

TAN –MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, 12th March 2020
The Grange, Campbell Town
Meeting commenced at 11:00 am

Attendees:

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| Merv Hill | Chair |
| Paul Eriksson | Tasracing CEO |
| Liam Swan | Tasracing Strategic Development Manager |
| Robyn Whishaw | Tasracing Director |
| Angela Barrett | Tasracing Senior Racing Officer |
| Stephen Maskiell | Tasracing Apprentice Jockey Program Manager |
| Belinda Lewis | Tasracing Animal Welfare Manager |
| John King | ORI Director of Racing |
| David Adams | Racehorse Owners Association Tasmania |
| John McKenna | Racehorse Owners Association Tasmania |
| John Alducci | Australian Trainers Association |
| Marion Dalco | Australian Trainers Association |
| Kevin Ring | Jockeys Association |
| Brian Walker | Tasmanian Turf Club |
| Andrew Scanlon | Tasmanian Racing Club |
| Ross Jones | Devonport Racing Club |
| Rob Dixon | Tasbreeders |

1 MEETING ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Welcome

Chair opened the meeting at 11:01am

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Blayne Hudson, Nigel Schuurin and David Manshanden

1.3 Minutes

Chair called for any discrepancies with the minutes of the previous meeting to which there were none.

Andrew Scanlon: Requested that his statement in the minutes be clarified that it was regarding an annual program not just race dates.

Minutes of the previous meeting confirmed and accepted pending the aforementioned amendment.

1.4 Matters arising from previous minutes – not otherwise covered on the agenda

Chair opened the floor for any matters to which there were none.

2. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Thoroughbred Annual Awards Policy

Angela Barrett: Gave an overview of the new Thoroughbred Awards Policy.

Andrew Scanlon: Queried if this is a changed policy as Clubs were previously involved.

Angela Barrett: Commented that this was not a changed policy more a written document of what is currently practiced. The panel outlined in clause 4.9.1 could certainly include club representatives but it was not a requirement.

Chair: Clarified that Andrew would like it specified in the policy the clubs would have a representative on the selected panel.

Angela Barrett: Clause 4.9.1 to be amended to include that the panel will include a representative from each Club.

Robyn Whishaw: Stated another reason for the introduction of this policy was the increase of Tasmanian horses racing on the mainland and that there needed to be clarity around their eligibility if they did not race in Tasmania during that season.

David Adams: Requested clarity around the selection process of the Owners Award.

Angela Barrett: Explained this was done on prizemoney, however in previous years had been done on total number of wins.

David Adams: Talked through an example with multiple owners and how that would be treated. Further clarity needs around how it is selected, individual owners.

Angela Barrett: Questioned if they were happy for it to be based on prizemoney?

David Adams: Yes, as long as every owner is treated as an individual.

Robert Dixon: Commented maybe this award should be scraped or changed to a recognition award.

Chair: Suggested that David take this discussion back to his association to come up with details on how this award is given.

Robyn Whishaw: Questioned if anyone was aware on how this award is selected in other states.

Kevin Ring: Believes in NSW this is done through a voting system.

Liam Swan: Believes that if this came from the Owners Association that would be the way to go.

Chair: Policy would be set aside for now with David Adams to take back to his association to discuss the criteria for the Owners Award.

3 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Tasmanian Magic Millions Yearling Sale

Angela Barrett: Gave an overview of the 2020 Tasmanian Magic Millions Yearling Sale.

Andrew Scanlon: Gave his thanks to Tasracing and all the breeders, commenting it was a fantastic sale. The new TASBRED scheme is definitely working but not sure it will continue if we can't back it up with further stakes increases.

3.2 1500m Start at Launceston

Liam Swan: Explained this was something that is a possibility at Launceston and is open for discussion.

Kevin Ring: Although the jockey's see no issue, they see no point in adding the additional distance.

John Alducci: Trainers were not supportive of the additional distance to be added to Launceston.

3.3 Licensing Requirements 20/21

Angela Barrett: Gave an overview regarding the proposed changes to the Licensing Requirements for the 20/21 Season.

