

Ipswich lure gets an urgent upgrade



Chief Steward

Danny Ryan

A recent meeting between the GRA and the committee of the Ipswich club identified the need for an urgent upgrade of the lure system at the track.

Agreement between the two organisations was reached and work will be well and truly underway when this article is published.

Unfortunately there are people on the sideline who wish to attribute blame for the need to carry out this urgent work. No person or persons have identified as the cause of the required work and nor was there any attempt to attribute blame to anyone.

Please be thankful the work will be carried out and no race meetings will be lost to the industry.

Recent heavy rains and storms failed to stop race meetings at any of our tracks in the metropolitan area.

The conversion to sand tracks has paid dividends although we never lost many meetings on the grass either.

Capalaba was the only victim when power to the complex was cut for a long period of time and the meeting was cancelled.

I was surprised that Bernard Culey didn't revert to the old days of the lure behind the motorbike and even further back to the horse towing the lure.

Capalaba has been so well run in recent times we expect miracles.

Perhaps that was a bit much for Bernard and his merry men and woman to come up with at short notice.

While on the subject of Capalaba, chief steward Alan Young will retire as of March 6 after a career spanning some 30 years.

Since coming from Townsville to Brisbane to retire, Alan has continued to serve our industry with distinction and will surely be hard to replace.

I take this opportunity to thank you personally Alan and also on behalf of the industry for your dedicated service and wish you all the best on your trip around Oz. Pick me up if you need a guide!

Arrangements are well underway for our state stewards conference in Brisbane in late March.

It has been two years since our last conference and I look forward to the various people assisting our counterparts in the North to keep in touch with the latest news and views.

The highlight of the conference I feel sure will be the address by guest speaker Michael Byrne, QC.

Michael was our guest speaker at last year's national chief stewards' conference. Michael's ability to hold those listening in the grasp of his hand was amazing although when you hold the title of QC it was not achieved from a weetbix packet, that's for sure.

In recent times issue has been raised about who said what when discussion takes place between licensees and stewards in the stewards' room on race nights. Race night discussions are not always taped as most times they deal with trivial matters that are settled there and then.

However, from now on all discussions in the stewards' room will be recorded for record purposes and kept for a 14-day period.