

**AUSTRALIAN STANDARDBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014.**  
BOARDROOM, ADINA HOTEL, ADELAIDE.

**MINUTES**

**Present**

L Camarda	President and NSW Delegate
J Campbell	Vice President and VIC Delegate
D McQueen	Treasurer
B Lutherborrow	Secretary and QLD Delegate
K Clarke	WA Delegate
L Randall	SA Delegate
K Buttell	Executive Manager, NZSBA
M Carey	Chairman, HRSA
A Kelly	Chief Executive, HRA
J Mooney	Chairman, NZSBA
G Newton	SA BOTRA
R Pollock	Secretary, HBV

1. **WELCOME.**

The Chairman opened the AGM at 9.45am and welcomed all to the Meeting. He especially thanked John Mooney, Chairman and Kiely Buttell, Executive Manager, from NZSBA for attending. He extended his appreciation to Mark Carey, Chairman, Harness Racing South Australia and SA BOTRA for hosting the 2014 Annual General Meeting and related activities. He also thanked Andrew Kelly, Chief Executive, Harness Racing Australia for his attendance and continuing support.

2. Apologies.

B Rattray (Tasmania). *Received*

3. WELCOME BY HOST STATE (South Australia) - Mark Carey, Chairman, HRSA

Mark Carey outlined the long tradition of South Australian Harness Racing. He set out the economic environment in which South Australian operates, including key metrics on the size of the industry. He noted that the challenges to hold market share and sustain viability were “tough”. He paid tribute to the hard working contribution of ABSA Member, SA BOTRA.

*A vote of thanks was recorded for hosting support functions and his contribution to the meeting. Carried.*

4. VOTING RIGHTS – Delegates.

Victoria	John Campbell
Queensland	Bob Lutherborrow
New South Wales	Les Camarda
South Australia	Lois Randall
Western Australia	Kerry Clarke

5. CONFIRMATION OF 2013 AGM MINUTES, Hobart, 20 April 2013.

Minutes pre-circulated.

Proposed for adoption: K Clarke. Seconded: D McQueen. *Carried.*

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

Listed as items of general business. *Noted.*

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

All key Agenda Items and other documentation distributed by email pre-meeting.

Proposed that correspondence be received: B Lutherborrow.  
Seconded: L Randall. *Carried.*

8. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

The report was received and read by the President, then tabled by the Chair.

Proposed for adoption: L Camarda. Seconded: K Clarke. *Carried.*

9. **TREASURER'S REPORT.**

The Association's Balance Sheet & Profit and Loss Statement for the period 1st April 2013

to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 were tabled.

Proposed for Receipt and Adoption: D McQueen. Seconded: J Campbell. *Carried.*

**Business arising from Treasurer's Report:**

- i. Maxxam's sponsorship of ASBA was of great assistance. HRA thanked for funding assistance.
- ii. Discussion on continuing funding requirements, to augment declining income levels. Suggestions of State Controlling Bodies to contribute on a pro-rata "fixed cost" basis. Concern was expressed about ASBA's limited funding footing and suggested that a funding submission be prepared for HRA's consideration. Treasurer and Secretary to prepare draft submission.

10. **REPORTS.**

- i. **New Zealand - John Mooney, NZSBA Chairman.** Breeding numbers down 6%. Shortage of numbers, therefore, project on wastage (Significant % of the Broodmare herd have never raced). 50% of owners who race horses are Breeders. Premier Group Racing to focus on six select major carnivals. Serious concerns on semen quality. No semen standards in place. Study initiated to randomly test semen at recipient farms. Semen problems impact adversely on production costs. DNA testing and Registration fees for foals to be decreased.
- ii. **South Australia - Lois Randall.** Foal numbers slightly up, helped by SAMOS scheme. The profile of the Breeder is changing. BOTRA SA contributes \$68k in sponsorship for the industry through HRSA. TAB market share up slightly, and BOTRA SA generally happy with progress. Andrew Kelly voiced a vote of thanks to BOTRA SA for support to the Lee Plunkett Foundation and their re-homing of standardbreds as pleasure horses.
- iii. **Western Australia - Kerry Clarke.** Foal numbers have significantly reduced and RWWA is having difficulty filling race fields. The EPONA Broodmares scheme is working well with \$260k of value now in the scheme. Major focus with M0 Series for "Westbreds" only. Three WASBA races each week are funded with additional money for Mares races. WASBA races are to be expanded to include 4 year-olds, as well as Country 2 year-olds. Grave concern were voiced at the prospect of Government selling the TAB. This is believed that this would terminate role of RWWA.

