

**TAN – MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**The Grange, Campbell Town**  
**Meeting commenced at 11:00am**

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**Attendees:**

Merv Hill	Chair
Andrew Jenkins	Tasracing CEO
David Manshanden	Tasracing COO
Stewart Brown	Tasracing Racing Coordinator – Thoroughbreds
Martin Lenz	Tasracing Chief Veterinary & Animal Welfare Officer
Alison Archer	Tasmanian Turf Club – Chairman
Andrew Scanlon	Tasmanian Racing Club – Chairman
Barry Milton	Devonport Racing Club – Chairman
Kevin Ring	Tasmanian Jockeys Association – President
Bart McCulloch	Tasbreeders
Alana Fulton	Australian Trainers Association
Bruce Free	Chairman of Stewards – Thoroughbred
Robin Thompson	Director of Racing – ORI
John McKenna	Racehorse Owners Association Tasmania

**Apologies:**

Blayne Hudson	Tasracing Code Lead – Thoroughbreds
Stephen Shaw	Australian Trainers Association
Karl Thomas	Tasbreeders
Liam Swan	Tasracing Operations Manager
Suzie Jacobson	Tasracing Director

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**1. MEETING ADMINISTRATION**

**1.1 Welcome**

Chair opened the meeting at 11:03am.

## 1.2 Minutes

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

Minutes of the previous meeting confirmed and accepted.

## 1.3 Matters Arising

Action Items from the December 2023 TAN Meeting were addressed.

**TTC Post-race Mounting Yard Process** – David Manshanden informed the group that additional security was put in around the mounting yard over the Summer Racing Festival. Tasracing will meet with the TTC post the carnival to come up with a long-term solution to make sure owners are entering the mounting yard in a safe way.

**Confirmation from TRC Re: Associate Passes** – Andrew Scanlon confirmed that the TRC are happy to do the same as the TTC and DRC with regards to associate passes for jockeys. Stewart Brown stated that Tasracing are happy to issue these passes to the jockeys.

**Development of a Strong/High Winds Policy** – Policy was presented to the TAN group. Kevin Ring outlined that the TJA are happy with the policy, and it was noted and accepted by the TAN group. Martin Lenz suggested combining all weather-related policies into one Extreme Weather policy which was supported by the TAN group.

**Grass Length at Launceston vs Hobart** – David Manshanden confirmed that the mowers are set at the same level at Launceston and Hobart. Kevin Ring noted that the grass is thicker and longer since John Bourke took over at Mowbray.

**Compulsory Concussion Testing** – Stewart Brown relayed that Liam Swan was waiting for information to come back from Medical Edge and was also looking at examples from other jurisdictions. Kevin Ring spoke about a recent meeting he attended where concussion testing was discussed.

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## 2. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Nil.

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## 3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Licensing Requirements

**David Manshanden:** Outlined how Tasracing has had a couple of meetings with WorkSafe relating to workers compensation and fatigue management. Wording around the requirement to have workers compensation will be finalised and there will be some seminars with WorkSafe for trainers to attend in the three jurisdictions relating to workers compensation and particularly around the definition of a 'worker'.

**Kevin Ring:** Spoke about the confusion trainers have around when an apprentice is covered by Tasracing and when they are not.

**Merv Hill:** Stated that he was confused by the update to 2 (a) in the General Information section on Page 4. Believes the old wording made it easier to understand. Also believe that the reference to licensing standards on Page 7 should refer to what the standards actually are.

**Alana Fulton:** Believes we are far too relaxed with visiting interstate trainer licenses compared to Victoria.

**Merv Hill:** Requested that ORI take that query on notice and give the group a verbal on the conditions for a visiting trainer.

**Bruce Free:** Stated that ORI are quite strict in making sure that someone appropriate is travelling with the horse.

**Kevin Ring:** Believes when it comes to fatigue management that given jockeys are contractors it is up to them if they ride or not and any directive from WorkSafe would need to be guidelines.

