

Media Release
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2016 BOTRA Claiming Novice Drivers' series

Tasracing has selected the 10 participants for the 2016 BOTRA Claiming Novice Drivers' series.

The drivers are Nicholas Brockman, Adrian Collins, Taylor Ford, Samantha Freeman, Sam Gangell, Kristy Grant, Braden Howlett, Justin Howlett (first emergency), Matthew Howlett, Jack Laughner (second emergency.), Wade Rattray and Allister Woods.

The series for drivers who are eligible to claim a concession will be conducted at Devonport on 1 July, Hobart on 3 July and Launceston on 10 July.

They are the top five concession drivers from last season's Junior Driver award and the best five performers this season in the State Drivers' title up to 5 June 2016.

Three drivers are on the verge of driving 50 career winners after which the novice driver concession cannot be utilised.

Adrian Collins (39-years-old) and Matthew Howlett (19-years-old) have accrued 48 wins each and Nicholas Brockman (23-years-old) has driven 45 wins.

Kristy Grant (31-years-old) is in career best form with 11 wins this season with five achieved in the last two months. She completed her most successful day at a racetrack with a winning treble at Hobart on 12 June 2016.

The series commenced in 2012. Previous winners are Craig Hayes (2012), Braden Howlett (2013), Sam Freeman and Tim Yole (tie 2014) and Lyarna Graham and Tim Yole (tie 2015).

Tasracing chief executive officer Eliot Forbes said the BOTRA Claiming Novice Drivers' Series was an annual highlight for drivers who were endeavouring to become established in the industry.

"The novice driver concession ensures newcomers to race driving have genuine opportunities to succeed," he said.

"This series is always keenly contested as demonstrated by the dead heats for first over the past two years."

BOTRA president David Sales said his organisation was committed to supporting all participants with a key focus being the development of new industry entrants.

“BOTRA supported the initiative to develop the series in 2012 and it was a logical progression to sponsor the series,” he said.

“Regardless of the age of drivers starting out in harness racing all are important for the future of the industry.

“BOTRA endeavours to support all breeders, owners, trainers and drivers in their pursuit for success in harness racing.”

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