

HARNESS
CODE REPORT
APRIL 2010

Industry Training

The Racing Industry Skills Plan was approved by the Board of Tasracing on 23 February 2010.

Further consultation has been held with Polytechnic Tasmania, Skills Tasmania and Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) in regard to the next step for communication to the industry, recruitment through schools, pony clubs and sourcing of possible funding.

Recent communication with Liz Curtis, Tasmanian Polytechnic, has indicated that approval from Tasmanian Qualifications Authority (TQA) should be forthcoming within weeks. This will be the final step in receiving approval for Polytechnic Tasmania to conduct the Industry Training. Approval has been delayed as the Government Authority has become more specific in its approval process.

Once the final stage has been reached Tasracing will endeavour to fully advertise the training availability to the industry. It is encouraging to note though that in the harness Code report the Tasmanian Harness Polytechnic School is still operating successfully as a joint venture between Racing Services Tasmania and Liz Curtis from the polytechnic.

Significant Events

The feature races in the weeks ahead are:

Launceston 23 May	\$20,000 Yearling Sale Classic Final – C & G's \$20,000 Yearling Sale Classic Final – Fillies
Hobart 6 June	\$10,000 Matron Stakes – Mares \$10,000 Premiers Blue Bonnet – 2YO Fillies
Launceston 13 June	\$30,000 Globe Derby Final (Tasbred) – 3YO C & G

\$30,000 Bandbox Final (Tasbred) – 3YO Fillies

\$20,000 Golden Mile – Open Free For All

Launceston 27 June

\$10,000 St Leger – 3YO

Race Dates 2010/2011

The harness allocation of race dates for 2010/2011 is:

Club	Sunday	Midweek	Non Sky	Total	2009/2010
TPC	25	8		33	32
LPC	24	4		28	27
DHRC	4	8		12	14
BHRC			4	4	4
CPPC			3	3	3
NNPC			3	3	3
NEPC			1	1	1
SMPC			1	1	1
Total	53	20	12	85	85

Devonport Lighting

Enhancements to the lighting system at the Devonport Showgrounds have been completed and all indications point to a successful outcome.

The changes involve a generator as a back up power source to provide suitable light for drivers in the event of an Aurora blackout, which did occur during a Devonport race in the 1990's.

Drivers and club officials endorsed the changes at the Devonport trials on 19 April 2010. Other night harness venues in Tasmania have generator back up for lighting as do all night harness venues in Victoria.

Western Australian Derby

Former Tasmanian owner/trainer/driver Gary Elson won the \$200,000 2010 WA Derby when his three year old, Crombie, who got up on the line to win the prestigious event at Gloucester Park on Friday 16 April.

Elson entered harness racing in Tasmania as an owner in 1980 and took out a trainer/driver license in 1984 which he held until he moved to Mandurah (WA) in 1999 to take up a position as Manager of Peal Thunder Football Club. Elson then moved into the hotel industry for eight years, leasing or buying hotels in Pinjarra and Port Headland.

In early 2008, Elson returned to harness racing as an owner after purchasing the well credentialed Tasmanian pacer “Here For The Party”. After “Here For The Party” won eight races over the next two years, Elson purchased Crombie from Victoria with outstanding results highlighted by the WA Derby win. Crombie has won six from eight starts and \$164,500 for Elson.

Stake Grid Variances

Tasracing has conducted a review of variances to the published stakes grid with particular reference to \$3,000 heats into enhanced stake money finals. Submissions were requested from all clubs.

After considering all submissions, the Tasracing Board has resolved that the minimum grid levels will apply at all race meetings. Clubs can add to the grid levels, subject to conditions at non Sky meetings, but they cannot be reduced.

Harness Reference Group

Tasracing has reviewed the composition of the Harness Reference Group and the Board resolved that the Terms of Reference would remain as published, however agreed that Tony Jeffries would represent the Country Clubs with the exception of New Norfolk Pacing Club who would be represented by the Tasmanian Pacing Club.

Tasmanian Polytechnic Harness School

The 2010 Tasmanian Polytechnic Harness School is up and running. Attendance at the school is a requirement of licensing for new drivers and trainers. The school is conducted monthly in the North and South with a total of seven, two hour sessions annually.

A wide variety of topics are covered including rules and policies and sessions on race driving. Tasracing conducted a one hour session at the April meetings. Roles and responsibilities were covered with an emphasis on personal accident and public liability insurance and information contained in the Harness Racer and the Licence Holders Directory.