

**TAN –MEETING MINUTES**  
**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**Conquering Room, Hobart**  
**Meeting commenced at 10:30 am**

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**Attendees:**

Merv Hill	Chair
Paul Eriksson	Tasracing CEO
Liam Swan	Tasracing Operations Manager
Blayne Hudson	Tasracing Code Lead - Thoroughbreds
Robyn Whishaw	Tasracing Director
Stephen Maskiell	Tasracing Apprentice Jockey Program Manager
Belinda Lewis	Tasracing Animal Welfare Manager
Tony Latham	ORI Stewards Manager
Scott Quill	Chief Steward - Thoroughbreds
John McKenna	Racehorse Owners Association Tasmania
Marion Dalco	Australian Trainers Association
Kevin Ring	Jockeys Association (Phone)
Nigel Schuurin	Australian Trainers Association (Phone)
Brian Walker	Tasmanian Turf Club
Andrew Scanlon	Tasmanian Racing Club
Ross Jones	Devonport Racing Club
Nick Walker	Tasmanian Racing Club

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**1 MEETING ADMINISTRATION**

**1.1 Welcome**

Chair opened the meeting at 10:35am

**1.2 Apologies**

Apologies were received from John Alducci, Rob Dixon and Belinda Lewis

**1.3 Minutes**

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

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**

**3.4 Stewards Towers at Hobart**

**Kevin Ring:** Queried the outcome of agenda item 3.4 Stewards Tower at Hobart

**Paul Eriksson:** Explained that the 3 towers will have their stairs redone. Tasracing is currently sourcing the design. The tower at the 600m will not be being moved but the OH&S issue will be assessed.

**Workers Compensation**

**Paul Eriksson:** Explained that out of the 88 Trainers, 8 have said they were not interested in a state policy, 26 have provided no information, and 35 have provided partial full information and

were willing to engage in a state wide policy. A list will be provided to John Alducci for his members to be contacted.

**Kevin Ring:** Believes that if the Jockeys have a policy out of 1% of prizemoney, then the ATA should lobby for a percentage of prizemoney to assist them with workers comp

**Paul Eriksson:** Explained that Racing Australia has rejected that proposal in the past but happy to raise the question.

**Merv Hill:** Stated that Racing NSW have their own fund and Victoria don't have an issue with their insurance so support may be hard to receive.

**Kevin Ring:** Believes that the insurers are using the jockey injuries as a premium and inflating the cover.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Agreed with Kevin Ring that the premiums are being raised and treating the industry as a whole instead of an individual basis

**Paul Eriksson:** Explained that the worst affected are the ones with the highest claims or deemed the highest risk.

**Marion Dalco:** Explained that the insurance doesn't cover her as she doesn't employ anyone.

**Paul Eriksson:** Tasracing is in contact with 5 potential insurers and will provide them the information given to us by trainers to work out if a statewide agreement can be reached

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## 2) ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION

### 2.1 Thoroughbred Code Allocation

**Merv Hill:** Explained as a TAN group that the consensus was that this code allocation should be put towards a base stakes increase.

**Robyn Whishaw:** Asked if the funds would be better suited to more meetings based on the 16 additional races we have programmed since the start of the season. The increase to \$18.5k base stakes would leave little money in the Divided Race Pool (DRP) for the season.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Spoke about an additional stakes increase from the government being promises to Tasracing and we should be in a position to increase stakes further into the new year.

**Paul Eriksson:** Stated that if the POCT tax and RFF were greater than expected, that money would be utilised through stakes. Wasn't aware of the government putting in writing of a guaranteed stakes increase and would check.

**Marion Dalco:** Believes base stakes should be kept at \$17k but pay stakes back to 10<sup>th</sup> to accommodate Night Racing.

**Blayne Hudson:** Explained that stakes could be raised to \$18k and with stakes being paid back to 10<sup>th</sup> at \$300 per horse, the outlay would take \$150k-\$200k out of the divided race pool.

**David Manshanden:** Asked why we have been running additional meetings this year and if that money would be better suited to the DRP

**Blayne Hudson:** Stated that the increase may be better suited to the DRP but to provide consistency for horses to race, those additional meetings were added.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Believes we shouldn't be cutting meetings.

**Kevin Ring:** Believes we aren't increasing race meetings but getting back to where we once were.

**Liam Swan:** Scheduling is at capacity as it is based on Sky availability and no option to increased slots to night racing. Transferring some meetings from Devonport to Turf will potentially be an option in time.