Stephen Maskiell: Explained the proposed changes to the number of jump outs required for an Apprentice was due to the lack of opportunity for these jump outs. As Apprentice Coach, it needs to come down to common sense and discretion from both myself and the Chairman of Stewards.

Chair: Questioned the Welfare training and how it will be determined. More information to be provided prior to approving further. Jumpouts progression for Apprentices to include Stewards discretion. All other proposals the group are happy to approve as stated.

3.4 Approved Riders – Workers Compensation

Kevin Ring: Raised concern with Trial riders performing trackwork are covered under the Tasracing Workers Compensation policy due to the wording in the Local Rules. Happy for them to be covered whilst riding in trials but trackwork should be excluded.

Angela Barrett: Unsure if the duties could be separated in the Act. Trial riders would need to be removed completely from the local rule.

Chair: The issue of trainers taking Trial riders back would be if there was one big claim the impact that would have on the costing could be huge whereas with Tasracing it would not have the same impact.

Kevin Ring: Trial riders used to be covered by the Trainers as trackwork riders. Tasracing's Workers Compensation shouldn't cover private venues as they have not control over them.

3.5 Hot Weather Policy: Horses, Jockey's and Participants

Kevin Ring: Brought to light with the transferring of the Derby Day meeting in Hobart that Tasracing do not have a Hot Weather Policy. There has been no need previously for Tasmania to have one however with the change in recent times believes it is now necessary. All other PRA's including a national one through RA, with the exception of SA who are currently introducing one, have a policy which I will forward to Tasracing and ORI so we can look at adopting our own. Happy that the industry was consulted with the process, some other states do not do that, and that needs to continue.

John King: The recent situation was a combination of factors, temperature, venue, time of day. Whether a policy would be too descriptive and then finding that we would need to act outside that.

Kevin Ring: Maybe a hybrid version then? This is more for Hobart; the issues don't tend to arise in Launceston or Devonport.

John King: Happy to look at.

Andrew Scanlon: There needs to be consultation involved, decisions made at least the day before.

Marion Dalco: Trainers had questioned why the decision wasn't made earlier in the week once the temperature had been updated.

Kevin Ring: Doing so far out can also cause issues.

Liam Swan: A lot of research into other states policies has been done and Tasracing have started work on a draft policy. Available at next meeting for discussion.

Chair: Requested the draft policy be sent to ORI prior to being brought to the next industry meeting.

3.6 Racing Australia – Proposed Rule Amendments

Chair: A raft or proposed amendments put forward. Discussions over each proposal with the following feedback:

- AR 22 – **John Alducci** - Opposed by the ATA
Kevin Ring - The AJA have had discussions with RA in relation to this. The amendments are giving the stewards too much power. It becomes a breach of privacy.
- AR 69 – Approved
- AR 104 – Approved
- AR 106 – Approved
- AR 113 – Approved
- AR 123 – **Kevin Ring** - This should be a matter of choice not mandatory.
- AR 125 – **Kevin Ring** - Opposed by the AJA. There is no reason to say that spurs are causing harm to the horse. It should be encouraging horse safety. Would be happy with the addition of something along the lines of the WA model. **Paul Eriksson** – how can the Australian industry say ok with spurs when there are other countries that are banning them? **Kevin Ring** – Australia has a lot tighter track, just because the rest of the world doesn't use them it shouldn't be an issue. **David Adams** – What % of jockeys wear spurs? **Kevin Ring** – contacted SA, Tas, WA and NT and 60% of jockeys wanted to keep spurs. **Marion Dalco** – no support from the Trainers for this amendment.

