

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS

Cambridge Trainers enjoyed some great success over the summer period. In December the Roger James and Robert Wellwood trained *Two Illicit* took out the Group 1 Rydges Wellington Captain Cook Stakes at Te Rapa. While in January the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman trained *The Chosen One* was too good in winning the Group 1 Harcourts Thorndon Mile.



The Roger James and Robert Wellwood trained *Two Illicit*.



Cambridge Jockey Club

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of the Cambridge Jockey Club (CJC) newsletter. A new initiative to keep members up to date with some of the happenings at the Club. It is intended that newsletters will be sent out quarterly.

The LEADERSHIP TEAM

The CJC AGM was held in November and the Club welcomed Delwyn McCarroll onto the Committee. Delwyn brings a wealth of sporting governance experience to the Club and will be a valuable asset.

The following Committee meeting on 20 December elected the leadership team. Bruce Harvey was elected President, Mark Brooks Vice President and Bill Harris Treasurer. This is a continuation of the strong leadership that has governed the Club over the last couple of years and in particular, throughout the construction of the new Synthetic Track.

The AGM also saw the exit of CEO Mark Fraser-Campin who along with his team managed and oversaw the construction and completion of the track and its surrounds. The Club thanks Mark for his tremendous enthusiasm, commitment and work ethic.

Mark's departure saw the appointment of Andy Cruickshank, who has come from the Racing Integrity Board. Andy has a background in law, compliance and enforcement. Andy will provide strong leadership as the Club continues to develop its presence as a leading Club in the Waikato.

COVID-19

The global pandemic has impacted virtually every aspect of the racing industry since it was first detected in New Zealand in March 2020. The industry in the Waikato has been fortunate that we have not lost any race day meetings since that first Level 4 lockdown. However, many of our valued members have unfortunately been unable to attend our race meetings due to the number of closed-door meetings and trials. We are hopeful that 2022 presents a new dawn and we are able to welcome everyone back. There is a caveat to that however, and that is that everyone will need to provide their vaccine passports to be permitted on course. The industry has taken every precaution to ensure that racing and race

meetings are not lost as a result of a Covid outbreak amongst the riders and/or participants. On behalf of the CJC we thank everyone for their support as we transition to this new normal.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

The Track Manager Derek Collett and his team, have been very busy over the summer period keeping the tracks in tip top condition. The extremely hot dry conditions have required long hours watering the tracks and stabling areas in order to keep the dust down and the tracks pristine. The Club takes pride in providing our Cambridge based trainers the best tracks to train on and accordingly the best opportunity for horses to perform.

This year is forecast to be another busy year for the Club. Our first meeting is Travis Stakes day which will be hosted at Te Rapa on 30 April. In addition there are 13 race meetings and 20 trial meetings programmed for Cambridge. The first of these meetings is scheduled for 18 May. At this stage it appears many of these meetings will be run under the traffic light system which may restrict attendance. Please check with either the CJC or New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing as to the 'open' or 'closed' status of these meetings as they may change. We remain hopeful that crowds are back in the not too distant future.

JUDGES TOWER

The final component of the Provincial Growth Fund project regarding construction of the Synthetic Track is the Judges Tower. Unfortunately, there have been delays with Covid, contractors, etc. However, construction finally commenced on 21 January 2022. The Tower will be complete before our first race meeting on 18 May. It is quite a substantial structure (approx. 50 tons of steel) and for those of you who have travelled to Taupo, it is a replica of their Judges Tower.



CHAMPION TRAINER MURRAY BAKER

After approximately 63 years involved in the Thoroughbred racing industry champion trainer Murray Baker has called time on his career. Murray has spent the last 22 years gracing the CJC track in the early morning and his daily presence will be missed by trainers and Club alike.



There is no doubt that Murray's decision to move to Cambridge to train gave him access to a better quality of horse but it also provided the Cambridge Club with a champion trainer who produced some champion horses. In doing so Murray has been instrumental in putting our Training Centre on the international map.

The trainer of 22 Group One winners in Australia (including those in partnership with Andrew Forsman and son Bjorn) is the most by a New Zealand based trainer. While regretting that he never won a Melbourne Cup, Murray proudly lists his five Australian Derbys as his greatest achievement.

The list of outstanding horses to race for Murray is a Who's Who of NZ racing headed by *Dundeel* and followed by *The Phantom*, *Eagle Eye*, *Dowry*, *Prized Gem*, *Nom De Jeu*, *Harris Tweed*, *Lion Tamer*, *Mongolian Khan*, *Turn Me Loose*, *Jon Snow*, *Bonneval*, *The Chosen One* and *Quick Thinker*.

We all join in wishing Murray a happy retirement. It is hard to imagine him enjoying a sleep in after 60 odd years of early mornings. We hope that his wife Maryanne can convince him that there is life after horses, and together they can enjoy a leisurely life with travel on the horizon as the world starts to open up.