**David Manshanden:** Concerned the industry hasn't seen a stakes increase due to that money going towards the DRP, Tasbred or riding fees. The industry want a stakes money increase and believe it should be lifted to \$18.5k and would be supported by Tasbreeders.

**Kevin Ring:** Believes King Island racing could not be going ahead due to the lack of jockeys willing to attend the meetings consistently.

**Liam Swan:** Explained that if stakes were increased to \$18.5k trainers must be aware that there would be very limited options of a divide race pool for the season.

**Merv Hill:** Put the options of \$18k and \$18.5k to TAN to vote on the increase. The outcome was a stakes increase to \$18.5k which will take affect from 4<sup>th</sup> October.

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## 2.2 Track Rule – Hi Visibility Vests

**Nick Walker:** Explained the new wording around Track Rule 12 for the Tasmanian Track Rules. Nick also stated that further amendments to the rule should include that Hi Vis Vests should be used by all persons working on course during trackwork hours.

**Kevin Ring:** Raised that Racing Australia have a drafted rule which enables riders to have the option to wear a light on their helmet or on their vest.

**Marion Dalco:** Stated that the rule needs to be amended to not only working participants but all participants on course during training hours must wear hi visibility vests.

TAN agreed to the amendment to include "all" participants to wear High Visibility during trackwork.

**David Manshanden:** Showed 2 identical vests with high vis colours and was concerned how the rule would be policed.

**Nick Walker:** Stated that the garments should have the D/N tag

**Kevin Ring:** Believes the stables that have already purchased High Visibility garments should be able to continue to wear this.

**David Manshanden:** The rule should be the garment is deemed suitable if approved by the Track Steward

**Tony Latham:** Was happy that the rule can be enforced if the garment is deemed suitable at the track stewards discretion

**Merv Hill:** Believed the wording should include that clause if deemed suitable by the track stewards but made the point of ensuring within 2 years that all participants must have the Australian Standard approved vest.

**Paul Eriksson:** Proposed that the rule will be garemets are grandfathered for 18 months as of today. This was agreed

**Nigel Schuurin:** Asked about Cameron Thompsons Vests if they were suitable

**Liam Swan:** As the colours are not an Australian Standard then they mustn't be used.

**Merv Hill:** Asked Nick Walker to reword the rule to take account of suggestions made.

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### 3) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 3YO Maidens

**Nigel Schuurin:** Asked about the inclusion of programming additional 3YO Maidens

**Blayne Hudson:** Stated that the reason for the shortage of 3YO Maidens was due to the Tasbred Series races in May and trying to progress horses into the \$50k feature. An additional 3YO Maiden has been added in Launceston on October 10<sup>th</sup> with the alteration of the Tasbred Races to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Blayne also stated that 3YO Maidens have been programmed regularly throughout the upcoming December to March program grid.

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#### 3.2 800m Chute at Longford

**Nigel Schuurin:** Requested an 800m chute for Longford as the 700m trial is slightly too short for the younger horses and will help educate them better

**Paul Eriksson:** Explained that Tasracing is happy to put it in the infrastructure plan to discuss with Industry for works in the coming years.

**Blayne Hudson:** Raised the idea of putting a winning post at the 400m mark and having 1000m trials from the 1400m start.

**Nigel Schuurin:** Agreed to take the idea back to the trainers association.

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#### 3.4 Apprentice Jockeys Volume Discussion

**Stephen Maskiell:** Explained the reasons behind limiting the number of apprentice jockeys licenced in Tasmania at any one time.

**Kevin Ring:** Agrees with capping the number of apprentice jockeys licenced in Tasmania as this would reduce the number of fly-ins we currently have on a regular basis. Locals should be looked after first but Tasracing shouldn't close the avenue of gaining additional apprentices from the Interstate or Internationally.

**Liam Swan:** Tasracing would like to move to a model where apprentices go through a process before they are accepted into the program. Stated that the discussions today would give Tasracing an indication of how the Industry would like to push forward with the apprentices.

**Blayne Hudson:** Asked if apprentice numbers were capped would the number of apprentices to a trainer also be capped.

**Marion Dalco:** Agreed with the structure but believes the applicant should spend more time doing trackwork and jumpouts so they are not fast tracked into the system.

**Stephen Maskiell:** Agreed with Marion but stated that keeping them only doing trackwork and jumpouts may be detrimental and the apprentice might lose the passion to continue.