- iv. **Victoria - John Campbell.** Foaling crop down, with shortage of horses evident. Changes on Harness Racing Victoria Committee. Increases in prizemoney, with \$160k more for “Vicbred Platinum”. Serious effort to increase foal numbers through “late season” initiative and incentives.
  - v. **New South Wales - Les Camarda.** Foaling numbers down. Import Fee funding to subsidise breeding. Field shortfalls to be augmented by more Conditioned Racing (to extend earnings potential). Major focus on integrity matters and drug testing. Investment in facilities at Menangle and Bathurst.
  - vi. **Queensland - Bob Lutherborrow.** Foaling numbers down, with deficient race-field size evident. Good relationship with new Board. Parklands closed down, with investigations being undertaken for new Gold Coast track. Some good news in yearling sale figures. Racing initiatives include grass track racing in provincial centres. “Mr Feelgood” stallion promotion to boost breeding levels.
11. **Andrew Kelly, Chief Executive, Harness Racing Australia.**
- i. **Commercial Landscape.** Overall wagering levels up, with growing international market. Increase in product fees for international product. Despite improved landscape, returns to harness racing have not increased. Efforts to negotiate improved Sky Channel coverage have proven difficult to progress, particularly in the areas new media etc. The impact of corporate bookmakers was being continually monitored and assessed.
  - ii. **Harness Racing Australia Wagering Survey.** This action has recently been announced and is being undertaken from the national website at www.harness.org.au. Mark Carey (HRSA) also advised that HRSA had commenced a new media and wagering website.
  - iii. **Micro-Chipping.** Government pressure to bring all animals to a common standard, principally for biosecurity, disease control (for example “Hendra”). Therefore, likely to become reality in longer term, but freeze branding to continue for present. Costs to be reduced by permitting non-vets/technicians to carry out implementation.
  - iv. **Centralised Breeding Administration.** Measures being taken by HRA on “clearances” and web-site enhancement (which now will allow conception rates to be available on-line).
  - v. **Biosecurity.** No further action on draft legislation Bill.
  - vi. **Bonus Prizemoney.** “Harvey” scheme not yet uniform in all States, but anticipate updated records by 2015.
  - vii. **(Tax) Federal Commission of Audit.** Report not yet handed down.
  - viii. **Standard Lease Agreement.** Template adopted by HRV now available. However, Bob Lutherborrow, Queensland raised the form design limitations as major problems with the form re broodmare leases in Queensland. Also, the signature block is on a separate page from the horse details block. HRV had advised that with the limited change in the area of gross earnings in Victoria, it was working effectively. There was however, general agreement that there was an issue to be remedied. ***Resolved*** that the Secretary request Brandt Dunshea (HRV) to redraft form.
  - ix. **Import Fee Distribution.** State arrangements are being implemented.
  - x. **NSW Conditioned Racing.** The meeting was advised that it was felt that it adds to the horse’s racing life and provides additional numbers to racing pools and amendments to the national handicapping rules occur.
  - xi. **Stallion Imports.** Consideration was given to submissions from R Van Dyke (NSW) and K Seymour (QLD). The general thrust of these submissions was that (a) Southern Hemisphere Stallions were now becoming world class; and (b) economic factors were compromising imports. The issue arose as to whether it could be desirable to foster a shift in emphasis by a regime of incentives, or disincentives or both. It was agreed that in order to consider this question. Firstly, however reference should be made to “**The Australian Standardbred Breeding Panel’s Report on the Australian Breeding Industry, July 2011**” undertaken by the Working Party of Harness Racing Australia in which 1471 industry participants were surveyed. ASBA’s Executive were to consider the current situation in light of the Report, ASBA’s prior decision given the limited comparative scope of the documents provided. This will allow them to report back to all ASBA Members with recommendations within a six to eight week timeframe on the current situation in light of the above Review to determine the Association’s current position.

