

## **CHRISTCHURCH GREYHOUND RACING CLUB 2019 /2020 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

### **Covid - 19**

This is the worst pandemic the world has ever seen. The disruption to all industries and businesses throughout New Zealand and beyond will take years to recover and it may never go away.

The efforts made by our GRNZ industry leaders to get Greyhound Racing up and running before the other racing codes was really appreciated. We finished racing on 20<sup>th</sup> March and recommenced 6 weeks later 5<sup>th</sup> May. Harness started on 28<sup>th</sup> May and Gallops did not start until 20<sup>th</sup> June.

While there were changes we had to make to our raceday protocols, everything went smoothly and that says a lot for the grittiness and resolve of all our members and participants. I commend everyone for their efforts during and post lockdown. The winner of the first race back after COVID-19 was Steve and Bonnie Evans's Goldstar Perrie.

As a goodwill gesture, the board initiated free trials to members and participants in the early period post lockdown, and all members (active and non-active) were given a gift voucher. Through the Government 'Wage Subsidy Grant' we were able to pay all our staff throughout the lockdown period.

We came out of lockdown with a 4-day racing week with just under 200 race meetings allocated for the 2020/2021 season (up from around 137). Interestingly, that with the additional racing day allocation when we started back, by years end, we had ended up with having 3 extra meetings than we would have had, originally.

It was unfortunate that our southern racing partners did not fare as well. However, there are signs already, that those venues are growing back slowly. As a southern entity this will lead to even more racing dates and opportunities allocated to the South Island.

### **2019/2020 Looking back:**

The Club conducted 1688 Races with 13,279 starters. Turnover figures for the season are as follows:

N.Z. Turnover	\$42,962,937
Export turnover	\$58,761,106
Total Stakes Paid	\$ 4,068,051

### **GROUP 1 RACING AT ADDINGTON**

2019 Christchurch Casino New Zealand Cup 520 Metres Stake \$125,000

1st Piny Mack (The Late Steve Clark), 2nd Dyna Dave (Craig Roberts) 3rd Start The Show (Ray Adcock)

Winner's time: 30.11

2019 The Fitz Sports Bar Galaxy 295 Metres Stake: \$35,000

1st Buddy Boom (Udy/Cottam) 2nd Bolty (Dan Lane) 3rd Flora Dora (Ray Adcock)

Winner's time: 17.17

2020 The Fitz Sports Bar New Zealand Oaks 520 Metres Stake: \$45,000

1st Big Time Elsa (Lisa Cole) 2<sup>nd</sup> Big Time Brie (Lisa Cole) 3rd Nova Willow (Lisa Cole)

Winner's Time 30.36

## **GROUP 2 RACING AT ADDINGTON**

2019 Kingston Cup 732 Metres Stake \$16,000

1st Alotta Talk (Jean & Dave Fahey), 2nd Opawa Hilary (Jean & Dave Fahey) 3rd Goldstar Sydney (Steve & Bonnie Evans)

Winner's time: 43.09

2020 The Fitz Sports Bar Canterbury Futurity 520 Metres Stake: \$27,465

1st Ozzie (Dan Lane) 2nd Viking Mafia (Jean & Dave Fahey) 3rd Opawa Toddy (Jean & Dave Fahey)

Winner's time: 30.05

2020 Active Electrical Christchurch New Zealand St Leger 520 Metres Stake: \$30,000

1st Ozzie (Dan Lane) 2nd: Uthor Bale (Craig Roberts) 3rd Xabil Bale (Craig Roberts)

Winner's Time 30.01

### **Feature Races.**

Also included on the Clubs racing programme throughout the 2019/2020 racing season were several feature races and the winners of these races are shown below.

