



HARNESS ACADEMY

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Background

Tasracing reintroduced the Harness Academy in 2019. Trainer/Driver Barrie Rattray was the successful applicant as the Lead Instructor holding classroom style workshops with novice drivers.

Over the passed two years the number of novice drivers in Tasmania has steadily grown, specifically in the South of the state, which has in turn highlighted the importance of the Harness Academy and providing education and support to the next generation.

Unfortunately in late 2021 for personal and professional reasons Barrie stood down from the role as Lead Instructor.

Tasracing will be advertising again for a replacement for this role, with the plan of expanding to included Mini Trots and the progression of those into trial driving. Work is currently being done on a business plan for approval.

To fill the void in the interim Tasracing reached out to HRA to enquire if they knew of anybody in that space that could assist.

Trainer / Driver David Miles who is based in Victoria is currently working in this space with HRV, however more on a one on one mentoring basis. David has previously held these workshop style classes through the Bendigo Training Centre. Initial conversations have been held and David is very interested in assisting Tasracing with the Harness Academy until a Lead Instructor can be found.

What is planned will be a rotating schedule with a workshop held monthly, rotating from North to South. These will continue to be mandatory as part of the drivers licensing requirements. David has supplied a program outline, which are listed on the following page, which will continue to be held in classroom style workshops.

As previously done an attending Steward would be required as apart of these workshops.



David Miles has put forward the following Academy structure. This of course will be fluid and dependent on the needs of each group.

- General driver education
 - Race driving education
 - Gear and Equipment
 - Driving Rules
 - Integrity
 - Trainer communication
 - Sectional times
 - Form analysis
 - Stewards room education
 - Media training
 - Basic veterinary and lameness
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- Breakdown of recent drives – dealt with on a one on one basis

The Structure of the academy will be the following:

- Held monthly – rotating North and South
- Minimum of 3 hours
- Mandatory – unless approval for non attendance

David will also make himself available to drivers at any time via mobile if they would like to question or query anything.

Tasracing would like to commence the academy late April / early May 2022.

I am requesting feedback from the Novice drivers on preferred times for these classes to be held. David is open to weeknights or weekends working in pre-race form if held a Saturday afternoon prior to a race meeting.

Feedback is requested either in writing to a.barrett@tasracing.com.au or phone on 0417 576 177 by COB Friday, 8th April.