

**CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS**  
**Live Racing Committee**  
**Tuesday, May 1, 2012**

**MINUTES**

A teleconference meeting of the California Authority of Racing Fairs Live Racing Committee was held at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, May 1, 2012. The meeting was held at the California Authority of Racing Fairs Board Room, 1776 Tribute Road, Sacramento, California, 95815.

CARF Live Racing Committee members attending: John Alkire, Norb Bartosik, Mike Paluszak, Rick Pickering, Tom Sawyer, Tawny Tesconi and Stuart Titus.

Staff and Guests attending: Christopher Korby, Larry Swartzlander, Tom Doutrich, Heather Haviland, Amelia White, Tom Sawyer, Dave Elliott, Rebecca Desmond, Chaplain Chris Belluomini, Chaplain Rob Cochran and Steve Wood. Joining by Conference Call: Janet Covello.

**Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting.** The next CARF Live Racing Committee meeting will be held June 5, 2012 in Sacramento.

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes.** Mr. Bartosik moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Pickering seconded, unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 3 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Totalisator Contract Extension.** Mr. Korby reported that the totalisator contract, which is coming up for renewal, provides the technical infrastructure for the transaction of wagers. The existing contract with Sportech (formally known as Scientific Games and Autotote) is expiring but includes a provision for a 3-year extension. CARF, NCOTWINC and SCOTWINC have exercised that extension thereby entering into a new contract with the same terms for another three years, securing services for the live racing Fairs and Fair satellite network.

The extension with Sportech does not currently include the Stronach owned tracks, Santa Anita Park and Golden Gate Fields, due to the fact that the Stronach Group owns a rival totalisator company (Amtote).

A copy of the extension agreement for totalisator services is included in the meeting packet.

**Agenda Item 4 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Extension to CA Downlink Contract (Roberts).** Mr. Korby reported that for a number of years Roberts Communications has been providing uplink services to California tracks. These services include two separate agreements to provide both the equipment and onsite personnel to, 1) take the Fair racing signal, send it to the

appropriate satellite, encrypt it and distribute it back out across the country, and 2) decode incoming encrypted signals from Southern California and out-of-state tracks.

The new agreement serves all California interests by entering into a single contract with NCOTWINC and SCOTWINC that provides the downlink equipment at a fixed rate on a continuous basis year-round with a provision for expansion. In the past there were separate agreements between sending tracks and receiving satellite locations for decoder equipment. This created a situation where satellites were paying different rates for decoders from out-of-state tracks, creating unstable pricing and continuity of service for satellite facilities.

The Roberts Communication contract is included in the meeting packet.

**Agenda Item 5 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Legislative Program for 2012 and Beyond.** Deferred to Board of Directors meeting at 12:30 p.m.

**Agenda Item 6 – Discussion and Presentation on Chaplaincy Program (Chaplain Chris Belluomini).** Mr. Korby reported that CARF has contracted with the Race Track Chaplaincy of America (RTCA) for a number of years. RTCA is a non-denominational organization created to address the special needs of the backstretch community. Services include religious services, counseling, translation and transportation.

Chaplain Chris Belluomini, Northern California Chaplain since April 2009, introduced the newest member of his team, Assistant Chaplain Rob Cochran. Chaplain Belluomini stated that RTCA has been in existence for 40 years and that he and Chaplain Cochran serve Golden Gate Fields, Pleasanton (as a year-round training facility) and the Northern California Fair Circuit. Chaplain Belluomini shared a story of one of his first experiences at the Fairs in 2009 involving the tragic gate accident that took the life of an employee. In that instance, Chaplain Belluomini held a vigil at the emergency room, provided a memorial service on the backside of Stockton, helped disperse belongings and helped finalize legal paperwork. This unfortunately accident is a snapshot of the services RTCA provides.

Chaplain Belluomini stated that other services offered include meeting with jockeys, holding prayer in the jockey's room before the races, meeting with the starting gate crew, providing chapel services, hospital visitations, bilingual counseling, providing resource information, promoting educational opportunities and meeting benevolence needs whenever possible.

Chaplain Cochran shared warm stories of his time at Ferndale and the opportunity to help with Spanish-speaking workmen's compensation issues involving injured jockeys.

Chaplain Belluomini closed by stating that the best analogy he could provide is that working for RTCA in Northern California is like being a pastor and social worker in a very small town. Just by being present, the needs of the community reveal themselves.

Mr. Pickering thanked the Chaplains for the work they do at Pleasanton year-round. The Chaplains deal with highly sensitive family and personal issues that would be beyond the scope of the Fair to handle or intervene in.

Mr. Swartzlander added that the Chaplain do a great job of “damage control.” Often by the time an issue is brought to management’s attention, the Chaplains have already interceded and provided a solution.

Ms. Tesconi asked if the RTCA would have a presence at Santa Rosa every live racing day. Chaplain Belluomini stated that there are ongoing needs at the year-round facilities (Golden Gate Fields and Pleasanton) and that the goal of the Chaplains was to be present at the Fairs at least twice a week at a rate of \$1,000 per Fair for the meet.

