

APRIL 2003 UPDATE

NSWROA DIRECTORS

Chris Keogh - President
Benedict Chan - Vice President
Max Whitby - Secretary
John Leslie - Treasurer
Rob Albon
Michael Kissane
Noel Bracks
Reg Richardson
Stephen van Eyk

Caroline Fara - Office Manager

OWNERS BONUS SCHEME

Racing NSW has begun implementing the revised Breeders and Owners Scheme (BOBS MKII), which contains many of the changes strongly advocated by NSWROA.

One of the major changes to 'BOBS' is the appointment of a committee of racing industry participants to oversee the management of the Bonus Scheme. NSWROA has been awarded a position on this committee, along with the Breeders, RIPAC and three representatives from Racing NSW.

NSW Director, Mr Rob Albon has been elected as our representative on the BOBS Committee. Rob is one of our harder working Directors and is completely familiar with the intricacies of the Bonus Scheme, having done much of the ground work in the formation of the NSWROA Submission to the TRB on the revised Bonus Scheme.

STARTERS PAYMENT SYSTEM

NSW Racing has advised NSW ROA that from the 1st of June 2003 all owners who wish to receive their prize money payments by cheque are to be charged an administration fee of \$11 including GST.

Currently all licencees are required to provide bank details to facilitate their payments by direct deposit. Those who do not provide these details are charged that administration fee. This has been in place for licensees for a number of months and has greatly reduced the number of cheques being issued.

Previously, owners have simply been encouraged to provide bank details by enclosing a form with each cheque sent out. Apparently, the cost of making cheque payments is significantly higher than by direct debit.

DOCUMENTS OF DESCRIPTION

A major issue for owners has often been the problem of the retention of Documents of Description by Trainers in relation to payment disputes.

Many owners have complained to NSWROA about trainers holding on to a horse's papers, as a means of settling any dispute over payments. After strong representation from NSWROA, Racing NSW (TRB) ruled that the Document of Description must remain with the horse at all times (Local Rule 17A).

Recently we have been contacted by owners informing us that trainers were continuing to retain the Documents of Description and that the Stewards were reluctant

to enforce Racing NSW policy. NSWROA made further representation to both the Chief Steward and the Board of Racing NSW to enforce the rule previously passed.

As a consequence of this representation, Racing NSW has confirmed to the Stewards that the Board maintains its position that the Document of Description must remain with the horse at all times. The NSW branch of the Australian Trainers Association has also been advised of the enforcement of this policy.

OFFICE MANAGER

After more than two years with NSWROA, Tajinda Baker is moving on and our new Office Manager will be Caroline Fara.

I know many members will miss Tajinda and would want to wish her all the best in her future endeavours. Speaking personally, Tajinda has been a great support to me as President and a valuable asset to NSWROA.

Caroline Fara comes to NSWROA with a wealth of experience in office management and I am sure she will be a more than capable replacement for Tajinda.

HARBOUR CRUISE

Our annual Harbour Cruise has been booked for Tuesday the 6th of May. All members are invited to join the Directors and guests from the media, for a wonderful day cruising Sydney Harbour.

We have secured the same boat, **OLYMPIC STORM**, as last year and those who attended will agree that it is definitely first class.

Costs and other details are still to be finalised so please contact Caroline for more information.

KEY ISSUES

Last month whilst detailing the TRB Key Issues papers, I mentioned that only two race clubs returned more than 100% of their TAB distribution money to owners. It has since been brought to my attention that the 'Grenfell Jockey Club' also returns more than 100% and while I was quoting official TRB figures, it is a pleasure to mention any race clubs that adopts this policy.

NSWROA RACINGS' NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS 2003

After many years service, NSWROA Vice-President Mr Benedict Chan has stood down as Chairman of the Awards Night Sub-Committee. Benedict's contribution to the success of the NSWROA Racing's Night of Champions is immeasurable, as it was through his drive and vision that our Awards Night has become not only the most prestigious racing function of the year, but a not to be missed event on the social calendar as well.

NSWROA Director, Mr Reg Richardson has been appointed Chairman of the sub-committee charged with organising this years event. The 7th August is the proposed date at this time but more details will be posted as soon as they are available.

DONCASTER CALCUTTA

This year marks the twenty-first anniversary of the Good Friday Doncaster Calcutta. It will be held at the Stamford Plaza Double Bay and includes a seafood buffet luncheon with a part of the proceeds donated to the Royal Women's Hospital.

Any members interested can call Ashley Johnson on (02) 9527 2824, m: 0414 354 681 or email ashley@topods.com.au.

MEMBERS DISCOUNTS

We thank members for their feedback on the good deals that they received through **Thrifty Car Rental**. Members were pleased to discover the rates they received through NSWROA are more favourable than other motoring organisations. We thank Thrifty for their continued support of our members. Please contact us for your rate code.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewals are now overdue for 2003, so please send your subscription **ASAP**. We need your renewals so that we can continue to be a strong and active advocate for owners' rights in NSW.

FREE ENTRY

NSWROA welcomes another race club to our list of race clubs offering free admission to NSW ROA members. Deniliquin Racing Club has advised that upon production of a current membership ID, NSWROA members will receive not only free admission but also a free race book. Thank you to the Committee of Deniliquin Racing Club for their generosity.

RACING TO THE MAX

On the 1st Saturday of every month one of our Directors appears on radio 2SM 'Racing to the Max' at approximately 7:45 am. So tune into 1269AM and if you have any matters you wish raised publicly let us know.

FREE ENTRY - APRIL

1st Wyong
2nd Illawarra
3rd Albury
4th Albury
5th Ballina, Newcastle, Young

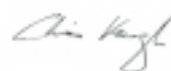
7th Goulburn, Grafton
10th Gosford
11th Cootamundra
12th Albury, Bathurst, Illawarra
13th Ballina
15th Scone
17th Wyong
19th Canberra, Lismore, Moree, Moruya, Newcastle
20th Cowra, Nowra
21st Coonabarabran, Grafton, Tamworth
24th Hawkesbury
25th Bathurst, Deniliquin, Gosford
26th Illawarra
28th Quitindi
29th Muswellbrook

FREE ENTRY - MAY

1st Wyong
3rd Grafton, Moree, Newcastle
4th Orange, Tamworth
6th Hawkesbury
8th Gosford
9th Canberra
10th Albury, Ballina, Illawarra, Quirindi
13th Goulburn
15th Wyong
16th Scone
17th Grafton, Newcastle, Scone
18th Tamworth
20th Ballina
22nd Hawkesbury
23rd Muswellbrook
24th Grafton, Illawarra, Moree, Tamworth, Wellington
25th Canberra
26th Nowra
27th Scone
29th Gosford
30th Bathurst
31st Newcastle

Free admission on a monthly basis of about 10 provincial meeting and 26 country meetings sure gives value to your membership.

Yours in Racing



Chris Keogh
President NSWROA