

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NZ AMATEUR DRIVERS ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE BOARDROOM AT ALEXANDRA PARK, AUCKLAND, ON THURSDAY 25TH MARCH 2010 AT 1PM.

PRESENT: Trevor Ward (Chairman), Ival Brownlee, Gavin Cook, Jeffrey Darby, Steve Hollander, John Kriechbaumer, Gaylene MacKinnon and Richard Sissons

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and sustained from Anne & Steve Phillips and Paul Yesberg

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 11 NOVEMBER 2009: Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2009 having been circulated were taken as read and approval was given to the Chairman to sign these as a true and correct record of the business of that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING: Southland Development
In the absence of Anne and Steve Phillips the matter was carried forward to the next meeting.

Charitable Trust Status

Charitable Trust status would assist in obtaining Trust grants but from the information tabled it is unlikely that NZADA could achieve charitable status unless it qualified for educational purposes to run amateur courses.

Alternatively in the absence of course funding through National Trade Academy, possibly application could be made to an exiting education trust for course funding.

The matter is to be researched further for the next meeting

FINANCIAL The treasurer reported a bank balance of \$1,715.23.

NZADA received a request from FEGAT for a contribution of EUR 500 for assistance towards organising 2010 World Championships and it was moved *Sissons/Hollander* "THAT EUR500 to be paid to FEGAT" Carried.

TRUST FUNDING Trust funding from the traditional source has dried up in Canterbury but Auckland is still receiving some funding.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Ival Brownlee reported that in Auckland the 2009/10 series is complete having run 17 race days generally of 2 heats with good participation including new drivers coming through. There are drivers also completing their novice drives.

The last amateur course costing \$300 was run in February with 4 from the course applying for their novice licence. The next course without funding will be at \$450.

The association is financially sound.

Gavin Cook reported that in Canterbury the 2009/10 season was run over 17 race days and started quietly but interest strengthened as the season progressed.

The season was one of rebuilding with more "user pays" without the number of trust funded \$1000 heats.

The Willimants Vacation Cup was run successfully last Sunday at the Akaroa Trotting Club meeting at Motukarara.

There are a number of novice drivers nearly through to their full licence.

Financially the association struggled but will end the season in a sound position.

It was noted that amateur drivers at all levels still fail to concede as the professional drivers do which results in the fields not flowing into position from the start – the matter is to be raised again at local committees, and with local amateur stipendiary stewards to enforce compliance with stiffer penalties if necessary.

ADVANCED AMATEUR LICENCE

Gavin Cook raised on behalf of CADA the criteria for an advanced amateur licence.

He advised that Simon Chambers is working towards a graduation licence to change then back to an advanced amateur licence as an easier route than achieving that licence under the existing qualification criteria.

The 30 drive 5 win criteria is stricter than for a graduation licence requiring only 25 drives and no wins.

The Horsemen's Association has always maintained that the amateur licence cannot be an easy backdoor entry to a graduation licence and John Muirhead has already advised "no change" to an earlier request for review but another approach will be made for review.

The driving fees issue has yet to be addressed and Harness Racing New Zealand will be approached again for driving fees to be deducted for application to fund amateur courses and/or Kids Karts or junior drivers.

ANZAC SERIES

The meeting reviewed the 2009 ANZAC series at Cup time in Christchurch which was considered to have been a successful first series but in future NZADA should appoint an overall organiser responsible for the races and social calendar.

Steve Hollander has continued to liaise with Edward Rennell, Mike Godber, Andrew Kelly (HRA) and Denis Smith. With licence issues appearing to be resolved between HRNZ and HRA – it is understood HRA will now consider introducing amateur licencing and dedicated amateur racing into Australia.

Denis Smith is hopeful that Australia might host a team of New Zealand amateur drivers in Queensland during September / October subject to HRA ratification.

The cost of insurance is still an issue if amateur drivers are required to pay a full annual premium.

Paul Yesberg will be asked to review possible insurance options for discussion with HRNZ in the first instance.

On the basis that a New Zealand team might go to Australia in October then the Cup meeting date would revert to an Auckland/Canterbury challenge and New Zealand would host Australia at the Inter-Dominion carnival in March 2011 all subject to NZMTC approval.

