

SCONE'S RACING HISTORY

THE SPIRIT WITHIN - SECOND EDITION

By Harley Walden

Second Edition edited by W.P. Howey



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FOREWORD

I am sure the many racing enthusiasts like myself whose memories go back a number of years, and whose love of the sport of racing and horses is inborn, will enjoy what I have manifested throughout the following pages.

Readers of both the older and younger generations will realise the broad horizons that had to be researched to put together the different periods of Scone's Racing History, but, thanks mainly to the copies of Scone Advocates, which date back to the early days of racing at Satur and, to Daniel Morgan, whose authoritative thesis on the early days of racing throughout the area, made the task that much easier.

Many of the photographs have been taken from old newspapers, manuscripts and magazines, and, for the low quality I apologise. In saying this I am sure the readers will appreciate viewing what has been put together.

To my dear friend Rhonda Turner, whose computer skills are a little up-market on mine, I offer my sincerest thanks for making this all come together.

People will ask how I came to put pen to paper in an exercise such as this, well, I think I was born with a foot in the stirrup and a love of something, that my late father "Championed" throughout his lifetime, the "Thoroughbred."

From the time I walked the course at "Alabama" as an eight-year-old you could say I was smitten by a sport that at times can hold thousands spellbound; a sport that in a split-second can turn a pauper into a prince and, just as quickly, reverse the process.

Having said these few words I feel it is time to hit the starting button, and hope that you, the readers, derive as much satisfaction and enjoyment from reading the contents as I have had in their preparation and presentation.

Harley Walden

SCONE - THE TOWNSHIP

The Township of Scone stands on the New England Highway (the National Highway) and the Great Northern railway line, a few hours drive from Sydney and, one and a half-hours from Newcastle.

Scone is a pleasant rural centre with wide tree-shaded streets and civic pride displayed in the well-groomed parks and neat homes and gardens.

Besides being the commercial and administrative centre of the Shire, Scone is an important stock selling centre. Weekly stock sales are held on Tuesdays at the modern saleyards where visitors from all walks of life are welcome to experience an interesting facet of rural life.

The area is rich agriculturally and pastorally. Its fertile soils produce a bountiful harvest of wheat, maize, oats, lucerne, fruit, grapes and vegetables. The Upper Hunter Shire is noted for its thoroughbred horses and its stud cattle and sheep. The studs are show properties, beautifully maintained. They attract buyers and visitors from all over Australia and overseas.

Scone Race Club conducts regular race meetings at its modern racetrack at Satur; ten minutes drive from the town. The feature racing event of the year is the Scone Cup held annually during the Scone Horse Festival in May.

Sporting facilities in Scone are excellent. There is a modern Olympic swimming pool and squash courts, an inviting nine-hole golf course with modern clubhouse, and two beautifully laid-out bowling clubs.

About 15 minutes out of town, where the Glenbawn Dam holds back the waters of the Hunter River to form Lake Glenbawn, aquatic sports such as yachting, water skiing, boating and fishing are enjoyed to the fullest. The foreshores of the lake are lavishly provided with scenic roads and lookouts. Picnic facilities and boats are available for hire.

A museum displaying fascinating relics of the early pioneering days, the Hunter Valley Museum of Rural Life, is located below the Glenbawn Dam wall.

Scone Shire, in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales, is made to order for those who seek a quiet holiday of discovery in a setting of rural charm, whether it be discovering the wonders of the Burning Mountain or, just relaxing around the Wash Pools.

The Shire - named after Scone, its principal town - is 4015km in area and has a population of around 9000. Although the early settlers petitioned the then Surveyor-General for the district to be named Strathearn, it was eventually called Scone, after the Scottish town of the same name.

Accommodation for visitors available in the Scone Shire leaves nothing to be desired.

There are four motels, four hotels, including a hotel/motel and two modern caravan parks in Scone. (In addition there are three hotels a motel and a caravan park at Aberdeen, and a number of holiday cabins and a caravan park at Lake Glenbawn.

What appears above was written before the amalgamation of the Shires, which now takes in Merriwa, Cassilis and part of Murrurundi, and as it relates to Scone I felt it should remain as written.

SCONE'S RACING HISTORY

The Beginning

The breeding of horses began with the birth of the colony. It was not long before thoroughbreds arrived and organised racing began.

Breeding was mostly confined to the County of Cumberland and to the Hawkesbury and Nepean districts around Windsor and Richmond.

Yet, in time, these areas were considered inferior to the "new country" in the immense watershed of the Hunter Valley. Soon the spreading Paterson, Pages, Goulburn, Widden and Bylong districts quickly grew to outstrip all other areas to become one of the finest breeding nurseries in Australia.

It would be right to assume that the first horse to arrive in the Scone area would have been in the party headed by Francis Little, the first white man to live in the Scone district, when he took a grant of 30,000 acres, dated 15th July 1823, named Invermein.

Once settled, the number of Invermein horses increased, despite the loss of several good ones to marauding bushrangers, and, by November 1827 there were twelve horses there - the third largest number on any Upper Hunter property.

The Littles' neighbour, John Bingle of Puen Buen, had no horses in his stables at the time as he was only in the process of moving from Parramatta. William Dangar had two horses at Turanville, the Hall brothers at Dartbrook had one each, and Donald Macintyre, newly arrived at Kayuga, also had one.

The largest number of thoroughbreds in the Upper Hunter was at Segenhoe. They were followed by the Cox family estate of Negoa, near Muswellbrook, both of which had more than twenty horses. There were perhaps a hundred horses in the whole of the Upper Hunter by 1928.

Race meetings began to arise in all parts of the State, although racing in this area around 1830 was confined mainly to a few of the major settlements including Maitland and the Patrick Plains.

Scone Race Club - one of the most respected clubs in country racing - has undergone many alterations over the years. It has seen many committee members rise and pass, had its share of some of the most respected men associated with racing and breeding in the

club, and seen the best of country racing and thoroughbred horse sales. It has raced on six different racecourses since holding its first race meeting in 1842.

The first race meetings held in Scone during the 1840s were held on a section of Oxford Road, between Kelly Street and the Hospital. According to old identities this was the first setting for Scone's early race meetings.

The Parish Map of Scone shows the original 620 acre grant, proclaimed by William Dumaresq, upon which the Village and, later, the Municipality of Scone was built. The Racecourse Paddock was located on the eastern boundary of the township. At this time the eastern boundary of Scone was Main Street and the land beyond was regarded as Bakewell's Paddock or the Old Racecourse Paddock.

This property enclosed the town on the north, east, and south and the area from Gundy Road north past Murray Bain Oval and east towards the Hospital.

This land, now part of the residential township of Scone, was used continuously during the period 1842-1892 for race meetings.

It is recorded that the mile course had its start in Oxford Road, from where the field ran in the direction of Gundy road, turned and came in a westerly direction to Park Street, ran along the street and swung towards what were the golf links to the present site of the Scott Memorial Hospital. It finished in close proximity to an unpretentious grandstand, a steward's stand and booth.

There was no outside running rail, as evident by the actions of inexperienced maiden horses. Merton Maid and Binnalong ran off the course at the 1862 meeting.

The main improvements to the course were completed in the late 1880s; the straight had been fenced off, new marking posts placed around the course and improvements made to the jockeys' room. Prior to each meeting the course was run over several times with a set of harrows.

The first recorded race meeting in the township of Scone was held on 11th January 1842. The meeting followed a similar format to those that had been well established in the lower Hunter.

The logistics involved in establishing horse racing in Scone were not undertaken by the landed gentry, as had been the case with the establishment of the Sydney Turf Club. The landlord of The White Swan (Mr. J.P. Wilkie) took full responsibility.

This exercise involved a considerable outlay of capital in supplying prizes. The main prize was a horse and cart valued at 45 pounds and a percussion gun at 20 pounds.

From the Federation Publication No 2 published by the Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society 1998 titled The Inn, The Dentist and The School.

By Mace Bain, Roger Humphreys and Gillian Blandford Hayes, Mace Bain writes of the early days relating to the Inn. From this we can glean an insight into J.P. Wilkie: - quote *"On 14 February 1842 the first public transport began to travel from Scone. It was a coach put on the road by John Wilkie and the fare to Singleton was one pound."*

He must have been very keen on horses and racing, as in January 1842 the Sydney Morning Herald reported that the first Scone Races were held in that month and, although run for hacks and got up solely by "mine host" of the White Swan (J.P.Wilkie) as the "New Year Sports" there was very excellent running.

J.P. Wilkie left Scone around 1843. It is recorded that his wife, Grace Marshall Wilkie died 29 September 1843, at Murrurundi aged 24 years, ten days after giving birth to a son. She had also come to Australia from St Columb, Cornwall.

John Wilkie went on to be an Innkeeper in Murrurundi taking the name of The White Swan with him.

By the late 1840s racing had become a well-organised and well-patronised recreational activity in the town. Interest in the sport enabled a three-day meeting to be held on the 26th, 27th, 28th of December, 1848.

Scone Christmas Races 1848

“The Scone Christmas Races will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the 26, 27, and 28 of December, 1848, on the St. Aubin’s Race Course, when the following prizes will be run for:

First Day: Tuesday, December 26.

Race 1.

The Scone Town Plate of Twenty Pounds, for all horses, to carry weight for age; twice round the course; best of heats; three entrances or no race;
Entrance fee 2 pounds; Qualifications 10 shillings.

Race 2.

The Maiden Plate of Ten Pounds, for all horses that have never won an advertised prize, to carry weight for age; once round the course; best of heats; three entrances or no race.
Entrance fee 1 pound; Qualifications 10 shillings.

Race 3.

A Pig-Skin Hunting Saddle, Saddle Cloth, Snaffle Bridle, Martingale and all complete, value about 7 pounds 10 shillings;
For all untrained horses that have never won a prize of 10 pounds.
The horses to be the property of persons residing in the Scone Police District for at least three months.
Weight 10 stone; once round the course; best of heats; three entrances or no race.
Entrance fee; 15 shillings, Qualifications, 7 shillings 6pence.

Second Day: Wednesday, December 27.

Race 1.

The Stockman’s Purse of 10 pounds, for all untrained stock horses which have been the property of the owner for at least three months, and, have not won an advertised prize of any description; to carry 10 stone; once round the course; best of heats; three entrances or no race.
Entrance fee, 10 shillings, Qualifications, 5 shillings.

Race 2.

For ponies 14 hands and under, to carry catch weights; once round the course; best of heats; three entrances or no race;
Entrance fee, 10 shillings, Qualifications, 5 shillings.

Third Day: Thursday, December 28.

Race 1.

The Publican's Purse of Fifteen Sovereigns, for all horses to carry weight for age; the winner of the Scone Town Plate to carry 7lb extra; twice round the course; best of heats; three entrances or no race.

Entrance fee, 1pound, 10 shillings. Qualifications 15 shillings.

Race 2.

The Lady's Purse of Ten Pounds, for two-year-old horses to carry 7 stone 6 pounds; once round the course, for horses that have never won an advertised prize; best of heats, three entrances or no race.

Entrance fee, 1pound, Qualifications 10 shillings.

Race 3.

The Beaten Stakes of Five Pounds, with entrance added; for all horses beaten during the meeting to be handicapped by the Stewards, or whom they may appoint; once around the course; best of heats.

Post Entrance; Entrance 10 shillings.

All entrances for the first days races to be made at Mr T. Dangar's

"Golden Fleece Inn", 9 to 11 am; for the second days races at Mrs. Pierce's "Woolpack Inn", on Tuesday evening, December 26, before 9pm; third day's entries on Wednesday evening, December 27, at the "Scone Inn" before 9pm.

Mares and geldings allowed 3lbs.

Judges and Stewards will be named before the races.

All dogs found on the course will be destroyed.

All riders to appear in jockey costume.

The weights to be carried at the races to be the same as Homebush weights.

Subscribers will be pleased to pay their subscriptions to the Treasurers, Messrs. George and Solomon Cohen, on or before the races.

Thomas Moody

Secretary.

William Wilson

Clerk of the Course."

Racing Gains Popularity and Momentum

Racing in Scone continued throughout the 1850-60s over two days beginning on Boxing Day. They became known as The Scone Christmas Races.

In the short period since its initiation, racing at Scone had developed rapidly.

The proprietors of the "Golden Fleece Inn", the "Wool Pack Inn" and the "Scone Inn" subscribed to prizes and took entries for each successive day's racing.

The standard of racing in Scone had reached the stage where a meeting was held at Mr Ferguson's "Golden Fleece Hotel" on the 8th October, 1869 for the purpose of making arrangements for the erection of a new grandstand and weighing yard at the course.

Local shop owner, Mr. N.F. Asser, whose store now makes up part of stock and station agents MacCallum, Ritchie & Co in Kelly Street, furnished the plans.

In 1869 a successful day of racing was conducted in Scone with a huge number of people meeting on Scone Racecourse to witness the day's events. The Scone races were regarded by surrounding districts as a favourite meeting.

In 1870 the races were set down for one day and the prizes offered were smaller.

Only four or five horses were in training in the town, being in work for a few weeks prior to the event, and, suggesting that the races were still a rather amateurish affair.

Due to inclement weather the official races were postponed until the 30th of December 1870. Heavy rain and the lack of official races, however, did not deter keen followers of racing who organised their own races on Boxing Day and raced through the mud for smaller prizes such as bridles.

Again in 1871 heavy rain disrupted the races but a great number of people ventured out to witness the sport, regardless of the drenching.

The average attendance for meetings in Scone in the 1870s and early 1880s numbered several hundred.

The local publicans still played a major role in organising the races. Mr. Ferguson, a local innkeeper, was the official starter and the settling of prizemoney took place the same evening at the St. Aubins Inn.

The influence of publicans in holding race meetings primarily for their own financial gain, was somewhat curbed in 1870 as the meetings were then run under the rules of the Australian Jockey Club which charged a fee for a publican's booth.

The advent of a regular well-serviced railway system to the Upper Hunter furthered the popularity of race meetings and increased the crowds that attended the sport.

The Hunter River Railway Company gradually extended its line north to Scone and, on 5th April 1872, the seventy-mile section of rail from Singleton to Murrurundi was opened. Five years later, in 1877, the section from Murrurundi to Quirindi connected the Hunter Valley with the New England area over the Liverpool Range.

A correspondent for the Maitland Mercury in 1886 describes the arrival of the train at Scone on Boxing Day and the ease this mode of travel could convey racegoers from towns throughout the Valley. "Scone's Grand Annual Races" taking place that day saw large numbers from country parts in attendance and, after the arrival of the Mail Train from Muswellbrook at 11.45am, conveyed many visitors. The town presented a lively and animated appearance.

Editions of the Maitland Mercury in December 1863 and, January 1886, highlight how popular racing was during the festive season when the following meetings were set down to take place:

The Scone Christmas Races 28th-29th December 1863.

Maitland Christmas Races, Nicholson's Course, West Maitland under the Management of the Hunter River Jockey Club.

Cassilis Annual Races 28th-29th December 1863.

Newington New Year Races, Singleton, 1864.

Races were held in Scone on New Year's Day in 1885 but however this meeting clashed with others at Dungog, Cessnock, Warkworth, Bulahdelah and Stony Creek.

Publican and Inn Keeper Play Leading Role

The colour and atmosphere of the race clubs did much to attract the majority of people to the meetings. Food and liquor were imbibed in festive quantities. Supplementary games and activities did much to amuse the crowds in a form that in the early years of the colony far outweighs the view that race meetings simply revolved around the horses.

The Publicans and local Inn Keepers played a central role in the development of towns throughout rural N.S.W., in these early years.

These public houses or inns could be found often situated at river crossings and crossroads, but, more often, were situated at the entrance to towns or hamlets. Inns that were situated on the edge of townships provided facilities for travellers and travelling livestock. Those in the town centre serviced the business population.

The diagram on the following page illustrates the many services that the country inn provided, and, with their wares paramount to travellers, were often the first buildings constructed.

The first of these was the St Aubins Arms, and once again Mace Bain from The Inn, The Dentist and The School writes of what she titles the Early Days.

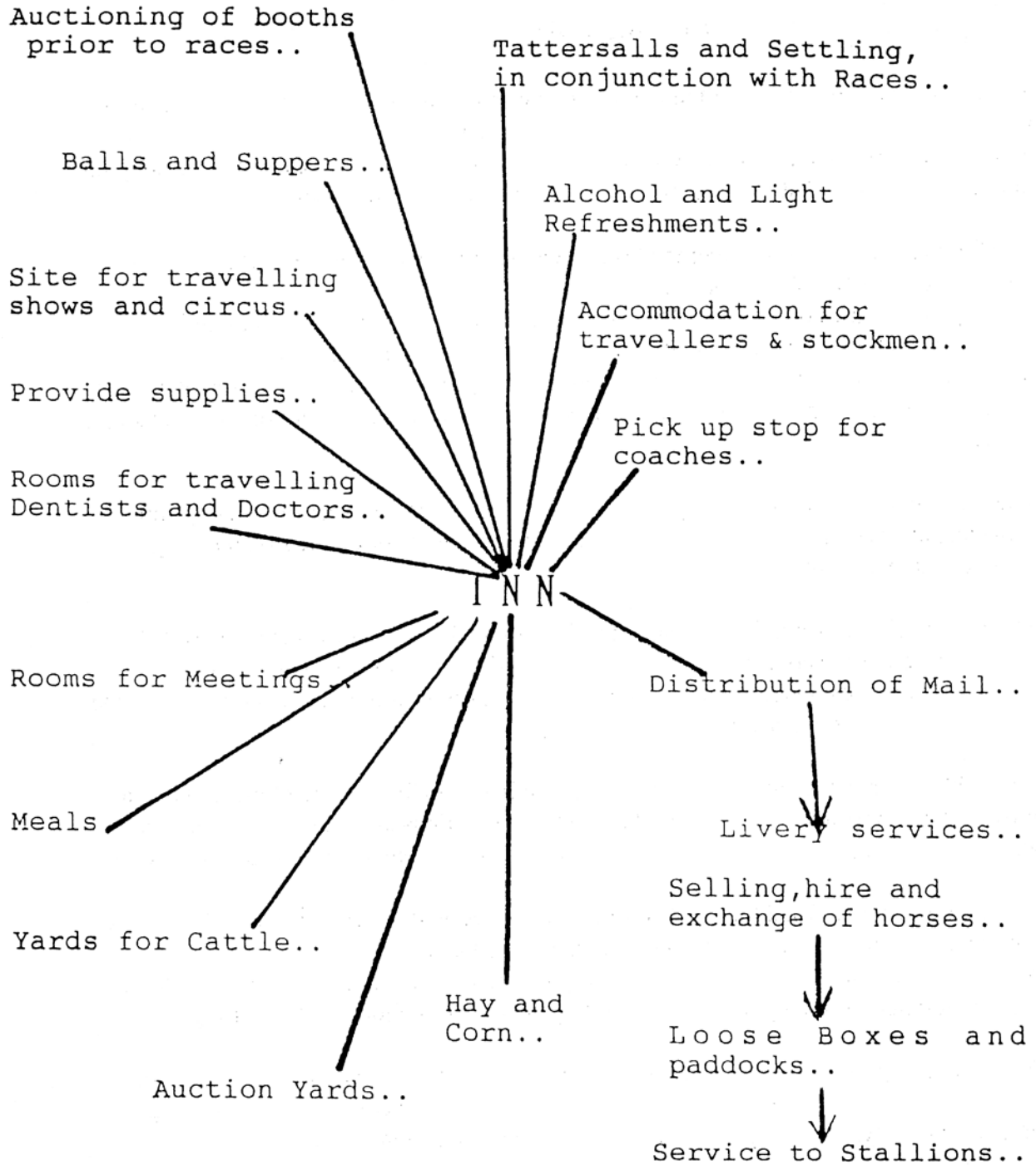
Quote: -

"As you come into Scone from the south of the New England Highway (originally called the Great North Road) there is a white house of Georgian style slightly hidden by Murraya trees called St Aubins Arms and is the oldest building in Scone. (When this book went into publication, 1998, the then owners, the Bain family, had occupied the residence for 48 years)

It was originally built as an Inn and completed in 1837, and continued as an Inn until the 1870's. It has had very few owners, six in all, throughout its 161 years but has had several names - The Bird in Hand, St Aubins Inn, St Aubins Arms, The White Swan and the Woolpack Inn. The name reverted back to St Aubins Arms and is still called that today, 125 years later".

The building was constructed on St Aubin's land on the edge of Scone. It still remains on the original site, and is now a privately owned residence. This is a far cry from when it was the central venue for providing the essential services to the town.

THE SPIRIT WITHIN



The part of the Publican or Inn Keeper was to create a business for the sale of alcohol and to provide accommodation. These were the two basic functions associated with Inns. They also provided a central meeting place where company and entertainment could be found.

The gentlemen who filled these positions were often gifted with an entrepreneurial flare and with their clientele. The majority were pastoralists and bushmen who dealt with horses much of their everyday life. It made it possible for them take the major role in the development of racing in towns, including Scone, and throughout the Hunter region.

As horse racing flourished in many of these areas the local Inns and Public houses or Hotels played another major role in the expanding and popular pastime that was being enjoyed by many, this being the “settling” after the conclusion of the day’s racing.

As the township of Scone grew in the late nineteenth century the part played by the horse was as important as it had been in the early 1840s.

Horse racing had become a major sport in the township and the proprietors of these establishments were to gain the upper hand with advertisements in the local newspaper.

Adds that appear on the following pages depict the offerings provided by the Willow Tree, Crown and Anchor, Golden Fleece and Belmore Hotels.

The Old Racecourse Paddock and The New Committee 1887-1891

It is interesting to note how the organisation of racing has changed. Today we have Race Club committees who administer the sport whereas, in the early years, it was the local publicans or innkeepers who were the driving force behind the sport.

The rapid escalation of the district population around the 1800s led to the district’s squatters and landed gentry taking a more active role in local politics and, consequently, becoming more involved in the township’s leading recreational and sporting activity. This new and intense interest by the district’s pastoralists and professional men in the running of the Scone Jockey Club led to widespread changes within the committee of the Club which changed the whole perspective of racing in the township.

The Scone Jockey Club became a bastion of upper class morals and mores. The district pastoralists virtually dominated the committee as well as the races conducted by the Club in which they entered horses bred on their properties.

The main aim of the Club shifted from providing a day's entertainment for all the inhabitants of the district to organising a display of horse flesh for their peers. At the same time they were revolted by the more common pursuits of drinking, gambling and gamesmanship which they regarded as a slur on the noble sport of racing.

Although the meeting set down for 1887 was postponed due to heavy rain the Scone Jockey Club enjoyed a financially successful meeting. The Scone Club became embroiled in class conflict and factional fighting in 1888. The committee had not undertaken its usual planning for the 1888 meeting, prompting a correspondent of the Scone Advocate to ask: *"Is it not time a move was made towards holding the annual race meeting?."*

The secretary of the Scone Jockey Club, Mr. Bromhead, was also a trustee of the Scone Common. On 6th October, 1888 the Maitland Mercury reported on some very angry remarks being passed around the town concerning the delay that had taken place in handing over the Common to the Council. Scone had become a Municipality in that year. It was suggested that a meeting be called to set the matter straight.

Allegations also arose of committeemen placing wagers on sporting events including horse races and athletic meetings. The local paper fuelled the dissent by printing slanderous and defamatory comments about certain committee members.

Mr. Bromhead, who had been the secretary of the Club throughout the 1880s stepped down: *"...it was his fixed wish to have nothing more to do with public affairs as the local paper was constantly insulting him. He had taken a very active part in connection with local sports, but local Press had made them appear as swindlers"*.

No races were held in 1889 due to the lack of entries. The internal dissension and problems with the local press and committeemen came to a head at a meeting on 26th March 1890. *"The Committee, dissatisfied with the way things in connection with the Club have been going of late, resigned in a body hoping by doing so, monied and inherited men would take up the matter."*

An advertisement for a meeting to carry on the Club on a new basis was held at Ferguson's Hotel on 9th March 1890, and urged all influential members to attend. The editor of the Scone Advocate hoped that the sporting interest and paternal instinct of the gentlemen of the Scone district would take up his passionate call to assist the ailing sporting body. Its failure was directly attributed to the bourgeois entrepreneurial background of the past committee, which had regarded the Scone Jockey Club as a legitimate vehicle to enhance their wealth and status in the community.

The involvement of the wealth-inherited landholders in the organisation of race meetings in the township of Scone had previously not been to any great extent. Rather, these men had raced their horses where they sought fit without taking any great responsibility for the success or failure of the meeting.

It was now hoped that the influence of the gentleman pastoralist, whose upbringing and family descendants were unblemished, whose fortunes were tied to the land that they held as squatters and, whose honesty was unquestionable, would secure a successful future for racing in Scone.

All influential members of the district were invited to attend the public meeting. Eleven gentlemen took preliminary steps to form a new Jockey Club and take over the liabilities and assets of the old Club.

A printed copy of the minutes of that meeting was sent to all gentlemen in the district: *"...asking them to support the new Club, and to urge all their friends to do likewise and to attend a public meeting to be held at the Golden Fleece Hotel on Thursday, 2nd October at 8pm to transact all business necessary to carry on the new Club"*.

The new committee represented the wealthiest landholders of the district. Mr. Thomas Cook, of Turanville North, was elected President. Mr. F.A. Parbury, who was later to donate a portion of land to the west of Scone for a racecourse, became Vice President and together with the Honorable H.L. White of Belltrees, Dr. H.J.H. Scott and past Secretaries J. Bromhead and J. Hayne and store owner N.F. Asser, appeared in the following advertisement announcing the new management of the Club.

Scone Advocate, October 4, 1890.

Under entirely new management The Scone Jockey Club

Registered under AJC Rules

Summer Meeting

17th December, 1890

President: Thos. Cook Esq.

Vice Presidents: W.E. Abott, Esq. M.L.A. F.W. Parbury, Esq.

Stewards: Messrs. H.L. White, John Campbell, W.E. White, N.F. Asser, J. Bromhead, J. Hayne, jnr. Dr. H.J.H. Scott, W.T. Briggs, J.A.K. Shaw, W.H. Duckham and J.A. Brodie.

Treasurer: W.T. Briggs.

John A.K.S haw. Hon. Secretary.

This new committee was regarded as: *"...men of sufficient energy to carry on the Club as it was years ago"*

The new President Mr. Thomas Cook saw no reason... *"...Why they should not have races here equal to those in the other towns. They only wanted the money, because he was satisfied they had horses."*

Scone Jockey Club, now with a secure foundation made possible by the involvement of the wealthy classes attempted to resurrect the Club that *"unfortunately of late had gone downhill instead of uphill"*.

A list of residents in the district who had promised to support the Club was read out and it was announced that Mr. Ferguson, a local publican, had offered a prize of 50 pounds for two-year-olds if the races took place next year. Such was the resolution of the committee and the support it gained from the townspeople.

A race meeting was hastily organised to take place on Mr. Bakewell's Paddock on 17th December 1890.

The Club decided to retain the gates and employ the necessary men to collect the charges. This had also been the practice of the previous Committee. Bookmakers were charged £1.1s. and games of chance men 10s.6d. for entrance to the ground. Also, one shilling for foot-passengers, 1s.6d. for horsemen while vehicles were 6d. per wheel plus 1s. for each occupant.

An application was also made to have 17th December proclaimed a public holiday and the committee endeavoured to get a special train to leave Newcastle at 7am and collect passengers at all stations enroute to Scone at excursion fares.

A large crowd was expected to turn up at the Club's first meeting and extensive arrangements were undertaken to ensure a successful day. Race books containing weights and colours were printed at the Advocate office. The fields for the two main races, The Shorts and the Jockey Club Handicap, were printed in the Advocate five days prior to the meeting.

The first meeting under the auspices of the revived Scone Jockey Club was held on Wednesday, 17th December 1890 on the Racecourse Paddock owned by Messrs. Bakewell Bros.

Scone Advocate, December 19, 1890: *"Old hands tell us the meeting on Wednesday last was the most successful that had taken place here for considerable time past and venture the opinion that it places the Club upon a basis that cannot fail to win confidence not only from horse owners, but the general public, and all those who take part in genuine sport"*.

The attendance of the public and out-of-town visitors was “unusually” large, the whole of the hotels in the town being crowded to their limit. The local publicans enjoyed a grand trade because of the races and the new committee had alleviated them of any financial responsibility concerning the races. Their position was still paramount in providing booths on the course, advertising accommodation and a place to conduct the settling. However, the publicans happily relinquished their power on the Jockey Club’s committee in preference to a greater financial gain.

The publicans were not the only entrepreneurs to benefit from the success of the new Club. The bookmakers and “forty” fraternity mustered in great numbers on the course and did a very fair trade.

The Advocate reprinted a remark made by a “booky”: “...that this is one of the best little towns in the colony for betting...”

Despite the large number in attendance the spectators behaved in an orderly manner.

Although occasional showers fell on the morning of the races and the clouds kept up all day there was no further rain. As was typical of a Upper Hunter high summer, the weather could not be relied upon to act favourably.

Scone Jockey Club

The Old Racecourse Paddock

Wednesday, December 17, 1890.

1. Shorts Handicap, of 20 sovs. Six Furlongs.

Mr. Jas. Tracey’s b or br m Ira, 7st 3lb	1
Mr. R. Tanner’s ch g Pierrott, 6st 6lb	2
Mr. T. Cook’s blk m Negress, 6st 4lb	3
Bakewell Bros’ Lily, 6st 6lb, J. McMenamin’s Priscilla, 6st 6lb and A.M. Cousin’s Barney, 6st also started.	

This was quoted as the best race of the day, not more than a length separating the first three. Time: 1min.18½ secs.

2. Prince of Wales Stakes, of 25 sovs - weight for age. Seven Furlongs.

Winner to be sold for 50 sovs; 7lbs allowed on every reduction down to nil. Any surplus over the selling price to go to club funds.

Mr. C. Candren’s blk g Yallaroi, (£10) 6st 13lb	1
Mr. F.H. Hall’s br g Grand Peer, (£30) 7st 13lb	2
Mr. J. Teddiman’s b h Centurian, (£15) 7st 9lb	3

Mr. Jas. Tracey's Hope, (£20) 7st 4lb, J. McMinamin's b m Priscilla, (£15) 7st 4lb, H. Kenny's br g Bridgeman (£10) 6st 3lb and G. Kinnaird's br or b filly Lady Ringwood (£10) 6st. Also started.

Yallaroi played a waiting game, and coming up the straight won easily by several lengths. Time: 1min.34secs.

3. Scone Jockey Club Handicap, of 80 sovs. Second horse 5 sovs.

The winner of any Handicap after the declaration of weights to carry a penalty, once 5lbs, twice or more 7lbs. 1-1/4 miles.

Mr. R. Tanner's b or br mare Mabel U, 6st 3lb - E. Davies 1

Mr. A.J. Lynch's ch m Lustre, 7st 9lb - Pearson..... 2

Mr. J. as. Tracey's b or br m Ira, 6st 12lb 3

The field was sent away well together, and passing the grand stand, Osbar, Wilda, British Bell and Lady Dundas were in the lead in a bunch. At the mile point British Belle was in the lead closely followed by Radical and Mabel U. At the back of the course Mabel U gradually went up into first place and increased her lead to two lengths on entering the straight, eventually winning amid great excitement by three lengths from Lustre with Ira being about a length away from the second horse, the rest much scattered. Time: 2mins.19secs.

4. The Scone Mile Handicap of 25 sovs. second horse 2 sovs. From the prize. - 1 mile.

Mr. R. Tanner's ch g Pierrott, 6st 4lb - E. Davies 1

Bakewell Bros. ch m Lily, 6st 4lb - G. Cooper 2

Mr. J.H. Conden's b g Over, 8st - V. Warden 3

A.M. Cousin's br g Barney (6st) and F.H. Hall's b g Herod (6st) also ran.

A good start was effected, Lily leading at the half-mile point, but Pierrott came to the front at the back of the course and increased his lead to three lengths coming into the straight, passing the grand stand six lengths ahead of Lily and Over being close together for second place. Time: 1min.47secs.

An inquiry was demanded into the running of Over, and, at a meeting of the stewards in the evening, he, together with the owner and rider, was disqualified for six months.

5. Hack Race of 5 sovs. 6 Furlongs.....

Gardiner's Silva, 9st 12lb - W. Bridge..... 1

J.W. Brody's Toby, 10st..... 2

There were twelve starters. Time: 1min.26 1/4 secs.

6. The Forced Handicap of 15 sovs. - 1 mile.

For all winners, optional to losers.

Mr. Thos. Cook's blk m Negress, 7st1

Mr. C. Condren's blk g Yallaroi, 7st 12lb2

Mr. E. Simmon's British Belle, 6st 12lb.....3

Radical 6st 12lb also started.

The field were sent away to a splendid start, and this was one of the best races of the meeting. Radical led at the back of the course, but was soon displaced by Negress, with Yallaroi close on her heels. The mare, with British Belle, were leading on entering the home turn, Yallaroi coming fast made a desperate effort to get home first, but could not catch the mare, which won, after a hard race, by about half a length. British Belle being a length away, with Radical close.

A private match was run off in the morning between Mr. W.H. Duckham's Lecturess and F.H. Hall's Syntax. The distance was a quarter of a mile. Lecturess got a little the best of the start, which she had no difficulty in retaining, winning comfortably by a couple of lengths.

The Racecourse Paddock was freely used by the townspeople, chiefly, as its name indicates, for race meetings. But the Scone Jockey Club had no permanent tenure to the racecourse and needed to seek permission to use the track each year.

This lack of security prompted a letter to the Scone Advocate suggesting the Council procure a piece of land in Scone for use by the townspeople. *"I think it would be wise if our coming Mayor and Aldermen were to get another plot or two of ground for the purpose of recreation. For instance, a portion of the land where the racecourse is situated could very well be set apart as a recreation reserve, and would be of benefit to the inhabitants".*

This comment showed extreme foresight. There was further consternation in the district when Bakewells announced in January 1892 that part of the Racecourse Paddock was to be subdivided for sale as building allotments.

Final Race Meeting on the Old Racecourse Paddock

"The opening day of the annual meeting of the Scone Jockey Club on Wednesday and Thursday last was about as unpleasant as could be possible to have. The opening day was ushered in by a blue sky, and there was every appearance of a warm day. As the day advanced, the thermometer ran past the 100, added to which the atmosphere was close and muggy, and about noon a hot wind rose, and continued more or less severe

throughout the remainder of the day, raising at intervals suffocating storms of dust. During the process of the principal event, the wind became almost a hurricane, making those whom had taken up a position in the "grand-stand" quake for fear of the collapse of the stately structure beneath them. Not much attention was given to the race that was proceeding.

Late in the afternoon the wind abated a bit, but then, with the exception of the run-off in the Welter, the races were over.

There can be no doubt the unfavourable weather interfered with the attendance, which was not as large as expected. If we take out the bookmakers and the "forty" brotherhood, the muster was a very poor one.

This is the first occasion that a two-day meeting had been attempted in Scone, and to all intents and purposes the new departure has been a success. Financially the club comes out of the ordeal satisfactorily."

"The racing, with the exception of that for the Welter, was only fair.

The easy win of Leroy in the principal event came as a surprise to the public, Keera being made a warm favourite at 2 to 1, while the winner went out at 6 to 1. Cassandra bagged the Shorts money comfortably. Schoolmaster for sometime was made first favourite for the Stewards' Mile, but, just before starting, the betting veered towards Cassandra, who went out at even money. This caused a small amount of unfavourable comment. Schoolmaster, however, reached the post first, with Cassandra next, coming hard.

The best race of the day was the Welter, for which five horses faced the starter. In the opinion of a large number Huggah Muggah, who had by far the worst of the start, won, thanks to the horsemanship of "Jimmy" Smith, after a great race, by about half-a-head from Idalia, but the judge, who should know best, gave it as a dead heat. In the run off Huggah Muggah led all the way to win."

Wednesday, December 16, 1891.

1. Opening Handicap of 20 sovs. Distance, 6 furlongs.
 E. Curtis' Cassandra, 7st 6lb P. Kennedy 1
 J. Epstein's Idalia, 7st R. M'Auliffe 2
 Other starters: C.J. Spratt's Welcome Jack, 7st 6lb, J. Hardcastle's Lumpy, 6st 12lb, H. Wiseman's Violet, 6st 12lb, E.E. Campbell's Mascotte 11, 6st 6lb, W.L. Adams' Mayflower, 6st.
 Won somewhat easily by about three lengths, the third horse being about two lengths away. Time: 1min. 24secs.

2. Prince of Wales Stakes of 20 sovs. W.F.A. Winner to be sold for 50 sovs. Distance, 7 furlongs.
 E. Simmons' Planet 7st 13lb1
 B. Tierney's Eveline 6st 11lb.....2
 These were the only horses started. Eveline lead for about half the distance, when Planet gradually drew upon her and won by a length and a half. Time: 1min. 38secs. The winner was afterwards offered for sale, but there being no bid, he was passed in.

3. The Robertson Handicap of 45 sovs. Second horse 5 sovs. (From the prize) Distance, 1 mile 1 furlong.
 J. Doherty's Leroy, 6st 4lb R. M'Auliffe.....1
 H. Kenny's Barnaby Ridge, 7st 6lb P. Kennedy2
 D. Cameron's St Elmo, 8st 12lb3
 Other starters: N. Hall's Renard, 8st 12lb, T. Cook's Keera, 7st 6lb.
 Betting: 2 to 1 Keera, 3 to 1 St Elmo, 6 to 1 Leroy, 5 to 2 Barnaby Ridge, 6 to 1 Renard. A good start was effected; Leroy at once taking the lead, which he increased going round, winning by about 4 lengths. Time: 2mins. 4secs.

4. The Steward's Mile, a handicap of 20 sovs. Second horse 5 sovs. (from the prize)
 R.D. Piesley's Schoolmaster, 9st 1lb Wilson1
 F. Curtis' Cassandra, 7st 10lb Kennedy.....2
 C.P. O'Neil's Early Bird, 6st 10lb Davis.....3
 Other starter: W.M. Campbell's Avonia. Betting: Even money Cassandra, 4 and 5 to 1 Schoolmaster, 7 to 1 Early Bird and Avenia. Avenia got a bad start. Early Bird led the first part of the distance, closely followed by Cassandra, finishing on strongly. Schoolmaster came to the front and won with apparent ease by two lengths, in 1min. 51secs.

5. The Welter Handicap of 25 sovs. Minimum weight, 8st 7lb. Distance 7 furlongs.
 J. Hardcastle's Huggah Muggah, 9st 4lb Smith..... 1*
 J. Epstein's Idalia, 9st 7lb S.Blaxland 1*
 W.G. Cousin,s Larry, 9st 12lb.....3
 *Dead heat. Other starters: H.A. Wiseman's Nightshade, 9st 8lb, A.J. Campbell's Black Lead, 9st 12lb. Huggah Muggah had several lengths the worst of the start,

and it looked like a win for Idalia. But the bay gradually drew up, and both ran neck and neck, amidst great excitement. Time: 1min. 37secs. In the run off Huggah Muggah soon took the lead, which he maintained, and won by three or four lengths.

Thursday, December 17, 1891.

Thursday's weather was more favourable; in fact, except that it was a little warm, it could not have been better.

The attendance, as is generally the case on the second day, was much larger, and, what is of more importance in adding to the general improvement of things, the racing was the very best, the public getting good value for their money. The big event fell to Semolina, after a great race. A better race than this could not be witnessed, being so close that a blanket would have covered six out of the seven horses.

1. The Flying Handicap of 20 sovs. Six furlongs.

C.J. Spratt's Welcome Jack, 8st	1
W.L. Adams' Mayflower, 6st.....	2
H.R. Wiseman's Violet, 7st.....	3
Early Bird, 6st 9lb also started.	

Welcome Jack started favourite. The quartet were sent away in a straggling start, Mayflower taking command, followed by Violet. These positions were the same till nearing the home turn, when Welcome Jack began to work to the front. Mayflower was the first to enter the straight, followed by Welcome Jack, with the other two several lengths behind. A little further on Welcome Jack passed Mayflower, and ran home an easy winner.

2. The Publican's Purse (handicap) of 20 sovs. Seven furlongs.

H. Kenny's Barnaby Ridge, 8st 5lb J.M' Crowe	1
E. Simmons' Planet, 7st 4lb Churchland.....	2
D. Cameron's St Elmo, 8st 7lb—	3

Other starters: W. Cousin's Larry, 7st, C.J. Spratt's Glendon, 6st 4lb, J.H. Roe's Mouse, 6st, W.M. Campbell's Avonia, 6st.

This was also a splendid race, being won by only half a head. St Elmo and Larry being close up. Avonia lost the start. Time: 1min. 24½ secs.

3. Scone Jockey Club Handicap of 80 sovs. Second horse 5 sovs. (From the prize) One and a half mile.

A. Tory's Semolina, 7st 10lb Davis.....1
 R.O. Piesley's Schoolmaster, 7st 7lb R. Poole2
 J. Doherty's Leroy, 6st 13lb R. M'Auliffe.....3
 Other starters: T. Cook's Keera, 7st 7lb, C.J. Spratt's Welcome Jack, 7st, J. Hardcastle's Huggah Muggah, 6st 3lb, E.K. Campbell's Mascotte 11, 6st 2lb. Betting: 2 to 1 Semolina and Schoolmaster, 6 to 1 Leroy, Keera and Welcome Jack, 8 to 1 Huggah Muggah, 10 to 1 Mascotte 11.

This, as already mentioned, was a race worth going a long way to see. A good start was effected, Keera and Mascotte 11 led past the stand. At the half-mile post Keera and Leroy were leading, closely followed by Semolina and Schoolmaster, and the rest, with the exception of Mascotte 11, who had fallen back. Coming into the straight Schoolmaster took the lead, Semolina coming, and the rest in a bunch. In the straight it was hard to see which was leading. Some called out Semolina, some Schoolmaster, and others Keera and Welcome Jack, but the chestnut mare justified the confidence placed in her, winning by about a head. Leroy or Keera, it was hard to say which, but the judge placed the former being third, with Huggah Muggah and Welcome Jack on their shoulders. Time: 2mins. 16½secs.

4. Turanville Stakes (handicap) of 20 sovs. Six furlongs.

C.P. O'Neil's Early Bird, 6st J. Hodder1
 J. Doherty's Leroy, 7st 10lb.....2
 J. Epstein's Idalia, 6st 9lb.....3
 Early Bird led nearly all the way, and won with about four lengths to spare, Idalia being about the same distance away. Time: 1min. 20secs.

5. The Forced Handicap of 15 sovs. For all winners. Optional to losers. One mile.

Schoolmaster, 9st 1lb M. Crowe1
 Keera, 8st 2lb P. Chaffe2
 Glendon, 6st 4lb.....3
 Other starters: Mayflower, 6st, Huggah Muggah, 7st, Planet, 7st 7lb.
 Schoolmaster held back until coming into the straight, and won with a couple of lengths to spare.

Over the meeting a publicans' booth was kept by Mrs. Gallagher, but there was little or no drunkenness, and the meeting throughout was very orderly.

The Settling.

This took place in the evening at Epstein's ("Tattersall's") Hotel, when there was a large attendance.

Dr. Scott, who was voted to the chair, said he regretted the absence of the President (Mr. Cook) through illness.

He (the Chairman) thought they had had a very enjoyable meeting, and it would now be for them to say whether there would be two days or one in the future. They were rather disappointed at there not being more horses here. Mr. Quinton had shown him a program issued at Seaham, the added money amounted to not more than £140 for 5 to 6 events, and yet 102 entries were received. Now, Scone had offered £184 this time, and certainly expected more entries.

But notwithstanding this, he believed all would be glad to hear they would come out on the right side of the ledger.

This would probably be their last meeting on the old course, which was going to be cut up and subdivided, but they were promised another, which, although not so close to town, had a good road to it and he believed was a better one than the present.

Dr. Scott going on to say *"The Scone Jockey Club had every reason to be satisfied with what it had achieved and in the estimation of racing men, the Scone Club was coming to the front as one of the best in the North"*.

The Satur Racecourse 1892-1900

The question as to where a suitable racing track, convenient to the town, could be found, was answered in the eyes of the racing fraternity who turned west across Kingdom Ponds to Satur.

Mr. Frederick Augustus Parbury was the owner of Satur Estate at the time of the Racecourse Paddock closing and, in 1892, he cheerfully gave a piece of excellent land, ideal for racing, to the fraternity to make its first Jockey Club.

The move of the Scone Jockey Club from the Old Racecourse Paddock to the new track at Satur was the final stage in the progression of horse racing in the township during the past fifty years. The change in committee was reflected on the course, which was

improved to include an even and well-maintained racing surface and first-rate facilities for the patrons. The Satur Racecourse represented a well-developed professional race club made up of the district's most influential and highly regarded men.

The Scone Jockey Club no longer provided an annual function and entertainment. Rather, it set out an annual race meeting, the main function being to hold races for the love of the sport rather than to entertain and provide a social outlet for the people of the district. The racecourse became well defined, an extra payment being required to enter the saddling enclosure and grandstands to successfully segregate the various classes attending the meetings.

The Club also attempted to nullify the traditional elements that followed racing whilst regarding gambling tendencies of the lower classes as being detrimental to racing.

The eight years the Scone Jockey Club raced at the Satur course until the turn of the century provide a distinct contrast to the festive, popular meetings held on the Old Racecourse Paddock and St. Aubins courses. The Satur Course also illustrated the development of one of the most improved and leading country racetracks in the Hunter Valley during this period of time.

The course was situated between Middlebrook Farm and Sledmere. The new Satur track had a circumference of eleven furlongs with two straights of a quarter of a mile. It ran a testing finishing straight of up to two furlongs running parallel to the Scone-Merriwa Road.

The first race meeting conducted by the Scone Jockey Club on their newly acquired racecourse established at Satur was held on Thursday 15th December 1892.

Scone Advocate December 1892.

"Scone Jockey Club

Thursday- 15th Dec.

Six Events.

£200 prize Money!

Intending Visitors are re-requested to bear in mind that the above Races take place on the New Race Course, close to town, where a roomy Grandstand and saddling Paddock have been erected, And every requisite for a good days racing. Buses will run up to 2 o'clock p.m.

John A.K. Shaw.

Hon. Sec. Scone Jockey Club."

Scone Races 1892. New Satur Racecourse

The above races came off on the new racecourse at Satur yesterday, Thursday, December 15, and were the most successful held by the club. The day was all that could be desired; consequently the attendance was large, numbering about 800.

The fields for the different events were good, and were well contested.

The above was taken from the Scone Advocate, Friday, December 16, 1892 and goes on to say that owing to the sudden illness of the Editor of the paper anything like a report on the races would be held over until the next issue.

Unfortunately due to some mishap of the mentioned edition it appears that down through the years they have become unavailable.

But, like the opening of any new facility, we can assume that it went according to plan and racing was seen at its highest level.

1. Flying Handicap of 25 sovs. Entrance fee 1 sov. Six furlongs.
 R.R. Webster's ? ?, 8st 9lb 1
 T. Cook's Allright, 8st *
 J. Keenan's Millie, 7st 11lb *
 *Dead heat. Other starters: Chance, Decimal, Birrumboo, Eileen, Lucinda, Idalia, Violet, Welcome Jane.

2. Sovereign Handicap 30 sovs. Winner to be sold immediately after the race for 1 sov. Any surplus to go to the Club. Entrance 1 sov. 7 furlongs.
 S. Tucker's Result, 7st 1
 J.L. Cushan's St Leger, 8st 7lb 2
 W.L. Adams' Leo, 6st 2lb 3
 Other starters: Slowboy, Lady Bird, and Bingo.

3. Scone Jockey Club Handicap of 30 sovs. Second horse to receive 10 sovs. (from the prize) One and a quarter miles.
 T. Cook's Keera, 7st 1
 I. John's Roscoe, 7st 4lb 2
 A. Wilson's Crosus, 7st 3
 Other starters: Nightingale, Heller, Blacklook, Belle Dame, Zeodone, Ilander, and Idalia.

4. Turanville Handicap of 25 sovs. Entrance fee 1 sov. 6 furlongs.
 H.R. Wiseman's Violet, 6st 1
 R.R. Jones' Decimal, 7st 11lb 2
 J. Graut's Wanderer, 6st 3
 Other starters: Chance, Allright, Millie, Lucinda, Lady Bird, Navan, Result.

5. Welter Handicap of 25 sovs. Minimum weight 8st 7lb. Entrance fee 1 sov. One mile.
 H.R. Wiseman's Donnybrook, 8st 7lb 1
 J.L. Casban's St Leger, 9st 10lb 2
 T. Cush's Epsom, 8st 2lb 3
 Other starters: Belle Dame, Lynx, Birrumboo, Gold Dust, Keera, Asbestos.

6. Forced Handicap of 15 sovs. For all winners, optional to losers. Post entries.
 Winners 1 sov. Losers 10s. 7 furlongs.
 S. Tucker's Lynx 1
 L.E. Ell's Ilander 2
 R. Fleming's Epsom 3

The move of the Scone races to the new course renewed interest in the sport in the township as was reported in the Scone Advocate of 16th December 1892. *"The above races came off on the new course at Satur yesterday, and were the most successful yet held here. The day was all that could be desired, consequently the attendance was large, numbering 800"*

The new committee had also gone to great lengths to build adequate amenities. The committee members guaranteed a £150 overdraft for the purpose of effecting the necessary repairs on the new course that had been leased for a ten-year period from Mr. Parbury.

Mr. R.W. Solomon was given the responsibility of erecting a saddling paddock of 100 feet by 60 feet. This enclosure was to be built of 7 feet iron and 6 inches from the ground. A plan was submitted for the construction of a grandstand, which was completed prior to the 1892 race meeting at a cost of £75 and could seat 140 persons.

In order to create further interest in the Scone Races the Club proposed a race to be known as the Jockey Club Sires' Produce Stakes.

The nominations for the race to be held three years later also helped to offset the debt the Club had taken out in order to improve the course.

A meeting held at the Golden Fleece Hotel on 25th October, 1892 set out the inaugural Sires' Produce Stakes along the following lines: "Scone Jockey Club Sires' Produce Stakes

of 1895, a subscription of 5 sovs. each from the owners of the sires nominated with 23 sovs added by the Club, and a sweep of 1 sov. each for all foals nominated; to be run for by two-year-olds.

The produce of Sires nominated at the Scone Jockey Club Meeting of 1895; distance 6 furlongs.

Weight colts 8st 5lbs, fillies and geldings 8st; sires to be nominated and subscriptions paid by 31st December 1892; mares by name of sire by which served, to be nominated on or before 31st July 1892, and an entry of 10s. Paid; foals to be described on or before 31st July 1894, and 10s. paid; balance of sweep (10s.) to be paid on or before 31st July, 1895, or the first moiety of sweep to be forfeited to the prize; second horse to receive 15 sovs. and the third 5 sovs. from the prize."

The total payment for each two-year-old nominated to start the race totalled 26 sovs with the first prize of the race being £200.

The Scone committee organised excursion tickets on northbound trains from Newcastle and southbound trains from Quirindi on the day preceding as well as the day of the races, returning on the day following the races.

The relocation of the racecourse to Satur created a distance that could no longer be travelled comfortably on foot, as had been the case with the Old Racecourse adjacent to the town. This led to the establishment of a passenger service operated by Mrs. W.E. Worrad. The coach was scheduled to meet the train to convoy the out-of-town visitors.