2020 Kolorful Kanvas Robinson Rosebowl 520metres

Winner: Start The Show (Ray Adcock)

2019 Kolorful Kanvas Christchurch Classic 520 Metres

Winner: Opawa Deal (Jean & Dave Fahey)

2019 I Pave Concrete Sockburn Cup 732 Metres

Winner: Hot Platter (Angela Turnwald)

2020 Flair Ladies Bracelet 520 Metres

Winner: Xabil Bale (Craig Roberts)

2020 Murray & Hannah @ Ray White Results Realty, Harding Cup 295 Metres

Winner: Select Trick (Calum Weir)

2020 Flair Canterbury Laurels 520 Metres

Winner: Opawa Cutie (Jean & Dave Fahey)

2020 Kolorful Kanvas Garden City Classic 520 Metres

Winner: Ozzie (Dan Lane)

2020 Active Electrical Christchurch Canterbury Futurity Sprint 295 Metres

Winner: Bolty (Dan Lane)

2020 GRNZ Nationals NZ Middle Distance

Winner: Leonard Bale (Trainer Craig Roberts)

2020 GRNZ National NZ Distance

Winner: Emgrand Rose (Trainer Angela Turnwald)

**The Christchurch Greyhound Annual Awards Night for the 2019-2020 Season** was held on 26 September 2020 in the Terror To Love Lounge, Addington Raceway.

The following awards were made:

Leading Trainer: John McInerney - 258 Wins

Leading Dam: Goldstar Avery - 47 Wins

Sprinter of the Year: Select Trick - Owner D Goodman

Middle Distance Dog of the Year: Ozzie – Owner D Lane & J Arthur

Stayer of the Year: Opawa Hillary – Owner Opawa Racing

2020 Canterbury Greyhound of the Year: Ozzie – Owner D Lane & J Arthur. Trainer D Lane

Once again Canterbury trainers featured prominently in the National Trainers Premiership.

John McInerney	540 Wins
Jean & Dave Fahey	242 Wins
Robin Wales	179 Wins
Steve & Bonnie Evans	177 Wins
Craig Roberts	139 Wins
Garry Cleeve	100 Wins
Dan Lane	99 Wins

### **Racing and Youth**

Great to see more and more young faces around the track getting involved with experienced trainers, and these are the next generation of leaders for the industry. None more so than Dan Lane, who has an exciting team of dogs around him, and has listened and learnt from the 'master' Ray Adcock. His top dog Bolty set a new track record on 28<sup>th</sup> May of 16.69 seconds for the 295-metre trip

Another highlight of the season was from our local top staying dogs, Dyna Dave (Craig Roberts) and Opawa Hillary (Dave and Jean Fahey). They travelled to Perth to compete in the Australian National Distance Race. No joy for Opawa Hillary but Dyna Dave did well to finish a commendable third.

### **Cup Night**

Another amazing night for our Flagship race evening. The Christchurch Casino NZ Greyhound Cup was won by Pinny Mack (trained by the Late Steve Clark). We had over 360 dinners seated on the night, extremely good food, and our compere Andre Neill kept the place buzzing.

It is pleasing to note and to thank the Christchurch Casino, Brett Anderson, and his team for their continued support of our code going forward for our most prestigious event of the year

## **Club Board**

Board members meeting attendances has been excellent and good contributions have been made by all. I would, however, like to make special mention of Tony Hart's membership drive which has raised membership numbers considerably. Board member Allan Williams is standing down this year and we thank him for all his input to the club in the past season.

## **Office administration**

Another successful year (19<sup>th</sup>) for the club administration team of CEO Tony Music and his assistant Stephanie Wigley. With 4 draws and racedays a week, and general administration, they have coped admirably. The continued smooth operation is well appreciated by the board, members, and trainers alike. Many thanks to you both.

## **Raceday Team**

The team of Di, Pud, Kerry, Val, Jo and Mac on the kennel side; Willie, Paul and Kevin on the track side of things, Jim, Mark and Trevor in the judges/ commentary area; Graham the 'sparky' jack of all trades and photographer Dave (from Invercargill); all our veterinarians and tote staff... Everyone is an important cog in the big wheel. Special thanks to you all.

