

**West Australian Harness Racing Breeders, Owners, Trainers and
Reinspersons Association**
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**Minutes from Committee meeting held at Gloucester Park on Thursday 2nd April
2009 Meeting commenced at 5.35pm**

1. PRESENT.

**G. Bond (A/Chairman), H. Johnson, R. Gartrell, B. Coffey, T. Ferguson,
M. Gray, J. Milentis, R. Warwick, S. Radalj and R. Deadman (Secretary).**

2. APOLOGIES. R. Culleton, J. Milentis.

3. ABSENT.

J. Humphries

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

**On the motion by R. Gartrell seconded by M. Gray, the minutes of the Committee
meeting held on Thursday 12^h March 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 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 in the near future 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.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

INWARD

- 1 A. Cortopassi**
NZ Whips
- 2. WASBA**
Super Sunday
- 3. RWVA**
Media Release- 2009 Caduceus Club Classic
- 4. RWVA**
Letter to all Industry Members
- 5. Dept. of Racing and Gaming**
EHRB –Selection to Racing Panel (John McIntosh
- 6. Brett Coffey**
ARB Whip Use
- 7. RWVA- Mat. Skipper**
Confirmation of meeting 1.4.2009- pref. barrier dr5aws etc.
- 8. RWVA**
Media Release- Para-Mutual Pooling; Fixed Odds Betting
- 9. Steve Radalj**
Apology; Print Cartridges.
- 10. RWVA**
Horses on a Line –Busselton and Collie

OUTWARD

- 1. Brett Coffey**
List of Members –last month
- 2. Rob Tomlinson**
List of paid members –Drivers Only
- 3. Pinjarra Trotting Club**
Letter of Support
- 4/7. Bio John/BOTRA Award**
All appropriate 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.**

On the motion by M. Gray seconded by H. Johnson, 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.

2. Hardship Fund

Meetings are held when necessary.

3. Harness Racing Consultative Group

No Meeting

4. Handicapping Sub Committee

No Meeting

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. B. Coffey is to investigate better opportunities and ideas for the BOTRA Website.

Penalties and disqualifications for drivers offending RWWA Stewards with the new policy for whip use were discussed. A letter will be sent to the RWWA Stewards for clarification of the new rules and the penalties/disqualifications which apply.

The BOTRA Cup is currently under scrutiny. Programming of this race as a lead up race to the Fremantle Cup was seen as a possibility. This item will remain on the agenda.

A meeting with RWWA regarding discretionary handicapping/preferential barrier draws for mares will be applied in some smaller feature races in future.

The National Handicapping Review will be adopted as presented with the exception of the policy for 3 year old pacers which is still under review.

BOTRA still requires an Auditor. David Thomas will be approached to continue with his services as Auditor. To be further discussed.

Samples of Caps and Shirts bearing the new BOTRA Logo were distributed to the Committee. On the motion by M. Gray seconded by H. Johnson the logo as presented, is to be adopted as the official logo of BOTRA. Carried.

Three new brands of sulky wheels have been approved for use in racing.

The Super Sunday initiative was discussed. BOTRA has requested WASBA for more information and further discussion before full support can be given for this meeting.

The closure date for nominations for the Pearl and the Diamond races for juvenile pacers was discussed. BOTRA believes there should be more flexibility, perhaps an additional month to the current closure date, to maximise nominations for these races.

A letter will be sent to RWWA (M. Skipper) requesting consideration for the closure date of the Pearl and the Diamond races to be extended by one month.

BOTRA will communicate with the WATA requesting confirmation that the 4 and 5 year old Championship race is reinstated for next season. The 3 and 4 year Championship race this season did not live up to expectations.

An invitation will be sent to Mark Reed to attend the next BOTRA meeting to discuss Industry matters of concern.

BIO John/BOTRA Award winners for April 2009 are...Tom Groves and Peter Tilbrook. Appropriate letters have been written.

12. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.- 5.30pm THURSDAY 7th MAY 2009 in the Pure Steel Room at Gloucester Park.

