

## TRACK FOCUS – COAL CAPITALS LOFTY AMBITIONS



Blackwater's Coal Capital Speedway is a venue with an eye firmly on the future, as Club President Nathan Pershouse and Vice President Leon Walmsley have an ambitious plan to turn a hidden gem into the jewel in the crown of Central Queensland Speedway.

It would be fair to say that if competitors and fans were to put together a bucket list of 'must visit' Australian venues, Coal Capital may not be one of the first to spring to mind, mainly due to its under-the-radar activities in recent years. That could very well change in the near future.

Coal Capital was at a crossroads at the beginning of 2019, with little more than \$2,000 in the bank. It's viability as a venue was being called into question,

with some left wondering if they were 'flogging a dead horse'.

It was at this point Nathan Pershouse put his hand up to take the reigns as Club President. For Nathan, the initial goal was simple. "As a track, we needed to be more integrated with the Speedway community, and better engage with local business and community groups"

The venue joined Speedway Australia in mid-2019, with Nathan and Leon quick to engage Speedway Australia's assistance to apply for a number of State and Federal Government grants to assist with upgrades to the venue.



Their initial application – a \$10,000 funding grant for the back straight catch fence, was approved by the Federal Government in September 2019. Since then a raft of successful applications have amounted in \$66,000 of funding to the club, together with a further \$20,000 in funding from local business groups, all of whom are supportive of the club's efforts to revitalise the Blackwater venue.

With this cash injection, Coal Capital Speedway's goal is to continue works at the venue. A catch fence upgrade is currently underway, with the Club replacing the existing main straight structures with a 4-Star safety fence and installing new posts and wire rope along the back stretch.

Brand-new canteen and bar facilities are also in the planning phase, as the club looks to better facilitate the large crowds which have been drawn back to the reinvigorated venue.

The completion of these works will see this venue rise from a minimum-spec 1-Star venue, up to a to Speedway Australia 4-Star facility. An incredible achievement for a venue had only that \$2,000 in the bank less than 18 months ago.

## TRACK FOCUS – CONTINUED



For the Coal Capital Speedway Club, this is merely the first step in their ambitious plan to bring major features – including Australian Titles, and a potential World Series Sprintcars event to the Central West Queensland venue in the future.

Given their enviable track record in such a short space of time, it would take a brave person to bet against them achieving these goals!

**Project Summary:** Funding for a Speedway Australia 4-star fence for the entire venue

**Project Benefits:** \$66,000 in grants and \$20,000 sponsorship

**Project Timeframe:** 8 months

## STAKEHOLDER SURVEY – CAN YOU ASSIST WITH PRIZES?



It's three years since we conducted a national survey of speedway stakeholders, and the current downtime seemed like a good opportunity to obtain feedback from the community to assist us with future planning.

To ensure a wide variety of responses, it's usually necessary to tempt people with prizes and we're on the hunt for

giveaways from Speedway Australia tracks and divisions. So far, we've managed to organise the following: -

**Speedway Australia:** Speedway Australia Licences and World Series Sprintcars merchandise

**Speedway Sedans Australia:** A nomination into a National title for next season, and Super Sedan merchandise

If you got merchandise or other items/services that you wish to give away, then please let us know. We can tailor the prizes to suit, based on the division and/or home track of respondents. For example, the SSA title nomination is only able to be won by a current SSA licence holder who responds to the survey.

A sneak peak of the survey is available here. It will be distributed publicly in the next few days and is broadly similar to previous surveys so we can track changes over time.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.



## REDUCING THE DEMAND ON TRACK FINANCES

Our electronic licensing system and phone app turns 6 months old next week, which is a great time for us to be rolling out the next wave of initiatives, which are squarely aimed at making life easier for tracks.

The prepayment of one-day pit licences and bulk officials' licences can place strain on working capital, which will be an issue for many tracks when they are allowed to re-open after this crisis.

**To alleviate this, we've prioritised the development of systems that will enable tracks to have the protection afforded by these licences, without having to prepay for them.**

Currently the \$10 one-day pit licences (**top pic**) are shipped in books of 10, which means venues must outlay amounts that rapidly head into the thousands of dollars. And while the \$25 a year Officials licence has eliminated a good chunk of the \$6 per meeting Bulk Officials licences, there are still many tracks using them (**bottom**).

Both of these licences exist to reduce the risk of expensive public liability claims, which history shows is the biggest threat that the sport faces as they lead to unaffordable premiums. Our aim is to provide both of these services electronically, so that venues do not have to draw on precious funds ahead of race meetings. Development is proceeding well, and we'll have more updates soon about how these will roll out when racing resumes!



## SPEEDWAY AUSTRALIA CONTACTS

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*This 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.*

