

2023 Presidents Report

On behalf of my committee, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the 2022/2023 season.

It's been another busy season for the committee with 11 meetings ranging from Thursday the 25th August 2022 and culminating with the Winter Rewards finals day on Friday 30th June 2023. 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 unfortunately run on a Thursday in April, but we still had 12 races for the day. The Winton Businesses Cup was won by 'Franco Norton' trained by Steven McRae and driven by Craig Thornley. The SSBA/Vet South Equine Southern Belle Speed Series final was won by 'Joes Rock' trained by our Vice President Brett Gray and driven by Nathan Williamson (the GOAT). A big congratulations to the connections of these horses. This season our cup day is on a Saturday (13th April) with some big races planned as we strive to lift this day to a premier event in the Southern racing calendar.

As usual an enjoyable day was had for the Master Plumbers race day and we look forward hosting them again in the coming season.

On Friday 30th June we held the Winter Rewards finals day at Central Southland Raceway, we will be hosting this again in the upcoming season with some good money on offer.

The new Café/Coffee room has been well received and is a great asset to the venue. Thanks to Nola and Raylene and their helpers.

The improvements on course have continued this year. A full track resurface was undertaken in August 2022, a new water tanker was purchased in December 2022, we contributed towards a safety glass project in the north grandstand, this grandstand has also been partially re-roofed, we have upgraded the members/sponsors bar, helped towards the cost of replacing the steel windows with aluminium in the members grandstand and this whole building has also been repainted. We have other projects planned for the future. Taking into account the multitude of projects listed above the club has performed well financially recording a surplus of \$12,440, it is also worth noting that \$10,000 was injected into stakes top ups throughout the season.

At last year's AGM Ray Hazlett was presented with a life membership for the years of service he has given to the club.

The committee will be looking very dapper this season in their new shirts, thanks to Bernie Rae for organising this. Also thanks to Chelsea Faithful for organising the dress rugs and best presented prizes on race day and for looking after the clubs social media presence. Enjoy your time at Conference ladies. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Alister Black and Nathan Kean to the committee, they have been attending committee meetings for some months now and will officially join the committee at the AGM.

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. Thanks to Neville Skinner for looking after the Public Bar and MC duties on race day. Thank you to Louise Faithful & Diane Dynes for their beautifying of the venue with special effort being made on race days, your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Also thank you for the lovely flower garlands provided for cup day. Thanks to the Southern Harness team, our sponsors & Lindsay Beer. 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