

**West Australian Harness Racing Breeders, Owners, Trainers and
Reinspersons Association
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**Minutes from Committee meeting held at Gloucester Park on Thursday 4th June
2009 Meeting commenced at 5. 30pm**

1. PRESENT.

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

**On the motion by R.Tomlinson seconded by M. Gray, Ryan Bell was elected to the
BOTRA Committee. Carried**

**Drivers in Attendance- C. Brown, Ryan Bell, G. Williams, A. Cortopassi, G. Hall
Jnr.**

RWWA- B. Delaney, R. Cooper.

2. APOLOGIES. R. Culleton, B. Coffey.

3. ABSENT.

J. Humphries.

**Standing orders were suspended at 5.40pm and all visiting guests were welcomed to
the meeting.**

**The Whip Rule was discussed in length and Ross Cooper and Bill Delaney stated
that the rule currently being policed by Stewards is here to stay with possible
variations making it even tougher on drivers who offend. The Whip Rule in WA is
likely to become a National Rule and this may be adopted after the National
Stewards Conference to be held on the 15/16th June 2009. RWWA Stewards did
not want a total ban of the whip however this could follow the trend internationally
where some countries have already adopted the no whip rule.**

**Drivers present commented on the severity of the fines leading to a suspension
which ultimately was a severe financial setback to the offending driver. B. Delaney
said the rule was in place and must be respected by the Drivers at all times. The
current structure of fines leading to suspension would remain in place and it is up to
Drivers to conform.**

**The question of Drivers protesting against other Drivers in the same race earning
stakemoney by illegal whip use in a close finish, was raised. This circumstance has
not yet arisen but may come into future consideration by Stewards if and when this
situation arises.**

The likelihood of Drivers not being able to cross the reins at any stage other than gear adjustments (pulling pins, ear plugs etc.) was discussed. It was generally considered that this rule, if implemented, gave a clear understanding to the Driver, Trainer and Owner and eradicated the grey area that exists with the current rule. Drivers were asked to consider this rule and seek comments from other Drivers and report findings back to BOTRA. A mass meeting is likely to be held at Byford in the near future to further discuss matters related to the whip use rules.

B. Delaney and R. Cooper left the meeting at 6.20pm.

BOTRA, on behalf of Drivers will approach RWWA Stewards to request consideration of a 7day penalty instead of the 21 day penalty that is currently applied to offenders of the whip rule. The outcome of the Stewards Conference will determine what strategy BOTRA will take to address the fines and suspensions currently applied by RWWA Stewards to Drivers who offend with the current rules relating to whip use.

On another matter, Standing Starts were again discussed. There appears to be a concerted effort from some Industry Groups to eradicate standing starts. BOTRA is totally opposed to race programmes without the inclusion of at least 2 standing start races and will raise this and other issues of concern at the next meeting to be held with RWWA Stewards.

Visiting Drivers left the meeting at 6.50pm.

Standing Orders were resumed at 6.55pm.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

On the motion by R. Warwick seconded by H. Johnson, the minutes of the Committee meeting held on Thursday 7th May 2009 were accepted as a true and correct record. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Addressed in Correspondence.

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

INWARD

1. WATA

Date for BOTRA Cup

2. RWWA

Accident Cover for Licensed Personnel

3. RWWA

Late Agenda Items-HRCG

5. RWWA

Changes to Nomination and Acceptance Details

6. WACHRA
Minutes--7th May 2009
7. RWWA
Distribution 2009/10
8. RWWA
Media Release –Distribution
9. David Thomas-Former Auditor
Negative Response to offer- will help to find replacement
10. Harness racing Australia
Approval of National Handicapping Reforms
11. RWWA
Community Clubs Country Cup Series
12. Ross Cooper
Industry Issues; World Trotting Conference
13. RWWA
Racing Ahead- Deadlines and costs
14. Northam Trotting Club
Receipt-BOTRA Sponsorship

OUTWARD

- 1- 4. BIO John/BOTRA Award
Appropriate letters
5. WATA
BOTRA Cup –proposals
6. David Thomas-Auditor
Request for continuation of services.

7. ACTION ON CORRESPONDENCE.

1. The proposed WASBA Super Sunday is now likely to be held at Gloucester Park on a Tuesday.
2. The proposals to conduct a bigger and better BOTRA Cup for 2009 have been put on hold. A letter will be sent to the WATA stating the BOTRA Cup for 2009 will be run with additional stakemoney and now be for pacers M3 and better.
3. The National Handicapping Review as accepted by Harness Racing Australia was discussed. Official copies of this initiative are to found in the Racing Ahead Magazine.
4. Driver's advertising on apparel is stumbling through lack of support by the WATA. BOTRA may go direct to a sponsor to get this initiative up and running.

On the motion by G. Bond seconded by R. Gartrell, Inwards Correspondence was received and Outward Correspondence endorsed. Carried.

8. BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

9. FINANCE

The Financial Report to the 30.4.2009 was tabled and indicated a Credit Balance of \$23, 713..26

The Term Deposit is currently \$11,707.17. (Maturity Date- September 2009)

The Financial Report tabled was accepted on the motion by H. Johnson.G. seconded by J. Milentis. Carried

An offer of more remuneration to D. Thomas (Auditor) will be made for him to continue as Auditor for BOTRA.

10. REPORTS ON INDUSTRY MEETINGS

1. Spider Fund.

No meeting held. BOTRA supports WACHRA in a request to obtain monthly financial statements from the Secretary to allow spider fund representatives to report at monthly committee meetings. An appropriate letter will be sent to the Chairman of the Spider Fund-R. Bovell

2. Hardship Fund

Meetings are held when necessary.

3. Harness Racing Consultative Group

No Report

4. Handicapping Sub Committee

No Meeting

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

BOTRA Delegates have been in discussion with Mr. Rob Watson who has expressed an interest to become a Committeeman with BOTRA.

A letter will be sent to Gloucester Standardbred Yearling Sales requesting a facility to be made available for payments to be made immediately on the day of purchase.

The BOTRA Quiz and Auction Function will be held on Sunday 11th October 2009. BOTRA Committee will commence organising this function immediately to guarantee a successful day.

The 2009 BOTRA Cup will be held on Friday 2nd October 2009. Letters to sponsors, horse raffle tickets etc are being organised.

Bio John/BOTRA Award winners are....Mike Reed and Ross Torre. Appropriate letters will be sent.

Any remaining NZ Style Whips will be sold from the Spider room by John Milentis for \$20 to \$25 each.

A date for the BOTRA AGM has been proposed for Sunday 8th November 2009. This date and a meeting place will be confirmed at the next Committee meeting.

12. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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