



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

*There is
no finish
line*

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Chris Alford

Champion Australian Driver



“Community expectations of animal welfare continues to evolve at a rapid rate - particularly with regards to racing animals.”

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Chairman's



GEOFF WANT

There are many events and issues to reflect upon when reviewing the 2015-16 harness racing season, including some wonderful performances by magnificent standardbred horses, outstanding driving and training feats and some positive developments off the racetrack.

Our industry continues to face challenges, but these are being dealt with in a positive manner and with a great deal of success on some fronts. Indeed, there will always be challenges in a vibrant industry such as ours which revolves around animals, people, entertainment and wagering.

This season however has seen the emergence of a grave new challenge, with dark storm clouds on the horizon for the dawn of a new season. The issue is equine welfare and it is the responsibility of everyone involved in harness racing to ensure the industry is not caught up in the maelstrom.

PROTECTING OUR SOCIAL LICENCE TO OPERATE

The members of Harness Racing Australia have a considerate and ethical equine welfare agenda and rules and are doing a great deal to enforce rigorous animal welfare protocols. It is critical however that these protocols are actually followed by all people involved with the industry.

The catalyst for this concern was the live baiting scandal which erupted around the greyhound racing industry in February 2015, resulting in administrative bodies in three eastern states being dismissed and dozens of participants charged with wrongdoing.

The NSW Government went further, appointing a Special Commission of Inquiry which handed down an 800 page report, finding that live baiting was rife and there was appalling "wastage" in the greyhound industry. It found as many as 68,000 greyhounds had been killed in NSW in the previous 12 years because of over-breeding or that they were too slow.

NSW Premier Mike Baird was appalled, describing the report as "chilling, confronting, horrific", and ordered the \$300m industry to be shut down from 1 July 2017.

The decision has polarised public opinion. Many people are deeply concerned that a government can shut down an industry without the issue being broadly debated, at least in state parliament, and see it as an abuse of executive power. They are concerned about the impact on 8,000 participants and the loss of 1,000 jobs in the NSW greyhound industry, as well as the fate of the dogs which can no longer race.

There are concerted moves to have the ban decision overturned, although opinion polls indicate that a clear majority of people,

horrified by the findings of the commission, support the decision.

Regardless of whether the greyhound ban in NSW is implemented, there are consequences for the entire racing industry and equine welfare will be the biggest challenge we will face in the next 5-10 years, especially

- satisfying community expectations
- overcoming public perceptions
- convincing politicians we are responsible and ethical
- countering the misinformation of animal activists.

HRA has strong equine welfare protocols and has worked closely with the RSPCA for several years, but we have greatly magnified our efforts, including more regular stable inspections to ensure the rules are being followed, established an advisory group of eminent veterinarians, revised our procedures to track horses until they are retired, developed a destruction of horse policy and further tightened whip rules. The measures are detailed more fully elsewhere in the annual report.

It appears inevitable that whips will be banned completely in Australian harness racing in the coming seasons.

There is no doubt the NSW ban will have an impact on wagering turnover, but it also provides an incentive to the extreme animal welfare groups to step up their pressure on the entire racing industry. These groups have been empowered by the decision and several have already stated publicly they will be campaigning for the banning of greyhound racing Australia-wide, as well as harness and thoroughbred racing and equestrian sports.

Extremists want all racing banned. The RSPCA is a responsible and sensible organisation, but there are a lot of animal rights activists who are not - zealots do not understand logic or rational debate!

At the excellent Harness Racing NSW conference, Harnessing The Future, in June the RSPCA chief executive, Heather Neill, congratulated HRA for our industry's approach to welfare and praised our injury and incidents database.

But she stressed ...

- the racing industry must be aware it has a social licence to operate and cannot breach this
- our treatment of horses must be ethically acceptable, from conception to death
- we should ask "What is in it for the horse?" and is there moral justification for what we are doing with them (ie racing)?

Heather Neill also posed the question "Do people who work with horses understand how each piece of gear works and whether they are really necessary?"

HRA and our Members will continue to develop and enforce rigorous equine welfare protocols and maintain regular dialogue with responsible animal rights groups. We all must continue to be vigilant to ensure no-one breaches these protocols, but if they do, confront the issue.

The NSW inquiry was scathing of administrators who were aware of disgusting industry behaviour and either ignored it or "swept it under the carpet".

It is imperative that every administrator and every participant clearly understands and follows the protocols. There can be no exceptions, as the consequences could be extremely damaging for harness racing.

MICROCHIPPING

Equine welfare was a critical consideration when the decision was taken, after extensive research and much deliberation, to introduce microchipping from 1 September 2017. There will be a phased implementation, with the new season's foal crop being microchipped each year.

Freeze branding will continue as well until the industry adapts to the new technology and work practices. Microchipping is embraced by the other two racing codes and in most equine pursuits, as well as being common place in livestock industries and with companion animals.

The industry wide benefits of linking microchip and database platforms could no longer be ignored, while increasingly vaccines require microchip recording and simple and accurate identification is important from an integrity standpoint.

INTEGRITY

HRA has bolstered integrity intelligence with a national bet monitoring program undertaken by an independent company, Global Sports Integrity. Every harness race in all states except Western Australia is examined in real time by experts who report any suspect betting activity to stewards, enabling them to take immediate action if deemed appropriate.

There is a strenuous integrity regime in Australian harness racing to ensure a level playing field for all participants and to protect the industry's image. Stewards are constantly alert to improper practices in races and there is rigorous testing to detect prohibited substances.

During the season the cobalt threshold was reduced from 200 micrograms per

litre of urine to 100 micrograms, in line with thoroughbred racing. Furthermore, a threshold of 25 micrograms per litre of blood was set, after scientific evidence was obtained to support the accuracy of plasma testing.

There is no place in harness racing for people who cheat by administering prohibited substances, attempt to control the outcome of a race or engage in other illegal activities. Anyone found guilty of dishonest behaviour must receive the strongest possible penalties and their punishment publicised to demonstrate the effectiveness of our integrity regime.

It is disappointing that some participants continue to flaunt the rules, which inevitably damages our brand. The arrest of four participants at one of our biggest events of the season, the Breeders Crown meeting at Tabcorp Park Melton in late August, was a case in point, even though the investigation was still progressing as this report was prepared.

The front page of the Herald Sun the next morning, reporting on the arrests, was a black eye for our industry. All the positives from a great day of racing were lost in bold type implying corruption in our industry.

It is difficult to counter such negative publicity, as the result of inquiries seldom receive the same media exposure as the initial charges, but we must continue to promote the positive integrity message to maintain the confidence of our fans, punters and the vast majority of participants.

RACING HIGHLIGHTS - HORSES

It has been another outstanding season on our racetracks with a changing of the guard as new champions have emerged in the open class pacing and trotting ranks.

Lennytheshark fulfilled the promise of his juvenile years with a brilliant season, being placed in all 13 races he contested and winning eight of them. The impressive six year old stallion earned \$1,343,098 prizemoney during the season for his connections - owners Kevin and Martin Riseley, trainer David Aiken and driver Chris Alford.

Lennytheshark was a clear winner of the Lawn Derby Award as 2016 Australian Harness Horse of the Year and finished in a dead heat with the consistent New Zealand gelding Smolda as the 2016 Australian Pacing Gold Grand Circuit champion.

In only three Grand Circuit races, Lennytheshark won the Inter Dominion Championship at Gloucester Park and the Victoria Cup at Melton, and finished a nose second in a truly sensational Miracle Mile at Menangle. Smolda, prepared in Christchurch by Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen, was successful in the A.G. Hunter Cup at Melton and was placed in the New Zealand, Auckland and Victoria Cups.

Both horses finished the APG sponsored series with 260 points, 60 clear of another Purdon-Rasmussen pacer Have Faith In Me, which was responsible for arguably the performance of the season in a blistering Miracle Mile at Menangle, stopping the clock in the Australasian record time of 1:47.5.

Have Faith In Me was one of a select band of four year old pacers and trotters to stamp their authority on the top open class races during the season.

Three of the five legs of the APG Trotting Masters series were won by boom New Zealand four year olds Speeding Spur and Monbet, while seasoned campaigners Keystone Del and Master Lavros won the remaining races.

A man wearing a white sleeveless shirt, blue shorts, and a dark cap is riding a brown horse through shallow, clear blue water. The horse is splashing water with its front legs. In the background, there is a wooden pier structure extending into the water under a clear blue sky.

Lennytheshark

Lennytheshark won the Inter Dominion Championship at Gloucester Park and the Victoria Cup at Melton, and finished a nose second in a truly sensational Miracle Mile at Menangle.

Speeding Spur took out the series while eight year old Keystone Del did enough on the home front to again receive the Vancleve Award as 2016 Australian Trotter of the Year.

Keystone Del, owned by the Hall family and trained by Brent Lilley, was driven by Chris

Alford and Anthony Butt during the season, when he started 14 times for 12 wins and a placing and \$288,195 in prizemoney.

Top class, exciting horses engaged in competitive racing add greatly to the appeal of harness racing for fans and punters and it is to be hoped some of the

stars of the previous season - sidelined by injury or loss of form - return to the racetrack in the coming months to meet the challenge of the talented newcomers to the open class ranks.

RACING HIGHLIGHTS – TRAINERS/DRIVERS

Ace Victorian reinsman Chris Alford had another season to remember with a host of feature race victories, including the Inter Dominion behind Lennytheshark, and won his 10th J.D. Watts Award as the nation's leading driver. He first won the title in 1994.

Chris Alford drove 302 winners and 397 second and third placed horses - a win and place strike rate of almost 50 per cent - and amassed just over \$4-million in prizemoney. The previous year's top driver, Shane Graham of Queensland, finished second to Alford with 255 winners followed by Greg Sugars of Victoria and Danielle Hill of South Australia, with 241 and 211 wins respectively.

Queenslander Grant Dixon had another brilliant season, winning his fifth consecutive J.D. Watts Award as the nation's leading trainer. He prepared 246 winners for the season, 25 more than his nearest rival, the West Australian partnership of Greg and Skye Bond. Emma Stewart of Victoria was a close third, training 212 winners.

Grant Dixon also drove 167 winners and had the distinction of winning the 2nd Australian Driving Championship conducted over six races in Launceston early in the season.

RACING PRODUCT

There was a great deal of excellent racing during the past season, but with continued pressure on wagering turnover and a declining fan base it must be asked whether the racing product is meeting market needs. Many people believe the handicapping system is in need of an overhaul, while others feel the answer lies in improving programming.

These issues were discussed at an extremely productive National Programming Summit

held in August, with Members exploring various philosophies in a bid to find common ground. Aspects covered included competitive racing, full and balanced fields, prizemoney distribution, wagering and providing racing opportunities for horses of all ages, abilities and gaits.

Delegates were also of the view that the current handicapping system was no longer relevant, even though they could successfully program around the problems. There was a clear message that HRA should investigate and evaluate a new handicapping system based on rating points.

The export market for Australian racing continued to grow during the season, with more races being beamed into Europe and Scandinavia.

Among the outstanding promotions during the year was the Inter Dominion Championship staged by the Gloucester Park Harness Racing Club in Perth. The crowd for the final on a hot December Sunday afternoon was disappointing and the club has reverted to its usual Friday night timeslot for the 2016 and 2017 finals.

Another fabulous promotion was the NSW Harness Racing Club's "Super Sunday" meeting, featuring the Miracle Mile, at Tabcorp Park Menangle in February. The club, now known as Club Menangle, has decided to move the Miracle Mile and the support program of Group One races to a Saturday night.

In other feature race changes, the A.G. Hunter Cup at Tabcorp Park Melton in February is to start from the mobile barrier, following the decision by Harness Racing Victoria to cease standing starts for pacers in the state. The trotting feature, the Great Southern Star, is to be run on the same card as the Hunter Cup.



Grant Dixon

Queenslander Grant Dixon had another brilliant season, winning his fifth consecutive J.D. Watts Award as the nation's leading trainer.



BREEDING

The progeny of the amazing sire Bettors Delight continued to perform admirably on Australian racetracks during the season. As a result the American sire again dominated the Globe Derby Awards for breeding excellence, sponsored by IRT.

