

**CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS**

Live Racing Committee

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

## Minutes

A meeting of the California Authority of Racing Fairs Live Racing Committee was held at 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, September 23, 2008. The meeting was conducted at the California Authority of Racing Fairs Office, located at 1776 Tribute Road, Sacramento, California, 95815.

Live Racing Committee Members attending: Joe Barkett, Norb Bartosik, Rick Pickering and Tawny Tesconi. Joining by conference call: John Alkire, Chris Carpenter, Stuart Titus and Forrest White.

Staff and Guests attending: Christopher Korby, Larry Swartzlander, Heather Haviland, Margot Wilson, Richard Lewis, Dave Elliott and Tom Doutrich. Joining by conference call: Debbie Cook.

**Agenda Item 1 – Determination of Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting.** The next CARF Board & Live Racing Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 9, 2008 at the Big Fresno Fair.

**Agenda Item 2 – Discussion and Action, if any, on Racing Dates for 2009 and Beyond.** Mr. Korby reported that due to issues surrounding the allocation of the Fair block of dates, Staff has created a proposal with concrete elements to start the discussion and create anchor points for the planning process. The premise of the proposal is that racing in Northern California is in an increasingly fragile state and Fairs need to do their part to keep the racing industry viable.

The goals of the proposal are:

1. Strengthen Northern California Summer racing through reducing the number of race dates by eliminating Monday racing (excluding Labor Day) and extending Stockton's 9-day meet over three weekends, eliminating part of a week that had previously been run at Golden Gate Fields.
2. Provide more Turf racing by running 3 weeks and Santa Rosa and 2 weeks at Golden Gate Fields for a total of 5 weeks of Turf racing during the summer.
3. Create better racing opportunities for all classifications of Thoroughbreds.
4. Carefully manage Emerging Breed program to eliminate overpayments.

The proposal also offers objectives to create a core racing program for Fairs, retain better Northern California Thoroughbreds, create opportunities for Southern California Thoroughbreds, manage the inventory of lower classifications of Thoroughbreds to maximize field size, offer an expanded program for two-year-olds and judiciously manage Supplemental Purses.

Mr. Korby walked the group through the proposed calendar and date allocation (see below motion for specific date allocation). Mr. White stated the San Joaquin Fair would not support a program that included a Fair running in Stockton's traditional June dates. Mr. White

also expressed industry concern regarding an 8 week stretch in the block that lacks racing in the Bay Area. If Stockton is placed back into their traditional dates, an opportunity would exist to break up that 8 week block.

Mr. Korby introduced the "June Option" of the proposal showing a spring and fall block of dates that will ultimately be run at Pleasanton. Mr. Korby also addressed the measures that would be taken to insure that the horse population is carefully managed to protect Ferndale.

Mr. Barkett stated that the Solano County Fair could not move forward with consolidating their race dates without some assurance that funding will be provided for eight years on a sliding scale.

Mr. White moved to direct staff to establish current revenues, quantify prospective options and assess the potential financial impact of moving forward with Mr. Korby's proposal titled *Restructuring the Northern California Fairs Summer Racing Program in 2009* (three weeks at Pleasanton, three weeks at Santa Rosa, two weeks at Ferndale to run concurrent with a CARF meet held at GGF, two weeks at Sacramento including Labor Day, three 3-day weekends at Stockton and two weeks at Fresno including Labor Day. Fairs would not run Mondays, excluding Holidays). Seconded by Mr. Bartosik. Mr. Alkire, Mr. Barkett, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Pickering, Ms. Tesconi, Mr. Titus and Mr. White approved. Mr. Bartosik abstained.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Haviland