**David Manshanden:** Outlined that any directions coming from WorkSafe will be guidelines and not hard and fast rules.

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### 3.2 TJA Riding Fee Submission 2024/25

**Stewart Brown:** Stated that the TJA Riding Fee Submission (increase from \$225 to \$240 per race ride) will be considered when the time comes to look at Code Funding for next year. Reminded the group that a commitment was made last year to put any additional money into Tasbred as a priority given, they missed out then.

**Kevin Ring:** Spoke about how the history of the riding fee in Tasmania and how we have been trying to play catchup for many years particularly with a state like South Australia.

**Bart McCulloch:** Outlined how there hasn't been an increase in Tasbred since its inception. Stated that an additional \$15 per ride will be equal approximately \$100,000 for the year. Believes additional funds are best utilised going to Tasbred given these funds can be quarantined from mainland connections which keeps the money in Tasmania.

**Kevin Ring:** Stated that jockeys are taking the same risks in Tasmania as they are in other states.

**Bart McCulloch:** Responded that not everyone gets paid the same. Trainers in Tasmania can't charge what they do on the mainland as we are racing for less money here. We need to be mindful that we are racing for less money in Tasmania.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Referenced the wagering turnover results for this current year and how he believes they are looking pretty grim. Suggests there may be a review of everything when it comes to spending.

**Merv Hill:** Stated that the consensus in the pre meeting was that the breeding industry needs a lot of support.

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### 3.3 Winter Riding Fee

**Kevin Ring:** Spoke about how last season Tasracing increased the riding fee to \$260 per ride during the Winter months to try and keep jockeys riding during that period. Stated that it didn't really have the desired effect. Queried if this will be happening again this year.

**Stewart Brown:** Agreed that it didn't really have the desired effect. Stated that there are no plans to increase the riding fee during Winter this year and any issues with jockey numbers will be dealt with on a meeting by meeting basis.

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### 3.4 Race Dates 2024/25

**Stewart Brown:** Explained that Tasracing have received submissions from the DRC, TRC and TTC regarding race dates for next season. A draft copy of race dates should be available at the next TAN meeting in June.

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### 3.5 Private Training Track Supervision

**Kevin Ring:** Spoke about a recent incident in South Australia at a private training track where a jockey had a fall and was seriously injured. No one was aware anything had happened to her for at least 10 minutes. Believes there should be a track steward/supervisor always watching at these venues and someone who has first aid qualifications.

**David Manshanden:** Outlined that its difficult for Tasracing to police private training centres. Believes the onus should be on the trainer who owns the property to have appropriate measures in place. Suggested that first aid or something similar could become a condition of a trainers license particularly if they want to train from a private property.

**Alana Fulton:** Stated that first aid training used to be a requirement of licensing. Raised concerns that a number of trainers wouldn't know the first thing about WHS and their responsibility if there is an incident or an accident. Suggested WorkSafe be involved in providing education to trainers.

**David Manshanden:** Confirmed that WorkSafe are happy to work with Tasracing and the industry around private training establishments and what they need. Agrees there is a bigger discussion needed around having someone on private training establishments with a first aid qualification or similar.

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### 3.6 Loading Procedures to Pass Horses

**Kevin Ring:** Believes horses are being passed too easily at the trials which can then lead to a horse holding up the start or being a late scratching on raceday. Referenced an incident at the trials where an empty barrier was left on either side of a horse. Raised concerns about cadet stewards determining if a horse passes at the trials or not instead of a senior steward.

**Robin Thompson:** Outlined how ORI are now moving to a system where all stewards will be accredited to do every task associated with all three codes. This will be a formal process.

**Bart McCulloch:** Believes the level of skill of the barrier staff has deteriorated significantly in the past few years. Commended the work Nigel Schuurings does as clerk.

**Kevin Ring:** Spoke about how skill level of barrier attendants is a national issue.

**Bruce Free:** Outlined how there are currently three cadet stewards and two of them are performing higher duties, so they are authorised to tick off horses at trials.

**David Manshanden:** Spoke about the difficulty in sourcing barrier attendants. Mentioned the barrier training module that Racing Queensland have that will be implemented in Tasmania. Referenced the training that had been done in the past with Royston Carr. Believes the industry is very quick to blame the barrier attendants.

