

**TAN –MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019**  
**The Conquering Bar, Ladbrokes Park Elwick**  
**Meeting commenced at 11:01am**

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**Attendees:**

Merv Hill	Chair
Paul Eriksson	Tasracing CEO
Liam Swan	Tasracing Strategic Development Manager
Robyn Wishaw	Tasracing Director
Blayne Hudson	Tasracing Racing Operations
Angela Barrett	Tasracing Senior Racing Officer
Stephen Maskiell	Tasracing Apprentice Jockey Program Manager
Sam Steven	Tasracing Head of Marketing
Belinda Lewis	Tasracing Animal Welfare Manager
Lana Castle	Tasracing Racing Administrator
John King	ORI Director of Racing
David Adams	Racehorse Owners Association Tasmania
John Alducci	Australian Trainers Association
Kevin Ring	Jockeys Association
Brian Walker	Tasmanian Turf Club
Andrew Scanlon	Tasmanian Racing Club
Peter George	Devonport Racing Club
Rob Dixon	Tasbreeders

**Observer:**

Dave Manshanden    Tasbreeders

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**1        MEETING ADMINISTRATION**

**1.1      Welcome**

Chair opened the meeting at 11:01am

**1.2      Apologies**

Apologies were received from Ross Jones, John McKenna, Nigel Schuurings, Marion Dalco, Shaun Nichols and Scott Quill.

**1.3      Minutes**

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

**David Adams:** Requested that his statement in the minutes that the stakes increase was to be CPI less 1% be amended to true and correct information in that the stake increase was to be CPI.

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.

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## **2. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

### **2.1 No Amendment to trials after release**

**Blayne Hudson:** Noted that the amount of amendments after trials are released is causing unnecessary workloads and risking incorrect information being published. He spoke to the provided paper highlighting that the recommendation is to enforce a 9am deadline for changes to be made by trainers.

**Kevin Ring:** Queried whether this proposal was reviewed by Scott Quill before coming to TAN.

This was confirmed by Blayne.

**Chair:** Accepted the recommendation on behalf of TAN after no negative feedback was tabled by members.

### **2.2 2YO trial fields - Verbal**

**Blayne Hudson:** Put forward the proposal to change the field sizes for 2YO trials in which they obtain their barrier certificate, suggesting that the field size decrease from 7 to 4/5. He noted that he held discussions with Scott Quill from Racing Integrity who raised concerns on whether this would impact the education of the 2YO horses and in turn their performance on race days.

**Kevin Ring:** Seconded concerns on the impact this change may have on 2YO horses noting that if fields were decreased to make it a more comfortable experience for the horses there was potential for issues during a race day. Kevin highlighted that the conditions of a race day already differ from trials but decreasing field sizes to 4/5 would be too much for 2YO horses when suddenly facing seven or more horses in a race environment.

**Chair:** Advised that based on this feedback TAN would not support a change to the field size.

### **2.3 Trials, jumpouts & grass gallops policy – late paper**

**Angela Barrett:** Advised the members that the paper was not complete and could not to be put forward at this time. It would instead be sent out as an out of sessions document in December.

**Liam Swan:** Offered the members a verbal on the contents and requirement of the policy currently being developed. Liam noted that the aim of the policy was to address inconsistency in the state and provide an overarching agreement for industry to follow. Liam highlighted contents of the policy in a brief discussion which included grass gallops held outside of allocated trial days being limited to horses over a particular rating and reviewing how jumpouts are run.

**Kevin Ring:** Raised that there is potential for concerns through industry if Tasracing take on a similar policy to that of VIC; where jockeys are not paid for jumpouts and there is no ambulance at the track.

**Liam Swan:** Advised that the VIC model was not something that had been utilised for the creation of this policy and there was no intention to cease paying jockeys or lose the medical edge presence at trials or jumpouts.

**Stephen Maskiell:** Highlighted that once a standardised length for jumpouts was set in the policy then placement of the barriers would need to be reviewed by track staff to ensure that quality of tracks is well managed.

**Liam Swan:** Noted that consultations with track staff to ensure tracks are not over worked or damaged is to be undertaken as part of the ongoing policy creation process.

**Chair:** Thanked Liam for the verbal overview and advised that TAN will await the policy to be sent before the new year commences.

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### **3 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Nil**

**Chair:** Took the opportunity to raise that members requested an out of sessions discussions take place at the end of this TAN meeting. It was additionally requested that only non-ORI and non-Tasracing members remained to review standings of the POCT and potentially review options for communication with government regarding the current percentage split offered. Chair then queried whether Paul Eriksson had any information to provide members regarding the POCT.

