

**Welcome to the 171st edition of Speedway Australia's Speed eNews.**

Speed eNews is a weekly communication aimed toward keeping clubs and organisations up to date on current events, handy tips to improve competition and safety, as well as any changes that may be taking place within the sport. Clubs are also encouraged to distribute this newsletter to members. Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or require a copy of one of the previous editions.

## **NATIONAL FORUM WEEKEND A HUGE SUCCESS**



A record turnout, in spite of border restrictions greeted last weekend's National Forum at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, for a successful weekend of networking and discussion surrounding the future direction of Speedway.

Building on the success of the previous three National Forum weekends, the event allowed Speedway Australia's stakeholder groups to come together for open discussion around leadership, networking, along with product and industry services knowledge. It also gave Tracks and Divisions an opportunity to view firsthand the growth in participation our sport is witnessing – with the added addition of an industry exhibition, showcasing the very latest products and services on offer by some of the Nation's leading Speedway suppliers.

Speedway Australia also used the event to preview a host of new programs that will be launched in the coming months, such as our infield Safety Training and resources for venue operators.

For the Tracks, Clubs and Divisions who were unable to attend this year's Forum – don't stress! We will be outlining each of the topics covered in the coming weeks through eNews and various social media channels.



# SPEEDWAY AUS. LAUNCHES NATIONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT AUDIT



Date: June 22, 2021

To: SFI Member/Affiliate Sanctioning Bodies, Consumers, and Manufacturers

From: SFI Foundation, Inc.

**Notice of Counterfeit SFI Labels on Driver Restraints Sold by RASTuning Parts through Amazon.com**

Please note that SFI has found harnesses sold by **RASTuning Parts** which bear counterfeit SFI labels stating that the manufacturer certifies that their products meet the applicable SFI Specs.

RASTuning Parts harnesses have not been submitted for testing by SFI, and RASTuning Parts is not enrolled in any SFI program.

It should be noted that for any spec program, certification that products meet the minimum standards is made by the submitting manufacturer. Products are NOT certified, endorsed, or approved by SFI.

Necessary measures should be taken to ensure that items purchased from this source are not allowed to be used where compliance with the relevant SFI Specifications are required. Please contact SFI with any concerns or inquiries about questionable product.

Counterfeit products may appear with or without brand names. Genuine SFI conformance labels contain hidden security features and slightly different fonts and materials, but the following illustrations should assist in visually identifying the affected parts:



15706 Pomerado Road, Suite N206, Poway, CA 92064 • (858)451-8888 FAX (858)451-9288  
website: www.sfiFoundation.com email: sfi@sfiFoundation.com  
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The latest notification from the SFI Foundation about non-compliant products (regarding RASTuning Parts) is a timely reminder about need to be constantly vigilant when it comes to safety equipment. It's a fact of life that 2021 we are constantly bombarded with spam emails, fake accounts, and ransomware, and it's easier than ever to manufacture safety equipment that looks impressive but hasn't been appropriately certified for use.

To try and ensure only SFI or FIA approved, and certified safety equipment is being worn by competitors, Speedway Australia is commencing a national safety audit, to work with equipment retailers to ensure the products they are providing to the Australian market are fit for purpose and meet the required standard. One area of focus is the need to ensure third party branded products are in fact being produced by certified manufacturers, and we'll be contacting all retailers involved in the speedway industry in due course. Once

contacted, retailers will have seven days to provide the appropriate information to Speedway Australia and we'll be working with divisional groups and scrutineers in the event that information is not forthcoming, on the assumption that the equipment may not be fit for purpose.

We appreciate the support of manufacturers and retailers in assisting us with this audit, noting that the overwhelming majority are supplying great products that are assisting with the current growth the sport is enjoying. Any suppliers wanting to get onto the front foot with this are invited to contact Track & Safety Development Officer Liz Weaver in the first instance.

## GRANT SUCCESS FOR A NUMBER OF REGIONAL TRACKS



The good news keeps coming, with a host of regional venues receiving direct investment from Government toward infrastructure projects, and post COVID recovery programs.

