

FLASHBACK: HOW EXPENSIVE INSURANCE USED TO BE

We recently stumbled across a reminder of how far the sport has progressed in the couple of decades. It became extremely difficult for insurance companies to operate in the aftermath of September 2001, which led to massive premium increases and in some cases the complete inability to obtain public liability insurance.

On top of that external issue, Speedway was also averaging around 60 personal accident and public liability claims per year, which meant a massive increase for the 2002/03 season. According to a 2002 press release, the average cost of race meeting insurance was \$4250 per night, more than double the year before.



Thankfully, venues now pay a fraction of that cost, and one of the major reasons that insurance is more affordable today is the continuing decline in the number of claims. As a sport, we are down about 75% from the 1997 peak, which is something we should all be proud of. A massive focus on vehicle and venue safety, improved scrutineering standards and the implementation of numerous personal safety equipment rules have all played a part.

FUNDING FOR UPGRADES AVAILABLE TO WA TRACKS



The Western Australian Government has announced a \$12 million fast-tracked community sport grant programme to assist clubs with infrastructure projects in the wake of COVID-19.

The grants allow for not-for-profit sporting groups to develop sustainable infrastructure to increase participation in sport, while supporting local economies by creating jobs.

Examples relevant to Speedway include building or replacing concrete walls, catch fences, lighting upgrades or improvements to club room facilities.

With several notable projects being discussed by WA Speedway venues, this is the perfect opportunity to secure funding to assist future-proofing venues. Tracks looking for assistance in applying for these grants should contact Sport Development Officer, Ross Kirby and get the ball rolling prior to the September 11, 2020 cut off.

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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