



4 December 2008

Mr Paul Harper  
Managing Director  
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Dear Paul

**RE: CUSHION TRACK – CORBOULD PARK**

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 2 December 2008, concerning the above matter.

In your letter, you state that in Equestrian Surfaces' (ES) Expression of Interest document, ES advised that the wax in the Cushion Track would soften, however this will be counteracted by maintenance procedures. Firstly, let me state that Queensland Racing Limited (QRL) have always been advised by ES that the Cushion Track at the Sunshine Coast would perform in all climatic conditions. In fact you also advised QRL that you would use a wax with a higher melting point to deal with the warmer temperatures in Queensland.

Your EOI document states that *"The composition of the material will provide high degree of uniformity and consistency at a wide range of temperatures and will not be adversely affected by seasonal changes in weather or by exposure to the ultraviolet radiation of sunlight"*. It further states that *"Cushion Track is a surface material suitable to all climates"*.

These are only some of the statements made by ES regarding the performance of the Cushion Track in different climatic conditions.

QRL was provided with a maintenance schedule from ES upon signing of the original contract and any changes to the maintenance of the track have been done so with the full approval of ES. The Sunshine Coast Turf Club has always followed these maintenance requirements.

At no stage has QRL been advised that the track will have inconsistencies in different seasons. The main reason QRL chose ES to install the Cushion Track was on the basis of the statements made by ES concerning the consistent nature of the material and performance in all climatic conditions.

The new maintenance procedures provided by ES on 2 December 2008 are being adhered to, as with all other previous directions issued by ES.

Please find **attached** a copy of recent Clegg Hammer readings taken on the Cushion Track by staff of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club. Based on these readings, it is evident that the material has softened due to the heat, even after strict adherence to the maintenance procedures issued by ES.

Finally I again reiterate that QRL is committed to the success of the Cushion Track, however, QRL believes the current softening of the material in hot conditions is having a huge impact on the confidence of the punters and stakeholders.

Yours faithfully

**REID SANDERS**  
*Chief Stipendiary Steward*

Enc.

**Sian A. McGee**

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**From:** Reid Sanders [rsanders@queenslandracing.com.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 December 2008 9:05 PM  
**To:** 'Paul Harper'; 'paul@equestriansurfaces.co.uk'  
**Cc:** 'Paul Brennan'; 'Malcolm Tuttle'; 'msullivan@sctc.com.au'; 'R Bentley'  
**Subject:** Cushion Track Sunshine Coast  
**Attachments:** image001.emz

Paul,

Following my attendance at Caloundra on Monday and Tuesday of this week I make the following comments:

There seems to be evidence that the Cushion Track material will soften in the heat and direct sunlight.  
That the track temperatures can vary considerably throughout the course of a day  
That by maintaining the track on a daily basis the MAT remains near the top of the surface  
The trials conducted on Tuesday afternoon seemed to be successful, although the top of the surface was a little loose as a result of the heat.

As discussed on Monday night, the Cushion Track at Caloundra has conflicting requirements depending on training and racing. When you finalise your new maintenance schedule I believe that is it very important that you take these two factors into account.

To have the track firm enough for racing during the day, the track needs to be very tight and in my opinion might be a little too firm for trackwork in the cool of the morning. This may also be an issue when we commence night racing in late February 2009.

I await your report on the performance of the cushion track during this week and the races on Friday and also the new revised maintenance schedule.

Finally I believe that the collection of data taken over the last couple of weeks assist greatly however would be interested to hear your thoughts on the Clegg Hammer and its suitability for testing of the surface and/or any alternative equipment that may be available.

Thanks

*Reid Sanders*

Chief Stipendiary Steward



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From: Paul Harper [paulcushiontrack@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2008 9:25 PM  
To: 'Reid Sanders'  
Subject: RE: Cushion Track Sunshine Coast  
Attachments: image001.emz

Dear Reid,  
I am trying to change my flight, will let you know later. Would it be possible to have the meeting at 9.30 am on Monday morning as my flight assuming I can change it would leave at 1.30 pm. I would have to be at the Airport by 12 pm.  
Regards Paul Harper.

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Subject: Cushion Track Sunshine Coast  
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 20:48:41 +1000  
From: rsanders@queenslandracing.com.au  
To: paulcushiontrack@hotmail.com; paul@equestriansurfaces.co.uk  
CC: pbrennan@queenslandracing.com.au; crossmore13@yahoo.co.uk; mtuttle@queenslandracing.com.au

Paul,

I'm sorry that I was not able to get to the meeting today on the cushion track.

The performance of the cushion track today is receiving mixing reviews from all concerned.

I note that the times of the races today were around what we would expect. Apparently some jockeys raised the hardness of the surface early, and then after you groomed the track they believed that there was too much kickback. Consistency of the surface in all conditions may be something that can not be achieved.

Given that you have spent the week here overseeing the maintenance and seen the track race today, I look forward to reviewing your revised maintenance schedule.

I am aware that you are booked to travel home tomorrow night, but may I suggest that we meet on Monday around 11am, with Bob Bentley and review the proposed schedule and any other issues that need to be addressed.

I propose that this meeting take place at our offices Deagon.

I think that it would be better if we could meet to discuss this before you leave.

I await your advice if you are able to change to flight to accommodate this meeting.

.anks

*Reid Sanders*  
Chief Stipendiary Steward



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This email may contain information which is confidential, of a private nature or which is subject to

Sian A. McGee

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**From:** Reid Sanders [rsanders@queenslandracing.com.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 December 2008 4:01 PM  
**To:** 'Paul Harper'; 'paul@equestriansurfaces.co.uk'; 'bond@equestriansurfaces.co.uk'  
**Cc:** 'R Bentley'; 'Paul Brennan'; 'Malcolm Tuttle'  
**Subject:** Cushion Track Sunshine Coast  
**Attachments:** image001.emz

Paul,

As previously requested by Queensland Racing Limited (QRL) can you please forward copies of the laboratory testing on the material used on the Cushion Track at the Sunshine Coast.

I am aware that during the mixing a test was taken, and since then at least two (2) further tests have been taken, including Friday 12 December 2008.

QRL request these results to be provided as a matter of importance, as there is concern on the performance of the Cushion Track.

Once again I reiterate that QRL have had some issues with the consistency and performance of the Cushion Track not only for racing but also training. As you are also aware QRL have planned a new installation of a Cushion Track and Toowoomba in February 2009. The installation at Toowoomba replaces the main racing track, and given this, there can be no problems/issues with the performance of the Cushion Track surface, such as we are currently witnessing at the Sunshine Coast.

If the Sunshine Coast performance and consistency cannot be rectified in the immediate future, QRL may be required to reassess the Toowoomba installation.

As you would have seen in my emails of earlier today, there have also been issues regarding injuries raised by trainer at the Sunshine Coast, and this has reflected in the very poor nominations received for the race meeting to be conduct on 2 January 2009. If the stakeholders won't support the surface, it goes against what QRL were hoping to achieve.

I await the results of the tests conducted, and your advice on how Equestrian Surfaces intend to deal with the current issues of performance and consistency.

*Reid Sanders*

Chief Stipendiary Steward



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