**Paul Eriksson:** Advised that POCT had been officially approved at 15% with a 50/50 split between Industry and Government. Paul noted that Tasracing were presently drafting a paper in response to Government.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Raised that the legislative council were not as supportive as initially anticipated in the final decision of the split. He also highlighted his belief that the 50/50 split was incurred due to a new TAB Corp deal that has TAB paying government 1.5 million instead of a previous 7 million. Andrew suggested that the percentage of the POCT received by Industry is put in to stakes and not divided between stakes, infrastructure and welfare as previously discussed. Concern was also raised by Andrew that there is perceived softening of race field fees.

**Robin Wishaw:** Seconded concerns on the softening of race field fees noting additional concern that Industry will not understand that at present the POCT figures are not enough to allow any increases and will simply keep the Industry afloat.

**Chair:** Sought, and received, confirmation from members that the agreed approach from Industry was to continue lobbying the government for a 20/80 split of the POCT in Industry's favour. Chair also took the opportunity to recommend that while lobbying for a better share that Industry should also be requesting a 12-month mandated review on the POCT split. Chair then advised further discussion will continue off record and out of session.

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## 4 ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 4.1 Apprentice claim types - Verbal

**Blayne Hudson:** Advised that after discussion and decision at the September TAN meeting the changes had been approved and implemented.

### 4.2 Wagering turnover performance

**Paul Eriksson:** Gave precis of the paper noting the decrease was a national trend over the three codes and noted there is no evidence of a direct link between POCT and decreased wagering to this level.

**Kevin Ring:** Highlighted that the current disposable income was not presently available to punters and questioned whether smaller field sizes were proven to have a negative impact on wagering.

**Paul Eriksson:** Confirmed that this is evident and noted that while there were expectations of decreased field sizes during the Elwick Track re-development it was not anticipated to have field sizes as low as July and August.

**Brian Walker:** Questioned why so many races are still being programmed at Devonport Synthetic Track if nominations are still lacking at this venue.

**Liam Swan:** Explained that Launceston's turf track could not take on all of the relocated Elwick meetings as the track would deteriorate too much, therefore programming at Devonport was still required.

### 4.3 Marketing update

**Sam Steven:** Gave a verbal precis of the paper and an overview on the current Marketing Team strategy for the thoroughbred code. Sam highlighted that Marketing was engaging with national wagering markets well and promoting Clubs to work towards an increase to their on-track attendance.

Advice was given to members that the Marketing budget split was being utilised at 60% off course wagering and 40% club relationships, ownership, on track attendance and setting foundations for future generations involvement within Industry. The Summer Carnival promotions were being broadcast on tv and radio with social media advertising increasing over the coming weeks. The Australian Racehorse of the Year event was also discussed by Sam and the members noting that overall it was a positive event which was well received by local and interstate attendees.

**David Adams:** Queried whether it was perceived as a worthy financial cost.

**Paul Eriksson:** Raised that the event was agreed upon 2 years prior by a previous Tasracing CEO. The event was not something that could be backed out of due to Tasracing only being made aware they were expected to host the event less than 6 months beforehand. Paul also noted that it was an excellent event which gained support nationally.

**Chair:** Questioned if Sam had any information on the movie production company IBT who are filming in Tasmania currently a feature on the Thoroughbred Racing Industry.

**Sam Steven:** Advised the members that the production company IBT is presently filming and has been on course at Tasmanian tracks obtaining footage of racing and the behind the scene of race meetings. Sam also noted that while Tasracing are looking to support this project they are not presently providing any sponsorship or funding.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Queried whether there was a risk for this feature film to negatively impact the Industry.

**Sam Steven:** Explained that while there is a potential risk it is being perceived currently as minimal. Sam highlighted that risk mitigation is one of several reasons for Tasracing to be involved as much as practical in the production of the film.

**Kevin Ring:** Queried whether the Marketing Team have prepared promotional materials for the 2020 re-opening of the Ladbrokes Park Elwick Track.

**Sam Steven:** Advised the Marketing Team have been working on this with great understanding that this will bring a lot of positive publicity to the track and the Industry.

#### **4.4 Assets update**

**Chair:** Opened the floor for any comments regarding the update to which several members noted they had taken the opportunity to walk the new Ladbrokes Park Elwick Track. All members were impressed with the quality and praised the teams working on the redevelopment.

#### **4.5 Programming sub-committee minutes**

Members noted the minutes of the PSC.

**Liam Swan:** Opened the floor to members for any comments or queries regarding the provided minutes.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Questioned whether an annual program of race dates, informing them of locations for meetings, could be made available to Clubs.

**Paul Eriksson:** Advised this is already done and distributed to Clubs by the Racing Team.

**Brian Walker:** Queried why the 3YO cup was not included in the meetings quadrella.

**Blayne Hudson:** Advised that the races position outside of the quadrella was historically better for wagering turnover.