Bettors Delight was Leading Sire by Stakemoney for the 5th time, with his progeny winning 949 races and \$11,082,471. Those races were won by 347 of his progeny, which also made him the Leading Sire of Winners.

Canadian stallion Majestic Son was the Leading Sire of Trotters by Stakemoney for the first time, his progeny winning 95 races and \$956,020. The 30 year old marvel Sundon narrowly failed to win the award for an amazing 14th season but still managed to sire the winners of 104 races and \$845,721 prizemoney.

Breeding numbers, which have been in decline for many years, remain a concern, although it is not all bleak news.

The 2015-16 stallion service number was just over 5,800 - about 100 down on the prior season.

Strong yearling sales prices and clearance rates however provided heartening news for the sector. It is also expected there will be an upsurge in trotting numbers in the coming breeding season with scores of broodmares imported from Europe in the past year.

Whilst declining foal crops are disappointing, it is equally disturbing to note how many foals actually make it to the racetrack. Recent research shows only 50% of the standardbred foal crop race, although another 6-8% go on to breed without having raced. There are many and varied reasons for this but it is obvious that

we need to determine how to improve this percentage to provide more racing stock.

After considerable debate and consultation over many months, it was decided during the past year to change the definition by which the age of a horse is determined. There will be no change in the breeding season but the age of the horse will be determined by the date the broodmare was served, not the foaling date.

The mare must be served on or after September 1, whereas previously a foal born in August was deemed to turn one at the start of the new season.

WAGERING REFORM

There were promising signs during the year that the long running campaign for wagering reform undertaken by HRA and other groups was to have positive results. HRA has undertaken extensive lobbying of state and federal politicians for reform for the past eight years and lodged eight submissions to parliamentary inquiries.

The federal government announced in April that 18 of the 19 recommendations from the review of illegal offshore wagering had been accepted in full or in principle. This review, conducted by former NSW premier Barry O'Farrell, investigated methods to strengthen enforcement of the Interactive Gambling Act 2001 (IGA).

It was expected that legislation would be introduced in the House of Representatives containing measures to block unlicensed overseas gambling providers from operating in Australia and to provide greater consumer protection by banning such things as online credit betting.

At about the same time, Senator Nick Xenophon introduced a bill in the Senate proposing amendments to the IGA which included a number of aspects supported

by HRA. This was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications for consideration.

Both initiatives were halted when the prime minister called the federal election and there was little progress in the early sittings of the new parliament. It is understood however that there is a strong desire in Canberra for the IGA to be amended to curb the activities of illegal offshore gambling companies.

INDUSTRY FUNDING

Wagering turnover on Australian harness racing in the 2015-2016 financial year was a record, up by 5% on the prior year, as turnover from all licensed wagering operators rose to a record \$2.53-billion (\$2,531,549,691), up by \$127-million on the prior year. This increase was exclusively from fixed odds betting with the TABs and from corporate bookmakers.

Total TAB turnover, at just over \$1.7-billion (\$1,728,088,908), was up by \$110-million on the previous year which was interesting given the pari mutuel component continued to drop, albeit less than previous years, by \$45-million to \$1.06-billion. By contrast, fixed odds betting with the TABs was up by 23% (\$155-million) to \$664-million. Fixed odds as a percentage of TAB turnover is now a staggering 38.4%.

The growth of turnover with corporate bookmakers continued, but at a slower pace than that of recent years at 4%, or a total of \$24-million, to \$673-million. The corporate bookmakers' share of total turnover dropped slightly to 31.74% (from 32.71%) on the back of the stronger TAB fixed odds growth.

Chairman's Message

The major betting exchange operator, Betfair, had a decline in net customer winnings - the criteria used to determine commission payments to the industry - of 4% on the prior year, to just under \$127-million.

There was a further significant fall in the wagering with on course bookmakers and totalisators of about 21%, to just over \$20-million. This has now halved in 4 years.

While the record wagering turnover figures for the year just ended is an achievement which should be cause for celebration, it needs to be muted however as the sobering reality is that the product fees flowing to our industry from wagering service providers continue to tighten. The growing preference of wagering customers for fixed odds betting, the continued decline of pari-mutuel turnover (as much as 16% in some states) and fluctuating yields have combined to impact on finances.

This trend shows no sign of abating as state controlling bodies look to maximise product fee agreements and improve TAB yields.

This will be no mean feat, but there are some encouraging signs, particularly with the continued growth and performance of international product offerings. The addition of one meeting per week from Mohawk in the USA in 2016/17, along with organic growth in existing product as customers become more familiar with tracks, horses, trainers and drivers, is welcomed. It is also hoped that leakage to illegal offshore wagering operators such as Citibet will be negated with the introduction of strong legislative measures by the federal government.

These are hard yards, with improvements to industry funding requiring strong

leadership, robust integrity and an industry wide commitment from participants to provide an appealing product.

Harness Racing NSW delivered some different, but extremely welcome, funding news during the year when it announced how the money would be distributed following the state government's agreement to reduce wagering taxation to achieve parity with Victoria.

HRNSW is to inject an additional \$38-million into the industry in the five years the parity change is to be phased in, with \$5.7-million in the first year which commenced on July 1, 2016.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been a year of considerable change on the HRA Executive Committee.

Rex Horne stepped down when his term as chairman of HRNSW expired, to be replaced by his successor in that role, Graham Kelly.

Graham has since been elected deputy chair of HRA following the departure of Mark Carey. After four years representing South Australia, much of that time as HRA treasurer, Mark retired after losing his position on the state board.

After six years as the Victorian representative, Ken Latta retired when a new board was installed at Harness Racing Victoria. Dale Monteith, the new HRV chairman, replaced Ken on the executive.

Dale has since been elected treasurer in place of Matthew Benson, who has been replaced as Western Australia representative by Bob Fowler.

Margaret Reynolds joined the executive as the Queensland representative after being appointed the harness racing delegate to

the new Racing Queensland board.

Dean Cooper represented Tasmania throughout the year and continued with his excellent work as HRA's legal counsel, for which we are grateful.

Many thanks to all who have served on the executive during the year and also to the numerous people who give up their time to sit on our committees and working parties.

Special thanks also to the staff of HRA, who work tirelessly under the direction of our very professional and dedicated chief executive, Andrew Kelly.

HRA has an excellent relationship with Harness Racing New Zealand, where there has also been a significant change in the past year. Gary Allan stepped down after four years as chairman, to be replaced by Ken Spicer. Thanks to both men, as well as HRNZ chief executive Edward Rennell, for their continuing co-operation.

There are numerous issues confronting our industry but, as I stated at the beginning of this report, there will always be challenges for a vibrant industry such as harness racing.

With a positive outlook, unity of purpose and confidence we will continue to meet these challenges. It is worth remembering as we move forward that we have a great industry and there is much to celebrate.

Geoff Want
Chairman

CEO 's



ANDREW KELLY

A line from my 2014/15 report has been much quoted by many people in public discussion about animal welfare,

“Equine welfare has no finish line and Harness Racing Australia (HRA) is committed to the improvement of welfare outcomes and safety for harness racing horses and participants via continuous policy and rule review and benchmarking exercises”.

Significantly, since then, another code, greyhound racing, which until recently felt that it too did not face significant threats, has now become a case study in how under-preparedness and vulnerability can turn to an industry-threatening crisis overnight.

One Four Corners exposé on live baiting spurred the sacking or resignation of every east coast Board and CEO, a slew of State inquiries were undertaken, and multi-state prosecutions of senior racing figures.

Despite the ironic increase in betting on greyhound races by punters, the industry's future still hangs in the balance, with its fate and sustainability dependant on a much broader community of influence and political pressure than punters alone.

That is not to say that similar events are rampant or even occur in our industry. It is only to say that it is an ever-present risk and that it would be dangerous, perhaps terminal, to overlook and under-estimate similar issues facing our industry.

There is extreme danger in a complacency and dismissive approach - as opposed to being analytical and engaging. As the live export trade has demonstrated, financial bulk alone cannot protect an industry from Government action jolted by fresh footage and well-orchestrated campaigns that provoke community outrage.

It is worth noting that risk and exposure, to the extent that it is present, exists in a social environment that is changing rapidly. Social research across animal sport and animal husbandry demonstrate that animal welfare support is growing rapidly and community tolerance for transgression is low and falling. The signals include recent concern about puppy farms, growing pressure on live-stock industries, global moves to shut down animal-based entertainment and trends towards vegetarianism and veganism. In supermarkets, major food manufacturers

are seeing an animal welfare rise on the barometer of consumer concerns which affect buying habits.

Gen Y are the trend setters. They are also the harness racing industry's next generation of supporters – or they are not! They may now be allies enjoying a punt. But they could quickly become committed antagonists. They are socially and electronically interconnected like never before, they can be galvanised virtually instantly and they can act collectively and rapidly locally, or across the world.

They are subject to being driven by skilled campaigns that could be similar to those that have been effective against other industries.

The catalyst is likely to be a welfare group that makes a strategic decision to target our industry. This is a substantial reason why proactive and pre-emptive activity is so important.

The challenge for any industry is to get ahead of the trending wave. Questions of ethics, integrity and transparency need honest and ongoing assessment, while the provision of information is critical to educate and provide confidence for all sectors of society. The alternate default choice is to move too slowly or wait for a 'tsunami' of public concern, and then try to survive.

In summary, HRA's response has been to continue to improve equine health and welfare outcomes in the following manner:

LIFE CYCLE TRACKING

- Promote the Australian Harness Racing Rules and regulations with regards to de-registration and the notification of death of registered Standardbred horses
- Re-design official forms to capture meaningful information with regards

to the whereabouts of horses post their racing careers

- Database programming which provides for the capture of this information and the collation of relevant reports

WHIP RULE MODERATION

The successful 1 May 2016 implementation of a new whip rule which requires the driver to hold a rein in each hand at all times.

DEDICATED RESOURCE

Budget for the new position of HRA Equine Health & Welfare Coordinator to manage export and import clearances; to manage communication and digital assets to promote harness racing efforts and successes with welfare initiatives; to publicise options for de-registered Standardbred horses; to develop public policy and benchmarking exercises; and to provide services to members on health and welfare topics.

HORSE IDENTIFICATION

Agreement to introduce the microchipping of registered Standardbred horses from 1 September 2017.

KNACKERIES AND ABATTOIRS

Investigate the various criteria and protocols by which knackeries and abattoirs are licensed in Australia. Review and collaborate, with relevant third parties, on the appropriateness of current transport guidelines, vendor declarations, holding yard conditions, destruction procedures and audit processes.

AGE

An amendment to recognise the service date as opposed to the foaling date to determine the age of a registered Standardbred was approved for the 2015/16 season.

EXPORT & IMPORT FEES

The successful negotiation for administrative changes to improve efficiencies including inspection and imputation times which have in turn all resulted in gains which have been passed on via lower fees across the entire breeding season - saving both time and approximately \$12 per shipment as opposed to the original flat fee increase proposal of 288%.

QUARANTINE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS

Participation in reviews conducted via the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources with regards to important regulatory amendments including:

- Biosecurity (General) Regulation 2015: Approved Arrangements
- Biosecurity (General) Regulation 2015: Inspector-General of Biosecurity
- Biosecurity (General) Regulation 2015: Infringement Notices
- Biosecurity (General) Regulation 2015: First Points of Entry

VACCINE

With a global shortage of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV), HRA joined a successful lobbying campaign to assist vaccine manufacturer, Zoetis, to fast track regulatory approvals of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) for use in Australia during the busy breeding season.

These efforts will be expanded into the new year with the launch of an equine welfare website, www.welfare.horse.com, the appointment of an Equine Health & Welfare Coordinator, the final stages of stallion fertility testing trials being undertaken by collaborative partner, The University of Newcastle, and the release of lifecycle tracking data.

Of course, many of these initiatives are not solely equine health or welfare related - they intertwine with other areas of our industry's regulatory and integrity functions. A case in point being the requirement of a breeder to notify the sex of each foal that is reported to have died - which is welfare, regulatory and integrity driven.

