# CIRCUIT Excel Racing Association Inc

# Meeting Minutes

3rd of May 2023 8:00pm AEST Meeting held via Zoom conference call

Invitees: John Broadbent (President), Andrew Young (Secretary), Shannon Williams Treasurer, Tim Rowse, Les Sharpe, Craig Twining, Neville Blight; Nick Scaife and Shane Beikoff.

1. Roll call

Roll call conducted. The following persons were present: John Broadbent (President), Andrew Young (Secretary), Shannon Williams (Treasurer), Tim Rowse, Craig Twining Les Sharpe and Neville Blight (attended for part of the meeting)

Secretary asked the group that seeing that John Broadbent had stepped down from the position of CERA President there was any issue with Secretary chairing the meeting. All agreed and had no objections.

1. **Approval of minutes from last meeting** Approved by John Broadbent, Seconded by Tim Rowse.
2. Business arising From Previous Minutes:

Will be covered in General Business.

1. President’s Report:

President thanked and acknowledged Shane Beikoff, Andrew Young, Shannon Williams and Nicole Williams their efforts and rolling out such a successful event as part of the Bathurst 6 Hour. Nicole’s enthusiasm and passion that she put into the event must be recognised. Nicole has become a real asset for the category in setting up the CERA social media Facebook page. Nicole has carried on her great work from the promotion of NSW into the area of CERA.

During the Bathurst 6 Hour John Broadbent, Shane Beikoff and Andrew Young met with ARG management and had a really good dialogue with them about the Circuit Excel category. ARG management were extremely complementary about the category and what it provides to the participants and Motorsport. ARG will do what they can into the future to include us into events such as Bathurst but at that point in time could not make any promises.

The President also acknowledged the role that Craig Baird played for CERA during the Bathurst event as the Driving Standards Adviser. It was great to have a high-profile Motorsport personality contributing back to the grassroots level of Motorsport. What was disappointing was the driving standards by some drivers during the races after having full sessions with practise and qualifying. Unfortunately, all races were conducted with yellow flag intervals and safety car interventions. It was also fed back us by Driver Standard Adviser team that some of the drivers involved in incidents do not like to accept responsibility for their own actions.

President also informed the group that the supply the remaining Federal tyres had been quite inconsistent with some dealers receiving less stock than they were expecting and even getting the incorrect tyre. The remaining stocks have been shared across the country to all states to ensure that those that require the tyres can get them and keep racing. Dunlop also advised us that the first batch of 400 interim control tyres will now be a couple of weeks ahead of the scheduled date and that the first batch will be distributed via looking at which states have race events in the near future.

With the tyre tender currently rolling out CERA has already received feedback with expressions of interests from tyre manufacturers and suppliers interested in being involved in the tender process.

The President explained that he has resigned from the position and this would be his last report. John will be staying on to be the QLD delegate and will also assist with the tyre tender and the negotiations with Supashock moving into 2024 if there was no objections from the rest of the group, which there was not.

President explained his reason for stepping down and one being from the many issues and battles coming from the states. The President expressed that CERA was being used to sort out issues that should have been sorted out by committees at the state level when the focus of CERA should be on promoting the Category, creating opportunities for all involved, working with promoters for national level events and provide a conduit between the state clubs and Motorsport Australia and race promoters.

President brought to the attention of the group of an issue that was not only missed by CERA but all involved in the Excel category. The issue being with fuel entering the cabin when a car is upside down on its roof. This was highlighted at an event where a car ended up in this position and fuel entered the cabin. The fuel entered the cabin via the fuel pump cover. It was pointed out to the group that now that we are aware of this issue, we are obligated to find a solution. We must also before a final solution is agreed by CERA and Motorsport Australia release to all members a risk mitigation strategy with some interim measures that must take place. Motorsport Australia will release a report with their findings and CERA will act on the findings but in the meantime release a CERA interim bulletin looking at how car owners can mitigate the risk of fuel entering the cabin. All Delegates have been asked to start looking at this particular situation and to come back with possible ideas and solutions that could be implemented into the future. The final solution will need to include bulkhead connectors to replace the existing rubber grommet where wiring passes through the fuel pump cover. The President spoke about how all the other safety systems during this particular incident worked such as the roll cage, the protective race clothing, harness along with the race suit but the one thing we all neglected to pick up was the issue of fuel entering the cabin. It was pointed out with the two different series of Excels that there is a smaller plastic cover which in the future could no longer be used with the other with the later series having the larger metal cover. A future solution would only rely on using metal covers and some form of gasket or sealant to seal that area off.