**Merv Hill:** Suggested putting a video out on what it takes to be a barrier attendant.

**Martin Lenz:** Spoke about wanting to do some scenario training for when things go wrong, or horses get into trouble at the barriers. Happy to incorporate horse handling training into that. Suggested someone he knew who used to work on the barriers in Sydney but now works for Ciaran Maher.

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### 3.7 Music/Noise in the Vicinity of the Mounting Yard on Raceday

**Kevin Ring:** Raised concerns about music playing around the mounting yard on raceday at Hobart and Launceston. Believes it should stop from the moment the first horse enters the mounting yard to when the last horse leaves. Spoke about what happens in the other states.

**David Manshanden:** Outlined that on Launceston Cup Day concerns were raised about the music that was on the side or behind the grandstand. Thought the music was far enough away not to impact but the jockeys raised concerns that the music was too loud when the horses entered the mounting yard.

**Kevin Ring:** Stated that the jockeys don't mind the music when they are on the track and going to the barriers, just when they are in the mounting yard.

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## 4. ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 4.1 Wagering Turnover Performance

**Andrew Jenkins:** Spoke about how there has been a 12% reduction in thoroughbred turnover year on year with a 16% reduction across the three codes. Outlined that turnover has improved 40% over the last 5 years and we are currently above pre covid levels. Believes turnover will plateau next financial year which will then lead to a period of growth.

**Bart McCulloch:** Queried how these numbers compared to the year before last?

**Andrew Jenkins:** Would need to take that on notice but believes they would be similar. Outlined that the turnover numbers are very similar to other jurisdictions.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Raised concerns about the turnover numbers and stated that he would like to see some hard evidence on the turnover against other jurisdictions. Referenced stakes increases in South Australia and reductions in Victoria. Believes if this trend continues then the whole cost structure across the industry will need to be looked at. Concerned about the next funding deed given the results of the recent state election.

**Andrew Jenkins:** Agrees that if we are seeing these same numbers next financial year then there would be big concerns. Advised that scenario modelling has already been done for the worst and if it did happen then cost considerations would need to be undertaken. Outlined that despite significant lobbying there was no appetite from the racing minister to entertain a new funding deed towards the back end of last year. It was to be considered in February this year but then we found ourselves in an election cycle. The intention is to pick this up again once the new government is formed and a racing minister is appointed.

**Alison Archer:** Queried why the declines in turnover have occurred.

**Andrew Jenkins:** Believes it is a post covid recalibration. Spoke about the greyhound code benefitting the most during covid now showing the greatest reversion.

*Discussion was had regarding the state of Harness Racing in Tasmania and the Murrhiy Report.*

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### 4.2 Marketing Update

Taken as read.

**Andrew Jenkins:** Gave an update on Agfest, 2024 Tasmanian Summer Racing Festival, the release of an updated Independent Economic Report.

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

Taken as read.

**David Manshanden:** Spoke about the performance of the grass tracks over the carnival. Maintenance that has happened on the Devonport track post the Devonport Cup. Accepts that the tapeta track is at the end of its life and steps have been taken to look at future options. Gave an update on the new Devonport Amenities Building.

**Kevin Ring:** Spoke about the kickback issues on the synthetic track at Ballarat whilst they don't have such issues at Pakenham.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Complimented the track staff at Elwick.

**Alison Archer:** Echoed this sentiment with Mowbray.

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#### 4.4 Animal Welfare Update

Taken as read.

**Martin Lenz:** Updated the group on the Equine Code of Practice. Will go out shortly for final consultation as it is currently sitting with the stewards.

Spoke about setting up an ethical framework for the retirement of horses. Has approached Jen Hughes who set up the OTT program for Racing Victoria a few years ago. Believes there needs to be more structure when it comes to the assessment of horses post their racing career and what other options might be available to them.

**Bart McCulloch:** Talked about how Victoria have licensed retrainers which seem to work well. OTT in Tasmania helps with lessons and other things but doesn't help rehome horses, which is all up to the owner or trainer. Suggested having a central point in the North and the South where the horses could go to post their racing career to be retrained and then become available to people wanting an OTT horse.