An advertisement in the Scone Advocate on 6th December 1892 informed visitors and other patrons to the races that: *"A coach will leave the Willow Tree Hotel. Coach capable of seating 40 passengers."*

The obvious demand for transport from the town of Scone to the Satur course resulted in the Police Magistrate, Mr. W.F. Parker granting a number of applications for a coach licence for the two-day meeting conducted in 1894.

The sale of the booths on the course was conducted at an auction at the Farmers Union Shed.

The financial interest local publicans had in the race meetings was for the first time shared by the local lodge of Oddfellows who attempted to raise funds for their Order by holding a ball and supper at their hall following the races.

The Oddfellows interest in the race meeting in 1892 was the beginning of a long and successful relationship between the Oddfellows and racing in Scone.

The 1893 Summer Races conducted by the Scone Jockey Club demonstrated the success that the Club now enjoyed. The formidable advertisement in the Scone Advocate of 10th-17th November 1893 reflects the influence of the new committee.

The Satur course was further improved prior to the 1893 race meeting. The course was extended so that it had two straights, one of a quarter of a mile at the milepost and another of the same distance on the run home. Top dressing of the whole course was done at a cost of £45 and the Advocate printed the following opinion of members of the committee after the improvements had been completed. *"It will then be good turf all the way, the Committee thus hoping to make it as good, if not better than any inland course in the Colony".*

A further £100 was spent during the 1892-93 year on improving the course. Due to the crowds that attended the races, the saddling paddock was enlarged and extra stands were erected opposite the previous year's construction at a cost of £60. *"The object of the new stand was to relieve the grandstand which was found to be too small, and they serve the purpose very well as nearly as good a view of the races can be obtained from them and without any crush."*

The grandstands were primitive constructions and the zinc roofs made them very hot.

The holding of the meeting prior to Christmas ensured that the races did not clash with other fixtures further down the Valley. Hence a large number of visitors arrived on the special train.

A heavy shower of rain that made the track very slippery affected the races. A loose buggy horse rushing across the track just as the race started caused two horses, Over and Artellier, the public favourites, to fall. The short, though heavy shower, helped to clarify the temporary structures of the refreshment booths as they were severely damaged by the storm.

A local landholder and committee member, Mr. Hall, was the most successful owner at the meeting, winning both the Handicap and the Welter and receiving £105 in prizemoney.

The influence of Mr. Thomas Cook, the Jockey Club president, as the leading breeder of the district was discernible by the fact that no less than ten horses racing at the 1893 meeting sported his D.R. brand.

In 1892 the Scone Summer Meeting attracted a total of 73 entries. However, entries in 1893 only numbered 55, prompting the Secretary of the Club, Mr. J.A.K. Shaw, in his report

for the 1893-94 year to comment: *“that although the usual liberal programme was offered to the owners, we regret that probably due to the financial depression then existing, it was not so freely availed as in former years and the entries not nearly up to average. Fortunately however, the attendance of the public was good and thus the loss to the Club was somewhat lessened”*.

Scone Races. Friday, December 15, 1893.

The above took place today, the weather warm and sultry up to about 2o'clock, when very heavy rain began to fall, and kept on for about half an hour, making the course very slippery and a little heavy.

There was a large attendance of the public, and the plying of vehicles to and from the course gave the town the liveliest aspect. There were a large number of visitors on the course, the special train bringing many down from the country. The various officials carried out their duties in a satisfactory manner. Dr. Scott acted as judge and Mr. J. Sevil as starter, the latter gentleman getting his fields away splendidly.

The following are the results:

1. Flying Handicap of 25 sovs. 6 furlongs.
 Mr. Jas. Dwyer's Wilford, 6st 8lb E. Rose 1
 Mr. H.R. Wiseman's Violet, 9st 1lb Gough 2
 Mr. J.C. Cushan's Welcome, 7st 8lb Clark..... 3
 Other starters: Vergy 6st 8lb, Wandaree 8st, Navette 7st 4lb, Amadeur 6st 13lb, Tralle 6st 8lb, Astronomer 6st 7lb. Betting: 7 to 1 Vergy, 5 to 1 Wilford, 3 to 1 Violet. Splendid start. Wilford taking the lead and winning buy a head from Violet, who was about a half a length ahead of Welcome.
2. Sovereign Handicap of 35 sovs. 7 furlongs.
 Mr. F.C. Page's Royal, 9st 5lb Gough..... 1
 Mr. R. Stewart's Modesty, 6st 5lb Clark 2
 Mr. H.R. Wiseman's Guesswork, 7st 10lb Wiseman 3
 J.W. Brodie's Toby, 6st 12lb also ran.
 Betting: 4 to 1 Royal and Toby, 3 to 1 Guesswork, 5 to 1 Modesty.
 Good start, Guesswork leading followed by Toby with Royal last. Royal ran up coming into the straight, and won in a canter by about three lengths. Time: 1min. 38secs. Winner sold for £27.
3. Scone J.C. Handicap of 80 sovs. One and a quarter miles.
 Mr. R. Hall's Gundebri, 7st F. Bridge..... 1
 Mr. H.R. Wiseman's Violet, 8st 12lb McCausland 2

Mr. R.A. Allan's Bay Surry, 6st 7lb Halligan3

T. Cook's Atelier, 7st 4lb and P. M'Carty's Over also started.

Betting: 2 to 1 Over and Atelier, 5 to 1 Gundeabri, 10 to 1 Bay Surry and others. Atelier appeared to have the better of the start, but when about 100 yards had been negotiated; a buggy horse ran across the track, bringing down both Atelier and Over.

4. Turanville Handicap of 25 sovs. 6 furlongs.

Mr. J. Grant's Wanderee, 8st 2lb Walker.....1

Mr. J. Staiker's Lioness, 7st 6lb Kennedy2

Mr. J.L. Cushan's Welcome, 7st 10lb Rose3

Royal, Galway, Tralee, Peveril, Belzoni and Astronomer also started.

Betting: 2 to 1 Lioness, 4 to 1 Belzoni, Welcome and Wanderee, 6 to 1 others.

A splendid race between the first two, Lioness being beaten by half a length.

Time: 1min. 22secs. A protest was afterwards entered and then dismissed against the winner for jostling.

The Club had an outstanding debt of £350 due to the improvements made to the course. However the payments made for the Sires' Produce Stakes were placed at 3½ per cent in fixed deposit, paying off the overdraft. As the improvements made to the course were of a permanent character the position of the Club was regarded as being very satisfactory.

In an attempt to encourage horse owners to venture to Scone, a two-day meeting was set down for 1894 with far more races offering smaller prizes. It was the committee's opinion that such a race meeting would give horse owners greater chances of winning and, that it would be better for the town.

The programme for the 1894 meeting was advertised in the Scone Advocate on the 30th of October and November 6th 1894.

"Scone Jockey Club

Summer Meeting

December 12th & 13th 1894

First Day

Maiden Plate of 20 sovs; second horse 2 sovs from the prize; 7 furlongs; weight for age.

Entrance 1 sov.

Selling Race of 20 sovs; weight for age; winner to be sold for 30 sovs; 7lbs allowed for every reduction of 10 sovs. down to any surplus to go to the Club; 7 furlongs; Entrance, 1 sov.

Satur Handicap of 45 sovs; second horse to receive 5 sovs. From the prize, 1½ miles; nomination 1 sov. Acceptances 1 sov.

Steward's Gift of 20 sovs; a handicap of 6 furlongs. Entrance 1 sov.

Welter Handicap of 20 sovs; maximum Weight 8st 7lbs; 1 mile; Entrance 1 sov.

Second Day

President's prize of 20 sovs; for all horses bearing the DR (Turanville brand) 7 furlongs; weight for age. Entrance 1 sov.

Sovereign Handicap of 20 sovs; the winner to be sold for 1 sov. immediately after the race, any surplus to go to the Club; 7 furlongs. Entrance 1 sov.

Scone Jockey Club Handicap of 50 sovs; second horse to receive 5 sovs. from the prize; 1½ mile. Nominations, 1 sov; Acceptances, 1 sov.

Welter Handicap of 20 sovs; minimum weights 8st 7lb. 6 furlongs. Entrance. 1 sov.

Forced Handicap of 15 sov. for all winners, optional to losers; 1 mile; post entrance. Winners 1 sov. Losers, 10s."

Scone Jockey Club held the first of its two-day meetings on the Satur Racecourse on 12th and 13th December 1894. Initiating this two-day meeting succeeded in gaining a greater number of entries, totalling 103. Also, the large amounts of prizemoney associated with the Scone races were a further incentive to nominate. The day's main race, The Jockey Club Handicap, offered 80 sovereigns prizemoney and the President of the Club, Mr. Thomas Cook, gave 25 sovereigns as the prize for the Turanville Handicap.

The development and popularity of the Scone Races can be seen by the Club's insistence that (as a guarantee of good faith) bookmakers pay a large £25 deposit in notes or gold in addition to the usual bookmaker's fee. The bookmakers' stands were set up inside the saddling paddock and, upon entering the paddock, the public was required to pay a small fee. Hence, for the first time, a distinct physical barrier was erected in order to separate the social classes present. Another charge was made if patrons wished to use the newly erected grandstand.

Because of construction of the saddling enclosure, the privileges in conjunction with the race meeting were also divided. One publican's booth was erected in the saddling enclosure. This bar was required to be not less than 18 feet long. The other publican's booth was located on the course to cater for the general public with no restrictions on the length of the bar.

Sixteen runners were engaged in the Maiden Plate with most being untried. The Satur Handicap attracted nine entries, including the Sydney-trained Llena with other good performers included. In addition, the Publican's Purse had no less than 23 entries.

Inclement weather did not plague the two-day meeting.

However, a disappointing crowd of 600-700 attended the races, which was comparatively depleted to the previous year. The Club cleared £80 from the two days.

The names of some of the horses make it out as a genuine Upper Hunter meeting. The President of the Jockey Club, Thomas Cook of Turanville, brought along three horses - Faber, Woolooma, and the well-known Murrulla who was sired by the famous Gemma-di-Vergy.

From the Belltrees stud of H.E.A. and V. White came the three-year-old Mount Royal who was successful in the Maiden Plate, winning by half a length from John Ewbank Simpson's Cardiff who came from even further up the Hunter for the meeting.

T.F. Flanagan's horse The Wave took third place in the race, over a mile and a quarter.

There was some excitement on the second day when the President's prize ended in a dead heat between President Tom Cook's Woolooma and R.T. Hall's Gundabri, with W.M. Campbell's Peveril a good third.

The Hails, R.T and Arthur fought out the next race between them.

The Jew won the big event of the meeting, the Scone Jockey Club Handicap of a mile and a half; J. McMenamin's great stayer defeated Cook's heavily backed Faber by half a length.

The Jew was successful again in the last race of the day, easily defeating E. Moore's Schoolmaster over a mile run.

In those days owners thought nothing of turning out their horses for two or, even three races, on the same day and The Jew must have had great stamina.

He appeared at a number of country meetings over the next few years.

Scone Race Club

Wednesday, December 12, 1894 Satur Racecourse

1. Maiden Plate of 20 sovereigns, second 2 sovereigns.
Weight-For-Age. Seven Furlongs.
Messrs. H.E. and A.V. White's b f Mount Royal, 3 yrs, 7st.11lb.1

- Mr. J.E. Simpson's b g Cardiff 5 yrs, 8st. 13lb. 2
 Mr. T.F. Flanagan's br g The Wave 4 yrs, 8st. 11lb. 3
 Sir Andrew, 4yrs, 9st; Borah, 5yrs, 8st 13lb; Careless, 5yrs, 8st 13lb; Chanticleer, 4yrs, 8st 11lb; W.H.P., 4yrs, 8st 11lb; Barney, 4yrs, 8st 11lb; Italian, 4yrs, 8st 11lb; Sir Alfred, 3yrs, 8st 2lb; Plebian, 3yrs, 7st 13lb, also ran.
 Betting: Evens Mount Royal. Won by half a length.
2. Selling Race of 20 sovereigns. Seven furlongs.
 Mr. J. Bryant's b g The Earl, 6 yrs, 8st 6lb. 1
 Mr. J. Dine's ch g Green Leek, aged, 8st 6lb 2
 Mr. W. Phillips' b h Safeguard, 5yrs, 8st 2lb..... 3
 Asbestos, aged, 8st 13lb; Drama, 4yrs, 8st 2lb, also ran.
 Won easily. Time: 1min. 33secs.
3. Satur Handicap, of 45 sovereigns, second 5 sovereigns. One and a quarter miles.
 Mr. T. Cook's roan h Faber, 6yrs, 9st 9lb. 1
 Mr. F. Moore's ch h Schoolmaster, aged, 7st 13lb. 2
 Mr. W. Day's ch m Navette, 6yrs, 7st 6lb. 3
 Peveril, 6yrs, 7st; Llana, 3yrs, 7st; Gundabri, 6yrs, 6st 10lb, also ran.
 Betting: 2 to 1 agst Faber, 4 to 1 Schoolmaster, 6 each The Jew and Navette, 7 each Llana and Gundabri.
 Won easily, two lengths second and third. Time: 2min. 12-1/4 sec.
 The Jew, 5yrs, 7st 6lb, was left at the post.
4. The Publicans' Purse of 20 sovereigns. Six furlongs.
 Mr. R. Simmons' br g Ilander, aged, 7st 4lb..... 1
 Mr. W.K. Kennedy's b m Bouquet, 6yrs, 9st 2lb..... 2
 Mr. W. Phillips' b g Taipo, 6yrs, 6st 10lb. 3
 Mount Royal, 3yrs, 7st 8lb; Milgarra, 3yrs, 7st 4lb; Green Leek, aged, 7st 4lb; The Wave, 4yrs, 6st 11lb; Borah, 5yrs, 6st 11lb; Cardiff, 5yrs, 6st 10lb; Chanticleer, 4yrs, 6st 10lb; Jean, 5yrs, 6st 7lb; Santa Claus, 5yrs, 6st 7lb, also ran.
 Won by a head, good third. Time: 1min. 16-3/4 sec.
5. Welter Handicap of 20 sovereigns. One mile.
 Mr. G.L. Doolan's ch m Idalia, aged, 10st 3lb. 1
 Mr. E. Moore's ch h Schoolmaster, aged, 10st 9lb..... 2

Mr. J. Bryant's b g The Earl, 6yrs, 8st 7lb.3
 The Jew, 5yrs, 10st 3lb; Murrulla, 4yrs, 9st 4lb; Nestor, aged, 8st 9lb; Ivory, 4yrs, 8st 7lb, also ran.
 Won easily. Time: 1min. 46sec.

Thursday, December 13, 1884

1. President's Prize of 20 sovereigns. Seven furlongs.
 Mr. R.T. Hall's b h Gundabri, 6yrs, 7st. 1*
 Mr. T. Cook's b g Woolooma, 4yrs, 7st 4lb..... 1*
 Mr. W.M. Campbell's gr g Peveril, 6yrs, 7st 4lb.....3
 Milgarra, 5yrs, 7st 2lb, also ran.
 Betting: 6 to 4 agst Peveril and Milgarra, 3 to 1 Woolooma, 5 to 1 Gundabri.
 *Dead heat. Owners divided. Time: 1min 30sec.

2. Sovereign Handicap of 20 sovereigns. Seven furlongs.
 Mr. R.T. Hall's b f Drama, 4yrs, 8st 7lb. 1
 Mr. A. Hall's br g Italian, 4yrs, 8st.2
 Mr. W. Day's b g Borah, 5yrs, 8st 4lb.....3
 Nancy Lee, 3yrs, 7st 12lb, also ran.
 Betting: 2 to 1 agst Drama, 3 to 1 each Nancy Lee and Italian, 5 to 1 Borah.
 Won easily. Time: 1min. 36sec.

3. Scone J.C. Handicap of 50 sovereigns, second 5 sovereigns. One and a half miles.
 Mr. J. M'Menamin's br g The Jew, 5yrs, 7st 4lb..... 1
 Mr. T. Cook's roan h Faber, 6yrs, 9st 7lb.2
 Mr. G.L. Doolan's ch m Idalia, aged, 7st 4b.....3
 Navette, 6yrs, 7st 4lb; Peveril 6yrs, 6st 12lb; Nestor, aged, 6st 7lb, also ran.
 Betting: 6 to 4 on Faber, 3 to 1 agst Idalia, 5 to 1 The Jew, 10 each others.
 Won by half a length, same second and third. Time: 2min. 40sec.

4. Welter Handicap of 20 sovereigns. Six furlongs.
 Mr. J. Bryant's b g The Earl, 6yrs, 8st 8lb. 1
 Mr. W.S. Cousin's b c Elton, 4yrs, 10st 7lb.2
 Mr. R. Simmon's br g Ilander, aged, 9st 6lb.....3
 Milgarra, 3yrs, 9st 6lb; Murrulla, 4yrs, 9st 6lb; Italian, 4yrs, 8st 12lb; Cardiff, 5yrs, 8st 11lb; Ivory, 4yrs, 8st 8lb; Santa Claus, 5yrs, 8st 7lb, also ran. Won by a length, half a length second and third. Time: 1min.17sec.

5. Forced Handicap of 15 sovereigns. One mile.
 Mr. J. M'Menamin's br g The Jew, 5yrs, 8st 10lb.....1
 Mr. E. Moore's ch h Schoolmaster, aged, 9st.2
 Mr. G.L. Doolan's ch m Idalia, aged, 8st 7lb.3
 Elton, Gundabri, Chanticleer, Nancy Lee and Jean also ran.
 Betting: Evens Idalia, 2 to 1 agst Schoolmaster, 3 to 1 Elton, 12 to 1 The Jew.
 Won easily.

Scone Advocate, 14th December, 1894: The influence of the new governing body of the Scone Jockey Club had distinctly changed the outlook and policy of the Club. In the President's address at the settling following the 1894 meeting, Thomas Cook commented: *"They had men on the Committee who were the right sort, and they needed only to put their shoulders to the wheel and keep going to make the Club the best north of Newcastle."*

Much was made of the reputation of the present committee and its independent status due to landed wealth. Both Thomas Cook and Dr. Scott were vehemently against gambling, as was Arthur Smith, the editor of the Scone Advocate.

Thomas Cook commented that: *"He had one win and was satisfied he did not expect to sweep the board. He always liked to see the best horse win no matter who owned it. He for the sport of the thing and never went about betting. Betting he thought took a lot of pleasure out of sport."*

Important was sportsmanship and true sport. It was believed the character of the committee would put down with a firm hand the shady dealings of characters *"that travel the game whose guiding star is not sport but money"*. The Advocate also commented that the "books" and "forties" were in evidence and we would prefer to see far less of them.

The Jockey Club attempted to filter out the more uncultured and rough edges of the racing fraternity. Bookmakers' and publicans' booths were frowned upon and only accepted because "the Club made a good thing out of their fees".

This attitude led to the formation of the Scone Amateur Turf Club in 1895. The committee of the Amateur Club was almost identical to the Scone Jockey Club. Thomas Cook was the President whilst Vice Presidents included Messrs. Bakewell, Hall, Solomon and Asser. The amateur meetings were held in July and October so as not to clash with the Jockey Club's meeting.

Scone Advocate 1895: Scone Amateur Turf Club Meeting Thursday, 4th July 1895 on St Aubin's Course Scone

The amateur meetings were held on Mr. Bakewell's private St. Aubins course. Only 250 people patronised the races, which reflects the select group that attended to witness races restricted to members of the Amateur Race Club and the Scone Jockey Club.

The Amateur Races reflect the interest and success that the more influential members of the district enjoyed in the sport of racing. The Amateur Club reflected their social standing and considerable wealth. The majority of spectators were social peers of the Scone Jockey Club and their families.

The Jockey Club continued to make extensive improvements to the Satur course during 1895. The Club elevated the Scone Races to the highest level because of its extensive facilities. The good state of the track encouraged patrons and horse owners to attend meetings.

The whole track was again top-dressed; this heavy work was a costly venture, although necessary, as part of the track was terribly hard on the horses. Hence, a thick top dressing was laid over the track and couch grass encouraged to establish.

The saddling paddock was again enlarged in order to cater for the large number of horses that now took part in the races. Another facility erected was a telegraph board within the enclosure that gave the acceptances and late scratchings before each race. Tying-up stalls were also constructed for the horses. These stalls replaced the makeshift hitching rails and were constructed so each horse had its own individual stall protected from the glare of the hot sun. They each had a temporary canvas covering.

The Club took advantage of rain prior to the meeting and had the track harrowed. The following observation was made concerning the Satur track: *"It is quite large enough, if not really too large; except for the a very short distance in the long races a full uninterrupted view of the horses can be obtained, there are no sharp turns, the straight is as good a one as it could possibly be. Nothing that might be done could improve the track, which according to men who should know will be one of the best in the colony. This according to the President at settling night, is, at any rate the view of no less an authority than Mr. Monaghan, who says the course is now equal to Randwick"*.

The Satur race track and race week in Scone had become the major social week in the Upper Hunter District. Special trains at holiday excursion prices were hired by the club to convey patrons from Newcastle and Tamworth and intermediate stations to attend the Scone Jockey Club annual race meeting on the 11th and 12th December, 1895.

This was an example of the efficiency and planning of the Scone Race Club in conveying patrons to the races.

The promising programme set out for the 1895 races shown below attracted 119 entries to the meeting.

The Editor of the Scone Advocate (10/12/95) commented that *"There are a good many horses in town, and the attendance of the public it is expected will be very large, for never has so much interest been manifested in a race meeting here"*.

Race week in Scone had become the major entertainment in the district. The town on each day of the meeting; *"presented its usual lively aspect on the occasion of the Club's meeting"*. (13/12/95)

One of the main attractions at the meeting in 1895 was the first use of Mr. Grey's starting machine at the Satur course. Two machines were purchased at a cost of £15. The mechanical barrier was a novelty to those who attended the races and also the horses that had not encountered such a device previously.

The following extract is a description of the first use of the starting machine at Scone: *"There can be no questioning its improvement on the old method, but horses require to be used to it. There is no trouble in getting them up to the webbing, but young horses who are not accustomed to it often get frightened when it flies up for the start"*.

The starting machine was regarded as being superior to the traditional flag start that had been plagued with false and unfair starts. The Scone Advocate (13/12/95) commented that: *"We hardly think it is likely the flag will be used anymore on the Satur Course."*

The 1895 races saw the Scone Jockey Club distribute £356 in prizemoney. Mr. J. Western's Anambah won the first running of the Sires' Produce Stakes.

The Club's balance sheet following the meeting was regarded as *"a highly satisfactory state of affairs"* with a profit of £95.5s.8d. showing on the completed meeting. However, the Club was indebted to several future Sires' Produce Stakes races in the forthcoming years to the extent of £167.7s.1d. leaving an overdraft of £74.1s.5d.

The first running of the Scone Sires' Produce Stakes was a great boon to the Scone Club, attracting nine runners.

The Club tended to believe that this race, because of its successful start, would continue to be a major drawcard. Hence, the Club extended its overdraft and stretched its finances by organising future races up until 1899.

There was only one meeting a year in those days, and in that year, 1895, The Jew won the Jockey Club Handicap again, with Wilson up, with D. Usher's Navette in second place and Mount Royal third.

Scone Jockey Club. Satur Racecourse

First Day. Wednesday, December 11, 1895

1. Maiden Plate of 20 sovs. Seven furlongs.
 Mr. A. Hook jnr's br c Woodford, 3yrs, 8st 2lb Elwell 1
 Mr. Jas Campbell's blk c Zeno, 3yrs, 7st 13lb 2
 Mr. F.C. Pages' br m Catterina, 4yrs, 8st 7lb 3
 Aline, 5yrs, 8st 7lb, Recovery, 4yrs, 8st 7lb, Investor, 3yrs, 8st 2lb, Mount Victoria, 3yrs, 7st 11lb, Favette, 3yrs, 7st 11lb, Doreen, 3yrs, 7st 11lb also ran.
 Won by three lengths. Time: 1min. 33secs.

2. Scone Sires' Produce Stakes of 100½ sovs. Second 15 sovs. Third 5 sovs.
 Colts 8st 5lb, Fillies and Geldings 8st. Six furlongs.
 Mr. J. Western's b or br c Anambah, 2yrs Cox 1
 Mr. T. Cook's br f Steline, 2yrs..... 2
 Mr. R.H. Upton's ch f Margravine 2yrs..... 3
 Liberty, The Hall, Arden, Hopsack and Light Zero also ran.
 Won by two lengths, a length between second and third. Time: 1min. 22secs.

3. Satur Handicap of 45 sovs. Second 5 sovs. One mile and 1 furlong.
 Mr. D. Usher's ch m Navette, aged, 6st 9lb Allingham 1
 Messrs. H.E.A. and V. White's blk f Mount Royal, 4yrs, 8st 2
 Mr. J. M'Menamin's br g The Jew, 6yrs, 8st 3
 Violet, aged 8st 11lb, Gundebri, aged 7st 10lb, Sting, 5yrs 6st 10lb, Bonnie Blue, (late True Blue), 3yrs 6st 7lb, Dalmanoy, 4yrs 6st 7lb also ran.
 Won by a head, two lengths between second and third. Time: 2min. ½ sec.

4. Stewards' Gift of 20 sovs. Six furlongs.
 Mr. F. Hall's Favette, 3yrs, 6st 7lb Houseman 1
 Messrs. H.E.A. and V. White's blk f Mount Victoria, 3yrs, 8st 2
 Mr. P. Hamilton's ch g Sir Arthur, 4yrs, 6st 12lb 3
 Isander, aged 8st 6lb, Mario, 5yrs 7st 9lb, Moonbi, 5yrs 7st 6lb, Radical, 4yrs 7st 6lb, Loloma, 5yrs 7st 4lb, Investor, 3yrs 6st 12lb, Doreen, 3yrs 6st 12lb also ran. Won by a length. Time: 1min. 20secs. (Doreen was left at the barrier)

5. Welter Handicap of 20 sovs. One mile.
 Mr. J. Western's br m Grief, 4yrs, 8st 3lb A.Cox..... 1
 Mr. A. Kirk's ch c Sovereign, 4yrs, 8st 7lb 2
 Mr. F.H. Hall's b f Duckwing, 3yrs, 8st 11lb 3
 Gundebri, aged 10st 12lb, Ilerda, 3yrs 10st, Label, aged 9st 7lb, Strongbow, 3yrs 9st 7lb, Nestor, aged 9st 7lb, Aline, 5yrs 8st 13lb also ran.
 Won by three lengths. Time: 1min. 48secs.

Second Day. Thursday, December 3.

1. Two-Year-Old Handicap of 25 sovs. Second 5 sovs. Five furlongs.
 Mr. J. Western's b or br c Anambah, 9st A.Cox 1
 Mr. T. Cook's blk f Steline, 8st 2
 Mr. J. Campbell's br c The Hall, 7st 10lb 3
 Margravine, 7st 10lb, Ebro, 7st 8lb, Liberty, 7st 8lb, Light, 6st 7lb also ran.
 Betting: Evens Anambah, 3 to 1 against Ebro, 4 to 1 each Margravine and Steline, 10 to 1 each Liberty and Light. Won by two lengths, a length between second and third. Time: 1min. 5secs.
2. Flying Stakes of 20 sovs. Six furlongs.
 Messrs. H.E.A. and V.White's b f Ilerda, 3yrs 8st Durston..... 1
 Mr. P. Hamilton's ch g Sir Arthur, 4yrs 6st 12lb 2
 Mr. H.T. Cleugh's b g Marlo, 5yrs 7st 9lb 3
 Isander, 8st 6lb, Label, 7st 7lb, Radical, 7st 6lb, Loloma, 7st 4lb, Enniskillen, 7st, Grief, 6st 12lb, Aline, 6st 12lb, Recovery, 6st 12lb, Favette, 6st 7lb also ran.
 Betting: 5 to 2 against Grief, 5 to 1 each Loloma, Mario and Favette, 6 to 1 Ilerda, 7 to 1 each Sir Arthur, Isander and Label. Won by a neck, two lengths between second and third. Time: 1min. 19secs.
3. Scone Jockey Club Handicap of 50 sovs. Second 5 sovs.
 One mile and a quarter.
 Mr. J. M'Menamin's br g The Jew, 6yrs 7st 5lb Wilson 1
 Mr. D. Usher's ch m Navette, aged 6st 7lb 2
 Messrs. H.E.A. and V. White's b m Mount Royal, 4yrs 7st 12lb 3
 Violet, 8st 9lb and Sting, 6st 8lb also ran.
 Betting: 6 to 4 The Jew, 2 to 1 Mount Royal, 10 to 1 Violet, 15 to 1 Sting.
 Won by three-quarters of a length with two lengths between second and third.
 The owner of Navette lodged a protest against the winner for running against Navette and pushing her off the course. It was dismissed.

4. President's Prize of 20 sovs. Seven furlongs.
 Mr. T. Cook's b g Moonbi, 5yrs 7st 4lb1
 Mr. F.C. Pages' br f Catterina, 4yrs 7st 4lb2
 Mr. C. and M. M'Taggart's br c Investor, 3yrs 6st 10lb3
 Gundebri, 8st 7lb and Favette, 6st 7lb also ran.
 Betting: Evens Catterina, 2 to 1 Favette, 7 to 1 each Moonbi and Gundebri, 10 to 1 Investor. Won by two lengths. Time: 1min. 33secs.

5. Forced Handicap of 15 sovs. One mile.
 Mr. J.M. M'Menamin's br g The Jew, 6yrs 8st 6lb1
 Messrs. H.E.A. and V. White's blk f Mount Victoria, 3yrs 7st 2lb2
 Mr. A. Kirk's ch g Sovereign, 4yrs 7st 2lb3

Racing was so entrenched in the social calendar in Scone that the races received official sanction in 1897. *"The Mayor today (May 9, 1897) received a wire from the Principal Under-Secretary stating that Tuesday next, 11th has been proclaimed a public holiday in the district of Scone, presumably for the races"*.

The Club did not hold a meeting during 1898 as the dry weather in the summer months and the consequent hardness of the training tracks made it difficult to get horses into sound racing condition.

By 1900 race meeting dates were changed from the heat of December to the mild weather of May.

The Club believed that the benefits of racing horses during the winter months when the ground would not be so hard was more important than holding a meeting prior to Christmas. The residents of Scone were still fairly well provided for in the way of amusements during the holiday as the Oddfellows' races were conducted on the St. Aubins' course on Boxing Day.

Scone Jockey Club Races

Wednesday and Thursday May 10th, and 11th 1899.

President Mr. T. Cook, Vice-Presidents: Messrs. J.A.K. Shaw, H.E. White and Dr. Scott. Judge: Dr. Scott. Starter: Mr. J.A.K. Shaw. Clerk of the Course: M.G. Kinnaird. Clerk of Scales: Mr. J.J. Dodd. Treasurer: Mr. J.A.K. Shaw.

Committee: Messrs. S.R. Wilson, G. Hopper, E.J. Corbett, R.H.E. Upton, S.C. North, W.E. White, J. Vigers, J. Hardcastle, W.H. Duckham, N.F. Asser, J.W. Brodie and John Campbell.

First Day.

1. Stewards' Gift of £20. 7 furlongs.

Messrs. H.E.A. and V. White's br m Parapet

by Lochiel-Paraphrase, 4yrs 8st 2lb Quinn..... 1

Mr. E. Curtis' ch g Hereford by Clan Stewart-Curfew 9st 3lb Tracey 2

Mr. W. Philip's b g Birthday by Invader 8st Bell 3

Only the three ran. Betting: 5 to 4 "on" Parapet, evens Hereford, 10 to 1 Birthday. Parapet was the first to break from the barrier, but Hereford very soon passed her, and carried on the running to the straight. Birthday was occupying last position. When about a furlong from home, Parapet began to get on terms with Hereford, and a desperate finish resulted, the chestnut favoured, but the game little Lochiel mare was not to be stalled off, and got the judge's verdict by half-a-head, with Birthday a couple of lengths further away.

Time: 1min. 29 ³/₄ secs.

2. Borough Handicap of £15. 6 furlongs.

Mr. R.T. Hall's br g Victor, by Ivanhoe-Camelia 7st 8lb Quinn 1

Mr. T. Cook's br m Titiana, by Fusilier-Miss Tricket,

3yrs 6st 13lb P. Callinan..... 2

Mr. E. Holme's Siara by Lochiel, 4yrs Tucker 3

Other starters: Cyanide 9.5, Lochless 9.0, Caloola 7.0, Tirquini 7.0, Beeswing 6.12, Sepia 7.4, Sparrow 6.10, and Wild Duck 6.7.

Betting: 3 to 1 Lochless and Alloy, 4 to 1 Victor, 6 to 1 Sepia, Siara and Titiana, 10 to 1 Cyanide, Caloola and Beeswing, 15 to 1 others.

Beeswing led from the rise of the barrier and made the pace to the straight, with the others in a bunch. Here the colours of Victor, Alloy, Titiana and Siara were noticeable. Beeswing cried "enough" a furlong from home, where Victor ran up on the outside and Siara on the inside, with Alloy in a good winning position, but Victor showed most pace at the finish, and won rather comfortably at the finish. Titiana was a half a length in front of Siara, Alloy being fourth, Cyanide fifth, Caloola next, with Wild Duck a long last.

Time: 1min. 17secs.

3. Satur Handicap of £35, second horse £5. 1 mile.

Messrs. H.E.A. and V. White's Parapet, 8st 1lb inc. penalty. Quinn 1

Mr. T. Elkins' ch g Bombshell by Scots Grey-Ivy 3yrs 6st 7lb Gilmore 2

Mr. E. Curtis' Hereford 8st 10lb Tracey 3

Other starters: Stelene 8.9, Uncle 7.13, Lochless 7.12, and All Gold 7.7, Butler 6.10, The Rat 6.12.

Betting: 3 to 1 Parapet, 4 to 1 Hereford, 5 to 1 All Gold and Stelene, 6 to 1 The Rat, 7 to 1 Uncle and Lochless, 10 to 1 Butler and Bombshell.

The field left the machine on fairly even terms. At the six-furlong post the colours of Stelene were seen in front, Lochless, Parapet and Hereford being on her girth. At the half mile post All Gold went to the front on the inside, but Stelene again showed in front in the straight, The Rat and All Gold being next, with Parapet and Bombshell on the outside in waiting. A hundred yards from home the race looked a good thing for Stelene, who occupied a good position in the centre, but Parapet now began to overhaul the leaders very fast, and putting in one of those finishes for which she is noted, won a very well contested race by a short neck, with a half a length separating second and third.

Stelene finished a good fourth, with All Gold fifth just in advance of Lochless, The Rat and Butler bringing up the rear.

Time: 1min. 45½ secs.

4. Park Stakes of £20. 6 furlongs.

Mr. W. Johnston's b g Peppercorn by Abercorn-Prelude

3yrs 6st 12lb A.Cush 1

Mr. J. Callaghan's br g I.C by Canzoni-Hope 9st 5lb Allingham 2

Mr. T. Cook's Titiana 7st 3lb P.Callinan..... 3

Other starters: Victor 8.3, Separator 8.11, and Sateen 6.7.

Betting: 6 to 4 I.C, 2 to 1 Peppercorn, 4 to 1 Victor, 5 to 1 Separator and Titiana, 20 to 1 Sateen.

Peppercorn shot to the front when the barrier went up, and at the half-mile post had a six lengths lead. I.C. being next with the others in a bunch. Coming into the straight it looked any odds on Peppercorn winning easily, but the boy was caught "napping" and he only managed to beat the favourite by half a head. Titiana was a length further away, with Victor fourth.

Time: 1min. 17 ¾ secs.

5. Welter Handicap of £20. 1 mile.

Mr. J. Elkins' Bombshell 8st 3lb Wells 1

Mr. J. Hardcastle's br g Chaucer by Stockwell-Hecla

5yrs. 8st 7lb S.Callinan..... 2

Mr. R.T. Hall's ch g All Gold by Democrat 11-Jane aged 9st 12lb 3

Other starters: Birthday 9.11, Butler 9.0, Canzonette 8.11 and Caloola 8.0.

Betting: 6 to 4 "on" Bombshell, 3 to 1 All Gold and Canzoette, 10 to 1 others.

All Gold, Canzonette, Caloola and Birthday occupied the foremost positions to the half-mile post, with Bombshell, Chaucer and Butler in the next rank. Bombshell ran past the leaders at the turn for home, and never afterwards gave anything else a chance, running home an easy winner by a length and a half. Chaucer put in a good run at the finish, and beat All Gold by a length for second place. Time: 1min. 46secs.

Second Day.

The weather was again all-that could be desired, and the attendance, as usual on the second day, was larger than the first, especially with the fairer sex.

The racing and the fields were again good, and four out of the six finishes very close.

The close finishes on both days reflect the highest credit on the handicapping of Mr. Mitchell. The day's sport was marred by a very uncalled for demonstration against the Messrs Whites' when their horses were returning to scale after the running of the Sires' Produce Stakes. Parallel winning did not suit a few punters, and it was these who made themselves heard.

1. Flying Stakes of £30. 6 furlongs.

Mr. T. Cook's br m Stelene by Fusileer-Stella 4yrs.

8st 5lb S. Callinan1

Mr. J. Paul's br g Caloola by Invader-Laundress

7st Elwell2

Mr. E. Holmes' Siara 7st 3lb Tucker3

Other starters: Pattie Brown 6.10 and Sepia 6.7. Betting: 5 to 4 "on" Stelene, 3 to 1 Siara and Pattie Brown, 6 to 1 Sepia and Caloola.

Stelene and Pattie Brown were the best to jump, but Siara soon took up the running and continued it on the inside to the half-mile post. The field again bunched together at the home turn. Stelene, at this stage of the race came through on the outside, and being ridden Tod Sloan style, fairly smothered her opponents, winning easily by a length and a half with half a length separating second and third, with the remainder in close attendance.

Time: 1min. 17 1/5 secs.

2. Sires' Produce Stakes of £? Second horse £? Third horse £?.

Six furlongs.

Messrs. H.E.A. and V. White's b f Parallel 2yrs. by Stockwell-Paraphrase 8st Solomon1

H.E.A. and V. White's b g Paradox 2yrs. by Stockwell-Paramount 8st 6lb Wells....2
 Mr. T. Vigers' b g Santin 2yrs. by Lennox-Satin 8st 6l.....3
 Only three ran. Betting: 2 to 1 "on" Paradox, 2 to 1 against Parallel, 20 to 1 Santin.
 The three jumped off to a good start. Parallel soon assuming control. At the half-mile post Parallel was leading by a length with Santin the same distance off last. Paradox and Parallel matched strides up the straight, but the gelding was unable to gain any advantage on the filly, and she passed the winning post half a length to the good. Santin was eight lengths further away.
 Time: 1min. 18½secs.

3. Publicans' Purse of £20. Seven furlongs.

Mr. J. Callaghan's I.C. 8st 3lb Allingham.....1
 Mr. E. Curtis' Hereford 9st 5lb Tracey2
 Mr. R.T. Hall's Victor 7st 1lb Quinn.....3
 Other starters: Birthday 8.0, Separator 7.0, The Rat 7.6, Canzonette 7.0.
 Betting: 5 to 4 Hereford, 2 to 1 I.C., 4 to 1 The Rat, 7 to 1 Victor, 10 to 1 Birthday, Canzonette and Separator.
 The field got away badly from the barrier, Birthday and Canzonette being left several lengths. Separator led the way into the straight, with Hereford, I.C. and the The Rat in close attendance. A great race up the straight resulted between the latter three, old Separator dropping back beaten. The race was still in doubt till the winning post was reached. I.C. getting the verdict by a head, a short neck separating Hereford and Victor for the minors with The Rat right on their girths finishing fourth.

4. Scone Jockey Club Handicap of £45 second horse £5 from the prize.

1mile 1furlong.
 Mr. T. Cook's Stelene 8st 13lb (inc. penalty) S. Callinan.....1
 Mr. W. Johnston's br g Uncle 4yrs. by Lochiel-Forget-Me-Not
 7st 10lb Cush..... *
 Messrs. H.E.A. and V. White's Parapet 8st 1lb (inc. penalty) Quinn..... *
 *Dead heat.
 Other starters: Butler 6.7, Bombshell 7.0 (inc. penalty).
 Betting: 6 to 4 Parapet, 2 to 1 Uncle, 4 to 1 Bombshell, 6 to 1 Stelene, 15 to 1 Butler.
 The horses left the barrier on fairly even terms, Butler at once going to the front, and showed the way to the half-mile post, with the other four being in good positions to this point. Uncle then took up the running, with Bombshell and Parapet displacing Butler with Stelene moving up on the outside.

Entering the straight, Uncle and Bombshell were conspicuous, but Stelene ridden right out came away to win easily by three lengths, Uncle and Parapet running on to dead heat, with Bombshell and Butler well up.

Time: 1min. 57½secs.

5. Flying Welter Handicap of £15. Six furlongs.

Mr. W. Bakewell's b g Plain Tom 5yrs. Welcome Tom-an Eastly mare.

7st 7lb Elwell..... 1

Mr. E. Curtis' blk g Alloy 4yrs. by Metal-Meduca 9st 7lb Tracey..... 2

Mr. L. Simmons' ch g Lochless 4yrs. by Lochiel-Locket 10st 2lb Simmons..... 3

Other starters: Beeswing 7.11, Turquini 7.10, Zonie 7.7 and Ednas 7.7.

Betting: Evens Alloy, 3 to 1 Lochless and Plain Tom, 4 to 1 Ednas and Beeswing, 6 to 1 Turquini.

Turquini was he first to break at barrier rise, Beeswing being badly left. At the half-mile post Turquini had a four lengths lead, Ednas and Alloy being next. The field began to close on Turquini at the turn, and after a good race up the straight in which Alloy, Plain Tom, Turquini and Ednas took part, the Welcome Tom gelding squeezed home by half-a-length from Alloy with Lochless finishing very fast on the inside with Ednas at his girth and Beeswing a bad last.

Time: 1min. 18½secs.

6. Forced Handicap of £10. One mile.

Mr. W. Phillips' b g Birthday 5yrs. 7st 1lb Houseman..... 1

Mr. E. Curtis' Hereford 9st 5lb Tracey..... 2

Mr. J. Mayo's The Rat 7st 1lb Phillips..... 3

Other starters: Victor 8.4, Bombshell 7.2, Chaucer 6.13, Butler 6.9.

Betting: 2 to 1 Hereford, 3 to 1 The Rat, 4 to 1 Bombshell, 7 to 1 Chaucer, 10 to 1 Birthday and Butler.

Hereford was first to show in front after leaving the barrier, Bombshell, The Rat and Victor coming next, with Chaucer last. At the six furlong post Victor took up the running to the half-mile, followed by Bombshell, with Chaucer, Butler and Birthday in a bunch. Entering the straight Hereford began to make his run, Bombshell, The Rat and Birthday ready to make their runs. A couple of hundred yards from home the Phillip's blue and white colours could be seen coming on the outside, and getting on terms with Hereford, beat him home by nearly a length. The Rat finishing very fast on the inside, was half-a-length further off, with Chaucer and Butler bringing up the rear.

The change of the race meeting to May in 1899 meant that 18 months had elapsed since the last meeting had been held on the Satur course. The track was ploughed and a portion of the track was top dressed in order to ensure a good racing surface. No improvements were made to the course, prompting the following illuminating comment in the Scone Advocate, May 12, 1899.

"The track was in very good order, but a good deal of grumbling as usual was heard about the big galvanised fence in front of the paddock in the straight. The Committee decided to have this substituted with a picket fence, but for some reason or other the improvements were not carried out. A couple of decent places of convenience would also be much appreciated. The price of the saddling, this time was reduced from 10s. to 5s. and this move had the effect of bringing the majority of the people within the enclosure; and the grandstand was reserved for "member's ladies" only.

A setting up of a division within the racecourse clearly divided the wealthy settlers and those of the lower classes".

The attendance at the May Meeting only numbered 500-600 and the various events were run through at much shorter intervals than had been the former practice, sometimes only half an hour elapsing between each race. The five events were run through in three hours. This move destroyed the picnic atmosphere of the bygone years of racing in the district. The Scone Oddfellows Boxing Day meeting was conducted in a more leisurely fashion attracting a wider audience. In contrast to the Oddfellows, the Scone Jockey Club's meeting had developed into a serious professional gathering, shaped to cater for the country pastoralists who patronised the meeting in order to watch their own blood horses compete. This prompted the following observation printed in the Scone Advocate (May 12, 1899):

"This is the sort of regular racing patronisers of race meetings like, but not so with the booth holders and the public who go out for an afternoon's outing and only put in three hours, although they witness the same amount of sport during the time as if the day was wasted".

This superior attitude held by Mr. Arthur Smith and members of the Scone Race Club totally changed the social function of horse racing in Scone. The Sires' Produce Stakes changed the emphasis of the meeting from a social recreation to an intense competition between the members' horses. The majority of spectators were left to make the best of a meeting where races were crammed into a few short hours in an atmosphere where betting was now regarded by the committee as being against the best interest of the sport.

The dominance of the local committee on the Satur course is demonstrated by local horses winning seven of the eleven events at the 1899 meeting. Messrs. H.E.A and V. White's

Parapet won the Steward's Gift of £20 over seven furlongs and the Satur Handicap of £35 over a mile on the first day.

On the second day Parapet ran a dead-heat second with Mr. W Johnston's Uncle in the main race, the Scone Jockey Club Handicap. Mr. T. Hall's Victor won the Borough Handicap while Mr. Thomas Cook's Stelene won both the Flying Stakes and the £45 Scone Jockey Club Handicap. To complete the domination of the meeting by the Scone committee Mr. W. Bakewell's Plaintom won the Flying Welter Handicap on the second day.

This total dominance of racing by the committee came to a head in the ill-fated Sires' Produce Stakes. This race had gradually lost support of the local breeders throughout the district and had become a burden to the Club. Three horses - Messrs. H.E.A. and V. White's filly Parallel and gelding Paradox and Mr T. Viger's Santin only contested the 1899 race.

Paradox ridden by Wells was made the very short 2/1-on favourite, Parallel was quoted at 2/1 and Santin started at the long price of 20/1.

Much to the disdain of the punters present at the meeting Paradox was beaten a half length by his stablemate Parallel and, on the horses returning to the scale, a loud demonstration was made against the Whites by those who had favoured Paradox.

The Scone Advocate stated: *"In our opinion the race was not won on its merits, and the variation of the betting market pointed to something suspicious"*.

Neither of the horses appeared to be ridden out in the last 50 yards. However, no action was taken by the committee in investigating the suspicious circumstances in which the race was conducted. The demonstration against the Whites was described at the settling as *"cowardly and uncalled for"*.

The Advocate reported that: *"Everyone is satisfied the Messrs. White knew nothing about any swindle being worked"*

Mr. Lumley commented that- *"more honourable and upright sportsmen than H.E.A. and V. White were not to be found in the Australian Colonies"*.

Those present at the settling regarded the committee in disdain as it neglected its duty by not removing the ringleaders immediately from the course. The judge appointed for the meeting, Dr. Scott replied that: *"He knew Mr. H.L. White the head of firm said to his brothers "Do not put a penny on this race" and as far as he knew (the Dr.), they had not had a penny on it."*

The Whites were white men. He (the Dr.) tried to find the blackguard who was the prime mover in the demonstration, and if he had he would have put him out himself without waiting for a policeman”.

This incident signalled the failure of the Sires’ Produce Stakes. Upon hearing that only three horses were entered for the race, Messrs. White expressed their willingness to have the race cancelled but the owner of Santin, who thought he had a good chance of winning, declined.

The staging of a three-horse race whose abilities were well known in the district afforded the cunning and less honourable bookmakers to take down the public and to place a slur on the White’s good name.

Jockey Club Committee

In this first great racing era, the committee of the Scone Jockey Club consisted of many well-known town and district personalities.

The President, Tom Cook of Turanville, was known from Sydney to the border and was president of almost every organisation in Scone from the Hospital to the School of Arts.

Vice-Presidents were Dr. H.J.H. Scott, fine doctor and fine cricketer; H.L. White of Belltrees - soon to made Shire President and a generous benefactor both publicly and privately to worthy causes; J.A.K. Shaw, the Scone solicitor who was a keen follower of the turf; and S.R. Wilson, formerly of Melbourne, who had bought Segenhoe in 1898 but died shortly afterwards.

The secretary was J.A. Simpson from one of the widely and favourably known Upper Hunter families. He had a love of horses developed over a lifetime of association with the great horses and horsemen from the head of the Hunter.

The Jockey Club committee included G.K. Clift of Cliftlands (later Bhima) whose family were noted horsemen from Maitland to the North-Western Plains; Captain R.H.E. Upton, manager of Turanville and one of the most important figures in early racing at Scone; S.C.V. North, auctioneer of Scone; and James Hardcastle of the Railway Hotel (now the Royal) who trained his horses in a paddock behind the Satur course on the flat near the Middlebrook bridge.

Other committee members were W.H. Duckham of Mossvale, nephew of Tom Cook; E.J. Corbett; W.E. White; J.W. Brodie; George Hopper junior; and that stalwart old townsman N.F. Asser.

Horses owned and raced by the club's committeemen played a major role in establishing racing around this era. George Hopper's Colleen Rhue and Perkins Magnet raced at Satur in 1901, as did Hardcastle's Alba Bell who did well at the Rosehill and Hawkesbury meetings in the same year. Tom Cook's Stelene also raced at Warwick Farm, Moorefield and Sandown Park.

In 1907, H.E.A. and V. White's Brigantine, with Fuller up, won the Satur Handicap from Bail's Glengarry and Richard Simpson's Busyfoot; the latter a popular galloper from Gunnedah to Wallsend at this time.

S.S.Martin's Tinagroo, sired by the famous Belltrees stallion Ruenalf, and the same owner's Lochnagah vied with Hardcastle's Athens at meetings in the same district before World War I.

The meeting in 1900 was reported to be the last to be held on the Satur course and is said to have been similar to the preceding meetings; the second day proclaimed a public holiday in the district. Unlike the year before, the Club did not conduct a Sires' Produce Stakes and the meeting passed off without any unpleasantness or, a single mishap.

The meeting, if anything, was quieter than usual with the effect of changing the month of the races only just being felt.

However, the races were of a very high standard and the Club made a substantial profit. The town also benefited financially from the outing, as had been the custom since the first meetings were introduced. Nearly all available hotel and stable accommodation were taken up in the town.

This meeting held on Wednesday and Thursday May 16 and 17, 1900 was supposedly the last held on the Satur racecourse, although reports from the Australian Turf Register indicate that racing continued in Scone, if not at Satur, on a regular basis until at least 1914.

It is also noted that around this period, 1900, Mr. Parbury the owner of the Satur Estate, where the racecourse was situated, advised the members of the Scone Jockey Club that they would have to find an alternative venue to hold their future meetings as the land now used by them for their fixtures was intended for future use by himself (Mr. Parbury).

Scone J.C. Hospital Races

May 27, 1914

The Hospital benefit meeting conducted by the Scone Jockey Club was a great success from every point of view. The weather was beautifully fine, which fact, together with the cause for which the fixture was being run, in no mean way accounted for the big local attendance, which was up to expectations of the promoters.

The Upper Hunter was well represented, and the visiting horses brought with them a good contingent of followers.

The Assistant Secretary (Mr. Cecil Hardcastle), in absence of Secretary, Dodd, handled the affairs of the club satisfactorily, with courtesy and competency, blending in well in his initial appearance.

