

AUSTRALIAN STANDARDBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

2018 AGM Sunday December 16 2018

Tullamarine

MINUTES:

PRESENT:

John Coffey President and WASBA Delegate,
David Hayes Vice President & Delegate Tasmania,
Gary Newton Secretary & Delegate SA,
John Campbell Delegate Victoria,
Howard King Treasurer (Via Phone link up)
Dr Tony Britt (via Phone Link-up)

APOLOGIES:

Jeanine Diederich (WASBA), Flora Robson (NSW Breeders), John Mooney (Chairman NZ Breeders), Brad Reid (CEO NZ Breeders) , Lois Randall (SA BOTRA)

WELCOME:

President John Coffey, welcomed everyone either present or via phone link up.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

Gary Newton gave a report on the national conference held at Flemington Racecourse on Friday December 14 2018. See Appendix A for report

VOTING RIGHTS:

John Coffey WA
John Campbell Vic
David Hayes Tas
Gary Newton SA

Attendance of Delegates was recognised and Delegates confirmed. **Carried**

CONFIRMATION OF 2017 ASBA AGM MINUTES,

Melbourne, 18th April 2015.

Minutes pre-circulated by secretary

Moved David Hayes Seconded John Coffey Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

All key agenda items were distributed via email pre-meeting **Noted.**



FINANCIAL REPORT:

A copy of profit and loss for the period of July 1 2017 till June 30 2018 was circulated via email but is attached as Appendix B

Moved by Howard King Seconded Gary Newton

Treasurer Howard King recommended that due to the low income and expenditure No Audit be conducted

Moved David Hayes seconded John Campbell.

REPORTS: refer to Appendixes

South Australia Gary Newton SA BOTRA

West Australia Jeanine Diederich WASBA

Tasmania David Hayes Tas BOTRA

Victoria John Campbell Harness Breeders Victoria

No reports submitted from Queensland or New South Wales.

GENERAL BUSINESS: as per agenda

MICRO-CHIPPING

HRA have indicated that Freeze branding will cease as per the current crop of foals ie 2018/19 foals.

This has raised issues of visible identifying the standardbre. Although Thoroughbreds are micro chipped they require also a visible brand before the horse is micro chipped.

It was suggested that each state delegates approach the Chief Stewards to get feedback on what they would like to see going forward from a racing perspective.

Dr Tony Britt to write dot points on the disadvantages of doing away with freeze branding

A copy of Tony Britt's letter is attaché. John Coffey to speak to major breeders and studs in NSW re the issue.

SEMINAR/WORKSHOP.

A draft of the questionnaire has been circulated. WASBA has sent an email asking for additional questions to be added.

Gary Newton to contact Survey Monkey re cost and distribution and hopefully get the questionnaire out early January and results back before end of February.

With breeding numbers to be lodged with State Controlling Bodies by studs no later than the end of March, it was suggested we look at holding the Workshop before Easter Possibly Saturday April 13.

John Coffey to approach John Bagshaw, as facilitator of seminar/workshop.

It was agreed that the event be conducted more as a workshop where hopefully ideas and outcomes can be put forward.

Would hope we could invite key breeders from each state.

Tony Britt suggested that each state contact their racing/program manager about numbers required to conduct meeting from 2021 and beyond.

See draft copy of proposed letter to state bodies by Dr Tony Britt

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

All agreed to continue in current roles

John Coffey -President,
David Hayes- Vice President,
Gary Newton -Secretary
Howard King -Treasurer

TRAVEL EXPENSES.

John Campbell moved a motion that Gary Newton & David Hayes who travelled from inter-state for AGM that ASBA pay 50% of their airfares.

Moved John Campbell seconded John Coffey. **Carried.**



NEW ZEALAND REPORT

Emailed by John Mooney:

We have a new set of Breeding Regulations that will be published soon. I'll forward them to you after our lawyer has done the final checks and edits.

The Breeders have played a large part in the redrafting. The highlights are:

- recording frozen embryos against the mare and searchable and then the registration of the foal
- allowing IVF
- allowing the use of eggs and semen after the respective mare and stallions have passed on;
- one embryo bought to fruition each season and one registered worldwide
- explicitly banning all forms of sexing (semen or embryos), cloning and gene manipulation
- a foal from a mare will have priority for registration over a frozen embryo from that mare unless contracted out of this provision.

Our overall view is that we need to recognise technological advances.

This email was discussed and agreed that in Australia at present breeders are struggling already with costs however the outcome should be followed with interest.

GENERAL

President John Coffey thanked David Hayes for supplying the phone conference link.

**Meeting was closed at 1.15pm Melbourne time it was agreed we need to have a phone link up early February.
And a possible date for 2019 AGM it was suggested around the time of the Seminar/Workshop**



VICTORIAN REPORT NOTES
Presented by John Campbell.

