

## TAN – MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Mowbray Racecourse, Launceston

Meeting commenced at 3:00pm

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### Attendees:

Merv Hill	Chair
Justin Helmich	General Manager – Office of Racing Integrity
Andrew Jenkins	Tasracing CEO
David Manshanden	Tasracing COO
Liam Swan	Tasracing Operations Manager
Blayne Hudson	Tasracing Code Lead – Thoroughbreds
Suzie Jacobson	Tasracing Director
Alison Archer	Tasmanian Turf Club – Chairman
Peter George	Devonport Racing Club – Deputy Chairman
Stephen Shaw	Australian Trainers Association
John McKenna	Racehorse Owners Association Tasmania
Martin Lenz	Tasracing Chief Veterinary & Animal Welfare Officer
Warren Heilig	Participation and Industry Development Manager
Kevin Ring	Tasmanian Jockeys Association

### Apologies:

Stewart Brown	Tasracing Racing Coordinator – Thoroughbreds
Bruce Free	Chairman of Stewards – Thoroughbred
David Adams	Racehorse Owners Association Tasmania
Andrew Scanlon	Tasmanian Racing Club
Bart McCulloch	Tasbreeders
Karl Thomas	Tasbreeders
Barry Milton	Devonport Racing Club
Bryan Dunn	Tasracing Senior Racing & Tracks Facilities Manager
Chris Hay	Tasracing Tracks & Facilities Manager – Elwick & Brighton

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## 1. MEETING ADMINISTRATION

### 1.1 Welcome

Chair opened the meeting at 2:55pm.

### 1.2 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.

### 1.3 Matters Arising

Action Items from the September 2023 TAN Meeting were addressed.

***Mounting Yard Placegetter Stalls at all Tracks*** – David Manshanden outlined that this will be covered off in item 3.5.

***FormPlus Website – Automated process to add profile photos for horses*** – Blayne Hudson gave an update on behalf of Jackie Farrelly. He relayed that all the Tasracing websites are currently being reviewed and scoped for a master upgrade as part of a revised marketing strategy. Any future FormPlus or specific website-based enhancements are currently on hold.

***Development of a Strong/High Winds Policy*** – Justin Helmich stated that Bruce Free and Ross Neal would provide an update .

**Kevin Ring** – Added that he spoke to Bruce Free about it and provided some documentation from interstate, but it hasn't been addressed as yet.

**Justin Helmich** – An update would be provided at the next TAN meeting.

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## 2. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Nil.

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## 3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Associate Passes

**Kevin Ring:** Spoke about Jockeys interstate who also receive an additional associate pass so that their partners or family can attend race meetings with them.

**Allison Archer:** Thought this had been discussed at a previous TAN Meeting and agreed for the jockeys to come into the club to get a pass.

**Kevin Ring:** Stated that this used to be done through The Office of Racing Integrity.

**Liam Swan:** Mentioned points from the previous discussion around the TRC not being comfortable with giving free entry and that all three clubs needed to agree to make an associate pass workable.

**Kevin Ring:** Believes all jockeys should be issued with one associate pass and asked ORI why this couldn't be done with licensing.

**Justin Helmich:** Stated that ORI issues licenses and associate passes should be done by the clubs.

**Merv Hill:** Spoke to the TTC and DRC who were happy to issue an associate pass but needed confirmation from the TRC before Tasracing could issue it.

**Liam Swan:** Will write to Andrew Scanlon on behalf of TAN regarding the proposal and will get back to the group.

**Kevin Ring:** Believes clubs should provide a yearly pass like their membership tickets.

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### 3.2 Raceday Zones

**Kevin Ring:** Outlined that Raceday zones such as mounting yards and horse stall areas are a risk to owners. Said that owners trying to get a photo with their horse after a race when there are multiple horses still around can make it very congested and dangerous. Other industry areas such as the course proper and jockeys rooms are just as important. Needs to not just be an integrity side but also a safety side. Mentioned that he will forward the Racing Victoria document through to Tasracing.

