

ATC BOARD

MEMBER COMMUNICATION

March 2016



OUTSTANDING FIELDS HEADLINE LONGINES GOLDEN SLIPPER DAY

Tomorrow we celebrate the 60th running of our great race – the \$3.5 million Longines Golden Slipper – and what an amazing card of racing the day offers ATC Members, in our newly refurbished JR Fleming Grandstand.

It is perhaps the strongest program we have seen in recent memory, with the Longines Golden Slipper and the \$1 million China Horse Club George Ryder Stakes just two of so many attractions on the track.

Five Group 1 races on the one day – the most of any other race day in the country – with the main race full of different form and storylines.

It is the classic Sydney V Melbourne rivalry, with Extreme Choice and Flying Artie coming from down south as favourites, or will Gai Waterhouse break the training record of her legendary father with Kiss And Make Up, or Scarlet Rain.

And we have the latest superstar of Australian racing Winx on show, a hot favourite in the China Horse Club George Ryder, taking on First Seal, Press Statement, Kermadec, Turn Me Loose, just to name a few.

Sydney racing is renowned as the strongest in the country, and tomorrow's bumper ten race card followed by another four days of great Group One racing ahead of us including The Championships, there is no better time to enjoy your ATC Membership.

CHAIRMAN & VICE-CHAIRMAN RE-ELECTED

At a full meeting of ATC Directors a vote was held to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board for the next 12 months.

Directors voted to re-elect myself, Michael Crismale, as Chairman, and also re-elected Laurie Macri as Vice-Chairman.

At the same meeting, ATC Director Trish Egan was newly appointed to the position of Chair of the Membership and Race Day sub-committee.

As part of the Board's commitment to focus on returning more benefits to Members, this sub-committee is tasked with gathering feedback from Members, and presenting recommendations back to Board.

We encourage you to provide that feedback on race days or through the Membership office.

It was with regret at the Board Meeting that Director Steve Grant resigned from the Board as of 9 March.

The Board is currently undertaking a search to fill this casual vacancy.

NOMINATIONS FOR CASUAL VACANCY

Following the resignation of Director Steve Grant, the ATC Board is looking to appoint a Casual Vacancy to fill the position for the balance of Steve's term, which ends in February 2019.

All qualified ATC Members are entitled to apply, however ATC Members with senior experience in property and infrastructure, and a passion for racing and events, would complement the current mix of skills and experience on the Board.

The Club's Constitution and rules can be viewed <https://www.australianurfclub.com.au/corporate-information/> as can our Annual Report for 2015 http://atc-website-content.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ATC_AnnualReport_2015_FINAL_LR2.pdf

For those interested in nominating for the Board, Please register your interest to the Company Secretary, Matt Galanos at companysecretary@australianurfclub.com.au.



ROSEHILL GARDENS REFURBISHMENT

We have completed both Stage One and Stage Two of our major refurbishment of Rosehill Gardens, as part of a \$28 million investment, in what we believe will make this already great racecourse THE best racing venue for spectators in Australia.

For ATC Members, this means the new Lower Ground, Ground Floor and indoor betting ring, and First Floor and footbridge to the outside seating, are now complete and fully operational ahead of the Longines Golden Slipper Carnival.

Many of the favourite bars and restaurants across Members spaces have been refurbished and reopened: including TJs Champagne Bar, Tulloch Bar, Winner's Circle Bar, Cotton Fingers, Bird Cage Cafe, and the Palms Brasserie, along with a new coffee station.

Most importantly, we continue to take your feedback as we make adjustments across all areas to ensure your race day experience is as enjoyable and comfortable as possible.

Among the first priorities from your initial feedback has been installation of more TV monitors to cover all broadcasts and racing information, such as betting fluctuations and odds, as well as EBTs across the floors.

Access from the Members and public areas on the ground floor betting ring has also been improved, and we have installed a fresh set of indoor signage to assist navigation.

Stage 3 – including a refurbishment of the Winning Post restaurant, Ascot Bar and remaining private suites, is due to start after the Longines Golden Slipper Carnival.