#### **4.6 Animal Welfare update – Verbal**

**Belinda Lewis:** Introduced herself to the members and gave a brief background on her previous experience. Belinda then advised the members that the current priority for the Animal Welfare department is to ensure correct data records, transparency with Industry and the implementation of correct processes and procedures overall.

**John King:** Advised the members of a potential National Horse Traceability program that has been recommended by senate in which horses can be located and reported on after their retirement from racing. He noted that this was not yet a guarantee to move forward and that finances may well put a cease to the potential program before it begins.

**Chair:** Thanked John for the information and Belinda for her introduction noting that in following meeting he would open the floor to members to raise concerns with Belinda or ask questions of her.

#### **4.7 Apprentice school update – Verbal**

**Stephen Maskiell:** Presented the members with a hand out that contained information on jockey Simon Kok who participated in the Tasmanian Apprentice Jockey School. Stephen then gave the members a verbal overview of the progress of the program highlighting:

- The feedback currently being received by past and present student is extremely positive with many jockeys, that have completed their apprenticeships moving on to the mainland, continue to support Tasmania's program by sharing their excellent feedback on a national scale.
- Tasracing's growing relationship with the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) to bring international jockeys to Tasmania to assist with states shortage and promote Tasmanian racing on an international scale. Stephen also noted that he had attended trips to Singapore to build professional relationships with members of HKJC to better assist in obtaining riders in Tasmania.
- Work behind the scenes between Tasracing and Racing Victoria to offer apprentices not selected in Victoria a position in Tasmania to learn and ride.

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## 5 OTHER BUSINESS

**John Alducci:** Referred to the action list, circulated with the September minutes, questioning if there had been progress with investigations on Tasracing financially supporting trainers travelling to night meetings.

**Chair:** Advised that it was resolved in discussions with Tasracing that there was no budget available for such assistance at the present time.

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**John Alducci:** Queried if there had been any further investigation by Tasracing on paying placings through to 8<sup>th</sup> instead of 5<sup>th</sup> as normal.

**Blayne Hudson:** Noted that due to funding issues and lack of overall support it was decided at the September meeting that this would not be investigated further.

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**John Alducci:** Questioned if there was any progress with investigations into a nationally recognised licence for track riders. He also queried if Tasracing and ORI will continue to require medicals for track riders moving forward.

**Angela Barrett:** Advise that Tasracing had undertaken discussions with ORI and found that each states PRA Agreement was extremely varied and the process to get a licence in each state did not match up. This would make getting a nationally recognised licence too difficult. Angela also noted that there was no intention to cease medicals at this point in time.

**John King:** Advised that Worksafe have provided positive reports back to ORI for continuing to include medicals as part of the licencing process.

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**Kevin Ring:** Raised concerns regarding the cost of travel for Tasmanian jockeys to travel to King Island to ride. Kevin noted that this may lead to an influx of interstate jockeys taking on King Island rides.

**Angel Barrett:** Highlighted that flights for jockeys are already subsidised by Tasracing bringing the cost from an average of \$500 down to \$150 return.

**Robin Whishaw:** Noted that two rides by jockeys covered the cost of return flights and remaining rides would be profit to jockeys.

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**David Adams:** Queried whether the \$200K funds discussed at the previous meeting had been allocated to the 3YO Cup and Trophy with the remaining going to the divided race pool or was it to be used as a stake increase.

**Blayne Hudson:** Advised that as decided in the last meeting \$100K was split equally over the 3YO Cup and Trophy with the remaining \$100K going to the divided race pool.

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**David Adams:** Questioned if an annual race grid, noting race locations, could be created and distributed to Industry

**Blayne Hudson:** Advised that this is already actioned annually by Tasracing and made available to Industry from May/June each year.

**Robin Whishaw:** Suggested Tasracing send out the link to members and clubs to ensure all can locate this information grid.

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**Andrew Scanlon:** Raised that stakes are paid out in Victoria prior to swab results being returned and questioned why this was not an option in Tasmania.

**Paul Eriksson:** Explained this is a financial risk that Tasracing will not cover as owners that are paid are not licensed participants and therefore are not held accountable to the same legislations, rule and policies as Industry members. Paul noted that to reclaim monies in the instance of a positive swab civil action is required.

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Meeting Closed at 12:51pm

**Next meeting:**

<b>Action List</b>	
Amend minutes as per David Adam's request	Tasracing
Implement a 9am deadline for trial changes as agreed	Tasracing
Provide members with an out of session paper for the pending trials, jumpouts and grass gallops policy	Tasracing