**David Manshanden:** Mentioned the challenge Tasracing face with owners on raceday regarding raceday areas. Stated that Tasracing don't want to not allow owners into areas but want to do it in a safe environment. Believes some owners lack horse sense which can cause safety issues. A broader discussion must be undertaken to determine how this can be done better in the future.

**Suzie Jacobson:** Mentioned the increased number of owners in syndicates brings more people into the yard. Suggested an alternative or allowances for owners to ensure it is safe when entering the yard.

**Kevin Ring:** Suggested an alternative at Hobart could be using the long walkway for owners as opposed to the mounting yard.

**Liam Swan:** Mentioned that all industry participants must always carry their ORI licence at race meetings. Makes it hard for security when most participants aren't carrying their accreditation even though they are licensed.

**Stephen Shaw:** Spoke about how the ATA discussed it at their meeting and agree with the safety issues around the mounting yard and are supportive of Tasracing to come up with a solution for the issue. Believes winning owners should be ushered into the mounting yard by security after horses have moved off to get their photo taken but all other owners should be excluded. Areas are available for trainers and jockeys to talk to their owners away from the mounting yard.

Believes horse stalls are a different scenario where there is a lot more space and would be less likely that an owner gets hurt.

**Merv Hill:** Stated that based on the commentary from the TJA and the ATA, that processes must be in place to ensure owners are not in the mounting yard whilst horses are around and that an alternative must be introduced.

**David Manshanden:** Once the other horses have left the mounting yard, the winning owners are able to enter the yard with their horse to have photos taken. Need to discuss with the TTC as the mounting yard currently doesn't fall under the control of Tasracing.

**Kevin Ring:** Strappers need to also be more aware of the horses around them when re-entering the mounting yard from a race.

**David Manshanden:** Tasracing will work with the TTC to get a process implemented.

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### 3.3 Race Tracks

**Kevin Ring:** Spoke about the Devonport track and the abandonment of the last race on December 8. Thinks the track has broken down and is now a hard surface for the jockeys if they fall.

**David Manshanden:** Stated that Devonport needs an upgrade but a cost of around \$4-\$6m would be the spend to achieve this. Tasracing can put in maintenance processes around the track to help with the surface and minimise some of the issues raised. Long term, Tasracing has discussed these issues and it's something the board will need to consider to determine if the project to upgrade Devonport needs to be brought forward.

Outlined that Tasracing will do independent testing on the track but accept it's not draining as it should. Mentioned that within 20 minutes after the race being abandoned that the water had gone and if this race wasn't the last on the card, then they would have persisted with fixing it.

**Kevin Ring:** Mentioned the track ratings at Hobart being terrific but believes Launceston is too firm. Believes the track should be watered around midday to give the track more give. Mentioned the grass cover being a lot better at Launceston recently which helps.

**David Manshanden:** Mentioned that there is always differing opinions around track ratings. Tasracing has Liam O'Keefe coming down this week to go over all our penetrometer and going stick readings to ensure our data is correct which we are confident it is.

**Stephen Shaw:** Asked why the grass at Launceston is cut shorter than at Hobart.

**David Manshanden:** Will speak to Bryan Dunn and Chris Hay regarding this and will get back to the group.

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### 3.4 Night Racing in April

**Kevin Ring:** Stated that the jockeys at their AGM were all 100% unanimous that they don't want to race past 7:00pm in April due to the weather conditions. Believes they were told previously that night racing won't be run in April.

**Alison Archer:** Asked for all the jockeys to sign paperwork that proves they are unanimous in this decision. The TTC will continue to plan to hold the night meetings in April as the conditions are no different to Victoria where they currently race in April at night.

**David Manshanden:** Outlined that the Tasracing position hasn't changed from last time where we agreed to work with Sky Channel in the future to get the best possible slots for times available. Downturn in wagering means we need to put our best product forward. To continue to have stakes increases and jockey riding increases we need to have flexibility from the riding group and Tasracing doesn't think night racing in April is unreasonable.

**Liam Swan:** Stated that the meetings will remain programmed and Tasracing will work with Sky, the Club, and riders.

**Stephen Shaw:** Unsure what the issue is for the jockeys but believes if they are cold to raise the weight to ensure they can have more layers of clothing.