**Merv Hill:** Agreed with Tasracing pursuing capping the number of apprentices in Tasmania.

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### 3.5 Apprentice Jockeys Number of Wins

**Stephen Maskiell:** Explained the reasons for wanting to lift the number of wins for Tasmanian Apprentices to outride their claim, raising them up from 80 to potentially 100.

**Marion Dalco:** Believes that riders such as Tom Doyle shouldn't have come to Tasmania as he had no claim

**Stephen Maskiell:** Believes keeping the threshold at 80 to outride their claim to be too few for an apprentice in Tasmania and raising it will keep apprentices in the state for longer before they would have to travel interstate.

**Kevin Ring:** Agrees that apprentices are outriding their claim too quickly, not just on a local level but nationally also. Stated they can come out of their time not yet being a competent rider and will struggle to receive enough rides in the future to continue their time in the industry.

**Merv Hill:** Wanted clarification around the apprentice race types going back to a "Country" apprentice claim type from "Provincial".

**Blayne Hudson:** Stated that under this alteration we have gone back to 16 "Provincial" Meetings over the course of the season from 63 Meetings. The rest are at "Country" claims.

**Merv Hill:** Believes the alteration of the claim type across these meetings should see a change to the apprentice total number of wins.

**Liam Swan:** Stated that the biggest risk is that due to the shortage of jockeys in the state, apprentices could get more rides than they would in other jurisdictions.

**Merv Hill:** Asked TAN if there were any thoughts across the group if this should be pursued. The consensus was support for raising the threshold but additional information from a national level must be explored prior to implementation.

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### 3.6 Hobart Trials

**Kevin Ring:** Re-raised the issue around Monday trials from the last TAN Meeting and asked whether an agreement had been made to alter them to a Tuesday

**Blayne Hudson:** Stated that he had spoken to Ricky Aitken and Sam Webster around the alteration to push trials back to Tuesday. Both were in agreement that what was best for the track is to keep the trials on a Monday to allow as much time between meetings to prepare the track again for racing. Understood that Tuesday trials are better for the horses but from a track point of view Monday is the preferred option.

**Kevin Ring:** Asked if it would be better if a false rail was installed from 1200m to WP

**Blayne Hudson:** A false rail would be better utilised on the home straight but the preference from Tasracing and StathAyr is Monday trials

**Merv Hill:** Opinion must be taken from Tasracing and Strathayr for how to maintain the track so the trials will remain on the Monday for the foreseeable future.

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### 3.6 Hobart Traffic at Hobart

**Kevin Ring:** As mentioned previously that the jumpouts and gallops would be down the back straight. This hasn't been implemented yet. Stated that Murray Bridge, which holds track gallops and jumpouts on its track like Hobart is showing wear and tear on the surface.

**Kevin Ring:** Believes the argument around the horse not knowing where the winning post is unwarranted and believes it shouldn't be a factor

**Paul Eriksson:** Stated that Tasracing would be monitoring it when training resumes at the track.

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### ITEMS FOR NOTING

#### 4.1 Wagering Turnover Performance and 4.5 POCT

**Paul Eriksson:** Gave an overview of updated wagering information on all codes from July with the Thoroughbred code doing exceptionally well with a 98% increase from July 2019. From early feedback the numbers for August look similar. Stated that if RFF held up, then Tasracing would be in a position to make another announcement.

**Andrew Scanlon:** How is the [eat](#) POCT holding up

**Paul Eriksson:** Tasracing has asked for information through Treasury, which [h](#)wasn't [been](#) provided, but from what Tasracing understands it is believed the POCT is over \$1m a month. As such POCT could potentially top \$12m over the course of the year. Tasracing is currently looking to receive the 80% of incremental revenue in September 2021

**Andrew Scanlon:** Believes the government shouldn't hold the money and it should come back into the Industry on a month by month basis. Believes we should lobby to make this possible.

**Merv Hill:** Believes we should lobby to make this possible and keep pressing to ensure the payments are made regularly

**Paul Eriksson:** Would be happy with any support to facilitate that to make it at least quarterly.

**David Manshanden:** What has factored into the increase

**Paul Eriksson:** The volume of turnover has been the main factor. Nothing else to bet on and reduction in access to poker machines along with additional disposable funds from Jobseeker and super draw down. The question is how long it holds up.

