

Gore Harness Racing Club - Presidents Report 2025

In my last report from my second term as President for the club, it feels like we are gaining some real momentum as a club. We've just hosted the Southern Surge finals and received some great feedback from Harness Racing NZ CEO Brad Steele.

This year we have had our Spring and Christmas meetings on our lightning-fast all-weather track and our hugely successful February grass meeting performed well.

Firstly, I must thank the really tight committee we have at the Gore Harness Racing Club. The willingness to put in all those volunteer hours doing working bee's and making our race meetings run smoothly are a credit to you all. Thank you must also go to the Gore Racing Club and to the groundsman John McKay for the way the course looks over the spring and summer months and the way we can pick up the phone and work out any issues with each other constructively.

Our major race day annually is on the 27th of December, and we had a hugely successful and profitable day. The MLT Gore Cup was taken out stylishly by *Pinseeker*. The Cardrona Distillery Stakes was taken out by a very classy *Built for Glory* and the Jaccka Lodge Gore Trotting Cup was taken out by *Majestic Love*. Turnover for the day continues to be up over one million dollars which is a great result for the club and makes it one of the premier betting days in the south.

Our other feature meeting on February 16th (grass) saw the Ricky Gutsell trained *Insarchatwist* win the Gore Town and Country Summer Cup handicap. The Kim McDowall Painting and Decorating Trot was taken out by *Hidden Talent* trained to perfection by Nathan Williamson.

One of the biggest features of the Gore races is that every single race has a sponsor. We really appreciate the support from the local businesses and the hard work that Pam Norman puts in to finding these sponsors and making the day enjoyable for them as well. I encourage all members to take notes of the sponsors on our race days and support their businesses in return.

To Jason, Julie, Nicole and the Southern Harness Board, thank you for your support over the last year. I feel like it is more open and transparent now and there is greater trust between the Clubs and Southern Harness due to your hard work.

Our biggest project of the year has undoubtedly been the resurveying of our all-weather track. This has been very successful, and we are now working towards having GPS tracking for all timing sectionals at our future race meetings.

In moving the adoption of the club's annual accounts, you will see we have come through the year with a healthy surplus of \$25,584. This is down slightly on last year, but this is mainly because of the \$26,000 spent topping up our stakes. We made some money outside of racing by investing in some dairy heifers and we also have our farm ticking along very nicely with the standing grass being sold for a relatively good profit each year. Bruce Wallace has been fantastic in making sure the farm is running at maximum capacity.

In closing I would like to again thank my committee. Also I am looking forward to seeing Lisa Barrie take over the reins. I look forward to another successful year for the club and wish you all the best.

Chris Wilson - President