

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2022/2023

I wish every raceday could go as well as last seasons did 😊

After the previous 3 years, it was a big relief to finally put on a day without torrential rain, a major medical emergency or Covid being big factors.

It's been a very busy year for the club. We pride ourselves on putting on a great event, not just a horse race meeting but this past season has arguably been our busiest away from race day, certainly in my 8 years as President.

SEASON REVIEW

Raceday - As organisers it is a wonderful feeling to see such a large crowd support our day. We certainly don't take it for granted. Crowd numbers were up on last year and many of that increase were members of the NZ Motor Caravan Association who made a destination of our meeting. We welcome them and hope they, and everyone else had a really great time.

Early on there were large queues being shut out of our tote windows. There was nothing we as a club could do about this. We employed over 50 tote staff and there simply weren't any more staff available in the whole South Island. The TAB dictate our race start times and they underestimated our crowd. It was timely that the NZ boss of the TAB was there to see for himself.

The Ranfurly Transport Ltd/RD Petroleum Cup was won by 'Henry Hubert' for the Gordon's and trained by the Dunn stable. The first 4 horses home finished within half a length of each other.

The Andrew May Contracting/Alexandra New World FFA trot raced for the Gallagher Family Gold Cup was impressively taken out by 'Hurricane Hill' for owners Roydon Lodge and the Gibson's. He was trained by none other than Phil Williamson.

Thank you so much to all the owners and trainers who supported our day, be you owners of maiden's or cup horses, we wouldn't have a day that creates so much entertainment and economic benefit to our community without you.

Sponsors - We are truly blessed to have support from over 50 sponsors, big and small. Some give money, others give "in kind" sponsorship, but collectively they make our day possible. Sponsorship included money, painting buildings, venue repairs, fertiliser, contractors time and equipment, to name but a few.

Narellan Pools, RD Petroleum and Ranfurly Transport are our feature sponsors. I cannot say a big enough thank you to these businesses for their support. Forgive me for not naming you all here.

Trusts - This was the second year of some big capital projects which simply wouldn't have been possible without financial support of trusts. To the Aotearoa Trust, Pub Charity, Bendigo Valley, Trillian Trust and the Bob Turnbull Trust, I cannot say a big enough thank you to you all.

Capital Projects - We have now completed the K-line irrigation, new jog track, re-grassing of the carpark and a water filter system covering the whole course. All of this has been achieved in the past year.

Our venue is in need of further improvements and we have applied to a new fund from the TAB for over \$255,000 for 5 projects. This includes electrical upgrade, more roofing over horse tie-up stalls being the biggest two. If successful we can do a decades work in a single year. We don't know if we will be successful but these are projects we will have to find funding for one way or another in the coming years.

Balance Sheet - This reflects 3 significant aspects. First our raceday was a huge success profiting approximately \$35k. Second the amount of money we are investing in the venue - over \$37k - be it grants, profits or reserves to make it produce more income and a lot around R&M or H&S.

Third depreciation of \$7k, and a decision to write off \$9k that appeared annually as a loan to the Central Otago Equestrian Club. This was never intended to be repaid so has been written off but makes our books look worse for this decision. Our decision to transfer some of our bank investments to a managed portfolio is reflecting similar results to people's KiwiSaver investments but we remain confident of this strategy long term. Overall a paper loss of -\$20,534 for the year, but our cash reserves at the bank actually increased. No one likes a loss, but I'm confident of our long-term strategy.

Electronic communication - Less than one third of our members have provided an email address to us. It would be really helpful if those who use email would provide us your address so we can communicate more often with you all. We have resisted putting up our members fees but the cost of communication by postal mail is a limiting factor for us as a club.

BYO Exemption Bill - Finally 7 years after our club, in particular, first were faced with doubt from Police around allowing BYO at our venue at the same time as having a licensed area. The matter was finally resolved when Parliament passed a Bill that protects small race clubs from doubt and therefore possible prosecution if running a race meeting with a licensed bar and allowing BYO.

The new Bill is not perfect, it only covers small clubs who stage 3 days races or less. But for a National Party Members Bill to pass under a Labour/Green government is truly, truly remarkable. It will simply mean business as usual at our day, nothing

more. I must sincerely thank politicians Ian Mckelvie and Michael Woodhouse in particular for achieving this and all the MP's who voted for it especially from across the house.