Mr. Alkire asked if the Committee would entertain a motion to continue services. Mr. Sawyer moved to approve the contract with RTCA for the 2012 Fair season. Mr. Pickering seconded.

Ms. Tesconi stated that she would only be in favor of the motion if there were commitments made by the Chaplains as to the number of days they would be present during each Fair. Ms. Tesconi stated that a presence of three days per week would be sufficient for her support. Mr. Swartzlander stated the nature of the Chaplains work necessitates flexibility. If there is a major accident during training at Golden Gate Fields, the backside workers as a whole are best served by the Chaplains having the flexibility to attend to major accidents without worrying above the number of days they are present at a specific facility.

Chaplain Belluomini stated that they would be happy to try and accommodate being at Santa Rosa three days per week.

Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Pickering stated that they would not impose requirements on the number of days RTCA staff be present. Mr. Sawyer stated that \$1,000 per Fair is a bargain if backstretch issues are mitigated before the Fair management becomes involved.

Mr. Bartosik provided a substitute motion in which Fairs support the RTCA program at \$1,000 per Fair and that RTCA staff work with individual Fairs to determine specific needs. Mr. Pickering seconded, unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 7 – Report and Discussion on Track Safety and Maintenance Program.** Mr. Korby reported that for the past 10 years, CARF has invested significant time, money and effort into a Race Track Safety and Maintenance Program (RTSM) at Fairs. Mr. Swartzlander manages the day-to-day aspects of the program and Track Supervisor Steve Wood directly oversees the racing surface during live racing. Elements of the RTSM include amendments/surface testing, consulting, equipment (tractors, harrows, water trucks, rock picker, etc.), equipment maintenance, insurance, labor, transportation as well as a state-of-the-art horse ambulance and dedicated driver.

Mr. Swartzlander circulated a handout titled "CARF Track Safety & Maintenance: Three Year Projection." Due to the lack of F&E funding for the program, Fairs have \$456,000 remaining in the fund which should last three years with a gradual transfer of expenses to Fairs. The proposed plan projects costs through 2015, showing both the amounts that will be covered by the fund surplus and the amounts that will be absorbed by each Fair.

Ms. Tesconi asked if there was a contingency plan for unexpected equipment replacement. Mr. Swartzlander stated that he was confident that the current equipment is in good shape and will be serviceable through the duration of the plan with tractor treads and harrow teeth being the only substantial equipment that will need to be replaced.

Mr. Korby introduced Steve Wood, Track Supervisor for CARF. Mr. Wood stated that he has been overseeing the Fair racing surfaces since 1989. Mr. Wood stated that the RTSM program is unique in the racing industry. The program not only creates a significant cost savings, but more importantly, it creates continuity across the racing surfaces thereby establishing trust and a sense of expectation from horsemen. As a result of the program, Fairs have the safest racing surfaces in California. Mr. Wood addressed his initial plan for adding amendments to each surface in 2012.

**Agenda Item 8 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Planning for 2012 Fair Race Circuit.** Mr. Korby reported that CARF staff has finalized an agreement for program printing with Delmar Graphics and for distribution with STAT Delivery.

Mr. Korby reported that 2012 condition book covers are included in the meeting packets. Mr. Doutrich reported that stall applications for Pleasanton are due tomorrow and the Pleasanton condition book is currently available on the website. Mr. Doutrich reported that the Pleasanton condition books will be printed three weeks earlier than prior years, which should be beneficial drawing California horses.

Ms. Haviland reported that she will be contacting each Fair to update the information on CalFairs.com as well as start designing the 2012 program covers. Ms. Haviland also reported that she has been contacted by the retirement group Neigh Savers which is interested in providing a retired racehorse that could be made accessible to the public. Lastly, the California Marketing Committee (CMC) has retained a public relations firm to pitch horse racing stories that a Fair's normal publicity team might not have time to reach. We will schedule a conference call with the agency and each Fairs publicity manager to see where they might be of most help.

Mr. Swartzlander circulated the 2012 summer stabling schedule.

**Agenda Item 9 – Report and Discussion on CHRB Racing License Applications and Schedule.** Mr. Swartzlander reported that the Pleasanton application was well received by the CHRB Board and has received approval. Cal Expo and Santa Rosa will be heard at the next meeting and Mr. Swartzlander is currently working with Ferndale to complete their application.

Mr. Korby asked Mr. Titus if he has determined which days of the week live racing will be conducted during this meet. Mr. Titus responded that a decision will be made soon.

**Agenda Item 10 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on status of Horsemen’s Agreements.** Mr. Swartzlander reported that all of the horsemen’s agreements have been signed and delivered to the CHRB. Mr. Pickering thanked CARF staff and TOC staff for finalizing the horsemen’s agreements in a timely manner.

**Agenda Item 11 – Executive Director’s Report.** Mr. Korby reported that samples of animal welfare policies are included in the meeting packet. CARF staff is reviewing existing standards and policies in order to prepare an education piece relevant to Fair horse racing.

Mr. Pickering reported that Pleasanton has developed a pocket sized wagering guide to distribute to fairgoers. The guide was well received at Pleasanton’s CHRB application hearing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Haviland