

RIVERTON TROTTING CLUB - Presidents Report 2023-2024

I'm delighted to present my first report to our members and supporters. Our racing dates for the racing season in review were split over two financial years, as a result only our Cup Day held on the 28th January 2024 is in the club's financial year. Our second meeting on the 4th of May will fall into the new financial year.

The financial report for the Club shows a -\$4,772 deficit. Last year's deficit was -\$9,358 so I am pleased that we have managed to reduce this, especially as we hosted our first meeting since 1990 on the grass track at the Riverton Racecourse. The Riverton Racing Club (RRC) were a huge supporter of harness racing returning to Riverton, previously our cup meeting was held at Ascot Park Raceway. Our turnover increased from \$572,225 in 2023 to \$782,136.

10 races were carded and offered attractive stakes totalling \$136,000, features were the Riverton Rural Transport Cup which was won by 'Got you Covered' owned by Wendy Nordquist, trained by Brent and Tim White, Ashburton, and driven Brent Barclay. The cup was presented to Riley Black. The Neville Cleaver Fishing Aparima Handicap Trot was won by 'Sally Lindenny', owned by Murray Swain and trained/driven by Kirstin Green.

A focus was placed on sponsorship which was driven by Lynley McKay with huge success, this helped reduce the club's deficit. The sponsors were catered for with a variety of refreshments, classy food and a BBQ in their own indoor/outdoor area. This resulted in many positive comments in relation to the hospitality. There were also two public bars open with food being offered in both.

The Riverton Racing Club kindly offered the rental of the course at a reduced rate for our first meeting back on the grass. Advertising signs were made and were placed around the countryside to promote the day. Two scissor lifts were required to be hired for TAB Trackside footage, this cost is shown under raceday expenses and was split equally between the RTC and RRC.

The road to back to grass racing at Riverton was instigated by our Immediate Past President, Bruce Stewart. Bruce had been saying for a number of years how it would be great to bring the trots back to Riverton, the local area and the grass track. There were still a few hoops to go through to finalise the racing on the grass track; 1. change of date as per HRNZ request and 2. approval of the track being suitable. The Wairio Trotting club kindly allowed us to swap race dates from the 11th of February to the 28th of January.

The RRC committee especially, President; Trevor Brown, Committeeman; Barry Leith and Caretaker; Colin Brown worked many hours to ensure the track was up to standard, especially making the crossing smooth. On the 8th of January Nathan Williamson brought a couple of horses along to test the track before final sign off was given by John Denton (HRNZ National Track Inspector).

On the day a large crowd attended making it a good family day out, and the weather was kind to us. A variety of activities were held for children, we had Kids Go Racing pack giveaways, TAB voucher giveaways and a Fashion in the Field competition. A BBQ was provided for trainers, drivers and owners.

The Passing Lane was generously sponsored by the Carriers Arms Hotel. The Riverton Supervalve provided gift baskets, Michelle Caig had gifts for owners of the Best Presented Horse in each race and courtesy coaches were provided by Carriers Arms Hotel and the Colac Bay Tavern.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people who contributed huge amounts of time to make our Cup Day the success it was. I'd like to say a huge thank all to our raceday sponsors, for those that did not take up the opportunity of celebrating our Cup Day, I hope you can join us next year.

Thank you to all the people who contributed hours of work in helping with the raceday, before, during and after.

Membership; the committee have recently decided to increase membership to \$15, our subs have not increased for a very long time, it is our intention is to ensure we acknowledge the support of our members at our Riverton Cup Day in January, the finer details of this acknowledgement are still to be finalised.

A big thankyou to Bruce Stewart for his support as I transitioned into the role of the President, his knowledge and expertise of 11 years as a President is invaluable. Thank you to the committee for all their hard work as we ventured into racing at a new place. Finally, thank you to the support of Southern Harness Office staff, Jason Broad, Lindsay Beer, Julie McEwan-Franks and Nicole Elliot.

Tracey McMaster - President

Our race dates for next season are Sunday 26th January 2025 (Riverton Racecourse, Grass) and Sunday 4th May 2025 (Central Southland Raceway, Winton).