A further outcome that was picked up was the issue in extracting a driver that is of smaller stature that has a fixed steering wheel when high sided Race seat installed in a car. This can leave minimal room if a driver needs to be extracted from the car via the driver’s door. CERA will need to look at possible discussion of use of detachable steering wheels with quick release couplings.

CERA recognised the efforts of the drivers that were involved in the extraction of the driver with the incident where the car ended up on its roof. All on the committee agreed the bravery and selflessness of these drivers needs to be recognised and were happy to hear that they are being nominated for Motorsport Australia award.

1. **Secretaries Report:**

Secretary also detailed many communications trying to get tyres to those that need them. Secretary recognised the assistance from Rod Graydon from Exclusive Tyres in chasing down stocks of the Federal RSR and getting them out to all States.

There have been ongoing communications with Supashock with the ongoing supply, this will be detailed in general business.

Secretary informed the group that also being the Category Manager for Bathurst there had been thank you letters sent out to all those that were involved and help to contribute to what was a very successful event for the category. All sponsors also received thank you letters from CERA.

1. **Treasurers Report:**

Treasurer reported to the group that the current balance of the CERA account was $3492.79. There two outstanding payments to make for Bathurst so this will drop the account balance back in the next couple of days to around $500 to $1000. As predicted the Bathurst 6 hour event became a break even exercise for CERA.

The Secretary acknowledged the work of the Treasurer as this by far had been the busiest that the CERA bank account had ever experienced. Due to Bathurst event there had been many incoming and outgoing 's so many thanks to the Treasurer for looking after all of these transactions.

1. Technical Delegate Report

Technical Delegate informed the group that there had been communications both in and out with Motorsport Australia with the rules for both the tyres and the cylinder heads. There are always ongoing communications between the Technical Delegate and competitors that have lost their seal sheets. All other technical topics will be covered in general business.

1. General Business

**Tyre Tender:** Technical Delegate thanked the President for putting the tyre tender document together, this document was sent out to all Delegates prior to the meeting. All Delegates were asked if they were happy with the document and all states voted that they were happy for it to be released in its current form. The document would then be released on the CERA website on 5th of May and information put up on the CERA Facebook. Secretary suggested that the Treasurer invoice all states for $500 so that advertising in Auto Action for the tender could be organised and then paid. Outcome was for the Treasurer to invoice the clubs and the Secretary to organise the release of the document and the advertising in Auto Action.

The tender will be evaluated using a scoring matrix (spreadsheet) against the outcome and requirements within the tender document.

Technical Delegate advised the group that the interim Dunlop tyre will be updated in the regulations by Motorsport Australia. The initial supply of the interim tyre will go to the states that have race meetings in June and further supplies will be sent out to other states with their later race meeting dates. Due to the limited supply, it was decided that the competitors would only be able to purchase 5 of the interim tyres to stop people from stockpiling them.

There was some disappointing feedback via social media that certain people claimed there were alternative solutions for the interim tyre that CERA should have looked at. It must be noted that CERA did due diligence and looked at several alternatives but none of these other alternatives could supply in the timelines required or had a minimum purchase of over 1000 units.

**Regulation Review:** Victorian Delegate suggested that due to events such as Bathurst and other State events, committees have been struggling to look at these and give the required feedback. All agreed with this, and the outcome was too extend the review and that the Secretary would send out further feedback from Queensland and the info from other states in documents and an email for all Delegates to take back to committees. The point was made that the majority of issues presented by the states thus far are more to do with updating existing wordings to help clarifications and remove grey areas, not direct rule changes.