**Kevin Ring:** Frosty roads through April can make driving home dangerous.

**Liam Swan:** Reinforced that night racing in April will remain as programmed. Once the Sky schedule exists, we will liaise with industry.

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### 3.5 Launceston Placegetter Stalls

**Kevin Ring:** Provided positive feedback from the jockeys with the alteration of the stalls at Launceston to 3 instead of 5. Believes they are a lot wider, and jockeys are happy to use them, but they need to be encouraged more to use them. Hobart needs to be reduced to 3 stalls as 5 is too many as they can't be widened.

**Stephen Shaw:** Mentioned that through ATA Meetings they have encouraged trainers to use the stalls, but they are still not using them frequently. Has seen the stewards direct horses into stalls but some strappers aren't following the instructions consistently. Believes its old habits from COVID times leading to horses not entering stalls but it now needs to be re-enforced. Believes there should be a mounting yard steward which directs people into stalls and keeps the mounting yard organised and safe.

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## 4. ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 4.1 Industry Code of Conduct

**David Manshanden:** Updated TAN that in late November Tasracing released the Industry Code of Conduct to alleviate some of the issues from training venues. The Code was created to stamp out some of the behaviors that Tasracing and ORI regularly face.

**Stephen Shaw:** Believes it will be a good thing for the industry.

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### 4.2 Wagering Turnover Performance

**Andrew Jenkins:** Mentioned the continuation of wagering decline nationwide. Stated that after the COVID wagering boom, these figures were never sustainable, and we are now seeing us fall back into where wagering was prior to COVID across all 3 codes.

**Alison Archer:** Asked how Friday Night Racing turnover was performing.

**Andrew Jenkins:** Mentioned that Friday Nights have performed particularly well and are very healthy for Tasmanian Racing.

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### 4.3 Marketing Update

**Andrew Jenkins:** Mentioned the Summer Racing Festival promoted for the first time on *Racing.com* in conjunction with Ladbrokes. This includes 30 second slots promoting the Summer Racing Festival but also includes Mounting Yard and prerace banners mentioning the carnival.

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### 4.4 Projects/Assets & Tracks/Facilities Update

**David Manshanden:** Spoke about the Devonport amenities building which is going to schedule. The Longford renovation went well and Tasracing will look at trialing at Longford during Winter in 2024. Mowbray has had 11 Meetings and 2 Trial sessions in 12 weeks and has held up well. The renovation has already begun there to be ready for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Hobart is in fantastic order and racing well. Brighton drainage/asphalt works have been completed.

**Suzie Jacobson:** Commended Peter McFarlane and Bryan Dunn on the project management work they have done operationally to get these projects completed and running to schedule.

**Stephen Shaw:** Agreed with Suzie and mentioned how well informed and updated trainers are/were through these works.

**David Manshanden:** Mentioned the development plans that Tasracing will build an additional 12 stalls at Longford to reduce the issues faced on training and trial days.

**Kevin Ring:** Mentioned the works at Devonport which used to affect trackwork have been rectified thanks to consultation with Peter McFarlane and the industry.

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#### 4.5 Animal Welfare Update

**Martin Lenz:** Spoke briefly about the Murrhy report which has been released but not yet available to view to assess and potentially implement any recommendations.

**Kevin Ring:** Mentioned that the TJA and Tasracing have agreed to pay through the welfare fund for 2 pairs of new jockey breeches for each jockey which will be sponsored by “*Off The Track Tasmania*”.

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#### 4.6 Apprentice School Update

**Liam Swan:** Updated TAN on current apprentices. Mentioned Codi Jordan will be classified as a senior rider after concluding her apprenticeship tonight (Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December).

**Stephen Shaw:** Asked if there is a “cap” on how many apprentices they are willing to have at any one time.

**Liam Swan:** Mentioned there is no cap as a paper previously to TAN suggesting a cap was rejected. The Apprentice Panel are mindful of how many apprentices are currently in the system.

