



Health and safety from the start

The All Power Boxes at Albion Park.

WORKPLACE health and safety issues have seen a revolutionary set of starting boxes developed by a Brisbane company.

All Industrial Maintenance Services have already installed the first set of the computerized, self-closing starting boxes at Albion Park.

Greyhound men Peter McKenzie-Ross and Bevan Williamson as well as company director Noel McLeod and electrical engineer David Moy are behind the development

in the past year of the "All Power Boxes". Williamson explains their introduction. "I had an approach from Ken Hutchinson (now on the GRA's grading panel) when he was the secretary-manager at Canberra club for a couple of sets of starting boxes," he said.

"Just when I was going to start on them, Ken rang to say the club had a re-think about the boxes because of a story in the Greyhound Recorder about workplace health and safety issues to do with closing of starting boxes." McKenzie-Ross and McLeod established All Industrial Maintenance Services and asked Bevan to come on board to look at such items.

"We first tested a prototype back in August last year," said Williamson. "The Board and Danny Ryan have regularly been involved with the research, and they are very happy with the results. Michael Byrne and Allan Henderson came out and had a look and

Michael insisted his club get a set for the 520m boxes and then the 600m boxes."

The All Power Boxes have already been installed at Albion Park. They were first used from the 600m start because of the Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup series being run at the time.

"They will be fantastic on trial nights," said Williamson. "And 80 percent of races are over 520m at Albion Park."

Computer technology closes the boxes automatically. "It's the way of the future," said Williamson. "We've got a head start but we can see starting boxes of this type introduced throughout the country. Clubs have a duty of care to protect those people working a race meetings and trials."