

# Oamaru Harness Racing Club (Incorporated)

## President's Report 2023

**To the Members:** I would like to invite you to attend the 114<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Oamaru Harness Racing Club at 7.30 pm on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in the Sponsors pavilion at the Oamaru Racecourse. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts covering the Oamaru Harness Racing Club (Inc) for the year ending 31 July 2023 are currently at the final audit stage. These will be available in hard copy on the night or alternatively can be emailed or posted to you on request.

**Obituary:** Our sympathy is extended to the families that have lost loved ones both involved with the Oamaru Harness Club and members, in particular the Ormandy families.

**Racing:** After a couple of frustrating years with Covid restrictions we have finally come out the other side relatively unscathed. Our feature meeting for the 2022/2023 season was Placemakers Hannon Memorial Day which attracted quality fields for the 10 races carded.

The features on the day were won by the following:

2022 Placemakers Hannon Memorial – **Akuta** (trained by Mark Purdon & Hayden Cullen & driven by Mark Purdon)

2022 Jasmy'n's Gift Williamson Racing Stables Fille & Mares Stakes – **I Dream Of Jeannie** (trained by Sam Smolenski & driven by Mark Purdon)

2022 Diamond Creek Farm Oamaru Juvenile Stakes – **Watermelon Sugar** (trained by Cran & Chrissie Dalgety & driven by Blair Orange)

2022 Nevele R Stud Fillies Series (Heat 3) – **Queen Of Diamonds** (trained by Mark Purdon & Hayden Cullen & driven by Mark Purdon)

The other race days we held were a hard slog, especially when they are unfavourable weekdays. We can't all take time off work to attend these. But once again we did perform very well.

At the time of writing this the 2023/2024 racing season has started well with the 2023 running of the Placemakers Hannon Memorial already behind us. For the first time the stakes on offer exceeded \$200,000. Unfortunately the weather did not play its part but the racing lived up to our expectations.

**Sponsors:** Once again our loyal sponsors have stayed on board along with a couple of new ones which we need to look after. Placemakers stepped up again for the 2023 Hannon Memorial plus an increase in sponsorship and the word on Hannon day indicated that the relationship was going to continue going forward. To our other sponsors, the club is very grateful for your support and hope we can approach you again in the future. Many thanks to you all.

**Oamaru Harness Committee:** A big thank-you to all the committee. We welcomed Scott Elliffe to the committee and hope he can be of great value as he has helped with the presentation of our Strategic Plan as part of the Venue Review process that we have had with Harness Racing NZ to keep harness racing going here in Oamaru. Special thanks to our Minute Secretary Jessie Wilson, Donald Kinimont as Treasurer and Bev Williamson, as my right-hand woman and the strength she brings to the club and grounds.

**Trials:** Once again it has been a busy season where hardly a month goes by without trials with almost 20 trials held over the last year. Many thanks to the timekeepers and the ladies in the canteen.

**Grounds:** A big thanks to the Joint Grounds Committee and Wayne Smaill (Caretaker) for their commitment and support throughout the year. Also thank you to Dave Heffernan in his role as Farm Manager.

Once again, thank-you to everyone for their support and encouragement over the past year. We look forward to the 2023/2024 racing season. A huge thank you to Southern Harness Racing for their support of our club by way of programming, stakes and trying to enforce our location as a prestigious, essential and strategic racing/training centre.

David Ovens

**PRESIDENT**