A detailed description of the many integrity related activities undertaken by HRA and its Members are detailed elsewhere in this Report, however, it is worth reiterating that integrity functions remain a primary focus of all administrators, with HRA's Members continuing their commitment to identifying and penalising anyone breaching the Australian Harness Racing Rules.

Our industry has zero tolerance to the use of prohibited substances and fraudulent practices integrity officers of HRA Members constantly meeting the challenges presented by people prepared to engage in illegal activities.

Fortunately most participants operate within the Rules and our integrity regime is highly effective in catching the few prepared to cheat. Nonetheless, it can be frustrating while our testing procedures and regulations catch up with a new prohibited substance or threshold level especially as our integrity officers and investigators, unlike the cheats, have to operate within the law.

It is even more frustrating when appeals courts in some jurisdictions show more sympathy for the cheats than the victims of their illegal activities, especially punters

who have bet on the outcome of the race and the other participants in the event who have taken part believing it to be a level playing field. It can only be hoped some sanity prevails in the coming year and these jurisdictions address this appalling anomaly.

In order to develop consistency across the various disciplinary appeal structures, HRA has developed a Minimum Penalty Framework, incorporating penalty schedules for common offences, for Members to consider.

While each matter turns on its own set of facts and circumstances, and different panels of Stewards and Tribunal Members will nevertheless have varied points of view - even within the same state. Harness racing has the opportunity to remove some of that inequality by adapting to a national ministry penalty framework.

There are sections of the rules that by precedent and procedure have attracted fines, suspensions or disqualifications and this draft framework does not attempt to change any of these practices. The purpose is to bring together the varied state-based guidelines into a single document to be discussed, tested and fine-tuned. Currently the framework covers prohibited substances in horses and banned substances in humans.

It is anticipated that this framework - based on a just approach, sound theory and consistent application - would be embraced and stand up when tested by appeals and reviews.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

Looking ahead to next year, there are more exciting developments continuing internationally, but also plenty of important projects domestically. Two of the most high profile relate to a review of both the racing season and handicapping system. The benefits and consequences of a calendar year racing season will no doubt be robustly debated, including among the Feature Race Committee (FRC) who will consider the various options for carnival and feature race programming under what many consider a more flexible racing and attractive attendance alternative.

With an unsatisfactory number of live foals going to the races, there is also a need to consider the merits of a ratings based handicapping system. A well designed, transparent, fair and easily understood system could cater for horses of all abilities, as well as extending racing careers if able to provide genuinely competitive opportunities in line with current form.

Other activities will include developing syndicate initiatives, invitations for horses to compete in international events, HRA national reporting enhancements and continuing the effort to commercialise national data and statistics.

I know I say this every year, but it has again been an honour to serve the HRA Membership and wider industry on these and other important activities throughout the year.

However, it is not possible without the excellent support of the small, but hard working team that contribute so much and work so hard to ensure that HRA continues to function in an effective manner.

Sponsorship wise, a big thankyou to Peter Bourke and David Boydell from Australian Pacing Gold (APG) and Chris Burke from International Racehorse Transport (IRT) for their wonderful support of industry activities. The support of Jamie Taylor from Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT), who until recently provided outstanding insurance broking services to the industry, and Tony Pointon from Pointon Partners for their legal services

Which have also been outstanding. From an IT perspective I'd also like to acknowledge the support and guidance of Maria Keys (Keys Consulting) and Steve Saks for their commitment and approach, particularly to the ever present challenges and threats to industry data.

HRA is also fortunate to have such a strong committee structure, ably led by their respective Chairmen in Dean Cooper (Chairmen of Stewards & National Rules) and Peter Bourke (Equine Breeding, Animal Welfare & Registration), along with Dr Patricia Ellis (Standardbred Welfare Advisory Group (SWAG)) for their participation, significant contributions and patience.

The relationship with our Members is also vital, and I thank their Boards, Chief

Executives and senior management for their continued support, guidance and confidence given the day-to-day cyber challenges of their own organisations.

The business of harness racing rarely stops, making the dedication and continued commitment of the HRA Executive even more remarkable. My thanks to you all, and in particular a heartfelt thanks to HRA Chairman, Geoff Want who is available day and night for discussion and wise counsel.

And finally, a massive thank you to Julie, Kathy and Laraine for your endless enthusiasm and effort. So many roles within our organisation require commitment over and above what is possible to describe in a job description – and this year has been no exception with a number of structural changes having been implemented. Your dedication cannot be questioned and it is greatly appreciated.

Andrew Kelly
Chief Executive

APG Grand Circuit Review



Nothing could separate superstar pacers Lennytheshark and Smolda at the end of the 2015/16 Australian Pacing Gold Grand Circuit season.

Both pacers collecting 260 points during the elite eight leg series.

But this is not unusual; in fact, it becomes the third time a deadheat has occurred.

AGG Grand Circuit Review

The first deadheat took place during the 2003 season with Double Identity and Young Rufus while some six years later, the incomparable Blacks A Fake and former North American star Mr Feelgood couldn't be split.

Lennytheshark the David Aiken and Chris Alford driven entire claimed both the Inter Dominion (Gloucester Park) and the Victoria Cup (Melton) while finishing a nose second to Have Faith In Me in the Miracle Mile (Menangle).

Smolda, trained and driven by Mark Purdon, won the Hunter Cup (Melton) while being placed in the New Zealand Cup (2nd to Arden Rooney), Auckland Cup (3rd to Have Faith In Me) and the Victoria Cup (2nd to Lennytheshark).

Both pacers have been standouts during their career to date.

Both with outstanding records and both with earnings in excess of \$1 million in the bank for their respective connections.

Interestingly, both pacers were victorious in the Gr.1 New South Wales Derby as three-year-olds.

And their battles during the season were legendary. A fierce rivalry developed following their neck and neck struggles during the Victorian summer carnival with Smolda defeating Lennytheshark in the Ballarat Cup before the result was reversed in the Victoria Cup a week later.

Even their seasonal stats were eerily similar.

Lennytheshark raced 13 times throughout the season, recording 8 victories and 5 minor placings while banking more than \$1.3 million.

Smolda also raced 13 times for 6 victories and 5 minor placings while amassing more than \$760,000 in stakes.

While the Victoria Cup battle was epic, the domination of Lennytheshark during the

Inter Dominion series in Perth was simply stunning.

Tagged early as the series favourite, Lennytheshark didn't disappoint with clinical efforts during the three heats, winning his first two while going down bravely in the final round behind Lovers Delight.

In the final, Lennytheshark parked outside of Lovers Delight before racing clear in the straight to record a commanding victory in the \$1.3 million feature.

The Inter Dominion final was the richest event staged during the Grand Circuit season and the richest of it's kind in the world last year.

As good as Lennytheshark was during the Inter Dominion, Smolda was just as impressive in his Hunter Cup victory.

Aggressive tactics were adopted by Purdon and it paid dividends when the Courage Under Fire gelding held off a determined challenge from Ohoka Punter in track record time.

The 3280m stand start feature was covered in a mile rate of 1:57.3.

And Smolda also etched his name in the record books for another reason; he will be remembered as the last horse to win the Hunter Cup under standing start conditions.

Another highlight during the Grand Circuit season was the emergence of a genuine star in Have Faith In Me, a stablemate of Smolda.

The Bettors Delight gelding set tongues wagging with his crushing victory in the Chariots Of Fire in a mile of 1:48.8 before accepting an invitation to the Miracle Mile two weeks later.

Have Faith In Me, handled by Natalie Rasmussen, raced roughly in the home straight before running down Lennytheshark in a record time of 1:47.5.



This stunning performance easily matched his effort when successful in the Auckland Cup two months earlier when he downed Hughie Green and Smolda in the 3200m stand start feature.

The regally bred pacer looks destined for much better things at this elite level.

Other winners on the Grand Circuit included Our Hi Jinx in the Queensland Pacing Championship; it was the final edition of the sunshine state feature with the 'Blacks A Fake' during their winter carnival now ranking as the state's biggest event while Arden Rooney returned to his native country to create history with Kerryn Manning becoming the first female driver to win the country's biggest race before My Hard Copy claimed back to back WA Pacing Cup victories with his brilliant finish giving trainer Gary Hall his 10th victory in the state's premier event.

With Lennytheshark and Smolda locked on 260 points, they finished 60 points clear of Have Faith In Me while My Hard Copy finished with 168 points for the season.

The 2016/17 Australian Pacing Gold Grand Circuit season will commence with the New Zealand Cup on November 8.

AJPG Trotting Masters Review



The domination of the New Zealand trained trotters knows no bounds.

Since the Australian trained Sundons Gift recorded back to back titles in 2010/11, the kiwis have owned the Australian Pacing Gold Trotting Masters series.

And that trend continued during the past season.

But while most would assume Monbet was the giant killer, think again.

Trotters Grand Circuit review

As good as the Cantabrian trained trotter was during the past term, winning 7 Group One features across the southern hemisphere before being crowned with the top honour of New Zealand Horse of the Year where he edged out boom pacer Have Faith In Me he could only finish second in the Masters.

Monbet won 11 of 12 NZ starts during his 4YO season, taking his seasonal earnings to \$387,521 with an easy end of season victory in the 4YO Jewels at Cambridge on June 4 in 1:56.6 (1609m).

He also won two of three Australian starts during the season, for another \$50,978.

But the Trotting Masters title was one award he couldn't collect during the season.

Auckland based star Speeding Spur scored a narrow yet much deserved victory.

Speeding Spur ended the season 220 points, some 17 points clear of his arch-rival Monbet.

Prepared by father/son combination of John and Josh Dickie, Speeding Spur claimed the Great Southern Star Final at Melton after producing a blistering late burst to defeat Glenferrie Typhoon and Quite A Moment.

The Great Southern Star is based on the famed Elitlop, heats and final scheduled on the same program.

Speeding Spur finished as the runner-up in both the Australian Trotting Grand Prix at Melton behind Keystone Del and the ANZAC Trotters Cup at Alexandra Park behind Monbet.

The highly decorated Pegasus Spur entire ended his four-year-old season with a record of 6 wins and 5 minor placings from

11 starts while banking over \$398,000 in prizemoney.

His season was cut short owing to injury which forced him out of the North Island's biggest trotting feature, the Rowe Cup in late April.

Monbet, prepared by Greg and Nina Hope, scored victories in both Auckland features, the ANZAC Trotters Cup before backing up to win the Rowe Cup a week later by a widening margin.

The opening leg of the Trotting Masters, as always, starts with the Dominion Handicap in Christchurch during Cup week in November and the giant gelding Master Lavros scored his second victory in the 3200m stand start feature.

Prepared by Mark Jones, Master Lavros led throughout to beat Alley Way and Sheemon.

Former New Zealand gelding Keystone Del claimed the Australian Trotting Grand Prix at Melton defeating Speeding Spur and Arboe.

The Dr Ronerail veteran is prepared by ex-kiwis Brent Lilley and Anthony Butt and now ranks as the trotter with most Group One victories in Australia, his tally currently sits at 10, one more than Sundons Gift.

In the end, it was Speeding Spur with 220 points for the season defeating Monbet (203), Keystone Del (110) and Master Lavros (100).

To put the New Zealand dominance into perspective, the only Australian Trotting Masters winners are La Coocaracha (2002), A Touch Of Flair (2007 – joint winner) and Sundons Gift (2010/11).



Speeding Spur
claimed the Great
Southern Star Final

State Controlling Body Reports

Victoria



Dale G Monteith
Chairman

GOVERNANCE

In March this year the Minister for Racing The Hon. Martin Pakula announced a new seven person, skills based board for HRV. I was honoured to be asked to chair the new board.

The focus of HRV in the future will be on Integrity, not only with the conduct of racing but in everything that HRV does in interacting with participants, on the welfare of both horses and participants, driving ownership and importantly open, honest and transparent leadership. The key message being sent to all those involved in harness racing in Victoria is to think "Industry first" and to be prepared for change in order for the industry to be growing and viable, which as we stand is a major concern for the board.

This message is also applicable to all those involved in harness racing throughout Australia. I am determined to work through HRA to achieve better outcomes that benefit our industry not only in Victoria but nationally.

FINANCIALS

The financial year 2015-16 was a challenging one for Harness Racing Victoria (HRV).