Hot off the heels of a \$30,000 success late last year, Illabo in Southern NSW has received a further \$125,000 as part of the 2021 round of the NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants Program, which will go towards further upgrades to their Spectator Facilities.

In QLD, Mareeba, Rockhampton, Cairns and Roma clubs were recipients of \$2,000 as part of the COVID Safe Active Kick Start to assist not-for-profit local and regional sport and active recreation organisations re-establish their operations in a COVID-safe environment.

Attendees at this years National Forum were treated to an informative session surrounding these, and similar local, state and federal government programs, by Sport Development Officers Ross Kirby and Adam Brook. With several funding streams available across Australia at present, now is the time to get in contact with your relevant Sport Development Officer using the details below, and get a head start on future applications.



## NEW SYDNEY SPEEDWAY OPERATOR APPOINTED



Experienced speedway and events operators John and Kathy Kelly and Scott Anderson have joined forces to successfully secure an eight-year lease of the new Sydney International Speedway after a public tender process, with the facility on track to be operational by the start of the 2021 racing season.

Suellen Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Greater Sydney Parklands said, "Speedway Promotions is committed to our vision of making Sydney Motorsports Park at Eastern Creek the home to world-class motorsport in NSW".

Ms Fitzgerald said the lease follows not only the Government's investment in the speedway itself but also a further \$33 million upgrade of Sydney Motorsports Precinct for night lighting, upgrades to the dragway and a centre of excellence for motorsports which will enable the site to host some of the biggest motor racing events in Australia.

"This is the first (Speedway Australia) Five Star speedway built anywhere in the country in over 20 years and is a major investment in one of the country's premiere sports and tourism facilities," Ms Fitzgerald said.

"Motorsports fans can look forward to an action-packed calendar of international, national and interstate events and competitions this season, delivering a major boost to tourism and Western Sydney's economy".

Speedway Promotions brings together the speedway operational experience of John and Kathy Kelly and the motorsport promotion experience of Scott and Leonie Anderson.

"The Kelly's will bring 21 years of speedway experience to Eastern Creek, having successfully operated Brisbane's Archerfield Speedway since July 2000," Ms Fitzgerald said. "Scott and Leonie Anderson have extensive knowledge of motorsport events as promoters and are the proprietors of BSA Media and Monster Events".

Mr and Mrs Kelly said, "We're honoured to have the opportunity to operate the new Speedway. We can't wait to start working with the Australian Racing Driver's Club (ARDC) and Sydney International Dragway to make the Sydney Motorsport Precinct one of the best motorsport facilities in the world."

There will also be a range of recreational and community uses of the new Speedway facility including vocational education and training, festivals, charity events, markets and club activities and events.

Speedway Australia Chairman Guy Thompson was also enthusiastic. "For the sport of speedway this a great appointment. With very experienced operators having deep knowledge of the sport and support from competitor groups, they will hit the ground in top gear. Speedway Australia look forward to working with them."

From a logistical perspective, clubs will be contacted by the venue operators soon to finalise arrangements for the 2021/22 season, with an events calendar to be released in due course. And finally, it has been confirmed that the iconic World Series Sprintcars tour will be returning to Sydney this January after a long absence!



## **SPEEDWAY AUSTRALIA CONTACTS**



### **Office**

Tim Savell  
James Hadley  
Liz Weaver  
Adam Brook  
Ross Kirby  
Kirsten Knox  
Angela Warren  
Mark Holmes

### **General Enquiries**

General Manager  
Youth Development Officer  
Track & Safety Dev. Officer  
Sport Development Officer  
Sport Development Officer  
Licensing & Operations Admin.  
Office Administrator  
Risk Management Officer

### **08 8139 0777**

0424 923 494  
0457 184 080  
0487 002 287  
0429 333 528  
0436 375 938  
0499 484 738  
0474 291 542  
0448 927 771

### **admin@speedwayaustralia.net.au**

tim@speedwayaustralia.net.au  
james@speedwayaustralia.net.au  
liz@speedwayaustralia.net.au  
adam@speedwayaustralia.net.au  
ross@speedwayaustralia.net.au  
kirsten@speedwayaustralia.net.au  
angela@speedwayaustralia.net.au  
mark@speedwayaustralia.net.au