Proposed: L Camarda; Seconded: R Pollock. ***Carried.***

***(Note that the Executive later decided that the initial work was to be undertaken by Secretary).***

xii. Other HRA information.

(a) Testing to commence for anabolic steroids, in co-operation with Thoroughbreds.

(b) University of Newcastle conducting research on improving stallion fertility, a 4 day blood testing process, natural extenders using semen at ambient temperature. This was an item of detailed discussion in light of issues raised by John Mooney as per 10 (i).

(c) Australian bred horses sired by French Stallions to be eligible for France Stud Book.

12. General Business.

General business was suspended by the Chairman in order to advise the awarding of Life Membership to Bob Lutherborrow for his unbroken period of representation and terms as President and Secretary. President Les Camarda spoke and then undertook the presentation of the Life Membership Medallion. Bob Lutherborrow expressed his appreciation. *Carried by acclamation.*

13. General Business. (As per Agenda).

14. Proposal for ASBA to attend the 2014 NZSBA Annual Conference. D.McQueen. Advanced that a member of the ASBA Executive attend the NZSBA Conference in May 2014 and be reimbursed airfares plus two nights accommodation. Proposed: D. McQueen; Seconded: J Campbell. *Carried.*

- ii. Strategy to increase foal numbers by late season breeding. J Campbell. Strategy as implemented this season has produced good results with this initiative to be positioned as a five year project. John Campbell allocated the task of management/co-ordination of this strategy be undertaken by timely organisation of publicity, print media and stud liaison, for continuation of late season discounts. *Noted.*
- iii. Declining Australian Foal Crops. R. Pollock. A HBV Discussion Paper was noted. NZSBA to provide a report on "wastage" (foals that never race) as an input to an identical issue. No further action until Harness Racing Victoria, and others, respond and provide feedback to the paper, including NZSBA Report. *Noted.*
- iv. Change to the Commencement of the Breeding Season. R Pollock. A HBV Discussion Paper was discussed. Andrew Kelly (HRA) circulated documentation from a 2010 HRA Meeting, detailing inputs from a Select Advisory Panel. The HRA Meeting concluded that there was not a strong case to change the commencement of the Breeding Season. The matter was held over as being still in the "consideration" stage in Victoria. *Noted.*
- v. Stallion Service Limit. K Clarke. It was expounded that the proposition of limitations had received support in Victoria, in principle, and, was the subject of voluntary self-regulation in the USA. However, trade

practices law in both Australia and NZ precluded any mandated limits. The Meeting concluded that Studmasters and Stallion Owners could impose their own voluntary stallion service limits. This policy will not be considered further.