Mr. G.M. Campbell, in placing the runners had a couple of close finishes to engage his attention, but he made no mistakes. At the other end, Mr George Hopper got his fields away well and without delay.

Mr. H.G.H. Reid, deputy Stipendiary Steward of the N.and N.W.Racing Association, was present, and had as his assistant Messrs J.A.K. Shaw and F.H. Thrift, but, being devoid of incidents on the glaring side, the meeting disclosed nothing for them to seriously investigate. However, their presence was mainly responsible for the running of the program up to schedule time.

As a detective, Mr. M.W. Campbell was the means of augmenting the coffers by a few pounds.

A feature of the meeting was the big acceptance, most of the candidates sporting silk. Hence, the fields were good, and, thanks to veteran Charlie Mitchell's judgment in allotting the weights, the racing was of a highly interesting nature; equal in fact, to any seen on the old Satur racecourse for many years past.

The Publican's booth, conducted by Messrs J.R. Ferris and J.T. Aisbett, (both gentlemen supplying all drinks free of charge), gave the fund a lift of £12.10s.

The refreshment booth presided over by Mrs. W.B. Dight and J.A.K. Shaw, with Mrs. G.M. Westgarth, Mrs. W. Fitzharding, Miss L. Cook and the Hospital nurses, netted in the vicinity of £10.

"The takings on the outer gate amounted to £30 odd, those of the saddling paddock to £90 odd, and with the revenue to come to hand from other sources, such as bookmakers' fees, racebooks and

nomination fees, it is anticipated that the total, after the deduction of expenses, will represent around £100, a result upon which all concerned, particularly the booth holders and other officials who gave their services gratuitously, and not forgetting the Squire of Satur, Mr. F.A. Parbury, for placing the course at the club's disposal, are to be complimented."

It is indeed, a most acceptable donation to the funds of the Hospital at this juncture.

Results of Hospital Meeting

1. Charity Handicap. £20 6 furlongs.

Mr. H. Frost's Sonchus, by Prudent King-Happy Moments

8st 7lb Davies 1

Lady Malster, 9st 7lb 2

Quiet Gun, 7st 3

Other starters: Hollvale 6.7 and 15lb over, McGoorty 6.7 and 8lb over, Silver Step 6.7 and 13lb over; Wee May 6.7 and 15lb over.

Betting: 6 to 4 on Sonchus, 10 to 1 others.

Lady Malster was first away; Silver Step left at the barrier. The Malster mare kept her lead to the turn, with Quiet Gun and Sonchus always handy.

The favourite assumed command in the run home, and holding the field comfortably, won by about a length, with Quiet Gun a similar distance off third.

Time: 1min.16-3/4secs.

2. Probationer's Handicap. £15 6 furlongs.

Mr. S. Whitehead's Famous Blue, by Famous-Blue Band

8st 8lb Chastin 1

Excuse Me, 7st 12lb 2

Glendella, 7st 12lb 3

Other starters: Ribbon Cake 8.2, Fucile's Daughter 7.4, Steward Lass 7.0 and 10lb over, Yuelgarde 7.4

Betting: 6 to 4 on Famous Blue, 8 to 10 to 1 against others.

Steward Lass was responsible for most of the running, attended by Yuelgarde. At the turn, Glendellah, Famous Blue and Excuse Me were closing the gap on the leaders. In the straight proper, Yuelgarde appeared to have the race won, but Famous Blue and Glendellah headed him on the home side of the distance, at which point the pony mare, Excuse Me, made a brilliant effort from the outside, and overhauling the others, was only beaten by the favourite by three-quarters of a length. Glendellah and Yuelgarde being within a long neck of the pony.

It was a rattling good finish. Time: 1min. 18secs.

3. Hospital Handicap. £25 6 furlongs.

Mr. F.V. Kremer's St Leo, by Cimmeron-Rose Mostyn

8st 12lb Condon.....1

Mater, 8st 7lb.....2

Sonchus, 7st 10lb and 10lb pen.....3

Other starters: Breeza Maid 8.10, K of K 6.12, Piallah 7.0

Betting: 5 to 4 on Breeza Maid, 3 to 1 Mater, 5 to 20 to 1 others.

Piallah turned about when the webbing flew-up. Sonchus was first to break the line, followed in order by Mater, St Leo and K of K. The order was unaltered at the turn, but a little further on Mater assumed control, and looked like landing the event, when St Leo, threw out a challenge, and coming through on the rails, thanks to Sonchus swinging out.

A desperate finish ensued between the unlucky Mater and St Leo.

The former being beaten for the eighth consecutive time by half-a-head. Finishing with great resolution, a few strides further must have seen the mare take the lead.

Sonchus was a good length off third. Time: 1min. 43½secs.

4. Nurse's Handicap (a welter) £15 6 furlongs.

Mr. J. Orchard's Glendellah, by Postillion-Vapour

Logue 7st 7lb.....1

McGoorty, 8st 2lb.....2

Ribbon Cake, 8st.....3

Other starters: Tofa 8.0, Fucile's Daughter 7.7, Steward's Lass 7.7.

Betting: Even money Glendellah, 3 to 10 to 1 others.

Ribbon Cake went to the front shortly after the rise of the barrier, and at the four furlongs was about five lengths out from the field. Glendellah then set sail after the leader, the latter holding but a slight advantage at the turn.

Up the running, the favourite came through, but just below the distance, McGoorty flattered his supporters by tackling the leader, the latter however, maintaining his position and winning with about a length to spare. Ribbon Cake being a half-length further away third

Time: 1min 31 secs.

5. Convalescent Handicap £15 7 furlongs.

St Leo, 8.5 and 7lb pen. Condon1

Silver Step, 7.7.....2

Seaham, 8.12.....3

Other starters: K of K. 8.5, Quite Gun 8.8.

Betting: Even money St Leo, 3 to 10 to 1 others.

St Leo took up the early running, his nearest attendant being Silver Step. Around the bend, the pair were on even terms, with Seaham about a length off. St Leo and Silver Step remained together to the distance, where the favourite took the lead, winning by a half-a-length. Seaham a length away third.

Time: 1min. 31secs.

Racing continued in Scone during the latter part of the nineteen hundreds, and, without printing the complete details, it can be said that the sport continued on a healthy path throughout this period.

The two-day meeting in 1901 was followed by meetings, sometimes two, and, as many as three a year.

As reported the race meeting held in 1900 was the last official outing for the Scone Jockey Club at Satur.

However, racing continued on the Satur course until the death of Mr. Parbury in 1915, when the club was again forced to find a new course.

A succession of shattering blows struck the Scone Jockey Club in the early years of the century. The deaths of Captain Upton in 1907, of Thomas Cook and H.J.H. Scott in 1910 and of F.A. Parbury in 1915 left the Club without the services of some of its major supporters.

Had it not been for the efforts of young A.F. (Todd) Smith, who kept interest in the turf alive in the district through the pages of the Scone Advocate, as well as by his active support as secretary of race meetings during and after World War 1, racing in the Scone area would not have survived.

**Scone Jockey Club
Office-Bearers
1918**

President

Mr. J.K. Shaw

Vice-Presidents

Messrs. H.L. White, M.C. Campbell,
G.M. Campbell.

Committee

Messrs. J. Miller, J.R. Ferris, O. Harcastle,
J. Morris, F. C. Goring,
G.A. Cumberland.

Starter

Detective Mr. O'Connor.

Handicapper

Mr. T.P. Borthwick.

Judge

Mr. G.M. Campbell.

Stipendiary Steward

Mr. R.S. Turner.

Assistant Stewards

Messrs. M.W. Campbell and J.A.K. Shaw

Hon. Treasurer

Mr. J.A.K. Shaw

Auditor

Mr. E.C. Lukey

Clerk of Scales

Mr. J. Miller

Clerk of Course

Mr. G. Kinnaird

Hon. Secretary

Mr. A.F. Smith

Scone Jockey Club-Wednesday and Thursday, November 27 and 28, 1918

1. Opening Handicap of £15 second horse £1 from prize.
6 furlongs. To start at 2pm.

- L. Lander's Kneelah b g aged 7st 10lb 1
 W. Davis' Sonite blk h aged (Dobie) 7st 12lb 2
 S. Kelly's Comsin blk h 6yrs 8st 3
 Other starters: Lady Sucre 9.10, Flavette 8.2, Electric Bullet 7.10 Patent
 Barley 7.6, Lady Cliffland 7.4 and Master Wally 7.0.
 Won by a neck. Winner 8 to 1. Time: 1 minute 15 seconds.
2. Shorts Handicap of £10, for all horses that have not won a prize of
 £15 at time of entry.
 5 furlongs. To start at 2.30pm
 A. Stewart's Lady Torea b m 4yrs (Shanahan) 7st 1
 C. Smith's High Class b m 7st 9l 2
 A. Tanner's Sir Peach ch g 4yrs 7st 10lb 3
 Other starters: Carbide 9.4, Jinifera 8.0, Majuba's Daughter 7.5, General Jackson 7.5,
 Sir Balfour 7.4, Winnie Whitton 7.0, Grace Dawn
 7.0, Leora 7.0 and Similinia 7.0.
 Won by half a length. Winner 12 to 1. Time: 1 minute 21/2 seconds.
3. Scone Jockey Club Handicap of £20 second horse £2 from the prize. One mile. To
 start at 3.10pm
 Miss E. Jewell's Count Earlston b g 5yrs (Dobie) 7st 10lb 1
 G. Barnett's Lambourne b g 5yrs 9st 5lb 2
 H. Chantler's Te Whare br g aged 7st 9lb 3
 Other starters: Phast Boy 8.10, Teroona 8.7, Armegeddon 7.12 and Mokanna 7.0.
 Won by two lengths. Winner 5 to 2.
 Time: 1minute 4¾ seconds.
4. Park Stakes. A handicap of £10 for all horses that have not won a prize of £10 at time
 of entry.
 6 furlongs. To start at 3.45pm.
 C.H. Callinan's Panthiest br or blk g 5yrs (Nicholson) 7st 10lb 1
 L. Lander's Master Girton b g aged 7st 7lb 2
 J. Mernain'a Dalgarde br g 6yrs 8st 4lb 3
 Other starters: Manoel 8.4, Rorie Queen 8.0, Toreano 8.0, St Marlin 7.12,
 Coolette 7.7 Blaoami 7.7, Lord Okey 7.7, Prapser 7.7, Lady Toea
 7.7, Yet 7.7, Billie Cart 7.7, Ayr Flock 7.7, Flapute 7.7,
 Creeping Duke 7.7 and Okel 7.7.
 Won by two lengths. Winner 5 to 2. Time: 1 minute 16 seconds.

5. Welter Handicap of £12. Minimum weight 8st.
Seven furlongs. To start at 4.15pm.
C. O'Batty's Vigerlerio ch g 6yrs (Mahoney) 9st 7lb1
C.T. Carpenter's Maid of Montrose b m 6yrs 9st.....2
S. Kelly's Aidrie b g 6yrs 9st 4lb.....3
Other starters : Vanrook 9.0, Mokanna 8.7, Norman Lindsay 8.7 and Kinalo 8.0. Won
by two lengths. Winner evens. Time: 1 minute 29 seconds.

Second Day.

1. Flying Handicap. Six furlongs.
Kneelah 8st (Dobie).....1
Flavette 7st 12lb2
High Class 7st 4lb.....3
Other starters: Auburn Ayr, Patent Barley and Master Wally.
Won by three lengths. Winner 6 to 4. Time: 1 minute 10 2-5 seconds.
2. Trial Stakes. Five furlongs.
Sir Peach 8st 5lb (Mahoney)1
Fix 7st 7lb.....2
High Class 7st 4lb.....3
Other starters: Prubeck, Simboy, Sir Balfour, Extra Blue, Similinia, Winnie Whitton
and Leora.
Won by a neck. Winner, evens. Time: 1 minute 3 seconds.
3. Satur Handicap. One mile.
Vigerlerio 8st 7lb (Mahoney)1
Sonite 7st 12lb2
Count Earlston 8st 7lb3
Other starters: Teroona, Armageddon ad Te Whare.
Won by a head. Winner, 2 to 1. Time: 1 minute 42 2-5 seconds.
4. Upper Hunter Stakes. Six furlongs.
Kinalo 8st (Shanahan).....1
Majuba's Daughter 8st 6lb2
Rorie Queen 7st 12lb.....3
Other starters: Dalgarde, Coolette, Creeping Duke, Yet and Similinia.
Won by a short head. Winner, 3 to 1. Time: 1 minute 17 2-5 seconds.

5. Pace Welter. Seven furlongs.
 Vanrook 9st (Dobie) 1
 Electric Bullet 8st 10lb..... 2
 Maid of Montrose 9st 3lb 3
 Other starters: Patent Barley and Okeh.
 Won by half a length. Winner, 3 to 1. Time: 1 minute 30 4-5 seconds.
 Settling at "Tattersall's" (Railway Hotel) Thursday Night.

Scone Advocate November 29 1918.

"Successful Two Days' Fixture.

The two days' Spring fixture of the Scone Jockey Club, which commenced on Wednesday and was brought to a close on the Satur course yesterday, was perhaps the most successful conducted by the institution for many years. The going was excellent, thanks to the showers on Tuesday, and the racing, which produced some splendid finishes, was never better. Some 55 of the 66 horses nominated sported silk, with the result that the fields were of large proportions. The weather conditions were most propitious, record crowds were in attendance on both days, and the meeting passed off without any unpleasantness."

Scone Jockey Club-Spring Meeting, October 26-27, 1920.

Racing on Tuesday and Wednesday saw a considerably larger attendance of the public on the second day (Wednesday), when despite the comparatively sparse nominations, the racing was productive of several brilliant finishes, one dead-heat recorded, and a verdict given in another race to the winner by the narrowest of margins.

Operations in the betting ring were extensive and animated, and at least several layers of the odds had a profitable time, one first favourite only breaking the judge's line of vision first time. It was surprising the amount of money that was in evidence, some of the books holding up to £200 on certain races.

The feature race of the two-day fixture, the Scone Jockey Club Handicap of £40, second horse £3 and third £2 from the prize, run over One mile, was taken out by Messrs Radoli and Gillson's Poverty Point, the son of Merv starting at 2 to 1, easily accounting for the odds on favourite Count Earlston, 6 to 4 on, with the only other runner Kenegory, 4 to 1, a length off in third place. The distance covered in 1 minute and 44 seconds.

The lack of nominations came to the fore with the six-furlong Maiden Handicap of £10 handed to Mr. Jas. Hardcastle's Ithica in a walk over.

The only other incident to break the decorum of proceedings was the protest lodged by the rider (Shanahan) of Patrick Merv in the Flying Handicap on the opening day, when the stewards conducted an inquiry, and not only upheld the complaint and awarded the event to the second horse (Patrick Merv), but disqualified Pringle, (rider of Gobong), for twelve months.

The incident took place in the home stretch, it being alleged by Shanahan that Pringle fouled his mount when he made an effort to run past him, there being plenty of room for him to get through.

It was intimated by the turn out on the first day of the Scone Jockey Club's Spring Meeting that racing in this part of the Hunter could be on the decline, although the committee of the club would have been buoyed by the considerably larger attendance on the second day with the publican's booth conducted on course by Mr. Jas. Hardcastle, of the Railway Hotel, and the lady members of the Voluntary Workers' Association, running a light luncheon booth, both giving a tidy monetary lift to the parent body.

What were the reasons behind the exodus from a sport that for near on eighty years had had its ups-and-downs but still managed to maintain its popularity as a major attraction at the head of the Hunter was put into print in an article that appeared in the Scone Advocate dated October 28 1920, and read as follows: -

"Is racing in the country doomed? If the recent fixture put on by the local club this week may be taken as a criterion, we are certainly of the opinion that the game, so far as provincial bodies are concerned, must sooner or later take the "count"-unless the tariff is greatly revised.

The attendance on each day was little behind any at previous fixtures, yet the club must come out a heavy loser. Why? Well, in the first place, it now takes slightly over £10 to bring a horsebox either from Newcastle or Tamworth, against £4.5s a few years ago. This charge, it will readily be recognised, is exorbitant; but if the club were to put on a program tomorrow, another 16 per cent. must be added to horse freights. Of the bookmakers who operate, the Federal Government grabs 20 per cent. of the aggregate fees collected, while the amusement tax makes another hole in the gate receipts.

To keep in stride with the high cost of living, all officials' fees have increased, in fact, all labour employed and everything incidental to racing has soared enormously. The only glimmer of hope clubs have is to pass on these increases. Then the question arises: Will the fraternity who make racing stand for it?

So far as the down-country sportsmen are concerned, they are extensively catered for right at their own door, and perhaps the imposition of additional taxes will have a militating effect, proving disastrous to those who administer them.

However, if some action is not taken, country clubs will have no alternative but to turn their toes to the daisies”.

Little did the gentleman who wrote the above article, possibly the Editor of the Scone Advocate, realise how close to the truth he was, with racing disbanded in Scone throughout 1921-22 and 23. In fact it would be some years before the club would regain its former strength as a professional sporting body.

But, even with what was a major disappointment for the people who loved the sport, there were those who were prepared to take up the gauntlet and in some way have it revived.

As reported in the local paper (Tuesday September 7 1923) a meeting was held on Saturday September 4 of that year with the intention of forming a club that could organise race meetings that would aid in the funds of the Scott Memorial Hospital, while at the same time act as a leisure outlet for the public.

Scone Hospital Race Club Formed Old St. Aubins Course to be used again

The meeting convened for the purpose of forming a Race Club in Scone, and to put on a fixture at an early date to the end of supplementing the funds of the Scott Memorial Hospital was largely attended on Saturday afternoon last. Mr. T.W. Higgins was voted to the chair.

Mr. J. Medcalf, Secretary pro-tem, read a letter from the Secretary of the Denman Race Club, suggesting in the event of a club being formed, that a committee fall in with a circuit established in the Denman, Aberdeen and Jerry's Plains area.

To place the business before the meeting on a proper footing, Mr. A.J. Dodd moved, Mr. A.J. Denewald seconded, and it was carried—"That in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable that a race fixture be held in the near future on the St. Aubin's course, in aid of funds of the Scott Memorial Hospital”.

The manager of St. Aubins, Mr. L. Mitchell, assured the meeting that permission to use the St. Aubins course for a Hospital Benefit meeting had been given by Mr. E.M. Perrott

of St Aubins and he said he understood from Mr. Perrott that further fixtures could also be arranged. Mr Mitchell went on to say that Sergeant O'Rourke had inspected the track and, subject to certain minor alterations which could easily be effected, had passed it as being suitable for racing.

It was next carried, on a motion of Mr. W. Donaldson, seconded by Mr. A.F. Smith, that a club be formed, known as the Scone Hospital Race Club, and that it conduct meetings under AJC rules.

In answer to a query, Mr. Mitchell stated that slightly over six furlongs were to be had, and, by using the straight twice, a mile could easily be obtained.

Officers were elected as under:-

Mr. E.M. Perrott was elected Patron of the new club and A.F. Smith its President.

Messrs. A.J. Dodd, James Hardcastle and L.R. Mitchell became Vice-Presidents, J. Metcalf secretary and W. Donaldson treasurer. Other members of the committee were Messrs. G. Farram, A.W. Riddle, E. Simpson, P. Ludington, A. Dennewald, A. Dobson and H. Rowland.

Messrs. Hardcastle and Donaldson signified their intention of each donating £3.3s towards a prize, and it was thereupon resolved to approach the remaining licensed victuallers in town for similar donations. It was also decided to approach the horse-breeders of the district to the same end.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the opening meeting is one for corn-feds.

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary of the AJC and ascertain the procedure to be followed before commencing racing, and, upon receipt of the necessary information, to call the committee together.

Over the next few years these were the types of fixtures that catered for the racing fraternity of Scone, a town that many years ago was a flourishing racing centre, the scene of hectic contests, and attracted some of the best performers in the State. The time came however, when country racing generally suffered a depression, and Scone, along with many other centres dropped out of line and the sport went into discard for a long time.

Racing In Scone Revived

Scone Hospital Racing Club's Opening Meeting August 26, 1939

Dormant for many years, racing in Scone was revived on Saturday, when the recently formed Scone Hospital Racing Club launched its initial meeting on the St Aubins private racecourse.

There was no suggestion of any serious attempt to revive the sport until about three months prior to the meeting, when, as a result of consultation among a number of local sportsmen, and some others headed by local auctioneer and keen racing man S.G. Keene.

With the opportunity of raising money for the Scone Hospital by means of racing, the Scone Hospital Racing Club was resurrected.

Foremost with support behind the move was the generosity of Mr W.J. Smith, who made his private racecourse at St Aubins available to the club for the opening meeting.

Scone Hospital Racing Club (Registered A.J.C. and N.W.D.R.A.)
Office-Bearers-1939

President: Mr. W.J. Smith, Vice-Presidents: Sir Hugh Denison, Mr. A.E. Cooper, Mr. P. Miller, Mr. W.T. Badgery, Mr. W.H. Mackay. Committee: Messrs. F.L. Bragg, A.W. Riddle, J.L. Raymond, L.W. Davies, S. Johnston, J.F. Morris, F.J. Whyte. Judge: Mr. A.W. Riddle. Hon. Surgeons: Drs. W.O. Pye, E.S. Stuckey and O. Barton. Stipendiary Steward: Mr. R.G. Lackey. Detective and Starter: Mr. F. Lane. Handicapper: Mr. H.V. Kelaher. Clerk of Course: Mr. S. Clark. Clerk of Scales: Mr. G.A. Cumberland. Official Timekeeper: Mr. H.V. Cooper. Hon. Consulting Veterinary Surgeon: Mr. W.K. Goodsir. Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. G.N. Lochhead and C.A. Gracie. Hon. Secretary: Mr. Stan. G. Keene. Hon. Ass. Secretary: Mr. J.A. Simpson.

Results

1. Maiden Handicap 4 3/4 Furlongs. £10, £3, £2.
1/1 Danger Mark, Mr. A.E. Cooper's ch g, 6yrs.
Trainer: S. Thomas. by Heroic-Willow Queen, 8.13 (K. Hasler)1
6/1 Chippani, Mr. F.P. Crittenden's ch f, 3yrs.
Trainer: G.F. Gorrie. by Illiad-Gobble, 8.0 (W.Webb)2
10/1 White Park, Miss M. Johnston's b h, 5yrs.
Trainer: S. Johnston. by Parkville - Lady Butler, 8.0 (C. Morcello).....3

Other starters: Coradgery, 8.9 (L. Duncombe); Blue Idol 8.0 (V. Daniels); Maeranie, 8.0 (A. McHugh); Toosoon, 8.0 (R. Smart); Don Loola, 8.0 (J. Donaldson); Larwood, 8.0 (E. Mills); Gee Golly, 7.7 (N. Bradbury).

Time: 59sec.

2. Northern Traveler's' Flying Handicap 6 Furlongs. £40, £7, £3.

4/1 Golden Glass, Mr. S.R. Johnston's ch g, 6yrs.

Trainer: S. Johnston. by Luigi-Venetian Glass, 7.0 (L. Duncombe).....1

6/1 Babili, Mr. J. Scully's br h, aged. Trainer: W,Craigie.

by Promised Land-Babylon, 9.0 (E.Mills)2

2/1 Bonnie Don, Mr. A. McLean's br g, 5yrs.

Trainer: H. McLean. by Dunnottar - College Belle, 8.9 (A. McHugh)3

Other starters: Joan Darling, 9.1 (J. McDonald), Spear Gold, 8.7 (P. Lawrence).

Time: 1.15.

3. Nurses' Handicap 4-3/4 Furlongs. £10, £3, £2.

5/2 Bill Gauntlet, Mrs. E.M. Stewart's b g, aged. Trainer: E. Stewart.

by Red Gauntlet-Lindrum mare, 8.5 (C. Morcello)1

5/2 Bowlalong, Mr.C.Duff's br g, 4yrs.

Trainer: C. Williams. by Baralong-Grand Lady, 7.13 (N. Robinson).....2

3/1 Hasten, Mr. A.E. Cooper's b f, 3yrs. Trainer: S. Thomas.

by Baralong-Fleetfoot, 7.7 (N. Sellwood).....3

Other starters: Futurist, 8.9 (—Young); Caisson, 8.7 (N. Bradbury); Fifty Grand, 8.5 (E. Mills); Prapser, 7.7 (A. McHue).

Time: 59sec.

4. The Corinthian Handicap 6 Furlongs. £20, £3, £2.

3/1 Danger Mark, Mr. A.E. Cooper's ch g, 6yrs. Trainer: S. Thomas. by Heroic-Willow Queen, 9.10, inc. 7lb pen. and 3lb over (Mr L. Melvil1

1/1 Lady Vamp, Mr. J.K. Lynch's b m, aged. Trainer: W. Paul.

by Nassau- Vamp, 10.1(Mr. J. Lynch)2

7/2 Lady Kerabee, Mrs. R. Gilder's br m, aged. Trainer: I. Ward.

by Rivoli- Flower, 10.10 (Mr. F. Bell)3

Other starters: Gramme, 9.0 (Mr. R. Weber); Affluence, 9.0 (Mr. A. Holman).

Time: 1-16½.

5. Scott Memorial Scone Hospital Handicap 1mile 15yards. £60, £10, £5. 4/5

Housemaster, Mr. G.R. White's ch g, 6yrs. Trainer: J. Hobson. by Chief Ruler- Fillette,

- 8.7 (K. Shelley 1
 2/1 The Ped, Mr. A.E. Cooper's ch g, 5yrs.
 Trainer: S. Thomas. by Grand Joy- Fleetfoot, 8.2 (N. Sellwood).....2
 10/1 Nargong, Mr. S. McDonough's ch m, aged.
 Trainer: J. Cavanagh. by Blue Flame- Calcite, 7.0 (L. Duncombe)3
 Other starters: Mannaland, 7.9 (C. Morcello); Sir Rawson, 7.3(L. Booby); Had, 7.2
 (N. Robinson).
 Time: 1.41½.
6. Welter Handicap First Division 6 Furlongs. £10, £2, £1/3/4.
 2/1 Bonnie Don, Mr. A. McLean's br g, 5yrs. Trainer: H. McLean. by Dunnottar-
 College Belle, 10.7 (E. Mills) 1
 3/1 Valdrain, Mr. R.A. Hawker's ch g, aged. Trainer: J. Cavanagh. by King Val-
 Neandria, 9.3 (C. Morcello).....2
 6/1 Lady Kerabee, Mrs. R. Gilder's br m, aged. Trainer: I. Ward. by Rivoli- Flower,
 9.10 (W. Donaldson).....3
 Other starters: Scarlet Line, 9.7 (-Shelly); Molly's Frill, 8.11(R. Collins); Improve, 8.0
 (J. Shaw).
 Time: 1.16½.
7. Welter Handicap Second Division £10, £2, £1/3/4.
 6/4 Broadway Rose, Mr. T.J. Nugent's b m, 5yrs. by Grosvenor- Gay Vixen, 8.0
 (L. Duncombe) Trainer: T. Nugent..... 1
 10/1 Lady Vamp, Mr. J.K. Lynch's b m, aged. Trainer: W. Paul. by Nassau- Vamp, 9.1
 (L. Kennedy)2
 3/1 Goorka, Mr. Phil Reynold's b g, aged. Trainer: P. Reynolds. by Ghurka- Wild
 Night, 9.10 (E. Reynolds).....3
 Other starters: Our Voyage, 8.8 (A. Clifford); Miss Sal, 8.3 (N. Sellwood).
 Time: 1.15.

Belmore Heights

This was one of the six tracks used for racing by the Scone Race and Jockey clubs over a period of time. It was on this course that the Manchester Unity Oddfellows Race Club also registered with the AJC and, with R. Thurlow as secretary, conducted meetings in 1925 and 1926.

The club found it a great problem in maintaining a following and had difficulty in financing events during the lean years of the late 1920s and early 1930s. With the rise in popularity of the Rodeos and Bushman's Carnivals, it faded out of existence.

A report in a Scone Advocate in 1941 details a race meeting that was held on the old Belmore course. The exact location of the track itself is somewhat sketchy, but according to some reports it ran west from near the present Shire Depot to turn north on the corner of Waverley and Sydney streets on an area known as Belmore Heights.

The course was four furlongs, with the horses having a straight run for about three furlongs before turning for home.

Scone Advocate Tuesday (1941)

**Old Course on Belmore Heights Springs to Life Hospital Carnival Races attracts large Crowd
Spasm and Snip win Principal Double
Interesting racing and busy Officials**

The old racecourse on Belmore Heights, the scene of many meetings when the A.R.C. (Amateur Race Club) flourished in this and other centres, sprung to life on Saturday last, when the major attraction the Hospital Carnival Races were held.

There were about 600 people in attendance, and the gate-takings amounted to approximately £80. This was a very good result, all things considered, and not emphasised the popularity of the sport, but proved once more, one of the best means by which money can be raised for charitable or patriotic purposes.

Thanks to the generosity and charitable spirit of Miss Wilson, who owns the property, the meeting was made possible, and she has given her permission to those interested to hold further meetings there, with objects similar to those of last Saturday.

For the past week, members of the committee have spent many hours at the ground laying out the track and fencing portion of it, and a splendid job has been done, which doubtless, will be improved as time goes on.

The layout is different in some respects from the old track used in by-gone days and considered an improvement from the point of view of safety. It is about four furlongs in length, and the horses have a straight run for nearly three furlongs before reaching the turn for home. There is also ample room for fairly large fields.

Without attempting to individualise (because there are many who did preliminary work), tribute must be paid to the work done by Mr. J.T. Aisbett, who for the last few days, must have worked tremendously hard to get all the appointments ready, and so ensure the comfort of those who also had work to do on the day.

This was a repetition of the yeoman service he had rendered for the Red Cross race meeting at Segenhoe last August.

Mr. Cecil Parry, alive always to any secretarial duties he undertakes, was at his post early, and throughout the day-and presumably, many days before-was a very busy official. His prompt and efficient method of organisation lightened the duties of other officials. *"Tis a true saying that a smart secretary contributes considerably towards success"*.

From Mr. H.G. Horder (Hon. Treasurer) Mr. Parry received valuable assistance, and others noticed carrying out their duties strictly were Messrs. F.C. Hutt, G.N. Lochhead and Mr J.J. Hardiman, who were in charge in the saddling enclosure.

Mr. J.F. Drew was also alive in his job in the Secretary's office.

To Mr. George Clark was entrusted the duties of the course, and like brother Steve at previous meetings at Scone, and in the country, was the right man for the job.

Messrs. H.R. Poole (Assistant Secretary) and H. Barwick, C.W. Fincher and G. Erranati were posted at the ticket office at the entrance gate, and, needless to say, their work was exacting, demanding concentration and promptness of action.

Mr. J.D. Tierney, as clerk of the scales, had plenty to keep him occupied and he did well. Mr. W. Rose was starter, assisted by Mr. F. Firth, and, with two exceptions, when the fault was not theirs, even starts were effected. On the judge's stand was Mr. S. Payne, with Mr. A.W. Cummings as his assistant lost no time in announcing his decisions.

The Stipendiary Stewards were Messrs. A.F. Smith, D. Hogan and S. Felton, and as always, they had a lot to do. All of it with as little delay as possible. Mr. Smith and Mr. Felton were also the handicappers.

Another important official was Mr. J. Thistlethayte, whose profession is school teaching. No one more suitable could have been found to attend the blackboard, upon which, complete in detail, was posted all the information the public required. Last, but not least, the list of officials included those who undertook the task of classing the scrubbers. These were Messrs. L. Eipper, R. Breese and A.W. Cummings.

There were seven bookmakers in attendance. They were operating also on the southern races, the broadcast description of which was obtained from a set arranged by Mr. G.H. Davies, who also had an amplifier on the ground. This helped the officials considerably by doing the announcing for them.

The publican's booth was conducted by Mr. P. O'Brien, of Wingen, and afternoon tea and other light refreshments were in charge of a number of willing helpers from the Gundy members of the Hospital Auxiliary, who did a commendably fine job.

Details of Racing

1. Second-Class Scrubbers' Race abt. 2f.
J. Caslick's Bonny Boy, J. Caslick 1
W.L. Medhurst's Midnight, A. Cox 2
Other starters: My Princess, Miss Comanche, Rex, Cowboy and Mack.
Betting: 6 to 4 on favourite Midnight, 5 to 1 Bonny Boy.
Won by two lengths.

2. Nurses' Handicap abt. 4f.
H.L. Griffith's Spasm, 9st 7lb D. Gilltrow 1
R. McPhee's Snip, 10st 2lb A. Holman 2
Other starters: Royal Voyage 10.4, (R. Windred), Big Boy 9.7 (J. Caslick).
Betting: Evens favourite Royal Voyage 10.4, 6 to 4 Snip, 3 to 1 Spasm. Won by four lengths. (Royal Voyage took no part in the race).

3. First Class Scrubbers' Race abt. 3f.
R. McNamara's Wonder, R. Windred 1
G. Clark's Jasper, A. Holman 2
Other starters: Leo and Merry Monarch.
Betting: Even money favourite Wonder, 2 to 1 Jasper. Won by six lengths.

4. Hospital Handicap abt. 4f.
R. McPhee's Snip, 10st 2lb A. Holman 1
H.L. Griffiths' Spasm, 10st D. Gilltrow 2
Other starters: Royal Voyage 10.4, (R. Windred), Big Boy 9.7, (J. Caslick). Midnight 9.0, (McCormack).
Betting: 6 to 4 on favourite Royal Voyage, 2 to 1 Snip, 6 to 1 Spasm. Won by a length.

5. Second Class Scrubbers' Race abt. 2f.
M. O'Brien's My Princess, F. Walsh 1
D. McPhee's Slow, Cannon 2
Other starters: Flint, Mack and Merry Monarch.
Betting: Even money favourite Merry Monarch, 6 to 4 Slow, 5 to 1 My Princess. Won by a head.

6. First Class Scrubbers' Race abt. 3f.
 D. McPhee's Leo, L. Jurd 1
 J. Caslick's Bonny Boy, J. Caslick 2
 Other starters: Midnight and Miss Comanche.
 Betting: 5 to 4 on favourite Leo, 2 to 1 Bonny Boy. Won by two lengths.

7. Consolation Handicap abt. 4f.
 F. Whyte's Royal Voyage, 10st 4lb, R. Windred 1
 H. Wick's Cowboy, 9st A. Holman 2
 Only starters. Betting: 2 to 1 on favourite Royal Voyage, even money Cowboy. Won by two lengths.

As can be seen it was a spasmodic time for local racing, but, thanks mainly to the intuition of some of the town's leading business men and, the support received from the local community, racing was gradually getting back on an even keel. Following on from the successful outing held by the Hospital Jockey Club in 1939, several other meetings were held at the St Aubins course; two noted were held in the months of February and September 1944.

February 5, 1944.

A Record Crowd Attends Scone Hospital Race Meeting

Held in ideal weather, one the largest crowds to attend a race meeting in Scone, patronised the Hospital Racing Club's Hospital fixture on St. Aubins course on Saturday last.

Although record nominations had been received and nominations fees paid by owners and trainers on over 70 horses, a number of horses were unable to put in an appearance because it is alleged, transport officials turned them back on the road between Newcastle and Singleton. Unfortunate as it may appear, the travelling of horses to race meetings is banned under the National Security Regulations, but even so, the meeting went off successfully.

Bookmakers were present from far afield, and the large multi-coloured umbrellas under which the gentlemen of the white bags sheltered from the sun (and collected from the sons of the followers of the sport of kings), added greatly to the atmosphere of the racing game.

That the meeting had been widely publicised was evidenced by the attendance of patrons from all over the Upper Hunter and, from as far afield as Newcastle in the south and Tamworth in the north.

Gate takings for the afternoon totalled £240, while the great majority of local and district patrons were to be seen wearing member's tickets.

At the end of the day, the Great Northern Road resembled a vast procession for upwards of half an hour as cars made their way back to town.

The feature of the day was the grand parade of the well-known and valuable sires from Mr. W.J. Smith's St. Aubins stud, which, following the Scott Memorial Handicap, were led up the course straight by attendants. On parade were the famous horses Hua, Kuvera, Ajax, Manitoba, Beau Son and Gene Tout, which were greatly admired not only by men and women who know good horseflesh, but by many patrons who had not had the opportunity of seeing these famous aristocrats who have distinguished themselves on the track only a few years since, and, whose progeny are now also making names for themselves throughout the Commonwealth.

The publican's booth on the ground attracted more than its share of patrons, and the sign, No Beer, was hung out before the running of the last race. However, the soft drinks and refreshments booths also did a roaring trade throughout the afternoon.

The ball held on the previous night was attended by a record crowd and resulted in £78 being taken at the door.

As a result of the ball, race meeting, publican's booth and refreshment booth, together with membership fees and donations, it is estimated that the gross receipts are in the vicinity of £1002.

It cannot be recalled that ever a function held in the Upper Hunter has failed to get support it deserves from the town and district residents at large. Good for Scone and the Upper Hunter.

To Mr. W.J. Smith, who so generously made available his well-known St. Aubins course on which the meeting was held, the warmest thanks of the Scone Hospital Racing Club committee were extended, in making the course available. Mr. Smith has helped to assist our "No 1 institution", the Scott Memorial Hospital, from its financial difficulties.

Results

1. Probationer's Handicap 4 furs:

Idle Chatter 9.3 Ward.....	1
Fair Rise 9.3	2
Fair Heritage 8.7	3

Other starters: Smart Idea, Ear Mark, Peter's Lady. Winner: 6/4.
 Won by a length and a quarter, half a length between second and third.

2. Sisters' Flying Handicap 5 furs

Diogenes 10.0 Simpson.....	1
Roman Son 9.8 Millard	2
Marwood 8.9 Middleton	3

Only starters. Winner 2 to 1 on.
 Won by 3 lengths, a length between second and third.

3. Nurses' Handicap 5 furs.

New Treasury 9.0 Holman.....	1
Find Out 9.13.....	2
Young Dennis 8.3.....	3

Only starters. Winner 6/4.
 Won by four lengths, half a length between second and third.
 (Protest lodged against New Treasury by the connections of Find Out, was dismissed, but an appeal has been lodged against this decision).

4. Scott Memorial Handicap 6 furs.
 Prizemoney of £30 and a trophy valued at £25.

Mr F. Whyte's Royal Voyage 9.5 Holman.....	1
Mr J. Chester's Tickets 9.9.....	2
Mrs. E. Cribb's Roman Son 9.8.....	3

Only starters. Winner 6 to 4 on. Won by three-quarters of a length, with three lengths between second and third.

5. Consolation Handicap 6 furs.

Plantage 9.4 Marsden	1
Young Dennis 8.7.....	2
Marwood 9.0	3

Only starters. Winner 2 to 1 on.
 Won by five lengths, the same between second and third.

Scone Advocate Tuesday, September 9, 1944:

“Saturday’s Big Outing Police Anzac House Race Meeting

Everything was in its favour on Saturday last for the race meeting at St. Aubin’s famous racing track, when the Police Anzac House Appeal fixture was held.

Although many were somewhat dubious on the previous couple of days when dark clouds made their appearance in the northwest (from whence comes our rainfall on many occasions), Saturday turned out the perfect day for a race meeting, or any other fixture for that matter. Not a cloud in the sky, and a warm day that invited the fairer sex to come forth in their spring frocking of many shades and hues. (The males also appeared in their spring outfits- left over from last spring and the same season the year before); but what odds, it was a great day for the races.

From early morning floats bearing thoroughbred and equine hopes from many stables were to be seen coming from the north and south, making towards St. Aubins. Other prads were being led by stable hands who “eyed off “ the nominations from rival stalls, and no doubt, wondered whether the opposition had any idea what the “local” favourite had done over the “last two” before breakfast the morning before.

At any rate, long before the first race, most followers of the sport of kings had found their way on to the course, and a strong betting ring was operating on the Sydney fixture. The committee saw to it that a public address system was well in operation, and without asking for any bouquets, it is in order to claim that on the day, the service rendered the patrons and bookies alike as regards the broadcast of Sydney and the local events, Randwick itself had nothing on this country meeting. Mr. Frank Drisdale gave a colourful and interesting description of each race over the “mike”, as he had done at the previous meeting on St. Aubins.

The Police Commissioner (Mr. W.J. Mackay) made the journey from Sydney to be present at the outing, and proved himself a real sport and a good mixer, in meeting as many residents of the district from all walks of life. Mr. Mackay also had the company of Superintendent J.S. McCarthy, of Newcastle, and Inspector J.J. Tracey, of Maitland with Metropolitan Superintendent Toole also making the journey.

Assisting the Scone Police was Constable Bruce, of Moonan Flat, and Constable Whelahan, a newcomer, who took Constable Rosted’s place at The Aberdeen Station.

The well-known “stipe”, in Mr. Jack Ryan, who hails from Newcastle, came along, however the boys in the saddle were on their best behaviour, and no incidents were recorded to attract the attention of Mr. Ryan.

Another to lend a hand and one whose advice and experience gained from organising and running meetings for well over 30 years, was Cr. A.E. Hardy, of Aberdeen. "A.E.H." took his place on the executive and proved a tower of strength to the local committee, many of whom are comparative "maidens" in the racing game.

As Hon. secretary, Mr. Steve Clark had an unenviable job, but one which was lightened by the services of his good wife who, as assistant Hon. secretary, was well on the job when Mr. (Steve" to all Upper Hunterites) Clark was away from town in pursuit of his occupation.

The old saying "Look after the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves," is not an axiom which the Hon. Treasurer Mr. Ted Howell believes in, looking after the pence and the pounds with an eagle eye, and had everything in black and white practically as soon as the last race was over.

Mr. Arthur Ingham city business man and former resident of the district and founder of the Parklands Dorset Stud, on the Great Northern Highway, joined the crowd of visitors and looked up many old friends on the course.

Newcastle Jockey Club co-operated in no uncertain manner, and it was only an important business engagement that kept the popular and efficient secretary (Mr. Jack Hibbard) away from the meeting. However, Mr. Jack Fay ably assisted Scone officials, and the well-known ex Sconeite of many years standing (Mr. Ern Marks), now a resident of the "coaly city," and also an official of the Newcastle Jockey Club, made his way northward and spent a great day on the course renewing many acquaintances of his younger days when, as a mailman who was always reliable to bring the bags out on time, made many life-long friends amongst the Wybong settlers.

Mr. G.N. Lochhead, as President, saw to it that visitors were well met, while Mr. S. Payne fulfilled the post of judge, and clocked the winner of each race in practiced style. Mr. D.H. Robertson ably assisted him as assistant judge.

Unless a new red coat is obtained for the next meeting, or, on the other hand, the amiable Bill Munro follows a course of reducing, he will not be able to get into the garment of Clerk of the Course.

Despite the tightness of the situation, Bill kept the prads and their riders well in hand at the barrier, and had little trouble in leading the winners back to scale after each race, where Mr. Clarrie Hall, in charge of the scales, found all lead bags in position as the boys checked in, and before declaring "weight correct."

As saddlecloth steward, the diminutive George Sutherland although he carried out his job to the letter, mind you, was hard to find amongst the “hoops,” who, in some cases towered head and shoulders over the hat of “wee Georgie.” At any rate, for what he may have lost in stature the same George, from “old Donald’s” property, made up in volume so far as his vocal chords were concerned, and any of the boys in silk who did not hear his name called, either had no ear drums or just did not want to hear.

Mr. Len Eipper undertook the charge of jockeys’ steward, and on “Scotchman’s Hill,” Messrs. T. Irwin, C.W. Murray, H. Johnston, V. McElroy, Abe Mitchell and C. Pratt took charge of affairs at the outer and inner gates and it is reported that it had to be a real hard-luck story, and one that had not been told before, that admitted anyone without a member’s shield or seven and a half “deeners.”

Piloting the cars into parking position was left to Constable W. Dennington, who was assisted by Messrs. J. Greaves and J. Johnston.

For many, a fair amount of time was spent around Arthur Gregson and his co-workers’ booth, where the foaming brew was in plenty. The same can be said for the ladies’ luncheon and afternoon tea booth, ably conducted by members of the Country Women’s’ Association.

Some idea of the crowd that attended this meeting can be ascertained from the finances. There were 366 members, whilst over £240 was taken on the gate. The prize-money amounted to £148 the amount being extended owing to the Maiden Handicap being run in two divisions, and the committee deciding to pay the full prize-money in each division. On the day, the Anzac House Appeal will benefit to the extent of £648/4/5- this being the nett result of the race meeting only. It is believed that the amount resulting from the efforts of Sergt. Loomes and his Scone police officers and co-workers will run into 1100 odd pounds. Which is a great effort and fully keeping with the tradition that has been built up in the Upper Hunter by its residents getting whole-heartily behind any worthy movement and giving it their full support.

Results:

1. A.I.F. Maiden Handicap (first division).
Greenlands 8.8 D. Giltrow 1
Lord Dundee 8.4 F. Walsh 2
Bengalla 8.4 R. James 3
Others: Over Here, Smart Idea (A. Holman), Miss Limarch (N. Robinson) Peter’s Lady (W. Battle). Winner 2 to 1.
Won by half a length. Time: 51sec.

THE SPIRIT WITHIN

2. Maiden Second Division.
 Mispent 8.4 E. Wyatt..... 1
 Ferndale 8.4 R. James..... 2
 Snowdrift 9.0 S. Davidson 3
 Others: Nasdoo, Brisally, Don't Delay, Exclusive. Winner 5 to 4.
 Won by four lengths. Time: 51½.

3. Anzac House Handicap.
 Find Out 9.13 D. Giltrow..... 1
 Jungle King 11.1..... 2
 Plain Gas 8.3..... 3
 Only starters. Winner evens. Won by a length. Time: 1-0 1/4.

4. A.I.F. Handicap.
 Swift Lady 8.11 L. Ward 1
 Verily 8.0..... 2
 Corbay 8.0 3
 Others: Don't Delay, Barella. Winner evens.
 Won by a length and a half. Time: 1-0 3/4.

5. Commissioner's Cup 6 furlongs.
 Prizemoney of £40 and a Silver Cup.
 Fair Rise 8.1 R. James..... 1
 Plantage 8.5 A. Marsden 2
 True Excitement 8.12 A. Holman 3
 Others: Return Ticket (A. Ward), Roman Son (A. Slattery), and Plain Gas (E. Wyatt).
 Winner 5 to 1. Won by a head. Time: 1-18 1/5.

6. R.A.N Handicap.
 Goreen 9.0 S. Davidson 1
 Chicago 8.9..... 2
 Peter's Lady 8.7 3
 Other starter: Valiant Hero. Winner 3 to 1. Won by two lengths. Time: 60 1/5.

7. Service Women's Handicap.
 Plantage 8.5 A. Marsden 1
 True Excitement 8.12..... 2
 Return Ticket 10.2..... 3
 Only starters. Winner 5 to 4 on. Won by three lengths. Time: 1.18 2/5.

Scone was also offered the hospitality of the Aberdeen Jockey Club. The meeting, once again to benefit the Scott Memorial Hospital, was conducted at the Riverside course on Saturday, December 4, 1944."

Scone Hospital Race Meeting at Aberdeen Red Kennel's Dual Success - Cup to Valiant Hero

Despite the presence of a good representation of horses from Newcastle and other southern areas, the district-owned and trained horses lifted no fewer than five of the seven races at the Scott Memorial Hospital benefit meeting held at Aberdeen on Saturday last.

Red Kennel, a tractable four-year-old chestnut gelding by Brazillian from Keraluma, was equal to pulling off the second division of the Maiden Handicap and Probationers' Handicap in brilliant fashion. The gelding was prepared by Mr. Jerry O'Brien, of Aberdeen, for the doyen of racing, Mr. H.R. Munro, now an octogenarian, who was present to see his horse score.

The Scott Memorial Cup, run over seven furlongs, was won well by Valiant Hero, a bay gelding trained by Scott Johnston for Mrs. A.A. Emanuel. The winner scoring over Step Son by a neck with Royal Voyage, who was squeezed out at the start, three lengths further away in the time of one minute, twenty seven and a half seconds.

The best performance of the fixture, however, went to Jungle King, a brown son of Harinero and Causina. The class of the quartet that faced the tapes, Jungle King had the steadier of 11 stone, which included 42lbs. dead-weight. He quickly opened up a big lead- it was the Nurses' Handicap, six furlongs- and at the half-mile was bowling along with the best part of six lengths to spare and ridden well by Wyatt, he held off the challengers to score by a length and a half in one minute, fourteen and two fifths of a second.

Other winners at the meeting were Indicator in the divided Maiden Handicap. The Matron's Handicap over six furlongs went to Greenlands by five lengths in a time of 1.16.

The Welter Handicap, 5 furlongs, 100 yards was taken out by True Excitement, ridden by veteran horseman Stan Davidson for trainer J.S. Johnston and owner Scone publican Mr. Bert Price, the gelding scoring by a short head in the time of one minute, eight and two fifth seconds.

The track and enclosures were in excellent order, thanks to the liberal use of a water cart, which was the means of eliminating the dust nuisance almost in its entirety.

A feature of the outing was the co-operation of officials of the Aberdeen Club, who saw that the requisite appointments took shape and had everything in first-class order for their neighbours. This gesture and spirit of co-operation is fully appreciated by the Scone committee, a fact which the President (Mr. D.H. Robertson) commented upon.

All officials were right on the job, with the Hon. secretary (Mr. Steve Clark) and his assistant (Mrs. Clark), with all matters always well under control. Mr. Ted Howell, in charge of the exchequer, was likewise conspicuous, as also was every other member of the committee, into whose activities the infusion of teamwork was very much in evidence.

The proceedings passed off smoothly and with precision, it has only to be mentioned that with the running of the sixth race- the Maiden Handicap was divided- the officials had ten minutes "up their sleeves."

Mr. Frank Grisdale, of Newcastle, a real friend of the club was again at the important post to give a running description of events over an amplifying service supplied by Messrs. M. Campbell and Co.Pty.Ltd. in charge of Mr. R. Griffiths. The gratuitous and efficient service rendered by Mr. Grisdale certainly added interest to the proceedings, just as it brought them right up to date.

A publican's booth was conducted on the ground, and refreshments were also available, this latter indispensable and valuable adjunct being capably run by the members of the Scone Hospital Auxiliary.

Estimated Profit
£350-£400

It is estimated that nett proceeds will be between 350 and 400 pounds -a fine effort, upon which all concerned are to be complimented. Ninety per cent. will go to the Scott Memorial Hospital and 10 per cent. to the Upper Hunter Ambulance.

Receipts: Members' fees and donations £247/8/6, bookmakers' fees (nett) £42/16/9, race books £24/6/2, gates £227/18/6, publican's booth (nett) £59/13/1, nominations £40/10/. Refreshment booth and drinks approximately £30."

Scone Jockey Club Revived

The perpetual problem of finding a permanent racecourse, a home where the racing fraternity could establish suitable stables and amenities, had dogged the supporters of the game for more than fifty years.

