

VICE CHAIRMAN

It was unanimously agreed that the World Driving Championship held in Sydney in February 2015 was the best ever. Harness Racing Australia took this competition to a whole new level in standards and media coverage. The drivers visited hospitals, schools and a wide variety of tracks and were always available for interviews and autographs. The stewards reported that not a single incident required reviewing and all the drivers adapted well to the Australian style of racing. To have an idea of the level these drivers were competing at, the final leg of the series held at Tab Corp Park, Menangle was a Group 2 race for \$50,000 AUS and was won in 1.52 by GLOBAL VIEW, driven by the Championship Winner DEXTER DUNN from New Zealand.

The next Championship will be held in Canada in 2017 and in conversations I had with Standardbred Canada representative, John Gallinger, they fully intend to improve the competition again. He also suggested there could be a wildcard opportunity for a driver from the UK or Ireland to be invited. One suggestion myself and Mark Flanagan (of IHRA) are considering is to run a driving championship during the 2016 season at various tracks featuring drivers from both countries, with the eventual winner being the driver of choice should the wildcard invitation arrive in 2017. This is just one idea put forward. Please feel free to contact Mark or myself if you have suggestions you would like us to use.

The World Trotting Conference held at

the same time was a unique and exciting experience for me. We were treated as ambassadors from the moment we arrived and each day was a new learning curve. The subjects covered included industry development, digital media, breeding and a keynote address by the President of the World Anti-Doping Agency, The Hon John Fahey AC.

I hope the contacts I have made will serve me well in the future as we try to take the BHRC forward. With that in mind I would especially like to thank Andrew Kelly of Harness Racing Australia for being such a kind and thoughtful host. His help in the coming months will prove invaluable as will that of Bill Hutchison who will arrive in June and spend the next three months working with us. These people and others like them are convinced we have a future and I will try to introduce them to as many licence holders as I can.

Yours in sport
Jim McNally