**Stephen Shaw:** Asked if anymore apprentices are looking to come into the system in the future.

**Liam Swan:** Stated that whilst there are opportunities that several new local and international apprentices could come into the program in the future, several current riders will finish their apprenticeships in the next few months.

**Stephen Shaw:** Said with the current number of apprentices riding, is it a good look for our industry.

**Kevin Ring:** Concerned about the international apprentices coming as well as maintaining our local riders and apprentices. Need to look after our senior riders. Documented incidents recently involving apprentices and even senior riders causing issues in a race which hasn't been reprimanded by the stewards. Doesn't believe apprentices are learning safe riding as they aren't being reprimanded. Believes if we get too many apprentices, seniors won't remain in the state.

**David Manshanden:** Mentioned that in 2016-17 we had 12 apprentices in the Tasmanian Apprentice School and from those 12, only 3 have come out of it as senior riders. Previously we have had scenarios where jockeys are flown in as we don't have enough locally to sustain the races.

**Liam Swan:** Trainers are happy to use apprentices and these riders are sustaining the industry.

**Stephen Shaw:** Believes a cap should be introduced and that new riders wanting to enter the program should wait until an opening is available.

**Liam Swan:** This was proposed previously and knocked back by the trainers association.. Said he will share that paper with the TAN group and support it if they wish to raise it at TAN in the future.

**Stephen Shaw:** Believes it is becoming as issue with our current riders.

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## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

### **Medical Edge/Compulsory concussion testing**

**Liam Swan:** Mentioned the pre carnival catch up with Medical Edge and discussions with the Tasmanian Jockeys Association about enforcing concussion processes going forward. Currently it is not compulsory but Tasracing believe it should be enforced.

**Kevin Ring:** Believes it should be on the stewards to enforce.

**Stephen Shaw:** Agreed that it should be enforced after an incident on race or trial day to ensure jockeys safety.

**Liam Swan:** Will prepare something regarding the next steps around this.

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### **Workers Comp / 3%**

**Liam Swan:** Mentioned the Workers Compensation Premium payments and the closing of applications on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December for all trainers.

**Stephen Shaw:** Asked what the process is after applications close as the Trainers Association would like to be involved to ensure these trainers are properly covered.

**Andrew Jenkins:** Happy for the Trainers Association to be involved but it's not Tasracing's job to determine if trainers have appropriate cover. Will be helping to educate and support trainers by seeking advice from a licensed insurer.

**Stephen Shaw:** The ATA support the trainers having the right cover but want to ensure the ones that haven't submitted an application are properly covered.

**Kevin Ring:** Previously trainers had to provide evidence of their workers compensation policy when they were licensed.

**David Manshanden:** Was stopped through licensing as it was found out that some trainers were paying a premium that didn't need it.

**Justin Helmich:** As the licensing body, their responsibility is to ensure appropriate education is provided to trainers regarding workers compensation as ultimately the regulator is *WorkSafe*.



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### **Chiller Bins**

**Martin Lenz:** Spoke about the prototype of a Chiller Bin which has been built to help horses cool down during the Summer Racing Festival. Very effective tool in Queensland and will be available at all racing venues. **Ladbroke's Sporting Clubs Challenge**

**Andrew Jenkins:** Acknowledged Blayne Hudson for the concept of the *Ladbroke's Carpet Charge* with the concept now been pushed through into Hobart and Launceston Cup Days. The races will involve community sporting clubs with Ladbroke's tripling their initial investment into the series.

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### **NARS Series**

**Kevin Ring:** Spoke about Victoria pulling out of the NARS Series with New South Wales doing so previously which is disappointing.

**Liam Swan:** Stated that the remaining jurisdictions are looking to bring New Zealand into the Series.

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### **Coffee Van – Night Racing**

**Stephen Shaw:** Thanked Tasracing for providing the Coffee Van for participants throughout night racing which has been well received. Asked if its possible to get food closer to the stalls.

**Alison Archer:** Due to Health and Safety the old canteen is unavailable to be used.

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Meeting closed at 4:05pm.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, March 28, 2024