The inter-dominion carnival already features trans-Tasman challenges between junior drivers and Kids Karts and amateur drivers could add another dimension to the ANZAC competition.

The Australian drivers fees for the first ANZAC series in 2009 were paid by NZADA and this issue was considered for the future series.

After discussion and with the knowledge that there will be no cost to New Zealand drivers competing in Australia it was decided that Australian drivers should compete at no cost in New Zealand. The Australian drivers fees will continue to be underwritten by NZADA to the extent any sponsorship is insufficient and if needs be NZADA may levy the Auckland and Canterbury associations.

Bearing in mind that New Zealand drivers competing in Australia will be racing in totalisator races of full fields the meeting determined the selection criteria for the first New Zealand team to travel to Australia, expected to comprise at least 6 drivers:

- Eligibility limited to advanced amateur licence holders
- Drivers to pay their own way including any insurance cost
- Auckland association to select 2 drivers
- Canterbury association to select 2 drivers
- NZADA to select 2 drivers

Should the New Zealand team be more or less than 6 NZADA will determine.

INTER-PROVINCIAL CHALLENGE

The meeting decided that Southland should run this challenge on the traditional November date to retain its regional connection.

AUCKLAND / CANTERBURY CHALLENGE

Auckland is to host the 2009/10 season running in April/May with Canterbury hosting the 2010/11 season running in Cup week.

NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE TO WORLD AMATEUR DRIVER CHAMPIONSHIPS

The selection criteria for the New Zealand representative to the World Amateur Driver Championships was determined at a meeting of NZADA on 13 June 2006 and ratified at a subsequent meeting on 20 April 2007 as *"the current reigning New Zealand champion and the runner-up to be the emergency representative"*

At the meeting on 20 April 2007 it was further determined that once an advanced amateur licence was approved and an advanced amateur licence race series established that the New Zealand representative at future World Championships should hold an advanced amateur licence.

The meeting considered that with the advanced licence now approved, but no advanced licence series yet staged, and with New Zealand to host the 2012 edition of the Championships that it was appropriate to reconsider the selection criteria.

In discussion the meeting considered that with World Championships only held every second year, but not necessarily at the same time of the year, that the previous criteria did not satisfactorily recognise every New Zealand champion for selection nor did it cover the eventuality of a replacement if the selected representative subsequently after the nomination date was unable to attend for personal or health reasons.

It is also recognised that some jurisdictions may have an age limit.

After considerable discussion it was moved *Brownlee/Hollander* "THAT the New Zealand representative at any World Amateur Drivers Championship shall be the current reigning New Zealand champion at the date nominations close for the championship but if that representative is unable or unwilling to accept selection prior to the date nominations close or having accepted nomination, subsequently must withdraw for personal or health reasons then the alternate representative shall be in order of availability

- The immediately preceding New Zealand champion
- The runner up to the current reigning champion
- The next available place getter to the current reigning champion"

Carried.

2012 WORLD AMATEUR DRIVERS CHAMPIONSHIP IN NEW ZEALAND

The sub-committee's draft report on the timetable and costings for a January 2012 series, based on 2009/10 season dates, was tabled and discussed.

The sub-committee will now have discussions with HRNZ and harness clubs and possible sponsors.

A presentation on the 2012 Championships in New Zealand will be made at the 2010 Championships in France. A folder of information will feature promotional DVDs on New Zealand from Tourism NZ and harness racing from HRNZ.

AGM SPECIAL RESOLUTION

It was moved *Hollander/Darby* "THAT notice of a special resolution be given at the AGM in terms of clause 17 (c) of the rules of the Association that Trevor Ward and Steve Phillips be and are eligible to be elected president of NZADA for a term beyond 3 years" Carried.

AGM DATE

The AGM date was fixed as 20 July 2010 in Auckland at a venue to be advised.

HORSE MANNERS

Steve Hollander raised the issue of the manners and tractability of some horses for amateur racing especially in ballot/visitor driver races such as NZ finals, Inter-provincial races and visiting team races.

There was general discussion and acceptance in principal that only suitable horses be carded but also noted that obtaining the necessary number of horses for such events can be an issue.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting was fixed as 20 July 2010 in Auckland at a venue to be advised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.55pm

Read and confirmed

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Chairman

Date