The HRV Group recorded a consolidated loss for the year before changes in Equity of \$215K which is unfavourable to the original budget forecast profit of \$1.309m. The principal reason for the negative result has been the significant decline in wagering revenue. This decline was after total wagering turnover on Victorian harness product growing by 2.65% in 2015-16. In total \$880.3m was wagered during the year compared to \$857.6m the previous year.

Significant growth occurred with the export of Victorian product to international jurisdictions. The export of Victorian trotting to Europe was a new initiative in 2014-15 and has continued to grow in 2015-16. Revenue of \$1.52m, an increase of 31%, was earned by HRV specifically from exported product.

HRV and therefore the industry in Victoria is heavily reliant upon wagering revenue which represents 71.2% of total revenue. The next highest source of revenue is from TABCORP Park Melton, which increased, from \$12.7m to \$13.2m. Pleasingly, the venue for the first time achieved a profit, after \$646k in rental payments to HRV, based upon solid growth in food, beverage and accommodation sales. All other revenue sources remained consistent with the previous year.

Expenditure for the financial year increased from \$80.9m to \$84.3m, by 4.3% of which \$1.3m related to increased stakemoney, from \$38.3m to \$39.6m, or 3.4%.

All other expenses categories were tightly controlled. The next highest expense was employment costs which, across the Group, increased by 7.1% from \$12.3m to \$13.2m primarily as a consequence of HRV's focus in the Integrity area.

HRV's Balance Sheet remains strong. As at 30 June 2016, HRV has a favourable Net Asset position which increased from \$26.3m to \$40.9m. This is attributable to the recent Land and Buildings valuation carried out on the TABCORP Park Melton site and surrounding vacant land (valued at \$70.3m).

The HRV Board has budgeted for a profitable year in 2016-17. The greatest risk to industry revenue streams is a volatile and highly competitive wagering market.

RACING OPERATIONS

In Harness Racing circles the 2015/16 season was the “Year of the Shark”. Lennytheshark began the season with a bang when flying home to take out the Smoken Up Sprint (Group 2). This was only a sign of things to come, with Lennytheshark going on to run top two in every start for the rest of the season.

The \$400,000 Victoria Cup (Group 1) was a thrilling finish with Lennytheshark running a bold race from the front, managing to hold off a late charge from Smolda to score by a head. Only a week later Smolda went one better with a stunning victory in the A G Hunter Cup (Group 1).

The Vicbred, APG and Breeders Crown series of races and finals also contributed significantly to the quality of racing during the year. The Country Cup circuit of races is a strength of Victorian harness racing as evidenced by HectorJayJay’s performances after winning the Mildura Cup and the Board intends to further capitalize upon this feature of our industry in the future.

The highlights were not limited to the pacing gate. Trotting races were popular in Victoria as well as overseas with France televising a number of the square gaiting races. In what was probably the best finish of the season Speeding Spur took out the Great Southern Star.

MARKETING

The focus for HRV Marketing for 2015-16 was the continued improvement in events with emphasis on wagering and ownership for the industry benefit. The highlights were the improved engagements with the Country Clubs for marketing initiatives, core investments in Vicbred, Breeders Crown and Melton Plate all which experienced growth in on-course attendance and wagering growth. TAB Summer of Glory, HRV’s premier carnival continued to be a success even with a challenging national racing calendar. The launch included the HRV Celebrity Race Day and the launch of TrotsCam, live pictures of racing from the sulky and drivers helmets.

TABCORP PARK

HRV’s TABCORP Park facility continues to improve both in its financial performance and in the provision of its food and hospitality service. The return from the TABCORP Park venue to HRV has increased by 22% during the year and this has largely been driven by significant increases in revenue from the Hotel (\$287k) and Gaming (\$251k). Growth in Hotel stays in particular at TABCORP Park has been outstanding over the past twelve months with accommodation revenues increasing by 31% in this time.

APPRECIATION

Research indicates that harness racing’s economic value to Victoria is in the order of \$435m p.a. and creates the equivalent of 4,500 full time jobs.

Harness racing remains a vibrant industry providing both a livelihood and a proud participation to a large sector of the Victorian community who are passionate about their sport.

New South Wales



Graham Kelly
Chairman

It is with considerable pleasure that I report on the highlights of the year for Harness Racing New South Wales.

Undoubtedly, the most important development through the year was the announcement by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Racing, the Honourable Troy Grant MP, that the Government would introduce so called Tax Parity over a 5 year period. The idea is that the State would reduce its tax on TAB turnover from its historical rates to the same rate as applies in Victoria over that period.

On current projections this will deliver the following additional funding to the New South Wales Harness Racing Industry:

FY 2016	\$3.2m
FY 2017	\$5.7m
FY 2018	\$5.7m
FY 2019	\$7.0m
FY 2020	\$8.3m
FY 2021	\$11.5m

These amounts are not guaranteed and depend on TAB turnover.

This is an important step in securing the future of a vibrant and sustainable Sport that is so much enjoyed by so many participants.

HRNSW decided to consult widely with Industry participants before planning on how this additional funding should be applied. There were many legitimate claims on the additional funding but the Board's starting point was planning for a secure future for the Sport. Several items stood out:

- Integrity;
- Equine Welfare;
- Youth development;
- Prize Money;
- Marketing.

Practically all the submissions we received called for the opportunity to be taken

to market our Sport better to attract new followers and participants. We have set aside an unprecedented amount for various aspects of marketing into the future. I emphasise that effective marketing, in the Board's view, encompasses all aspects of the Sport, including communication and presentation.

The Industry Conference, the first of its kind in recent memory, marked one of the other highlights of the year, being supported by some 150 attendees. The Panel of presenters covered a wide range of topics from challenging perspectives. Every session seemed to bring new ideas and challenges to the fore.

This brings me to Reid Sanders, our Chief Operating Officer, who has recently announced his resignation. Reid was recruited in 2011 to head up the integrity operations of Harness Racing New South Wales in a peculiarly distressed time for the Sport. He was instrumental in cleaning up the so called 'Green Light Affair'. He went on to put in place a highly organised system of swabbing that statically will pick up, over the course of a year, some 98% of breaches of the drug rules. And it was Reid who led worldwide the attack on the use of Cobalt in horse racing. More recently Reid has led the development of the Menangle Training Centre.

It is not often that a Chairman gets to pay tribute to someone who has contributed so much to an organisation, and more widely to a Sport.

The Menangle Training Centre has already proved an outstanding success with demand for barns outstripping our supply. It has attracted trainers from out of the State and provides a facility for young trainers to get into the Sport. It is also the prototype for similar centres the Board would like to develop in due course in other locations, such as Bathurst and Wagga.

The planning for the new track at Wagga is well underway. Tenders are in, and being assessed. Cost, as always, is an issue but the Board is determined to build a facility that will take the Sport in the Riverina into the future. The Development Application for the new Tamworth Track has now been lodged; this development will provide exciting possibilities.

I mentioned that we had consulted widely with Industry Participants about how to apply the additional 'Tax Parity' funding. The Board of Harness Racing NSW is committed to engage with the Industry, both through the formal mechanisms mandated by the Act, and more widely. Our

program of meetings with Clubs regionally has been especially valuable to us as a Board. Personally, I have enjoyed the opportunity to hear from Club committees and to discuss issues directly with the individuals who give so much to the Sport in their communities.

On giving much to the Industry, I should pay special tribute to my predecessor, Rex Horne, whose term expired in February after a total of 8 years on the Board of HRNSW, the last 2 as Chairman. Rex has thrown his all at Harness Racing both on the Board of HRNSW and of the NSW Harness Racing Club. Rex uniquely contributed to the sale of Harold Park (and all the benefits it has

brought the Industry); to the development of the Menangle track and its top class facilities; to the development of the new Bathurst facilities; and to the progress towards the proposed new Wagga track. He will be remembered as one of the great infrastructure builders Harness Racing in New South Wales will ever see.

So the year under report was a busy year of change. 2016 – 17 will be at least as challenging but the Board is committed to looking to the future to secure an enduring Sport loved by so many. We want many, many more to enjoy it's fun and spectacle.

Petacular
2YO PACING FILLY OF
THE YEAR



Queensland



John Muir
Chairman

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission was formed on 1 July to focus on Integrity and animal welfare matters for all three codes.

Wagering turnover on Queensland harness racing increased by three per cent in 2015/16 compared to the previous financial year in an obvious highlight for the code.

In dollar terms, turnover jumped from \$439 million in 2014/15 to \$452 million.

Over the past five years, the turnover improvement is even more impressive – a 49 per cent increase from \$304 million in 2011/12 to the 2015/16 result of \$452 million.

It is a pleasing set of results and points to an optimistic future despite a number of challenges faced by the code and the industry more broadly in Queensland during the reporting period.

Other reasons for optimism include a 5.5 per cent average field size increase from 9.1 in 2014/15 to 9.6 in 2015/16, and an eight per cent increase in foal numbers to 365 in 2015/16. Following the release of the critically important Tracking Towards Sustainability document, plans were put in place to return the racing industry to long-term financial stability.

As such, and following extensive industry consultation, prize money levels were reduced from April 2016 for standard day-to-day races and for many feature races. Despite general wagering increases outlined previously, revenue streams realised an overall decrease.

This was particularly impacted by shifts to fixed-odds wagering and increased betting activity with corporate bookmakers. A shift in the distribution of funds from the previous ProductCo model also had an impact on industry returns. Despite Racing Queensland recording a loss of \$19.9 million against a budgeted loss of \$28 million, harness racing in Queensland remained strong and continued to offer an outstanding racing product with even and competitive racing.

This was demonstrated by a reduction in the number of races containing odds-on favourites, from 38.1 per cent in 2014/15 to 35.1 per cent in 2015/16.

Regular TAB events continued to be held at Albion Park (Tuesday, Friday and Saturday) and Redcliffe (Wednesday and Thursday).

These meetings were complemented by 12 Marburg non-TAB race meetings, the Warwick Father's Day meeting conducted by the Darling Downs Harness Racing Club and dual code racing at Deagon, Gympie and Kilcoy Show Racing continued this year at Toowoomba, Nanango, Gympie, Boonah, Caboolture and the Brisbane Exhibition, which continued to be well-received, offering harness racing great exposure to a wider audience.

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission was formed on 1 July to focus on Integrity and animal welfare matters for all three codes.

This function was previously performed by Racing Queensland. While a restructure of the 2015/16 Winter Carnival affected prizemoney allocations, the carnival proved successful attracting high quality interstate and overseas competitors to race against Queensland's best. Participation was enhanced by the ground breaking UBET Picket Fence Promotion where the opportunity to win up to \$111,000 in bonuses was offered on eligible Picket Fence races.

Racing Queensland Ambassador and Queensland rugby league champion Billy Slater was a major attraction on Oaks night during the Winter Carnival on a night that produced some outstanding racing, with top class Victorian Hectorjayjay winning the Sunshine Sprint.

The final night of the carnival attracted a large crowd for the running of Queensland's biggest race of the year, The UBET Blacks A Fake, plus the two-year-old QBRED Triad Finals and the Group Two Queensland Derby.

The \$200,000 Blacks A Fake was won by Ohoka Punter trained by Nathan Purdon, who had moved to Queensland only months earlier.

It was his first Group One win, made all the more memorable given Ohoka Punter defeated Victorian Hectorjayjay and Ultimate Art in a Grand Circuit quality field that also featured outstanding New Zealander Christen Me and reigning Queensland Horse of the Year Avonnova.

The Group One QBRED Triad Finals were won by Changoverme in an upset in the Colts and Geldings division for trainer Kylie Rasmussen, driver Mat Neilson and owner / breeders Gayle, Chris and Rodney Garrard.

Im Norma Jean collected the fillies trophy for trainer Peter Greig, visiting driver Amanda Turnbull and successful owner / breeders Jeff and Lee-Ann Wallace. The Group Two Queensland Derby attracted a great cross section of Australasia's best three year olds - three Queenslanders, four from New South Wales, three from Victoria and two from New Zealand. Queensland racing celebrated a local victory thanks to Catcha Lefty who won for trainer, owner and breeder Cristina Monte and driver Shane Graham.

