

NSWROA's informative new website

EXPLORATION OF THE NSW RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION'S BRAND-NEW WEBSITE REVEALS A FASCINATING ORIGIN FOR THE BODY

WORDS: JANE HENNING (CEO – NSWROA)

On the 'About Us' page on NSWROA's website, there is a letter to members detailing the inaugural meeting of the Association which was held – appropriately – at Tattersalls Club in Elizabeth St, Sydney on Friday, 27 August 1965.

Tattersalls, one of Sydney's oldest clubs, was established in 1858 and fostered the beginnings and growth of legal turf gambling in New South Wales.

The Club took its name from Richard Tattersall, the English horse dealer who established the modern concept of horse racing with fair betting rules.

The location of Tattersalls across the road from (what is now) Hyde Park meant that the building had one of the best views of what was originally Sydney's first racecourse.

It's fascinating history marries with the development of control over betting transactions and the emergence of not only the NSW Racehorse Owners Association, but also the Australian Turf Club (formerly Australian Jockey Club).

With Tattersalls' origins steeped in the emergence of horse racing and bookmaking, the Club became a mecca of Sydney's racing people.

NSW Racehorse Owners Association's first meeting there listed nine Committee Members, including Dr Percy Sykes, one of Australia's best known and respected equine and racing veterinarians and Tommy Smith's head vet for 30 years.

Dr Sykes (OA) passed away in 2014 at the age of 93 years and a statue of Dr Sykes is located at Arrowfield Stud, Scone.

Some of the items on the inaugural agenda included:

- A proposal that a fixed percentage



Inaugural Committee Member, Dr Percy Sykes, shown with his statue erected at Arrowfield Stud

of proceeds from all forms of betting be added to the present level of metropolitan prizemoney to raise it to at least 2,000 pounds;

- Reduction in field sizes, with the addition of more races to compensate;
- Reduction in fees to owners;
- A dedicated area at racecourses for owners, and
- Endorsement of the AJC's plan to establish an Apprentice Training School

The NSW Racehorse Owners Association's website also outlines their major achievements and goals in representing owners in the state, whether Country, Provincial or Metropolitan.

As lovers of the sport of racing, another function of the Association

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is to bring together members and potential members socially.

NSW Racehorse Owners Association's next function, also detailed on their website, is a Christmas Party at Royal Randwick on Villiers Stakes Day, 14 December.

Both members and non-members are welcome to join in the festivities.

Please visit the website for more details - www.nswroa.com.au **RNSW**

The letters informing members of the inaugural meeting of the NSWROA at Tattersalls

