

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS

Live Racing Committee
Tuesday, February 1, 2011

MINUTES

A teleconference meeting of the California Authority of Racing Fairs Live Racing Committee was held at 11:30 A.M., Tuesday, February 1, 2011. The meeting was hosted at the California State Fair Board Room located at 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, California.

CARF Live Racing Committee members attending: John Alkire, Norb Bartosik, Tawny Tesconi and Stuart Titus. Joining by conference call: James Jimenez.

Staff and Guests attending: Christopher Korby, Larry Swartzlander, Tom Doutrich, Heather Haviland, Raechelle Gibbons, Amelia White and Kate Phariss. Joining by conference call: Janet Covello and Louie Brown.

Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting. The next CARF Board & Live Racing Committee meetings will be scheduled for March 1, 2010 in Sacramento.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes. Mr. Bartosik requested that the meeting minutes reflect that Mr. Paluszak seconded the motion on agenda item four. Mr. Bartosik moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Titus seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 3 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Legislative Program for 2011 and Beyond. A report by Mr. Brown was deferred to the CARF Board of Directors Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 4 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Supplemental Purse Administration. Mr. Korby reported that the meeting packet included a report outlining the current reconciliation for the supplemental purse funds through 2010. Uncertainty exists regarding the availability of 2011 supplemental purse funds. CARF has invoiced F&E for 2011, but has not received confirmation on the status of payment.

Mr. Swartzlander reported that due to the implementation of the combined purse structure in 2010, all Thoroughbred overpayments have been eliminated and the Emerging Breed overpayment has been reduced to \$55,000. If supplemental purse money is received for 2011, there will be no problem offering a purse structure at Fairs on par with 2010. Golden Gate Fields has increased purses 4-5% on the bottom end due to the takeout increase. Mr. Swartzlander and Mr. Doutrich will continue to keep the racing committee apprised of the situation.

Agenda Item 5 – Discussion and Action, if any, on Planning for the 2011 Fair Racing Circuit. Mr. Swartzlander reported that all contracts are in place with the exception of a jockey's room cook to replace Don Fowler.

Agenda Item 6 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Racing Dates for 2012 and Beyond. Mr. Korby reported that Bryan Wayte is developing several financial scenarios for various calendars that will be complete for the future meetings.

TOC wishes to convene its annual meeting of Northern California stakeholders to discuss the 2012 calendar and is contacting representatives for availability.

Agenda Item 7 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on 2010 Recruitment Program and Planning for the Recruitment Program in 2011. Mr. Swartzlander reported that the recruitment reception budget has been reduced from 2010 as a cost saving measure. Mr. Swartzlander and Mr. Doutrich plan to visit Turf Paradise in Arizona, Portland Meadows in Oregon and Emerald Downs in Washington.

Agenda Item 8 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Emerging Breeds Summer Racing Program. Mr. Swartzlander reported that a meeting with the American Mule Racing Association resulted in a pledge to consider increasing purses if trainers would guarantee the number of entries in a race, reduce the total number of races offered and utilize the ability to occupy the final race in a card. Mule representatives were also encouraged to increase the number of trainers/owners represented in each race as well as considering running mules that are prohibitive favorites for purse money only.

Agenda Item 9 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Drug and Alcohol Testing for Racetrack Employees. Mr. Korby reported that due to an incident during the Fresno meet, it is incumbent for CARF and Fairs to ensure there is no misuse of drugs or alcohol by employees that would affect their ability to safely conduct their job duties. Mr. Korby is setting up a meeting with Ken Walker, Director of Labor Relations for the Federation, to establish a procedure for unannounced and frequent drug tests throughout the Fair circuit.

Agenda Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report. Mr. Korby reported that there have been meetings of industry stakeholders to review the California workers compensation program. The current carrier, MOC Insurance, intends to return with several proposals to deal with the increase in costs driven by participation and the decline in handle revenues.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Haviland