- 124 less foals registered in 2016/17 than previous year.
- Foal numbers are heading towards critical if those numbers continue to drop.
- Concerns for breeders are raising costs of feed, vet bills
- Victorian Government has given extra \$1 million dollars of which a third has gone to cover the cost of foal registration which is free this season however no indication as to whether this will continue.
- Vicbred first win bonus to remain at \$7,000.
- Trackbred there is some talk around cutting it back to three issues per year.





Keynote speaker, Canadian Jody Jamieson, started the conference and his message was quite clear, we must work together.

Jamieson shared pitfalls from his home country which has seen the once powerful Ohio province cut prize money by half in the past 5 years.

I was taken by a Kiwi named Luke Kemeys, who runs a punters club which now has 12000 members, and now has diverted into syndication.

Brett Coffey (Alabar) spoke on driving efficiencies in breeding and how to avoid 10 percent of wastage in breeding a live foal.

The youth forum was interestingly facilitated by TABCORP's Doug Freeman. Ashlea Brennan spoke on how to use social media to promote our sport, Brittany Graham spoke about how young drivers need to act and be accessible to media.

Brodie Webster shared his experience on his trip to Europe and the trotting school in France. Brodie commented about selection for state representation for a Junior Drivers Championship. He suggested that maybe states could run a state series and the winner goes on to represent that state.

Kima Frenning brought up a good point that in her home country of Sweden stable hands get recognition by way of awards and even media interviews. Kima also talked about mentoring or the lack of it for young drivers. Mark Yole, from Tasmania was asked about what Tassie is putting in place to help young drivers in that state.

All in all, sharing ideas and working together are the keys to harness racing's future.

Report by Gary Newton.



SA BOTRA

SA STATE REPORT FOR ASBA AGM.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE 2017/18 YEAR

It's been an interesting year for SA BOTRA we have continued to provide monthly bonuses to Owners Trainers Breeders & Drivers plus added extra prizemoney to mares and state bred races.

The Golden Nursery run back in May was successful night despite the main event having to be re-run a week later after a nasty fall, it was slightly disappointing that HRSA saw fit to combine the colts & geldings with the fillies but it meant we had a Group 3 race and in the end a filly Bubble And Cheese won the event.

Special thanks to Alabar for once again sponsoring the event.

Another event that has grown over the past three years is the Sweet Lou mares Classic a huge thank you to Mark Hughes from Woodlands for his ongoing support.

BOTRA also provided extra stake money and services for Homebred and Mares events with two services given away to winners of the Hurrikane Kingcole events thanks to Kevin & Kay Seymour.

BOTRA also held a breeders forum with Dr Kath McIntosh and John Coffey which was well attended by around 30 people.

HRSA in conjunction with BOTRA held the 2018 SA Yearling Sale which was seen as huge success with averages around \$15,000 all yearlings both sale and non-sale will be eligible for "The Allwood" a Group 1 \$100,000 race scheduled for June 9 2019.

Good news is that Allenby Lodge at Kapunda has purchased dual Group 1 winner Major Secret to stand locally this is the first high profile stallion to stand in SA for many years and as of 10 December he has covered 25 mares Stephen Norman (Allenby Lodge) is hoping to get around the 30 mark which would be a good result given his first season of the track.

SA has needed a stallion of his profile to serve the local market for some years.



On a committee note Lois Randall has been elected President of SA BOTRA with David Jolly standing down due to ill health Gary Newton has been elected Vice President with Lee-Ann Pangrazio remaining as treasurer; all three are or have been breeders of standardbreds.

FOAL NUMBERS:

Like every other state SA BOTRA is concerned with foal numbers the figures below from HRSA paint a grim picture:

Below are the numbers of foals notified in SA for the past 3 seasons:

2017/18: 91

2016/17:119

2015/16:145

Whilst this number has declined significantly, the number of foals branded in SA over this period has not decreased by the same rate.

Below are the numbers of foals branded in SA for the past 3 seasons (approximately):

2017/18: 170

2016/17: 185

2015/16: 180

These figures indicate the number of foals born in the state has remained fairly constant over this period, however the number of foals notified in SA has decreased significantly. This may be due to factors such as more foals needing to be notified interstate to be eligible for that particular state's futurity scheme.

MARES AND FILLIES RACES:

BOTRA is concerned with the lack of mares races being programed and hence is currently working with HRSA to form a solid fillies/mares program.

The concept will be to have a mare's race programmed for each week with \$4,000 stake money on offer with a graduation penalty to the winner.

