



Located at: 400 Epsom Road
Flemington, Victoria, 3031
Postal: P.O. Box 585
Flemington, Victoria, 3031
Phone: +61 3 9372 1688
Fax: +61 3 9372 1699
Email: ata@austrainers.com.au
Website: www.austrainers.com.au

Associated Entity:



August 2010

Victorian Branch – Members Update

Dear Member,

It is with pleasure that I enclose an update for our Victorian Branch Members.

This update informs members on the status of relevant issues.

We encourage members to provide any input on these issues.

Yours Sincerely,

JOHN ALDUCCI
Chief Executive

Victorian Branch Committee

Branch President
Colin Alderson

Vice President
Robert Smerdon

Committee Members

Terry Ahern
Pat Carey

Fran Houlahan
Danny O'Brien
Tony Noonan

Advisors
Robbie Griffiths
Peter Moody

State Executive
Roger Joseph

Branch Office
Level 1
400 Epsom Road
Flemington 3031

Phone
(03) 9372 1688

Fax
(03) 9372 1699

Email
ata@austrainers.com.au

Victorian Branch - Members Update

REVIEW OF FREE NOMINATION SYSTEM

As part of the RVL Review of the Free Nomination System, the ATA Victorian Branch Committee will provide its own response at the forthcoming Committee meeting on August 9. The Free Nomination System, which was introduced as a result of an ATA initiative, delivers significant cost benefits to trainers and owners through the elimination of nomination fees, the extension of prize money to 10th place and reduced administration costs to trainers.

Both the ATA and RVL have been concerned with the system being abused by some trainers through indiscriminate nomination of horses for races. We are again appealing to trainers to exercise restraint where possible with their nominations and not jeopardise a major benefit for trainers which the ATA fought long and hard to achieve.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

The ATA Victorian Branch Committee will welcome leading Flemington based trainer Danny O'Brien as a Committee member at its next meeting on August 9. Danny, who has attended Committee meetings as an observer, plays a prominent role on the Flemington Trainers Committee. He will replace Peter Moody who has been a Committee member for the past five years and has made an important contribution to the Victorian Branch of the ATA.

The ATA Victorian Branch Committee acknowledges and thanks Peter Moody for his contribution and work on the Committee.

RACING INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

ATA President Colin Alderson and Chief Executive John Alducci recently met with the new State Government appointed Racing Integrity Commissioner, Sal Perna.

The main topics raised by the ATA were Mr Perna's role in Victorian Thoroughbred Racing and in particular the whistle blower hotline which has been established for the three codes in Victoria, and to discuss the perception of corruption in the racing industry, as highlighted in the Gordon Lewis Report.

AUTUMN CARNIVAL REVIEW

The RVL Review of the autumn Melbourne Festival of Racing will be further discussed by the ATA Victorian Branch Committee at its August 9 meeting.

The Review has proposed a series of changes to Saturday race dates, venues and race programs, with an intended outcome of a better alignment and sequence of race programs for the feature Autumn races, which in turn will assist trainers in planning campaigns in both Victoria and interstate during this period.

RISA RECORDED SERVICE

Following representations by the ATA, RISA has reversed its decision to abolish the after hours recorded answering service available to trainers to conduct their nominations, acceptances, scratchings and other related activities, which was scheduled for August 1.

A RISA recorded message advising trainers of the continuation of the service was placed on the RISA telephone system and the ATA appreciates the constructive consultation process with RISA CEO Myles Foreman which enabled the decision to be reversed.

RACING AND TRIAL VENUES

The ATA has raised problems associated with the shortage of racing and trial venues during the winter months and particularly with the very wet weather this winter. The lack of suitable venues, to which organised trials can be transferred when the Cranbourne Training Centre is not available, has again been highlighted in the past few months.

Similarly, the ATA has also expressed concerns at the shortage of racing venues during the winter months when adverse weather requires race meetings to be transferred. The ATA raised the option of Traralgon being used as an optional trial and racing venue and following the appropriate track management and maintenance work being carried out, a decision has been made to conduct trials at Traralgon on Monday 2nd August.

The availability of the Geelong Synthetic Track has enabled many race meetings in Victoria to be saved from abandonment, but it is imperative that the required professional maintenance program for the Synthetic track be adhered to enable it to continue to cope with the burden of additional race meetings. RVL has also assured the ATA of the necessary funding and maintenance work commitments for the Cranbourne Training Centre.

NEW WAGE RATES FOR STABLEHANDS

All ATA Members have been advised, through a special circular, of the new wage rates for Stablehands effective 1 July 2010, following a decision by Fair Work Australia.

Members have also been reminded of the important change (effective January 1 2010), to employees' maximum ordinary time hours, which is now 38 hours a week.

In line with the decision, the ATA has also advised members of its revised recommended fees for both training and race day attendance. Members are strongly advised to review their training fees and any other costs that may have increased as a result of the new wage rates decision.

