

**MINUTES OF SOUTHERN BRANCH AGM
ORETI ROOM, ASCOT PARK HOTEL 10TH JULY 2018 AT 4PM**

PRESENT: S McKay, E Winsloe, J Dalton, M Henry, R Dennis, A Dennis, R Dennis, N Blatch, B Blatch, S Blair-Edie, L Calloway, W Cooper (NZTA),
Part- meeting: S Kirkland, G Robinson (part)
Guest: Kerrin Price (Southland starter)

APOLOGIES: J Burns (President Otago sub-branch)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 13/12/16

Passed as a true record.

Dalton/Winsloe

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS – Only transaction was transfer of \$1100 to new account opened to run barrier trials/jump-outs and cover initial costs of vets/ambulance/wages. Bank Balance \$5067.51

ANNUAL REPORT OF BRANCH PRESIDENT

S McKay said it had been a good season for Southland trainers, and some had enjoyed success travelling horses and gaining black-type. The jump-outs organized by the branch were proving successful with 14 sets run. Winston Peters was coming to address the Southland racing industry on 18/7/18.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS –

Branch President– S McKay

N Blatch/B Blatch

There being no further nominations, S McKay duly elected

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY/TREASURER

M Henry appointed.

E Winsloe/J Gordon

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE – any trainer who wants to be involved

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES: S McKay and Robert Dennis

Note was made that it would be preferable if the Southland representatives could be more involved with the August/September meeting where the programs for December/January/February are being set.

TRACK REPRESENTATIVES –

- Ascot Park – S McKay
- Gore – E Winsloe
- Wyndham – Robert Dennis
- Riverton – G Eade
- Winton – J Phillips

GENERAL BUSINESS

RACEDAY ABANDONMENT POLICY - When a meeting is underway and under consideration for abandonment, the idea of a secret ballot for jockeys is supported. This way majority rules and those jockeys still prepared to ride can do so. S Blair-

Edie raised the question of who is ultimately responsible for the decision – is it the RIU?

KEEPING NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR SOUTH ISLAND RACES - It was agreed by the meeting that all races when there are 3 or more entered, should be held open. It would be more useful if they were updated regularly on the website to see further entries – otherwise you can be put to the bottom of the ballot if you are late and this would avoid “fake” nominations as it makes it more transparent. It would be better for jockeys.

It was further raised that if a rider is confirmed they can be declared at time of nomination. This would assist when fields were being split.

R65 RACES – Discussion on the new handicap rating bands was discussed. Concern was expressed regarding horses staying in the R65 band when they had one two races in a row, or if they had more than 4 wins. To be further discussed at a national level.

STRAPPERS’ AWARD – Trainers reminded the deadline has been extended to put staff forward for this award.

OUTER-RIM SHOES – it was the view of the meeting that these shoes are safer – they do not slip and are no more dangerous if a horse is galloped on than normal shoes. To be included in submission to NZTR.

NEW RACING PROGRAMME GUIDE – a mock-up of the new combined monthly publication circulated. Feedback included font size needs to be enlarged; not enough room to write horses name in program – reduce to 2 meetings per page. It was suggested they should update mailing list.

MESSARA REPORT – W Cooper advised she attended a meeting with Tony Pike and Murray Baker to discuss NZTA concerns with John Messara. As a result there was confidence that the report due out at the end of July will include recommendations that will improve the efficiency of racing and ensure greater distribution to stakeholders by way of stakes. A further submission was made for the report to also consider the efficiency and effectiveness of the RIU and the JCA. The timing of the Winston Peters next week was interesting and it was recommended that the question be raised as to how he will ensure the recommendations in the report will be put into practice.

REPORT ON BARRIER TRIALS/JUMP-OUTS – Kerrin Price reported on the 14 sets held through the season. There was some problems getting suitable video footage – a better camera is required. A result was definitely being seen with the barrier trials – the benefit of educating horses with the overheads had improved safety. Opportunity for sponsorship was discussed to contribute to costs of running the day. Thanks were conveyed to both Kerrin and Sally for the work they put into the trials.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.25pm and was followed by sponsor, Dunstan’s Speedfeed Roadshow.