- AR 231 **Chair** – There is no scientific evidence used for this basis. The proposed 12 months is penalising the owner, if it was 3 months the horse would then change trainers as that trainer would be suspended. Extreme penalty on an owner with no scientific evidence. **John Alducci** – The ATA support 3 months. **Stephen Maskiell** – 3 months is still too long, it's just penalising the owner. **Chair** – Amend feedback to a maximum of 3 months for the horse if required. No mandatory disqualification should be in place, circumstances must be taken into account.
- AR 241 Approved
- AR 267 Approved
- AR 274 Approved
- Prohibited List A Thyroxine - Approved
- Prohibited List B Theobromine - Approved

4 ITEMS FOR NOTING

4.1 Wagering turnover performance

Paul Eriksson: Gave an overview of updated wagering information on all codes. That lack of support with Devonport due to the Elwick closure has impacted the turnover.

Andrew Scanlon: How is that comparing Nationally.

Paul Eriksson: Turnover is down Nationally across all codes, no exact figures.

Andrew Scanlon: The feedback is that the POCT is having an impact on turnover.

Paul Eriksson: Feedback has also been received that a lot of big punters have taken their money offshore. The overall feel is that Thoroughbred will end up around 12% down for the year. We need to take every opportunity to maximum coverage.

David Adams: The Sky Thoroughbred Central coverage has been very disappointing this season. There doesn't seem to be any continuity. This would have to impact turnover.

Kevin Ring: We are getting bumped a lot to SKY 2 as the horses are being loaded too late.

Paul Eriksson: That is something John King and I will need to discuss.

John King: Whenever this is raised with the Stewards the reasons given for this are largely out of their control.

Kevin Ring: Disagree, this sits with the starter. It's the starters orders when they start loading.

Robyn Whishaw: Maybe the starters wage should be docked for each race that is bumped to SKY 2.

Kevin Ring: An opportunity was missed when Derby Day (*should be Hobart Cup Day*) was not transferred to STC.

Andrew Scanlon: There was a lot of circumstances around that, the timing wasn't clear, the guarantee on SKY 1, SKY 2 wasn't there. The race books were out, agendas had already been altered due to the transfer of the meeting. It mucks up the punter. We're talking about a small amount of money, uncertainty to that money. The other race meeting had already been moved. Someone needs to stand up better to SKY. It was an uncertain offer and it came late.

Kevin Ring: Liam had consulted with many people in the industry. The 20 minutes race time differences was neither here nor there. It may not have been a big impact on the day but it's the future and the ability to then bargain with SKY.

Andrew Scanlon: This organisation treats this state very badly. Why would Hobart Cup not been on Thoroughbred Central anyway? Somebody needs to stand up to them. Derby Day had already been changed, I was not going to change Hobart Cup day. I found the process with Tasracing rather unsatisfactory.

Paul Eriksson: Andrew please explain what was unsatisfactory.

Andrew Scanlon: The lobbying around the decision to move the races for coverage on SKY 2. We made a call and then someone was lobbying.

Paul Eriksson: I received many complaints around not moving the races to STC. When the opportunity arose I contacted yourself (Andrew) and Brendon (CEO – TRC) as soon as we were informed. Two things need to happen, we needed to communicate to the club, which I did, we had Liam contact the industry, jockeys, etc. I don't understand what your issue is with the process that was followed.

Andrew Scanlon: Once the decision had been made, I was unhappy that others were still being contacted.

Kevin Ring: Liam had recontacted me to let me know that the it wasn't happening.

Paul Eriksson: That was the consultation and I was unhappy with that remark.

Andrew Scanlon: Well I am happy with the remark and it remains. I would like to state that Tasmania does not get treated very well from SKY and we need to have a really strong look at how we deal with them. I am a very strong supporter of the Tasracing Marketing processes. Clearly, we need to look at Racing Victoria and other options.

4.2 Marketing update

Paul Eriksson: Gave an overview on the Marketing update. My first Summer Carnival and I thought that it was run very well by all the Clubs. The turnover was disappointing, but overall and exceptional carnival. Next year once we can run Derby Day/Hobart Cup back on the same weekend I believe it will make a difference.

Andrew Scanlon: Congratulations to the Tasracing team and the TRC are very happy to continue that relationship.

Kevin Ring: The AJA were interested in sponsoring a race, but the CEO wasn't contacted.

