



NEWSLETTER

June, 2009

AUSTRALIAN RACECOURSE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Website: www.racecoursemanagers.org.au

Your Committee: Lindsay Murphy - NSW (Chairman and Treasurer), Martin Synan – Vic (Deputy Chairman), Geoff Murphy – WA, Murray Pyke – Tas, John Tonani – SA, Warren Williams – Qld, Secretary – Warren Williams

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Welcome to the 22nd issue of the Australian Racecourse Managers Association Newsletter.

2009 Study Tour to Europe

The 2009 Study tour was a huge success, the eleven members of this tour experienced 16 racecourses, all different from each other. The tour commenced at Ascot Racecourse and the next 12 days members visited Windsor, Goodwood, Epsom, Kempton, Cheltenham, Wolverhampton, Aintree, The Curragh, Irish National Stud, Puncheston, Deauville, Chantilly, Longchamp, Auteuil and Newmarket racecourses. At the completion of this 3 country tour all members were very exhausted, but still had enough energy to spend a day sight seeing in London before returning to Australia.

Rebecca Dynon, tour member from Seymour Turf Club will present a detail presentation to the delegates attending the 2009 Australian Racecourse Managers Conference at Allan Scott Park Morphetville Racecourse.



Tour Group at Epsom Downs

2009 Conference – Morphettville

Conference planning is all finalised and all members and sponsors should have received Registration, Conference draft, AGM notice and Committee Election notice. As a reminder to those wishing to attend please complete registrations and mail to Po Box 923 Hamilton Central Qld 4007 or email to trakgood@bigpond.net.au as soon as possible.

An addition to this years conference Judy Fargher from Steriline Racing has planned a Partners tour for the Monday and Tuesday of conference. This is a great opportunity to bring your partner along to visit some of the tourist sights of Adelaide. Registration for the partners tour is located at the bottom of the conference registration form.

For those who have not received conference information via Australia post, you can obtain conference details by visiting ARMA website www.racecoursemanagers.org.au

Steriline Racing Scholarship

Steriline Racing in conjunction with the Australian Racecourse Managers Association and Hong Kong Jockey Club will be offering this scholarship for 2009. Those budding Racecourse Managers who are interested in this scholarship should visit ARMA website to obtain application details.

Around the Tracks

Queensland – Warren Williams reports;

In our March 2009 newsletter issue, I talked about all the rain that fell in northern Queensland, this rain has continued, but this time in the south east corner of Queensland. The last two weeks in May Brisbane received some 330mm of rainfall, 295mm fell from 18 to 21 May. This rain created a concern with the major Group 1 races (Doomben 10000, Queensland Oaks and Stradbroke) being run at Doomben and Eagle farm for the 2009 Winter Carnival. The rain stopped 36hrs prior to the Doomben 10000 and the meeting started on a Heavy 8 and went to Heavy 9 due to 5mm rain during the meeting. Showers continued the following week which also affected Eagle Farm with a Heavy track for the Oaks meeting.

Other updates for Queensland as follows;

- Queensland Racing have begun the upgrade of the sand track at Rockhampton, once this is complete the course proper will under take a major renovation
- The upgrade of the Toowoomba course proper to a synthetic track (Equestrian Surfaces Cushion Track) is on target for their first meeting on Saturday 11 July 2009. The first meeting will be a twilight and run as the major metropolitan meeting of the day.
- Steve Andrews from the Gold Coast Turf Club has been appointed as Racecourse Manager due to Geoff Haines leaving.
- Ipswich Cup day was a huge success with record crowds

The merger of the Brisbane Turf Club and Queensland Turf Club will take affect 1 July 2009. The new club will be known as Brisbane Racing Clb – Eagle Farm and Doomben Racecourses. There will be some 94 race meetings shared between the two tracks.

Western Australia – Geoff Murphy reports on Pinjarra Race Club;

Throughout its long history, the Pinjarra Race Club has been renowned as providing a superior summer racing track.

Over the years, some of Australia's top horses have found their way to Pinjarra Park. Perhaps the most notable of these was the wonderful Weight-for-Age galloper FAMILY OF MAN, which saluted at Pinjarra in his farewell racetrack performance.

However, Pinjarra Park was equally renowned as a track which could not cope under wet conditions. This unfortunate feature inhibited the Club's capacity to expand its racing programme. Hence, the Pinjarra racing calendar was limited to the drier months between October and May.

In March 2007, with financial support from Racing & Wagering WA, a total reconstruction of the track was undertaken.

The initial stages of the project were identical to those undertaken on many tracks – improvement of crossfalls, installation of extensive drainage grids, and development of improved irrigation systems.

However, in what was regarded as a major departure from established practice, the upper 40 cm of the track was constructed entirely of coarse white granular sand. No loam was mixed with the sand, nor were there any reinforcing mesh elements – which conventional wisdom suggested would be necessary to support a racing programme.

Kikuyu stolons (harvested from other parts of the racecourse) were rotary-hoed into the sand, along with an initial crop of oats to support the early development of the turf.

Fortunately, the Club was able to close the track for racing, to allow the turf to fully consolidate.

Racing resumed in mid-October 2008, and a concentrated 22 racemeeting season was conducted with great success.

To the surprise of most, the sand surface has proven to be remarkably durable. It is clear that the kikuyu has rapidly developed an immensely strong network of roots, extending down some 30 cm.

Importantly, for the Club's long-term strategy to provide winter racing at Pinjarra, the sand profile is extremely free-draining.

The success of the Pinjarra track re-development was given greater credence on Pinjarra Cup Day, when the Club invited six Group 1- winning jockeys from the eastern states to ride.

Without exception, these riders declared -- "as good a track as we have ridden on anywhere."

South Australia – John Tonani reports

The first 3 meetings have been conducted on the new inner grass track at Morphettville. The new Kikuyu track has performed very well and all stake holders have been extremely happy with the surface. This track has been built very similar to the course proper with sub surface drains at 2.5m centres and a conventional soil profile of 140mm infiltration rate. John Tonani commented "As this track is only 10 weeks hold since turf was laid, and we are in a dormant climate, I think once Spring arrives the new track will really start to perform"

Gawler Racecourse – this provincial track is currently closed for a track redevelopment and the relocation of grandstand facilities.

New South Wales – Lindsay Murphy Reports

Rain has also affected racing in New South Wales with Metropolitan race meetings and tracks situated along the NSW coast also suffering rain affected tracks.

A new Pro-Ride track will be installed at Grafton, This will replace the existing Stalock track.

Coffs Harbour are assessing the possibility of installing a new synthetic track.

Planning has begun at the possibility of a total redevelopment of the Newcastle course proper and Wagga Racing Club have just completed there carnival with excellent crowds and racing on a track that performed extremely well.

Tasmania – Murray Pyke Reports

The new StrathAyr track in performing extremely well and after 40mm of rain the day prior to a meeting a Slow rating was posted. The winter months of turf dormancy and racing will provide a insight to the overall performance of this track.

Racecourse Manager awards

Lastest betting!

Currently Mark Reid is showing Geoff Murphy from WA at "2/1 on" for the overall Racecourse Managers award. Lindsay Murphy was "7/2", but is now drifting while Bill Shuck has come in by 2 pts to "9/1", James Cataldo has also shortened to "5/1". Rebecca Dynon is also at short odds to win the non metropolitan award. Stay tuned!

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