



Bendigo Harness Racing Club

MEMBERS, OWNERS, TRAINERS & DRIVERS NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

Greetings to all Members, Owners, Trainers & Drivers.

It has been a while since our last newsletter and our only excuse is that we have been very busy. However, to ensure time doesn't get away from us in the future we are committing to sending you Quarterly Newsletters – to be sent March, June, September and December.

Bendigo Cup Night – February 13th, 2016

Another really great Cup night, highlighted by the arrogant victory of superstar Lenny The Shark in the 2016 Petstock Bendigo Pacing Cup and the upcoming trotter Glenferrie Typhoon taking out the 2016 Aldebaran Park Maori Mile in track record time. Great to also see the Bendigo Pacing Cup moving to \$60,000 stakemoney and the Maori Mile to \$50,000 stakemoney and Group 1 status.

A new initiative was the live on-course radio telecast by Club Sponsor Gold FM. This will have assisted the Club in broadening public awareness and exposure of the Club, and is an initiative we would be keen to continue in the future.

The Club was also pleased with significant improvements to queueing, catering and on-track activities on the night, and we look forward to further improvements for next year.

Another highlight of the night was our own Mavis Collison being the recipient of a HRV Volunteer Recognition Award for her many years of dedicated service to the Club. Well done Mavis.

Accolades – Kirsten Graham.

The Club continues to receive high quality feedback on the job being done by Kirsten as our Track Compere. A great job with Robbie Auber on Cup Night, and great to see Kirsten being recognised for her harness knowledge, presentation and professionalism.

International Race Night – March 11th, 2016.

By Brendan Baker

The International All Star Series came to Bendigo on Friday 11th March, where the City Of Greater Bendigo and the Mayor held a Civic Reception for the Drivers and invited guest at the Town Hall during the afternoon.

The action then swung to Lord's Raceway with 5 International All Star races on our 10 event program. The American drivers were full of praise for our race track and facilities, and we had a good crowd in attendance that enjoyed a balmy Autumn night of harness racing action.



Pacers Bendigo Ownership Initiative Launched

By Noel Ridge

An exciting initiative to foster harness racing ownership and fellowship amongst local residents has been developed in Bendigo, with experienced syndicate manager and successful owner Alan Prentice appointed to manage a registered syndicate.

Thirty eight people have purchased shares in the syndicate. For half, this is their first venture into part-owning a harness racing horse.

The syndicate has a lease of a two year old Vicbred filly in work with experienced Junortoun trainer Gary Donaldson. She made an appearance at the track at Lord's Raceway during the recent Bendigo Cup meeting. The syndicate is also investigating the possibility of leasing an older horse from New Zealand that may currently be racing.

The syndicate had their first meeting together recently at the Bendigo Trots, where they met each other and entered the "name the filly" activity. The names that were voted on have been submitted to HRA, and the final name should be known shortly.

The filly is enjoying a short spell, before resuming training on the tracks at Lord's Raceway each day, when syndicate members will be able to watch her progress as she heads toward a racing career.

There are a couple of shares in Pacers Bendigo Syndicate left so you can contact Alan Prentice, manager of Pacers Bendigo, by phone or SMS on 0423 777 934 to obtain a Product Disclosure Statement.

Pacers Bendigo Syndicate – Update

By Brendan Baker

Pacers Bendigo has been another initiative which has gone above all expectations. A big thank you to Alan Prentice (Syndicate Manager) and Noel Ridge for their support and help putting this together. Last report there has been 38 shares sold, with nearly 26 of these people new to our industry. Tori Glenister, the new Ownership Manager from HRV, can't believe how well it has gone. Both of these initiatives hold the Club in good fashion going forward - we need to be proactive; not reactive!!

Bendigo – Bathurst to Partner as Sister Clubs (by HRV Media)

Bendigo Marketing Manager Brendan Baker and Bathurst CEO Danny Dwyer have developed a joint initiative where the two BHRCs have become sister clubs.

There are many opportunities for sharing of ideas, tourism opportunities around the Bathurst Gold Crown and the return to Bendigo of the Australasian Breeders Crown semi-finals.