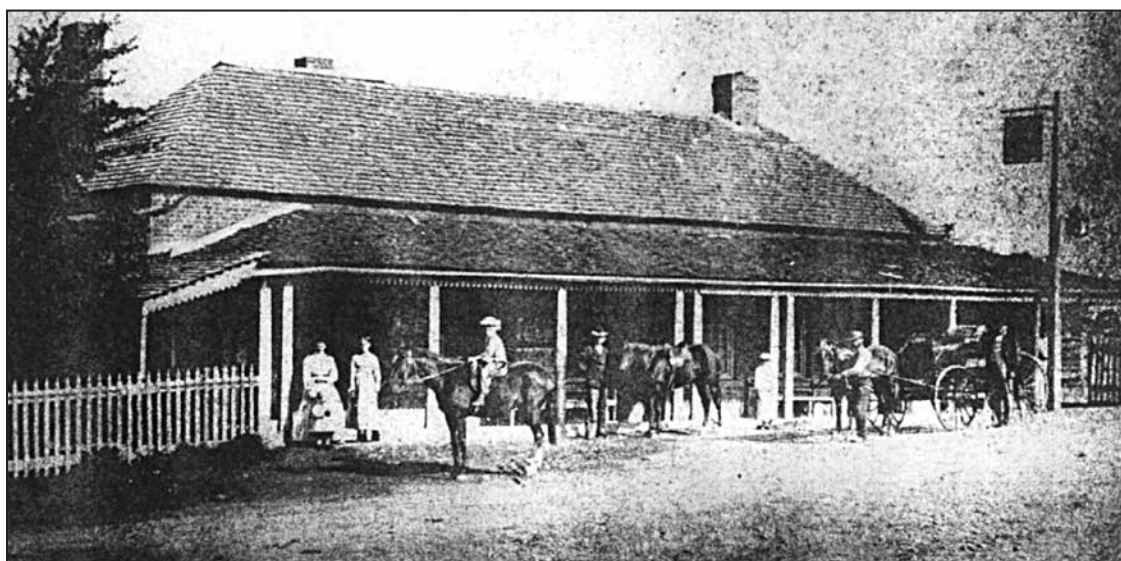
One of the leading figures in finding the solution to the problem was Mr. Stan Keene, an enthusiastic racing man and, in his business as a stock and station agent, one who was in constant touch with both town and country interests.

With Mr. D.H. Robertson of Turanville, he convened a public meeting in Scone on 7th December, 1944 to discuss the formation of a race club and the means of acquiring a racecourse.

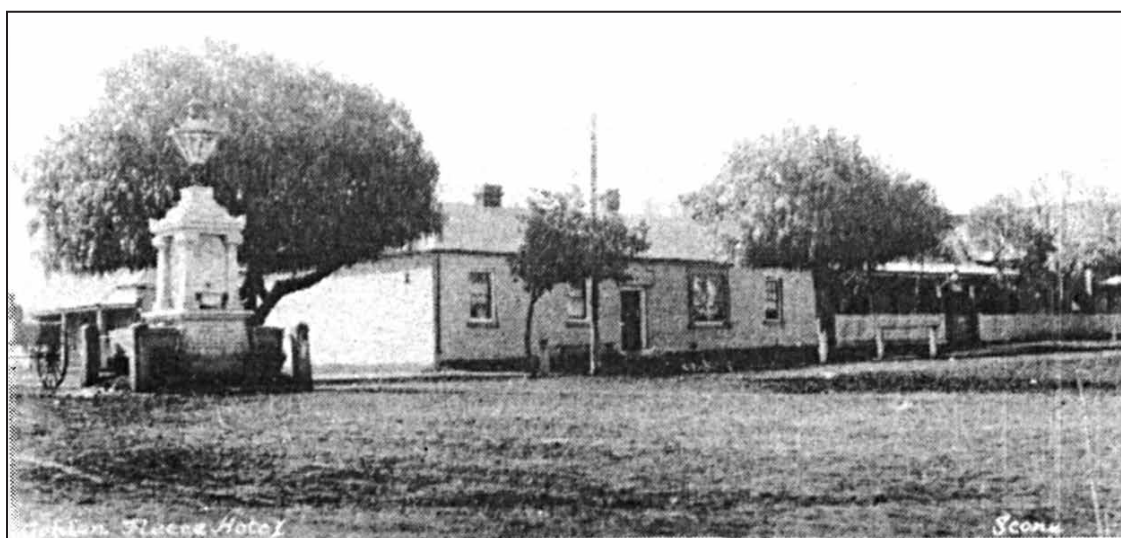
The meeting enthusiastically supported the idea of having a racecourse on White Park, but it was appreciated that there would need to be considerable planning and, that the Municipal Council would have to approve the plans before anything further could be done in the matter of a course.

Meanwhile, a provisional committee was appointed with D.H. Robertson as president and C. Parry as honorary secretary. It was agreed that a Scone Jockey Club be formed.

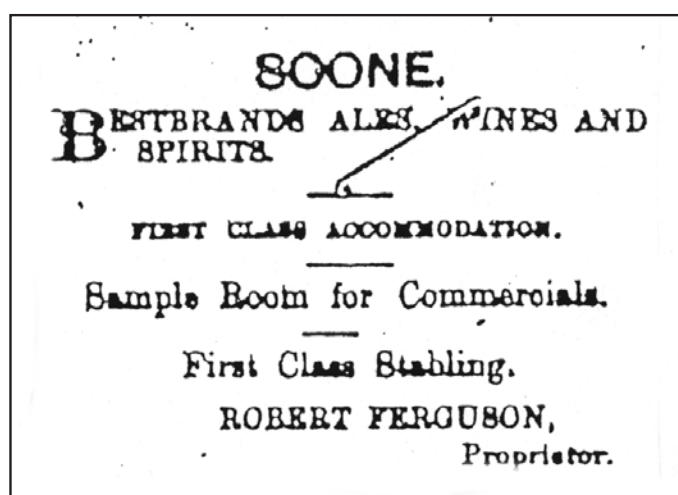
Thus, fifty years after the race meetings of the first Scone Jockey Club were run at Satur, a second Scone Jockey Club was formed.



St. Aubins Arms 1872. Formerly The White Swan. Inn-Keeper: J.P. Wilkie.
Photo by Beaufoy Merlin.



The original Golden Fleece Hotel on its present site in Liverpool Street.





The old Willow Tree Hotel on the corner of Guernsey and Liverpool Streets, now a butcher's shop. The first street light in Scone hangs over the intersection.

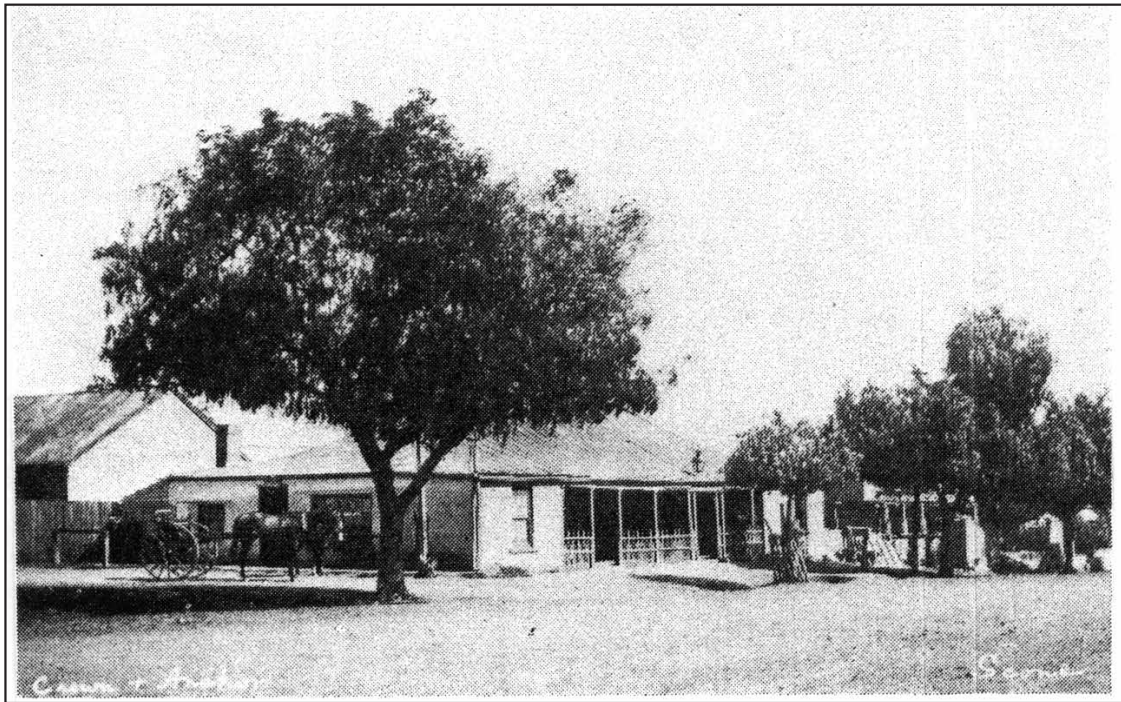
Willow Tree Hotel, SCONE.

THE undersigned begs to thank the public for their kind support, and wishes to announce to them that the above hotel is now replete with every comfort needed.

Tables First class; Wines and Spirits also.
Good Stabling, Paddocks, and Billiard Room.

R. BAKER,
Proprietor.

Advertisement
Scone Advocate
Aug. 31, 1888, p. 3.



The Crown and Anchor Hotel, now demolished, with the present Thoroughbred Hotel in course of construction on the Kelly Street corner.

Advertisement
Scone Advocate,
June 9, 1896, p. 1.

Notice.

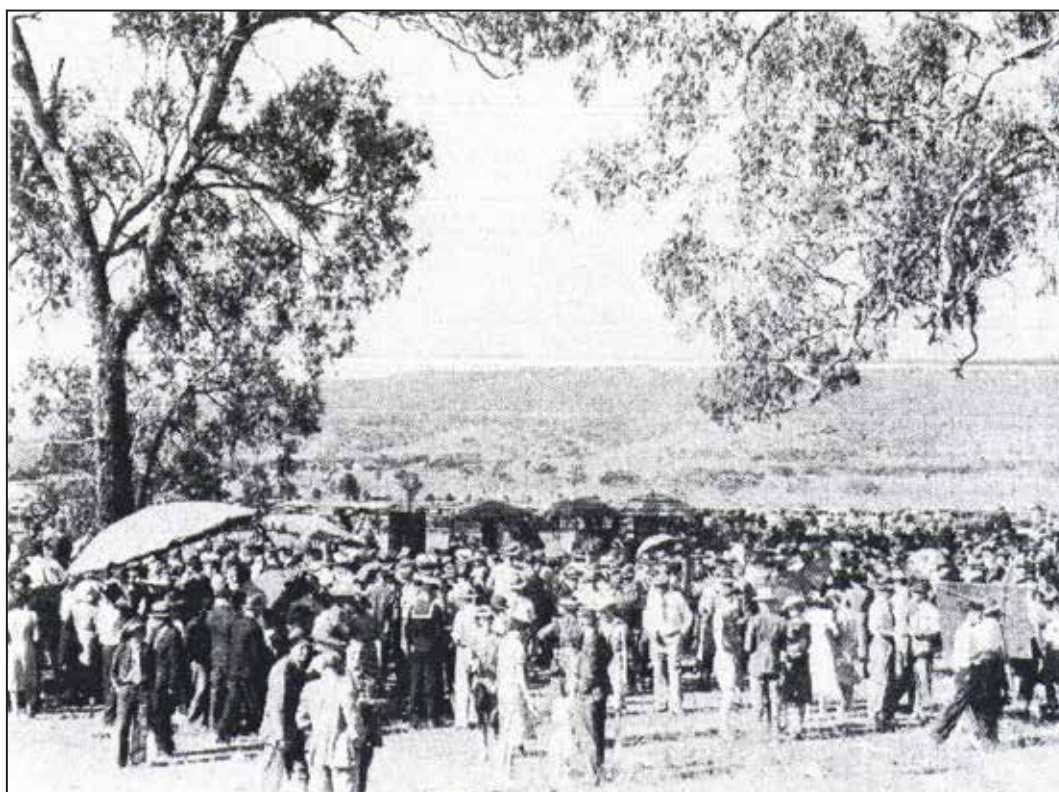
The Crown & Anchor Hotel,
---SCONE---

HAVING purchased the Lease, License and Goodwill of the above long established and favorably known Hotel from my father, who has successfully managed it for many years, I hope, by strict attention to business, to merit a fair share of the patronage of the general public.

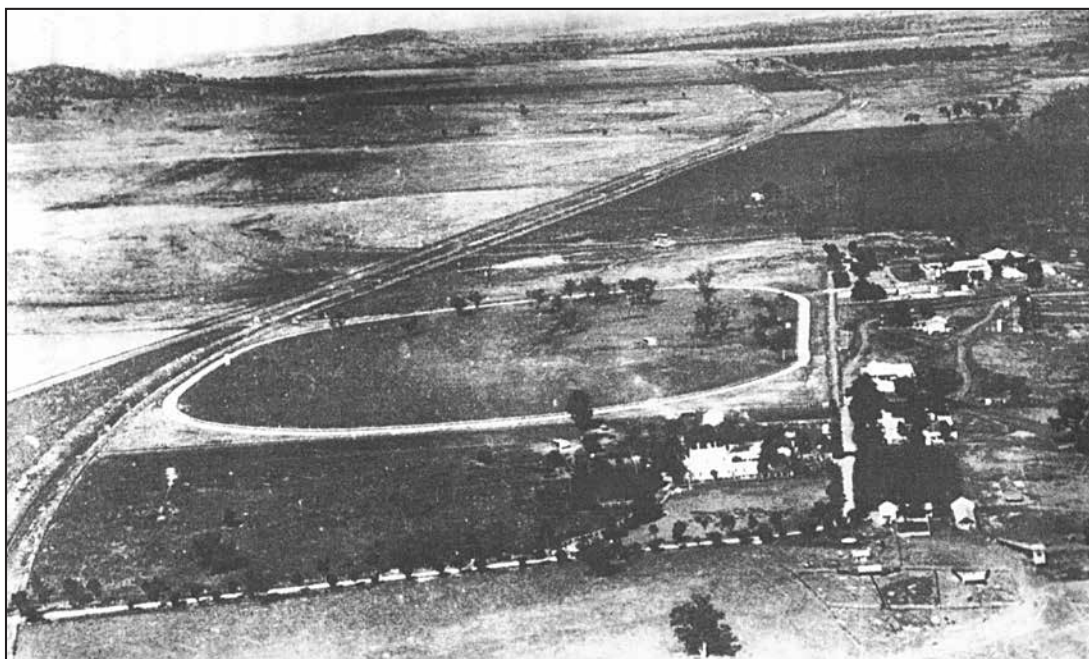
Only the best brands of Wines and Spirits kept in stock.

Good Stabling, and a securely-fenced and well grassed paddock.

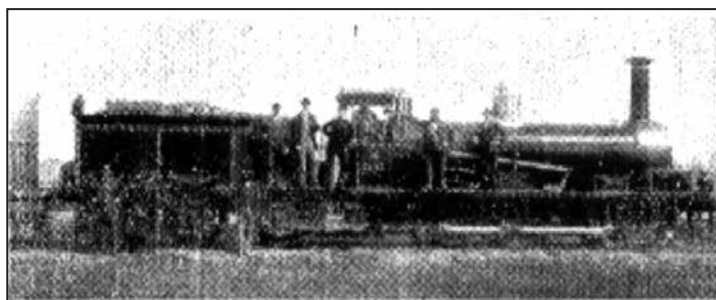
GEO. HOPPER, junr.,
PROPRIETOR.



Scone Race Club's Anzac Horse race meeting held at St. Aubins Racecourse.
2nd September, 1944



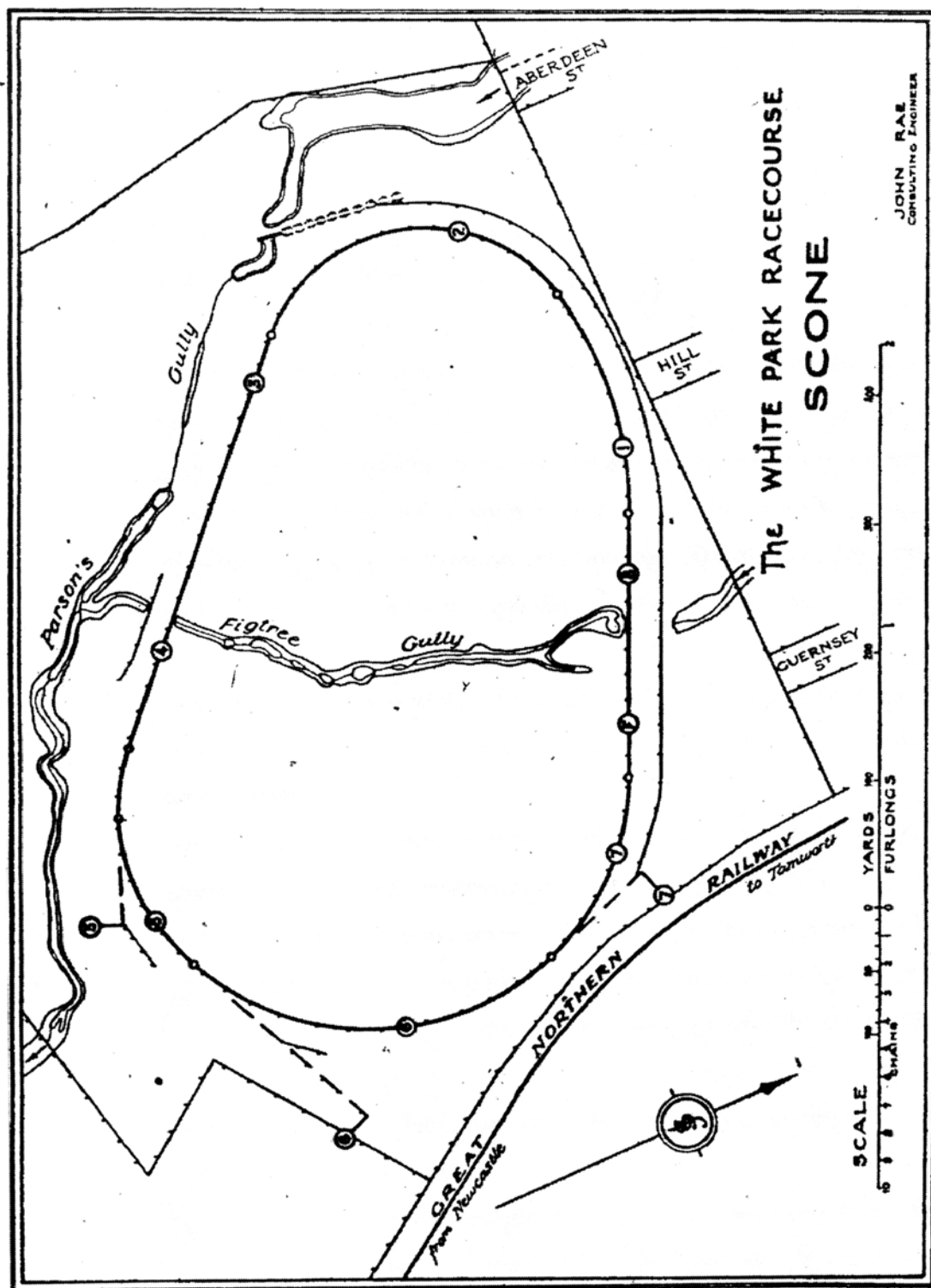
St. Aubins Racecourse from the air 1948. Probably taken at about the time of the filming of 'Into the Straight'. Railway line and New England Highway are shown leading from left hand bottom to top centre - John A. Smith photograph.



One of the first trains to pass through Scone



Scone Railway Station, 1873



Plan of White Park Racetrack 1946.



The President's wife (Mrs D.H. Robertson) does the honours. Mr Phil Jenkins, the owner of Precise, receives Scone Race Club's Cup. Mr Robertsohn is witness to the ceremony.



Precise coming away from Smart Alick as the post is neared, with Wearie coming into third place.

Saturday, September 13th 1947



Sections of the crowd who attended the Scone Race Club's second meeting on the new White Park course on Saturday.

CROWD ATTENDS SCONE RACE CLUB'S FIRST BIG TWO-DAY CUP MEETING

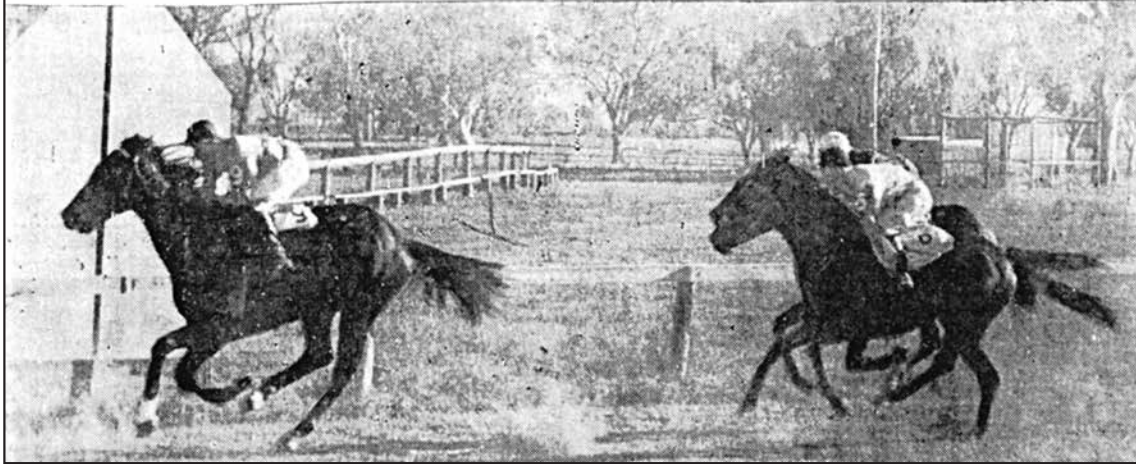


Wednesday, May 19th.
1948

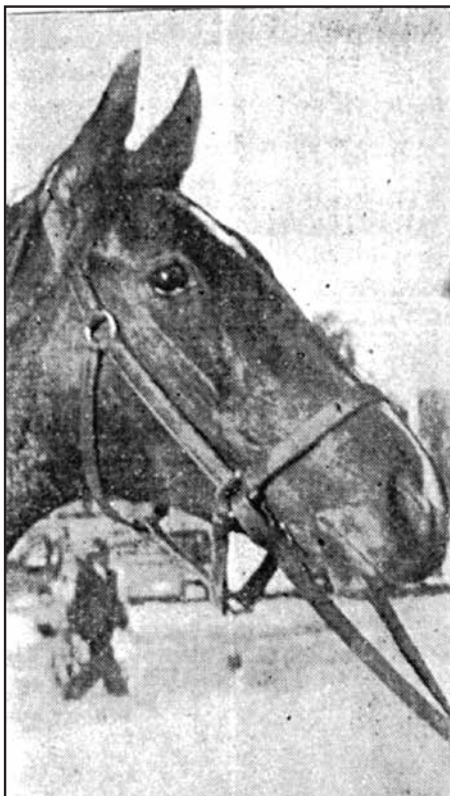


Wives of the committeemen who did good service at the recent cup meeting.
Back row: Mrs F.W. Thompson, Mrs G.N. Lochhead, Mrs D.H. Robertson, Mrs H.R. Johnston
Front row: Mrs L.R. Morgan, Mrs M.O. Thompson, Mrs A.W. Riddle, Mrs A.F. Smith.
Several absentees when taken.

SCONE RACE CLUB'S SUCCESSFUL TWO DAYS' CUP MEETING



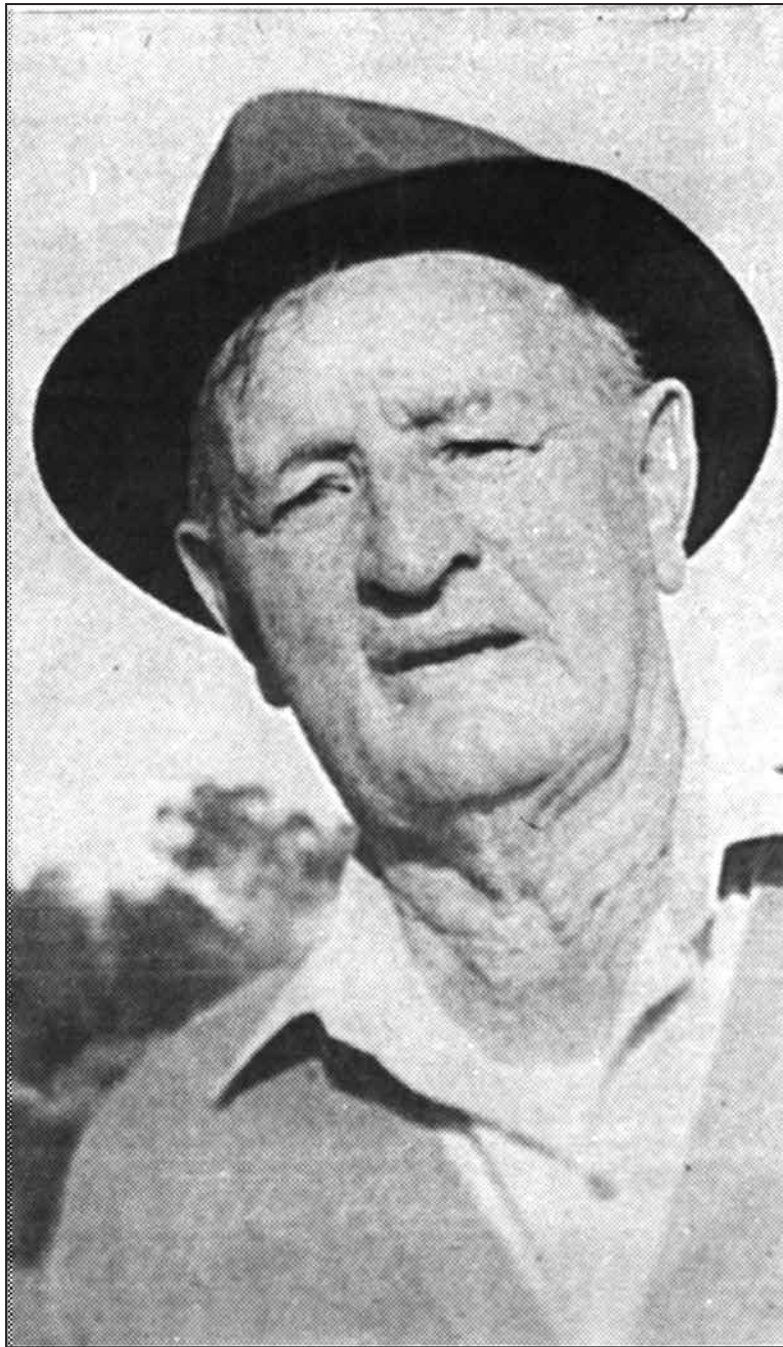
Botany Bay winning the Sires' Produce Stakes on Wednesday from Joy Court (outside) and Tivoli Star. Botany Bay was ridden by E. Walmsley, Joy Court by Barry Smith and Tivoli Star by J. Thomson.



H. and L. Reichel's Bontany Bay, winner of the Sires' Produce Stakes on Wednesday last. He is trained by Jack Lawrie



Jockey Jack Thompson returning to scale on Eulomo after winning the 2nd Progressive Handicap, Eulomo later lost the race on protest by Gypsy's Warning.



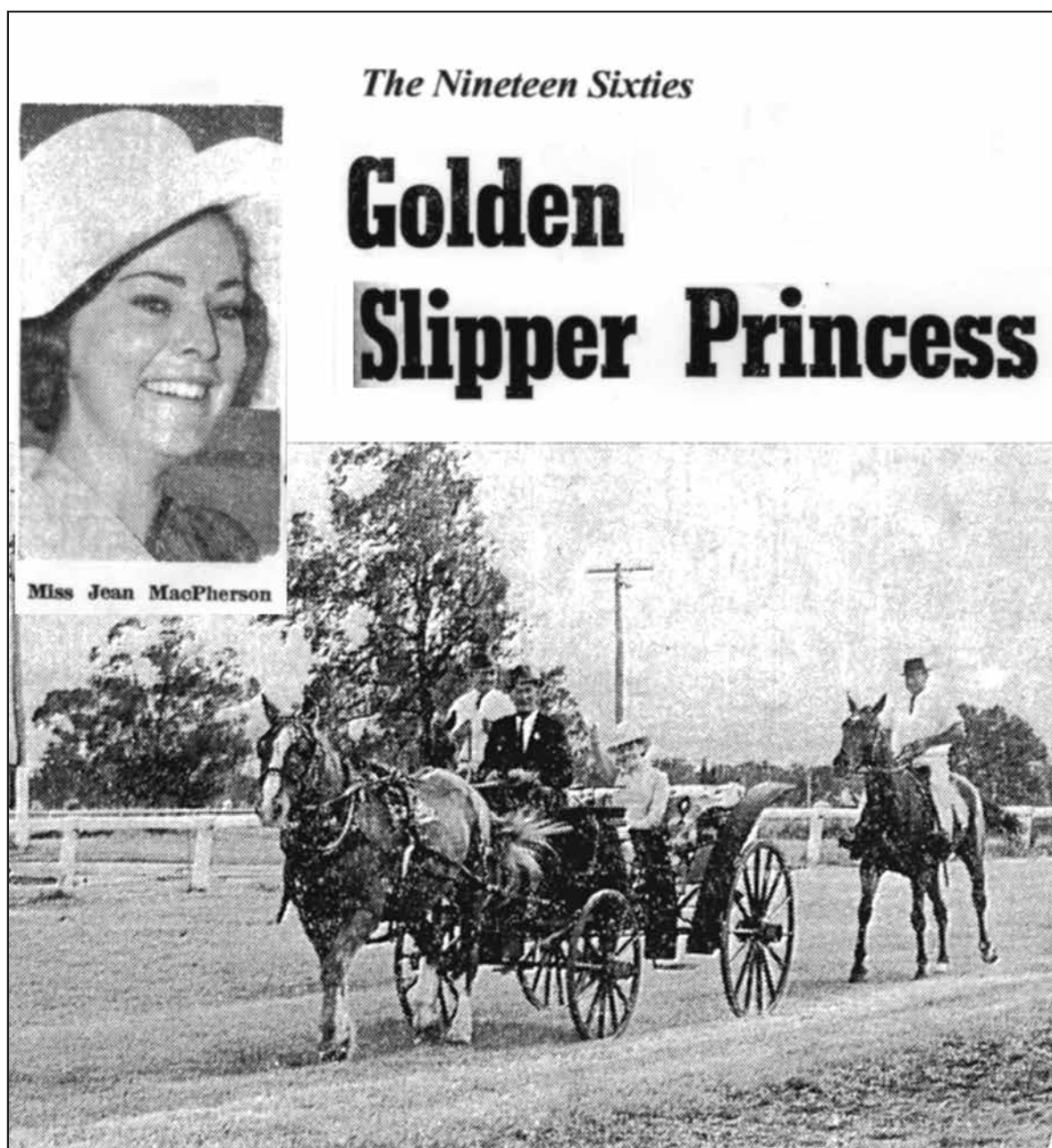
Darcy Walden. Taken in 1988. Scone Race Clubs longest serving Clerk of the Course.



The Scone Cup Trophy, a canteen of cutlery, was won by Piccadilly Lad for Mr. C.R. Lewis, on left of picture. Next to him is the club president, Mr. D.H. Robertson, then the club secretary, Mr. C. Parry, Mr. S.S. Crick, a former Lord Mayor of Sydney, who made the presentation, and Jack Thompson, who rode the winner.



Covers of the early racebooks.



The Golden Slipper Princess, Miss Jean Macpherson, of Scone, rides in state down the course proper at Scone Races on Saturday March 8, 1969. (B.J. Budden photo) Carriage driver: Ron Dennewald. Clerks of the Course: Laurie Harris (left), Stan Bowd (right).

Instigation of Scone Jockey Club

The following was taken from the Minute Book of the Scone Jockey Club dated December 7th, 1944.

At the final Committee Meeting of the Scone Scott Memorial Race Club, held at the Office of Messrs Stan Keene & Co on the night of Nov. 30th 1944 C. Parry asked that as those present were all Racing Enthusiasts, would the Meeting care to name a night for a Public Meeting re forming a Scone Jockey Club, and establishing a Racecourse preferably on White Park - Scone.

All present were in accord, and Thursday night Dec. 7 was decided on as the night for the Meeting, same to be held in the Country Women's Rooms, School of Arts—Scone at 8 p.m.

Messrs D.H. Robertson and S.G. Keene were appointed to advertise the Meeting in the Scone Advocate on Friday December 1st and Tuesday 5th.

“Proposed Formation of Race Club

Important Public Meeting

An important Public Meeting will be held in the C.W.A. Rooms Scone, on Thursday, 7th December, at 8 p.m. Business: Proposed Formation of Race Club in Scone, and to discuss ways and means of acquiring a Race Course, preferably on White Park, Scone.

Will all interested please make a point of being in attendance. Those who cannot attend, are specially requested to contact the undersigned and express their viewpoints on the project.

D.H. Robertson.

S.G. Keene.

Convenors.”

As per above advertisement, which appeared in the Scone Advocate on the dates as instructed the Public Meeting, took place with 60 Scone and District residents attending.

Scone C.W.A. Rooms 8 p.m. Thursday, December 7, 1944.

Mr. D.H. Robertson was forced to take the Chair, and in doing so read the above notice relative to the meeting.

After giving his reasons for the move Mr. Robertson invited others to give their views on the subject, Messrs S.G. Keene, G.N. Lochhead, L.R. Morgan, A.W. Riddle, Sg't. J.T. Loomes, A.V. Costelow, W.T. Seaward, L.A. Swan & others.

A motion by C. Parry seconded by G.N. Lochhead that a Scone Jockey Club be formed was carried unanimously.

Messrs D.H. Robertson & S.G. Keene were nominated as Presidents.

Mr. Keene declining automatically making Mr. Robertson President.

C. Parry was elected Secretary on the motion of R. DeFraine seconded by G.N. Lochhead.

E.W. Howell was appointed Treasurer on the motion of J.J. Gleeson seconded P. Marks.

A provisional Committee was appointed namely, Messrs B. Price, S.G. Keene, A.W. Riddle, S.N. Readford, C. Duncombe, L.R. Morgan, H. R. Johnston, S. Clark, G.N. Lochhead and Sgt. J.G. Loomes. (10).

Donations promised at the Meeting were:

£ S D	£ S D
Morgan L.R.10-10-0	Costelow A.V1-1-0
Sledmere Estate.20-0-0	Keene S.G. & Co.10-10-0
Readford S.N.....5-0-0	Young A.H.....5-5-0
Tyler P.....26-5-0	Smith Miss Thelma5-5-0
Anonymous.....20-0-0	Drew J.F2-2-0
Robertson D.H.....25-0-0	W.Whyte1-1-0
Duncombe C.25-0-0	Swan L.A.5-5-0
Miller P.....20-0-0	Burgess P.J.1-1-0
Johnston S.R.1-1-0	
Do J.W.1-1-0	£225-1-0
Do H.R.1-1-0	~~~~~
Do Mrs.H.R.1-0-0	Pinkerton W.I.5-5-0
Kelf H.S.....2-2-0	
Ingham A.....20-0-0	£230-6-0
Lowe A.C. & Co.....2-2-0	~~~~~
Clark G.R.....5-5-0	
Piper R.1-1-0	
Barrymore J1-1-0	

The meeting must be classed as one of the most successful ever-held in Scone terminated with a Very Hearty Vote of thanks to the Chairman."

Scone Advocate 8-12-1944:

“Good Start For New Race Club Attendance At Last Night’s Meeting

Last night one of the best-attended meetings held in Scone for a long time unanimously decided to make every endeavour to establish a Race Club in Scone.

Held in the C.W.A. Rooms, representatives from every business establishment in Scone and well-known racing studs were present, and before the end of the meeting, well over £200 had been subscribed towards the project.

Mr. D.H. Robertson was elected to the chair and the views of a number of those in attendance were expressed as to the suitability of White Park for the construction of a racecourse.

However, before anything concrete could be arranged, the Scone Municipal Council will have to be approached, and a committee was formed to take the necessary steps and call another meeting at a later date.

Provisional officers appointed were; Messrs, D.H. Robertson (President), C. Parry (Hon. secretary), E.W. Howell (treasurer), whilst the provisional committee comprises Messrs, B. Price, S.G. Keene, A.W. Riddle, S.N. Readford, C. Duncombe, L.R. Morgan, H.R. Johnston, S. Clark, G.N. Lochhead and Sgt. J. Loomes.

A motion was carried: That a Scone Jockey Club is formed and the provisional officers and committee go into the matter of the course and call a meeting at a later date.

Before the meeting closed, over £200 was subscribed from those present, with every promise of a successful club being formed.

Scone Jockey Club
C. Parry Secretary.”

Racing At Alabama - The Early Years

As negotiations with the Municipal Council took some time, the newly formed Jockey Club was given permission to use Mr. Ray Bowcock’s Alabama course.

On 28th April, 1945, the first of the Scone Jockey Club’s meetings was held on the Alabama course.

Among the runners at that meeting was Stan Keene's five-year-old Ah Won - named for the popular Chinese market gardener whose gardens were located where Scone Sports Complex is now situated.

A pontoon in the lagoon adjacent to the Old Court Theatre was the way the garden was watered. This lagoon was never dry and Ah Won and his helpers used to trot out along the pontoon with a wooden yoke and a bucket on each end, dip a full bucket and proceed back to water the rows of vegetables which he grew for greengrocers or the residents of the town. Ah Won, never without a cigar in his mouth, and his one-eyed brown half-draught horse Toby would deliver vegetables around the town, mostly on Saturday afternoons.

Further race meetings were held at Alabama, a percentage of these meetings were donated to the Hospital, the Red Cross and the Country Women's Association.

Although race meetings were conducted at Alabama by the Scone Jockey Club in 1945-46 the first meeting held on the track was when the property was in the ownership of Mr. Allan Cooper, the former owner of Segenhoe, who fashioned the Alabama course on the New Mexico circuit of Aqua Caliente where Phar Lap gained his overseas success.

The race meeting that took place on Saturday, 8th August, 1941 was held in conjunction with an open day and a parade of thoroughbreds at the famous Kia-Ora Stud on the Friday with the proceeds of both fixtures going towards Scone Red Cross.

The race meeting itself took on more of a picnic atmosphere, the seven-race program comprising four events for scrubbers and three for registered horses. Of these, the Segenhoe Handicap 4-1/2 furlongs was taken out by Comet ridden by Frank Slattery.

The leading rider around that time R. Windred was aboard Exciting to win the Red Cross Handicap while Frank Whyte's grand galloper Royal Voyage with Arthur Holman won the Consolation Handicap.

Scone Advocate, Tuesday, 1st May, 1945:

"Successful Fixture at "Alabama"

Royal Voyage and Swift Lady Take Chief Double

Better weather could not have been ordered, and the flush season and lush pastures, the picturesque setting was viewed in all its resplendence. Sportsmen were present from near and distant parts, and acclaimed the course, which was in capital order, as one of the finest in the State, and certainly without peer so far as the provincial districts are concerned. With its long stretches of upwards of two furlongs, its easy sweep into the turn, and then its straight run home of two and a quarter furlongs, is the dream of the cognoscenti of the Turf.

The proceedings, which were a signal success, augur well for the activities of the club to come.

Everything passed off smoothly, there was a crowd of large proportions, the racing was of high standard, and the big betting ring catered for clients on Canterbury and Flemington events also, with the boards operating on doubles covering southern racing.

Mr. Frank Grisdale, of Newcastle, whose contribution in this respect to district racing is much appreciated and valued, described local events in top-hole style.

A publican's booth was conducted, also refreshments and tea were available, and at these centres good business was reported.

Of the proceeds, the club will retain 60 per cent., with 40 per cent. going to assist the candidature of the local "popular mother" nominee (Mrs. A.W. Riddle) in the Red Cross competition.

The Hon. secretary (Mr. Cec. Parry) and his assistant (Mrs. S. Clark), together with Mr. E.W. Howell (Hon. treasurer) had everything well in hand to assure the goal aimed at, and teamwork was the essence of the officials right through. Mr. A.E. Hardy was in the judge's box, and with him Mr. W.T. Badgery.

Mr. R.G. Lackey was Stipendiary Steward, and Mr. Fred Lane saw that dispatches from the barrier were as they should be.

Others who gave a good helping hand were: Clerk of course, Mr. Reg. Watts; clerk of scales, Mr. Clarrie Hall; jockeys' steward, Mr. L. Eipper; bookmakers' steward, Mr. Roy Lewis; blackboard steward; Mr. J.J. Gleeson; saddlecloth steward, Mr. R.B. Reese; committee, Messrs. B. Price, S.G. Keene, A.W. Riddle, S.N. Readford, L.R. Morgan. C. Duncombe, S. Clark, H.R. Johnston, G.N. Lochhead and J.G. Loomes; gatekeepers, Messrs. T. Irwin, H.R. Johnston, C.W. Murray, V. McElroy, W. Stockwell, R.B. Barwick and R. De Fraine."

Saturday, April 28th, 1945

Racing, L.P. Duncombe Rides Three Winners

1. 1-30: The Red Cross Handicap 6 Furlongs: £30, £7, £3.
 Mrs. B. Price's Swift Lady 9-0 L.C. Duncombe 1
 (6/4) Trainer: L. Leabeater.
 Royal Voyage 10-4 A. Holman (5/2) 2
 Bungarribee 9-3 F. Slattery (5/2) 3
 Others; Red Mick 8-3. Won by 2lens. 1len. Time: 1-15.

2. 2-00: Maiden Handicap 4 Furlongs: £9, £3.
 Mrs. J. Finlay's Brave Lion 9-0 L.C. Duncombe 1
 (2/1) Trainer: C. Collison.
 Luminous 8-12 E. Middleton (10/1) 2
 Windbine 9-0 N. Robinson (10/1) 3
 Others; Alpeas 9-0, Nell's Hope 8-12, Step Quick 8-12,
 Little Lorna 8-12, Good Fortune 8-10, Ear Mark 8-7, Some Bint 8-7
 Won by 2lens. 1len. Time: 49 secs.

3. 2-30: Restricted Handicap 5 Furlongs: £10, £2, £1.
 Mr. K.R. Owen's Gold Flame 9-7 K. Heffernan (4/1) Trainer: W. Kong 1
 Lady Grace 8-0 and 5lb over E.Wyatt (1/1) 2
 Mispent 9-7 A. Holman (4/1) 3
 Others: Brisally 8-0, Ah Won 8-0.
 Won by 1½lens. ½len. Time: 1-12 1-5.

4. 3-00: Alabama Handicap 7 Furlongs: £50, £7, £3.
 Mr. F.G. Whyte's Royal Voyage 10-4 R. Ford (8/1) Trainer: Owner. 1
 Swift Lady 9-4 and 7lb. pen. L.C. Duncombe (3/1) 2
 Scarlet Lady 8-12 R. James (6/4) 3
 Others: Valiant Hero 8-10, Crowon 8-8. Won by a neck a neck. Time: 1-28.

5. 3-30: Club Welter 6 Furlongs: £20, £3, £2.
 Estate J.W. Schofield's Picca C 10-3 R. Ford (5/2) Trainer: W. Kong 1
 Lord Wedgewood 8-7 L.P. Duncombe (2/1) 2
 Planet 9-7 R. James (4/1) 3
 Other starter: False Cullen 8-7. Won by 3lens. 1len. Time: 1-15½.

6. 4-00: 2nd Maiden Handicap 5 Furlongs: £10, £2.
 Mr. B. Price's Lady Don 9-0 L.P. Duncombe 1
 Ah Won 8-12 T. Ross .(5/1)2
 Renoir 8-2 C. Galpin. (3/1) 3
 Others: Radiola 9-4, Libella 9-0, Windbine 9-0, and Little Lorna 8-12.
 Won by 1len. 2lens. Time: 1-2."

Saturday, September 8th, 1945.

"Back at "Alabama"

Trainer C. Collison's Four Winners

Ah Won and Matrona Land Doubles : L.P. Duncombe Rides Three Winners

The outing on Saturday was sponsored by Scone Jockey Club for the Scott Memorial Hospital, features of the successful fixture, where the fine track won further favourable comment, were the four winners led in by trainer Claude Collison, a young mentor, and the three winners piloted by L.P. Duncombe.

The win by Ah Won by any number of lengths in the Maiden Handicap, presaged further success, which came earlier than anticipated by the majority of racegoers. Emerging into open company within an hour of his initial win, and going out at 10/1, he came with a sustained and determined finish to lift the principal event, The Scott Memorial Handicap and the Trophy going with it.

Matrona certainly gave her opponents another exhibition of smooth galloping in easily accounting for two races, the brilliant mare, has now put together a sequence of five wins and a dead-heat for first in her last six outings.

Special mention must be made of those members of the committee and their friends who saw to the improvements on the course, and to Mr. Ray Bowcock, who stood solidly behind them again making the track available, and giving its full use to trainers preceding the fixture.

It was a nice gesture on the President's (Mr. D.H. Robertson) part to request Mr. Bowcock to present the cup to the winning owner Mr. Stan Keene, who was warmly congratulated on his success.

When he acknowledged the trophy, Mr. Keene remarked that his only regret was that he had beaten his friend, Mr. Ted Baker, for it by the narrowest of margins. However, he trusted his friend's turn would soon come. He also, on behalf of the club, fervently thanked Mr. Bowcock for the remarkable practical support he continued to give it, not

only in placing the area available so readily, but in allowing all appointments to be placed thereon as the club's property and to remain there until such time as the club had its own course. With such helpers, he added, the club could not fail.

Results

1. 1-30: Nurses Flying Handicap 6 Furlongs: £43, £10, £2.
 Sledmere Estate's Matrona 8-12 L.P. Duncombe 1
 (1/1) Trainer: C. Collison.
 Find Out 9-6 R. James (7/1) 2
 Diadem 9-9 G. Duncan (7-1) 3
 Other starter: War Effort 10-7. Won by 6lens. Neck. Time: 1-13½.

2. 2 p.m.: Maiden Handicap 5 Furlongs: £10, £2, £1.
 Mr. S.G. Keene Ah Won 8-10 L.P. Duncombe 1
 (3/1) Trainer: C. Collison.
 Gay Warrior 8-9 S. Davidson (3/1) 2
 Ordnance 8-5 A. Holman 3
 Others: Guard 8-5 J. Jones, Susan Girl 8-5 C. McAuley, and Little Lorna 8-3 R. James.
 Won by 6lens. 11/2 lens. Time: 1-1 3/5.

3. 2-30: Restricted Handicap 5 Furlongs: £10, £2, £1.
 Mr. J. Bell's Mahmong 8-11 E. Middleton 1
 Gypsy Lady 10-7 L.P. Duncombe 2
 Fair Heritage 8-12 B. Smith 3
 Other starter: Tinsel 9-5 S. Davidson.
 Won by 3lens. 1len. Time: 1-1 2/5.

4. 3p.m. Scone Scott Memorial Hospital Handicap 7 Furlongs: £65 (and Cup valued at £25). £10, £3.
 Mr. S.G. Keene's Ah Won 8-0 W. Pratt. (10/1) Trainer: C. Collison 1
 Supreme Lady 8-7 and 4lb. over A. Holman. (3/1) 2
 First Pick 9-8 R. James. (4/5) 3
 Other starters: Silver Clare 9-10 C. McAuley, Romero 9-3 R. Hinton,
 Fair Rise 8-0 N. Robinson, Excellency 8-0 J. Jones.
 Won by ½ head ½ len. Time: 1-28 2/5.

5. 3-30 p.m. Second Maiden Handicap 5 Furlongs: £10, £2.
 Mr. W. Rae's Delusion 9-0 J. Jones (3/1) 1
 Gay Warrior 8-9 S. Davidson (2/5)..... 2
 Guard 8-5 L.P. Duncombe (5/1)..... 3
 Other starters: Ruth's Pride 8-7 N. Robinson, Susan Girl 8-5 A. Holman. Won by 11/2
 lens. 1len. Time: 1-1 3/5.
 (A protest was entered by Davidson, rider of Gay Warrior, against J. Jones rider of
 the winner for interference at the furlong pole. Evidence was taken, and the objection
 dismissed.)
6. 4 p.m. Matron's Welter Handicap 6 Furlongs: £10, £2.
 Sledmere Estate's Matrona 10-0 inc. 9lb. pen. L.P. Duncombe 1
 Trainer: C. Collison. (2/5)
 Diadem 10-2 C. Duncan (4/1) 2
 Golden Ore 8-7 inc. 3lb. over A. Holman (7/1) 3
 Other starters: Lord Wedgewood 8-12 S. Davidson, Greenlands 8-7 R. Hinton, and
 Morning Kiss 8-7 N. Robinson.
 Won by 6lens. Neck. Time: 1-13 1/5."

Saturday, October 27, 1945:

"Scone Jockey Club At "Alabama" Supreme Lady Ends Matrona's Sequence

The unpropitious climatic conditions, the touch of summer whipped with wind and dust, were not conducive to the anticipated crowd at "Alabama" on Saturday last, when Mr. Ray Bowcock again threw open his private track in its resplendent setting for the Scone Jockey Club. None the less, the "gate" approximated £275, the fields were of proportions never excelled in the district for years, there was a particularly strong betting ring and excellent business was transacted at the ladies' refreshments booths and at the stand where stronger liquids were dispensed.

Results:

1. 2 p.m. Maiden Handicap 5 Furlongs: £20, £3, £2.
 Mr. C. Gilmore's Nernay 9-3 R. Hinton (1/1) Trainer: Owner..... 1
 Fardel 8-3 L. Wheeler (5/1)..... 2
 Stalveil 8-7 J. Smith (8/1) 3
 Other starters: Third Term 8-7, Hawaiian 8-7, Mataglin 8-5, Tolerate 8-5, Theo Lass
 8-5. Won by 1len. 3lens. Time: 1-1 3/5.

2. 2-30: Flying Handicap 6 Furlongs: £43, £10, £2.
 Mr. A.H. Baker's Supreme Lady 8-12 A. Holman (4/1) Trainer: Owner1
 Matrona 10-0 L.P. Duncombe. (1/3)2
 Cangai 8-9 R. Hinton. (10/1)3
 Other starter: Swift Lady 9-1. Won by 1len. 3/4 len. Time: 1-14 1/5.

3. 3 p.m. Restricted Handicap 5 Furlongs: £10, £2, £1.
 Mr. W. Greenhill's Jackass 9-3 R. James (6/1) Trainer: Owner.....1
 New Treasury 9-0 L.P. Duncombe (2/1)2
 Tinsel 9-2 J. Turner (10/1)3
 Other starters: Batarook 9-5, Red Kennel 9-5, Smart Idea 8-10, Delusion 8-5, Tempe
 8-5, East Court 8-5, Tip Toes 8-0.
 Won by ½ len. ½ len. Time: 1-2 1/5.

4. 3.30. Alabama Handicap 7 Furlongs: £62, £10, £3.
 Messrs. W. and B. Perkin's Golden Warrah 9-7 L.C. Duncombe (5/2)..... 1 Trainer:
 K. Tinson.
 Ah Won 8-2 W. Pratt (7/2)2
 Romero 9-0 (5/2) 3
 Other starters: March By 8-8, Fair Rise 8-7, Royal Land 8-0, Rustic ?.
 Won by ½ len. 1len. Time: 1-30.

5. 4 p.m. Club Welter Handicap 6 Furlongs: £25, £5, £2.
 Sledmere Estate's Matrona 10-12 L.C. Duncombe (4/7) 1
 Trainer: C. Collison.
 Bungarribee 9-7 R. Hinton (6/1)2
 Golden Ore 9-5 A. Holman (3/1)3
 Other starter: Ferndale 8-7. Won by 5lens. 6lens. Time: 1-15."