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## 4.2 Marketing Update

**Sam Steven:** Presented an update with Marketing coinciding with the Thoroughbred Awards dinner that night. Spoke about the initiatives such as live streaming all thoroughbred trials which will be implemented in the next few months. Marketing is also working with the 3 Thoroughbred clubs with the risk management over Covid plans

**Brian Walker:** Spoke about the submission the 3 clubs are putting together to go to the minister in the next few weeks.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Agreed that the clubs need to make sure they have flexibility but also be prepared to lobby the government as the clubs need to be able to start marketing their Summer Carnival events

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## 4.3 Asset and Facilities Update and 4.4 Animal Welfare Update

**Paul Eriksson:** Reconfirmed that Tasracing would be doing the stairs at Hobart to the stewards towers and coming out with an infrastructure plan to industry for the coming year. Welcomed Ricky Aitken as the new Assets and Facilities Manager and the Northern Facilities Officer would be back filled.

**Paul Eriksson:** Stated that the 13 horses advertised, that 10 have found new homes. There is an insurance issue around subsidized lessons which Tasracing are currently working on and the retraining hasn't progressed a lot since the last meeting but Belinda has been involved with the new Racing Australia welfare group. Stated that Harness Racing Victoria is looking at rules round their welfare for standards based on Tasracing greyhound rules.

**Marion Dalco:** Asked if Tasracing has put any thought into the Industry participant side of welfare

**Paul Eriksson:** Stated that Tasracing has a new industry provider for mental health and support and is currently in the process of releasing this information to Industry in the coming weeks

**Marion Dalco:** Think financial assistance should also be provided to industry through counselling as a lot of trainers could be struggling through losing a lot of owners and the cost of stable rent

**Paul Eriksson:** Stated that Tasracing is looking to go over our stable leases across the state in the coming months along with compliance to the lease terms in conjunction with ORI inspections.

**Brian Walker: (Assets Update)** Spoke about the community grants scheme that the Race clubs are looking into. Asked that if major works would be looked at-Launceston and if the rest of the group would put a submission in for the grant

**Paul Eriksson:** Spoke about the community grants scheme and whether they would be applicable as works could also fall into the Tasracing infrastructure plan. Stated that if its something that would be under our general course of maintenance then the submission would fall out of the community grants scheme. Industry would receive the Tasracing submission in November to discuss what we spend going forward but Tasracing must be careful how much they spend this FY

**Andrew Scanlon:** Believes TAN shouldn't have a say on the community grants but only the

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 OTHER BUSINESS

**John Mckenna:** Asked why owners don't get details on their remittance from Tasracing

**Andrew Scanlon:** Stated that the details are provided to the Managing Owner of the horse and its up to the managing owner to distribute to the other owners

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**John Mckenna:** Asked why owners don't get notified if their horse has had a positive swab

**Tony Latham:** Explained the delays have been extended due to Covid which has gone from 2 weeks up to 6 weeks. Stated that if a positive is returned ORI notifies the trainer and its up to them to notify the owners. The second sample is then sent away to be tested at another laboratory in another jurisdiction.

**Merv Hill:** Stated that putting it out early can be controversial and would generate a lot of unwarranted discussion if the B sample came back negative. It should be the trainers responsibility to let you know, not the stewards.

**Marion Dalco:** Agreed the onus should be on the trainer to notify owners.

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**Brian Walker:** Asked about the possibility of a Friday or Saturday Night alteration for TTC in December for a Xmas Function

**Liam Swan:** The alteration is unlikely to happen based on Sky availability

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**Brian Walker:** Asked about if there has been any progress on TAB Outlets.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Believes the clubs should follow up on this. Self Service Terminals should also be included

**Brian Walker:** Stated that the TTC also looking at using Bookmakers on course

**Paul Eriksson:** Self-Serve Terminals and mobile devices along with better wifi could also help to eliminate this issue.

**Brian Walker:** Introduced Natalie Waters as the new CEO of the TTC

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**Tony Latham:** Spoke about the figures for retired horses. Asked the trainers association to be more diligent and honest about where these horses are going after they have finished racing as the stewards will follow up on it.

**Paul Eriksson:** Spoke about the conversations with Racing Australia about horses that were still in the system that are currently being cleaned up which has horses over the age of 25 still "in work".

**Robyn Whishaw:** Asked if forms could be given to trainers on course and if an ad could be run in the calendar to remind trainers and owners about responsibility [for](#) retiring your racehorse.

**David Manshanden:** Spoke about the flaws in retiring horses where you can retire a horse and put a dummy address down. After this the horse goes to an unlicensed person, stewards are unable to have any control over the animal.

**Paul Eriksson:** Agreed entirely and processes need to be put in place to ensure the traceability of retired horses.



**Merv Hill:** Stated that the associated issues need careful consideration with special attention to any potential barriers to horse ownership.

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Meeting Closed at 12:59pm

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020