## **Infrastructure/ Amenities**

There is a new washdown bay completed, and an amazing Semaphore Board has been purchased for results/timings etc (in storage since April). This will be installed as soon as the borders are re-opened as the installation team is Australian based.

We are in talks with a company called ECO LIGHT to renew the track lighting to LED. While the current light system is still working, replacement now, will save the club money long term. From a safety point of view, this is important, and we will be looking toward GRNZ special funding, for as much as we can, for this project. Estimates are around \$200-230K

## **Track maintenance**

We are constantly looking at remedies to improve track safety and continually looking at ways to benefit the welfare of our greyhounds. GRNZ are trialling/using a new grooming machine up north and an amended version will be available to us soon

## **Raceday funding from GRNZ**

Our Raceday funding this past couple of months, and ongoing for the rest of the season, is that we will be funded from GRNZ the same amount per each standard race meeting as a flat fee. The last model was floored (based on turnover) with so much betting online, budgets and profit were hard to meet with on course turnover in decline. Our CEO Tony Music has done a lot of work in this area and in conjunction with our accountants has achieved a better than expected raceday fee outcome from GRNZ. With our cup night expenses higher than the norm, we are expecting an additional payment to cover some of the additional costs involved, like tote operators, prizes, and giveaways etc.

## **Obituaries**

It is with regret that we record the passing of Linda Wales who died in September 2019 (wife of trainer Robin Wales) and Denise Barron (life member) who passed away in November 2019. Denise had been a stalwart of the club going back to the Marshland Domain racing days. A board member and vice chair for many years. Both dearly missed.

**Sponsorship** Our sponsors support is imperative to the growth and development of our Club. On behalf of the Christchurch Greyhound Racing Club I cannot thank them enough for their sponsorship during the year. Please take the opportunity to support their businesses whenever you can.

Addington Events Centre  
Active Electrical Christchurch  
Air Rescue Trust  
Amber Cleaning Services  
Angler's Arms Tavern  
A2C Asphalt Canterbury  
Beach Café & Wine Bar  
Canterbury O.T.B. Association  
Carols T.A.B.  
Chris and Lisa Earl  
Christchurch Casino  
Clarkson's Sign Studio  
Crate & Barrel Hotel  
Culvie Boy's Syndicate  
Dave Robbie Photographer  
Flair Inc.  
Garrard's Horse and Hound  
greyhoundauctions.co.nz  
Greyhounds As Pets  
Hart Family Greyhound Racing  
International Animal Health  
Products

I Pave Concrete  
Islington Tavern  
Kaikanui Tavern  
Kaisa Earthworks  
kiwikihounds.co.nz Adoption  
Kolorful Kanvas  
mayhounds.org.nz Rehoming Group  
Murray & Hannah @ Ray White New  
Brighton Ph 033715005  
One Good Horse  
Power Farming Canterbury  
NZ Racing Safety Development Fund  
Ray Amer  
Robbie's Bar & Bistro  
Selwyn-Rakaia Vet Services  
Shirley Vet Clinic  
Spectators Bar & Bistro  
Springston Hotel  
Steve Anngow Drapes & Blinds  
Suck It Up Ltd  
The Fitz Sports Bar  
The Turf Sports Bar

**Club Constitution:**

GRNZ are working on a platform for a 'must haves' guideline constitution and then each club can add local needs to it. There is a blueprint expected within a few months from GRNZ. The Constitution needs updated to represent the era we live in, modern technology and new ways of communication and other options, such as numbers for quorums etc.

**In Conclusion**

On behalf of the Board and Management of the Christchurch Greyhound Racing Club I wish to thank everyone for their contribution on and off the track for their support.

**Enjoy the industry we have, back some winners, and we look forward to a positive season ahead.**

Murray Wigley

Chairman, Christchurch Greyhound Racing Club