Saturday, May 25, 1946.

"Scone Jockey Club "Alabama" Racecourse
£200 Prize-Money £200

Fifteen hundred people were in attendance at today's race meeting at the Alabama Stud course, when a well balanced program of five events was run off under ideal weather conditions, 27 Bookmakers were on hand to ply their trade with gate takings exceeding £300.

1. 2p.m. Maiden Handicap 5 Furlongs: £20, £3, £2.
 L.W. Davies' Guard 8-5 R. Hinton (5/1) Trainer: Owner 1
 Ordnance 8-3 L. Duncan (6/1) 2
 Tableau 9-0 D. Wyatt (3/1)..... 3
 Other starters: Resplendent, Son-of-a-Gun, March Star, Caboose, Theo's Lass,
 Constant Night. Won by head. 3lens. Time: 1-3.

2. 2-30. Flying Handicap 6 Furlongs: £43, £10, £2.
 F.L. Bragg's Libella 8-2 N. Robinson (4/6) Trainer: R.L. Cashman..... 1
 Temerity 8-12 F. Davidson (5/4) 2
 Quarrel 8-0 R. Hinton (10/1)..... 3
 Only starters. Won by ½ len. 2lens. Time: 1-15.

3. 3p.m. Restricted Handicap 5 Furlongs: £10, £2, £1.
 L.B. Israel's Tornadic 9-4 S. Davidson (3/1) Trainer: Owner. 1
 Nernay 8-1 R. Hinton (4/5) 2
 Overhear 8-9 L. Duncombe (10/1)..... 3
 Other starters: Segenhoe, False Cullen, Reminiscent.
 Won by long neck, ½ len. Time: 1-13½.

4. 3-30. Alabama Handicap 7 Furlongs: £62, £10, £3.
 S.G. Keene's Ah Won 8-5 R. Hinton (1/1) Trainer: W. Leabeater. 1
 Fardel 8-0 N. Robinson (4/1)..... 2
 Pungnah 8-1 L. Duncombe (3/1) 3
 Other starters: Tiptoes, Marwin. Won by 3lens. 1½ lens. Time: 1-29.

5. 4p.m. Club Welter Handicap 6 Furlongs: £25, £5, £2.
 Sledmere Estate's Matrona 9-12 S. Davidson
 (4/5) Trainer: C. Collison. 1
 Jackass 9-0 A. Ward (4/1)..... 2
 Brubri 8-10 E. Middleton (2/1)..... 3
 Other starter: Lidworth.
 Won by 3lens. ½ len. Time: 1-14½."

Saturday, August 24, 1946.

“Scone Jockey Club at “Alabama”

Scone Jockey Club, one of the most enterprising sporting bodies in the North , received but poor response generally when it raced at “Alabama” this afternoon. The gesture of Mr. R.M. Bowcock, who again placed his fine and picturesque track in the hands of the club and the sporting fraternity at large, was not by any means fully appreciated. The club had also sponsored at a nominal fee, a bus service to and from the course.

Chief disappointment was, of course , the carrying of silk by but 18 horses throughout the afternoon.

There were actually 66 nominations, all properly received and paid for. However, what amount to virtually “token” nominations are almost valueless to the club and the sporting folk, both of whom want to see the horses in action. Apart from the above phases of the outing, the club was placed in a most unenviable position, caught between two stools, as it were, with the clash fixtures at Somerton and Gosford, each of which certainly magnetised support which ordinarily would have come this way. This applied equally to horse owners, bookmakers and the public.

1. Maiden Handicap 5 Furlongs: £20, £3, £2.
Mrs. B. Burnstein and Mrs. S. Lands Sub-Liet 8-12 W. Londrigan. (4/5) 1
Scenard 8-11 A. Holman (10/1)2
Perfection Lad 9-0 R. Hinton (1/1)3
Other starter: King Pin 8-10. Won by ½ len. ½ len. Time: 1-2.
2. Flying Handicap 6 Furlongs: £43, £10, £2.
Mrs. M. Tobin’s Blanefield 8-7 L. Hayes (2/5) 1
Jackass 9-1 L.C. Duncombe (3/1) 2
Cangai 8-2 R. Hinton (10/1)3
Other starter: Royal Voyage 9-0.
Won by ? ? . Time: 1-13 3/4 (Track record)
3. Restricted Handicap 5 Furlongs: £10, £2, £1.
Mr. W. Landers’ Over Here 9-0 J. Smith (7/1) Trainer: Owner 1
Segenhoe 9-5 A. Holman. (1/1) 2
Readford 8-12 L.C. Duncombe (1/1)3
Only starters. Won by 3/4 len. 1½ lens. Time: 1-1 4-5.

4. Alabama Handicap 7 Furlongs: £62, £10, £3.
 Mr. K.G. Collins' Gay Wallah 8-12 A. Thomas (1/3)1
 Ah Won 8-5 L.C. Duncombe (5/2).....2
 Medieval King 8-0 L. Hayes (10/1).....3
 Other starters: Tip Toes 8-5, Resplendent 8-0.
 Won by 3lens. Neck. Time: 1-28.

5. Welter Handicap 6 Furlongs: £25, £5, £2.
 Mr. W. Greenhill's Jackass 9-1 L.C. Duncombe (1/4) Trainer: Owner1
 Tempe 8-5 L. Hayes (5/2).....2
 Only starters. Won by 4lens. Time: 1-14."

Scone Jockey Club Looks To White Park

Finally an agreement was reached with the Scone Municipal Council, though not before some difficulties had been overcome and some plain speaking done by both parties.

The committee that was put in place worked untiringly towards a goal of raising enough money to put a racetrack in place and, with seven hundred pounds guaranteed, plus the money raised from public subscriptions, Mr. G. Rae was employed to lay out plans for the course at a cost of approximately 35 pounds. And in August 1945 a start was made to build a racecourse on White Park.

For many years past there had been a desire, even a demand, for a club-owned course and appointments in the Scone district, the acclaimed home of the thoroughbred. This was made possible, but, only after more than a modicum of hard work pulsating from a comparatively small body of sportsmen. Men who placed the public first and foremost and who never lost sight of the needs of the district. This from an angle envisaged and worked from what must be at all times within its gambit.

These public-spirited men and their colleagues found the wherewithal to have a track laid out and the appointments placed in position. These self-same folk did more, they appreciably co-operated in bringing into use an expanse of country destined by nature to bring relaxation and colourful occupation to the residents of the town and environs and even further afield.

In for a Penny-In for a Pound

With the money raised and with Mr. G. Rae employed to design the track on White Park it is interesting to note what materials were used and the cost of same.

At a meeting held by the Scone Race Club committee on 10th January 1946 it was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Readford, that 420ft. of 2ft.6in. concrete pipes be purchased through Scone Municipal Council for the racecourse on White Park.

At a meeting held a week later on 17th January Mr. Keene, with the seconding of Mr. Riddle, gave notice of a motion for the next committee meeting: *"...to purchase concrete pipes and accepting the tender of Messrs. Clifford Bros. re carting pipes be rescinded and that concrete culverts at a cost of approximately 20 pounds per culvert as suggested by Mr. J. Peasley to bridge gullies on Racecourse be proceeded with"*.

The tender supplied by Clifford Bros. to deliver the pipes, mentioned in the original motion put forward by Mr. Price and Mr. Readford on 10th January, was 35 shillings per ton from Tamworth.

At a meeting held on 14th March, it was accepted, as moved by Mr. Price and Mr. Clark, that railway sleepers would be used as the main support post for the running rail to be attached, these at a cost of £1/5/- each, with the carting from rail to the course carried out by Eager Bros at four shillings per ton.

Members at the same meeting agreed with Mr. Readford/Mr. Price that the tender of Mr. Ellis Wall of Niangala for supply and delivery of 1200 5x2-inch rails at forty-four shillings and five pence per sleeper be accepted for a total of £222/15/0. Carrier, three shillings and sixpence per ton as from Scone rail to course.

The meeting also deciding that the rails should be wired to the posts.

With so much roadwork and filling to be carried out a quantity gravel was required and this contract was awarded to Mr. H.E. (Harold) French to be paid £29/1/- for 87 yards.

With the opening meeting not that far away many things were yet to be put in place and, at a frenzied pace, the voluntary labour was working overtime.

Local bricklayer/handyman Eric Trafficante was busy laying the concrete bed for the jockey scales, a saddling enclosure had been erected bordering the seven-and-a-quarter furlong start, while Bert Price, Scott Johnston and Ted Howell had donated £10 towards building a verandah on the Club's administrative building on White Park.

A donation of £50 from Mr. Reg Inglis, of the Sydney Bloodstock firm of Inglis and Son, for the building and erection of a judge's box at White Park was left in the hands of Mr. Laurie Morgan and duly delivered by Gould Bros.

Immediately after the May race meeting a sub-committee was formed comprising Messrs Robertson, Readford and Price to arrange an enclosure on the White Park course for members and make improvements to the secretary's office.

It was also decided that a members' enclosure should be put in place without duly interfering with the extensive saddling paddock.

Scone Advocate Friday, August 9, 1946.

"White Park Race Track first workout this morning

Such has been the progress made in the construction of the race track at White Park, the new home and headquarters of the Scone Jockey Club in the near future, that it was possible for a work-out of horses this morning.

Two well known performers, Ah Won and Readford, who race in the colours of Mr. Stan Keene and Sledmere Estate. Ltd. and are trained by Messrs. W. Leadbeater and C. Collison respectively.

In the six furlong workout the horses were ridden by Leadbeater and Collison and both travelled smoothly and extra well, taking kindly to their new surroundings, with which they were seemingly greatly impressed and in this respect sharing the opinion of their postilions."

With the completion of the new seven and a quarter furlong course and its amenities a new era in the history of racing in Scone was about to begin.

At the 21st Committee Meeting of the Scone Jockey Club on August 20, 1946 it was moved that the Rules and By Laws as printed be adopted with the alteration Scone Jockey Club to Scone Race Club and so at its inaugural race meeting, the running of the first Scone Cup on May 7, 1947, the picturesque White Park would remain the home of the Scone Race Club and racing in Scone for near on fifty years, lowering the flag on Monday, October 24, 1994, returning to Scone a hundred years past.

White Park - Its Heritage

The History of White Park, is part of the History of Scone.

Originally it was part of Kelly's Farm, the property of Richard Kelly, a sailor who lost two of his ships while employed under government contract. He had received a grant of nineteen-hundred and twenty acres in compensation.

This was in Governor Darling's day and Kelly Street was the track leading to Kelly's Farm.

The farm became part of St. Aubins soon afterwards and when Bakewell's subdivided the old Racecourse Paddock, the people of Scone were given the use of another paddock, known as the Town Paddock or Bakewell's Paddock, as a recreation area.

For many years school picnics, Sunday school picnics, Empire Day functions and many more sporting activities were held there but, when further subdivision of St. Aubins was made in the early 1920s, it seemed that the town would once again lose a popular recreation area.

White Park was a gift to the people of Scone from Mr. A.G. White, of Belltrees.

Two well-known local men - Mr. A.J. Dodd, then Mayor of Scone, and Mr. Arthur (Advocate) Smith - deserve great credit for the part they played in obtaining the beautiful site.

Mr. Dodd who was asked to perform the opening because it was during his term as Mayor that the gift had been made officially opened White Park on 9th June, 1924. At the ceremony, Mr. Dodd gave an account of how the park was acquired.

He said that during his term as Mayor "Advocate" Smith who felt that the area should be preserved for the town had approached him.

The land had been freely used by the townspeople for many years through the generosity of Messrs Bakewell Bros. as a sports and picnic ground but was in danger of being lost to the community through subdivision and sale.

A number of residents had tried to form a syndicate to buy the land but their plans fell through and, at Mr. Smith's urging, Mr. Dodd took the matter up with the Municipal Council.

After some negotiations, Council was offered the land for £25 per acre but had some difficulty arranging the finance for the purchase.

In typical "Advocate" Smith manner, the problem was well reported in the paper and, seeing how matters stood, Mr. A.G. White rang Mr. Dodd and asked him to "*hold his hand on the matter for a day or two*".

Mr. White came in a few days later and told the Mayor that he would finance the purchase, saying "I don't mean as a loan, but as a gift. I have lived in the district all these years and feel I would like to do something for the town and townspeople".

Grand 1947 Opening Really Packed Them In

Wednesday, May 7, 1947, was the first time Scone Race Club was able to stage a meeting on a racecourse it could truly call its own.

It was Scone Cup day and while race meetings had been held at various venues in the Scone area since January 11, 1842, the inaugural one at White Park was a special occasion, as these extracts from the Scone Advocate in 1947 indicate:

Advocate, January 17, 1947:

"Scone Race Club, at a committee meeting on Wednesday night last, drew up a tentative bill of fare for the opening of its new course on Wednesday, May 7. The program, of grandiose proportions, should magnetise many of the best horses in training from all parts of the State, not excluding the Metropolitan area."

Advocate, February 14, 1947:

"The club is at present giving all details the closest attention to ensure the maximum of success and has appointed sub-committees to examine every avenue for the convenience and comfort of patrons, their accommodation as well as that of the record contingent of horses anticipated, and to finalise all appointments on the course for the big day."

Members of executives of Sydney clubs have already signified their intention of being in attendance, and leading trainers at headquarters have likewise sent forward advice that they will be represented in the afternoon's racing."

Advocate, February 21, 1947:

"Scone Race Club will appreciate the presence of members and volunteers at a working-bee on the track on Sunday next at 10am."

Now that the course has benefited from the recent timely fall of rain there are quite a few details, not discerned hitherto, to receive menial attention which cannot be delayed."

Members of the committee are on qui vive, with added zeal and enthusiasm, to ensure that everything will be right up to the knocker for its big opening drawcard set for Wednesday, May 7, when the six-event card will carry 750 pounds in prizemoney."

Advocate, February 28, 1947:

"Grandiose preparations are already well in hand for Scone Race Club's Initial meeting on its new track - - thanks to the efforts of those members of the committee and supporters who put in an appearance on the track last weekend."

The erection of the barriers alone will finalise details. It is quite on the cards that Cyril Angles, well-known broadcaster and commentator, will describe racing, and there is a likelihood that same will be broadcast."

Advocate, March 21, 1947:

"There's no denying the fact that remarkable interest is being created in Scone Race Club's big venture for Wednesday, May 7 - programs are in circulation and although entries are not due until April 24, the demand for them as well as entry forms has exceeded the most sanguine expectations. These inquiries have come from as far afield as Sydney and Grafton."

Advocate, April 15, 1947:

"Mr. George Ryder, chairman of Sydney Turf Club, has not only accepted Scone Race Club's invitation to attend its opening outing on Wednesday, May 7, but has intimated that he will nominate his horse, Smooth Action, which will be ridden by Australia's ace horseman Darby Munro.

This is but one evidence of the wealth of support the club will receive for its enterprise - it will be an attraction that should ensure an attendance of the swell proportions."

Advocate, April 22, 1947:

"Thursday next (24th) is closing day of entries for the important meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 7 on the new course on White Park. Nominations have already been lodged - from quite a few and distant parts of the State, with the City and Newcastle areas responding most generously."

Advocate, April 24, 1947:

"Entries close today for Scone Race Club's Cup meeting on Wednesday, May 7, and already a most flattering response can be reported. Upwards of 60 horses figure in the six-event bill of fare and when local and distinct sportsmen forward their entries-strange to relate, the majority of these supporters invariably contact the secretary at the very eleventh hour-the list will indeed be a formidable one."

Advocate, May 2, 1947:

"Horses are already beginning to arrive for the outing, but their numbers will be augmented when the special train arrives from Newcastle at noon on Wednesday.

This train will leave Broadmeadow at 8pm. The club will be grateful should any householder have a spare room or two to offer in the drive to secure accommodation for visitors."

Advocate, May 6, 1947:

"There are no wanting signs that Scone Race Club's Cup meeting which will mark the opening of the new course on White Park tomorrow will be a signal success with interesting racing throughout the afternoon.

Visiting horses have already arrived and continue to find their way to Scone to take up the gauntlet thrown down by local contenders and at the same time add to the large number of horses already training on the track, which has assumed a scene of animation for the last week.

There will be many visitors to the town, including representatives of outside clubs from near and far, and to this number will be added a few former Sconeites who are trekking back for the big day which has been proclaimed a public holiday within the Municipality.

A special train from Broadmeadow is expected to unship a big complement of passengers and horses at noon, or an hour before the commencement of the first race at 1pm. Up to the present the scratching pen has been used but sparsely, which means that fields of good proportions should be seen out under silk."

Scone Advocate , May 6, 1947:

"The traffic problems which may occur for the opening of the new racecourse tomorrow will be somewhat alleviated due the generosity of Scone business man Mr. Craig Clark who has offered the use of his block of land situated at the intersection of Kingdom and Guernsey Streets to be used for public parking.

Traffic To Racecourse

All horses, including those in floats, will enter Scone Racecourse to-morrow by the Hill Street (or lower) gate.

Members may park cars between Kingdom Street and the Entrance gates. Mr. Craig Clark has kindly placed his block of land (known as Old Presbytery Corner), at the intersection of Kingdom and Guernsey Streets, at the disposal of the club for parking purposes. No cars will be admitted to the racecourse area."

Scone Advocate, May 9, 1947:

"Wednesday, May 7, 1947

**Precise wins Scone Race Clubs First Cup Jungle Queen's Flying
L.C. Duncombe rides Main Double- Harry Darkes Dual Success**

The culminating point of twelve months hard toil plus initiative and enterprise aplenty by Scone Race Club was reached on Wednesday last with a response in form of a well-deserved reward- a record crowd for a like fixture in the Upper Hunter, salubrious weather, and successful proceedings which augur well for the future activities of the club, which purposes setting the seal to its goal to modernise the course and appointments for the convenience of patronage generally when time and conditions permit.

It is understood that the takings in aggregate will be approximately £1300.

The club conducted the meeting in collaboration with the North and North West Racing Association, of which latter body two members of its executive - W.F. Moses & F.L. Bragg-gave a commendable lead by donating the trophy for the main event.

In their official capacity, H.H. Stokes, F. Lane and H. Steindel were present, being stipendiary steward, starter and secretary respectively.

The President of the Club, Mr. D.H Robertson, who has a tireless and enthusiastic band of henchman, and to whom he gave the essential cue, has proved the right man in the ace position throughout, and if we may be excused for individualising, his Deputy, Mr. H.R. Johnston, likewise proved his worth as also did the Honorary Secretary (Mr. Cecil Parry) and Assistant Secretary (Mrs. Steve Clark).

Mr. A.E. Hardy, a man of many talents, from Aberdeen, occupied the judge's rostrum (which by the way was donated by Mr. Reg. Inglis, head of Australia's leading bloodstock company), his Deputy being Fred Fahey, assistant judge of the Newcastle Jockey Club.

Other officials of the new club were out in force to ensure the success of the outing, they are: Honorary Treasurer, Mr. E.W. Howell; Hon. Surgeon, Dr. O.W. Pye; Clerk of the Scales, Mr. Clarrie Fletcher; Clerk of the Course, Mr. W. Quigley; Jockeys' Steward, Mr. Len Eipper; Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. R.D. Hartwell, Semaphore Stewards, Messrs A. Baker and L. Rose; Bookmakers' Steward, Mr. Alec Ashford, Saddle Cloth Steward, Mr. R. Breese.

The Committee: Messrs : B.C. Price, (Licensee of the Empire Hotel) S.G. Keene, (Stock and Station Agent) A.W. Riddle, (Manager of Kia-Ora Stud) S. Clark, (Stock and Station Agent) S.N. Readford, (Manager of Sledmere Stud) C. Duncombe,(Owner of Kingsfield Stud, Aberdeen) L.R. Morgan, (Owner of Redbank Stud) H.R. Johnston,(A former and highly respected member of the PMG) G.N. Lohead, (Stock and Station Agent) L.B. Israel, (Owner of Segenhoe Stud) and P.L. Tyler, (Owner of Puen Buen Stud).

Gatekeepers: Messrs. T.W. Irwin, H.R. Johnston, C.W. Murray, O. Sky and V. McElroy.

The Country Women's' Association attended to the refreshment both on the ground, and catered for the big crowd admirably, as it also did at the big ball on the preceding night.

Mr. B.C. (Bert) Price, of the Empire Hotel, had the publicans' booth, and here also, as on the committee in its many phases, gave a good service.

Officials

President: Mr. D.H. Robertson.

Secretary: Mr. C. Parry.

Asst. Secretary : Mrs. M. Clark.

Treasurer: Mr. E.W. Howell.

Surgeon: Dr. W.O. Pye.

Judge: Mr. S. Payne.

Asst. Judge: Mr. A.E. Hardy.

Stipend. Steward: Mr. H.H. Stokes.

Starter: Mr. F. Lane.

Clerk of Course: Mr. W. Quigley.

Clerk of Scales: Mr. C. Fletcher.

Jockeys' Steward: Mr. L. Eipper.

Vet. Sur.: Mr. R.D. Hartwell, B.V., Sc.

Semaphore Stewards : Messrs. A. Baker and L. Rose

Saddling Enclosure Gatekeepers : Messrs. R.B. Barwick and W. Harman.

Bookmaker's Stewards: Mr. A.A. Ashford.

Saddle Cloth Steward: Mr. R. Breese

Gatekeepers : Messrs. T. Irwin, O. Sky, H. Johnston, C.W. Murray and V. McElroy.

Committee : Messrs. B. Price, S.G. Keene, A.W. Riddle, S.N. Readford, C. Duncombe, L.R. Morgan, H.R. Johnston, S. Clark, G.N. Lochhead, L.B. Israel, P. Tyler.

Notice To Patrons

No person will be allowed to loiter on the course proper at any time.

Bookmaker's Fee £5/5/-. Bookmakers must be affiliated with the N. and N.W.D.R. Association.

Bookmakers, if so demanded, must in all cases lay odds to a sum not less than £3; in the event of any infringement of the Regulations, or in the case of any disputed or unpaid bets, it is requested that the Secretary be at once notified. On all tickets the name of the horse and amount of bet must be clearly written.

Should any dispute arise, and it has been found this has not been done, the decision may be given against the bookmaker.

The Club reserves the right to remove any undesirable person from the paddock. No dogs will be allowed on the course or in the saddling paddock.

All overweights, penalties, allowances or alteration in colours, will be posted on Notice Board.

All scratchings must be made forty-five minutes before the advertised time of starting of each race; for late scratchings, a fine will be enforced."

In the following few pages I have set out the 1947-Cup Day fields as they appeared in the original race book.

1. Maiden Handicap, £50
First £40, second £7, third £3. Minimum Handicap weight 8st. For all horses that have not won an advertised race on the flat at time of starting. 5 furs. Start 1 p.m.
1. Confetti 9-2
S. Ederton's br m. 3yrs. Brueghel (It.) - Jesterine
Blk., Orange Maltese Cross, Red Cap. Trainer: A. Holton.
2. Fasfoot 8-13
Mr. C. Reed's b m. 3yrs. Oro - Lightfoot.
Orange, Brown Diamonds, Brown Cap. Trainer: E. Flett.
3. Big Bomber 8-5
Mr. A. Standing's br g. 6yrs. Rivoli - Cellette.
Dark Blue, Yellow Band, Yellow Cap. Trainer: Owner.
4. Portobo 8-5
Mrs. L. Fuller's b m. 4yrs. Manitoba (imp.) - Greyport.
Lilac, Pink Maltese Cross, Green Cap. Trainer: J. Munro.
5. Fleeting 8-5 (Scr)
Mr. J. Scully's b m. 4yrs. Heroic - Flight-All.
All Blue. Trainer: G. Lysaght.
6. Pencraft 8-5 (Scr)
Mr. H. Bonomini's b g. 3yrs. Pentheus - Little Vamp.
White, Lilac Sleeves, Black Cap. Trainer: W. Turpin.
7. Maitai 8-3 (Scr)
Messrs. L.G. and P.E. Burke's br h. 6yrs.
Mars - Mosquetin Mare.
Red, Red and White Armbands, White Cap. Trainer: N. J. Westwood.
8. Lady Static 8-3 (Scr)
Mr. A.E. Emerson's b f. 3yrs. Brueghel (It.) - Static.
Brown, Pink Sleeves, Green Cap. Trainer: N. Brown.

9. Prince Caledore 8-3
Mr. R.C. Allan's ch g. 3yrs. Sir Caledore - Silver Princess.
Black, Red Sash, Blk. Cap. Trainer: R.L. Cashman.
10. Concrete Lad -8-3 (Scr)
Mr. J.T. Ritter's b h. 5yrs. Concrete Dome - Mirthmaker Mare.
Purple and Orange, Blk. Cap. Trainer: S. Wicks.
11. Oxford Lad 8-3
Mrs. B. La Hay's b g. 4yrs. Hadrian - Small Clare.
Blue and Gold Oblongs, Gold Sleeves, Orange Cap. Trainer: S. Wicks.
12. Paisley 8-3
Miss Susan Bell's br f. 3yrs. Manitoba (imp.) - Royal Tartan.
Lilac and Orange Halves, Lilac Cap. Trainer: A.J. Miller.
13. Fleeting Glimpse 8-3
Mr. M.V. Point's b f. 3yrs. Golden Sovereign - Sal March.
Blk. and Orange Checks, Blk. Sleeves, Orange Cap. Trainer: T. Mortimer.
14. Lady Ree 8-3
Mr. G. Cameron's blk m. 3yrs. Beset - Station Mare.
Blk. Green Sleeves and Sash, Black Cap. Trainer: T. Andrews.
15. Lady Santa 8-3
Mr. M.T. Wheeler's br f. 2yrs. Santa - Lady Tib.
Gold, Blue Sash, Gold Cap. Trainer: R. Johnston.
16. Etiquette 8-3
Mr. W.H. Tyler's br m. 3yrs. Dhoti (imp.) - Croette.
Purple and Red Halves, Pink Cap. Trainer: N. Ross.
17. Ross Town 8-3
Mr. L. Hughes' ch g. 3yrs. Dennis Boy - Rosbin.
Red, Pink Spots, Red Cap. Trainer: J. Williams.
18. Ensure 8-3 (Scr)
Mr. J. Turnbull's br g. 4yrs. Ensign - White Picture.
Green and White Stripes, Red Sleeves, Red Cap. Trainer: T. O'Brien.

19. Soubon 8-0
Mr. E. Duddy's br m. 6yrs. Bourbon - Surmise.
Red, Blk. Diamonds, Pink Sleeves, Pink Cap. Trainer: J. Hardman.
20. Opelia 8-0 (Scr)
Mrs. A.V. Meehan's b f. 3yrs. Felcrag (imp.) - Cornelia.
White, Yellow Spots, Grey Cap. Trainer: F.W. Kennedy.
21. Tullochgorum 8-0
Mr. H.L. McDonald's b g. 6yrs. Merry Student - Gairloch.
Yellow, Purple Sash, White Cap. Trainer: L. Tanner.
22. Nellie Court -8-0 (Scr)
Mr. J. White's b m. 4yrs. Court Valais - Nell's Promise.
All Red. Trainer: P. Shelley.
23. The Moose 8-0 (Scr)
Mr. J. White's b g. 4yrs. The Chanter - Orient Joy.
All Red. Trainer: P. Shelley.
24. Naughty Sam 8-0 (Scr)
Mr. J. White's br g. 4yrs. Spear Chief - Naughty Maid.
All Red. Trainer: P. Shelley.
25. Bonny Brook 8-0
Mr. W. Smith's br f. 2yrs. Brazen Main - Cyrus Knight.
Red and Grey Hoops, White Sleeves, Gold Cap. Trainer: Scott Johnston.
26. Reminiscent 8-0
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Morgan's br f. 3yrs. Solar Bear - Bandrol.
Yellow, White Sash, Red Cap. Trainer: R.L. Cashman.

Placings: 11 First, Oxford Lad, H. Jackson, 20/1
16 Second, Etiquette, R. Pritchard, 4/1
2 Third, Fasfoot, B. Smith, 12/1

Time: 1min. 03secs.

“Notice re Betting

The following Rule has been adopted by the North and North Western Bookmakers' Association: *“In the event of a dead-heat, all bets made in running shall stand.”*

2. Flying Handicap, £160
First £120, second £25, third £15.
Minimum Handicap weight 7st. 7lb; 6 furlongs.
To start at 2 p.m.
1. Smart Alick 10-1
Mr. W. Bagley's b g. 5yrs. Limarch - Nellie May.
Pink, Grey Hoops, Pink Sleeves, Grey Cap. Trainer: K. Tinson.
2. Gay Talk 9-7
Mr. R.M. Bowcock's b m. 4yrs. Manitoba (imp.) - Merry Chatter.
Orange, White Sleeves, Grey Cap. Trainer: W.W. Chaafe.
3. Royal Voyage 9-7
Mr. F.G. Whyte's br g. aged. Comanche - Sweet Voyage.
Purple and Orange, Black Cap. Trainer: Owner.
4. Diversion 9-5
Mr. V.J. Byrnes' br g. 6yrs. Treyford - Turveil.
Cerise, Blue Sleeves and Cap. Trainer: W.Kong.
5. Jungle Queen 9-0
Mr. W. Wyatt's br m. 5yrs. Harinero (imp.) - Causina.
All Red. Trainer: J.P. Duncombe.
6. Precise 8-7 (Scr.)
Mr. P. Jenkins' b g. aged. Andrea - Exact.
Tartan, Lilac Sleeves and Cap. Trainer: L. Jurd.
7. Chief Ticket 8-5
Messrs. J.H. and A.G. Cocking's br m. 5yrs.
Spear Chief - Tickets Please.
Green, Gold Diamond, Grey Cap. Trainer: E. Flett.

8. Lilla Jean 7-10
Messrs. P. Burke's and P. Dennis' ch m. aged.
British Soldier - Kiwi Mare.
Purple, Orange Stars, Black Cap. Trainer: G. Cameron.
9. Ah Won 7-9
Mr. S.G. Keene's br g. aged. Pentheus - Maggie Dunnottar.
All Red. Trainer: J.P. Duncombe.
10. Piccaninny 7-7
Mr. "S. Ederton's" blk m. 5yrs. Piccadilly (imp.) - Vogue.
Black, Orange Maltese Cross, Red Cap. Trainer: A. Holten.
11. John Willie 7-7
Mr. W.J. Laurie's br g. 6yrs. Felcrag (imp.) - Black Olive.
Pale Green. Trainer: C.F. Reynolds.
12. Courtly 7-7
Mr. V.H. Martin's br m. 4yrs. Agincourt (imp.) - Miss Mern.
Cerise and Black Stripes, Blk. Cap. Trainer: Owner.
13. Exalted 7-7 (Scr.)
Messrs. J.C. Thompson's and Berry's b g. 4yrs.
Melfort (imp.) - Brazen Maggie.
Red, Black Stripes, Blk. Sleeves, Red Armbands, Red Cap. Trainer: A. Shanahan.

Placings: 5 First, Jungle Queen, L. Duncombe, 5/2
7 Second, Chief Ticket, D. Smith, 6/4 fav.
8 Third, Lilla Jean, N. Tomlinson, 4/1.

Time: 1min. 14 4/5 secs.

All Scratchings must be made available forty-five minutes before advertised time of starting of each Race. For late Scratchings, a fine will be made.

Coming Race Meetings

May 17: Denman

May 31: Muswellbrook

July 5: Aberdeen

3. Restricted Handicap, £25
First £15, second £7, third £3. Minimum
Handicap weight 8st. For all horses that have never won a prize exceeding £15 in value to the winner at time of starting (maiden races excepted) 5 furs. Start 2.35.
1. Alan Jonathan 9-3
Mr. R. Stewart's br g. 5yrs. Talking - Varta Mozzle.
Orange, Cerise Sleeves and Cap. Trainer: Owner.
2. Brilliant Spear 9-2 (Scr.)
Messrs. P.E. Burke's and P. Dennis' b g, 5yrs.
Spear Chief - Brilliant Orb.
Red, Red and White Armbands, White Cap. Trainer: N.J. Westwood.
3. Greta Grey 9-2
Mr. S.G. Keene's gr m. 3yrs. Roxburgh - Quirindi.
All Red. Trainer: J.P. Duncombe.
4. Over Here 9-1
Mr. W. Landers' ch m. 5yrs. Concrete Dome - The Verderer Mare.
Gold, Black Sash, Black Cap. Trainer: Owner.
5. Burlington 9-0
Mr. S. Berry's ch g. aged. Piccadilly (imp.) - Margarethal.
Blue, Green Sleeves, Red Cap. Trainer: H.A. Bedford.
6. Insignia Gold 8-10 (Scr.)
Mr. Leo Kinh's ch m. 6yrs. Hall Mark - Bavermaine.
Dark Blue, Brown Sleeves, Yellow Sash and Cap. Trainer: Owner.
7. Some Boy 8-9 (Scr.)
Mr. E.W. Milligan's br g. 5yrs. Random Shot - Bavaun.
Red, Grey Armbands, Grey Cap. Trainer: Owner.
8. Bright Company 8-5 (Scr.)
Messrs. R. and R.S. Mcleod's br m. 4yrs.
Brueghal (imp.) - Good and Gay.
Tartan, Lilac Sleeves and Cap. Trainer: L. Jurd.

9. Rainville 8-5
Mr. V.R. Mendle's b g. 6yrs. Normal - Carinya Lass.
Orange, Pale Blue Sleeves, Red Cap. Trainer: R.L. Cashman.
10. Pam's Idea 8-3 (Scr.)
Mr. E. Peters' br g. 3yrs. Young Idea - Lady Pam.
Green, Purple Maltese Cross, Black Cap. Trainer: Owner.
11. Good Value 8-3 (Scr.)
Sledmere Estate's b f. 3yrs. Harinero - Valina.
Red, Black Braces, Red Cap. Trainer: C. Collison.
12. Assertive 8-1
Mr. A.E. Smith's blk m. 3yrs. Red Sails (imp.) - Devon Lass.
Pink, Lilac Stripes, Dark Blue Cap. Trainer: C. O'Rourke.
13. Nuffina 8-0
Mr. R. Boot's ch m. 4yrs. Nuffield - Cistina.
Orange and Purple Quarters, White Sleeves, White Cap. Trainer: Owner.
14. Etiquette 8-0 (Scr.)
Mr. W.H. Tyler's br m. 3yrs. Dhote (imp.) - Croette.
Purple and Red Halves, Pink Cap. Trainer: N. Ross.
15. Ensure 8-0 (Scr.)
Mr. J. Turnbull's br g. 4yrs. Ensign - Picture.
Green and White Stripes, Red Sleeves, Red Cap. Trainer: T. O'Brien.
16. Portobo 8-0 (Scr.)
Mrs. A.L. Fuller's b m. 4yrs. Manitoba (imp.) - Greyport.
Lilac, Pink Maltese Cross, Green Cap. Trainer: J. Munro.
17. Fleeting 8-0 (Scr.)
Mr. J. Scully's b m. 4yrs. Heroic Flight - All Colours.
All Blue. Trainer: G. Lysaght.
18. Shomac 8-0
Mr. N.F. Cocking's br c. 2yrs. Shogun - Masey.
Green and Gold Diamond, Green Cap. Trainer: E. Flett.

19. Pencraft 8-0
Mr. H. Bonomini's b g. 3yrs. Pentheus - Little Vamp.
White, Lilac Sleeves, Black Cap. Trainer: W. Turpin.
20. Lady Static 8-0 (Scr.)
Mr. A.E. Emerson's b f. 3yrs. Brueghel (It.) - Static.
Brown, Pink Sleeves, Grey Cap. Trainer: N. Brown.
21. Featherstep 8-0 (Scr.)
Mrs. I.P. Wall's br g. 5yrs. Mid Kent (imp.) - Skedaddle Mare.
Pale Blue, Yellow Diamond, Yellow Cap. Trainer: K. Tinson.
22. Thisleton 8-0 (Scr.)
Mrs. L.V. Pass's b g. 5yrs. Mid Kent (imp.) - Cavalry Mare.
Black, Orange Stripes, Red Cap. Trainer: Owner.

Placings: 5 First, Burlington, H. Darke, 1/1fav.
3 Second, Greta Grey, L. Duncombe, 4/1.
13 Third, Nuffina, H. Jackson, 5/1.

Time: 1min. 2secs.

4. Scone Race Club Cup of £350 and Cup
First £300 and Cup (Donated by Messrs. F.W. Moses and F.L. Bragg)
Second £35, third £15. Minimum handicap weight
7st. 7lb; 7 1/4 furlongs. To start at 3.15 p.m.
1. Smart Alick 9-5
Mr. W. Bagley's b g. 5yrs. Limarch - Nellie May.
Pink, Grey Hoops, Pink Sleeves, Grey Cap. Trainer: K. Tinson.
2. First Pick 9-3
Mr. R.J. Leeming's br g. 6yrs. Piccadilly (imp.) - Dowry.
Yellow, Dark Blue Sleeves, Blue Cap. Trainer: Owner.
3. Kalmus 9-3 (Scr.)
Mrs. F. Grisdale's b g. 6yrs. Brueghel (It.) - Veilantif.
Pink, Pink and Black Striped Sleeves, Orange Cap. Trainer: F. Grisdale.

4. Poinciana 9-2
Mr. V.J. Byrnes' ch m. 5yrs. Tippler (imp.) - Green Jade.
Cerise, Blue Sleeves and Cap. Trainer: W. Kong.
5. Royal Voyage 8-12
Mr. F.G. Whyte's br g. aged. Comanche - Sweet Voyage.
Purple and Orange Jacket, Black Cap. Trainer: Owner.
6. Gay Talk 8-12 (Scr.)
Mr. R.M. Bowcock's b m. 4yrs. Manitoba (imp.) - Merry Chatter.
Orange, White Sleeves, Grey Cap. Trainer: W.W. Chaafe.
7. Jackass 8-11
Mr. W. Greenhill's blk g. 5yrs. Prittle Prattle - Court Square.
Orange Jacket, Violet Sleeves, Orange Cap. Trainer: Owner.
8. D.S.O. 8-11
Messrs. F. Warmoll's, E. Samuel and Mrs. H. Fryer's b g. aged.
Chatham - Yullundry.
Black, Yellow Sash, Yellow Cap. Trainer: F.R. Cheshire.
9. Birralelee 8-9
Messrs. C.F. and A.M. Robinson's and E.N. Larkin's br m. 4yrs.
Brueghel (It.) - Spear Belle.
Green, Red Maltese Cross, Red Cap. Trainer: E.D. Lawson.
10. Fardell 8-5
Mr. J.P. Fleming's b g. 5yrs. Marabou - Kelvin Queen.
Light Blue, Blue Sleeves, Gold Cap. Trainer: S. Johnston.
11. Precise 8-0
Mr. P. Jenkin's b g. aged. Andrea (imp.) - Exact.
Tartan, Lilac Sleeves, Lilac Cap. Trainer: L. Jurd.
12. Bringelly 7-12
Mr. O. Baldwin's b h. 4yrs. Midstream (imp.) - Larmen.
Yellow, Blue Band, Yellow Cap. Trainer: E. Flett.

13. Emerge 7-11
Mr. S.A. Wicks' b g. aged. Dunnottar (imp.) - Crash.
Black, Red Diamond, Red Sleeves, Red Cap. Trainer: Owner.

14. Gay Lovat 7-7 (Scr.)
Mr. W. Mellbell's ch g. 5yrs. Marconigram (imp.) - Privet.
Yellow, Pale Blue Maltese Cross, Red Cap. Trainer: D. Frost.

15. Wearie 7-7
Messrs. W.G. Kent's and T. Moran's ch g. 4yrs.
Tuckiar - Neatness.
Brown, White Sleeves Red Cap. Trainer: R. Hopper.

16. Ah Won 7-7
Mr. S.G. Keene's br g. aged. Pentheus - Maggie Dunnottar.
All Red. Trainer: J.P. Duncombe.

17. Druce 7-7
Miss Joan Smith's b g. aged. Limarch - Nellie May.
Pink, Pale Blue Stripes, Yellow Cap. Trainer: W.A. Smith.

18. Avle 7-7 (Scr.)
Mr. E.W. Milligan's ch m. aged. The Bull's Eye - Celthorn.
Red, Grey Armbands, Grey Cap. Trainer: Owner.

19. Good Value 7-7
Sledmere Estate's b f. 3yrs. Harinero (imp.) - Valina.
Red, Black Braces, Red Cap. Trainer: C.Collison.

20. Soubon 7-7
Mr. E. Duddy's br m. 6yrs. Bourbon - Surmise.
Red, Black Diamond, Pink Sleeves, Pink Cap. Trainer: J. Hardman.

Placings: 11 First, Precise, L. Duncombe, 9/2.
1 Second, Smart Alick, R. James, 5/2 fav.
15 Third, Wearie, R. Donnely, 10/1.

Time: 1min. 31 1/4 secs.

5. Novice Handicap, £65

First £50, second £10, third £5. Minimum Handicap weight 8st.

Novice horse is a horse that has never, at the time of starting, won a flat race (maiden race excepted) of the value to the winner of more than £50. Provided that a winner of a race or races for 2-year-olds, not exceeding in the aggregate £750 in value to the winner, shall be eligible to compete in races for 3-year-olds and upwards.

5. furlongs. To start at 3.15 p.m.

1. Cangai 10-7

Mr. F. Morrissey's ch g. 6yrs. Mid Kent (imp.) - Chartreuse.

Pale Blue Jacket, Red Sleeves, Yellow Cap.

Trainer: S. Johnston.

2. Aachen 9-1

Mr. G.A. White's br g. 6yrs. Gasbag - Hazlemagne.

Royal Blue, Red Sash, Armbands and Cap. Trainer: W. Kong.

3. Double Gift 8-10

Mr. H. Lachmund's br m. 4yrs. Double Remove (imp.) - Morning Gift.

Red, Purple Hoops, White Sleeves, White Cap. Trainer: W.H. Pratt.

4. Thundercloud 8-8

Mr. H.G. Jefferson's b g. 6yrs. Veilmond - Beam.

Black and Orange Quarters, Red Sleeves, Orange Cap.

Trainer: F. Grisdale.

5. Ranveer 8-7 (Scr.)

Mr. E.W. Milligan's br g. aged. Rangag - Celthorn.

Red, Green Armbands, Green Cap. Trainer: Owner.

6. Treyfoil 8-7

Messrs. C.A. (Jnr.) and W.A. Widdis' ch m. 4yrs. Wee Warrah - Night Cry.

Purple, Yellow armbands, Gold cap. Trainer: S. Johnston.

7. Bede Abundent 8-3 (Scr.)

Mr. Leo King's b g. 5yrs. Liberal - Rolandra.

Dark Blue, Brown Sleeves, Yellow Sash, Yellow Cap. Trainer: Owner.

8. Streatfield 8-1
Mr. A. Smith's blk g. 4yrs. Morse - Royal Favourite.
Pink, Lilac Stripes, Dark Blue Cap. Trainer: C. O'Rourke.
9. Ophelia 8-0 (Scr.)
Mrs. A.V. Meehan's b f. 3yrs. Felcrag (imp.) - Cornelia.
White, Yellow Spots, Grey Cap. Trainer: F.W. Kennedy.
10. Nellie Court 8-0 (Scr.)
Mr. J. White's b m. 4yrs. Court Valais - Nell's Promise.
All Red. Trainer: P.S. Helley.
11. Fasfoot 8-0
Mr. C. Reid's b m. 3yrs. Oro - Lightfoot.
Orange, Brown Diamonds, Brown Cap. Trainer: E. Flett.
12. Shomac 8-0
Mr. N.F. Cocking's br c. 2yrs. Shogun - Masey.
Green and Gold Diamonds, Green Cap. Trainer: E. Flett.
13. Rainville 8-0
Mr. V. R. Mendie's b g. 6yrs. Normal - Carinya Lass.
Orange, Pale Blue Sleeves, Green Cap. Trainer: R.L. Cashman.
14. Lady Static 8-0
Mr. A.E. Emerson's b f. 3yrs. Brueghel (It.) - Static.
Brown, Pink Sleeves, Green Cap. Trainer: N. Brown.

Placings: 3 First, Double Gift, W. Pratt, 6/4 on fav.
2 Second, Aachen, A. Gore, 4/1.
1 Third, Cangai, N. Tomlinson, 6/1.

Time: 1min. 1½ secs.

6. Welter Handicap, £100
First £70, second £20, third £10. Minimum handicap weights 8st. 7lbs.
6 furlongs. To start at 4.15 p.m.

1. Picca C 11-0
Mr. V.J. Byrnes' blk g. aged. Piccadilly (imp.) - Queen Crow.
Cerise, Blue Sleeves, Blue Cap. Trainer: W. Kong.
2. Jungle Queen—————10-7 (Scr.)
Mr. W. Wyatt's br m. 5yrs. Harinero (imp.) - Causina.
All Red. Trainer: J.P. Duncombe.
3. Chief Ticket 9-12
Messrs. J.H. and A.G. Cocking's br m. 5yrs.
Spear Chief - Tickets Please.
Green, Gold Diamonds, Green Cap. Trainer: E. Flett.
4. Gleeson 9-8
Messrs. M. Fren and J. Saidey's br g. 6yrs. Brueghel (It.) - Complete.
Black, Blue Diamond, White Armbands, Black Cap. Trainer: M. Fren.
5. Emerge 9-8
Mr. S. Wicks' b g. aged. Dunnottar (imp.) - Crash.
Black, Red Diamonds, Red Sleeves, Red Cap. Trainer: Owner.
6. Double Gift 9-3 (Scr.)
Mr. H. Lachmund's br m. 4yrs. Double Remove (imp.) - Morning Gift.
Red, Purple Hoops, White Sleeves, White Cap. Trainer: W.H. Pratt.
7. Lilla Jean 9-3 (Scr.)
Messrs. P. Burke's and P. Dennis' ch m. aged. British Soldier - Kiwi Mare.
Purple, Orange Star, Black Cap. Trainer: G. Cameron.
8. Avle 8-11 (Scr.)
Mr. E.W. Milligan's ch m. aged. The Bull's Eye - Celthorn.
Red, Green Armbands, Green Cap. Trainer: Owner.
9. Courtly 8-10 (Scr.)
Mr. V.H. Martin's br m. 4yrs. Agincourt (imp.) - Miss Mern.
Cerise and Black Stripes, Black Cap. Trainer: Owner.

10. Exalted 8-10
Messrs. J.C. Thompson's and S. Berry's b g. 4yrs.
Melfort (imp.) - Brazen Maggie.
Red, Black Stripes, Black Sleeves, Red Armbands, Red Cap.
Trainer: A. Shanahan.
11. Big Bomber 8-7
Mr. A. Standing's br g. 6yrs. Rivoli - Cellette
Dark Blue, Yellow Band, Yellow Cap. Trainer: Owner.
12. Mark Theo 8-7
Mr. L. Evans' b g. 5yrs. Theo - Winera.
Pale Blue, White Diamond, Red Sleeves, Red Cap.
Trainer: H. Sidebottom.
13. Piccaninny 8-7
Mr."S. Ederton's" blk m. 5yrs. Piccadilly (imp.) - Vogue.
Black, Orange Maltese Cross, Red Cap. Trainer: A. Halton.
14. Soubon 8-7 (Scr.)
Mr. E. Duddy's br m. 6yrs. Bourbon - Surmise.
Red, Black Diamond, Pink Sleeves, Pink Cap. Trainer: J. Hardman.
15. John Willie 8-7 (Scr.)
Mr. W.J. Laurie's b g. 6yrs. Felcrag (imp.) - Black Olive.
Pale Green. Trainer: C.P. Reynolds.
16. Medieval King 8-7
Mr. R.R. Graham's b g. aged. Medieval Knight (imp.) - Kirrang.
Red and Green Hoops, White Sleeves, Gold Cap. Trainer: S. Johnston.
17. Good Value 8-7 (Scr.)
Sledmere Estate's b f. 3yrs. Harinero (imp.) - Vallino.
Red, Black Braces, Red Cap. Trainer: C. Collison.
18. Brilliant Spear 8-7 (Scr.)
Messrs. P. Burke's and P. Dennis' b g. 5yrs. Spear Chief - Brilliant Orb.
Red, Red and White Armbands, White Cap. Trainer: N.J. Westwood.

Placings: 10 First, Exalted, H. Darke, 5/2 on fav.
3 second, Chief Ticket, B. Smith, 7/1.
5 third, Emerge, L. Duncombe, 10/1.

Time: 1min. 15 2/5 secs"

Successful First Stanza for New Club

The first annual meeting of the newly-constituted Race Club was held on 31st August, 1947 with the following Report of the Outgoing Committee for the year ended 30th June, 1947, read by the Chairman Mr. Doug Robertson,

"Gentlemen,

At a public meeting called on the 7th December, 1944. It was decided to form a Race Club in Scone and to build a race course, preferably on White Park. The present committee were appointed at that meeting and have functioned from that time up till tonight.

In an endeavour to obtain sufficient funds to build the course your committee opened a public subscription list, which met with liberal support, from the people of the district. In addition one prominent horse breeder of the district stated that he would find up to £100 towards the expenses of building the course. When this was made known to other breeders in the district, six other breeders agreed to do likewise. Thus with £700 guaranteed plus £878 from the public subscription list, your committee set out to build the course on White Park.

In the meantime Mr. R.M Bowcock of Alabama readily made his course available for meetings, free of all cost to the Club. Four meetings in all were held on this course mostly for charitable institutions. From these meetings the Scott Memorial Hospital benefited to the extent of £320, Red Cross £88 and the C.W.A. £36.

In August of 1945 Mr. Rae was employed to lay out the course on White Park and a start was made. Your committee considered that the course had been sufficiently advanced to hold an opening meeting on the 7th May last, which proved a huge success, £750 was distributed in prize money and although a profit of only £16 was made it is considered that much business had been brought to the town and the Race Club put on the map.

We would like to stress the heavy burden of Taxation on racing and would point out that the gross takings for the 7th of May meeting was just over £1400. £280 taxes were paid on this meeting and after all expenses and prize money was paid the Club got £16. When it is considered that everyone who worked as an official for the Club was a volunteer, it can be realised how heavy the burden is.

Your Committee wishes to express its appreciation of the valuable services rendered the Club by the Band of Officials who have unreservedly given up their time to help the club at all its functions.

An offer has been made by some of the breeders of the district, to subsidise the prize money of a meeting in the forthcoming year, this will be taken up at a later date, and an endeavour made to put on a meeting worthy of the district.

Much still remains to be done on the course and now that it has been possible to race on the course, more will be done for the comfort of members and the public in general.

In conclusion your Committee wishes to thank all those who have so generously donated funds, and given their support in many different ways, as it is on account of this support, that the Club is in the sound position it is in today.

31/7/1947 D.H. Robertson"

The Two H's - Hardwork and Hospitality - Carries the Top of the Valley Club To the Pinnacle of Success

With a successful and rewarding first Cup meeting behind them the Scone Race Club staged another meeting to wind up what had been a year of racing that had risen above all expectations from the people involved. The meeting was held on Saturday, 13th September, 1947. The six-race card received good support despite strong "down the line" opposition from the Wyong Club. Gate receipts touched the £280 mark while 29 bookmakers operated on the day.