Impacts from this work will be communicated in coming weeks after the Sydney Autumn Carnival.

CELEBRATING 60TH RUNNING OF LONGINES GOLDEN SLIPPER

This is an extra special year for our great race, the Longines Golden Slipper, and we have promoted and celebrated the great race's 60th running with the Best Of The Best competition.

A special panel invited by the ATC – and consisting of a variety of people from across the industry including some who have seen every Golden Slipper run – were asked to rank the ultimate field.

The final field in alphabetical order was: BAGUETTE, BOUNDING AWAY, DANCE HERO

FLYING SPUR, LUSKIN STAR, MANIKATO, MARSCAY, PAGO PAGO, PIERRO, SEBRING, SEPOY, SIR DAPPER, SKY HIGH, TODMAN, TONTONAN and VAIN.

At the barrier draw for the Longines Golden Slipper this week, legendary racecaller Ian Craig did a phantom call of the Best Of The Best, including the final finishing order as rated by the panel.

In a close finish, Vain won from Luskin Star, Todman and Manikato.

Listen to Ian's call here at <https://twitter.com/SkyRacingAU/status/709542520129105920>



AUTUMN PRIZEMONEY INCREASES

The Club was delighted to announce a range of prizemoney increases for the imminent Sydney Autumn Carnival as part of the Board and Executive's determination to put more ATC surpluses back into the industry.

This total increase of \$2.4 million (\$2.1m from the ATC and \$310,000 from Racing NSW) has been spread across many feature races, over all distances and age groups, to continue to strengthen Sydney racing.

Among races to receive major increases are: A \$400,000 addition to the Group 1 Schweppes Sydney Cup, now worth \$2 million at Royal Randwick during The Championships on 9 April.

The Group 1 Girvan Waugh Royal Randwick Guineas on 5 March – which in recent years has featured the cream of the three year old crop – is now worth \$1 million, a \$400,000 increase.

Major races during the Longines Golden Slipper Carnival at Rosehill Gardens to receive significant increases include the Group 1 Banjo Galaxy, worth \$700,000 (up \$300,000), the Ranvet Stakes worth \$700,000 (up from \$500,000) and the Sky Rosehill Guineas, now worth \$600,000 (up \$100,000).

The Group 1 Schweppes All Aged Stakes – another race to have featured some of the nation's best sprinters over the past several years – has received a \$200,000 jump, to be now worth \$600,000.

SEVERAL ATC RACES RATED IN TOP 25 IN WORLD

The strength of some of our biggest races has been officially recognised internationally, with the Longines Queen Elizabeth Stakes and Darley T.J. Smith Stakes both recently rated amongst the top 25 races in the world.

The rankings were put together by a panel of international handicappers, and it was particularly pleasing to see that these two races, which the Club over many years has worked hard to build, were among the top group.

There were a total of 23 Australian races ranked among the top 100 and perhaps one of the more surprising – and pleasing – was the Group 1 Canterbury Stakes, ranked at number 36, one position ahead of the Cox Plate.

CAR PARKING & ROYAL RANDWICK WORKS UPDATE

Work on a new bitumen car park for ATC Members and racegoers in the centre of Royal Randwick continues on schedule and is due to be completed in time for the Sydney Autumn Carnival and The Championships.

Full drainage works across the new area have been completed and will greatly reduce any surface water during heavy rain.

The fully sealed parking area will also provide a better surface to walk on before and after the races.

The drainage system has been designed to flow into underground pipe boring under the existing tracks so as not to disturb track surfaces, or impact scheduled race days or morning track work.

We are also close to putting out to tender for the construction of an almost 600-space car parking station which will be integrated with the Queen Elizabeth II Grandstand and Owners Pavilion.

This is part of our agreement with Transport for NSW as part of our light rail contract, and will eventually allow a premium experience for Members who arrive to a raceday by car.