The class of the mares events will be R0 to R1, R2 to R3 and R4 to R5 run over either 1800 metres at Globe Derby or 1609 metres at Port Pirie other tracks over similar short courses.

To provide fillies and mares with an opportunity to remain competitive while racing, increase their potential earnings and enhance their value as a broodmare proposition.

It is envisaged to have some sort of point's season with the top three point's getters over the season receiving a service to a high-profile stallion.

Sent to each State Controlling Body DRAFT From DR Tony Britt

Copy to be sent to relevant State ASBA member organisation

Dear,

The Australian Standardbred Breeders Association (ASBA) in partnership with member organisations is arranging a national seminar that will focus on the serious issue of declining foal numbers. The seminar will be held in Melbourne probably on Saturday 13 April 2019. Arrangements for the seminar will be confirmed early in the New Year. Representatives of all Controlling Bodies, along with Harness Racing Australia (HRA), will be invited to attend and contribute.

To assist in preparing for the seminar, a questionnaire in the near future will be forwarded to breeders throughout Australia seeking feedback on their future intentions. Information received in response to the questionnaire will assist in informing attendees at the seminar on whether the alarming drop in foal numbers over the past decade is likely to continue or not. The questionnaire will also collect ideas that breeders might have that if implemented will encourage the breeding of Standardbreds.

In advance of the seminar, ASBA is also keen to receive advice from Controlling Bodies on the number of foals each believes will be needed in their jurisdiction to enable them to meet their racing product commitments from 2023 onwards.

To assist in compiling information in advance of the seminar, ASBA would appreciate feedback you in relation to the following matters;

1. Does your State have a target for the number of pacing and trotting bred foals that will need to be born annually to sustain the racing schedule in 2023 and beyond?
2. Have any initiatives been taken in 2018-19 or are any planned for 2019-20 to increase foal numbers in your State and/or increase the percentage of foals that make it to the races?
3. Are there any national initiatives that you believe would be worthy of consideration at the ASBA seminar?

The format of the seminar will involve a limited number of speakers followed by discussions focusing in particular on the following broad themes;

- Sharing the rewards and maximizing the opportunities
- Incentives that will maintain and ultimately grow the annual foal crop
- Increasing the % of foals that race
- Increasing the longevity of the racing population

In the month following the seminar, ASBA will collate participant input, and prepare recommendations for consideration by HRA and Controlling Bodies.

Attendees will be updated regularly on progress in relation to each recommendation. The broader breeding community will be informed via their State breeder organisations and through Trackbred.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Andrew Kelly
Chief Executive Officer
Harness Racing Australia

hra@harness.org.au

Dear Andrew,

The Australian Standardbred Breeders Association (ASBA) and member organisations accept that harness racing is in the process of transitioning from alpha-angle freeze branding as the primary method of identifying Standardbreds, to microchipping. The decision is irreversible and will ensure that identification arrangements in Australia align with those announced recently in North America and apparently also in New Zealand.

Collectively breeders will be happy to cooperate with their controlling bodies and Harness Racing Australia during the transition on the understanding that additional costs will be minimal, and the pathway forward is clear.

A number of questions have been raised by breeders regarding future arrangements for identifying Standardbred horses. ASBA would appreciate advice from HRA on the following matters.

1. Will foals born in Australia during the 2019-20 season need to be alpha-angle freeze branded in addition to being microchipped? If not in 2019-20, when will alpha-angle freeze branded no longer be required?
2. When foals no longer need to be alpha-angle freeze branding, will breeders be required to brand their foals? Some breeders are concerned that they may be required to apply a shoulder brand to their foals similar to that used by thoroughbred breeders before their foals are microchipped adding considerably to their costs.
3. Will HRA permit technicians to microchip foals in States where a person who is not a veterinarian is legally permitted to 'chip' horses?
4. Has a date been set when horses born before 2017 will need to be microchipped prior to be permitted to race?
5. Has a date been set when horses born before 2017 will need to be microchipped prior to enter the breeding herd?
6. Does HRA intend to recommend a scanner/s for the reading of microchips? If yes, what are the likely costs?
7. How will industry participants who have a scanner check the identity of a horse after they have successfully scanned the horse's microchip?
8. Without alpha-angle freeze branding, it will not be immediately obvious that a horse is a Standardbred. Does HRA intend to share details of microchipped horses with other animal microchip registers so that veterinarians and government officers can establish the identity of horses they encounter, for example for biosecurity or animal welfare purposes?
9. In the US and Canada, ASBA understands that breeders are able to use Bio-thermal microchips which in addition to having a unique microchip number can be used by owners to check a horse's body temperature. Will breeders in Australia be given the option of identifying their foals with Bio-thermal microchips?

Your advice on these important matters would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Newton Secretary ASBA
Copy to ASBA members