Mr. W.H. Mackay, the club's recently elected Patron, was present to assist the President (Mr. D.H. Robertson) in doing the honours by way of welcoming visitors from near and far.

The innovation of the club in making a members' enclosure without duly interfering with the extensive saddling paddock also came in for favourable comment.

A feature of the day's racing was the dual success of My Olive, the young mare taking out the Maiden and First Restricted Handicaps both run over the five-furlong trip.

Ah Won, racing in the colours of popular committeeman Mr. Stan Keene, was the only local runner successful on the day.

Another first at the meeting, for the first time in the history of racing in the north, jockeys wore numbered armbands.

Further to the commitment of the townspeople to the new Race Club was the involvement of the Scone Boys and Girls Club who did a good job of purveying the refreshments on the day.

The new Race Club like any other organisation starting out was always on the lookout for new members. At a meeting held on 8th July, 1947 it was decided that Messrs. Lionel Israel and Hector Johnston be given the power to draft a letter to be posted throughout Scone and District with the idea of obtaining persons wishing to join the new club.

Such was the response to the appeal that by November of 1947 ninety-seven applications for membership had been received and by the middle of the following year a further thirty had been accepted.

The membership fee in those early days, looking at when the club was first formed, was three guineas (including two Ladies tickets).

The new seating arrangements, which now accommodated 800 persons, was well appreciated by patrons and at Cup time was fully taxed, so much so that Mr. Johnston was empowered to have a section of seating erected in the Members' Enclosure.

Time seemed to fly for the new club and a great deal of work was still in front of those in charge. Positive thinking was needed as to how things could be improved on what had been a successful opening period.

It seemed around this time, and well before, according to the many newspaper reports and information that can be gleaned in relationship to the race club, that the shoe was made to fit 'one' H.R. Johnston, for positive thinking and guidance that would help shape the club for many years to come.

In the month of August 1947 Hector Johnston was nominated and later accepted as the first Life Member of the Scone Race Club.

This followed soon after, on 9th September, 1947, when the gentlemen who had so generously donated the sum of £100 each towards the construction of the White Park Racecourse - Messrs. P. Miller, W.J. Smith, L.B. Israel, D.H. Robertson, W.H. Mackay, C.H. Denison and L.R. Morgan - were bestowed the same honour.

When Max Thompson was elected to the Race Club committee the thought of a plumbing business must have crossed the minds of those in charge, this coming into full use as Thompson Bros extended the water to the club's building, taps to the bar and centre room, installed showers, concrete bed, rubble drain, etc in the jockeys' room and concreted the floor of the gents' lavatory, all in preparation for the 1948 racing season.

With the resignation of Mr. Price a new on-course publican had to found. It was decided that the tender for the Publican's Booth be auctioned at the Scone Saleyards, then situated on land bordered by Sydney Street to the north, Susan Street to the south, Waverley Street to the west and the old Scone tip on the eastern side. The successful tenderer was to deposit 50 per cent of the price. Mrs. Prior and Mr. J.W. Lawrie of the Royal Hotel were the successful applicants for the publican's booth and, after the running of that year's (1948) Cup meeting, were thanked by the members of the committee for running the booth solely for the club.

The temporary electrical cables and wiring that had been put in place to see the club through its initial phase had to be made more permanent. Further alterations and added wiring were connected to the club's building. This job was left in the capable hands of Scone electrician Mr. G.H. (George) Davies and Mr. Phil Burgess, a staff member with the Scone County Council, now called Energy Australia.

Scone carrier Jack Bartlett was engaged to bring and return bookmakers' stands from Muswellbrook and Aberdeen plus scales from Muswellbrook. Later 30 bookmakers' stands were purchased from Mr. Bartlett at 30 shillings each.

In 1948 four meetings, including the Cup meeting, were scheduled to take place - 28th February, 31st July and the November outing abandoned due to reconstruction work on the course not being completed. At the same time the committee was looking at extensions to the members' bar and a tote building as well as, with the view of completing the fence around the course, grading and laying down of a cinders track. All up to cost 200 pounds.

Cup Meeting Extended To Two Days

The 1948 Cup meeting was extended to two days - Wednesday and Thursday, 19th-20th May. An added attraction was the running, for the first time in the north, of a much speculated Sires' Produce Stakes for two-year-old fillies, colts and geldings offering prizemoney of £250 - £200 winner, £35 second, £15 third. Also £25 to the nominator of the successful sire. Nominations to be £1 and acceptance fee £2. Sires to be nominated at five guineas each.

Flying Queen, a bay filly by Golden Sovereign from Virginia, won the event, which brought together a field of 11.

Ridden by Newcastle horseman Bill Wade the filly was owned by well-known owner and breeder Mr. David Crystal and was prepared by leading Sydney trainer T.J. Smith.

That year's Cup was run over a distance of one mile, the first and only time up until 1997 when the distance of 1600 metres was introduced for the race at Satur.

The 1948-Cup, taken out by a one-eyed galloper Brekko, Mr. C.V. Daly's six-year-old horse with D. Pritchard in the saddle, created a new track figure of 1min.39½ seconds for the journey.

The running of the 1948 Cup meeting was proceeding to everyone's liking until around mid-afternoon on the second day when an incident occurred that could have been documented from one of Banjo Patterson's racing short stories.

In most cases race clubs shy away from adverse publicity but this was not the case when the club, through no fault of its own, had such publicity thrust upon them. The front pages of the city dailies ran with this story: *"Scone Race Club's Cup meeting attracts state wide interest when 'stipe' orders two horses to leave the barrier prior to start of race"*.

The incident occurred when stipendiary steward Mr. H. Stokes ordered San Salvador and Pencraft to return to the enclosure from the barrier prior to the start of the Progressive Handicap.

San Salvador, which "blew" in the betting only to firm three points subsequent to the action being taken, was to have been ridden by apprentice jockey A. McKeon with W. Wade on Pencraft.

After returning to the enclosure Stokes ordered McKeon to dismount and instructed Australia's number one jockey Darby Munro (Munro had driven up from Sydney that morning to take the ride on Stormy in the Cup) to don San Salvador's colours, Wade retained the mount on Pencraft. With Munro in the saddle San Salvador won the race at a much shorter quote of 4/5.

Returning to the enclosure the champion horseman received a standing ovation from the big crowd on hand. The winning fee for the ride amounted to thirty shillings.

This meeting was to be the last as treasurer for Mr. Ted Howell who had looked after the club's finances from the start. As one of its foundation members he would be greatly missed. Succeeding Mr. Howell was Charlie Clout who at that time held the position of chief accountant for the Scone Stock and Station firm ANZ.

The race meeting held by the club on Saturday, 31st July that year was highlighted by the appearance of the north's leading rider, Tamworth jockey Barrie Smith, whose winning double at the Scone meeting took his tally of wins to 112. He also rode seven winners at Grafton, three at Newcastle, one at Gosford and one at Dubbo for a season total of 124.

In the northern areas Smith rode five dead-heaters which are, of course, not counted as winners and his total was the best ever recorded in the North.

At a committee meeting on 29th September, 1948 the condition of the White Park course and ways to improve it were discussed at length. Suggestions included:

The outside fence of the course be completed from the 2 furlong to 4 furlong and back of the 5 furlong chute;

The track be graded and a training track be put down on the inner portion of the course; a sand roll be built at the racecourse, taking 9-10 yards of sand with earth excavated to form bank around same.

With this work underway it was decided that the race meeting set down for the Saturday in November be abandoned.

1949 - Minor Disappointments Overshadowed by Successful Cup Meeting

As the club moved into 1949 new ideas to improve the course and new attractions to racing were discussed.

At a meeting on 2nd February, 1949 a proposal was put forward by the owner of Sledmere Stud, Mr. M.V. Point that a Northern Derby should be included in the annual Cup program, to which he would subscribe £250.

This matter was discussed at great length, all members of the committee expressing themselves. Finally the following motion was moved: Mr. Point's offer of £250 towards same still stand, but not until later, and his £100 donation towards the Sires' Produce Stakes this year be accepted.

The meeting also decided that the Moderate Handicap on the second day of the Cup fixture, 19th May, be excluded and the Sledmere Two-Year-Old Handicap be substituted. prizemoney totalling £150 - first £100, second £35, third £15.

Another motion was put forward and passed at the meeting: that the back of the horse stalls, which now numbered 76, be paled and the roofs covered with malthoid.

Several interruptions to racing occurred throughout 1949, brought about by the location of White Park itself at the lower end of the town. As seen on the plans of the racetrack as

laid out in 1945, Figtree Gully, which has its beginning in the hills or, what is commonly known as Flat Rock, on the north-eastern side of Scone, enters the racecourse between Guernsey and Hill Streets, bisecting it between the one mile start and the finishing post and then transgressing to a point on the opposite side of the track, just west of the four furlongs, before linking up with Parsons Gully.

With both waterways fed by the same catchment area and then becoming one body, any amount of heavy rain causes a back-up and overflow which has seen the bottom end of the town with no end of flood problems. The same can be said for the race course that, over the years, has had its share of interruptions, cancellations and postponements.

From the opening meeting set down for Saturday, 26th February, 1949 the club was on the back foot. Heavy rain had left the track rain-soaked and, with the recently-constructed work not fully consolidated, the meeting was put back a week until Saturday, 5th March. Then, with a week of warm, climatic conditions leaving the going with nothing to be desired, the club enjoyed a good day of racing. Sixteen bookmakers fielded on the day.

Racing is the premium part of any club, but there are also many things that go on behind the scenes and the Scone club was not exempt from dealing with these matters. Under review around this time were:

Updating the track training fees presently at 10/- per month with 5/- for special gallops; permanent steps to be erected at each barrier, saving the use of transporting a stepladder to each individual starting point; barrier trials to be allowed on racecourse, if requested. Mr. Johnston to act as starter.

The ladies' committee, as usual, excelled in the afternoon tea service at each meeting to the extent that arrangements were made to allow them additional floor space by transferring the members' bar to new quarters in the clubhouse.

With the two-day Cup meeting less than six weeks away the six-race card set down for Saturday, 2nd April was a good chance to survey the thoughts of those attending as to the improvements effected at the end of the previous year. These included the filling and regrading of a considerable part of the course, particularly the straight approaching the winning post. The work done, which by now was well and truly consolidated, received favourable comments from local and visiting trainers and jockeys.

With two Cup meetings behind them and, after nearly two years of racing on the White Park track, the committee and their supporters prepared for the week-long activities which now included the well-established Thoroughbred Horse Sale held at the old Municipal

Sale yards. The sale was first started in 1945 by local Stock and Station firm Pitt Son and Keene and, in modern times, is now held in conjunction with Sydney bloodstock agents William Inglis and Son.

In those two years the club had been on a learning curve and members now not only attended to major things but the minor ones as well. Expectations were running high. Race books ordered for the first day (Wednesday) totalled 1000 and on Cup day (Thursday) 1250. As well, 100 afternoon tea tickets for members were provided and another 400 for the popular Calcutta barbecue held on the Wednesday evening.

Prizemoney for the meeting was boosted with two feature events. The Scone Cup over one mile and 100 yards carried prizemoney of £400 plus handsome trophy, a canteen of cutlery. The well-established Sires' Produce Stakes carried £600 plus a much appreciated token jester - the race winner receiving a tri-coloured sash donated by Mrs. A.W. Riddle of Kia-Ora Stud. Mr. Frank Underwood, of the Sydney Turf Club, decorated the winner Botany Bay. The winning rider, Ernie Walmsley, was presented with a gold-mounted whip from well known STC member and leading thoroughbred breeder Mr. George Ryder.

People living in the country at this time often did not have the chance to be in the presence of so many executives from leading sporting bodies and outstanding sportsmen generally. Thanks therefore must go to the thinking and popularity of the club and those behind it.

To go a little further, the horses were above the usual standard of those competing locally or, in the country generally, while the presence of outstanding riders such as Jack Thompson, probably one of Australia's finest horsemen, added incentive to the successful attraction.

The success of the locally owned, bred and trained Botany Bay in the richly-endowed Sires' Produce Stakes on the opening day of the meeting was vociferously received. It was trained by well-known hotelier Jack Lawrie for Herb and Les Reichel. A maiden performer until his win on the Wednesday, Botany Bay added another feather to his cap by posting a new course record for the six furlongs of 1m 13-4/5s.

On the second day Mr. S. Crick, Ex-Lord Mayor of Sydney, presented the Scone Cup to Mr. C.R. Lewis, owner of winner Piccadilly Lad, and congratulated Jack Thompson on his successful ride.

The gelding's win was another Scone triumph. Bred at Kia Ora Stud and purchased for just 27 guineas, the Cup winner was prepared at Newcastle by ex-Scone man Chas Dodds who, from then until the present (2004), is the closest to a local trainer the Scone Cup has ever had.

The two-day outing proved a record in every respect and was acclaimed by local and visiting racegoers as "the best yet". Once again the club reached the pinnacle of success and, by so doing, overcame one of its biggest problems - that of providing accommodation for the large influx of visitors and contingent of horses competing. This was happily solved, largely due to the co-ordination of stud masters, hotel licensees and other practical supporters of the enterprising sporting body.

Figures that indicate the magnitude of the record outing include gate takings of £1046/8/6; bookmakers' fees of £551/5/-; nominations and acceptances totalling £379/13/-

A point of interest to come out of the 1949 Scone Cup meeting was that, for the first time in the history of racing in Scone, stewards took a swab of two horses. After winning the Moderate Handicap, Gold Cap was swabbed on the first day as was Scone Cup winner Piccadilly Lad on the second day. It then took about three weeks before the results were known.

A large crowd gathered to witness the swabbing which was carried out in the horse stalls on the northern side of the course.

The meeting, that would have ended the racing year for 1948-49, set down for Saturday, 30th July, was abandoned due to transport difficulties, inability to have race books printed, etc.

At the meeting held on Tuesday, August 2, 1949 the Chairman stated that the Committee and members were quite satisfied with the years trading.

"Under the circumstances those empowered to run the club consider the financial position of the Scone Race Club at this point in time to be in a very satisfactory position.

The prize-money shows an increase of £617, compared with the previous year." The Chairman going on to say that the club had commenced the year with a credit of £711 and ended with a surplus of £708, not overlooking the non-recurring expenditure amounting to £913/3/2, with repairs and maintenance to track £216/14/7, cinder track £100, shifting rodeo ground £103/13/1, alterations and additions to buildings £382/12/8, bookmakers' stands £48/10/-, purchase of scales and saddle-cloths £56/11/10.

Other interesting items on either side include: Donations £1025/3/6. Taxation £601/13/7.

At this meeting the committee also voiced its regrets to the report that during the year the club has lost two of its strongest supporters, financially and otherwise. They involved the death of esteemed life member Mr. Percy Miller, of "Kia-Ora" and the departure from the district of another popular life member, Mr. Cecil Denison of "Sledmere" Estate.

The resignation of a foundation committeeman, Mr. G.N. Lochhead, had also been received with regret. This necessitated the election by ballot of a new committee for the ensuing financial year, those elected being: Messrs. P.G. Burgess, L.B. Israel. H.R. Johnston, S.G. Keene, L.R. Morgan, S.N. Readford, A.W. Riddle, D.H. Robertson, C.E. Spicer, F.W. Thompson, M.O. Thompson and P. Tyler.

The first race meeting scheduled for the new season, Saturday, 17th September, was washed out, the deluge of rain leaving the course and the lower end of the town completely submerged.

The club ended the calendar year on a positive note with a large crowd on hand to view the well-endowed fixture held on Saturday the 3rd of December.

Over the next 50 years the track hosted scores of great gallopers, champion horsemen and women and lent its hospitality and laid-back atmosphere to thousands of people. But it always had its critics, such as this one offered by Newcastle racing writer "Verax" on 24th May, 1949: *"With so much open country in the district, it is hard to understand why Scone Race Club has cramped its course into White Park. The close proximity to the town and the fact that the site did not cost anything may have been considered important factors, but meetings were equally popular with local residents and visitors when the Club raced on the private track at "Alabama", Segenhoe.*

Scone track is undulating, and trees obscure the view of a race and appointments used by the rodeo carnivals. An ideal site would have been part of Puen Buen".

How would the writer of this article, if he was still alive, feel today when looking at the majority of racetracks around Australia on the television racing channels? Some fifty years later, many are still experiencing similar inconveniences as Scone had done in that early period of racing on the White Park circuit.

The following year, 1950, the city and northern press were likewise present in force, some with a dim view of the so-called "tricky" track. But an expert young city horseman who had bagged a host of winners over the carnival that year did not find the track in the least bit tricky: *"It will do me,"* he replied to questions relating to the course, *"and I'll be here again".*

Ray Selkirk's view was confirmed by Sydney trainer Norman Brown who led in Jovial Monk as winner of the Scone Guineas: *"My colt struck trouble on two occasions during the running, yet was able to surmount them and win convincingly,"* Brown said. *"The track with its two long runs before the turn is reached will do me,"* he added. That horses can and do win from behind was proved conclusively when Lady Rindun, in her second success on the opening day, came home from the best part of 10 lengths from the leaders.

Early Personal and Community Support

Race clubs in country New South Wales relied on the backing of their communities and in this area the Scone Race Club not only had support from the business houses and townspeople but the local stud owners, from the largest to the smallest. The studs played a major role around this period with their hands-on involvement, as seen by their active numbers on the club committees through the years. Also, the studs gave money to improve facilities for the general public and enhance prizemoney, an enticement for better trainers, jockeys and horses to visit the local race meetings.

Members of other sporting bodies throughout the district were keen to get involved, down to the man. Not so much women in those days, although this changed over the years.

Many people will remember Mrs. Steve (Mavis) Clark whose name appears constantly in reports concerning racing in Scone, mainly as assistant secretary and in later years as treasurer, a role she was to be involved with for many years.

“Voluntary” was the key word in those days, meaning services rendered without pay. The word “honorary” can also be noticed around the titles of treasurers, secretaries and the like as major cogs in the wheel that turns a race club.

There is no reference to any payment to the treasurer of Scone Race Club (Mr. Ted Howell) in those early years, but the club’s Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 30th June, 1948 makes note of a Secretarial Allowance of £50 to Mr. Cecil Parry, the holder of the position at that time.

As secretary, Cecil Parry was unique.

To him it was not a job but a love of sport, as was recorded in the Scone Advocate just days after his passing at the age of 60 in the 1950s: “With the passing of Mr. Cecil Parry, the town and sporting organisations in particular suffered one of their greatest losses in many years, for the subject of these lines had for a long span been indelibly associated with them in their many phases for numerous years which is the lot of few”.

Parry linked up with sport as a lad and remained that way right to the end. He was an undoubted authority on most of its branches. In this particular field of play he became widely known and popular throughout the state, regularly - and freely -advising on problems. He had a close association with the Sport of Kings to which he gave his best efforts to place racing on a firm footing in the Upper Hunter, while also offering advice and information to neighbouring clubs.

As honorary secretary of Scone Race Club, he was the personification of courtesy and proficiency, held in the highest esteem by the premier racing body of the State, the District Association and affiliated clubs. His reputation as an experienced and helpful executive was never unsullied, never in doubt. He piloted the fixtures of Scone Race Club from the days of its genesis at Alabama until it took over its own course at White Park, and watched with justifiable pride its ramifications extend to that of the premier club in its Association and, almost without peer, in the provincial districts of the State.

He was also at the helm, so to speak, when pre-war racing was the vogue on the old St Aubins track. His interest in the club never waned, right to the last.

The early years of racing saw very little change in the administration ranks of the Scone club, names on the Race Club committee being near identical to those who had guided the club from the "Alabama" era of 1945-46 to the opening of the new track at White Park. The only new face to appear on the committee prior to the opening of the new track was Mr. Lionel Israel (8th September, 1945), the owner of the Segenhoe Stud. Mr. Israel, who later held the position of Club president from 1955-1961, filled the vacancy left when Police Sergeant J.G. Loomes was transferred to Cooma.

By the time the second Cup meeting in 1948 had rolled around two positions on the committee had to be filled. One was left vacant by one of the club's great contributors Mr. Bert Price, mine host of the Empire, now Thoroughbred Hotel. A successful racehorse owner throughout the area, Bert Price had been with the club from day one, a hard working committeeman and a popular figure on race days with his on-course publican's booth.

The other position came after Mr. Cliff Duncombe stepped aside; he had also matched Bert Price's time on the panel. It would be hard, almost impossible, in the few lines on offer to describe Cliff Duncombe, or "Fazzell" to those around him. He was good for a laugh, good for a loan and an excellent ally if one should happen to have a brush with the local constabulary.

A prominent racehorse owner and breeder, Cliff Duncombe's Kingsfield Stud is now a winery settled in the shadows of the Glenbawn Dam.

Without doubt, "Fazzell" Duncombe's main aim in life was to make life as hard as possible for his wife Edith, licensee of Scone's Willow Tree Hotel. The harder Edi tried to extract every penny from her drinkers, her spouse was busy at the other end of the bar supplying mates aplenty with the occasional "one on the house".

Filling the two positions on the committee were Mr. Max Thompson, a local plumber and handy to have on board at the start of a fledgling club; and Mr. Frank W. Thompson, a prominent figure in New South Wales racing and owner of historic Widden Stud.

Adding further stability to a club that was quickly being hailed as a leader in country racing was the welcome addition in September 1947 of Mr. W.H. Mackay as the club's first patron; a position he was to hold until 1957. W.H. Mackay presided over the well-established Tinagroo Stud on the outskirts of Scone, the home of some of the best-imported bloodstock and a breeding nursery for many topline gallopers.

Mackay and new owner of Sledmere Stud, Maurie Point, opened their breeding establishments to the public during the Scone Cup Carnival, a further attraction to the already popular race meeting.

Another new face who appeared on the scene around this time was Redbank (now Wakefield) Stud groom Kelly Richards taking up the role as clerk-of-the-course. Richards donned the red coat in place of Bill Quigley who had filled the position throughout the club's inaugural year of racing on the White Park circuit.

Over the years the Scone Race Club has been lucky enough to have had very few, and all competent, horsemen to fill the role of clerk-of-the-course.

Milton Lawrence, one of Kia-Ora Stud's more capable men in the saddle, handled the job when the club raced at Alabama.

Stock and Station agent Steve Clark and two of Scone's leading stockmen, Bill Munro and Reg Watts, guided them towards the barrier at the old Belmore Heights and St Aubins circuits. Sledmere Stud groom Darcy Walden joined Kelly Richards in 1955 carrying the position alone until 1968.

I remember my father Darcy Walden on race days riding his grey pony from Sledmere Stud, four miles (about six kilometres) to the White Park track and return, to fulfil the clerk's role for the princely sum of one pound.

The diminutive Stanley Bowd, whose mixture of frivolity and larrikinism away from the job at hand, would have those people who did not know the former schoolteacher, bus driver, come hardware salesman, wondering how such an easy-going bloke could handle a job with the added responsibility of not only expert horsemanship but, being able to potentially save a horse or rider from serious injury. Bowd in his time as clerk-of-the-course proved his worth at the job and, on more than one occasion, received a quiet nod from a steward or jockey he had helped out of a tricky situation behind the barriers.

A Ten Year Period that Shaped a Race Club

Leaving the forties behind, the Race Club and the town of Scone, which was quickly earning the title as the Home of the Thoroughbred through its well-performing horse studs. These were churning out champion upon champion and winners galore at race meetings across the country and abroad as well, while transgressing into the 1950s.

Australia and her people had come through World War II, not unscathed, but unbowed. People had positive thoughts about their futures, rural Australia was looking good, there were jobs for those who wanted them and, if you could not find one *"you weren't having a go"*.

The following 10-year period could be described as a special era of racing in Scone; the club had its stability cemented through the men who, in the early years, had looked to the future of the club and the enjoyment and prosperity it could generate throughout the town and district. The community and its townspeople responded in full to the deeds of these gentlemen, as would be noted by the great attendances at the picturesque White Park course, not only for the running of the Scone Cup carnivals but on ordinary race days as well. Race days everywhere were a chance for the whole family to come to town, mum to dress-up, dad to enjoy a beer with his mates and the kids an afternoon at the local pictures.

The township of Scone in the 1950s was a thriving rural community not solely relying on its rural heritage. The town rode on the back of the construction of the Glenbawn Dam, some 20 minutes drive east of the town, and built on a backdrop that now invites people from around the world to visit. The building of this large water container began in the late 1940s and drew workers of many cultures and their families to the town. A press release in February 1955 proclaimed: *"...in the past twelve months the employment force on the project has risen from 550 to over 800 men"*. Hundreds of new homes had been built and this was the kick-start the Scone Race club enjoyed in a 10-year period of a golden era of racing.

In these years it was the AJC (Australian Jockey Club) that ruled racing in New South Wales, laying down the guidelines that governed the sport but allowing country clubs to find their own way and foster country racing in a way they thought best for owners, trainers and the public as a whole. This is where Scone Race Club and its committee excelled and, with its venue, was regarded as providing the most progressive racing venue outside the metropolitan area.

New ideas were being thought of and sought; ideas that would further bolster the image of the club and help its patrons to view and enjoy a higher standard of racing.

One idea was an art union offering first prize of a yearling filly by imported sire Harinero from winner-producing mare Sea Water. Mr. Maurie Point, gentleman owner of Sledmere Stud who was always ready to lend a hand, donated the filly.

The first running of the Scone Guineas appeared on day one of the 1950 Cup Carnival. The race for three-year-olds over the Cup distance of one mile and a hundred yards proved an immediate success. Top Sydney stables nominated horses that, at the time, were capable of winning races on the metropolitan courses.

During the next decade what had been put in place would stand the club, its committee and supporters in good stead, not only for the Cup carnivals but race days in general.

Moving into and through the '50s the Scone club had been fortunate enough to maintain most of its foundation committee members and had a strong base of around 130 financial members on their books. Many of those committee members who had done the hard yards would be replaced by men and women who looked to the future with modernisation on their minds, not so ploughmen like their predecessors were, but, then again, not that far removed.

Some of the old horse stalls were to be replaced with a number of loose boxes and it was decided, on an experimental basis, that the four stalls below the main gate undergo the intended overhaul.

Around this time many of the district studs were importing broodmares and stallions from overseas. The animals' mode of travel was by boat in which they were housed in a good sized horse box built of oregon timber. With the livestock unloaded in Sydney, the boxes were dismantled, transported by rail and reassembled in Scone, many finding a new home on White Park at a maximum cost of 15 pounds.

On-course bookmakers were the only form of legalised betting at this time so it was a definite forward step when the club requested the Automatic Totalisator Ltd to operate at that year's Cup meeting on the basis of the entire statutory deduction of eight per cent up to 90 pounds with the Scone Club participating at three per cent over and above 90 pounds per day.

The presence of the Totalisator at the Cup carnival proved a great success and a long overdue amenity, with 5000 pounds being handled throughout the two days of operation. The club gained 58 pounds through its forthright initiative which attracted no less than 53 bookmakers, including prominent fielders from Sydney, each day.

The 1950 Cup fixture exceeded all expectations, both in record patronage and turnover. It was a unanimous decision by all those in attendance that this meeting would be referred

to for many years to come, by the sporting fraternity of the Upper Hunter Valley and visitors generally, not only as the forerunner of greater events, but as one of the most outstanding features of the racing calendar held under the supervision and control of the North and North-West District Association.

One of the reasons why the club found itself in this position was not hard to find. The reliance on local studmasters was still quite evident, their donations enabling the Cup carnival that year to offer 2400 pounds in prizemoney.

Wet weather caused the abandonment of the meetings set down for June and July. The fixtures held reported a running loss of around 25 pounds to 65 pounds per outing, with the exception of the meeting conducted on behalf of the Scone RSL Sub-Branch which, free of tax, showed a profit of £34/14/-.

The figures released at the season's end disclosing a loss of £285/5/11.

Chairman Doug Robertson, when addressing the meeting, pointed out that it was hardly necessary for him to bring anyone's attention to the fact that *"excessive high taxation, high costs of transport and fodder, were slowly but surely strangling country clubs, the 'battlers' long remembered as the mainstay of country racing have been practically wiped-out"*. He added: *"that were it not for the liberal donations of patrons, this club would cease to function"*.

The ensuing few years had the Race Club and its ever-growing band of supporters on an upward spiral, but, not without a few hiccups along the way. In March 1951, prior to the running of that year's Cup meeting, the club's overnight power brought it into full-on confrontation with what, in those days, was a very strong Bookmakers' Association. At the same time it did not receive plaudits from many of the northern clubs.

The Club secretary (Mr. C. Parry) advising the North and North-Western Districts Bookmakers' Association that his committee had decided to increase the betting fees for its Cup meeting on May 16 and 17, the fees being: £10/10/- per day with an extra £10/10/- per day for the privilege of fielding on the rails.

The fee for the Cup meeting, under existing arrangements, was £5/5/- per day, with many people of the opinion that rails betting seemed very unnecessary and wanted by very few people at a country meeting.

The Scone committee resolved to stand by its original scale of fees, a decision that looked like leading to a position almost unprecedented in northern racing circles and certainly one never before associated with a major fixture.

Many people throughout the racing area carried the opinion that Scone would not be wise to undertake its Cup fixture without bookmakers. But that is what it had, in effect, decided to do.

However, as the eleventh hour approached the club decided that 'retreat was the better part of valour' or maybe 'compromise the better part of pounds lost'. The Club president said that a meeting of the committee had decided not to adhere to the new scale decided on by the club and would revert to the old fees.

The committee and members of the club continued to improve facilities at the track. As mentioned earlier, the horse stalls were now converted into loose boxes and the erection of seven new boxes had been completed.

A modern sewerred ladies' and gents' toilets had been built on the site of the old lavatory. At the same time a platform about six foot wide was erected along the back of the existing public stand, giving accommodation for an additional 500 spectators.

Prizemoney was ever being increased. In this 1950-51 season a total of £3399 had been distributed and, once again, this could not have been possible except for the generosity of patrons, or breeders, whose donations totalled £1191.

The committee of the Scone Race Club for the season 1951-52 retained many familiar faces with a sprinkling of 'new blood'.

New to the committee were leading veterinary surgeon A.M.(Murray) Bain; and a man who was to play a big role in connection with the Scone club over the next 22 years, H.R. (Harry) Hayes, a prominent horse owner and breeder who would later assume the role of Club president; and A.H.(Alec) Young, the new manager of Maurie Point's Sledmere Stud.

So the incoming committee was: Messrs A.M. Bain, H.R. Hayes, L.B. Israel, H.R. Johnston, S.G. Keene, L.R. Morgan, R. McMullin, A.W. Riddle, D.H. Robertson, F.W. Thompson, M.O. Thompson and A.H. Young.

It was around this time some new changes in areas that would affect the club had arrived. A new body with its eyes firmly fixed on encouraging the racing and breeding industry within the valleys of Widden and the Upper Hunter, the Thoroughbred Breeders' Society, had been formed in October 1951. The members of this new organisation, headed by Mr. George Christmas, the owner of Oak Range Stud (now Turangga at Segenhoe) were quick to approach Scone Race Club with the idea of sponsoring a race meeting.

The club, welcoming the proposal, and with the same initiative it had shown in the past, set about drawing up not one, but two, fixtures, spaced by seven weeks - the March 1 Breeders' meeting and the May 21-22 Cup Meeting.

Prizemoney for the three days of racing was to total £4000. For endowment and attractiveness, the Club was making a bid never before attempted by any other provincial racing body in this or any other State. It was setting a standard virtually on a metropolitan scale.

The allotted prizemoney for the March outing totalled £1070, an unusual amount for an "off" meeting but it represented the Club's courageous endeavour to prove it was possible to hold a big and successful fixture at other than Cup time.

Throughout the years of 1951-52 the club continued to receive the highest level of support for its Cup meetings while still being able to stage meetings throughout the year that catered for the needs of local owners and trainers and the many who travelled from the Newcastle and the north and north-west regions of the State.

To many people these fixtures were nothing to write home about but, by the same token, were catering for the "battler". And it was no gainsay that this foresight was placing racing on the map in the Upper Hunter and in the northern parts of the State.

As before, around Cup time the accolades were flowing, as can be seen by this excerpt taken from the Scone Advocate in reviewing the 1951 outing:

"The enterprise of the Scone Club in presenting one of the most attractive and liberally endowed bills of fare to the racing cognoscenti in the provincial districts of the Commonwealth - it aggregated upwards of £3000, less trophies - had its due reward when followers of the Sport of Kings flocked to the popular rendezvous from all parts of the state, with more than a sprinkling from the Northern and Southern states.

They came by rail, road and by air, and all were favourably impressed with the fare presented, the organisation, and the high standard of proceedings, a feature of which was the magnetising of the elite gallopers and postilions which vied with the welcome and hospitality offered by executive members of the Club, ably led by their President (Mr. D.H. Robertson)".

Racing highlights over a successful Cup meeting were the wins by Titian and Sunshine Express in the Guineas and Sires' Produce Stakes respectively. Titian, a bonny Valiant Chief x Bandrol filly bred raced by Scone committeeman Mr. Laurie Morgan and his wife of Redbank Stud, was well handled by the north's leading young rider Barrie Smith who celebrated his birthday on the day with five winners.

Trained at Randwick by T.J. Smith, Sunshine Express was backed into odds-on and just scraped home a winner in the Sires' Produce Stakes. Ray Selkrig, the Sydney jockey further enhancing his strike rate on the local circuit by winning the £600 Scone Cup on the two-year-old filly Poitiers.

The death of one of the towns' most respected citizens, long-serving club secretary, Mr. Cecil Parry, left a large administration gap to be filled.

The position went to Karl Muller, former licensee of Scone's Golden Fleece Hotel, before serving nine years as secretary of the Scone Pastures Protection Board. He was elected secretary on January 1, 1952 on an annual salary of £150.

Soon afterwards the Club treasurer Mr. Charlie Clout decided to call it a day, leaving the job to Mr. Athol Rose whose late father Mr. Bill Rose was the Race Club's first official timekeeper.

Athol Rose only accepted the position he would hold for seven months providing permission was granted by his employer, the PMG Department.

With the sudden resignation of Athol Rose the position was entrusted to the Club's assistant secretary, Mrs. Mavis Clark who, like her late husband Steve Clark, had been involved with the Scone club throughout its years.

The well-respected and popular couple of Karl Muller and Mavis Clark would hold the reins of these positions throughout the remaining years of the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s.

Karl and Mavis gave a sterling 20 years and 23 years respectively of untiring service, at all times giving their all and, in return, receiving gratitude and admiration from the thousands they had come in contact with in a sport they chose to serve.

In 1952 the club was favoured by ideal weather conditions for its Cup meeting which resulted in good patronage from all parts of the State. On-course patrons witnessed the making of racing history on the White Park track and, thrown in for good measure, a touch of drama.

History was made when the Sydney colt Neat Andrew took out the Scone Guineas, over one mile and 100 yards, on day one and then repeated the effort on the second day by winning the Scone Cup over the same journey.

It was the first and only time in the history of the Club that this particular double had been taken out by the same horse, which had put in a remarkable performance each day after coming from a long way in the rear of the field on both occasions.

The colt's hard-way-to-win attitude saw his Guineas' winning rider Arthur Ward decline the mount in the Scone Cup and this is where the drama arose. It left trainer Clem Guy seeking a substitute rider for the Cup on the eve of the main event. He finally entrusted the ride to Newcastle apprentice Darryl Fahey who gave a polished performance and, Neat Andrew a repeat encounter, of the previous day.

In July 1952 the community of Scone was shocked with the death of Mr. A.W.(Bert) Riddle, a gentleman who was regarded at the highest level by those with close ties to the Scone Race club, an organisation he had served untiringly since the early days of racing at Alabama, as well as others who regarded him as the senior studmaster in the southern hemisphere, an accolade earned through his securing the title of Percy Miller's Kia-Ora Stud, Segenhoe, as the premier thoroughbred nursery beneath the Southern Cross.

People close to Bert Riddle often spoke of his role at Kia-Ora: *"he did more than control the famous stud, he managed it capably and conscientiously, he became Kia-Ora's guiding star, its very heart and soul"*.

To know him was a privilege. Even people who only met him once were impressed and would remember "a true sportsman who accepted his successes with modesty and his reverses with philosophical acquiescence".

Scone Race Club's sudden overwhelming popularity among owners and trainers away from the local racing scene, plus the earlier run-in with the Bookmakers' Association, seemed to fuel a certain amount of jealousy among some of the northern clubs and, friction with the governing body the North and North- West Racing Association. By the year's end the committee had made a decision to approach the AJC (Australian Jockey Club) requesting that the existing borders be altered, thereby enabling Scone Race Club to become affiliated with the Newcastle Racing Board which, at that time, was fully supported by the NRB (Newcastle Racing Board).

The committee also decided to approach the Aberdeen Club with the suggestion that they also apply to the AJC seeking registration and affiliation with the Newcastle Racing Board.

Arguments were put forward by both sides as to why Scone should be allowed to leave the Northern Association and how the local club would be better served in being affiliated within the Southern Association.

The issue became embroiled in 'red tape' and wrangling. It would be another two years before Scone Race Club would race under the control of the Newcastle Racing Board.

Scone Moves Closer To Severing Ties with Northern Body

A committee meeting on July 29, 1954 decided that a delegation comprising Mr. D.H. Robertson (president), Mr. A.H. Young (committeeman) and Mr. Karl Muller (secretary) should visit the AJC (Australian Jockey Club) Office regarding the matter of affiliation with the Newcastle Racing Association.

With the wheels now in motion it seemed only a matter of time before the Upper Hunter club would be given the green light to break ranks with the North and North-West Racing Association, a governing body it had raced under from as far back as St Aubins and Alabama in the late 1930s and early '40s.

Scone Race Club Committeeman Mr. Harry Hayes was appointed as the club's delegate to the N.R.R.Board and attended that body's next meeting on October 20, 1954 with the aim of securing a racing date for Scone in December 1954.

Further, the secretary was to apply for the following dates in 1955: Saturday, January 22; Saturday, March 19; Wednesday, Thursday, May 18-19; Saturday, July 16; Monday, October 3; and Saturday, November 19.

As the club moved through the 1950s many changes would be made including the upgrading of public facilities. New faces appeared on the committee while the club came to grips with the fact that there were still people who were quick, and only too willing, to criticise the state of the track. Many opined that it would be greatly improved if the straight could be lengthened. For this to be achieved, with the White Park track's close proximity to other sporting facilities on the same location, it would be a struggle.

At the ninth Annual General Meeting of the Scone Race Club held on Thursday, July 28, 1955 at 7.30pm, the first change of leadership was about to occur after Mr. Doug Robertson vacated the president's chair, a position he had held for eight years.

Mr. S.G. Keene, in addressing the chairman, remarked how much the Club was going to miss his leadership and the help given by him and his family. He said he hoped their valuable support would continue.

In reply, Mr. Robertson stated that his eight years as chairman had been a most happy period and that he and his family would always have the interest of the Club at heart, hoping for bigger and better things for the future.

Further tributes were paid to the outgoing president including the fact that in his eight years at the helm, Doug. Robertson did not once mention himself in the Reports even

though it was due to his leadership and untiring efforts that the committee functioned so successfully.

First Committee Meeting of the Scone Race Club, 8.45pm on Thursday, July 28, 1955.

Secretary (Mr. K. Muller) occupied the chair and called for nominations for president. The nomination of Mr. Lionel Israel by Mr. H.R. Hayes, seconded by Mr. S.G. Keene, was the only one received. Being put as a motion to the committee it was carried unanimously. The following office bearers were then elected: patron: Mr. W.H. Mackay; president: Mr. L.B. Israel; vice-presidents S.G. Keene and H.R. Hayes; secretary: Karl Muller; treasurer Mrs. M.I. Clark.

Around this time a new face appeared in the Race Club committee. John (Jack) Johnston was a man of many hats, stemming from a racing family through his uncles and, more so, his father Scott Johnston who passed on to his son the art of horse breeding and training at the family's Tyrone Stud, just north of Scone.

Scott Johnston's name as a trainer was not confined to the local area. The doyen of horse conditioners was famous for his participation in, and the trainer of, winners from the New England, north-west regions of New South Wales to the lower reaches of the Hunter, the metropolitan area and beyond.

After the death of his father Jack trained a few horses but was more interested in breeding and the running of Tyrone Stud. His long involvement with the Race Club was as its timekeeper. He was later awarded life membership of Scone Race Club which he served for more than 50 years.

Lionel Israel's first year of leading Scone Race Club into a Cup meeting in 1956 proved to be one of mixed feelings for the new president.

Mr. Israel was greeted by packed stands and enclosures on an opening day that would see his gelding Blue Charger take out the coveted Sires Produce Stakes. Earlier his Devil Dancer, another progeny of his sire Nilo, easily landed the Guineas.

The beautifully grassed track and enclosures, together with the appointments generally, gained much favourable comment from the many visitors on course. The Club had left nothing to chance but rain fell heavily throughout the day for the first time since racing was transferred to White Park eight years previously.

The committee held a hurriedly-convened meeting after the last race and announced at a barbecue that night, Wednesday, that it had abandoned Cup day due to the dangerous condition of the track.

It has been well documented how the track at White Park at this time and in the coming years was, and would continue to be, highly criticised for its testing turns and, in the eyes of many, its not too friendly racing surface. But in the face of all this conjecture, the racecourse on many occasions stood up and was counted.

One such occasion was at the 1958 Cup meeting when, on a near quagmire track, the longest-priced winner ever to take out the race, Ardent Beau at odds of 50-1, revelled in the conditions to cause the biggest upset since the race was first run in 1947.

Despite inclement weather over the two days, with torrential rain falling in the early hours of Cup morning, few people believed racing possible. But after a careful inspection of the track by stewards the racing surface was declared safe for racing.

As Club members tried to improve the course, a sub-committee comprising Messrs. A.H. Young, S.G. Keene and H.R. Hayes was appointed to look at acquiring land within the bounds of the racecourse. This project was shelved after less than six months. Later it was decided that steps should be taken to obtain certain land as a gift or, acquired as cheaply as possible, with a view of lengthening the straight.

The land selected by the sub-committee to be purchased was at the Hill St entrance to White Park at a cost of no more than £250.

During this time the Club had developed rapidly in the eyes of the public and the racing fraternity was trying to work out how to improve a racecourse that resembled a scale model to what it should be racing on.

In time further improvements were made regarding public facilities. A tendered price of £457 had been accepted for the erection of a roof over the public grandstand. The old seven-and-a-quarter furlong barrier was abolished and further racing from this point would be at the one-mile-and-100-yard start. Twenty-five new bookmaker stands were purchased from Tubewrights (Aus.) Ltd at a cost of £4/16/- each.

The offices, judge's box and members' stand were repainted at a cost of £150. The judge's box was moved back from the present site, which was too close to the track. Blocks outside of the main entrance were used as car parks, car park signs were erected and two shillings per car were charged on race days. White Park's main gates were closed on race days and turnstiles were used for the admittance of the general public.

As the nineteen fifties drew to a close further renovations were carried out on the Race Club's buildings.

The main extensions were to the bar and refreshment room. A new bar was erected on the western side of the existing building; it consisted of a 23'x 17' bar room, with an attractive counter running down the centre of the room, and a servery on to the extended verandah.

The newly enlarged refreshment room presented an attractive and airy atmosphere with the room of 32 feet long and 19 feet wide.

A new kitchen opened off the refreshment room with a large servery giving adequate access.

The office section also received an upgrade, a new Stipendiary Steward's room and a Press room opened off the main office; access into a small foyer was installed in the northern side of the main office where trainer's fees, etc., could be collected and from which access was given to the jockey's room.

The renovations were carried out by Scone builder Mr. Bruce Shepherd at a cost of £1400

On the lighter side, it was suggested that Scone RSL, which had the rights to the publican's booth, be asked to serve smaller measures of spirits. Mr. Les. Whyte's tender of two pounds per day to sell hot pies at the races was accepted. Permission was granted to Scone trainer Eric Flett to train his trotter on the course.

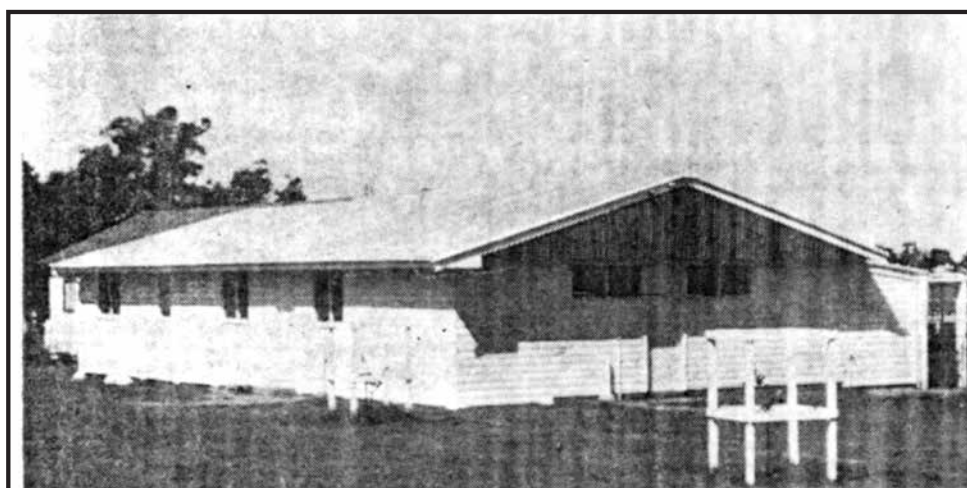
SCONE RACECOURSE



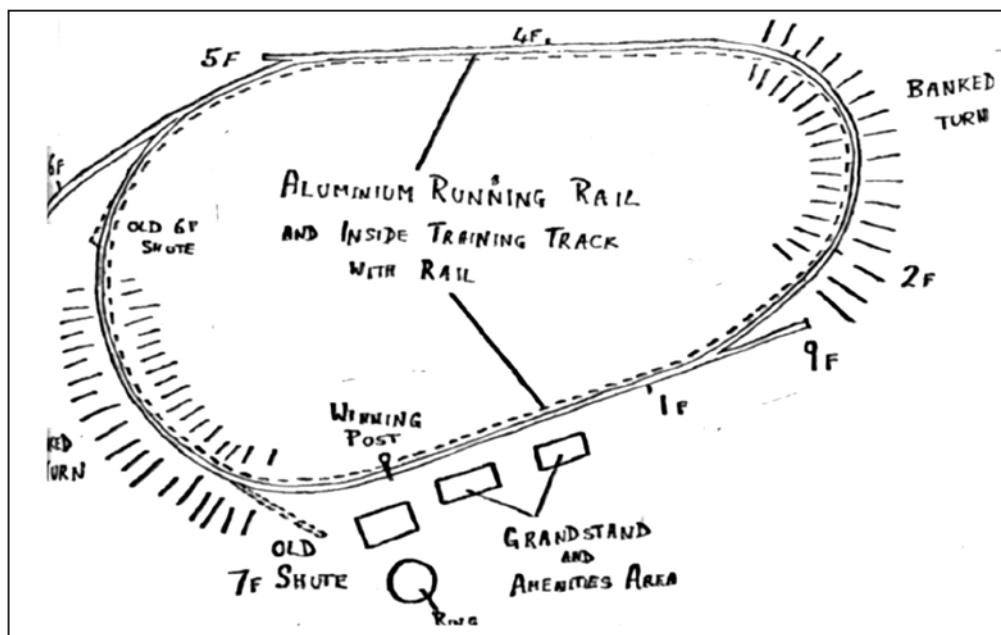
1959



Early 1960's



The new building in the Members' Enclosure at the Scone Racecourse April 1959

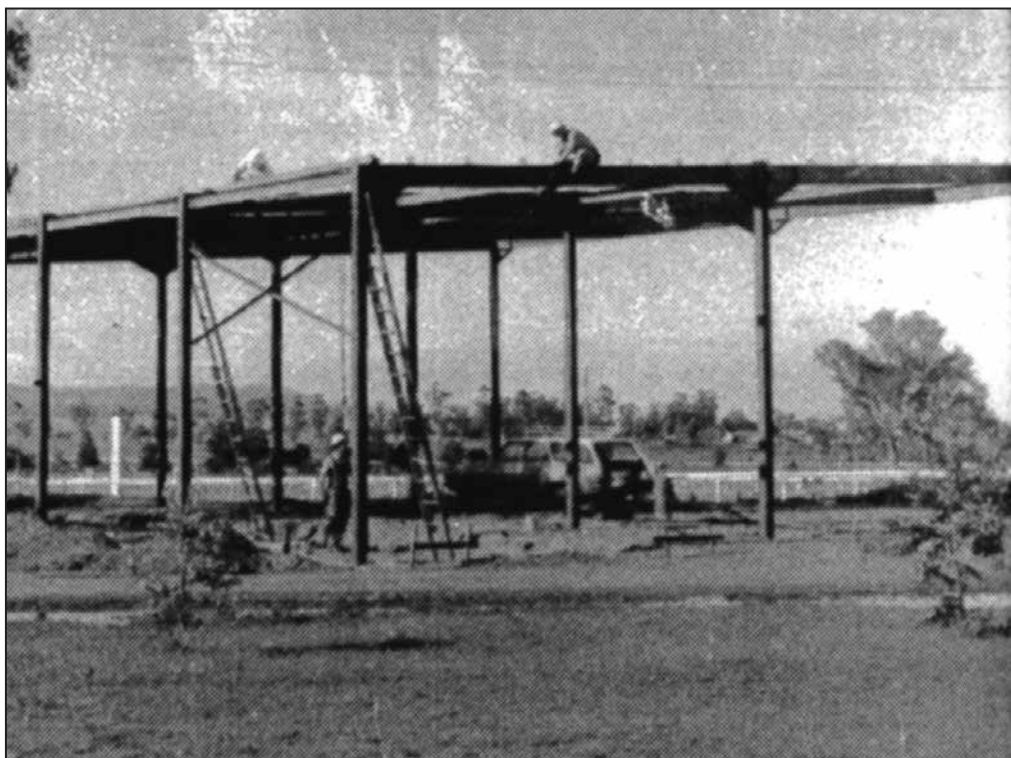


The illustration shows the new improvements to Scone Race Course which will be completed prior to the Summer Cup Meeting in December. The Work includes the new seven furlong shute, two banked turns, a running rail and inside training track. The Race Course Development advanced \$12,000 towards the cost of the work.