**Alana Fulton:** Spoke about her experiences rehoming horses. Has had an issue with rehoming a horse and then the new owners wanting to give the horse back after 3-4 months. Hard situation to then give it back to the original owners.

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#### 4.5 Apprentice School Update

Taken as read.

**Stewart Brown:** Informed the group on the change in training provider from Skillinvest to Racing Queensland. Mentioned that Kasi Boxall has signed back up as an apprentice to essentially finish off her apprenticeship with Stuart Gandy. Gave an update on the National Apprentice Race Series (NARS) that is currently on.

**Alana Fulton:** Queried if there was a cap on the number of apprentices allowed at any one time? Referenced a conversation she had with Stephen Shaw.

**Stewart Brown:** Responded that Tasracing attempted to bring in a policy a couple of years ago that capped the number of apprentices in Tasmania at any one time. This wasn't supported by the TAN group, but the number of apprentices is currently at a manageable level and any new applications need to be approved by the Apprentice Panel first.

**Alana Fulton:** Asked for greater clarity around the new agreement with Racing Queensland.

**Stewart Brown:** Replied that the courses that Racing Queensland provides will be what our apprentices undertake. There are also courses for other areas of the industry.

**Alana Fulton:** Raised concerns around the ability of some of the apprentices in Tasmania.

**Kevin Ring:** Commented on the competency of the local jockey population.

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## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

**Andrew Scanlon:** Mentioned a third AFL stadium proposal that was put forward for Elwick racecourse.

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**Andrew Jenkins:** Thanked the three race clubs for their partnership over the Tasmanian Summer Racing Festival.

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**Alana Fulton:** Spoke about benchmark racing vs class racing. Believes benchmark racing is fine at 68 and above but the lower benchmark races hurt the progression of horses with one or two wins being able to get a run. Would like to get back to Class 1, 2s and 3s and away from the lower benchmarks as it would mean the ten- and eleven-win horses would have to race in a higher class.

**Merv Hill:** Believes there needs to be a balance between Tasmania being a dumping ground for cast offs versus having a healthy breeding industry.

**Bart McCulloch:** Raised concerns about the number of tried horses that come to Tasmania and aren't up to it and where they end up from there.

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**Alana Fulton:** Queried the local rule around the ballot list where it won't be implemented on Devonport Cup, Tasmanian Derby, Hobart Cup and Launceston Cup days.

**Stewart Brown:** Responded that we run increased prizemoney on the three cup days which means a horse on the ballot list could get a run over another horse who is better performed or more deserving.

**David Manshanden:** Stated that there is a reason the horse is on the ballot list and queried if you want those horses running on your feature race days. Happy to review the ballot conditions.

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**Alana Fulton:** Raised the issue of interstate stablehands and trackwork riders who are licensed in another jurisdiction still needing to go through the same process as someone who is unlicensed here when applying for a license.

**David Manshanden:** Spoke about a 30-day clause where if you are licensed interstate, you have a period of time to change it over. Will confirm with ORI.

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**Merv Hill:** Let the group know that David Adams has submitted his resignation from TAN. David believes that the Owners Association should be wound up. Outlined that the Association is having issues attracting members as they are competing with Tasmanian Bloodstock. Doesn't agree with David that the Owners Association should be wound up. Happy to have a discussion with Tasracing about what can be done to assist the Association.

**Andrew Scanlon:** Outlined that Neil Walsh will wind up Tasmanian Bloodstock at the end of the racing year. Has had preliminary chats with Alison Archer and Barry Milton and would like the three clubs to look at what's next after Tasmanian Bloodstock with possibly a revamped Owners Association.

**David Manshanden:** Believes these conversations should involve the breeders given they are also owners.

**Andrew Jenkins:** Happy to expand what Tasracing does for owners across all three codes. Not only on raceday for current owners but to try and get new owners into the code.

**Merv Hill:** Suggested Tasracing support the Owners Association to keep what Tasmanian Bloodstock have built going in the future.

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Meeting closed at 12:48pm.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, June 19, 2024