**Nationals:** Western Australian Delegate advised that an information pack will be out soon and asked all Delegates to keep pushing the expression of interest form out to all members. Currently still looking for a major sponsor for the event. The WA Delegate was given advise to take back to the promoter being the WA Sporting Car Club to ensure that there is enough room in the program to run multiple heats and track time along with all other events at a State race meeting. Technical Delegate, Qld Delegate and Secretary all have offered assistance due to past experience running events. Qld Delegate will assist to produce a set of Sporting regulations.

**Bathurst 2023 feedback:** Secretary being the Category Manager once again thanked the organising committee and the team that was on the ground at the event. As was mentioned by the Technical Delegate it was an excellent team to be a part of and everyone knew what needed to be achieved and went ahead and did that. There was a great rapport and respect between the Event Technical team and the Excel Technical team and it was great to see these two groups working together to assist each other. Once again we need to recognise the work of Nicole Williams who really stepped up on the Sunday to assist the Category Manager as the Category Manager had to take on an additional role to assist the Driver Standards Advising team collecting the camera cards. The only real disappointment of the event was the driving standards as previously mentioned. The Secretary also spoke about the professionalism of working with all of the ARG staff and how easy it was to communicate and get information from them.

**Supashock Update:** Secretary informed the group that the next batch of Supashock is just about ready to roll out at the end of the second week of May. All Delegates were thanked for going through the list supplied from Supashock to identify from Supashock list who are Excel club members. From that initial list it was identified that there was around 30 people that were on it that were not members of state-based Excel clubs therefore the demand for this particular product outside of those that are covered by the contract is still continuing. The eligibility sets will also be going out to the state clubs within the next month.

**National Level Event Sponsorship locations:** Secretary spoke about a few competitors at Bathurst were quite irate with the fact that they were made to put an event sponsor over their own sponsors on the front bumper. All competitors were told a few weeks out from the event that this would take place and that the money coming from the sponsors was being used to subsidise the cost of their marquees. QLD Delegate suggested that these sponsorship locations could be included into the Nationals sporting regulations.

**Camera locations for National level events:** At Bathurst CERA was able to put in forward facing cameras in cars being mandatory via the further regulations to assist he DSA. There was a suggested position for the camera location, some competitors had their cameras in a different location so it has been suggested that there should be a nominated position for all Excel major events. QLD Delegate stated that there was a photo supplied that went into the further regulations that showed the forward view and also the driver within the camera shot. The intent of the photo was to cover both of these particular aspects so as long as a position covered these aspects there would be no need to nominate a set position.

**Remaining Agenda Items:** It was decided that the remaining agenda items will be adjourned and brought up at the next meeting**.**

**Other Business around the State**

New South Wales: nothing to report.

Tasmania: Tasmanian Delegate spoke to the group about a recent race meeting where a competitor was involved in a serious accident which ended up with a car into a tyre wall and the driver being injured. Motorsport Australia are currently doing an investigation into the incident and have collected video footage.

Western Australia : Western Australian Delegate thanked the Qld Delegate in his role as the National President and could understand the reasons why the decision was made to step down. All the Delegates agreed with this point and acknowledged the work that John had done as President over many years.

South Australia: SA vs Vic State of Origin in June.

Queensland: Delegate spoke about that they were looking at using the Driver standards book that was developed by Jason Bargwanna a couple of years ago to assist in the driving standards process. Queensland is also looking at a demerit point system with a 3 strike policy for driving standards. This is similar to the Toyota 86 system. Queensland has involved Motorsport Australia in this conversation and both parties have agreed to work together on this. It was also mentioned that there is a concern over parents talking to their children during a race. A couple of the Delegates mentioned the fact that they have actually heard parents advising their child as the driver to push another car off the track.

All agreed that penalties handed out by race control at events are far too lenient and are sending all the wrong messages. All Delegates agreed that there needs to be far harsher penalties issued by race control.

Victoria: nothing to report.

1. Adjournment

Andrew Young adjourned the meeting at 22:35 AEST Minutes submitted by: Andrew Young