The ATA Industrial Relations Manager, Wayne Lee, can be contacted on 03 9372 1688 for assistance with any industrial and payroll matters, while Mike Kirby can also be contacted on the same number for any matters relating to insurance and workcover.

RETIRED RACEHORSES OUTPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The ATA has welcomed the formal announcement to sponsor the Retired Racehorses Outplacement Program developed by Cyberhorse and supported by the ATA.

The ATA Victorian Branch Committee endorsed the Program last year, supporting it as an important, constructive and viable option for finding a home for horses that are either retired or about to be retired. The ATA and Cyberhorse share similar concerns for the many racehorses that face an uncertain and sometimes grim future after racing, and from an Animal Welfare perspective, the Racehorse Outplacement Program is expected to address some of these concerns.

The ATA urges trainers to support this important initiative.

JUMPS RACING

ATA Victorian Branch Committee member Fran Houlahan is a member of the Australian Jumps Racing Association, and the jumps racing community has expressed its satisfaction with the performance of the new hurdles and steeplechases, the new processes that have been introduced for the education

and trialing of jumpers and the various changes to the conduct of jumps races to prevent falls and fatalities.

The ATA has reaffirmed its support for jumps racing and is of the firm view that as a result of the changes introduced during the current season, RVL should support the continuation of jumps racing in Victoria.

TRACK RIDER SHORTAGES

The ATA has continued to ensure that the almost permanent problem of the shortage of track riders remains in the forefront of issues that requires regular attention from RVL.

Following a recent meeting, RVL has advised the ATA that between September 2010 and March 2011, a total of 88 applicants have enrolled for Track Riding courses at four Victorian campuses. It is expected that a majority of them will take up track riding position at racing centres throughout the State.

Last year twelve (12) new trainees out of a total of 20 applicants commenced track riding careers in Victoria.

APPRENTICES REVIEW

The ATA and VJA have approached RVL and sought a Review of all aspects of the Apprenticeship structure in Victoria, which both the ATA and VJA believe is long overdue in light of the many changes that have impacted on the entire Apprenticeship system in the racing industry.

CHANGES TO INSIDE RACING

The August issue of Inside Racing will incorporate changes in format and design coinciding with the outsourcing of the magazine.

The changes follow consultation with the ATA and will hopefully result in ensuring that the important programming information relied on by trainers each month is presented in a more user friendly and easy to access format.

TRACK FEES

ATA members in the North East have raised concerns relating to proposals by some Clubs to introduce fees for the use of track facilities, with apparently little information being advanced as to reasons, if any, for funding or budget shortfalls to enable regular and essential maintenance programs to be undertaken.

The ATA will be seeking responses from RVL on these matters.

PROGRAMMING REVIEW COMMITTEE

The next RVL Programming Review Committee meeting will be held in mid August. The ATA is represented by Committee members Tony Noonan, Pat Carey and Robbie Griffiths.

Members who wish to raise any specific issues can either raise them with Roger Joseph at the ATA office or with Tony, Pat or Robbie.

IMPORTANT MEMBER BENEFITS

Members are reminded of two of the most significant benefits available to any stakeholder group in the racing industry which have been negotiated by the ATA.

➤ LOWER CREDIT CARD FEES

In conjunction with Westpac, the ATA has negotiated extremely attractive lower merchant rates for Members who offer owners the opportunity to pay their owners accounts by Credit Card.

Since its introduction last year, ATA Members have embraced offering this method of payment to their owners, which in today's increasingly cashless society has become a popular preferred form of financial transaction.

To make the transition to this Members Merchant Plan simple, the ATA makes all the necessary arrangements and Members are invited to call Michelle Fudyma at the ATA office on 03 9372 1688 for further information.

➤ GOLD FLEET MOTOR VEHICLES DISCOUNTS

The ATA has also negotiated Premium Gold Fleet Vehicle Discounts on Toyota and Hino motor vehicles for ATA Members.

Since its recent launch, the ATA office has fielded many enquiries from members who have been keen to take advantage of the savings that they can secure when purchasing from the range of Toyota motor vehicles or Hino trucks. Further information can be obtained by contacting the ATA Head Office on 03 9372 1688.

FRED HOYSTED AWARD

The winner of the 2009/2010 Fred Hoysted Award for the best training performance on Victorian race tracks during the season will be announced at the Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Awards function to be held at Crown Palladium on Sunday August 8.

The Award which is administered by the ATA in conjunction with RVL, holds pride of place at the function along with the Scobie Breasley medal for Jockeys. Members are urged to support the Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Awards and bookings for the function can be obtained by calling RVL.

FEEDBACK REQUESTED

The ATA's Inside Racing Column will keep members informed of decisions and issues discussed at Victorian Branch Committee meetings and on progress with the resolution of outstanding issues.

Members are invited to raise issues for consideration by the Victorian Branch.

The Committee consists of Colin Alderson (President), Robert Smerdon (Vice President), Tony Noonan, Danny O'Brien, Fran Houlahan, Pat Carey and Terry Ahern and Advisors Robbie Griffiths and Peter Moody.