

- On 30th June 2008 Allan Murnane and Brett Abraham were scheduled to meet in Melbourne with AQHA President Harry Van Dyk and Directors Ricky Glen and Paul Lorimer. At the last minute Brett fell victim to the rescheduling dramas that are currently afflicting our airlines so Allan had to go it alone.

The four men found common ground on a number of items. The progress that has been made in Victoria was high on the agenda as was the lapsed registration of many of the racing horses. Further meetings are planned to build on the success of this one.

- A date and venue has been set for the 2009 racing conference – 26 and 27 March at Glenormiston in SW Victoria.
- In a recent development that could have long term ramifications for the sprint horse industry TAFE has taken out a 30 year lease on the Glenormiston complex. Allan Murnane will report on this later but the understanding is that TAFE is very interested in an alliance with the sprint racing industry.

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Three items from Allan's report –

- the decision by Racing Victoria, through chief steward Des Gleason, to allow a thoroughbred trainer in Warrnambool to also train sprinters is a momentous breakthrough.
- Lindy Watson has come on board as Administrator for VQHRA. Lindy, who has a long background in marketing, advertising and media has worked for Allan Murnane over the years in event management. This cheerful and competent person handled much of the organization for the Racing Conference at Glenormiston and those who attended will well remember her. Welcome, Lindy.
- VRQHA now has its own website and email address
- WWW.vrqha.com.au
- info@vrqha.com.au
- For a long time Terry Chinner has carried the racing information on his website and we still need to keep track of what he has for us on www.sprinthorses.com

QUEENSLAND UPDATE – the move to re-establish the racing of short distance horses in Queensland continues to steadily advance. The meeting that was convened at Toowoomba on June 22 was equally as positive and forward thinking as the earlier meeting at Beaudesert. It was resolved at Toowoomba that an official association needs to be formed.

All the Queensland meetings have been conducted after the style of workshops, with lots of interaction between those present. At times, many differing opinions have been put forward and these have been talked through to come up with answers. As a result of this across the board communication, a great spirit of unity prevails.

The Toowoomba meeting had to change venue at very short notice. Fortunately, Ian and Irma Rosnow stepped in to host the delegates and after the business had been attended to the whole thing turned into a great social function.

The next meeting is scheduled for Gympie later in July.

A recent media release from Queensland Racing has announced a major upgrade of Toowoomba's Clifford Park Racetrack. As a result of the critical water shortage in the area the Toowoomba Turf Club is installing a synthetic track and its related infrastructure at an estimated cost of around \$10 million dollars. The sprint horse people put in a 400 metre straightaway many years ago on this track and it is to be hoped it is included in the upgrade.

OTHER NEWS

Victorian Jockeys and trainers and their locations. Apologies that the phone numbers are not forthcoming in this issue. Contact Lindy Watson at the office about this.

Coliban Stud at Esperance in WA expects their running bred mare Sheeza Fast Kid to arrive in Australia in September. This daughter of the highly credentialled Fast Smash SI 111 is in foal to Dash for Perks, a leading sire of running horses and also an all time leading sire of successful Barrel Racing horses. Of particular interest to Australian breeders is that his dam, Perks, is out of Rapid Volley who also produced Quintana Roo, a fine stallion imported to this country.

Ian Rosnow of the Liberty R Training stables at Toowoomba has been a long time supporter of the running horse in this country and successfully prepared and raced some top performers. He is putting together a team of horses to take in the Victorian racing season and this support will lend a great deal of interest to the meetings.

In an innovative move, and one that is designed to allow a number of people to be involved who would otherwise be unable to do so, Ian is putting together a racing syndicate. Anyone interested in supporting our racing through this concept which similar to the system which operates with such success in the Thoroughbred industry, should contact Ian on (07) 6301216 to discuss the various options.

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Allan Sullivan has sent his Stoli filly, Shezs Effort, to Adrian Ireland to be broken in and receive some initial track education. A lot of people will probably find some excuse to go by Adrian's place to have a look at this young mare. We hope that all goes as it should and she makes it to the track.

Allan is making his Stoli colt Sullivan's Run available at stud this year. He has a very nice yearling half brother to Sullivans Run. This colt is by Brimmerton.

Carlingford Patrons Pass is a stallion carrying some of the most successful running blood that this country has seen. This elderly horse is located in Victoria where he is in steady demand as a sire of jumping, eventing, hacking and dressage horses. He is by the double bred Go Man Go horse Carlingford Go Pass Go and out of a Warning Flag mare who is from a racewinning Hunch Bid mare. There is a LOT of speed in this family. The interesting thing about Patrons Pass is his total absence of any blood of the mighty Jet Deck. Jet Deck's influence on the development of the modern running horse was extraordinary, especially when it is realized that he only got five crops of foals before he was slain. He has had a massive influence on the running horse in Australia and many of our Australian mares are well supplied with Jet Deck blood. It might be useful to know that there is a big, fast stallion around with none of it.

In the Q Mail section of this magazine are two photographs of sprint horse jockeys from the past riding winning horses. One is of Andy Read and the other of Toni Douglas. The photographs were presented to illustrate that whips do not have to be used in order to win a race. Included here is a photograph showing Glen Boss riding a winner. Glen Boss of course has now achieved almost legendary status as the rider of Tony Santic's mighty Thoroughbred Makybe Diva in her record breaking 3 Melbourne Cup wins. This fine rider began his career with Terry Chinner when Terry was training sprinters at Gympie in Queensland.

As a piece of racing trivia, all three trainers of the horses in the photographs, Greg Douglas, Terry Chinner and Merrie Elliott started out training sprinters in SA and raced horses all over the country. None of them ever lost their abiding interest in the Quarter Running horse. Greg is now a member of the National Advisory Committee, Terry is deeply involved on the Victorian racing scene and operates the essential service www.sprinthorses.com and Merrie is writing this. We all have descendants of the horses we raced in the 1970s and 80s in our broodmare bands. As for the three jockeys, Toni is the wife of Greg and a vital part of their sprint horse business, Andy is training thoroughbreds at Balmoral and Glen Boss is at the top of the pile as a Thoroughbred jockey.

Finally – don't forget

The Amnesty on AQHA registrations begins on 1/8/08 and ends 31/5/09. Details appear in the June/July Stud Edition of the Quarter Horse News. Don't miss this opportunity to get those precious running bloodlines properly recorded with the AQHA

Also, breeders who are intending to use a Thoroughbred stallion over their running mares this season please be aware that he needs to have his IBF paid up with the AQHA before his foals can be registered. This will be a problem if the stallion owner is not willing to comply with this requirement. There has to be some way around this but nothing has been sorted out as yet.

Remember - horses racing need to be identified in a legible manner with either fire or freeze brand.