

**West Australian Harness Racing Breeders, Owners, Trainers and
Reinspersons Association**
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**Minutes from Committee meeting held at Gloucester Park on Thursday 12th March
2009 Meeting commenced at 5.35pm**

1. PRESENT.

**R. Tomlinson (Chairman), H. Johnson, R. Gartrell, B. Coffey, T. Ferguson,
M. Gray, J. Milentis, J. Humphries and R. Deadman (Secretary).
Ross Cooper (RWWA)**

2. APOLOGIES. R. Culleton, G. Bond, R. Warwick, S. Radalj.

3. ABSENT.

Nil.

**Standing Orders were suspended at 5.40pm with the attendance of Ross Cooper to
the meeting.**

**A press release outlining the new arrangements with TAB Pooling will be circulated
in the near future. It will be business as usual in Western Australia. The TAB
Pooling and Product Fees scenario has led to a comprehensive review of all codes in
the racing industry that could lead to changes to the distribution. There will be
tougher times ahead for the racing industry in this State with some measures to be
taken by RWWA to offset costs.**

**The whip use is very much a current topic and changes have been necessary to
placate the animal activists who have been proactive on this and many other issues.
Ross Cooper was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 6.10pm.**

Standing Orders were resumed at 6.10pm.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

**On the motion by R. Gartrell seconded by M. Gray, the minutes of the Committee
meeting held on Thursday 5th February 2009 were accepted as a true and correct
record. Carried.**

5. BUSINESS ARISING

**The future of the BOTRA Cup has been briefly discussed with the WATA. Many
ideas to better promote this prestigious race will be fully discussed in the near
future. For the record the first BOTRA Cup was won by Annas Ann in 1981.**

**BOTRA attended a meeting with the WATA, WASBA, WAHROA and FHRC to
discuss the future of the Fremantle Pacing Cup. BOTRA does not support the**

concept of changing this race to a mobile barrier start and would be seeking alternatives in support of the Fremantle Harness Racing Club retaining this race as a standing start event. This item will be further discussed.

Advertising on driver's apparel is still being investigated. Current costs per driver are too expensive and BOTRA will continue to investigate all possibilities to introduce this initiative.

A meeting will be held with the caterers at Gloucester Park to discuss some issues of concern.

The use by BOTRA of the Fraternity Stand at Gloucester Park will be further investigated with the WATA.

Several sample logos for BOTRA were tabled. The most popular one selected will be incorporated with a sample cap for comments at the next BOTRA meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

INWARD

1. RWWA
Media Release-Death of James Matthew
2. RWWA
Minutes HRCG-19.2.2009
3. BOTRA News
4. Meeting-BOTRA/WASBA/Gloucester Standardbreds
2yo issues
5. Northam Harness Racing Club
BOTRA Country Cup Sponsorship
6. WACHRA
Request for support- number of horses on a handicap line-Busselton and Collie
7. WACHRA
Cc letter -re CWHRC/RWWA
8. FHRC
Stallion Station Fremantle Cup
9. RWWA
2009/2010 Harness Race Fixtures
10. Rob Deadman
Sample-BOTRA Logo

OUTWARD

1. Ross Cooper
Invite to meeting
2. Gloucester Standardbreds
Meeting 24th February 2009

3. Aldo Cortopassi
Letter re resignation
4. WASBA
Super Sunday
5. RWVA
Policy re Aged Horses
- 6/9. Bio John/ BOTRA Award
All letters

7. ACTION ON CORRESPONDENCE.

1. A letter will be sent to WASBA requesting a response after the initial meeting on Super Sunday. BOTRA invites further discussion on this topic as soon as possible.
2. On the motion by J. Humphries seconded by B. Coffey. BOTRA will sponsor \$2000 towards stakemoney for the Northam Harness Racing Club to conduct a "BOTRA Country Cup" in conjunction with the official opening of the new stable complex on the 9th May 2009. It will be the intention of BOTRA to contribute \$2000 to a selected Sky Channel country club once a year, which celebrates an occasion such as an official opening etc. The naming of such a race will be the BOTRA Country Cup. A letter will be sent to WACHRA seeking support for this initiative. An appropriate letter will be sent to the Northam Harness Racing Club to confirm BOTRA sponsorship.
3. A letter will be sent to WACHRA indicating BOTRA support with the decision making process on the issue of the number of horses on any handicap line at Busselton and Collie. The element of safety for drivers and horses must be considered as paramount in any final policy changes.

On the motion by J. Humphries seconded by B. Coffey, Inwards Correspondence was received and Outward Correspondence endorsed. Carried.

8. BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

9. FINANCE

Owing to a computer malfunction the Finance Report was not tabled. Current figures reflected a balance in the working account of \$29,620.68
The Term Deposit is currently \$11,707.17. (Maturity Date- September 2009)

The Financial Report will be tabled at the next BOTRA meeting

10. REPORTS ON INDUSTRY MEETINGS

1. Spider Fund.

No meeting held. The condition of some spiders presented at race meetings are of concern-Stewards responsibility,
Requests to hire wheels or a wheel or any singular part of a spider that requires dismantling on race nights will not be permitted by the Spider Fund.

2. Hardship Fund

Meetings are held when necessary.

3. Harness Racing Consultative Group

A letter has been sent to the Harness Racing Manager (Cc Alan Parker) requesting statistic comparisons between 2007 and 2008 season for 2yo pacers with regard to races programmed, how many raced, stakes budgeted for last year compared with 2008. No response to date.

The penalties for drivers who offend the new whip use policy were discussed. BOTRA will be seeking a further meeting with RWWA Stewards to discuss this matter further. The New Zealand style swish whips will be available for trial in WA shortly.

4. Handicapping Sub Committee

A meeting will be organised with M. Skipper and W. Wishart to discuss preferential barrier draws on sex and discretionary handicapping

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

The BOTRA Website (botra.info) requires more articles of interest. Ken Casellas and Russell Betts will be approached for articles. All BOTRA Committeemen are requested to contribute.

BIO John/BOTRA Award winners for March 2009 are...

Jan Milentis and Ron Young. Appropriate letters have been written.

In the instance where an appellant is successful with an appeal, it was queried whether all or some costs would be reimbursed. This issue will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Modified American spiders are currently in use in New Zealand racing

Carbon fibre spider wheels are currently being tested before reintroduction.

With the resignation of Aldo Cortopassi, a Driver is required to fill the vacancy on the BOTRA Committee.

12. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.- 5.30pm THURSDAY 2nd April 2009 in the Pure Steel Room at Gloucester Park.

