

Winton Harness Racing Club
Presidents Report 2024

On behalf of my committee, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the 2023/2024 season. Financially we have recorded a surplus of \$130,699, this will contribute to projects undertaken after balance date which will fall into the 2025 financial year.

It's been another busy season for the committee with 11 meetings starting on Thursday the 10th August 2023 and culminating with the Winter Rewards finals day on Saturday 29th June 2024. It would be nice to have more meetings over the January, February and March period when the weather is more favourable and we have long twilights. This is something we will continue to advocate for at a higher level.

Our cup meeting this year was held on Saturday 13th April and we had 12 races for the day. The Winton Cup was sponsored by Stearne Roofing Ltd and was won by 'Beach Flybye' trained by the Telfers and driven by Tim Williams. The Vet South Equine/SSBA Southern Belle Final was won by 'Sweet Diamond' trained by the Telfers as well and driven by Jonny Cox. This year we also had the running of the inaugural Group 2 race the Entain 2YO Fillies Mobile pace. This was won by 'Captains Mistress' trained and driven by Nathan Williamson. A big congratulations to the connections of these horses. This season we hope to run our cup meeting on Saturday 22 March.

As usual an enjoyable day was had for the Master Plumbers race day on Saturday 11th May and we are hopefully hosting them again in the coming season on Thursday 27th February which is a twilight meeting.

I'd like to mention the good turnover we had on 10th January 2024. Even though it was a Wednesday we achieved a turnover of \$923,383 which was due to a first four jackpotting and bumping the turnover up with the turnover going from \$84K on race 6 to \$199K for race 8 when it was struck!

On Saturday 29th June we held the Winter Rewards finals day at Central Southland Raceway. There were six finals run with stakes of \$25,000 each on offer. We will be hosting this again in the upcoming season on Thursday 17th July 2025.

The Café/Coffee area is going well and is a great asset to the venue. Thanks to Noela and Raylene and their helpers.

We have continued to carry out improvements on course. The front of the Birdcage stand was closed in and new windows installed as well as new carpet and painting to get ready for the coming 24/25 season. It looks really good and is a great area now for hosting sponsors. We have more projects planned for the future.

A big thank you to all the committee members. Special thanks to Marty Fairbairn for sorting the calves, and all the farmers who helped to raise them, and his great help on race day looking after the Sponsors/Presidents bar. Thanks to Neville Skinner for looking after the Public Bar and MC duties on race day. Thanks to Nathan for his efforts in securing new sponsors and looking after them on race day. Thanks to Chelsea for organising the dress rugs and the best presented prizes.

Thank you to Bernie Rae, Louise Faithful, Diane Dynes & Trevor Proctor, for their beautifying of the venue with special effort being made on race days, and for the lovely flower garlands provided for cup day, your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Thanks to the Southern Harness team, our sponsors & Lindsay Beer. Also thanks to the racecourse Trustees also Lauren Pearson & Ian Jamieson our Caretakers, along with Tash Waddell who drives the tractor on race day.

I wish you all the best with your racing endeavours and I look forward to seeing you at the Central Southland Raceway.

Ian Goodman
President