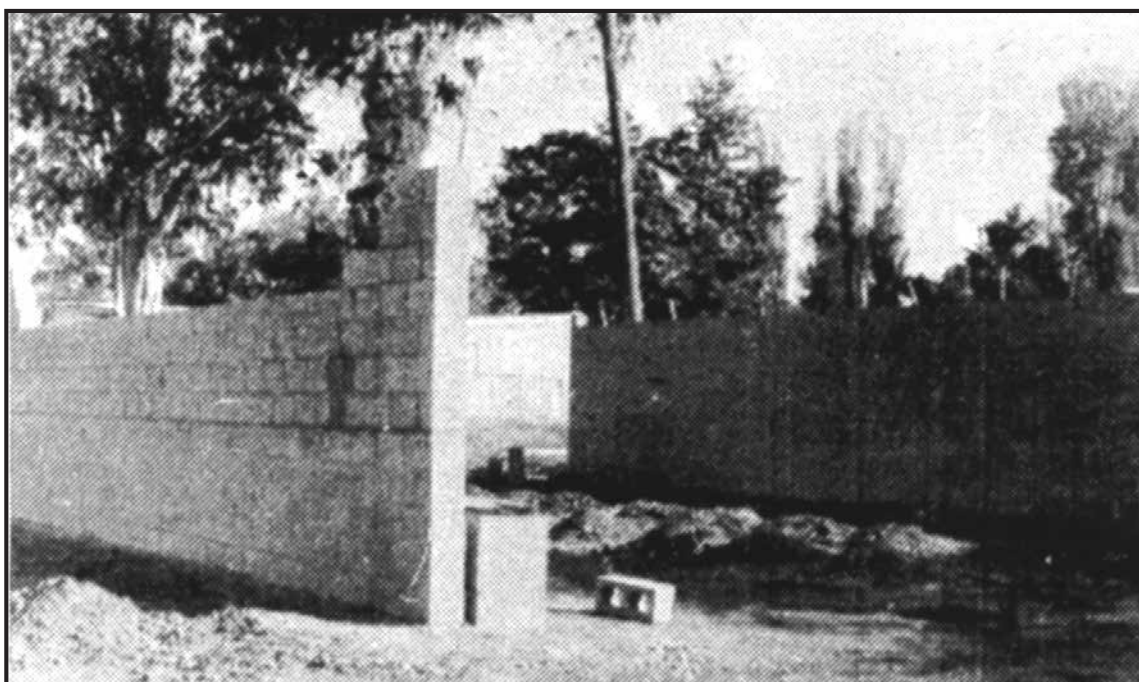
The Nineteen Seventies

**NOT MANY
BETTER ...**

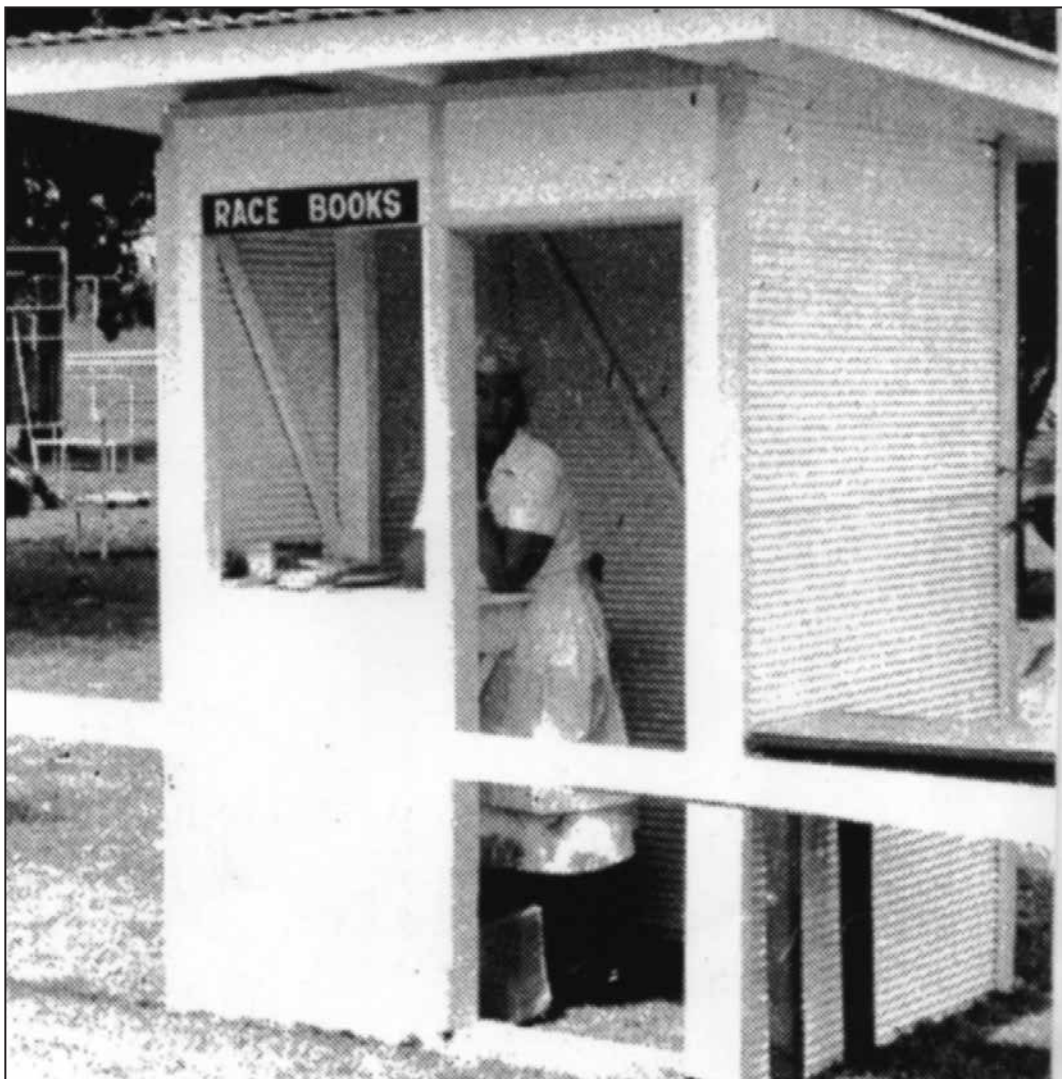
Over the past ten years, White Park, Scone has developed into one of the best sporting area's in the Upper Hunter



The new grandstand at White Park, under construction will be utilised for the Cup, even though it will not be fully completed.



The Nineteen Seventies



Above: Grace Faye sells the race books at White Park.

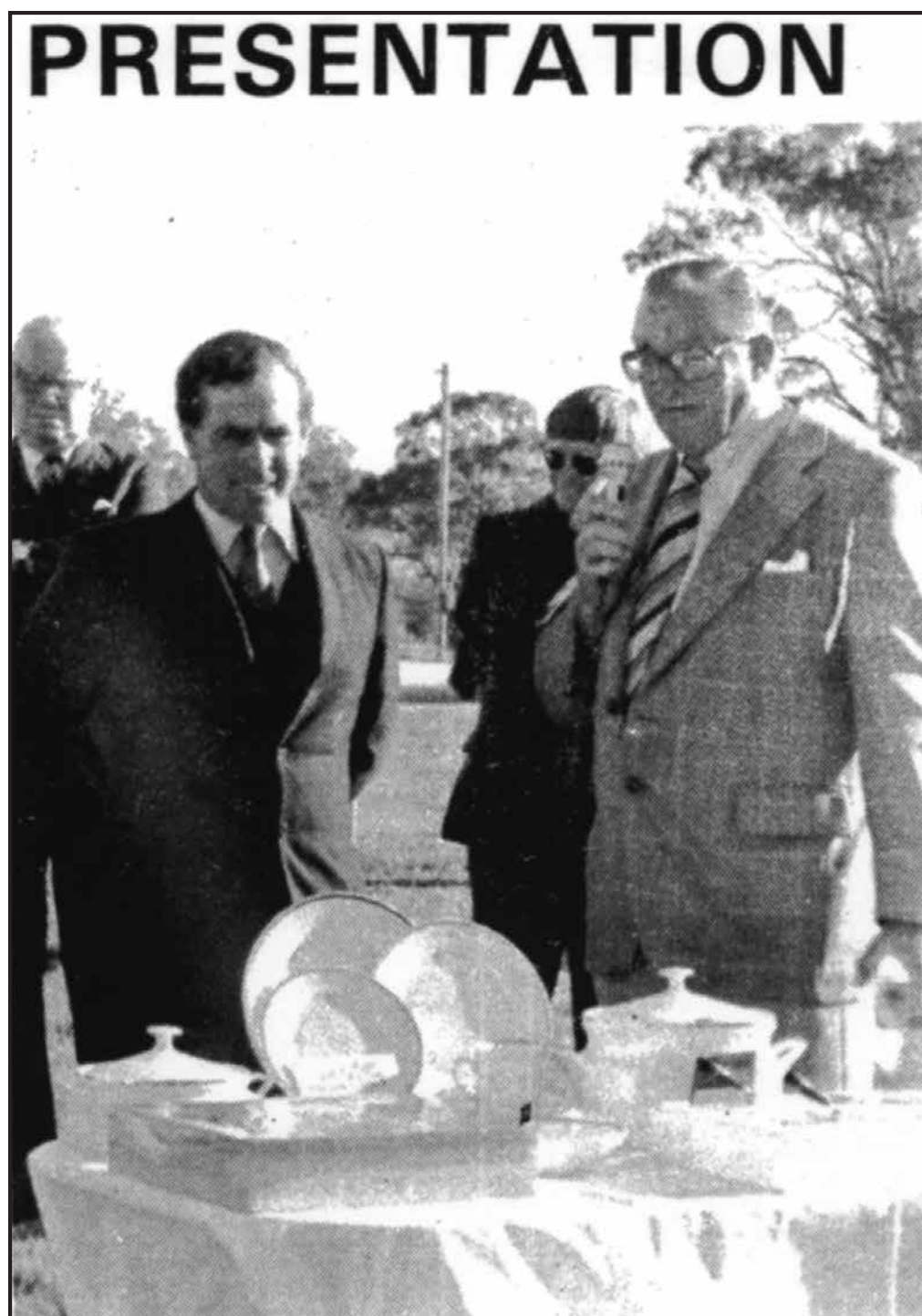


Left: Murray Bain, among the thoroughbreds he loves.

MAVIS CLARKE AND CARL MULLER 25 YEARS ON THE RACE SCENE 1978



Two well known Scone identities who have had a lot to do with the Scone Race Club over the past 25 years are Mrs Mavis Clark and Mr Carl Muller.



Mr Bert Lillye, turf writer for the Sydney Morning Herald, presents Mr 'Bim' Thompson with the owners trophy, who accepted on behalf of himself and co-owners Messrs Bragg, Parry-Okeden, Wilson, Thomas and Mann, after their horse Idol, won the Bert Lillye Lightning Stakes - Wednesday May 16, 1979.

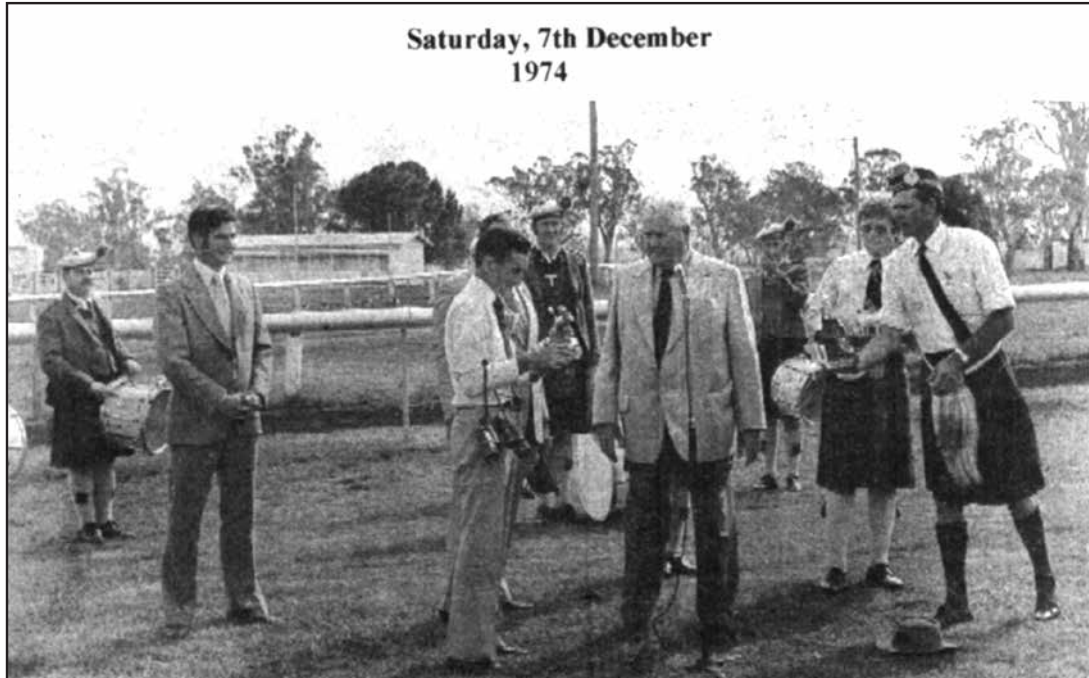
THE SPIRIT WITHIN



Geoff and Lilly Cooper, with Pam and Darryl McInnes, enjoy Thursday afternoon's Scone Cup races during the 1970's.



Local jockey Martin (Herbie) Eveleigh walks back to way-in.



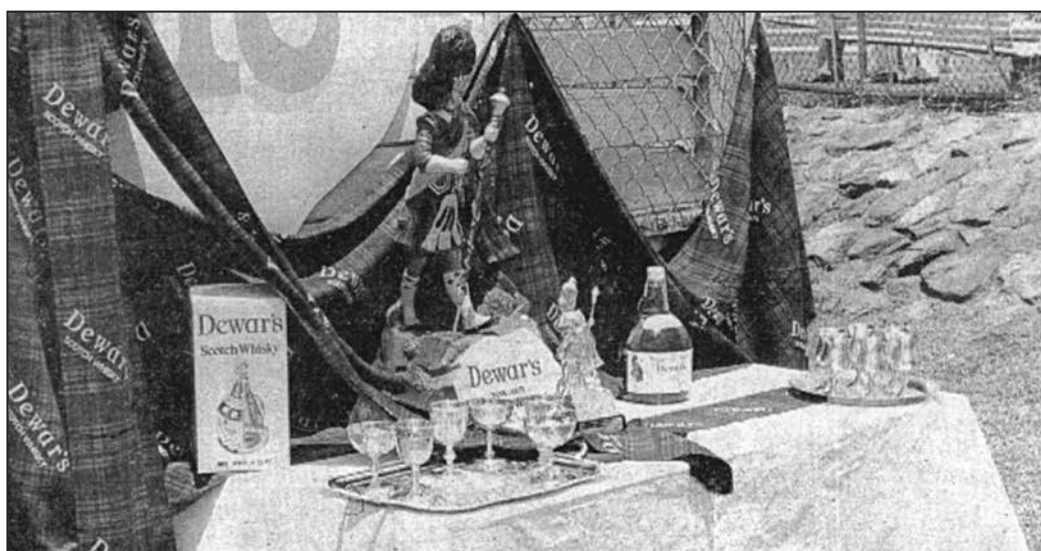
The owner and trainer of Spritely Arietta winner of the Dewars Scotch Whisky Cup at Scone on Saturday. Mr R. Hinton of Adamstown, is pictured here holding the Dewar Highlander trophy. The presentation was made by the Patron of Scone Race Club, Sir Alister McMullin.



The Newcastle Pipe Band, which has had a considerable success in championships pipe band events, made a colourful display as they marched along the Scone race track on Saturday prior to the presentation of the Dewars Cup Trophies.



Bill Howey and Race Club President Mr Jack Kelso congratulate Mrs Betty Shepherd, owner and trainer of Titaria, who won the Murry Bain Memorial Cup.



Pictured are the magnificent Dewar's Scotch Whisky trophies which were presented to the winners and placegetters in the Dewar Cup at Scone on Saturday.



The Scone Gold Cup...one of the most valuable trophies ever available at a country race meeting. It has been donated for this year's Scone Cup by Mr Lionel Israel of the Segenhoe Stud.

Top men in racing



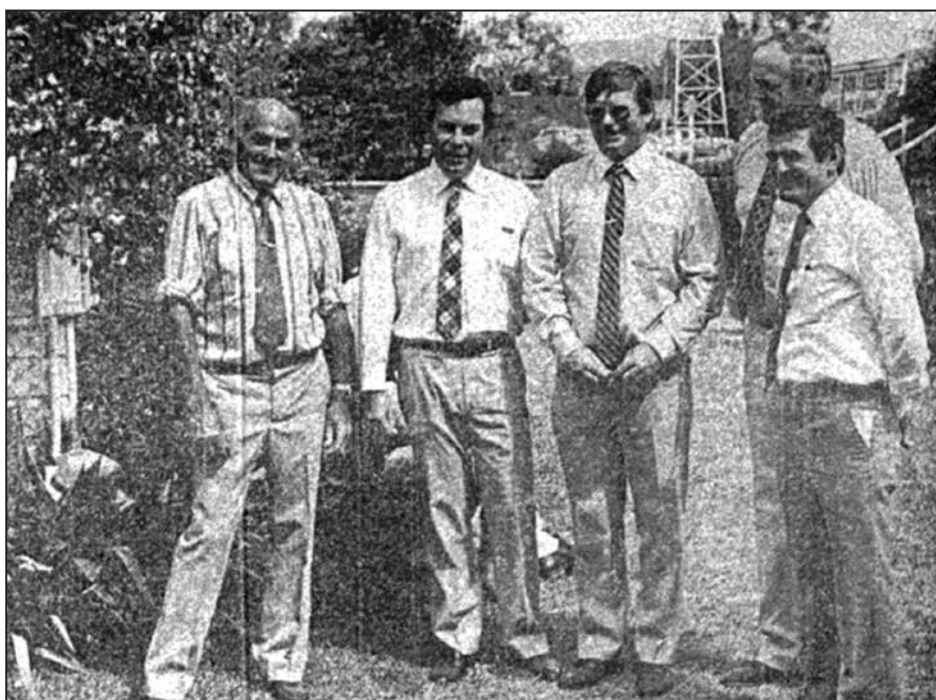
Scone Race Club president Mr Bill Howey congratulates Ernie Cone (April 12, 1982), a man who has given many years of service to racing in the area on his reward of life membership of the Club. One the left are Hilton Cope and Harry Hayes. The latter was also honoured at Saturday's race meeting by being made a life member of the Aberdeen Jockey Club.



Ray Barry, well known
Upper Hunter racecaller,
1987.



Mrs Betty Shepard,
Australia's first lady trainer
1988



Scone Race Club presented Bill Howey with life membership at the races on Saturday (1984). Standing with him is Bruce Shepherd, David Bath the club president, Jock Robertson and Hilton Cope



Three well known identities Mr Bert Lillye, Mr Arch Shepherd and Mr Athol Rose share a joke at the calcutta night at the Scone Golf Club.

1989 Aberdeen Cup



Veteran Scone jockey Herb Everleigh received one of the warmest welcomes of his career when he returned to the scales after steering Bo Yanco to a win in the Aberdeen Cup last Friday at Scone.



Mr Noel Leckie of Coopers and Lybrand presents Sharon Everleigh, part owner of Bo Yanco, with the winner's trophy in the Aberdeen Cup last Friday.

Racing Into the Sixties

Closing down the 1950s, a period I have nominated as the “Golden Era” of racing in Scone was because of the White Park track and those who worked so hard to have it built. With the support of the town’s people this atmosphere generated thousands of visitors to the picturesque surrounds of White Park to witness country racing at its best in an era when only a “struck match” separated a champion jockey from a good one and, an ordinary bloke’s horse could hold its own with those from the city.

A new president was in the chair by 1961. Well-known Scone businessman Mr. H.R.(Harry) Hayes, of Leighton Park, was elected to guide the club into the middle of this 10-year period at a time when the Club found itself with plenty to think about while still moving forward.

A new system was introduced in regard to bookmakers. An “all round ring” for the stands was installed for the convenience of the public.

For the entertainment of official guests, a small bar had been installed in the committee room, open to the committee or life members and, to relieve the congestion in the members’ bar.

Alterations to the straight entrance were designed to eliminate a number of bends in the running rail, making the entrance into the straight around a curve constructed to 60-miles-per-hour standard.

A raised bank in front of the grandstand had been built, supplying patrons with an unrivalled view of the races. Mr. Eric Traficante built the retaining wall from attractive cementing stones.

The completion of a fine new toilet block was in sight, supplying facilities for both genders attending the races.

Further work was undertaken with a drainage system installed under the track at the half-mile.

In the ensuing future (1967) the Club would install its own water supply with the course watered as much as needed, quite irrespective of water restrictions in force from the town supply.

As was the case with so many sporting clubs around this time, and, relevant right up unto this day, finance and sponsorship played a large part in the expansion plans of the Scone Race Club if it was to hold its place as one of the leading racing establishments in country New South Wales.

This was made clear after the completion of the 1963 two-day Cup meeting, which showed a profit of £600. Committeemen expressed the opinion that this return was not satisfactory in the face of the excellent racing conditions and large attendance. The return did not give the club sufficient finances for security and the money for a building renewal and improvement plan.

The President (Mr. H.R. Hayes) said the amount of money received as donations had gradually decreased until the Club was now actually self-supporting.

Adding to the financial situation the club found itself in a position where many of the other meetings held throughout the year, especially those in the summer months of December, January and February, were not paying their way. This was pointed out by treasurer, Mrs. Mavis Clark in reference to a meeting held in February of that year, 1963 when the Club stood a loss of £391/14/-, with the cost of running the meeting £457/10/-.

It has been well documented how the track at White Park was always up for criticism, but, around this time it was the Club's committee which came under fire when leading Scone veterinarian and one-time Scone Race Club committeeman Mr. Murray Bain aired his views under the heading of :

"Cup Organisation" in the Scone Advocate of April 30, 1963:

"The Scone Cup could almost be described as the d'etre of the Scone Race Club. In recent years, from being the best country cup meeting it has gradually deteriorated.

(1) In lack of quality where such races as the Scone Guineas are no longer in existence and there has been a reduction in prizemoney in the other semi-classic events, this, of course, is due to the influence of local racing interests, who would like to see the meetings run for bush horses only.

It has been characterised by some of the worst possible exercises in public relations.

They have run out of race books on several occasions, and there has been the debacle of restricted fields in the Cup, and in general lack of adequate facilities to deal with inclement weather.

However, with their latest effort, they have surpassed themselves.

I refer to of course, to the Scone Cup poster, which invites people to visit various studs, but has omitted to mention Mr. V.C. Bath's Bhima Stud, Mr. S.G. White's Carrington Stud, Mr. M.V. Point's Sledmere Stud and Mr. George Moore's Yarraman Park Stud.

Some of these owners have been considerable benefactors to the race club and Mr. George Moore, one of the world's leading jockeys, is gracing the meeting with his presence, which would be a draw card in any part of the world.

It is not only bad public relations, but also bad manners.

I mentioned this matter to two committeemen, and neither had seen the poster.

One would imagine that something as important as this would have been the subject of careful scrutiny before publication. It would in any other organisation. For all I know, the dates might also be wrong! It wouldn't surprise me!"

Mr. Bain's letter was read in detail at a committee meeting held by the club on May 1, whereas Mr. Athol Rose stated he would personally like to answer Mr. Bain's criticisms but, for the good of the club, considered that further unsavoury publicity should be avoided by ignoring the letter.

With inclement weather conditions that had played a big part, especially around Cup time, the idea that the Cup meeting should be brought forward was again discussed. March was suggested to avoid the unpredictable month of May.

One committeeman said he had been on the committee for eight years and in every year in May, except one, rain had marred the program on one or both days of the Cup meeting.

Mr. Tony Cetinich claimed that the race meeting would be better held earlier in the year. He said that the annual Scone Sale of bloodstock would also be more successful if held before the Sydney Yearling Sales.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd said that if the Cup was held before the yearling crop was taken from Scone to Sydney for the sale, prospective buyers would come to Scone to attend the races and, also tour the studs, to see the yearlings before they go to Sydney.

In July 1964 a member of the committee had foreshadowed a motion calling for the setting up of a sub-committee to investigate establishment of a new racecourse at Scone or, alternatively, for comprehensive improvements to the present course.

The committeeman was Mr. John Kelso who brought the matter before the annual meeting of the club on July 30. Mr. Kelso said that a few people had shown interest in the subject and there had been much discussion on it in recent months.

He said he fully understood there were many problems to overcome with either of the two suggestions, particularly finance.

President of the Race Club (Mr. H.R. Hayes), commenting on Mr. Kelso views, said there had been racing in other areas around Scone over the years but in each case those clubs eventually dwindled out.

Another member of the committee, Mr. T. Cetinich mentioned that all members would agree that the facilities on the present course were almost non-existent. He said he understood that *"some of the club supporters were prepared to put a lot of money into the new course proposal. If the new course plan, as envisaged, was adopted, we could have the best racecourse outside the Metropolitan and Newcastle areas"*. He added: *"There would be a big expenditure involved, but there are supporters ready to help the club bring the Scone racecourse up to standard in keeping with the quality of the racehorses bred in the Scone district"*.

Joining the discussion Mr. Bruce Shepherd commented that, in the past, the club had received approximately £400 a year on average in donations from studmasters.

Commenting further the president (Mr. H.R. Hayes) said that the last Cup meeting gave every indication of the support the club would receive if needed be. The donation of the service fees of sires for all events over the two-day Cup program was a big help. He said the Club had doubted whether it would get enough services to cover the program, but in the end there were a couple left over.

Mr. John Bryden commented that the club should look to the future. He said the potential existed for good support for the proposal.

Mr. Kelso said that Scone is well situated in the centre of the bloodstock breeding industry and, if it had a racecourse which came up to metropolitan standard, racing of a higher standard would take place at Scone. He said that long-range planning was necessary to bring this about, adding that the sub-committee, if appointed at the annual meeting, would be able to prepare such a plan.

In further reference to the support received from the local studs over the years Mr. Hayes said: *"It has simply been a matter of letting the studmasters know what we wanted"*. The Club in the early years relied on donations for its existence and had been able in recent times to exist on its own resources. So it was hoped a lot more support would be received for the upcoming proposal.

A point made by Mr. Cetinich when he said he understood that the names of some of the district's prominent studowners would be included in nominations for the ballot for the new committee: *"these men have stated that they will come out right in behind the new course improvement plan with financial assistance"*.

Mr. Kelso, following on from his proposal, added that in the past it had been suggested that a more elevated site near Scone be found for a new racecourse. He said that the low-lying nature of White Park, in which the present course is situated, and, its tendency to flooding, made further improvement to the course to bring it up to the standard desired both difficult and expensive.

One of the nominees and prominent stud-owners Mr. Cetinich referred to for a position on the Race Club committee at that time was a newcomer to the district, Mr. V.C. (Vivian) Bath, who had set-up Bhima Stud on the outskirts of Scone.

Mr. Bath, before his arrival in Scone, was Chairman of the Singapore Turf Club, the most up-to-date race club in Asia.

Vivian Bath's acceptance onto the committee of the Scone Race Club brought with it a great deal of experience and, more than a few sharp comments. Those dealing with "V.C." were never quite sure of where they stood. Those who had second thoughts as to why the future of a new track should not be planned were soon put straight by the words offered by this gruff newcomer. His comments included: "Racing in Scone, except perhaps for the Cup Meeting, is at a low ebb; and it is not very difficult to ascertain why".

"The members of the Scone Race Club find it almost impossible to see the races from the members' enclosure; and the social amenities are non-existent".

"It is scandalous that the public should pay for something that is archaic", Mr. Bath said. "No thought has been given to the feminine racegoers, who generally are the most enthusiastic supporters of the sport".

"As for the track itself, there is no scope for improvement".

"To misquote Mark Antony; The Scone race track is not to praised, but buried"

"In racing one must look forward 20 to 30 years and now is the time to plan and build for the future. I can see", Mr. Bath said, "in the near future, a race track capable of taking care of 250 horses in training on two tracks besides the course proper".

In many people's minds the time had arrived for some serious decision making. A new racecourse was going to cost a lot of money if it was going to be the finest track in the country districts of Australia. The money can be found, and will be found, and some years further on, was found. It was envisaged that the new track would offer amenities to encourage the casual as well as the ardent fan to support the sport in the district.

Around this time Mr. L.B. Israel found himself in the president's chair for another term. The former Club president had not sought re-election three years ago when Mr. H.R. Hayes was elected to the position. But now Mr. Hayes did not seek re-election for another term.

In a ballot for the position as secretary, Mr. Karl Muller, who had held the position for 13 years, was defeated. The new secretary, Mr. Paul Chapman was an accountant with the Scone Branch of Dalgety-New Zealand Loan.

The work of Mr. Muller was placed on record with a proposal he be made an Honorary Life Member of the Club.

The recent proposal put forward by Mr. John Kelso regarding setting up a sub-committee to explore the possibility of establishing a new racecourse in Scone was accepted with the sub-committee comprising Messrs. V.C. Bath, T. Cetinich, L.B. Israel and A.M. Rose.

By 1965 Scone Race Club's plans for a new course had been delayed through its inability to purchase suitable land for the location. In an endeavour to improve and extend existing facilities the Race Club, prior to the running of the 1965 Cup meeting, completed a new grandstand to be used for the first time during the Cup meeting.

Local builder, Mr. Keith Rose, and staff of Scone Shire Council put in foundations for the grandstand. Local firm Frost Bros. built the pre-fabricated structure.

Portion of the newly erected stand was designed for public use with another section for Race Club members. Underneath was a public luncheon room, complete with tables and chairs. On top of the building a broadcast box had been installed for the description of races.

First For NSW Racing

At the 19th annual meeting of the club, a unique situation occurred when a son became president of the Club and, his father became its secretary.

The president elected was Mr. John Kelso Jnr, of "Timor Creek" Murrurundi. The secretary was his father, Mr. John Kelso Snr, of Scone and late of Hong Kong where he was a stipendiary steward of the Hong Kong Race Club.

Mr. John Kelso Jnr, in taking over as the fourth president of the Club, paid tribute to both Mr. H.R. Hayes and L.B. Israel for work they did for the club during their years in the top job.

Earlier, Mr. Israel had declined re-nomination as president of the Club for a second term because of the pressure of business.

Mr. Paul Chapman gave the same reason for not seeking the office as secretary for another term.

Once again the question arose as to the minor race meetings throughout the year. How could they be made more self-supporting while at the same time be made more attractive to a public which, in the eyes of those within the club, was not fully supportive of racing in the town.

Mr. Bath said that, apart from the Cup meeting, Scone does not support racing. He said there were 11 other race days throughout the year with very little support and the Club should perhaps cut down on its race days and give them to the smaller clubs.

Following a discussion, Mr. Jack Johnston said he did not think Scone had more lack of support than any other towns. Speaking on behalf of the many owners and trainers throughout the district who relied on these race meetings for a living, Mr. Johnston said it was up to the club to continue with its current program of racing.

The summer months of December, January and the hot oppressive weather in February proved to be the big offenders with attendances down and nominations well below average.

Some consideration was given to a proposal that the first race at the summer meetings not start before three o'clock but that facilities should be available for racegoers to bet on interstate events when they commence.

It was the feeling of the committee that the recession evident in Scone was widespread in most country racing and due to the current drought conditions. "Scone will keep faith with owners and trainers," said the secretary Mr. John Kelso Snr, "and our committee will do its best to supply interesting racing".

On September 17, less than two months into the job as secretary of the Club, Mr. John Kelso Snr, resigned. His resignation was due to the pressures of other work. Mr. Karl Muller, once again stepping into the breach, accepted the position until such time as a permanent could be appointed.

In 1967 the chairs around the committee table changed places once again. Mr. H.R. Hayes, of "Leighton Park", was again elected president of Scone Race Club, a position he would hold for the next five racing seasons.

The retiring president Mr. John Kelso Jnr, said he would not seek nomination for another term and asked to be relieved of his position due to ill health.

The club also had a new secretary in well-known townsman and sportsman, Mr. Ken Cosgrove. He succeeded Mr. Karl Muller, the retiring secretary who did not seek re-election.

The local two-day Cup meeting never lost its hold as one of the major meetings in country New South Wales and maintained the premier place in local racing, as was shown in 1968 with a total of 278 entries received for the meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, May 15-16.

As it had been since the running of the first Cup meeting back in 1947, accommodation was running at a premium with Scone fully booked out and organisers finding it necessary to book visitors into the adjoining towns of Muswellbrook, Aberdeen and Murrurundi. Special plane services ran from Sydney on both days.

Once again, the weather, which had so many times in the past “rained on the parade”, gave every indication this was to be the case again. Headlines in the Scone Advocate on Tuesday, May 14, ran: “Scone Drenched By Heavy Rain”.

The story continued: *“The drought is broken in the Upper Hunter, up to 9 am this morning Scone had received five inches and 22 points of rain”.*

On the same note, the acting secretary of Scone Race Club, Mr. Karl Muller, said: *“the Scone races will be definitely on this week. The committee met this morning to consider the prospect of postponement in view of the rain, which had fallen over the weekend. The track is drying out well and will be heavy, but perfectly safe.”*

But, even with this optimistic view, the committee had no idea what the elements had in store. Another half-inch of rain, on top of the five inches that had already saturated the course and surrounds, left those in charge with no option but to cancel the two-day meeting. It was rescheduled to a one-day fixture on June 15, running both the Cup and the Lightning Stakes.

As the Club strove to keep faith with the public as the supplier of more attractive race days, it continued to support the Floral Festival Committee in the staging of their annual meeting in October. Since its inception back in the 1950s outside the Cup meeting, this meeting was looked upon, as the most popular and eagerly awaited by those within the Club and the towns’ business houses and general public alike.

In another move to counteract ailing attendances, especially during the summer months, the club decided to experiment at its meeting on Saturday, December 4, 1965. This twilight meeting had the first event scheduled to start at 3 p.m., avoiding the hottest part of the afternoon. The meeting was the first of its kind to be held in the Newcastle Registration Board area.

But, with poor conditions and rain falling on the course from around 4.15 p.m., the response from racegoers was not quite what was expected. The gate takings were down and only 19 runners started at the meeting, leaving Club officials disappointed with the response.

Race Club Finds New Way to Attract and Entertain Patrons

The word gimmick is commonly used today as companies, sporting bodies or, people in business, endeavour to attract the attention of the public.

On Saturday March 8, 1969, the committee of the Scone Race Club did not have this word in mind. But they certainly attracted a large crowd at White Park to witness, not only a good day of racing, but to see Scone Pre-School teacher, Miss Jean McPherson, chosen to represent the racing area in the final of the Golden Slipper Princess Quest set down for judging at Rosehill Racecourse on Saturday, March 22.

According to all reports, the versatility of interests and the charm of the seven entrants were impressive. There was pride shown from those in attendance that these girls were products of the Upper Hunter.

This concept had captured the imagination of the large crowd on hand as the girls, from the dais of the members' enclosure at Scone Race Course, answered questions as to their interests and their thoughts on the contest.

The crowd found it illuminating to discover that among the seven girls was one who had been Singleton Showgirl twice. Another had been a Scone Floral Festival Princess; another was a local tennis star with considerable successes chalked up to her career; another a swimming champion who modestly never mentioned the fact; while several others were old hands in the racing game, with family backgrounds that made them worthy contestants.

The feeling of the crowd was one of warm, sympathy and admiration for the young contestants and voiced their approval and congratulations to the winner Miss Jean McPherson from Scone, who on Saturday, March 22, was to be adjudged the Golden

Slipper Princess and the honour of being the representative of Australian racing at Hollywood Park in Los Angeles and, at Woodbine in Toronto, Canada.

When Miss Jean McPherson returned to Scone the Scone Club seized on the opportunity to promote its next race meeting on Saturday, April 12. During the afternoon she was welcomed at the gateway to the members' enclosure by Scone Race Club president (Mr. H.R. Hayes).

It was in this enclosure only a few short weeks before that Miss McPherson was adjudged Miss Hunter Valley Racing Princess. This was in front of a crowd of Saturday's same proportion who had gathered to welcome home their local Golden girl.

These two Saturday meetings proved memorable ones for all concerned as it was not every day that racegoers had the opportunity of a double attraction.

The First Hint of Amalgamation

It was during this period (December 1965) that a meeting of delegates from the five race clubs in the Upper Hunter was held at Muswellbrook.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of the existing clubs of Muswellbrook, Merriwa, Aberdeen, Denman and Scone combining to form one central race club and, to acquire, the Skellatar Race Course from its present owners, Upper Hunter Farms Pty. Ltd. A greatly improved course would be set up at this location.

Mr. A.S. Bowman, of Muswellbrook, chaired the meeting and delegates were informed of the possibilities of such a central scheme by Mr. F.L. Bragg. They were also addressed on the future of racing with the TAB by Mr. F.W. Thompson of the AJC committee.

Mr. Geoff Horden, representing Merriwa, spoke of his club's support of such a move. Mr. Neville Johnson, of Aberdeen, also agreed that the scheme had great merit and intimated that his club would join. The delegates from Denman, Messrs. Barry and Ward informed the meeting that their club had not yet discussed the matter and a decision would be deferred.

Scone Race club was represented by its president Mr. John Kelso, Mr. Athol Rose and Mr. M.J. Hawker.

Mr. Kelso told the meeting that he had come along with an open mind, prepared to listen to the scheme and ascertain if it had anything to offer his Club. He said he appreciated the difficulty the Muswellbrook club had in not owning its own racecourse and realised that, to share in the benefits of the TAB, something would have to be done in this regard.

Having listened with interest to the views of the speakers, he said that in White Park the Scone Race Club had quite a good track which could be improved as funds became available and, that the recently completed grandstand at a cost of £3000 added to the comfort of patrons.

He said that prizemoney distributed by Scone in a full year doubled that of any other club in the area and, with the TAB, his club could continue to operate successfully on a stand-alone basis. Mr. Kelso concluded that his Club would not be prepared to join any club merger at Skellatar Park.

The Changing of the Guard

I feel that this stage of proceedings would be an appropriate time to finalise the deeds of two of Scone Race Club's top officials with Mavis Clark and Karl Muller giving, between them, over 40 years continuous service to racing plus being highly involved with the local Bushman's' Carnival Association.

Mrs. Mavis Clark had close connections with the Race Club through her husband Steve Clark as far back as the Alabama era, continuing on in some capacity until taking over as full-time treasurer in 1951. She continued in that role for a quarter of a century until 1976. On September 22, 1979 at a race meeting on White Park, a place where Mavis Clark could call her second home, Scone Race Club paid a rare tribute to a woman when they officially bestowed Life Membership on one of the longest serving and respected racing officials in NSW.

As for Karl Muller, the role he played after 1967 was intermittent but he was still the "power behind the throne".

The announcement on May 11, 1971, that acting Scone Race Club secretary Mr.Karl Muller would officially retire on June 30 ended a reign that had spanned 20 years of involvement with the position. He was not secretary for all of that time but was still acknowledged for the intermittent role he had played. Those who had "a shot" at the challenging and time-consuming position no doubt gratefully accepted the advice he passed on.

Until that final break in 1971, it seemed that the elected secretaries were always standing in the shadow of the man who for over 20 years had given untiring service to Scone Race Club. Although John Kelso Snr, Paul Chapman and, for a more extended time, Ken Cosgrove held the position as secretary, the almost ghost-like figure of Karl Muller was the power behind the position, the hand that guided the pen.

An era had ended and, what had been a male dominated position since Scone Race Club was formed back in 1946, was broken when Miss Mary Griffith of Scone, and, formerly of Rouchel, was appointed as incoming secretary. The role was not entirely foreign to Miss Griffith, as she had been secretary of Aberdeen Race Club for two years before the "Riverside" course met its demise in the February floods of the same year (1971).

The appointment of Miss Griffith as secretary was the start of a continuous run of women in the role, something that has continued right up to the present time.

Relieving Mary Griffith was Mrs. Leslie Harman, wife and mother of two children, who described her 10 years as Scone Race Club secretary as: *"a most challenging and interesting job."*

Leslie Harman could be said to have been born into the job as secretary. She had witnessed the growth of Scone Race Club through her grandfather Mr. Scott Johnston, a well recognised trainer in his time, and her father Mr. John Johnston, better known as Jack, being the owner of "Tyrone Stud" Scone and a Scone Race Club committeeman since practically the first running rail was put in place on the White Park racetrack. Jack was also the Club's longest serving timekeeper.

With the resignation of Leslie Harman in 1982, Jill Crook, already well known on the local racing scene, took on the new challenge as Scone Race Club secretary. Her appointment gave the club the services of one with a wide knowledge of off-course betting habits as she was licensee of the Scone TAB, a role she maintained during her term as Race Club secretary.

When Margaret Philp, a resident of Aberdeen, became Race Club secretary in 1988 little did she realise she would become part of Scone's racing history. During her 10 years in the role she helped guide the Club through its last Cup meeting at White Park in 1994 and its final race meeting on the old track in October of the same year.

She then took charge of the spectacular opening of the new racing complex on November 18, 1994 and, once again, played a leading role as the club staged its first Cup meeting on the new Satur course on May 19, 1995.

Assuming the secretary's position in 1998, and still holding the post, is Helen Sinclair who originally came to Scone in 1992-93 to manage Middlebrook Valley Lodge where she learned both the charisma and hard yakka of the racing and breeding industry.

Helen Sinclair's aim with a new racing complex that was only in its infancy was to lean towards a more promotional role establishing race sponsorship and looking after existing sponsors as well as trainers, jockeys, stablehands, racegoers and, of course, the members.

Scone on Threshold of Tremendous Development in Racing Industry

It was a time of many changes as Scone Race Club raced through the 1970s. Costs of staging a meeting escalated rapidly where it was costing over \$600 to actually run an ordinary meeting, apart from prizemoney and rebates.

The new horse boxes constructed by the Shire Council for the furthering of White Park as a horse sale venue was to prove a great benefit to the Club as they would do for the other horse sports in the town.

The first series of 90 boxes was built at a cost of \$60,000 raised through donations of \$10,000 each from Pitt Son & Keene, and William Inglis & Son, together with a loan of \$40,000 raised by Scone Shire Council. They were used for the first time at the 1975 May horse sales.

The second stage of the three-stage program to build a further 80 boxes was completed by December the same year at a cost of \$87,800 with a further donation from William Inglis & Son (\$1000), Scone Shire Council (\$10,000) plus a grant of \$73,574 from the R.E.D. Scheme.

The R.E.D. scheme was set up to assist the local unemployed. Ten men benefited from the scheme, as they, under the supervision of two Shire employees, were instrumental in constructing the second stage of the project.

The final stage of 50 boxes was to be completed when further finances became available.

Long-range plans for future assistance from the Racecourse Development Committee were being devised as Scone Race Club embarked on an extensive improvement plan for the White Park course. The first stage of the improvements was to cost around \$10,000 and the following plan was put in motion:

A completely redesigned jockey's room, complete with modern toilet facilities, hot showers, etc;

A new secretary's office providing much easier access for owners, trainers, bookmakers and the general public.

A completely redesigned dining and afternoon tearoom was to be provided. This room was to be much larger than the existing amenity and was to allow for the provision of a more variable menu.

New bar facilities in a central position, the building on a much larger scale than the previous one. The new bar when complete to be equipped with glass-washing machines, a large coolroom and, feature over 80 feet of bar space.

The totalisator building was earmarked to be extended to twice the size of the present building with payout windows to be added for the benefit of the public.

The immediate work carried out included a re-located pressroom, a new committee bar and, an improved stipendiary steward's room.

Stage 2 was set to improve the course itself, including relocation of the six-furlong starting position and a comprehensive draining and filling program designed to lessen the nuisance of local flooding on the track caused by Scone's infamous Fig Tree Gully. Previous attempts to prevent water running on to the track had failed. Less than 12 months previously there were falls in two successive races at the five-furlong post. The committee hoped that the completion of this stage would overcome the problem.

Stage 2 would see the erection of a new aluminium running rail on the inside of the course proper approximately 10 furlongs of railing and posts were to be put in place. (in addition to construction of a training track inside the course proper)

Earthworks were to be carried out on the section of the track between the three furlongs and one-and-a-half furlongs, with the five-furlong chute to be realigned.

A new seven-furlong chute was being given serious consideration and also a new home turn to be graded and banked to a one-in-twenty - the same as Rosehill and Canterbury tracks. This was necessary to prevent horses on any part of the track-changing stride.

After an inspection of the track by Mr. Edwards, course manager at both Rosehill and Canterbury Race Courses, the plan was approved and a grant of \$12,000 was made to the Race Club to carry out the further improvements.

The construction of the new seven-furlong chute would not have been possible without the generosity of two Race Club members - co-patron Sir Alister McMullin and vice-president Mr. Murray Bain who donated approximately three-and-a-half acres of their adjoining properties to the Race Club to make the new seven-furlong chute a reality.

When it is considered that the land in Scone is highly valued and less than one mile from the Post Office, the true value of the donation can be realised.

The name Murray Bain rings loud and clear around this era in regard to racing. Murray Bain arrived in Scone in 1950, with a mission to improve livestock husbandry throughout

the district. He was also the wearer of “a coat of many colours”, committeeman, critic and benefactor.

Murray Bain was the driving force behind a dream that would provide a race meeting with added colour and entertainment for the paying public.

This was the reason that all roads led to Scone on Saturday, December 1, 1973 for the inaugural running of what was to prove to be one of the most popular race days on the Club’s racing calendar, the St Andrew’s

Day Race Meeting.

This, the first St Andrew’s Summer Cup meeting, saw a remarkable change in Scone racing. Nine races were decided after three had to be divided, with an all-time record of 148 horses facing the starter.

Three course records were broken and jockey John Wade, the Northern delegate of the Jockeys’ Association, commented that the newly-formed track was the best country racecourse in New South Wales.

This meeting was to prove in the years ahead as being easily the Club’s second most important meeting, eclipsed only by the two-day Scone Cup fixture.

The Sydney Morning Herald, November 1973.

Written by Australia’s leading Racing Journalist Bert Lillye

“The racing world owes Murray Bain a favour....”

**The bright-eyed Scot was the driving force behind
The Summer Cup Meeting**

“Jiminy Cricket, in a quaint outburst of Disney doggerel, figured that the universe was in hock to him for a living.

Which is a trite piece of logic and strictly from the realms of Fantasyland.

But to my mind, there is no doubt that the racing world owes Murray Bain a favour.

Which is why every one with an interest in NSW thoroughbred breeding industry should do his best to be at Scone on Saturday.

The attraction is the inaugural St Andrew’s race meeting, which is being staged by joint committees of Scone Race Club and the Scone Scots.

But the driving force behind the novel race meeting is Murray Bain, a bright-eyed Scot whose veterinary genius has won renown for the Hunter Valley as a nursery of the thoroughbred.

Dream of A Scot's Day

For years Murray has dreamed of a Scots' Day on White Park racecourse which he loves so much.

On Saturday his dream will be realised when every Scot in the district will go racing clad in the kilts of his homeland.

There will be a pipe and drum band from Newcastle; the winning owner of each race will receive a half-gallon flagon of whisky; and the horse will be decorated with a tartan sash.

Similar awards will be made to the most successful trainer and jockey of the day.

The feature race, the John Dewar Whisky Cup (1400m), is worth \$1750 in stakes, but its real attraction is a magnificent trophy...a silver statuette of a kilted highlander.

Other races on the program include the Armstrong Flying (\$1000-1000m); Charles David Country Stakes (\$1000-1800m); Caledonian Improvers' Handicap (\$750-1000m); Scottish Improvers' Handicap (\$750-1000m); and the Moncrief Maiden (\$750-1200m).

The meeting next Saturday will be run on the new course proper, which was sorely needed in Scone.

Thanks to a gift of land from Sir Alister McMullin, there is now a 1400-metre chute, which has eliminated the former hazardous "saucer" track.

Other improvements include an aluminium running rail and banked turns into and out of the straight.

Murray Bain, a committeeman of the Scone Race Club, played a leading role in the improvements of the track; but that is not the reason why everyone is working hard to ensure that St Andrew's Day is Scone's most memorable race meeting.

Their purpose is to say "thank you" to Murray Bain, who has worked tirelessly for the past twenty odd years to assist Hunter Valley breeders and cattlemen in their times of trouble.

Mr. Bain, now in his late fifties, is a graduate of Scotland's Royal Dick Veterinary College.

In World War 11 he served in the British Cavalry (first as a trooper, then in the Vet Corps).

"We were Hitler's secret weapon," Murray recalled with a laugh.

After his discharge Murray went to work on the famous Claiborne Farm in Kentucky. From there he went to New Zealand where he managed Sir James Fletcher's Alton Lodge Stud for three years.

He was still in charge of Alton Lodge when he made his visit to Australia, travelling to Scone to inspect the thoroughbred breeding set-up compared to the New Zealand way.

He was amazed to find that there was no resident veterinary surgeon in Scone, which is the hub of the Hunter Valley breeding industry.

Mr. Bain went back to New Zealand, resigned from Alton Lodge, and set up a practice at Scone in September 1950.

He has been there ever since, extending the practice to its present status of being one of the most efficient in the world.

Which means that for 23 years Murray Bain has been at the beck and call, night and day, of every horse breeder and cattleman in and around the Hunter Valley.

The stories of his wonderful veterinary deeds are legion, but Jim Gibson, the manager of Kia-Ora Stud, instanced a typical testimonial to Murray Bain's veterinary skill.

Back in 1965, Murray Bain saved Regal Peace when Jim Gibson thought the mare was dead.

Jim Gibson recalled the story: *"Regal Peace stopped breathing while she was under anaesthetic and, to all intents and purposes, she was dead."*

"Murray work feverishly to give Regal Peace artificial respiration, how he revived her I'll never know...it was long after midnight and Murray worked non-stop for at least two hours before he got her to her feet, confident the mare would live."

There is not a studmaster in the Hunter Valley who has not got a similar story to tell about Murray Bain's devotion and dedication to the thoroughbred.

Naturally there have been some wonderful rewards for his expert horsemanship.

Such as the mare Ragged Blossom, who was given to Mr. Bain by Jim White when he despaired of breeding from her.

Ragged Blossom won only one small race at Tamworth and earned a total of £58/15/- in her 13 starts.

She missed in her first three matings, but then Murray Bain developed his "gift" mare into one of the studbook's great bonanzas.

But there is an air of sadness over Scone at the present time because Murray Bain is suffering from a serious illness.

Which is why everyone plans to make St Andrews Race Day a memorable race meeting.

All that remains to make the day complete was for Murray Bain to be well enough to "go on parade" in his blue and green kilt of the Mackay clan.

And his fortune toasted in a magical Scotch potion known as Athol Brose.

Good on you Murray. "

I felt it was justified to add this article written by Bert Lillye, a man whose passion for racing in Scone was probably only rivalled by the man it was written about, Murray Bain.

Murray Bain passed away on March 18, 1974, farewelled by these words spoken by the then Scone Race Club president Mr. John Kelso: *"Murray's passing has robbed the Club of its greatest champion and to everyone a great friend."*

It was around this period that moves were afoot to have racing centralised into the bigger centres. In support of these moves the Owners' and Trainers' Association, together with jockeys, had endeavoured to pressure country clubs into providing larger amounts of prizemoney.

Scone, like many smaller clubs throughout New South Wales, was struggling to maintain the level of prizemoney. It was already providing more than it could afford and, if it were not for TAB grants, many country clubs would have disappeared.

The move, if successful, left many wondering how strong would the Owners', Trainers' and Jockeys' Association be then? Where would they race? How often would they even get a start?

If what was envisaged did eventuate, there were going to be a number of smaller country clubs that would not survive.

This is where Scone Race Club, especially during its Cup Carnival, enjoyed the luxury of having the support of the local stud owners plus the added bonus of the annual bloodstock sale. This important fixture attracting buyers and visitors from all around Australia.

These people required accommodation in Scone, as well as their needs. It would be hard to estimate how much extra money circulated throughout the town and district during

Scone Thoroughbred Week; everyone benefited by it...and the Race Club held the support of the town and business houses.

As this 10-year period was drawing to a close, further improvements were carried out on the track and new amenities were built.

These refurbishments came about in 1978, courtesy of a \$40,000 interest-free loan to the Scone Race Club from the NSW Racecourse Development Board.