The crowd watches the trots action at Bendigo

Both cities also host major annual events including the Bathurst 1000 car race and the Bendigo Easter Fair Carnival. Both Brendan Baker and Danny Dwyer see many benefits to the clubs and the communities from the establishment of sister club relationships, such as:

- Sister club signage that will be seen during Sky Racing coverage of races from both tracks
- Reciprocal membership rights

- Promotion of the clubs in monthly club newsletters, to members, owners, trainers and drivers
- In-house marketing to promote each venue. This could involve yearly joint race dates with accommodation options for people visiting each city either for harness racing or holidays
- The clubs to organise a Gold Crown Tour and a Bendigo Pacing Cup Tour
- Two chances for “Dual Club” meetings that race on the same dates. In 2016 it is May 18 and June 22.
- Promotion through the Harness Racing Australia website with press releases and stories.

Gold is not the only thing that binds the two “BHRC” trots clubs, Bendigo and Bathurst together.

There are many surprising similarities between the two regional cities and clubs:

- Edward Hargreaves discovered a 'grain of gold' in a billabong near Bathurst in 1851 sparking the NSW gold rush, while alluvial gold was discovered along the banks of the Bendigo Creek in 1851 and resulted in a major gold rush.
- Bendigo with 110,000 residents and Bathurst with 42,000 are both major regional centres, with Bendigo 150km and Bathurst 200km from their state capitals.
- Bendigo and Bathurst both began night trot racing a year apart: Bathurst 1953, Bendigo 1954.
- Both clubs hold a large number of TAB meetings annually with Bathurst running 50 race meetings and Bendigo conducting 34 in 2015.
- Both were once the home of the famous Cobb and Co coach service. Cobb and Co's first services began in 1854 between Melbourne and Bendigo. James Rutherford (also the breeder of legendary sire Globe Derby) shifted the headquarters and 10 coaches and nearly 100 horses from Bendigo district to Bathurst in 1862, where a massive coach building factory was built.
- Juvenile stakes racing developed by both clubs

The Bathurst Gold Crown commenced in 1987 while Bendigo developed the Breeders' Crown in 1998 before it was taken over by HRV to become the Australasian Breeders' Crown.

New Seasons Racedates

Whilst not totally finalised, the new Racing Calendar for July 2016 to June 2017 will see Bendigo pick up an extra meeting, moving to 35 for the season. A special feature is Bendigo being granted the Semi Finals Night of the Breeders Crown Series. This will be on Saturday, August 20th and will see the highest quality race fields for many years at Bendigo on display.

Reserved seating will undoubtedly sell out fast, so patrons should book quickly with our Catering & Events Manager, Tracey McMaster, on 5449 3205 or 0447 599859 to ensure the best viewing.

It was also pleasing to see that the Bendigo Club rated 2nd (narrowly behind Ballarat) on Harness Racing Victoria's new Club Performance Matrix. Watch out Ballarat – we want that number one spot!

Facilities Upgrades

In a massive coup for the Club, we were able to receive funding for the installation of a new air conditioning and heating system (actually 18 individual units) to replace the ill-performing old system. The majority was in place for Cup Night – and thank god! 36 degrees, and several 35+ degree days since have given them a workout! I am sure patrons have noticed the improvements in comfort level, which will be equally matched when winter comes along.

This will also increase our capacity to attract non-Raceday functions, which will further benefit the Club's financial position. Special thanks must go to the State Government and HRV for their funding assistance, and especially to HRV's Damien Madden for kick-starting our application and making this all possible.

Patrons will have also noticed the continued painting upgrades – in particular, the painting of our Ticket Box, installation of Feature Iron Gate at the entrance (well done, Tom Byrne), and the painting of the foyer entrance

and main stairwell. There has also been a great effort by Brendan Baker, Chris Bosely and Roma Pocock in painting all the stall dividers and seats in the stabling area.

Club Merchandise

The Club is pleased to introduce our new Club Polo Shirt and Cap, both now available for sale - Polo Shirts \$35 and Caps \$20.

These are very smart - in a combination of grey, black and white colourings – and are on display in the Club Office or at the Bar on racenights.

Anyone interested in purchasing either a Club polo shirt or cap should contact Tracey McMaster Tracey McMaster, on 5449 3205 or email the club bhrc@bhrc.com.au.