The final running of the Queensland's only Grand Circuit race, the \$200,000 Group One Queensland Pacing Championship in October, saw Victorian Philadelphia Man, the 2015 Blacks A Fake winner, return to Queensland as a short priced favourite. However, it was an all local finish with the Ian Gurney trained Our Hi Jinx winning from Caesars Folly and Avonnova.

Queensland's best young drivers competed in the 2016 BOTRA Queensland Young Driver's Championship.

The series was won by former New South Wales driver Paul Diebert who settled in Queensland in early 2014, defeating Matt Elkins and Amy Rees. Special congratulations to all drivers who competed in the Series for their conduct and professionalism. Queenslanders Shane Graham and Grant Dixon were recognised at a national level for their success in winning the National Driver's and Trainer's Premierships respectively. On the back of this national success, they were selected to represent Queensland in the Australian Driver's Championship.

Pleasingly, Grant Dixon won the 2015 title in a strong series against the best drivers from around the country. Shane Graham finished third.

Young trainer / drivers Narissa McMullen and Hayden Barnes were crowned Mercedes Benz Toowong Young Achievers of the Year, with each earning a three-week trip to New Zealand to further their harness racing experience and knowledge by working with some of the best trainers in that country.

Queensland continues to benefit from a healthy pool of young horse people achieving high levels of success. Providing the platform for the development of these future champions of the sport is essential.

Grant Dixon

2015 Australian Drivers
Champion



South Australia



Mark Carey
Chairman

One of the most significant challenges for the code is to develop innovative racing and wagering products.

The South Australian 2015/16 racing year has been another challenging year for the Code with a number of positive initiatives that have improved Harness Racing's position in South Australia, and a number of challenges that countered some of the positive growth in our industry.

The Board's major focus has been to increase wagering on the our product and as a result management have introduced a range of marketing initiatives to increase wagering of the SA Harness Racing.

This year saw many highlights with Member Clubs conducting excellent events during the year including:

- The SAHRC Summer Carnival was run at Globe Derby Park in January 2016. A host of prominent interstate trainers again attended the night with former South Australian Geoff Webster trained, and Greg Sugars driven pacer Flaming Flutter winning the \$100,000 UBET SA Cup. The Kevin Watson trained and Nathan Jack driven 3YO pacer Brallos Pass was successful in the Group 3 SA Pacers Derby whilst the Group 2 SA Trotters Cup went to the Brett Lilley trained trotter Leanne's Boy.
- The Southern Cross series returned to Globe Derby Park in July 2016. This provided owners and breeders the opportunity to share in significant prize money for the two and three year olds that were eligible for the Series.
- The Country Cups throughout the year were well supported with Gawler, Port Pirie, Mt Gambier, Victor Harbor, Kapunda, Strathablyn, Whyalla and Kadina all conducting feature Cup events which were well supported and keenly contested.
- The BOTRA Golden Nursery again proved to be an outstanding night for owners of juvenile horses and all credit to the BOTRA committee who raised

in excess of \$50,000 in sponsorship to host the night and provided attractive and substantial prize money.

- The SA Square Trotters Carnival held in May/June provided an entertaining carnival series culminating with the SA Trotters Derby and the time honored Gramel Series.

From HRSA's administration point of view there were many positive achievements and outcomes during the year:

- Continued restructuring of SA harness racing dates and prize money.
- Continued implementation of the Integrity Report recommendations
- Increased sponsorship for the Harness Code
- Continued focus on wagering initiatives.

In the next 12 months we will see the SA Racing Industry finalise negotiations with UBET and the State Government with respect to the exclusivity arrangements for UBET to operate in this State. This is a 'one off' opportunity to increase financial support to the Racing Industry in this State. The "clawback" in which the industry received upfront funding following the sale of the TAB in 2000 with the amount to be repaid over the next 15 years, finally concluded at the end of the 2015/16 financial year. This will result in additional funding for Harness Racing.

The Code's mission is to grow a strong and vibrant harness racing industry by developing a compelling racing product for our target markets, increasing participation, promoting racing excellence and integrity, generating revenue growth from wagering, and maximising returns to its stakeholders. Despite the many challenges, harness racing is a well-established industry that provides both a livelihood and passionate participation for many people across the State.

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

In February 2016, HRSA developed a new draft Strategic Plan for the next five years. In an era of ongoing challenges for our code, the Strategic Plan will establish a framework and clear direction for the code to grow in South Australia. Two of the key objectives for our industry include the establishment of a strong financial base to enable increased investment in areas including prize money and racing infrastructure, as well as establishing a new governance model for harness racing in South Australia that meets the needs of the industry going forward.

One of the most significant challenges for the code is to develop innovative racing and wagering products. The competition for the punting dollar is becoming increasingly crowded, particularly with the influx of sports betting. Therefore new racing and wagering initiatives are critical if we are to grow our financial revenue base, which will enable our code to invest in key areas including prize money.

CHALLENGES

Whilst there has been a great deal of competitive racing and wonderful performances by participants, South Australian harness racing continues to face some significant challenges. Wagering turnover remains soft, industry funding continues to be threatened by wagering leakage, our fan base is stagnant or diminishing, breeding numbers continue to be a concern and there are issues with Sky Channel programming and later start times.

There is now more competition for the leisure dollar than 20 years ago with people having a greater range of leisure pursuits to choose. These are contributing factors, but we must ask ourselves if we are doing enough to meet the challenges we face.

However we have been undertaking a number of initiatives on a range of fronts to improve the situation for our code. This includes a number of new wagering initiatives in partnership with UBET, continued enhancements to our wagering website, improvements in our racing KPIs including average field sizes and a reduction in the number of short priced favourites. On the marketing side, the trots will be returning to the Royal Adelaide Show in 2016. We also have a well resourced and professional integrity regime which includes a considered and ethical equine welfare agenda.

Western Australia



Jeff Ovens
Chairman

The Inter Dominion is the pinnacle of the Australian harness racing calendar and forms an important part of the history and culture of the industry in Western Australia with the first series originating in Perth at Gloucester Park in 1936.

It's our pleasure to present the State Annual Report for harness racing in Western Australia.

The 2015/16 season, was a positive year for harness racing in Western Australia with record prizemoney provided and the return of Australasia's greatest harness racing event, the TABtouch Inter Dominion Championships.

During the season, RWWA provided harness race clubs with base and feature stakes funding of \$25.7M and a further \$1.7M in Westbred bonuses.

Stakes funding was paid out across 277 race meetings, which encompassed 2,308 individual races. This provided 21,995 racing opportunities for 1,846 individual horses, with an average number of 12 starts per starter.

Starters were trained by 437 individual trainers, with 55 of these trainers having 100 or more starters for the year, and 18 having 200 or more starters.

During the season a total of 234 mares that raced in Western Australian received an EPONA bonus, generating \$259K in credits with three mares each earning the maximum credit amount of \$5K.

Throughout the season \$105K was paid out in claims to the owners of 56 mares.

Greg and Skye Bond were named the Leading State Trainer for the 2015/16 season, with their partnership combining for 220 winners and \$2.4M.

Gary Hall Snr took out the Leading Metropolitan Trainer with 138 metropolitan winners (199 state-wide winners). His total earning for the season was in excess of \$3.4M, making his stable the highest earning in Western Australia.

Gary Hall Jnr was the State's Leading Driver with 173 winners and \$2.6M in stakes, ahead

of Chris Lewis with 166 winners and Nathan Turvey 131 winners.

Five drivers which included Gary Hall Jnr, Chris Lewis, Nathan Turvey, Ryan Warwick and Chris Voak, all passed \$1M in stakes earnings throughout the season.

A total of 255 individual drivers drove in races during the season with 37 having 200 or more drives.

Throughout the season 33 individual concession drivers took part in races, 16 of those had more than 200 drives for the season and four had 100 or more drives.

Lennytheshark, trained by David Aiken from Victoria, was the deserving winner of the 2015 TABtouch Inter Dominion Championships. The Inter Dominion Grand Final was worth \$1.3M, making it the richest pacing race in Australasia, and the overall series worth \$1.8M in prize money.

The Inter Dominion is the pinnacle of the Australian harness racing calendar and forms an important part of the history and culture of the industry in Western Australia with the first series originating in Perth at Gloucester Park in 1936.

The conduct of this current event provides the foundation platform for a wider RWWA initiative to relaunch, revitalise and re-energise harness racing in Western Australia.

The \$450,000 Group One WA Pacing Cup was won for the second year in a row by My Hard Copy NZ trained by Gary Hall Snr.

Other key highlights for the year include the following Western Australian feature harness racing achievements:

- Group One Fremantle Pacing Cup, won by Beaudiene Boaz NZ, trained by Gary Hall Snr, and driven by Gary Hall Jnr.
- Group One Golden Nugget, won by Beaudine Boaz NZ, trained by Gary Hall Snr, and driven by Gary Hall Jnr.
- Group One WA Derby, won by Chicago Bull NZ, trained by Gary Hall Snr, and driven by Gary Hall Jnr.
- Group One WA Oaks, won by Dodolicious, trained by Greg and Skye Bond, and driven by Ryan Warwick.
- Group One 4YO Classic, won by Beaudine Boaz NZ, trained by Gary Hall Snr, and driven by Gary Hall Jnr.
- Group One Westral Mares Classic, won by Nike Franco NZ, trained by Dean Braun, and driven by Luke McCarthy.
- Group One Golden Slipper, won by Mitch Maguire NZ, trained by Greg and Skye Bond, and driven by Ryan Warwick.

My Hard Copy

Winner of the WA Pacing Cup



Tasmania



Dean Cooper
Acting Chairman

The continued success of Tasmanian pacers interstate, record wagering at major race meetings and Ben Yole (108 wins) becoming only the fourth person to train 100 winners in a season were the highlights for harness racing in 2015/16.

The national focus on the quality of Tasmania horses commenced early in the season when Beautide was again named Australian Horse Of The Year (2014/15) for the second consecutive year. The Rattray family bred gelding, trained in New South Wales by James Rattray, won the 2015 Inter Dominion, was second in the Miracle Mile and won another Group 1 race.

Group 1 success for Tasmanian-bred horses continued in 2015/16. Beautide won the \$200,000 Coca-Cola Amatil Sprint at Menangle, while Fred and Pauline Barker added another feature race win to their extensive list of breeding achievements when Sheezallapples won the \$127,500 2YO Fillies Breeders Challenge at Menangle. Devendra, bred by the Rattray Family Trust and owned by Viv Clark, won two Group 2 races and the \$50,000 heats of the Inter Dominion in Perth. Devendra also finished second in the \$450,000 WA Pacing Cup.

Tasracing hosted the 2015 Sky Racing Australian Driving Championship at Launceston in November. The event featured the best two drivers from each of the six states. Gareth Rattray and Ricky Duggan were the local representatives. Grant Dixon (Queensland) was the overall winner.

The championships provided an opportunity to showcase local product interstate, and with excellent support from Sky Racing and Gareth Hall (trackside interviews) a record wagering outcome (excluding Inter Dominion finals) was achieved.

Six weeks later at the Tasmania Cup meeting at Hobart in the Sunday afternoon timeslot a new wagering benchmark was established. Factors that contributed to the result included widespread promotion by the Tasmanian Pacing Club, Gareth Hall trackside, Sky Racing scheduling and strong

acceptances across the 11 races.

As noted earlier, trainer Ben Yole became the first trainer in 19 years to train 100 Tasmanian winners in the one season. The 32-year-old Sidmouth resident is the fourth trainer to achieve the milestone. The others are Barrie Rattray (1994 – 1997), Wayne Rattray (1990) and Neville Webberley (1991). Webberley has the record of 118 winners in a season with 115 race meetings. On a strike rate basis, Yoles' 108 winners trumped Webberley given there were 86 meetings in Tasmania in the 2015/16 season.

After six years of sustained wagering growth (more than 50 per cent), a five per cent decrease in turnover was recorded in 2015/16 due to a number of factors. Timing, sustainability outcomes and two deleted meetings because of adverse weather resulted in total turnover of \$77.4 million (\$81.8 million in 2014/15) from 26 less races (725 in 2014/15 down to 699 this reporting period).

On a positive note, international revenue on Tasmanian harness racing increased by 48 per cent.