4.3 Assets update

Chair: Paper taken as read. Noted.

4.4 Animal Welfare update – Verbal

Belinda Lewis: Gave an updated on the Off The Track Program. There is currently a website in production which will hopefully be up and running at the end of the month. This will allow Owners/Trainers to advertise their horses for sale. Paul and myself had a meeting with the ATA at the end of January in relation to a retraining model. Work will start on this in the coming weeks but it will be quite a lengthy process.

The Off The Track Clinics are set to resume in March, this will be reduced to 2 a month. One in the North, one in the South. Options are being investigated for the North West.

David Adams: Queried what an Off The Track Clinic is?

Belinda Lewis: Tasracing facilitate days where horses can come and get forms of education. This could be floating, basic groundwork, getting a horse to stand still. Some if beginning in dressage, show jumping. Historically the tuition was quite high level. The decision was to not fund that level but to look at more back to basics groundwork.

John McKenna: Concern with market saturation with retired horses.

Paul Eriksson: The records from RA over the last 3/4 years, although not high quality, do not show a significant problem with that. Year on year the numbers stated being rehomed is not changing significantly. Tasmania doesn't seem to have quite the same problem as the mainland.

David Adams: I have four horses sitting in a paddock, nothing wrong with them, but can't give them away.

Paul Eriksson: How do you have them recorded in RA.

David Adams: Still active racehorses.

Paul Eriksson: That is a hidden statistic that we then don't know. Can I ask that the correct status of horses be recorded to help with visibility? If we don't see the volume of retired horses so we know what's happening, it's very hard to talk to Trainers to see what they're doing.

Marion Dalco: The trainers in consultation with Vets in Victoria have discussed why we don't as an industry fund an abattoir. Some horses cannot be rehomed, this could ensure they have a respectful end to life.

Paul Eriksson: A lot of jurisdictions are being asked this at the moment, there is some discussion happening. There are a lot of factors around that but we are happy to take that on board.

Belinda Lewis: What we are finding that the number of Off The Track horses performing in pony clubs, dressage or show jumping is on the increase.

Chair: In November/December last year the Jockeys, Trainers and Breeders nationally approached RA and suggest they set up a task force. Those groups of people set up the Welfare Initiative Group which is being funded by all the states except Tasmania. Is Tasmanian going to get on board?

Paul Eriksson: Tasracing has received no communication from the Group or Racing Australia in relation to funding. Tasracing was not approached or spoken to about the Group. Apart from the initial request to Racing Australia in December when it was knocked back, Tasracing has not had any contact. Tasracing has stated publicly we are happy to support it.

4.5 Apprentice School update – Verbal

Stephen Maskiell: Handed out an update on all current apprentices including the running of the first heat for the National Apprentice Race Series, giving an overview on all.

Kevin Ring: It's great to see Singapore and New Zealand joining the Apprentice Series, but disappointing to see the NSW are still not a part of the series.

Stephen Maskiell: We do have to thank NSW though as the last two years they have sent an apprentice to our heat to help with our numbers. A meeting has been held with Skillinvest in relation to the cost for the Apprentice course, particularly for the international riders.

Kevin Ring: If a low enough cost cannot be negotiated is there something else in place, maybe completing the training in Victoria.

4.6 POCT – Verbal

Chair: An agreed position has been reached and conveyed to Tasracing. The group is still committed to what was put forward in the letter. It is still clearly the view of the group that an increase in stakes is essential. It is also understood that no money from the POCT will be received until the end of the financial year.

Paul Eriksson: Yes, that is correct. The Treasuries budget forward estimates has the first 6 months cash at around \$1.8 million in August/September 2020 and the next 12 months, estimated to be around \$4.1 million in August/September 2021. It is unsure of how calculations are done. The concern from Tasracing is the timing of the cash to the industry. The first payment may be ok, but the second payment a year later will not be tenable. There is no cash reserve in the industry. There is now a process around discussions with Treasury around the timing of that. In terms of dissection of the POCT of representations on the split, there has been no decision made on this. Tasracing has views on this but it is still very much in discussion. We are aware of some KPI's that will be placed on the funds.