Thank you to all the Trotting Clubs, community groups and HRNZ officials who supported this all that time.

I note that NZTR were totally opposed and not one galloping club wrote in support of this bill.

Dual Code Venues - HRNZ and NZTR have had some preliminary discussions on venues like Omakau, where one code have "moved" their club to another venue and the unintended consequences that decision has caused the club that remains. There are quite a few clubs affected and I will report any outcomes, assuming decisions are made but I doubt it will happen quickly. It's entirely a code issue to sort out but we fully support such discussions taking place.

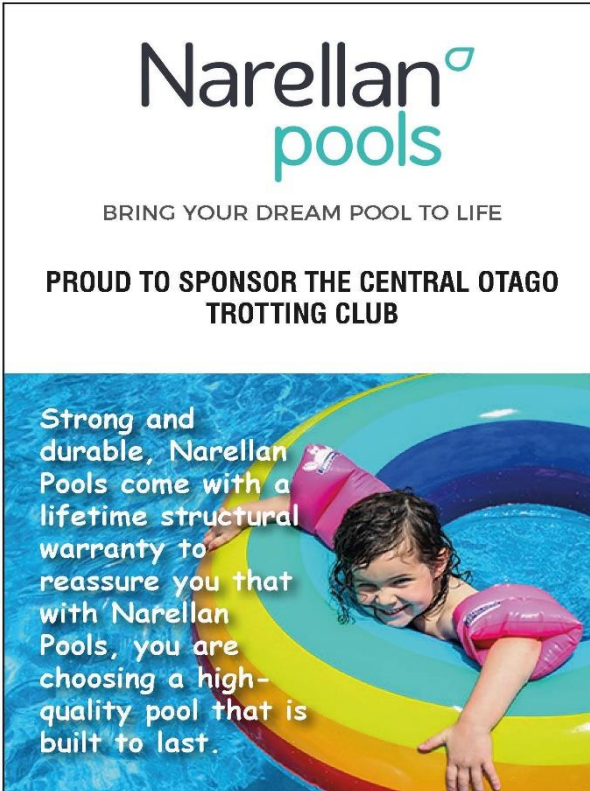
Volunteers - I risk sounding like an Oscars winner speech, but I must acknowledge all of our many volunteers. They give countless time throughout the year to see our event goes ahead and to the level everyone has come to expect of us. Included in this group are our committee, our course caretakers Richard, Ginger and Lionel and especially those who help at working bees. I include with this group and must also acknowledge the behind the scenes work of our admin team - Southern Harness, Trish Harris, Lindsay Beer and Bec Sinnamon. I'd hate to think how many total hours go into putting on just one day, but like I said at the beginning when you get to be part of a day like last raceday it's worth it.

Entain/TAB deal - You may know a deal was finalised very recently where Entain, one of the world's largest betting companies "partnered" with the NZ TAB. It has seen an immediate and welcome cash injection to the 3 racing codes. It has resulted in record stakes being offered at our next raceday so get yourself a horse and bring it to Omakau 🐎..... seriously!!!! What a great time to get involved in a syndicate.

We as clubs will need to justify this increase in funding from Entain over and above what the TAB funding was, but I like a lot of their language around creating positive customer experiences among others. I think a club like ours could be a good fit with this new entity. At the time of writing this we as clubs are looking forward to meeting them during September.

Final thoughts - So you have just under 4 months until our next big day of "country racing at its best". That's plenty of time to get yourself a horse - any horse will do ... so long as it's a trotter or a pacer or pay your sub so we can afford a stamp to post your tickets and just come and join in the fun with one of NZ's iconic race meetings. Whatever you do, go mark Tuesday 2nd January on your calendar now and we look forward to seeing if we can top last years great day out.

Regards,
Graham Sinnamon



**Narellan^o
pools**

BRING YOUR DREAM POOL TO LIFE

**PROUD TO SPONSOR THE CENTRAL OTAGO
TROTTING CLUB**

Strong and durable, Narellan Pools come with a lifetime structural warranty to reassure you that with Narellan Pools, you are choosing a high-quality pool that is built to last.