The publication of high-level form and analysis through the Tasracing and Harness Racing Australia web sites played a critical role in this growth. This enhanced form information, funded by Tasracing on all Tasmanian harness races broadcast on Sky, also helped increase website traffic.

Tasracing continued to support harness breeders in 2015/16 through:

- A Tasbred Bonus distribution of \$182,000.
- \$276,000 stakes for Tasbred heats and finals.
- Tasbred Breeders Coupon and Tasbred Owners Breeding Incentive payments of \$129,000.
- Payment of foal notification fees on behalf of breeders saving them more than \$23,000.
- Payment of \$14,000 for yearling sale first win bonuses.

Highly respected Tasracing Board member and harness code representative Trevor Leis ended his term as a Director after six years of committed service. Despite the long road trips from his base at Smithton, Trevor attended meetings statewide to gather stakeholder input and to detail Tasracing's policies, plans, challenges and success. His replacement is another passionate harness enthusiast, Joel Wallace, who, like Trevor, brings an extensive business background to the role.

The significant contributions of three industry participants was recognised with Harness Racing Australia awards. Chester Bullock received a Distinguished Service Award for his long-term industry support including sponsorship, club, BOTRA and light harness administration roles and breeding, ownership and training.

David Rawlings and Art Meeker were granted Meritorious Service Awards. Rawlings' achievements include breeding Thorate, the 1990 Inter Dominion winner. He was a major instigator in the innovation and success of the Burnie Harness Racing Club and was a Harness Racing Tasmania Board Member for eight years.

Meeker, an American born veterinarian, came to Tasmania in 1972 and established and managed Neptune Stud at Colebrook until it was sold in 1990. Holly Sand, Duke Duane, Scotch Luck and Timely Napoleon were some of his prominent stallions. Meeker is still working as a vet and officiates at harness meetings in southern Tasmania.

There were 16 feature races in Tasmania with stakes money of \$20,000 or more.

Ryley Major, trained and driven by Rohan Hillier, dominated the 3YO races. The Tasbred gelding became the first local horse in 27 years to win the Tasmanian Derby and the Globe Derby Final, and finished the season with a perfect record of nine wins from nine starts.

Playing Arkabella was dominant in the 2YO fillies category, winning the \$30,000 Evicus and the \$20,000 Sweepstakes for trainer Paul Hill and driver Ricky Duggan.

Reinsman Mark Yole won his first drivers title. He drove 84 winners to defeat Ricky

Duggan (77) and Gareth Rattray (62). Rattray won the previous 10 titles. Yole, an ex-Victorian, was first licensed in Tasmania in 2006 when he drove 34 winners.

Twenty-year-old Matthew Howlett won his first Junior Driver award. Howlett also won his second junior drivers' championship – the annual 6tyo Youngbloods Challenge – having previously won the series in 2013.

In recent years, two different formats have applied to Tasmanian harness yearling sales. From 2006 to 2014, the traditional yearling sale concept was utilised. In 2015 and 2016 a website page sale was developed.

In 2016, 16 yearlings from nine vendors were listed on the website page and five sales were notified. After reviewing both concepts, the Tasracing Board has resolved that the website page format will continue in 2017 but the traditional sale arrangement will be adopted from 2018.

The Harness Industry Forum (HIF) met quarterly in 2015/16. Regular topics covered included sustainability, safety and welfare, programming, the harness budget, policies, marketing and breeding. Tasracing appreciates the time and effort that all HIF participants commit to this important forum that provides an opportunity for direct interaction and consultation between Tasracing and industry.

Australian Harness Horse of the Year

Lennytheshark

In Harness Racing circles the 2015/16 season was the "Year of the Shark".



Lennytheshark
2016 Australian
Harness Horse of the Year

Australian Drivers Championship



Grant Dixon is a perennial performer.

Big numbers for big results.

Since taking over the full operation from his legendary father Bill following the 2010/11 season, Dixon has continued to set the standard in this country preparing well over 200 winners each season.

In fact, since the 2007/08 season, the Dixon name has sat atop of the national trainer's premiership.

During the eight year reign, the gigantic Queensland operation has churned out 243, 242, 264, 299, 265, 226, 260 and 282 winners per season.

And another remarkable feat during this tenure is the fact that Dixon has battled serious health concerns.

Back in 2012, Dixon was diagnosed with Chronic myeloid Leukaemia (CML), a cancer of the blood cells, mainly affecting adults which usually grows slowly at first.

But his resilience and fierce determination coupled with a wonderful skillset goes beyond training methods.

And this was glaringly obvious during the SKY Racing Australian Drivers Championship staged in Launceston, Tasmania during the past season.

The former Australian World Drivers representative proved to be a runaway winner against the nation's best, winning the title by some 13 points from South Australia's Danielle Hill with 58 and Robert Morris (NSW) and Shane Graham (QLD) equal third on 47 points.

Dixon accrued 71 points from his six drives.

Driving winners has come naturally for Dixon after commencing his career during the 1988/89 season, he is the winner of the Queensland premiership more times than anyone else and his record haul currently sits at 11.

His nearest rival is renowned horseman Kevin Thomas with 9.

During the 2009/10 season, Dixon enjoyed his best season in the sulky with 242 winners.

On six occasions, he has driven 5 winners at a single meeting – 4 times at the now defunct Parklands complex and twice at Redcliffe.

He has driven 9 Group One winners.

The best horse that Dixon has partnered is the incomparable Blacks A Fake, the greatest champion this country has ever produced.

Dixon partnered 'Blackie' at Parklands on the Gold Coast on February 9, 2010 when they combined to defeat Fox Valley Appeal and Destreos in a mile rate of 1:56.2 for 2100m.

Since the Australian Driver's Championship began in 2014, both winners have been Queensland based reinsman – Pete McMullen was the inaugural winner followed by Dixon.

The next milestone for Dixon isn't far away; he will become the next member of the Australian 4000 win club at some point next season.

He will join the likes of Gavin Lang, Chris Alford, Daryl Douglas and Chris Lewis in this elite club.



2015 Australian Drivers Championship Drivers



Grant Nixon
2015 Australian
Drivers Champion

2016 AUSTRALIAN HARNESS RACING

Awards

WINONA AWARD

2016 Australian Broodmare of the Year

BOTSWANA



Botswana, owned by Justin Newbound was voted the 2016 Australian Broodmare of the Year.

Overall she is the dam of seven foals of racing age, four of which are winners. In 2015/2016 she produced three winners for a total of 12 wins for the season which are detailed below.

BOTSWANA (F1999) by Albert Albert USA from Lourenco Marques by Thor Hanover USA

2015/2016 Record: 3 winners 12 wins 11 placings \$1,368,479

LENNYTHESHARK P.1:52.1ms 8 wins 5 placings \$1,343,098

OLYMPUS FEEDS SMOKEN UP SPRINT (GROUP 2)	G2	P	MELTON
TABTOUCH INTER DOMINION HEAT 2 (SKY 1)	G2	P	GLOUCESTER PK
TABTOUCH INTER DOMINION HEAT 5 (SKY 1 & 2)	G2	P	BUNBURY
TABTOUCH INTER DOMINION GRAND FINAL (SKY 1)	G1	P	GLOUCESTER PK
GOOD FORM VICTORIA CUP (GROUP 1)	G1	P	MELTON
PETstock 2016 BENDIGO PACING CUP (GROUP 2)	G2	P	BENDIGO
TABCORP GOLDEN MILE (G3)	G3	P	MENANGLE

GABORONE P.1:57.9ms 1 win 2 placings \$5,890

BLISSFULL BOY P.1:54.3ms 3 wins 4 placings \$19,491

The breeding record of **BOTSWANA** includes:

BOTSWANA (S3990834) P.3,2:00.7ms; 2:02.2ms bm 1999, by Albert Albert USA from Lourenco Marques by Thor Hanover USA from Mozambique by Gay Reveler USA. Breeder: Forest Lodge Stud, Vic

06.10.06 bf **LED SUITCASE** (S3060047) P.2,2:00.0ms; 3,2:00.9ms; 1:55.8ms \$261,395 by Blissfull Hall USA. Breeder: K J Newbound Family Trust, Vic

17.10.07 bbrg **BLISSFULL BOY** P.2,1:59.1ms; 3,1:58.8ms; 1:54.3ms \$241,410 by Blissfull Hall USA.

13.10.08 bkg **GABORONE** P.1:57.9ms \$17,653 by Elsu NZ.

11.10.09 bc **LENNYTHESHARK** P.2,1:57.2ms; 3,1:55.9ms; 1:52.1ms \$1,896,790 by Four Starzzz Shark CA

24.11.10 bf **DONT CALL ME CHEAP** \$115 by Blissfull Hall USA

15.11.11 chc **RED RARRI** by Four Starzzz Shark CA

12.11.12 bf **MOREMI MISS** \$250 by Blissfull Hall USA

LAWN DERBY AWARDS – PACERS

AUSTRALIAN PACER OF THE YEAR

Lennytheshark

(bh 2009 by Four Starzzz Shark CA from Botswana)

Performances: 13 starts 8 wins 5 placings \$1,343,097.50 1:52.1ms

Owner: K Riseley & M Riseley. **Trainer:** David Aiken. **Driver:** Chris Alford



AGED PACING HORSE/GELDING OF THE YEAR

(bh 2009 by Four Starzzz Shark CA from Botswana)

Performances: 13 starts 8 wins 5 placings \$1,343,097.50 1:52.1ms

Owner: K Riseley & M Riseley. **Trainer:** David Aiken. **Driver:** Chris Alford

Lennytheshark

AGED PACING MARE OF THE YEAR

(bm 2009 by Four Starzzz Shark CA from Jackie Kelly)

Performances: 15 starts 6 wins 4 placings \$261,100 1:50.1ms

Owners: Dianne Kelly

Trainer: Michael Brennan, Belinda McCarthy **Drivers:** Chris Voak, Todd McCarthy, Luke McCarthy

Frith

3YO PACING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR

(bg 2012 by Somebeachsomewhere USA from Cyclone Betty)

Aust Performances: 12 starts, 11 wins 1 placing \$282,897.50 1:50.6ms

Owners: T Casey, N Pilcher, C Rasmussen

Trainer: Mark Purdon. **Drivers:** Mark Purdon, Natalie Rasmussen, John McCarthy, Luke McCarthy

Our Waikiki Beach NZ

3YO PACING FILLY OF THE YEAR

(bf 2012 by Rock N Roll Heaven USA from All The Magic)

Performances: 18 starts, 14 wins, 3 placings \$283,001.90 1:54.5ms

Lessees: B Cameron, H Cameron, P Cameron, A Cameron, J Penny, N Woods, G Wood, Fab Four Group, The Magic Sons Group.

Trainer: Emma Stewart. **Drivers:** Michelle Pitt, Gavin Lang, Mark Billinger, Chris Alford

Rocknroll Magic

2YO PACING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR

(bbrc 2013 by Rocknroll Hanover USA from Spirited Storm USA)

Performances: 6 starts, 6 wins, 0 placings \$217,145 1:54.6ms

Owners: Big Wookie Racing Group, Stokie Racing Group, P Lamond, S Murray, D Carroll, B Carroll, Nixon Brothers Group.

Trainers: Emma Stewart. **Driver:** Greg Sugars

The Storm Inside

2YO PACING FILLY OF THE YEAR

(bf 2013 by Somebeachsomewhere USA – Ideal Priority USA)

Performances: 11 starts, 8 wins, 3 placings \$202,002.50 1:55.8ms

Lessees: PC Racing Syndicate

Trainer: Michael Stanley. **Drivers:** Michael Stanley, Chris Alford

Petacular

VANCLEVE AWARDS – TROTTERS

AUSTRALIAN TROTTER OF THE YEAR

Keystone Del Nz

(bg 2007 by Dr Ronerail USA from Flipside (NZ))

Performances: 14 starts, 12 wins, 1 placing \$288,195 TR1:53.7ms

Owner: P Hall & M Hall **Trainer:** Brent Lilley. **Drivers:** Chris Alford, Anthony Butt



AGED TROTTING HORSE/GELDING OF THE YEAR

(bg 2007 by Dr Ronerail USA from Flipside (NZ))

Performances: 14 starts, 12 wins, 1 placing \$288,195 TR1:53.7ms

Owner: P Hall & M Hall **Trainer:** Brent Lilley. **Drivers:** Chris Alford, Anthony Butt

Keystone Del Nz

AGED TROTTING MARE OF THE YEAR

(bm 2009 by Pegasus Spur CA from Sundonna)

Performances: 13 starts, 4 wins, 5 placings \$110,135 TR1:54.2ms

Owners: F Crews **Trainer:** Brent Lilley. **Drivers:** Anthony Butt, Yannick Gingras

Maori Time

3YO TROTTING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR

(chg 2012 by Bacardi Lindy USA from Cloud Chaser)

Performances: 14 starts, 8 wins, 3 placings \$123,310 TR1:57.5ms

Owners: D Scott, M Taranto, R Blanche, G Blanche, K Fulton, D Martin, B Hutchison, R Molloy, J Murdoch.

