

Welcome to the 111th edition of Speedway Australia's Speed eNews.

This weekly communication serves to keep 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.

Please make sure that if you are the contact receiving this information for your organisation that you pass the information on to the rest of your committee as to keep them in the loop. You are also encouraged to distribute this newsletter to your members. Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or require a copy of one of the previous editions.

TRACK FOCUS: SIMPSON FLIES AHEAD

In the heart of Southwestern Victoria, tucked away in picturesque prime dairy farm country is Heytesbury Stockfeeds Simpson Speedway. Racing commenced at the venue back in 1974 and has continued to provide spectacular racing for a remarkable 46 years.

The committee and dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly to make the venue what it is today, with a number of major capital works completed in the last few years that will stand the club in good stead for the future.

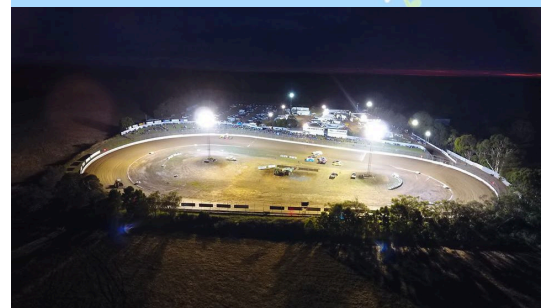
Safety improvements have been a welcome addition including the upgrade of the concrete safety fence. Replacing the unsuitable Armco (top pic) by increasing the height around the entire perimeter was a mammoth task over the previous two off-seasons.

Led by Club President Alan Symons and his team of hardworking committee, club members & valued sponsors they faced many challenges including the ever-changing weather and the enormous number of hours spent by all.

Concrete infield barriers on both the front, back stretch and corners have also vastly improved infield safety whilst racing is in operation.

Other significant improvements include the upgrade of the infield track lighting, which involved the replacement of existing ageing halogen lights with brand new LED lighting. This has significantly improved vision for competitors & spectators alike, along with improving TV coverage. Darren Leersen was the driving force behind the project, and they were absolutely thrilled when announced they had been successful in the Victorian Government initiative "Pick My Project".

Facility upgrades have taken shape including increased capacity in four corporate boxes, which now enable the venue to host a total of 46 patrons. There are new canteens and commercial cool room facilities, disabled access to amenities and the addition of hot water facilities to showers.



Competitor and official comforts have taken shape with the installation of a concrete floor to the large machinery shed including a concrete wash bay for competitors to utilise.

There are so many more achievements that Heytesbury Stockfeeds Simpson Speedway have made, and they are always thinking ahead and planning for the future. Plans to install a grandstand at the back of Turn 1 for increased spectator comfort are earmarked to be completed prior to next season.

HOW WILL SPEEDWAY RETURN?

The National Cabinet meeting this Friday will discuss the framework for the return of recreational, club and elite level sport. Speedway will be able to return when the relevant State Government makes a decision based on those guidelines.

It will be relatively easy to achieve social distancing for Speedway competitors and officials, a little more complex for spectators.

So, it is likely there could be some low-key activity at tracks, such as practices and race meetings at the lower end of the scale.

We will be able to facilitate this as required, and issue permits as per the guidelines for the public liability scheme.



THE THREE TYPES OF PRACTICE

Practice events are allowable provided that Speedway Australia are notified prior to the event and the general public are not permitted entry. Speedway Australia must issue a permit to activate the insurance cover and to ensure standards are maintained.

There are three types of practices, each requiring a Speedway Australia permit: -

1. Each track is allowed a number of FREE practice sessions each season, dependant on the number of race meetings scheduled. For example, if a track has 10 meetings over the course of the season, they can be issued 10 complimentary practice permits.
2. Where tracks host more practices than race meetings over the course of a season, a premium of \$300 will be invoiced to the Track for each subsequent practice session. Using the above example, the track will be charged \$300 for an eleventh practice session.
3. Separate to the options above, when a track hires their facility to a Racing Team for closed private track days and where the team conducts activities for commercial gain, a premium of \$144 will be invoiced to the Track before a Track Day Permit is issued.

Practices may well be a good way for activity to resume at your track, so it is important each venue is aware of how many complimentary sessions they have left for the current season (up to August 31).



STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

Just a reminder that our Stakeholder Survey is open for the next couple of weeks, and we would love to hear your thoughts on a range of topics. We have kept some questions the same so we can compare progress to 2017, the last time we conducted such an extensive survey. We do have a few licences to give away and there is also a Speedway Sedans Australia title nomination for one of their licence holders who submits their feedback. You can complete the survey here:- <https://forms.gle/WLZN81sHjeA8ch3j7>



AWARDS NOMINATIONS CLOSE ON THURSDAY

We have had a huge response to our call for nominations for the 2020 Australian Speedway Awards, which close this Thursday. This is your last chance to recognise high achievers in the following areas:

- Track of the Year
- Most Improved Track of the Year
- Official/Volunteer of the Year
- Photographer of the Year
- Promotional Item of the Year
- Innovation of the Year
- Competitor of the Year – Open Wheel
- Competitor of the Year – Sedan
- Competitor of the Year – Modified
- Competitor of the Year – Karting
- Competitor of the Year – Youth
- Overall Sportsperson of the Year



As mentioned previously, while scheduled to take place on the weekend of June 20 on the Gold Coast, this year's showcase event may either take place in September (venue to be determined) or be an online-only event. Either way, we still want to pay tribute to the high achievers of the 2019/20 season. Nominate here:- https://www.speedwayawards.org/Forms/Awards_Nominate.aspx

SPEEDWAY AUSTRALIA CONTACTS

Please see below for the relevant contacts for all your Speedway Australia requirements. These now include mobile numbers for all staff, so you can contact them directly whether or not the office is open.

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Ross Kirby	Sport Development Officer	0436 375 938	ross@speedwayaustralia.net.au
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