Chair: Is there anything the Group can do to assist in putting the pressure back on Treasury.

Paul Eriksson: A plan will need to be formulate on how we attack this. But being on the same page is the first step. Tasracing would like to see if we can get the cash quarterly as that then doesn't affect our infrastructure plans. The infrastructure is just as important over the next few years such as providing better training facilities.

Chair: The group are happy to assist with what is needed. Are you able to provide clarity on the infrastructure spend?

Paul Eriksson: Work is currently being done on this and will be provided to industry for comment once completed.

Andrew Scanlon: While we want to see the infrastructure plan, but it needs reiterating the bulk of the money needs to go to stakes. Tasmania is falling further and further behind all the time.

Rob Dixon left 1:06pm

4.7 Code Funding – Verbal

Paul Eriksson: On the first-round request for submissions 5 responses were received (TTC / TPC / DHRC / TAN / GRG). There will be a summary available early next week along with the second paper. GRG focused on turnover / revenue with the remaining on economic contribution. 4 of the 5 responses noted there was to be no decrease to current funding levels. TAN / TPC focused on economic contribution and no new model be done until the completion of a new Economic Impact Study (EIS). Currently pricing is being done for an EIS.

Kevin Ring: Noted that 4 new roles have been advertised for Tasracing along with an increase to employee benefits by 5.3%. This raises doubt in these times with what money is available.

Paul Eriksson: There is work being done to move back to the Racing Team model pre the previous CEO Vaughn Lynch. It has been found that one person dealing with a code creates issues as they are unable to deal with all required duties. I realise there was an employee benefits increase but this is not just Tasracing staff but casuals and racing staff that were picked up from the Greyhound clubs. It may need to be more clearly identified.

5 OTHER BUSINESS

Liam Swan: Just to note that SKY 2 will be included free to all Foxtel users in the very new future.

Stephen Maskiell: The POCT should not go to just stakemoney, there needs to be a better balance. More meetings not races.

Kevin Ring: Agrees. More races provide more opportunity for everyone.

Marion Dalco: The ATA would like to raise with ORI that Stewards need to send an email confirmation on verbal confirmation providing permission to participants via the phone.

John King: Will follow up.

Andrew Scanlon: Supports the improvement in staffing at Tasracing. Is Tasracing going to review their overall cost structure. I believe there is areas for improvement. The industry need to see that savings are being made.

Paul Eriksson: The new finance system we have implemented is able to provide us better analysis so this can be done. I believe Tasracing has been fairly lax with that information being provided to the industry.

David Adams: Raised concern with the current programming for April onwards, with 7 weeks continuous racing at Devonport. With low field numbers and lower betting turnover why are we not racing on grass more. I understand the new track needs to be looked after but the industry need to be racing on turf at least twice a month. 3 meetings over 8 weeks is not good enough. This rules out a lot of horses that don't race on synthetic.

Kevin Ring: Strathayr needs to renovate over the colder months.

Andrew Scanlon: Agrees that this needs looking at, the Hobart track needs to be tested.

Paul Eriksson: Comments noted. There was extra races at Launceston and Devonport last year due to the track renovation. Further renovations need to be done at Launceston. Tasracing will work with the industry on timing. We are able to only do light racing at Hobart over the first 12 months to ensure the track is bedded in. Maintenance is key to ensuring the success of this track.

David Adams: Can there be some consideration for meetings in June/July.

Paul Eriksson: Tasracing cannot commit to a decision on extra races at Hobart. We will not risk damaging the track. Happy to test the track with trials. Strathayr are currently happy with how the track is but this needs to be managed. Launceston has a considerable thatch problem and needs significant work to reduce that so that the track is sustainable over the next 5 years. Hobart is the track that has the potential to run us through winter, but this needs to be checked and tested to work out what we can and can't do. This year will be a bit painful but when we get through winter we will know.

Meeting Closed at 1:38pm

Next meeting: Thursday, June 11th, 2020