Trainer: Michael Hughes. **Drivers:** Greg Sugars, Gavin Lang

Cruisin Around

3YO TROTTING FILLY OF THE YEAR

(bf 2012 by Muscles Yankee (US) from Regal Volo USA)

Aust Performances: 12 starts, 7 wins, 5 placings \$123,150 TR1:57.5ms

Lessees: Breckon Farms Ltd & Super Seven Syndicate.

Trainers: Nicole Molander, Mark Purdon. **Drivers:** Chris Alford, Darren Hancock

High Gant

2YO TROTTING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR

(bg 2013 by Muscle Mass USA from Illawong Blush)

Performances: 12 starts, 7 wins, 3 placings \$104,720 TR2:00.9ms

Owners: M Hartnett, K Hartnett. **Trainer/Driver:** Jodi Quinlan

Illawong Byron

2YO TROTTING FILLY OF THE YEAR

(bf 2013 by Angus Hall (US) from Aldebaran Maori)

Performances: 11 starts, 2 wins, 3 placings \$61,951.25 TR2:01.7ms

Owners: Blundell Family Trust, KPC Racing

Trainer: Brent Lilley. **Drivers:** Anthony Butt, John Caldwell

Kyvalley Kyrie

2016 AUSTRALIAN HARNES RACING AWARDS



2015/2016 GLOBE DERBY AWARDS



BETTORS DELIGHT USA 5th time

Leading Sire by Stakemoney

BETTORS DELIGHT USA (for the 2nd time)

Leading Juvenile Sire by Stakemoney

MAJESTIC SON CA (for the 1st time)

Leading Sire of Trotters by Stakemoney

2015/2016 Statistics

LEADING SIRE BY STAKEMONEY

BETTORS DELIGHT USA (for the 5th time) 500 Starters 347 Winners 949 Wins \$11,082,471

LEADING SIRE OF 2YO'S BY STAKEMONEY

SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE USA (for the 1st Time) 50 Starters 26 Winners 61 Wins \$897,361

LEADING SIRE OF 3YO'S BY STAKEMONEY

BETTORS DELIGHT USA (for the 4th time) 95 Starters 66 Winners 184 Wins \$2,166,201

LEADING JUVENILE SIRE BY STAKEMONEY (2&3YO'S)

BETTORS DELIGHT USA (for the 2nd time) 140 Starters 92 Winners 233 Wins \$2,945,945

LEADING BROODMARE SIRE BY STAKEMONEY

IN THE POCKET USA (for the 1st time) 284 Starters 184 Winners 516 Wins \$5,127,794

LEADING BROODMARE SIRE OF 2YO'S BY STAKEMONEY

SAFELY KEPT USA (for the 3rd time) 44 Starters 13 Winners 24 Wins \$516,331

LEADING BROODMARE SIRE OF 3YO'S BY STAKEMONEY

CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ (for the 1st time) 58 Starters 43 Winners 138 Wins \$1,146,225

LEADING SIRE OF TROTTERS BY STAKEMONEY

MAJESTIC SON CA (for the 1st time) 49 Starters 31 Winners 95 Wins \$956,020

LEADING BROODMARE SIRE OF TROTTERS BY STAKEMONEY

SUNDON USA (for the 6th time) 156 Starters 92 Winners 232 Wins \$2,300,659

LEADING SIRE BY WINNERS

BETTORS DELIGHT USA (for the 1st time) – 347

LEADING SIRE OF 2YO'S BY WINNERS

ART MAJOR USA (for the 6th time) – 26

BETTORS DELIGHT USA (for the 1st time)

SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE USA (for the 1st time)

LEADING SIRE OF 3YO'S BY WINNERS

BETTORS DELIGHT USA (for the 3rd time) – 66

LEADING BROODMARE SIRE BY WINNERS

HOLMES HANOVER USA (for the 9th time) – 230

LEADING BROODMARE SIRE OF 2YO'S BY WINNERS

FAKE LEFT USA (for the 7th time) – 13

SAFELY KEPT USA (for the 2nd time)

LEADING BROODMARE SIRE OF 3YO'S BY WINNERS

CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ (for the 1st time) – 43

TOP 10 STARTERS - BY PRIZEMONEY

Name	Age	Sex	Starts	Wins	Season Best Mile Rate	Aust Season Prizemoney	*Career Prizemoney
LENNYTHESHARK	6	HORSE	13	8	1:52.1MS	\$1,343,098	\$1,896,790
HAVE FAITH IN ME NZ	4	GELDING	4	4	1:47.5MS	\$612,600	\$1,324,879
BEAUDIENE BOAZ NZ	4	HORSE	13	8	1:52.9MS	\$563,610	\$998,014
MY HARD COPY NZ	6	HORSE	15	2	1:51.6MS	\$510,720	\$988,942
SMOLDA	7	GELDING	5	4	1:52.7MS	\$503,100	\$1,414,801
OHOKA PUNTER NZ	6	HORSE	10	6	1:52.4MS	\$310,219	\$941,916
KEYSTONE DEL NZ	8	GELDING	14	12	TR1:53.7MS	\$288,195	\$1,034,520
LOVERS DELIGHT NZ	8	GELDING	9	2	1:56.8MS	\$283,440	\$555,473
ROCKNROLL MAGIC	3	FILLY	18	14	1:54.5MS	\$283,002	\$407,473
OUR WAIKIKI BEACH	3	GELDING	12	11	1:50.6MS	\$282,898	\$793,319

* Career Prizemoney as at 31 August 2016 - includes Aust and Overseas performances

TOP 10 SIRES - BY PRIZEMONEY

Sire	Starters	Winners	Wins	Aust Prizemoney	2YO Starters	2YO Winners	2YO Wins	2YO Prizemoney	3YO Starters	3YO Winners	3YO Wins	3YO Prizemoney
BETTORS DELIGHT USA	500	347	949	\$11,082,471	45	26	49	\$779,744	95	66	184	\$2,166,201
ART MAJOR USA	480	305	793	\$6,780,470	65	26	48	\$658,237	90	50	147	\$1,008,907
MACH THREE CA	303	215	610	\$5,528,939	37	20	48	\$722,687	49	35	106	\$804,889
COURAGE UNDER FIRE NZ	318	182	451	\$3,826,331	51	24	38	\$333,824	83	45	125	\$884,307
FOUR STARZZZ SHARK CA	202	113	269	\$3,607,036	22	7	14	\$165,330	47	27	73	\$574,984
AMERICAN IDEAL USA	154	106	317	\$3,342,364	10	3	6	\$114,645	36	22	60	\$404,788
GRINFROMEARTOEAR USA	334	199	466	\$2,998,851	10	5	10	\$68,153	50	23	43	\$264,136
CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ	165	101	242	\$2,813,646	3	1	1	\$4,610	11	8	18	\$99,726
MODERN ART USA	230	130	323	\$2,366,111	19	5	7	\$135,540	20	7	19	\$152,262
JEREMES JET USA	158	106	311	\$2,281,330	0	0	0	\$0	49	31	74	\$456,748

TOP 10 BROODMARE SIRES - BY PRIZEMONEY

Sire	Starters	Winners	Wins	Aust Prizemoney	2YO Starters	2YO Winners	2YO Wins	2YO Prizemoney	3YO Starters	3YO Winners	3YO Wins	3YO Prizemoney
IN THE POCKET USA	284	184	516	\$5,127,794	25	10	14	\$339,230	41	27	76	\$538,225
HOLMES HANOVER USA	372	230	576	\$4,855,893	22	9	20	\$135,624	47	24	53	\$591,437
SAFELY KEPT USA	378	193	439	\$4,362,499	44	13	24	\$516,331	75	33	76	\$743,674
FAKE LEFT USA	341	213	536	\$4,311,865	25	13	22	\$304,424	74	40	97	\$630,678
CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ	237	166	468	\$4,108,968	31	12	22	\$350,231	58	43	138	\$1,146,225
ALBERT ALBERT USA	212	114	271	\$3,481,864	11	3	7	\$73,308	39	18	41	\$265,930
LIVE OR DIE USA	204	139	382	\$3,310,677	31	11	14	\$143,520	38	25	60	\$540,255
PRESIDENTIAL BALL USA	186	115	297	\$3,000,767	23	11	25	\$269,412	40	22	60	\$413,770
ARMBRO OPERATIVE USA	333	168	383	\$2,936,337	38	11	17	\$217,549	66	36	97	\$634,624
FALCON SEELSTER USA	209	134	370	\$2,835,504	17	6	11	\$126,695	38	20	62	\$396,908

TOP 10 DRIVERS - BY WINS

Trainer	Starts	Wins	Seconds	Thirds	Fourths	Stakes	Metro Wins	Metro Stakes	Country Wins	Country Stakes	State
CHRIS ALFORD	1,427	302	211	186	169	\$4,007,955	54	\$2,634,041	248	\$1,373,913	VIC
SHANE GRAHAM	1,330	255	192	164	152	\$1,951,797	10	\$513,680	245	\$1,438,117	QLD
GREG SUGARS	1,305	241	185	169	149	\$2,745,746	44	\$1,554,003	197	\$1,191,743	VIC
DANIELLE HILL	750	211	142	99	62	\$764,004	0	\$6,785	211	\$757,219	SA
PETER MCMULLEN	1,211	198	155	149	123	\$1,149,654	5	\$126,145	193	\$1,023,509	QLD
GAVIN LANG	837	190	114	111	104	\$2,686,191	54	\$1,887,724	136	\$798,467	VIC
TODD MCCARTHY	1,007	188	133	121	93	\$1,731,945	37	\$883,110	151	\$848,835	NSW
ROBERT MORRIS	972	184	127	110	103	\$1,568,661	34	\$705,101	150	\$863,560	NSW
GARY HALL JNR	590	173	84	79	49	\$2,685,344	65	\$2,033,510	108	\$651,834	WA
GRANT DIXON	1,045	167	164	129	114	\$1,207,878	5	\$205,725	162	\$1,002,153	QLD
RYAN HRYHOREC	634	167	122	97	68	\$550,579	0	\$0	167	\$550,579	SA
CHRIS LEWIS	1,068	167	157	121	144	\$2,175,765	50	\$1,365,834	117	\$809,930	WA

TOP 10 TRAINERS - BY WINS

Trainer	Starts	Wins	Seconds	Thirds	Fourths	Stakes	Metro Wins	Metro Stakes	Country Wins	Country Stakes	State
GRANT DIXON	1,706	246	244	199	183	\$1,795,284	6	\$313,625	240	\$1,481,659	QLD
G F J BOND, S A BOND	1,010	221	160	110	97	\$2,419,047	62	\$1,427,714	159	\$991,333	WA
EMMA STEWART	513	212	85	50	45	\$2,949,616	76	\$2,225,790	136	\$723,826	VIC
GARY HALL SNR	696	199	101	77	44	\$3,549,019	82	\$2,855,290	117	\$693,729	WA
BELINDA MCCARTHY	754	165	112	97	68	\$1,996,664	50	\$1,250,410	115	\$746,254	NSW
STEVE TURNBULL	964	159	147	129	119	\$1,496,405	23	\$659,720	136	\$836,685	NSW
KERRYANN TURNER	934	149	116	107	104	\$1,461,051	35	\$762,981	114	\$698,070	NSW
CHANTAL TURPIN	1,052	148	115	119	103	\$921,809	1	\$16,345	147	\$905,464	QLD
JACK BUTLER	788	116	98	91	87	\$714,331	3	\$74,975	113	\$639,356	QLD
DAVID AIKEN	646	116	89	71	55	\$2,694,471	35	\$2,209,119	81	\$485,352	VIC