- vi. **Mares Not Bred Registry.** K Clarke. It was resolved that K Clarke would prepare a detailed proposal for consideration. *Noted.*
- vii. **Training and Accreditation.** R. Pollock. An Artificial Insemination Breeding Course is now available from the Northern Metropolitan Institute of TAFE and can be utilised by interstate facilities as an “off the shelf” product. *Noted.*
- viii. **Black Type Anomalies.** K Clarke. It was pointed out that “black type” is not the subject of definitive standards and is open to exploitation; for example in Sales Catalogues. J Mooney (NZSBA) detailed NZ experience at attempted regulation, which attracted resistance from Sales Companies and vendors. The Australian experience was similar with pedigree preparers declining to standardize their product. In light of the obstacles to change, it was resolved to take no further action. *Noted.*
- ix. **Embryo Transfer.** K Clarke. This item was introduced as a discussion on emerging technology. However it progressed to broad discussion on policy. Bob Lutherborrow tabled HRA documents setting out policy as initially introduced, and subsequently amended. He pointed out that the current rule was far more liberal than at inception. However, with regard to other International Rules in the USA, Canada and New Zealand, the current Australian rule was broadly consistent; therefore any reversion to the original template would give rise to inconsistencies. That being said, it was clear that the regulatory framework in North America was more comprehensive. Further, that key issues impacting both Australia and NZ were not accommodated in the current rules. It was felt that given the movement of horses internationally, measures should be taken to standardise and harmonize Rules. Therefore; the Secretary was given a brief to develop a draft policy paper for the consideration of ASBA members prior to recommendation to HRA for consideration and adoption into the National Artificial Breeding Rules. Proposed: K Clarke. Seconded: D McQueen. *Carried.*
- x. **Fillies and Mares. K Clarke & L Randall.** An update was given on the EPONA Scheme (WA) and SAMOS Scheme (SA). It was clear that these schemes worked well and benefited the Breeding Industry. Keily Buttell (NZSBA) talked to “the Golden Girls” initiative, which had similarly worked well in New Zealand. Kiely undertook to circulate details on “Golden Girls” to all ASBA Members. *Noted.*
- xi. **Publications.** R Pollock. An update was provided on a review of key publications “Trackbred” and the “Australasian Standardbred Stallion Guide”. A proposal was also put forward to request Harness Racing Australia to introduce a “Best Magazine” category for the national Coulter awards. Proposed: R Pollock. Seconded: D McQueen. *Carried.*
- xii. **Unpaid Forfeits List.** R Pollock. HBV was advancing the adoption of the acceptance of the Unpaid Forfeits List to Harness Racing Victoria. This would assist Studmasters and other industry participants with similar Rules as adopted by Harness Racing New Zealand. This would allow participants to safeguard their financial interests enabling them to recover payment for contracted services and goods provided. The Thoroughbred Code in Victoria is currently moving towards providing cover of this kind. Further information will be provided to ASBA Members for discussion with their State Controlling Bodies, when available. *Noted.*
- xiii. **Foals Required For Future.** R Pollock. Already covered as per 12 (iii).
- xiv. **Harness Breeders Victoria - Executive Changes.** R Pollock. Ian Kitchin has retired as Secretary; replaced in the interim by Rod Pollock. As a consequential action, Shannon Nixon was elected to the role of

Vice-President. Interviews have also been completed and a new position of Executive Officer created on a part-time fixed term contractual basis. The successful applicant will shortly be appointed. *Noted.*

- xv. **Any Other General Business.** A Kelly. An update was given on an HRA “Risk Management” review, focussing on injuries and tracks etc. *Noted.*
  
- xvi. **EBAWRC** L Camarda. Issues related to extension of foal notification period and “no result” outcomes did not eventuate when “payment on live foal” (POLF) did not produce anticipated issues. *Noted.*
  
- xvii. **Venue and Date for Next Meeting.** Secretary. Melbourne was nominated as the next venue in the scheduled State rotation to host the 2015 Annual General Meeting. Some ideas for the scheduled dates were presented, but were deferred for further deliberation.
  
- xviii. **Closure of the 2014 Annual General Meeting.** L Camarda, President.  
Les Camarda thanked all Delegates and ASBA Member participants, as well as Mark Carey (HRSA), Andrew Kelly (HRA) and NZSBA visitors John Mooney and Kiely Buttell, for contributing to a full and productive meeting.

The 2014 Annual Meeting was closed at 3.15 PM.

Les Camarda,  
President

Bob Lutherborrow, Secretary