

**Oaths Act 1867**

**Statutory Declaration**

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I, Murray Donald Weeding, of [REDACTED], in the State of Queensland do solemnly and sincerely declare the following, in relation to Queensland Racing Commission notice received 3 September 2013 requesting information

Schedule A

1. I travelled as an employee of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club to Singapore and United Kingdom to inspect Polytrack, Equestrian Surfaces and Stabiliser Solutions at various facilities during the week commencing 22nd September 2006. (Photocopy of passport with dates of travel attached). During the week mentioned visual inspections of three variations of synthetic surfaces were conducted in the United Kingdom and in addition a visit to Singapore Turf Club was incorporated on the forward journey to view the facilities available for racing and training.

My role in this trip was to view the various surfaces in use and gather some guidelines for maintenance of synthetic surfaces as this type of surface was new to Queensland and to the Sunshine Coast Turf Club.

I was not involved in decisions relating to negotiations or agreements for installation of the Cushion Track at Sunshine Coast Turf Club, Caloundra or Clifford Park, Toowoomba.

2. Locations Visited

- (a) Friday 22nd September 2006 Day 1 – Depart Brisbane-Arrive Singapore.

Day 2- AM - Arrive Singapore Turf Club –inspect site and training tracks in use at venue, in company with: Ian Trevethan, Racecourse Manager Singapore Turf Club  
Reid Sanders, Chief Stipendiary Steward Queensland Racing  
Visual inspection only of surfaces during trackwork session.

Day 2 - PM- Attend Race meeting Singapore Turf Club as guests of Singapore Turf Club Chairman.

In attendance: Bob Bentley, QRL  
Tony Hanmer, QRL  
Reid Sanders, QRL

Depart Singapore- PM

Day 3- Arrive London (Sunday)

Day 4- Visit training track in Cotswold's area (I am unsure of the trainer's name or the private training operation).

Stabiliser Solutions surface

In attendance: Stabilizer solutions representative  
Bob Bentley  
Tony Hanmer  
Bill Ludwig  
Reid Sanders



Visual inspection of surface in use during and after horses worked.

Day 5- Visit training facilities of Trainer James Given  
Equestrian Surfaces representative Paul Harper, Philip Bond

In attendance: Bob Bentley  
Tony Hanmer  
Bill Ludwig  
Reid Sanders

Visual inspection of surface in use during and after horses worked.

Day 6-Attend race meeting an Lingfield Racecourse  
In attendance: Poly-track Representative Kim Elliott

Bob Bentley  
Tony Hanmer  
Bill Ludwig  
Reid Sanders

Visual inspection of surface in use during and after horses raced, equipment used in maintenance.

Day 7-Travel to Newmarket Racecourse and training grounds

In attendance: Poly track representative Kim Elliott  
Bob Bentley  
Tony Hanmer  
Bill Ludwig  
Reid Sanders

Visual inspection of Poly track and turf surfaces in use during and after horses worked.

Day 8-Further inspections of Newmarket facilities  
Return to London

Day 8-Depart to Brisbane

I was not involved in any trips to the United States for the stated purpose.

The surfaces viewed in the United Kingdom were

1. Stablizer Solutions-training track  
Uphill track in open field  
Wax coated sand surface  
Cultivated to 75mm-100mm depth  
Used for steeple-chase horse conditioning  
Horses were encouraged to work into surface to a depth of 50mm to 75mm to build on stamina and muscle development.
2. Equestrian Surfaces-Cushion Track  
Uphill track in open field  
Wax coated sand and fibre surface  
Cultivated to a depth of 50mm to 75mm depth  
Used for conditioning horses on an up-hill gallop

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3. Poly-track at Lingfield Racecourse  
Wax coated sand and fibre mixture  
Prepared for racing and cultivated to a depth of 30-40mm  
Used on the day for conducting professional race-meeting
4. Poly-track at Newmarket training fields  
Prepared for training at various gallops across the training grounds.  
Wax coated sand and fibre mix  
Cultivated to a depth of 30-50mm  
Used for training and conditioning of horses.

During discussions held as to the preferred surface, my opinion was to the effect that all tracks performed well and appeared to give horses a good cushion to work on. It was stated the Stabilizer Solutions and Equestrian Surfaces tracks appeared to perform as expected but were being used for different purposes to that which would be utilised at the SCTC, due to the depth which horses were encouraged to enter the profile due to the cultivated depth by maintenance machinery in preparing the surfaces.

- 2 (b) I was not involved with the final decision to select Cushion Track surface installation at the Sunshine Coast Turf Club
3. (a) (i) During construction a section of drainage aggregate was removed due to failure after placement, this section was replaced with new aggregate.  
(ii) Some contaminated cushion track was removed from the crossing area also an amount of material not meeting specification due to contamination was used in the area of the western walkway as this area is not used for trackwork or racing.  
(iii) I am not aware of any consistency issues with the surface during this phase.
- (b) The cushion track is currently used by all trainers based at the Sunshine Coast, during all weather conditions. Verbal positive comments have been forthcoming after heavy rainfall events or when a race-meeting which was in jeopardy of being cancelled has been conducted on the cushion track. Comments have been forthcoming from some trainers and riders with concerns regarding "kick back" issues during race meetings.
- (c) I believe the Cushion Track has performed as it was designed and performs throughout a wide variety of climatic conditions. I believe that injury rates have decreased since the installation of the cushion track. The maintenance regime has been consistent with the instructions forwarded by Equestrian Surfaces. There is no water added to the surface by supplementary means via irrigation or water truck for maintenance and has not had any additional water other than naturally occurring rainfall, since installation.
- (d) No trials of surfaces were undertaken prior to installation of Cushion Track.
- (e) I do not have the details regarding any communications or discussions between these parties.
- (f) I do not know of any details regarding this item.
4. I am not aware of any additional issues in relation to the Terms Of Reference.

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- 5. (a) Due to the restructure of operations at the Sunshine Coast Turf Club I am not in possession of documentation in regards to the matters referred to above.
- (b) Any documentation was returned to Racing Queensland Offices .Deagon upon re-employment to the Sunshine Coast Turf Club 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

Schedule B

Attached document

Copy of passport details of trip to Singapore and United Kingdom

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867.

Declarer:  .....

Murray Donald Weeding

Taken and declared before me at ..... *Caloundra* ..... this ..... *10* ..... day of September 2013, before me:

 .....

Justice of the Peace/Commissioner for Declarations

