



WASC CHAIRMANS REPORT – 2008

As most of you here would be aware, I am the Acting Chairman of the WASC and have been a commissioner and deputy chairman for a number of years, as the chairman I would like to welcome you all and thank you for your attendance at this AGM.

I would also like to address my report to the myriad of speedway stakeholders out there who are not specifically involved with the commission and its boards, people such as race vehicle owners, drivers, club members, track officials, promoters and applicable associations.

The past 12 months have been quite busy for the commission and certainly for the most part positive, however we have lost 3 commissioners through resignation, however two of those would have been standing down at this AGM due to the completion of allotted serving periods, as per the constitution.

Just to put any rumours to bed, all of those resignations were of their own volition without pressure to do so by the commission.

Now on a more positive note our Strategic Business Review was finally completed by Kadmos after exhaustive consultation with the speedway fraternity, albeit 5 months late, consultation with NASR WA and NASR Inc was included in that review.

Kadmos made a number of recommendations relating to our business plans for the next 5 years along with an honest appraisal of our past efforts.

They discussed options from employing a paid CEO, becoming the state arm of NASR inc, merging with NASR completely amongst many others.

The commissioners see the WASC as the peak WA speedway controlling body as does the State Government through DSR and its annual funding, therefore we believe that working via a “Strategic Alliance” with NASR WA and NASR Inc is the best possible scenario at this point in time, we have elected to not go down the path of employing a CEO due to income constraints and other issues to do with our future management structure, however I must say we are confident that employing a strategic manager or similar at a later date is a plausible scenario.

The government through DSR are certainly pushing us towards a greater level of self funding to which we agree is a necessity, however they have never suggested that our future is in any way finite or untenable, in fact we believe we could be funded tri-annually in the not too distant future.

DSR on behalf of the government are preparing for a “Risk Review” of speedway across all tracks in WA, this review will be professionally carried out, will be relatively exhaustive in its approach, taking into account risk exposure to state government, local councils and others, the review criteria could include some or all of the following items:

- i) Current industry standards.
- ii) Lease agreements.
- iii) Club/track administration.
- iv) Working with children adherence.
- v) Insurance liability.
- vi) Track equipment.
- vii) Vehicle licensing.

This review has the potential to uncover areas of risk that we the speedway fraternity have not dealt with in the past, so we urge you all to have a good look at what you do and how you do it.

Rather than panic about this initiative, the Commissioners recommend that you heed the many WASC guidelines and procedures booklets which layout our industries standards and please take note that WASC, DSR and the various State Government instrumentalities, already see this easily accessible information, as our "Industry Standards".

We urge you to study the way your speedways are run, the potential risks to competitors, spectators, officials, members and government institutions alike, with the belief that this can make our sport a safer, more efficient and more forward thinking sport into the future.

In reality speedway as a whole may well be overdue for an externally driven review of how it operates, I know from working within the WASC through the commission and its boards, that we always strive to meet world best practise in terms of safety and efficiencies, by making available to all our stakeholders, common sense, realistic and usable information along with quality administration and infrastructure support, however we should always be looking for ways to improve.

We envisage as the guardians of speedway in WA that we should have some sort of regulation, legislation or at the outside government policy directive, as being imperative to our long term future, what I can confirm is that we at the commission are constantly working towards that notion. An example of a positive for us would be, being given "Track Inspection" authority for all speedway venues on behalf of the Health Department, another area we might be seen as able to value add to a current system, could be in the dissemination of speedway funding on behalf of applicable groups such as, Lottery west, Healthway, etc.

You will hear more of what we have been doing as your peak body, through the advisory group reports as this AGM progresses.

In closing I must thank all those who have contributed to the WASC over the past 12 months for their sustained effort, from a more personnel point of view I would like to thank your WASC administrator Marlene Criddle, Deputy Chairman Des Alfirevich and commissioner Ross Smith for attending a number of DSR and Govt meetings on my behalf through the latter half of this year, to Graeme Winter and Ian Gibb my thanks for your contribution and support for what we have been trying to achieve on behalf of the WA speedway fraternity.

To Ron Alexander and Kevin Watts from DSR I thank you for your continued and unwavering support for the sport of speedway, to be in control of their own destiny in Western Australia.

Yours in Speedway

Allan Bain
Acting Chairman WASC