



NSW RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION

MAY 2004

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OWNER REPRESENTATION

Fragmentation of representation is not in the interests of racing and certainly not in the interests of owners. A strong owners' voice is essential in the corridors of power at Racing NSW and the following article, written by President Rob Albon, was published in the Sydney Morning Herald on Friday 23 April 2004.

The views expressed are consistent with the NSWROA's policy towards TROA (NSW), since that body was set up in 1998. It is the Association's view that fragmentation of representation is bad for racing, bad for owners and totally unnecessary.

The inclusion of TROA in the nominating process for the Board of Racing NSW only promotes such fragmentation and the Association has made representations to Racing NSW and to the Minister's Office, objecting to TROA's involvement. In the NSWROA's opinion, TROA (NSW) is not an "eligible industry body", as required by the TRB Act.

The article is reproduced here to make it available to all members.

Owner Fragmentation Bad for the Industry

Strong owner representation in the running of racing is a must, writes Rob Albon.

In March, the terms of office for the members of the board of Racing NSW expired, signifying the completion of the first four years of the revamped board's life.

Among the board's members is one chosen to represent jointly the interests of racehorse owners and racehorse breeders in NSW. Nominations for this position have recently been called from owners and breeders representative bodies.

The NSW Racehorse Owners' Association maintains that owners in NSW are badly served by this process, which is flawed in two respects.

Firstly, the concept of a joint owner/breeder nominee fails to recognise the fundamental conflicts of interest between owners and breeders. Essentially one group are consumers; the other producers. It is not possible for one person to satisfactorily represent two such divergent interests.

Secondly, the inclusion of an organisation known as the Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners' Association (NSW) as one of the nominating bodies undermines the whole nomination process and promotes fragmentation in the industry.

The NSWROA is an organisation with a pedigree stretching back to 1965. It has statutory recognition in the TRB Act, is a member of the Racing Industry Participants Advisory Council (RIPAC) and of the Breeders Owners Bonus Scheme (BOBS) Management Committee.

It maintains a full-time, staffed office in Sydney and stages the annual racing industry awards night, Racing's Night of Champions, every August. It is recognised internationally as Australia's representative on the International Racehorse Owners' Association.

NSWROA's hard work on behalf of owners in NSW has been instrumental in such things as the introduction of cost-free racing, payment of prize money within two

weeks of the race, starters' incentives and owners' rooms and car parks. It publishes a monthly newsletter, gives advice to members and regularly surveys its membership on issues important to owners.

By contrast, TROA, which was set up in 1998, has never mustered more than 20 "members"; has not held an AGM nor filed a return with the Office of Fair Trading since 2002, for the 2001 AGM.

At the last AGM it held, in March 2001, of the eight persons recorded present, either in person or by proxy, five were members of the same family. TROA's inclusion as a nominating body for the Board of Racing NSW, on a par with the NSWROA (and the two breeders' organisations - Thoroughbred Breeders NSW and Aushorse Ltd), makes a mockery of the nomination process.

Strong owners' representation on the Board of Racing NSW and a strong owners' organisation are vital to the management of racing and its future. Any promotion of fragmentation of representation, by giving credibility to TROA (and any other organisation that may decide to set itself up in any sector) threatens the credibility of racing as a whole.

The Minister of Gaming and Racing should act to ensure that self-appointed organisations play no part in the governance of thoroughbred racing in NSW.

NOMINATION TO THE BOARD OF RACING NSW

Despite the Association's objections to the nomination process, in order to safeguard the interests of our members the Board of Directors of NSWROA nominated Stephen van Eyk for the vacant position of Owners /Breeders representative on the Board of Racing NSW.

Stephen has been a Director of the Association since 2000 and has been a racehorse owner in NSW for over 15 years. He has also been a member of Thoroughbred Breeders NSW Ltd for the same period. It is the Board's view that Stephen is therefore eminently qualified to represent the interests of both owners and breeders on the Board of Racing NSW

NOTICE OF AGM & EGM

The thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association Limited (ACN 000 498 859) will be held at 'The Rugby Club', Rugby Place, off 31A Pitt Street, Sydney, 3rd Floor - Barbarian Room, on the 25th of May 2004 at 6.30pm. An Extraordinary General Meeting will also be held on the same day at 6:20pm.

EASTER CARNIVAL SUCCESS

Directors had several runners over the Carnival, however the biggest smile was on the face of President Rob Albon, who is a member of the syndicate that races Sam Sung a Song, victorious in the first on Derby Day and again on Topaz Stakes Day. Sam is now being aimed at the Queensland Guineas.

EASTER CARNIVAL RACE DAY LUNCHEON

The Association's annual Easter Carnival lunch held on "Sydney Cup Day", Saturday, 17 April was a fabulous day enjoyed by all. The lunch was booked out weeks in advance with a waiting list and the 161 guests who attended on the day had a wonderful time.

Beside the great racing and the excellent food, the day was filled with guest tipsters and prizes which all combined to give the room a great buzz and a feeling of excitement.

Thank you to our Director, Max Whitby who did an excellent job as MC and a big thanks to our Office Manager, Caroline Fara who organised it all. Thanks also to our Director Stephen van Eyk and Caroline for coordinating the tipping competition.

Thank you to our Celebrity Judge, **Lady Sonia McMahon** and John Baker and to our Celebrity Tipsters, **Ian Craig, Max Presnell** and **Tony Brassel** and to **Henry Noonan** Bookmakers.

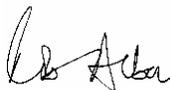
Congratulations to our very worthy prize winners on the day. **Shirley McGrath** - Best Hat, **Ralf Abraham** - Best Tie, **Norm Chapman, Iris Haywood** and **Louise Sharpe** - tipping competition, **Ian Le Noury** and **Greg Lazarus** - Queen Elizabeth Stakes Trifecta and **Malcolm Thompson** - Sydney Cup Trifecta. Many thanks to all our members and their friends who attended the lunch for their continued support and for helping us make this day the best ever yet.

FREE ENTRY* - MAY

- 1st Grafton, Kembla Grange, Tamworth
- 3rd Moree
- 4th Hawkesbury
- 6th Gosford
- 8th Ballina, Broadmeadow
- 10th Bathurst
- 11th Goulburn, Grafton
- 13th Wyong
- 14th Albury
- 15th Kembla Grange, Leeton, Lismore, Sapphire Coast, Tamworth, Welligton
- 16th Gosford
- 18th Goulburn
- 20th Hawkesbury
- 21st Canberra, Scone
- 22nd Grafton, Kembla Grange, Young
- 23rd Ballina
- 24th Bathurst, Muswellbrook
- 27th Wyong
- 28th Goulburn
- 29th Broadmeadow, Moree (Picnic)
- 30th Tamworth

(*conditions apply, contact NSWROA)

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President

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