

Winton Harness Racing Club Presidents Report 2025

On behalf of my committee, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the 2024/2025 season. Financially the club has recorded a healthy surplus of \$40,928.

It's been another busy racing season for the committee with 13 meetings starting on Thursday the 1st August 2024 and culminating with the Winter Rewards finals day on Thursday 17th July 2025, this was 2 more meetings than the previous season. 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 held on Thursday 17th April and we had 11 races for the day. The Winton Cup was sponsored by All Lay Carpets & Drapes and was won by 'Betterthancash' trained by the Regan Todd and driven by Nathan Williamson. The Vet South Equine/SSBA Southern Belle Final was won by 'Seaside Rose' trained by the Telfers and driven by Tim Williams. This year the Group 2 Entain 2YO Fillies Mobile was won by 'Miki's Deal' trained by Brett Gray, driven by Matty Williamson and owned by a very happy Marty Fairbairn.

On Saturday 22nd March we held the Central Southland Cup Day meeting with the cup race sponsored by Subway Winton & Uppercuts Butchery. The race was won by 'Piccadilly Pete' trained by Matt Purvis and driven by Matty Williamson. A big congratulations to the connections of these horses.

As usual an enjoyable day was had for the Master Plumbers race day on Thursday 27th February which is a twilight meeting. Hopefully they will be back next year on the 26th February. This season horse numbers have been a problem at times with only 7 races held on the 1st August and 8th May meetings.

We were delighted to be advised by Harness Racing NZ that the Winton Harness Racing Club would be hosting heats of the World Drivers Championship on Sunday the 9th November 2025, planning is well underway for this and we are all looking forward to it. Please get in touch early if you are interested in sponsorship and hospitality options.

In May we installed an AED unit on the wall next to the door to the lady's driver's room in the Birdcage. The committee would like to express its appreciation to the Southland Masonic Charitable Trust for the grant to pay for this. We also purchased new furniture for the members bar which has been well received and compliments the upgrade to the balcony area. Thank you to the Wairio Trotting Club who contributed to the purchasing of the new furniture. The Café/Coffee room is going well and is a great asset to the venue. Thanks to Nola and Raylene and their helpers.

On 17th July we held the Winter Rewards finals day at Central Southland Raceway. There were six finals run with stakes of \$25,000 each on offer. Hopefully we will be hosting this again in the upcoming season on Sunday 26th July 2026.

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, and his great help on race day looking after the Sponsors/Presidents bar. Thanks to Neville Skinner for looking after the Public Bar and MC duties on race day. Thanks to Nathan Kean for his efforts in securing new sponsors and looking after them on race day. Thanks to Chelsea Faithful for organising the dress rugs and the best presented prizes. Thank you to Louise Cox, Diane Dynes, Bernie Rae and Trevor Proctor for their work beautifying of the venue with special effort being made on race days, your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Also thank you Louise and Diane for the lovely flower garlands provided for cup day. Thanks to the Southern Harness team, our sponsors and 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