JAMES HEDDO & STEVE MCMAHON APPOINTMENTS

Our CEO Darren Pearce's executive team has been greatly strengthened by the appointment of two experienced and highly regarded members of the racing industry.

James Heddo, most recently CEO of Gosford Racing Club, has started in his new role as Executive General Manager of Racing.

James will be responsible for leading the ATC's Racing Department to deliver world-class racing, including the development of racing programs, managing industry relationships, growing wagering, and overseeing the development and management of the Club's racing and training surfaces and stables.

He has almost 30 years experience in the industry and returns to the Club in Sydney after first working in racing with the Sydney Turf Club.

Steve McMahon – former CEO of the NSW Trainers Association – began in the newly-created position of Executive General Manager Strategic Development on 1 February.

He has also been Chairman of the Racing Industry Consultative Group (RICG) for more than three years, and has more than 15 years experience in senior business and Government roles, including as a Chief of Staff for the Minister for Gaming and Racing.

Mr McMahon will work alongside the CEO building the strategic plan for Sydney racing and delivering key projects, both corporate and racing, to strengthen the ATC's business.

WARWICK FARM WORKS UPDATE

The ATC's contractor is continuing early stages of a new 800-space car park at Warwick Farm racecourse, ahead of the construction of the new Inglis sales complex, which will eventually house a world-class sales complex in south-west Sydney.

Roadworks, and the repositioning of an intersection along Governor Macquarie Drive which will greatly improve access to the racecourse for ATC Members and the public, also continues.

Most of the relocations of services and sub-base works for the new car parking spaces are now complete, following delays caused by heavy rainfall throughout January.

Warwick Farm – like many parts of Sydney – received more than double the average rainfall during January, and this combined with the discovery of previously unknown underground services caused delays.

Completion of the car park is expected by the end of April 2016.



RETIRED MOUNTED SECURITY HORSES

The amazing work of the ATC's Mounted Security team is always greatly valued, especially for the wonderful role and service made by the Thoroughbreds.

One of the team's great favourites – Duffield – was recently retired and is enjoying a new home at Menangle with Jenny Irvine.

'Duff' came to us from Leanne Aspros at Warwick Farm after a successful racing career, and was often the horse for photo shoots, starring on many cover pages.

He was also one of the most popular for the team to ride.

Also, Beersheba, affectionately known as 'Sheba' – has been retired.

Sheba was an unnamed filly before joining the ATC Mounted Division in 2009 and served with great distinction, having the honour of being the only filly to serve with the ATC Mounted Division.

She was known for being the bravest of the brave at work, and joins retirement in Macksville. Our thanks to Jamila Parkin for giving her a home.

REST IN PEACE BEDE MURRAY & OLIVIA INGLIS

The Australian Turf Club has joined the entire racing industry in mourning the passing of two members of our racing family.

Legendary trainer Bede Murray passed away last week after a brave battle with cancer.

Mr Murray's memory was honoured at Rosehill Gardens last Saturday at the launch of the Sydney Autumn Carnival, with the feature two year old fillies race named the Bede Murray Magic Night Stakes.

The race holds special significance for Mr Murray, with his champion two year old Victory Vein taking out the event in 2002, followed by her closest of seconds in the Golden Slipper Stakes, before going on to take out the Sires Produce Stakes and Champagne Stakes in following weeks.

Victory Vein was crowned champion two year old of her year.

She was one of several Group 1 winning horses from Mr Murray's stable, including Universal Prince, who won the 2000 Spring Champion Stakes, 2001 Canterbury Guineas and the AJC Derby, and the 2002 Ranvet Stakes.

As recently as last year Mr Murray won the inaugural Provincial Championships final at Royal Randwick with Sure and Fast, who raced in the stable's famous dark blue, and yellow hoops and sleeves.

We were also very saddened by the tragic accident which claimed the life of Olivia Inglis, the young daughter of Arthur and Charlotte Inglis.

Olivia died while competing in an equestrian event at Scone.

The Board and staff at the ATC extend the Club's deepest condolences to the Inglis family and have offered any assistance to help honour Olivia's memory.