainers and Drivers Association will be emailed to all BOTRA Committee for their comments prior to a meeting held in Melbourne (attended by R. Tomlinson) that will present a State by State submission on proposed changes to the Whip Rules.**

**The objective of assembling a single united body representing BOTRA, WASBA and WAHROA is seen as proactive by RWWA and offers to assist with mail outs and elections have been forthcoming. WASBA still seem reticent with the idea,**

however all information and future meetings concerning this united industry group will invite WASBA representation. Barry Hamilton attended the meeting briefly to offer advice and guidance on this matter. It was resolved that further meetings were necessary to discuss and approve the open letter to all industry participants and once approved the letter will be sent by blanket email to all participants through RWWA. A meeting with WAHROA is planned for the near future to confirm their interest in the new united industry body.

**B. Hamilton was thanked for his attendance.**

The RWWA Harness Racing Industry Strategic Plan was discussed. A preview meeting to discuss this matter was attended by R. Tomlinson and S. Radalj. Trotters races are here to stay and S. Hawkins gave a comprehensive report and future programming ideas to sustain the Trotting Industry in this State. Trotters needed to be an identity with representation on the proposed united industry body and the recommendation that they could be grouped with owners under the new proposed structure appeared to be the best scenario.

The future of standing start races appeared to be in the hands of the industry and whether they continue or not, it would appear that some action to improve this product is very necessary.

The meeting fee at Gloucester Park for mid week country meetings now falls into line with Sky country clubs and will be paid at \$5,500.00 per meeting.

Some country clubs have had their meetings reduced and in the case of Geraldton Harness Racing Club, the venue will no longer be used as a racing facility with the proposal to withdraw all race dates from that club.

There was little else divulged and RWWA will be attending special meetings with all clubs to further discuss the RWWA Harness Strategic Plan in the near future.

The need for RWWA to address additional cameras for on course steward's vision of racing incidents from all angles was discussed. It is currently in appropriate to attend Stewards enquiries that do not visually capture the incident in its entirety. The upgrade of accident warning systems, (currently still transported to some clubs by RWWA Stewards) also needs urgent attention.

**There being no further items to discuss the meeting closed at 6.45pm**