Mclvor Road Pending Closure

Necessary bridgeworks will see Mclvor Road closed between Crook Street and Powells Avenue/Reservoir Road from April 4th to May 16th, 2016. Traffic coming from Bendigo towards Junortoun will be diverted along Strickland Road into Powells Avenue, and then back onto Mclvor Road.

Traffic going back into town will have the option of diverting along Harley Street or Powells Avenue. Patrons and trainers should allow extra time to take account of these works.



Seniors Raceday – April 6th 2016. (DAY MEETING)

We are having a "SENIORS RACEDAY". For just \$20 all seniors will receive entry, a form guide and a Lunch Package consisting of Main Meal and Afternoon Tea.

All Seniors on course will also have fun on the day with a range of Lucky Draws, Competitions and Prizes.

Retirement Villages, Seniors Groups and Clubs in the town are welcome and if you know of any group who might like to come – or form your own group – then please contact our Catering & Events Manager, Tracey McMaster on 5449 3205 or 0447 599859 to reserve your seat.

Race Meeting - Sunday, April 17th (TWILIGHT MEETING)

Due to track works at Kilmore, Bendigo has been given this additional race date.

Everyone should note this on their calendars and get along.

Community Cup Night – Saturday, April 23rd

Anyone wishing to attend should contact our Catering and Events Manager, Tracey McMaster, on 5449 3205 or 0447 599859 to reserve your seat. We also encourage Members who have associations with any community or sporting groups to promote this night and get a group together for the night.

Meet the Racing Integrity Commissioner Roadshow 2016

Your chance to meet Mr. Sal Perna, the Racing Integrity Commissioner, and develop an understanding and awareness of the role and responsibilities of the RIC, the work the office has undertaken and an overview of what is in place to ensure that the Victorian Racing Industry operates free from the influence of crime and corruption.

To be held at Latrobe University Visual Arts Centre, 121 View Street Bendigo, Thursday May 19th 2016 at 11.00am.



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OWNERS, TRAINERS AND DRIVERS NEWS:

Track Closure

Trainers please note that the three racetracks will be closed Friday, April 1st between 9.00am and 2.00pm for necessary light repairs. We apologise for any inconvenience, but ask that trainers adjust their training schedules to account for this.

Trial Dates – April 2016

April 3rd – Sunday April 10th – Sunday April 18th – Monday April 24th – Sunday.

Please note that this includes some changes to what has been previously advertised.

Outstanding Training Fees

It is disappointing to note that there are a number of trainers whose training fees remain outstanding over six months into the season and despite several reminders via newsletter and phone. This is in contrast to those trainers who have done the right thing and are assisting the Club in being able to maintain the quality training facilities that we do.

The Bendigo Club provides probably the best training facilities and access to tracks of any venue in Victoria, and at a very minimal cost to trainers.

It is hoped that those trainers in question rectify this situation in the coming weeks, as the Club takes no pleasure in having to take further actions to redress this issue.

Spotters

Trainers are reminded that it is a compulsory HRV OHS and Training Requirement that a spotter be in place whenever a horse is being worked on any of our tracks. This is also a Bendigo Club requirement that applies to all trainers – and is something that all trainers have signed and agreed to when renewing their Training Rights with the Club.

A “spotter” can be any person over the age of 18 watching from off the track, or can be another driver working on the track at the same time. Trainers can easily meet the legal requirements by teeing up with other trainers to work together at the same time of day, or else simply ensure you work when others are guaranteed to be there.

Unfortunately, at present a small number of trainers are not complying with this requirement, and, should an incident occur, this will put the Club at risk of litigation and will result in a restriction of training times and options that will be to the detriment of ALL other trainers. Co-operation from ALL trainers would therefore be appreciated.

Cleaning Of Stalls after Use

Trainers are reminded that it is an expectation of the Club that stalls are cleaned of horse excrement after use on racedays and trials, and after training. All necessary equipment to undertake this task is located nearby. Adherence to this task has become somewhat lax of late, which creates extra work for Club Staff and adds to operational costs.

The Bendigo Club provides trainers with probably the best training facilities and accessibility for training of any track in Victoria – and at a very low cost. Accordingly, your co-operation in this matter would not seem unreasonable.