

RIVERTON TROTTING CLUB - Presidents Report 2025

Our race dates being reviewed for the 2024/2025 financial year are Saturday 4th May 2024 and Sunday 26th January 2025 (Cup Day).

Substantial time was invested by Club Vice President Lynley McKay and her team in continuing to seek sponsorship for our race meetings. Thank you to Bruce and Lynley for leading this and to Diane Dynes for seeking prizes for Fashion in the Field. New sponsors were brought on board for the January race meeting, and we appreciate all those that support our days of racing.

Saturday 4 May 2024 meeting was held at the Winton Racecourse

This was a low-key meeting, competing with Duck shooting weekend in Southland. Whilst still trying to get people to the races, this day is reliant on off course betting. We advertised the meeting through Facebook. We continued to provide a free BBQ for Trainers, Drivers and public which was very much appreciated. Bottles of wine were given to the best presented horse in each of the 10 races held.

Cup Day - Sunday 26 January 2025 held on the grass at the Riverton Racecourse.

The day was advertised by the committee by putting up billboards, road signs and pamphlets throughout Invercargill but mainly through Western and Central Southland. Advertising was undertaken on the radio, in the Otago Daily Times and also the Wyndham HRC and the Central Otago TC advertised our dates in their racebooks.

The Riverton Racing Club, especially Trevor Brown (President) and Colin Brown (Caretaker) continue to support our race day which is appreciated.

Barry Cook stepped in at the last minute becoming our Bar Manager for the day.

The meeting held 10 races and offered attractive stakes: 2 x \$20,000 races, one for the Carrier Arms Hotel Riverton Cup and one for the Neville Cleaver Fishing Handicap Trot. In addition to the two feature races there was 1 x \$11,000 race, 5 x \$12,000 races and 1 x \$14,000 race and 1x \$15,000 race. The Carriers Arms became our new sponsors for the Riverton Trotting Cup and Kennedy Building for the passing lane at this meeting.

The sponsors were catered for with a variety of refreshments, classy food and a BBQ in their own indoor/outdoor area. This continues to be appreciated. This year we had some prizes for our sponsors drawn, from a hat. This was a hit because sponsors don't normally get to win a prize!

There were two public bars open with food being offered in both.

Children's entertainment consisted of pony rides and Kidz Kartz sulky rides, bouncy castle, sumo suits, bumper balls and astroball.

There were 3 other food vendors on the day and a variety of giveaways for children and adults.

Merv Hanna was our on-course announcer for the day. Fashion in the Field was held for men and women.

A BBQ was provided for trainers, drivers and owners. Riverton Supervalu provided gift baskets.

Michelle Caig had gifts for owners of the Best Presented Horse in each race.

A courtesy coach was provided by Carriers Arms Hotel.

Aaron Swain sponsored the 5th placing in each race with a bag of feed courtesy of McMillan Equine Feeds.

Anderson Park Motel in Cromwell provided 2 nights' accommodation available to be entered through the racebook.

The Riverton Butchery supported our BBQ for owners, drivers and trainers. Also, the BBQ in the sponsors area.

Thank you to the additional help given by Dale Stearne, Julie Kilkelly and David McKay before, on and after the day, this was very much appreciated.

The two feature races:

The Carrier Arms Hotel Riverton Cup was won by 'Bobbies Rock', owned by Tom and Julie Kilkelly and Philip and Jo Fahey. The horse was driven and trained by Kirstin Green. It was an honour to present this trophy to our own committee member Tom and his wife Julie. Julie's late father Peter Burns had a very strong connection with the Riverton Trotting Club for many years being Secretary and Treasurer of the club - a very fitting result.

The Neville Cleaver Fishing Aparima Handicap Trot was won by 'Hidden Talent', owned by the Griffins Syndicate. The horse was driven and trained by Nathan Williamson. Nathan has supported the club from the initial approval of racing at Riverton in January 2024.

Another feature was the trotter 'Precious Memories' which I part own with fellow committee member Bridget Stevens winning the lower grade trot. Driven by Craig Ferguson and trained by Chelsea Faithful.

This year we had to compete with the Riverton School Reunion and a Car Show. The crowd appeared down on the previous year, the weather was overcast, but still new people were coming to our races. One parent commented; "they had never been to the races and took their children who were entertained all day, so it was good to relax and enjoy."

Financial

The annual financial performance report for Riverton Trotting Club 2025 shows a deficit of \$7,955. The previous year's deficit was \$4,772. Unfortunately, in this year there has been no grant funding available from Trillian Trust to help with the cost of the course rentals which total \$16,000 for both racing venues. An increase in membership subscriptions was introduced, increasing from \$11 to \$15.

Ongoing monthly expenses incurred in the year are sourced from our retained earnings. In the current environment there is no extra funding available to assist us to encourage people come to the races, through turnover or gross betting revenue. Our aim as a club is to invest in the future of harness racing and trying to get more people on course to experience the thrill of racing and hopefully result in more owners. We will continue in hope that the Harness Racing NZ funding model will allow for more funding to be sourced as we as a committee continue to work very hard to make the day a success.

Thank you

I'd like to say a huge thank all to our new and continuing loyal race day sponsors, for those that did not take up the opportunity of celebrating our Cup Day, I hope you can join us next year.

Thank you to Tui Base camp for the chiller trailer.

To the Central/Western Cricket club for providing help in the bars and the Legionnaires who helped as car parking attendants.

Thank you to the continued support of Southern Harness Office staff, Jason Broad, Julie McEwan-Franks and Nicole Elliott and Promotions Officer, Lindsay Beer.

I would like to extend thanks to the Trainers, Owners and Drivers for supporting the Riverton Trotting Club on both the grass and all-weather tracks, especially those that travel from afar. Thank you!

Finally, a huge thank you to the committee for all their hard work behind the scenes and making everything run smoothly on our race days. You all are invaluable with so much knowledge and expertise.

The dates of our race meetings for the 2025/2026 racing season are Sunday 25th January 2026 and Sunday 3rd May 2026.

We will be holding a Special General Meeting on the same night as the Annual General Meeting (Wednesday 6th August at 7pm), this is a formality to enable us to adopt a new constitution in order to meet the requirements of the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and the Racing Industry Act 2020. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Tracey McMaster
President