2015/2016 TOP 20 FASTEST – PACERS

Horse	Age	Sex*	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
HAVE FAITH IN ME NZ	4YO	GELDING	1:47.5MS	MILE	28/02/2016	M PURDON	N C RASMUSSEN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
FRITH	6YO	MARE	1:50.1MS	MILE	16/04/2016	B J MCCARTHY	T P MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
ARMS OF AN ANGEL NZ	4YO	MARE	1:50.3MS	MILE	21/11/2015	S P TRITTON	L R TRITTON	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
HECTORJAYJAY	5YO	GELDING	1:50.5MS	MILE	26/06/2016	D AIKEN	G LANG	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SPARE ME DAYS	4YO	HORSE	1:50.5MS	MILE	30/04/2016	B M HEWITT	B M HEWITT	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
LOMBO KOTAKINABALU	6YO	GELDING	1:50.6MS	MILE	6/08/2016	S P TRITTON	L R TRITTON	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
OUR WAIKIKI BEACH	3YO	GELDING	1:50.6MS	MILE	6/02/2016	M PURDON	N C RASMUSSEN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BEAUTIDE	8YO	GELDING	1:50.7MS	MILE	13/02/2016	J R RATTRAY	J R RATTRAY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
EASY ON THE EYE NZ	8YO	GELDING	1:50.7MS	MILE	6/02/2016	S P TRITTON	N C RASMUSSEN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MONIFIETH NZ	7YO	GELDING	1:50.7MS	MILE	13/02/2016	J P MCCARTHY	J P MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BLING IT ON	5YO	HORSE	1:50.8MS	MILE	12/12/2015	B J MCCARTHY	L A MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BURRA SULLIVAN	6YO	GELDING	1:50.8MS	MILE	11/06/2016	B J MCCARTHY	L A MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
COLD MAJOR	7YO	GELDING	1:50.8MS	1,720M	6/02/2016	D AIKEN	J W AIKEN	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
CYCLONE KATE NZ	4YO	MARE	1:50.8MS	MILE	9/07/2016	J P MCCARTHY	J P MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
DEVIL DODGER NZ	9YO	GELDING	1:50.8MS	MILE	26/09/2015	B J MCCARTHY	T P MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
IAM MR BRIGHTSIDE NZ	5YO	HORSE	1:50.8MS	MILE	15/09/2015	K A TURNER	R P MORRIS	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MACH BEAUTY	7YO	GELDING	1:50.9MS	MILE	31/10/2015	S P TRITTON	L R TRITTON	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
EXPRESSIONIST NZ	6YO	GELDING	1:51.1MS	MILE	23/04/2016	S T SANDERSON	N J MCMULLEN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MACCA KELLY	7YO	GELDING	1:51.1MS	MILE	13/02/2016	W P DIMECH	J E TRAINOR	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
OCEAN DIVA	5YO	MARE	1:51.1MS	MILE	23/04/2016	P R J FITZPATRICK	J R PONSONBY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)

Have Faith In Me NZ

... was responsible for arguably the performance of the season in a blistering Miracle Mile at Menangle, stopping the clock in the Australasian record time of 1:47.5.

2015/2016 TOP 20 FASTEST – TROTTERS

Horse	Age	Sex*	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
KEYSTONE DEL NZ	8YO	GELDING	TR1:53.7MS	1720m	12.03.2016	B A LILLEY	A M BUTT	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
MAORI TIME	6YO	FILLY	TR1:54.2MS	1720m	13.08.2016	B A LILLEY	A M BUTT	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
GLENFERRIE TYPHOON NZ	6YO	GELDING	TR1:54.4MS	1650m	13.02.2016	A P GATH	K M GATH	BENDIGO (VIC)
ON THUNDER ROAD NZ	6YO	GELDING	TR1:55.2MS	MILE	02.07.2016	D R HANCOCK	D R HANCOCK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
QUITE A MOMENT NZ	6YO	FILLY	TR1:55.3MS	MILE	03.03.2016	G P HOPE	L J JUSTICE	BENDIGO (VIC)
KEAYANG YANKEE	3YO	FILLY	TR1:55.4MS	MILE	03.03.2016	P LEE	G A CRAVEN	BENDIGO (VIC)
CLAUDYS PRINCESS	5YO	FILLY	TR1:55.5MS	MILE	21.05.2016	M F BLACKMORE	D R HANCOCK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SPEEDING SPUR NZ	4YO	COLT	TR1:55.5MS	1720m	12.03.2016	J W DICKIE	J I DICKIE	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
EDGE HILL	5YO	FILLY	TR1:55.6MS	MILE	12.09.2015	B P FITZPATRICK	B P FITZPATRICK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
GLENFERRIE DREAMER	6YO	GELDING	TR1:55.6MS	MILE	06.05.2016	B J MCCARTHY	T P MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
IDLE BONES NZ	6YO	FILLY	TR1:55.6MS	MILE	18.03.2016	J P MCCARTHY	T P MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
IONA GRINNER	4YO	FILLY	TR1:56.2MS	MILE	29.03.2016	T D WILLIAMS	T P MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
ALDEBARAN DEEBEE	4YO	FILLY	TR1:56.3MS	1720m	12.03.2016	M J CRAVEN	M J CRAVEN	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
CYCLONE LUCKY SEVEN NZ	5YO	GELDING	TR1:56.3MS	MILE	22.09.2015	A D ALCHIN	L A MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BALMORAL BOY	5YO	GELDING	TR1:56.5MS	MILE	30.08.2016	B R ABBOTT	J E TRAINOR	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BALMORAL BOY	5YO	GELDING	TR1:56.5MS	MILE	09.08.2016	B R ABBOTT	J E TRAINOR	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
OUR OVERANOVA NZ	6YO	GELDING	TR1:56.5MS	1660m	30.08.2016	G W DIXON	G W DIXON	ALBION PARK (QLD)
OUR SUMMER VACATION NZ	6YO	GELDING	TR1:56.5MS	MILE	06.08.2016	J R RATTRAY	J R RATTRAY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
GLENFERRIE BURN	4YO	FILLY	TR1:56.7MS	MILE	26.04.2016	B P FITZPATRICK	J E TRAINOR	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
PARIS PEPPERELL	6YO	FILLY	TR1:56.7MS	MILE	09.04.2016	J J ALCHIN	J J ALCHIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BACARDI HURRICANE	3YO	GELDING	TR1:56.8MS	MILE	20.11.2015	J J ALCHIN	J J ALCHIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
K D MUSCLES NZ	5YO	FILLY	TR1:56.8MS	1720m	13.05.2016	A P GATH	K M GATH	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)

Keystone Del Nz

... did enough on the home front to again receive the Vanclve Award as 2016 Australian Trotter of the Year.

2016 Joseph Coulter Media Awards

JOSEPH COULTER BEST NEWS STORY OF THE YEAR

Trainers devastated by SA blaze ... Paul Courts

Natural disasters affected numerous harness racing participants in many parts of Australia during the season, none more so than the devastating fires which ravaged wide tracts of South Australia in late 2015. Paul Courts covered some of the impact in this graphic story published in www.harnessnews.com.au on November 26, 2015.

GRAHAM GOFFIN MEMORIAL AWARD - BEST FEATURE ARTICLE

That's our Kerryn ... Paul Courts

Kerryn Manning has been a high achiever in harness racing for more than two decades and Paul Courts chronicles some of her amazing journey - from her first win as a 16 year old school girl at Ararat in Victoria, to feature events in Australia, New Zealand and Europe. The feature story was published in www.harnessnews.com.au on November 12, 2015, only days after she became the first female to win the New Zealand Cup, driving Arden Rooney to victory in the great race.

GRAHAM GOFFIN MEMORIAL AWARD - BEST REGIONAL STORY

Len's journey ... Amanda Rando

Battlers like Len Clement are the heart and soul of harness racing and the northern NSW trainer-driver set himself a challenge as he retired from full-time work which would take his passion for the sport to another level. In the November 2015 edition of e-gazette, Amanda Rando documents Len's progress with his attempt to fulfill a dream to drive at every track across NSW.

GRAHAM GOFFIN MEMORIAL AWARD - BEST HISTORICAL FEATURE

James Alfred Roberts (1841-1896) ... John Peck

James Alfred Roberts founded the first major standardbred stud farm in Australia and had a significant impact on the Australian breeding industry by importing stallions and broodmares. His fascinating career in Australian business, sport and public office is detailed in an entertaining 15,000 word biography written by John Peck and added to the Classic Families website, classicfamilies.net, in August 2016.

BEST PUBLISHED ACTION OR STILL PHOTOGRAPH

Shark Attack! ... Jodie Hallows

Jodie Hallows captured the elation of reinsman Chris Alford as he crossed the line with Lennytheshark to win the 2015 Perth Inter Dominion Grand Final at Gloucester Park. The picture was published on the front page of the February/March 2016 edition of Racing Ahead magazine.

An outstanding collection of photographs was submitted for the award this year, demonstrating great skill by eight photographers around the nation. Like the Inter Dominion final, it was a top quality field, and it was unfortunate there could only be one winner.

BEST BOOK

The Joe Ilsley Story ... Peter Collier

Trainer-driver Joe Ilsley was a unique figure in an industry of characters and Peter Collier has captured the essence of the man known as "Trotting's Mr. Nice Guy" in this well written and interesting book published in May 2016.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

First Past The Post - The Boort Trotting Club ... Daryl Poxon

First Past The Post - The Tradition Lives On 1991-2016 is a sequel to the book about the first century of the Boort Trotting Club, also written by Daryl Poxon. It is a fascinating insight into the horses, people and issues that have featured in the history of the oldest continuous trotting club in Australia.

BEST RADIO FEATURE TO AIR

TAB Talk Inter Dominion preview - Simon Harrison and Adam Hamilton

An entertaining and informative edition of TAB Talk on Sky Sports Radio on Sunday December 13, 2015, prior to the running of the Inter Dominion grand final at Gloucester Park, hosted by Simon Harrison and Adam Hamilton and featuring the connections of all runners in the race.

BEST TELEVISION/VIDEO/FILM FEATURE TO AIR

Sky Racing coverage of the 2015 Inter Dominion heat night in Bunbury ... hosted by Gareth Hall and Adam Hamilton

Exceptional presentation of the second round of Inter Dominion heats at Bunbury was provided on Sky Racing, especially on Sky 2 where it was the only meeting covered for much of the timeslot. Every aspect of the meeting was covered by hosts Gareth Hall and Adam Hamilton and it attracted strong wagering turnover as well as favourable comment from viewers.

AWARD OF MERIT FOR DEMONSTRATED EXCELLENCE IN PROMOTION

Harnessing Our Future Conference ... Harness Racing NSW

The two day conference staged by Harness New South Wales in June 2016 was a resounding success, with delegates from a wide cross section of the industry witnessing excellent presentations on a range of topics relevant to the future of harness racing.

AWARD OF MERIT FOR DEMONSTRATED EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE & INNOVATION

2015 Inter Dominion Social Media Campaign ... Scott Hamilton and the Gloucester Park Harness Racing Club's Marketing team

The 2015 Perth Inter Dominion attracted widespread interest and the Gloucester Park team, headed by Scott Hamilton, ensured there was extensive promotion of the event on all digital media platforms. Interesting videos, web stories and prolific offerings on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram all contributed to the exposure of the event.

A close-up photograph of a man in profile, wearing a white t-shirt with a horse graphic and sunglasses on his head, adjusting a blue and white bridle on a dark brown horse. The background is a blurred, light-colored wall.

“...HRA’s response has been
to continue to improve
equine health and welfare
outcomes...”

welfare.horse

Pictured: Alex Alchin



*There is
no finish
line*

welfare.horse

Lara Brennan
at Kwinana Beach (WA).

There is
no finish
line



welfare.horse