Work was to be carried out in three stages: (1) improvement to the training track and further improvement to the watering of the course proper, a new fence to replace the wooden fence which was the inside fence of the training track; one mile of water pipe installed to water the course, the water carried to seven hydrants around the track by means of a five-centimetre water main to be the top rail of the training track; a mobile irrigation system 150 metres long to be towed around the track from hydrant to hydrant comprising 15 sprays to enable the whole track to be watered with minimum time and labour. (2) Building a new toilet block and on-course totalisator. (3) The building of a new grandstand.

The design for the roof of the new toilet block and totalisator building was such that it became the basis for the floor of the proposed new grandstand.

A change in chairmanship as the Scone Race Club headed towards the conclusion of the 1970s. Outgoing president Mr. John Kelso was given a hearty thanks for his great contribution to the club over the past years, with well-known local veterinarian Mr. W.P. (Bill) Howey taking over the top job.

Before stepping down Mr. Kelso presented his Annual Report for the racing year 1977-78, which had just concluded. He said that although bad weather halted three major race meetings with the Club losing some \$15,250 for the years trading, diligent attention to financial details and a strict budget control had shown a net profit for the year of \$14,700.

He added that with one meeting abandoned due to wet weather the club raced on 11 wet days with a record 757 starters and some \$73,579 in prizemoney and rebates distributed.

"Gate money was up from \$14,408 last year to \$18,124 this year and an additional thirty members have joined the club", Mr. Kelso concluded.

The newly elected president Mr. Bill Howey said he would do his utmost to further the development of racing in Scone and to carry on the great tradition and fine examples set by former White Park Racecourse presidents. This statement was supported in the

coming weeks with the announcement that the Race Club was about to embark on its busiest year yet in the history of racing at White Park.

This bold scheme was to attract community involvement at the highest level with five-Cup meetings scheduled for the upcoming racing season.

The run of Cup meetings commenced with the inaugural running of the Murrurundi Cup on Saturday, October 7, followed by the biggest one-day Cup meeting held in Scone, the St Andrews Day meeting on December 2.

The staging of the Aberdeen Cup was held in February of the next year, followed by the popular A.R.A.B.S. (Australian Racing and Breeding Stables) on Saturday, April 21.

Mid May the classic two-day Cup Carnival was again staged and it was hoped that Scone would meet with both Tamworth and Quirindi Race Clubs to formulate a six-day Northern NSW Racing Carnival to include both Tamworth and Scone Cups.

This bonanza of high-class race meetings kept pace with what the committee had in mind as it aimed to attract and entertain a younger breed of racegoer while looking after the long-standing members.

With the curtain about to fall on the 1970s, the committees of the Scone Race Club and its supporters would look back with satisfaction and justifiable pride on what they had achieved in the year's just past.

The facilities put in place at the White Park course would allow owners and trainers, along with all other horse sports in general, to have a place they could call home.

But while the Scone club was enjoying what it had achieved and was preparing for hopefully bigger and brighter things in the future, amalgamation was still hovering with centralised racing a key issue in New South Wales country racing.

With the clubs of Scone and Muswellbrook within a stone's throw of one another, this seemed to become the flavour of the moment and, it appeared, according to an article published in the Newcastle Herald and written by turf journalist Sam North, as though it was the Scone club that stood in the shadow of the amalgamation cloud.

A member of Muswellbrook Race Club vigorously denied any knowledge of the plans afoot and seemingly the blame was to be placed at the feet of a body higher up.

Any thought of this happening after the money and labour that had been poured into the White Park complex had the Scone Club on the front foot by an interview with the president Mr. Bill Howey given to the Scone Advocate and published on December 12, 1979.

Scone to Fight Any Move to Close Racecourse

Bill Howey

"The President of the Scone Race Club, Mr. Bill Howey, stated this week, that the Club would object to, and strongly resist any moves to have the Scone Racecourse closed and the Race Club amalgamated with Muswellbrook.

Mr. Howey, was referring to a report that appeared under the heading of "Sydney Turf Club bid in "Hunter" on the front page of the Newcastle Herald, of Thursday, December 6, of the current year, 1979.

The report that followed stated that the Sydney Turf Club is considering taking over the Muswellbrook racecourse from the Upper Hunter Racing Club.

The Chairman of the STC, Mr. George Ryder, said in an interview in Sydney this week *"that the proposal was being examined by the turf club's solicitor"* continued the report.

If all was in order the takeover proposal would be put to the STC Board at its next meeting. Mr. Ryder would not speculate on the possible outcome of his board's discussion, only to say it would be given very serious consideration.

In response to this suggestion Mr. Howey has emphasised that he believes that racing in the Upper Hunter is best served by two healthy racing centres, namely Scone and Muswellbrook.

He pointed out that the Upper Hunter region is one of the few in the State that has already been centralised. This has followed the closure of the Denman and Aberdeen courses as far as thoroughbred racing is concerned."

Scone One of the Strongest

"On top of this another Upper Hunter Club, Merriwa only races once a year.

In the late seventies, Scone Race Club has emerged as one of the strongest country clubs in the state, Mr. Howey said.

In the racing year, of 1978-79 the attendances for the season were greater at Scone than for the Muswellbrook and Quirindi racecourses."

He mentioned the splendid meeting held at Scone's White Park on Saturday, December 1, as an advertisement of the strength of the Scone Race Club and racing in the area.

More than eighty horses started at the meeting, and each of the events on the seven-race program carried prizemoney of \$1000 or more.

Visitors from Sydney and Newcastle, including AJC Committeeman Mr A.J. Rofo and the chairman of the NSW TAB Mr. Ron Auswild attended the meeting.

Money Well Spent

The latter opened a new stand at White Park, claiming that it, and the new amenities associated with it, were a very fine example of money well spent. He suggested that the club showed the signs of the right people being in control.

Very few country clubs can boast the amenities available at the White Park racecourse.

The club now has two stands, under cover betting ring, spacious publican's booth, modern toilets and tote facilities and, lock-up boxes for nearly 200 horses.

On top of this the stands and betting rings are fringed by tree studded park-like grounds that make White Park one of the most picturesque country racecourses in the State.

Press Blamed For Racing Controversy

Sensational press was blamed for the controversy that sprang up following the suggestion that Scone Race Club would be closed down and racing in the Upper Hunter would be centred at Muswellbrook.

The article which appeared in the Scone Advocate the previous week had racegoers in the Upper Hunter on full alert with the local paper defending its printing of the article, claiming, as far as they were concerned, the Scone Advocate was carrying a statement from Mr. Howey expressing concern at the suggestion and pointing out that the Scone Club vigorously opposed the proposal.

The criticism regarding the article came from Radio Station 2NM, Muswellbrook and sporting commentators following a discussion on their Saturday morning session featuring the president of the Scone Race Club, Mr. W. Howey and Mr. G. Gidley-Baird, representing the Upper Hunter Race Club (Muswellbrook).

The controversy, reported in all Hunter Valley newspapers, followed a front-page report in the Newcastle Herald written by their racing writer Sam North.

In the opening paragraph, Mr. North said, that the Sydney Turf Club is considering taking over the Muswellbrook course from the Upper Hunter Race Club.

He pointed out that his information had come from the chairman of Sydney Turf Club, Mr. George Ryder, who had stated the proposal had come from the Muswellbrook Club, and flowed from discussion he had had with people associated with UHRC.

On Saturday morning's radio session, Mr. Gidley-Baird vigorously denied that any approach had been made to the STC with such a proposal. At the same time, he pointed out that the Club was in no financial difficulty.

In his report in the Newcastle Herald, under the heading of Sydney Turf Club bid in Hunter, Mr. North wrote;

"The Sydney Turf Club is considering taking over the Muswellbrook racecourse from the Upper Hunter Racing Club.

The chairman of the STC, said in an interview in Sydney this week, that the turf club's solicitor was examining the proposal.

If it was in order, the takeover proposal would be put to the STC at its next meeting. Mr. Ryder would not speculate on the possible outcome of his board's discussion, only to say that it would be given "very serious consideration".

The proposal came from the Muswellbrook club and followed a discussion he had had with people associated with the UHRC.

A letter from the UHRC had been discussed at the STC board's last meeting and an STC sub-committee had been established to examine the proposal.

The club's solicitor was ascertaining whether the STC had the authority to take over another club and whether the UHRC had the authority to sell the Muswellbrook racecourse.

His advice was expected within two weeks.

Pointing out that he was speaking personally, and not for the STC, Mr. Ryder outlined a series of ambitious improvements that he would like made to the course.

Picturesque Grounds

"If the club were interested, the thing would be to appoint a secretary-manager and two permanent course curators-cum-gardeners, to make the place picturesque and keep the track in order so that it would be a first class training centre," he said.

Changes could include landscaped grounds, all-weather viewing mounds and professionally supervised playgrounds.

The Government Tourist Bureau could run tourist buses from Sydney to the Upper Hunter for Race Carnivals at the course.

He hoped the club would be able to race on some vacant Tuesdays, as well as Saturdays, having between 14 and 24 meetings a year.

Tours could take in the races on Saturday, a trip to the vineyards on Sunday, and tour some of the stud farms on the Monday, followed by Tuesday's racing.

He would like the club to try for TAB coverage for all its race dates, but he doubted whether it would be supplied for Saturdays.

On the question of a computer totalisator on the course, he said it would probably cost an enormous amount of money but the STC would look into it.

If the STC took over the course it would investigate the possibility of setting up an apprentices' school in the area.

He would like the four raceclubs in the area - Muswellbrook, Scone, Denman and Merriwa - to amalgamate and, for Muswellbrook to become the racing centre.

"The STC stands to make nothing from such a takeover."

Sam North comments:

"For the benefit of racing in the Hunter Valley, it is to be hoped that the takeover proposal is successful.

Such a proposition will mean the rejuvenation of racing in the area, an area, which is the heart of the thoroughbred breeding industry in NSW, but an area where the race clubs are unable to progress to any great extent.

The existing racing set-up in this State means that the big clubs are getting bigger and the smaller are left floundering.

Two weeks ago, Wauchope race club had to abandon its scheduled meeting because it did not have enough money to pay prizemoney. Port Macquarie had to do the same thing earlier in the year. If there is a downturn in TAB turnover more clubs will suffer a similar fate.

There are too many small clubs too close too each other, too many trying to share the TAB dollars that all have come to depend upon, too many providing moderate amenities and moderate racing to an increasingly discerning public."

In last Saturday's Newcastle Herald, (December 15) Mr. North commented on a suggestion that appeared in a Sydney newspaper, written by Mr. Bert Lillye, that the Muswellbrook course could be taken over and mined for coal.

"A Sydney report on a proposal by the racecourse committee for a takeover of the course by the Sydney Turf Club, claimed that the long range future of the course could be threatened by coal development" he wrote.

"However, a spokesman for the department, said this week that the coal-mining potential of Skellatar Park, was 'only very slight' and the Department had no plans to mine the area".

"Many people in the Upper Hunter are interpreting the suggestion as the first public salvo in a battle to try and convince the STC Directors to reject the takeover plan," Mr. North added.

Triple Tragedies Head Nineteen Eighties

It was on the sunrise of a new year that tragedy befell Scone Race Club when on Saturday, February 16 promising Wyong apprentice Craig Ayton was fatally injured in the race that opened the program at the White Park meeting.

Craig was one of two jockeys who came off their mounts shortly after the runners were released to set the 15-runner two-year-old field on its way.

Craig, who was indentured to Wyong trainer Allan Bailey, was on the Cessnock galloper Blue Orbit.

He suffered severe head and chest injuries and was rushed to the Scone Hospital where he died about five hours later.

The other rider involved in the fall was Gary Sevil on the Muswellbrook (N. McInerney-trained) Manor o'Fact. Sevil was brought back to the enclosure by car and walked unaided to the jockey's room.

Mr. Jack Johnston, who has a lifetime association with Scone racing, said later that the death of Craig Ayton was the first fatality in a Scone race since the White Park track was opened in 1947. He could not even recall a horse being killed in a race on this course at Scone.

In a letter sent to Scone Race Club, the Jockeys' Association informed the Club of a decision made at a meeting to press for the limiting of fields to 10 runners from the 1000 metre starts and 12 runners over the 1200 metre course. They also requested that there be no more than 14 runners from the 1400 metre start. This is the maximum number permitted by the Scone Race Club in any race.

At an inquiry held by Coroner Mr. William Hall into the death of apprentice jockey Craig Ayton at Scone on February 16, of this year, the Chairman of Stipendiary Stewards for the Newcastle Racing District, Mr. Kevin Davidson said that the track at White Park Scone was inspected before the start of racing and immediately after the fall, and, in the opinion of the stewards, *"there were no holes or anything about the track that would have contributed to the fall."*

In summing up, Mr. Hall said, all the evidence pointed to the track, *"being quite suitable and safe for the conducting of a race meeting,"* finding that Craig Ayton died of injuries accidentally received when the horse he was riding fell during a race on February 16 of this year.

The Coroner's inquest and the statement put forward by the Stipendiary Steward in charge of the meeting, Mr. Kevin Davidson, clearing the Scone Race Club of any fault, but at the time of the incident the club was the innocent target of some extremely venomous and damaging criticism in the national press. As a spokesman for the club said; *"It was a highly emotive issue originating, and possibly orchestrated, by a very few irresponsible people involved in the racing industry"*.

"Bim" Thompson's Death Shocks Racing World

It was only a few months after the Scone tragedy that the whole of the Australian racing and breeding industry was left in disbelief as the news broke of the tragic death of James Webster Thompson, or "Bim", as he was so popularly known to his thousands of friends and acquaintances around Australia and overseas as well.

Mr. Thompson, aged 37, was found shot dead in the loungeroom of his house at Widden Valley Stud, 60km from Denman, on Thursday June 12, 1980.

Detective Hamstead from the Mudgee police said a post mortem revealed that Mr. Thompson had died from a gunshot wound to the chest from a .222 calibre rifle.

Apparently the rifle found near Mr. Thompson's body had discharged accidentally earlier in the day, and the rifle was currently being tested for accidental discharge.

An employee of the stud at around 7.30am found Mr. Thompson, married with five children, in a pool of blood on Thursday, June 12.

"Bim" Thompson was a livewire committeeman of the NSW Division of the Bloodhorse Breeders' Association, a foundation committeeman of the Hunter Valley Bloodhorse Breeders' Association, a former president of the Muswellbrook Race Club and, a great supporter of the Scone Race Club and Annual Horse Sales in Scone.

Quirindi race fall claims the life of former Scone horseman

They say that misfortune travels in threes; this certainly seemed the case when yet another incident claimed the life of another racing identity, former Scone horseman Max Eveleigh who died in the Tamworth Hospital in October 1980 from injuries he received in a fall at the Quirindi meeting.

The 37-year-old jockey was having his last race ride when the unfortunate accident occurred. He was immediately rushed to Quirindi Hospital and then transferred to Tamworth Hospital but never regained consciousness.

Max, who resided in Gunnedah, was a brother to one of the Upper Hunter's leading jockeys at the time, Martin (Herbie) Eveleigh of Scone.

A Town in Turmoil

As mentioned earlier the proposal of a move to centralise racing in the Upper Hunter was never far below the surface, once again being aired in the pages of the Scone Advocate 26/8/1981 stemming from a three-column article in the Sydney Morning Herald on 24/8/81 under the byline of noted racing journalist Bert Lillye, a great friend of Scone racing and Hunter Valley thoroughbred breeding for many years.

Rather than edit the comments of Mr. Lillye I felt the article should appear in full along with the counter objectives and support from the many supporters and the people who had toiled over the many years to get the club to its elevated position in NSW racing.

Bert Lillye says Scone's Racecourse days are numbered Centralisation gathers momentum

"Five years ago, or less, I would have been run out of Scone on a rail if I had suggested that the town's racecourse would be closed to racing and its meetings run at Muswellbrook. For years, there has been strong racing rivalry between the two towns, but today the transfer is not a suggestion, it is very close to becoming reality.

Once again, centralisation of racing, the dream of some of the States most authoritative racing administrators, has raised its head.

Quite a few of Scone's most ardent thoroughbred enthusiasts now see centralisation of the area's racing at Muswellbrook as the only solution for the future good of racing in the Upper Hunter.

On the other hand, others abhor the idea of Scone - "*the home of the thoroughbred*" - being without an active racecourse.

But the AJC, as the administrator of the State's racing, and the TAB, which performs the industry's vital "golden handshake," is strongly in favour of centralisation of country racecourses.

Their logic is based on sound economics, not sentiment.

The AJC and the TAB consider it is better for racing if the TAB's largesse is concentrated on one centrally located country racecourse, rather than dividing it between three or four racetracks in the same area.

But hometown sentiment can turn centralisation of country racing into a hot, embarrassing political potato.

Some years back the TAB, with Government backing, instructed the AJC to centralise country racing throughout NSW.

The principal club drew up the plans and the weaker, unfinancial clubs with poor racing facilities were marked for amalgamation with the strongest club in each centralised area.

The idea looked good on paper, but the reaction from those towns marked for racecourse closure was explosive, to say the least.

Local Members of Parliament were harangued to such an extent that the idea was shelved. The threatened loss of votes carried much more weight in parliamentary lobbying than that of the AJC-TAB favouring fewer but far better country racing amenities.

The word that Scone would lose its White Park racecourse was only a rumour last week, so it has not been easy to judge the town's reaction.

The confirmation, that this morning Muswellbrook is already drawing a plan to transfer Scone's racing to Skellatar Park racecourse, could touch off a storm of complaints.

But my observation at the weekend suggests that there is not the opposition one would expect from a town so deeply entrenched in the business of breeding and racing thoroughbreds.

Which could mean that the transfer of Scone's racing to Muswellbrook could be the forerunner to other centralisation plans throughout NSW.

Mr. Roy Mahony, chairman of the Newcastle, Hunter and Central Coast Racing Association, has been quick to see merit in the plan to centralise racing in the Upper Hunter area.

He told me yesterday: *"Concentration of TAB money into a centralised racecourse can only lead to better racing and amenities at the selected venue and Skellatar Park at Muswellbrook seems an ideal site."*

"The Denman and Aberdeen racecourses have been closed already, but the Denman Club now is in a sounder financial state after its decision to hold race meetings at Muswellbrook."

"I can sympathise with those sentimentalists who find it sad that the colourful Scone racecourse may close, but if centralisation can strengthen racing in the area, then it must be for the overall good of the thoroughbred industry."

In the event of centralisation to Muswellbrook, Mr. Mahony considers it is necessary that each club retains its identity.

Only the 189 members of the Scone Race Club can decide the final decision on the planned move to Muswellbrook.

But it is expected that the Scone Race Club committee will recommend to members that the move be made.

There can be little argument the Scone's present racecourse is inferior and unworthy of the town that prides itself on being *"the home of the thoroughbred"*.

Civic and racing authorities in Scone, well aware of the inadequacies of White Park racecourse bought a large area of adjoining land early this year.

It was planned to set up an all sports centre and to increase the racecourse to a 2000 metre circumference, but the scheme has been shelved after costs were assessed in excess of \$500,000.

It was confirmed that such a big outlay on an improved racecourse would not be financed fully by the Racecourse Development Fund.

The plan to shift to Muswellbrook has been strengthened also by the discovery that the contemplated improvements at White Park would interfere dangerously with the floodwater flow of some of the surrounding gullies.

The Scone Race Club, however, will not go begging to join the centralisation plan because its committee realises that it can continue on the present level of racing that it conducts.

"There must be inducements to make centralisation favourable to Scone," Mr. Bill Howey, the club president, said yesterday.

Mr. Howey conferred with the Minister for Sport. Mr. Ken Booth yesterday and he will report back to his committee this week.

If Muswellbrook becomes the racing centre, then the four participating clubs on Skellatar Park racecourse will stage about 33 meetings.

It is proposed that racing now conducted at Muswellbrook will be transferred to Scone for a year while the necessary track extensions are made at Skellatar Park.

The end plan for the Muswellbrook course proper to have a track width that will allow three separate racing circuits, each defined by a movable rail.

The plan is for a training track also which can be used as an all-weather racing circuit.

There are now 260 horses in training at Muswellbrook, which means that the Scone racecourse will have to be retained as a training centre.

The advocates of centralisation have listed numerous advantages from the scheme. They include:

1. Muswellbrook's racecourse to be administered by an appointed central trust, ensuring inter-club harmony.
2. Improved betting turnover and TAB returns.
3. Development of the racecourse to top provincial standard with TAB coverage of all meetings.

4. A massive increase in the Upper Hunter population, which will improve betting turnover, racecourse attendance and the likelihood that participation at Muswellbrook, would spread to include Singleton as a separate racing identity."

A case for the retention of the country's Canterbury **By Brian Russell, Associate Editor of Racetrack Magazine**

"Just over 12 months ago the report of the president of the Scone Race Club for the 1979-80 season started off by reminding members of the aims and objects of the Club.

Two of those aims were:

1. To promote, conduct and hold race meetings for the recreation and enjoyment of members and persons interested in or connected with horse racing.
2. To encourage horse racing by the promotion of race meetings and the giving of prizes, stakes and rewards for horse racing.

The report also pointed out that in the preceding twelve (12) months, *"we have had more horses race for more prizemoney in more races at more meetings than ever before"*.

Although there were 760 runners in the ensuing year, 1980-81, this certainly does not appear disastrous when one considers what a great success was achieved the previous year.

It appears from study of the report covering the recently completed year and the one for 1979-80 that the Scone Race Club continues to remain in a healthy state.

In recent years it has boasted a vital committee who have kept the club on an even keel but at the same time continued to be one of the most progressive race Clubs in the business.

With all due respects to Muswellbrook, a major training centre as well as a racecourse, many would regard the facilities for those attending the Scone meetings as far superior.

These facilities include three grandstands- one of them admittedly a portable one used mainly by jockeys, strappers and trainers, excellent new toilet facilities, a very serviceable public bar, plenty of seats, covered over betting rings, trees that can provide shady nooks on hot summer days or act as wind breaks on cold, windy days.

White Park Racecourse at Scone is one of the most picturesque country racing centres - that is what it is a country racecourse provided by an historic racing and horse breeding centre with a population of less than 4000 people - in NSW.

What is more it has a racecourse that has a magnificent record for safety.

Unfortunately, an apprentice jockey was killed soon after the start of a race on this course early in 1980, but somewhere on some track in this State, city or country, such accidents are going to happen in racing.

Like motoring it is probably remarkable that there are not more bad accidents in racing.

We certainly do not want them and every race club must take every precaution to see what they can do to avoid them.

My investigation shows that there was only one fall on Scone's White Park racecourse in the 1980-81 season.

In that same season there were falls on Randwick, Rosehill and Canterbury.

Two of Australia's finest riders, Muswellbrook's Wayne Harris, and Malcolm Johnston, can provide evidence as what can happen on Sydney racecourses, including the wide-open space of Royal Randwick.

It is nearly 40 years since the racecourse was established on White Park and the old timers can recall very few major accidents although it is undoubtedly a tight track.

However, it should be noted that the Scone racecourse of today can rightly be described as the Canterbury of the country.

It is modelled on that very busy course. They are similar in shape and up until the late seventies the Canterbury course had a circumference of 1503 metres and a straight of 309 metres.

Redevelopment of Canterbury has increased the circumference to 1578 metres and the straight 317 metres (293 metres at the winning post).

The width of the Canterbury straight at the winning post is 22.5 metres.

In contrast, the Scone racecourse has a circumference of 1530 metres, a straight of 300 metres and a width at the winning post of 20 metres.

At one time the Scone straight was wider but was redeveloped in the mid-seventies.

A training track was constructed and a aluminium running rail was installed.

This made the track narrower but committeemen and members of the club praised the new arrangement at the time as the best country straight available.

It is interesting to note that Scone, the country's Canterbury, is only a little bit smaller than Doomben, the home of the Doomben Cup and the Rothman's Hundred Thousand.

Doomben has a circumference of 1717 metres and a straight of 322 metres.

Quirindi is only a little bit bigger than Scone. Its straight is the same, 300 metres, and only two metres wider.

Like Scone, and also Canterbury, it is not difficult to pick out the horses right throughout Quirindi races without using binoculars.

Scone, like probably all other racecourses, can be improved. It can be made better and better over the years and kept in racing without the vast expenditure suggested.

All in all there are many people in the Scone area who will dispute what Bert Lillye wrote in the Sydney Morning Herald last week - "There is little argument that Scone's present racecourse is inferior and unworthy of the town that prides itself of being the home of the thoroughbred.

In the past Mr. Lillye has eulogised Scone as being a Mecca of racing and horse breeding fraternity, particularly during the annual Horse Week embracing two days of sales, two days of racing and many other activities.

Rightly or wrongly the small town of Scone can claim to be the capital of Australia's greatest thoroughbred nursery, although the famous Widden Valley is an hours drive away.

When you mention horses the name of Scone comes to mind.

There are distinguished thoroughbred studs on Scone's doorstep and also many owners of major properties that have interests in breeding and racing horses.

A big percentage of those who attend Scone races do not patronise Muswellbrook, the centre to which it has been suggested Scone racing should be switched.

It is doubtful whether all that many of Scone racing supporters would go to Muswellbrook if the meetings were relocated to that track.

However, if that happened they might not have that many meetings to patronise.

In the long run the number of meetings could possibly have to be reduced.

I throw in this suggestion as I believe that the amount of money necessary to be spent on Muswellbrook to make it stand up to at least 30 race meetings a year could run into millions of dollars.

On top of that how much would it cost to put a decent entrance across the front of the public enclosure, to put in grandstands and generally bring the facilities up to the same standard as Scone?

Muswellbrook had 17 race meetings on it in the 1980-81 racing year and currently coming into the straight is like entering a ploughed up paddock.

Only a few weeks ago there was a row when jockeys threatened not to ride on the Skellatar course and some of the blame was thrown at the local trainers.

It is very doubtful whether an investment of half a million dollars would bring Muswellbrook to anywhere near a standard that could maintain 30 meetings a year.

Proposers of a move by Scone to Muswellbrook should consider the state that Royal Randwick is in at present.

Randwick has had to carry all of the meetings scheduled for Warwick Farm, which is being reconstructed, in the past two years, as well as its own.

The Australian Jockey Club, which controls Randwick and Warwick Farm, needs both courses to give their members and the public the full season's racing they program.

Likewise, the Upper Hunter needs the racecourses of Scone and Muswellbrook, to present to the people of the area an interesting year of racing.

Racing has already been centralised in the Upper Hunter with the closure of Denman and Aberdeen.

Today Muswellbrook's course provides racing for the people in the southern part of the Upper Hunter- such as Denman, Sandy Hollow, Jerry's Plains and to a lesser extent Singleton.

Scone provides a racing amenity for the sporting people of not only Scone, but also Murrurundi, Aberdeen and those out towards Merriwa.

Both courses are an alternative to each other. If for some reason or other one course is not fit for racing, owing to being too wet or having some work done on it, racing could be switched to the other.

I suggest that Scone needs Muswellbrook and Muswellbrook needs Scone. May the management of both courses work together in harmony and for good of racing for many, many years to come."

Case for keeping Scone Racetrack

Long ago I ceased to believe in the 'tooth fairy'. My childhood suffered momentarily when I discovered certain fantasies I nurtured as a child were not true.

If I was to believe there was any creditability in the reasons for the proposed shift of Scone racing to Muswellbrook then maybe the 'tooth fairy' does still exist.

On every count logic is missing.

Centralised racing is an acknowledged State Racing Administration wish. Say's who? And Why?

The Australian Jockey Club as administrators of racing in NSW has certainly done their best to centralise racing. Their idea of centralisation is more toward the Sydney area and that monster the TAB

Both the AJC and STC have in recent years been granted a virtual doubling of the race dates because Sydney meetings generate greater TAB turnover. To find horses for these extra meetings, have a look at the conditions for most mid-week meetings and you will find a majority of races only for "Non-Metropolitan Winners", a virtual invitation to country horses to have a go in the "big smoke". Obviously the AJC and STC see some benefit in country racing.

Mr. Roy Mahoney as Chairman of the body that controls racing in Newcastle and Upper Hunter areas was reported as being quick to see merit in the idea to centralise racing at Muswellbrook. Mr Mahoney is a very good racing administrator, who is also Chairman of the Newcastle Jockey Club (NJC). Why then in the last two years has the NJC spent a lot of money and energy in developing Cessnock as a racing venue? There is very little difference in the distance between Newcastle and Cessnock, and Scone and Muswellbrook. Who's fair dinkum about centralisation?

Can anyone tell me that the Scone Race Club would exist as is by racing at Muswellbrook? How many people that live in Scone and only go to Scone will travel to Muswellbrook to go racing?

By comparison, if Scone football team play all their home matches next year in Muswellbrook, will the town stay right behind the team? We all know the answer, and the hypothesis is utter rubbish.

To make Skellatar Park the track the article refers to would take millions of dollars, and where is the money coming from.

To be kind to both racetracks they are both virtual cow paddocks, the only difference is Muswellbrook has a better shape. I have been on many racetracks all over the eastern states and am yet to see a track with such poor facilities for the race-goer than Muswellbrook. There is no grandstand, no cover for the betting ring, shocking toilet facilities, no dining room, poor catering facilities. For the horse trainer there is no grass-training track.

This new super track to cater for all the proposed racing and training of horses would need at least a completely re-turfed race track with a banked home corner, two grass training tracks plus a cinders. Where's the money coming from? To my knowledge the Racecourse Development Fund has no money at all, surely they would need an orchard of such trees to finance this super track.

The same genius who says Scone track is not suitable for racing has also said that while this new track at Muswellbrook is under construction, all Upper Hunter racing will be at Scone for twelve months or more. My five-year-old nephew could tell me that was contradictory.

The new super track would have TAB coverage. What day of the week would this be?

It wouldn't be on Saturday. The Metropolitan and Provincial race clubs have Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday sewn up. Monday is congested that leaves Friday and Sunday and night times.

To me it is an exercise to common sense to see the massive problems the idea suggests on the racing side. However, I feel, the worst possible loser would be Scone as a town. The quality of life and heritage that Scone enjoys is due to combined factors, one of which is the horse racing so much so that previous citizens respected this strongly enough to call Scone "The Home of the Thoroughbred". Logically this will change if we do not have a racetrack.

It would be hard to have a Jacaranda Festival at Grafton each year if they chopped down all the jacaranda trees.

Scone's population will be approximately 7000 in five years time, who can argue that a town that size can't support a race track. There will be no turning back then.

Nearly every business in Scone in some way benefits from horse racing, for the cynically minded one of the least affected by the racetrack would be motels. The only week they benefit is Horse-Week, a week that clashes with the school holidays, so no real losses would occur.

The Scone race track could be improved by a shifting of dates, eliminate the summer and winter meetings, give the track time to recover and not only will the track be improved so will the club's finances.

I would hope everyone in Scone will seriously consider what damage no racing will do to our heritage and our future.

If the proposals in anyway can be substantiated that racing will benefit by a switch in venue, then I must be wrong, maybe the 'tooth fairy' does exist.

Warwick Norman
Guernsey Street, Scone.'

Former President speaks out on Racetrack retention

'With the entire controversy-surrounding racing in the Upper Hunter at the present time I would like to put forward the case for the continuation of racing at White Park. I believe it is justice to have an advocate for both sides in any conflict, and it would appear Scone has none at this stage.

I was horrified to have read to me last night over the telephone a submission made to the Minister for Sport, Ken Booth, by Scone Race Club President, Bill Howey.

It is to my mind, a document of self-destruction that capitulates Scone's position of strength as part of the country-racing scene.

The Committee of the Scone Race Club authorised preliminary discussions to be held with the TAB Racecourse Development Fund Committee on various plans produced by the Scone Sporting Development Committee. As one of these plans involve considerable cost in racecourse alterations, it was agreed that it would be a natural progression if alternate sites would be offered the club to centralise at Muswellbrook. It was my understanding that this would be done as a last resort and from a position of great strength. The inducement would have to be considerable.

The submission presented to the Minister does not adopt this stance at all and can simply be describe as a "sell out".

I have never decried Scone as a racecourse. I know there are lots of tracks that are better and there are some that are worse. I have always maintained that with further raising and widening of the track from the 1000 metres to the turn by considerable earthworks, you would end up with an exact replica of Canterbury. I know some people denigrate Canterbury, but they race there very successfully.

Scone has something that is lacking at a lot of racetracks - "atmosphere", a feeling of closeness to the action and the visual evidence all round that Scone is the "Home of the Thoroughbred".

Those who don't have any only treat tradition with derision.

To abandoned Scone and race at Muswellbrook without tremendous improvements to their track would be a calamity. Their course is the subject of complaint now from the jockeys and to double the usage would be ridiculous.

Numbers beat anything. My family has an association with Randwick of 100 years and I have personally watched the quality of the training surface go backwards over the last 40 years. They have never been worse and this is in spite of unlimited water and a huge maintenance budget. They simply cannot handle the numbers of horses based there. They haven't an "all-weather training and racing surface" envisaged at the new Muswellbrook, so how in Heaven's name would one be financed here first?

Scone Shire Council, the business houses, hotels, motels, etc, is only just starting to realise the tremendous promotional opportunity handed them on a plate by the racing and breeding industry. This is evidenced by the giant strides made by the Horse Week Committee in the past two years. There are miles of promotional opportunity still crying out to be used. Why give all that away?

Scone Race Club over the years has had one of the most efficient and united committees in the State. On the other hand, Muswellbrook have always had problems of internal strife and intrigue that still exist. Why would we want to join that sort of environment?

I think Bill Howey is one of the "greatest blokes on earth", but in this regard I think he is being influenced in his thinking by some whose motives could be described as questionable.

Rein in Bill. You are galloping out of control and there is a big chance you may "run off the course".

John F.Kelso
Blandford Park, Murrurundi'

Statement by the President of Scone Race Club

'The committee of the Scone Race Club is currently conducting an investigation into the future of the Scone Race Club, with special reference to site development alternatives.

This investigation was instituted after an initial suggestion from myself and subsequently discussed at a Special Committee Meeting. The committee unanimously endorsed the investigation with the terms of reference as quoted in the opening paragraph.

During the course of these initial inquiries a certain amount of information was placed in the hands of the Government, Racing and Media personalities for which I am entirely responsible. The intention was to gauge reaction and seek opinion from a broad spectrum of informed and interested personal. This opinion would subsequently be utilised to assist the committee in its deliberations. Some media representatives chose to publicise the most newsworthy items only.

I wish to make it abundantly clear that to date all investigation initiative has emulated from within the Scone Race Club. No other sporting group or Local Government authority has imposed or implied pressure for change.

The course of action to be pursued by the Investigating Sub-Committee of the Scone Race Club includes the following:

- 1] Development of present track and training facilities.
- 2] Extension of present track and training facilities.
- 3] Relocation of present track and training facilities within White Park.
- 4] Resiting of track and training facilities away from White Park.

Clearly, cost factors are over-riding in a few of these alternatives. It is incumbent on the Committee to consider all avenues in a non-emotional, rational, reasoned, objective manner.

Before any significant change is suggested or even contemplated, there are a number of very important constitutional procedures, which must be binding.

- a] A full Special General Meeting of the members of Scone Race Club to discuss and consider all foreseeable ramifications.
- b] A thorough investigation of sociological implications as they might affect the community as a whole.

c] What incentive and inducements there are for any implied change?

When the Committee has accumulated all the information it can, and if necessary make recommendations to a Special Committee of members. The Committee of the Scone Race Club has instituted this full investigation in the very best interests of the future of the club. Not to have done so would in my opinion, constitutes negligence. I feel very confident that when all facts and opinions are to hand the membership will make which ever decision will guarantee optimal future benefits for the club.

Bill Howey
President, Scone Race Club"

We Want You Bill Howey

"Talks with several Scone Race Club committeemen suggest that the proposals on the future of the local racecourse went a lot further than intended initially.

Most members reading about the proposals to close the racecourse in the Advocate (or the Sydney Morning Herald) last week would understandably have got the feeling that they were almost cut and dry.

The man in the centre of the storm that the Skellatar Park proposal has stirred up is veterinary surgeon Bill Howey, now in his fourth term as Scone Race Club President.

To my mind, Bill Howey has been pushed much further along with the Skellatar Park proposal than he possibly envisaged when the move was generated under a veil of secrecy in the committee.

It must be pointed out that is understood that members of the Race Club have not yet had the opportunity to debate the proposals.

In fact, most had never heard of the moves until they were made public last week.

No mention was made of them at the annual general meeting of the club last month.

The controversy and the furore that they have stirred up must weigh heavily on Bill Howey's shoulders.

In consequence, the purpose of these comments is to publicly call on him to stand fast in the storm and continue to uplift Scone racing through his drive and initiative.

The message from me is that "we want you Bill Howey".

In giving that message I point out that Bill Howey is one of the best leaders a race club can have.

The vigour and conscientiousness he has put into making Scone one of the most respected country race clubs in NSW reflects tremendous credit on this young horse lover, so ably backed by his wife, Sarah.

Scone suffered a tremendous blow in the middle-seventies with the death of the dynamic Murray Bain. However, Scone has been extremely fortunate to have a personality, Bill Howey, cut in a similar mould come onto the scene.

Many race club presidents are but figureheads who turn up at the race meeting at about 12.30, make a few presentations, give a bit of advice and then head home again.

Bill Howey is not one of the many. He is one of the rare race club leaders. His sleeves are forever rolled up. He gallops faster and with better results than many of the horses that appear at Scone.

On a Saturday morning of race day, Bill will rush through broadcasting commitments with 2NM and then head straight for the track.

Here you will generally find him with David Bath and Cliff Ellis, everything in readiness for the afternoon's racing.

In the afternoon he goes out of his way to seek visitors out and welcome them to the meeting.

He hands out pats on the back to committeemen and others who may have contributed to the success of the day, praises the winners and their connections and in general adds to the status of Scone as a country racing mecca, as Bert Lillye has described in comments in the past.

Scone Race Club has done very well under the stewardship of Bill Howey as its president.

I, for one, hope that the Scone Race Club will be able to benefit from his drive and initiative for many years to come.

Brian Russell,
Advocate Racing Writer
Associate Editor of Racetrack."

Vital Race Club Meeting “Members To Choose”

The Committee of the Scone Race Club set about convening a special general meeting of members to consider whether or not racing in the Upper Hunter should be centralised at Muswellbrook.

The meeting was held in late October 1981 at the Scone Bowling Club.

The proposal to centralise racing at Muswellbrook had proved a divisive issue both within and outside the committee. Everyone genuinely interested in promoting racing in the Upper Hunter, whether it is at Muswellbrook or Scone, was urged to attend the special meeting.

It was said: “The strength of the club is in its membership”, and it was important that the membership truly reflected a wise decision when the issue was debated.

The meeting proved a huge success, as was reported in the local press with overwhelmingly support for future racing at White Park. overwhelmingly support for future racing at White Park.

Racing stays at Scone’s White Park 200 people attend meeting

“One of the largest roll ups of members of one club seen at Scone on Monday night rejected a suggestion that could have seen racing transferred from the town’s White Park racecourse to Skellatar Park at Muswellbrook.

It was estimated that there were well over 200 members of the club at the meeting, which was held at the Scone Bowling Club.

They included 64 members who had been admitted at a committee meeting held late that afternoon.

In a vote by show of hands the meeting overwhelmingly supported a motion from prominent Scone grazier and racehorse owner, Mr. Cal. Vincent, which tied the hands of the committee as far as any official moves to shift racing off White Park are concerned.

Mr. Vincent moved that “this special general meeting of members of the Scone Race Club confirms its intention to maintain the club’s activities on its present racecourse at White Park, Scone, and directs the club committee to continue to conduct and promote club meetings in their customary, efficient and dedicated manner; but, in future, to refrain from all official discussions, investigations, negotiations and the like on any in the club’s

venue without explicit instructions from a special general meeting of members called for that purpose."

The huge turn-up of members followed two months of controversy that had flowed from publicity given to proposals emanating from the committee that leant towards a shift from White Park to Muswellbrook.

Many members and others interested in racing in this area first became aware of the proposals when an article by prominent Sydney racing writer, Bert Lillye, was published in the Sydney Morning Herald under the heading "Scone's racecourse days are numbered".

Opponents of this move claimed that it was not a move in the best interest of Scone as the "Home of the Thoroughbred" or the best interest of racing."

(Scone Advocate 1981)

"The fight to save racing in Scone had been won and the track at White Park would remain, for a little longer anyway. The final roll of the dice would not come from those people who had advocated decentralising racing or amalgamation with Muswellbrook. The final rites of the popular track lay in the hands of the Racecourse Development Committee who, when approached in 1988 by Scone Race Club for further funding to upgrade the facilities at White Park, announced quite clearly that no further money would be made available for the town track.

An option handed the Scone Club was that they, the Racing Development Committee, was prepared to help build a new racecourse as long as sufficient land was acquired.

There was no get-out clause in this ultimatum with Scone Race Club, its committee and supporters facing a mountainous hurdle to overcome if they were to find a new home for the racing fraternity of the town and district.

"It could be done" was the catch-cry some 40 odd years previously and those in charge of today's proceedings were about to show it would be done. But this time there was an air of scepticism. The belief and support of the town's people that were evident when plans for White Park racecourse unfolded back in 1945 seemed to be missing, or maybe withheld, as the average racegoer, being a creature of habit, toyed with the idea as to how relocation of the new track not within walking distance of the town itself would affect his or her racing criteria."

Things would move rapidly over the next few years as Scone advanced towards its new racing complex at Satur, but, not before a media report stirred the hornets nest once again,

only this time it had the chiefs of both Muswellbrook and Scone Clubs, Mr. Cedric Bayliss and Mr. David Bath standing on a united front.

The story arose from a report that went to air on NBN Television with comments that related to alleged opposition to Scone's plans for a new equine complex. Those in charge of Scone Race Club and the plans to build the new facility at Satur were quick to challenge such opposition, as was reported in the pages of the Scone Advocate on Thursday, December 22, 1988.

Race Club scotches News report as misleading Scone Equine Complex to go ahead

"Scone has "gone for the whip" with multi-million dollar plans for a new horse racing complex despite media allegations of inter-town rivalry over the proposal.

Recent television and newspaper reports of alleged opposition to the Scone project have been described by race club committees in both Scone and Muswellbrook as misleading.

According to latest information, the \$4.2 million racing complex looks like becoming a reality within three years subject to substantial government funding expected to be announced in the near future.

Meanwhile the Scone based Hunter Valley Research Foundation, headed by Mr. Brian Agnew, this week announced a fundraising scheme for what it called, *"the most exciting initiative in our four-year existence."*

Development of the entire Scone Equine Complex includes plans for an institution to research and monitor all facets of breeding, performance and health of the horse.

Foundation spokesman and Scone veterinarian, Mr. Bill Howey, said the centre would initially consist of a staffed and equipped laboratory eventually developing into a diagnostic and research centre *"of significant importance."*

The proposed centre is the Foundation's first step in redressing a suggested investment imbalance in equine education and research in Australia compared with other countries and other animal breeding industries.

\$1 Million Needed

However, the immediate task is to raise \$1-million to purchase 136 hectares of land adjacent to Satur and the airport, three kilometres from Scone.

Plans for the site include an equine complex comprising the equine centre, a racetrack with training facilities, a pre-training establishment, motel site, residential strata unit site and a TAFE training school.

The Racecourse Development Committee has already agreed in principle to funding the racecourse project for an amount of \$2.5 million over a two-year period once the Foundation procures the land.

So far, stallion nominations worth \$600,000 have been pledged by various Hunter Valley horse studs towards the Foundation's \$1million target.

The balance is expected to be raised at two major social functions planned for early next year representing the racing and breeding industry at its highest level.

A Sebel Town House function, for which open invitations are now being extended, will be held in Sydney on Easter Sunday and given full coverage by Sky Channel.

A local Segenhoe Stud function during Scone Cup Week in May next year will be promoted and covered by NBN television in conjunction with its 1989 Telethon.

Managing director of Segenhoe Stud, Mr. Tony Bott, is a member of the Scone Racecourse Development Committee.

A quarter of the profits from both functions which will include fundraising auctions will be donated to the Telethon's Children's Cancer Appeal.

Ironically, it was the NBN News that visited the Upper Hunter last week to report on alleged opposition to Scone's plans for a new equine complex.

The televised report followed statements made the previous week in a Sunday newspaper-racing column that Muswellbrook might be better suited for the development instead of Scone.

Two Tracks

Mr. Warwick Norman of the Scone Racecourse Development Committee responded in the same column last Sunday claiming that two race tracks are needed to cope with the amount of racing in the Upper Hunter.

Both presidents of Scone Race Club and Muswellbrook's Upper Hunter Race Club have also scotched the media suggestions of amalgamating the two racecourses.

In a joint statement made this week, Mr. David Bath and Mr. Cedric Bayliss described the media stories as *"misleading and not in the best interest of racing."*

They compared the 42 meetings and 12 racing trials comprising 366 events held annually on the combined Upper Hunter courses with Randwick's 40 meetings and Canterbury's 41 meetings.

They pointed out that amalgamation would therefore mean greater use of one racing surface in the Upper Hunter with its annual rainfall averaging only half of Sydney's rainfall.

Muswellbrook Development

Mr. Bayliss said he supported Scone's racecourse relocation plans and felt it would improve the quality of racing in this area.

"Muswellbrook's Skellatar Park racecourse would continue to be improved to further our commitment to better racing," he added.

Mr. Bath said that the development proposals of both clubs were necessary to provide for the greater demand for racing in the region.

"Between us, we deliver to owners, trainers, punters and patrons the largest number of country race meetings in New South Wales, if not Australia," he claimed.

According to the Hunter Valley Research Foundation, the proposal is supported by the local community, the racing industry, Scone Shire Council and TAFE for the promotion and betterment of the horse industry.

"The Scone Equine Centre will be a reality and our industry will benefit greatly from it."

Looking back over this somewhat torrid period of racing, one could only applaud Bill Howey on his handling and leadership throughout a trying and tricky few years, and at

the same time look back and wonder at the end of his term as Club President what was passing through the mind of this tradesman-like Scot.

I will always remember the advice given to me by my late father, that went something like this: *"When you have finished grooming a horse, turn around, walk out, and shut the door, don't look back, because if you do you will always see something you have missed"*.

Maybe the outgoing president had missed something, but it had not been through lack of grooming."

David Bath, the owner of Bhima Stud, would step into the role, as Scone Race Club's sixth president in nearly 40 years and, in doing so, would inherit a hardened and experienced committee. This was the president and committee that would make the decision to burn the bridges and take the step towards acquiring the land and building a new racing complex at Satur.

Up there With the Best

With all the acrimony and upheaval that occurred in the early part and continued on through the 1980s I seem to have overlooked the racing scene, but it was still taking place and still enjoying the premier spot of Upper Hunter racing.

The club still had the support of the community and business houses, as would be noted by the sponsored meetings throughout these years, none stronger than the racing season of 1981-82, when members closed ranks to save their racecourse at White Park.

The committee, members and club supporters put in a concerted effort to promote their main money earners, all run over two days - the ARABS (Australian Racing and Breeding Stable) Cup meeting, the Aberdeen Slipper/Cup, the St Andrew's Cup meeting and the annual Scone Cup Carnival which, in 1982, was switched from the traditional Wednesday and Thursday to Thursday and Friday so that the two days could have full TAB coverage. This move proved the correct one with the two days of holdings pushing close to the million-dollar mark.

This Cup outing also created record gate takings. The huge crowd on Friday, Cup Day, paid a total of \$7,800 at the gate, packed the two grandstands to the rooftops and, stood shoulder to shoulder along the embankment overlooking the straight.

Veteran racegoers believed it was easily the biggest crowd seen at a race meeting in the Upper Hunter since the days when Glenbawn Dam was under construction.

These four race meetings were testimony, and probably a little ironically, to a club that less than 12 months before was under siege yet, could rise to the top of NSW Country Racing. These four meetings provided a TAB turnover of \$1,493,543, lifting the Scone club to a \$144,700 margin over the only three other clubs to pass the \$1million mark - Wagga, Murwillumbah and Grafton.

There were other meetings of this calibre, as the committee of the Club strove to keep racing at White Park as attractive, enticing and entertaining as possible for the general public. Meetings developed over a period of time still gained great support. Race days like the Murrurundi and Gundy Cups, the Shire, Sporting Editors, Scone Rugby League, Associated Agents and even a meeting sponsored by the local paper, the Scone Advocate.

This was the type of outing that kept the town and district folk in touch with their race club, something that is not seen today through no fault of those in charge of the country race clubs. The way today's racing is structured with the amount of mid-week racing, Saturday racing and community participation has tumbled to be part of the passing parade.

Over the years Scone Race Club was quick to acknowledge those close to their club and their sport. At a meeting held on December 28, 1985, practically New Year's Eve, and named The "Hogmanay" Race Meeting, races on the seven-event program carried the names of four prominent citizens who were synonymous with racing in Scone over many years.

Honoured were four deceased men - Murray Bain, Ron Waters, Stan Bowd and Ray Manning.

Murray Bain, an eminent Australian veterinarian, was well known in his profession throughout the thoroughbred racing industry and was the instigator of the annual St Andrew's Race Day at Scone.

Another great supporter of racing in Scone was Mr. Ron Waters. The part owner of several smart horses over the years, Ron rarely missed a race meeting at Scone.

A very popular figure in Scone, Stan Bowd was closely associated with numerous horse sports, including Scone Pony Club, polocrosse and racing. An accomplished horseman, he was clerk-of-the-course at Scone races for a number of years.

Ray Manning was employed in caring for the racecourse section of White Park where he put in many hours over and above the call of duty.

Scone Race Club and its committees, practically since the racing days at Belmore Heights, St Aubins and Alabama, supported, and still do, any local charitable cause, as well as honouring and accommodating the many who over the years had afforded the club their untiring, and, on so many occasions, unpaid support.

The Park - The Memories

After a few false starts as to when the new racing complex at Satur would finally be up and running, the curtain on Cup days at White Park was slowly closing, with the running of the 1994 event set to be the last of 47 (1956 abandoned) of the famous fixtures, as reported by local journalist Rhonda Turner who was to become editor of the Scone Advocate the following month. This local tabloid had down through the years, practically since the paper's own inception in 1887, supported, criticised and at times in the early years openly traded blows, so to speak, with those who ran sport.

What had passed over the turf of the White Park track over the past four decades would be indelibly implanted in the memories of those people who still remained.

Maybe not champions in today's standing's but holding a special place in the memories of those who had seen them train, ride and run, and now fading into the past and the pages of racing's history.

Soon the past would be just that, history. The wheels were in motion, the bow had been drawn and, after a few minor delays, the arrow would land on the new Satur Complex.

Cliff Hanger wins final White Park Scone Cup By Rhonda Turner

"First past the post and the last to win a Scone Cup on the White Park track - Cliff Hanger's record breaking win in the 1400 metre event last Friday (May 20) will stand for all time.

Future Scone Cups will be held on the new Scone racecourse to be opened in November this year.

The four-year-old gelding, ridden by Mathew Cahill at long odds of 33-1, looked in every way a winner as it scooted around the short-priced early leader Jonpilo at the turn and sped away with seemingly no effort. Second was Akwazoff (8-1) two and a half-lengths away, with Regal Don (16-1) running third.

Cliff Hanger set new track and race records of 1m 22.75s, taking half a second off the previous record set in 1981 by Bridgeman.

Trainer Max Crockett of Gulgong said after the race he'd been quietly confident despite the long price and the horse's dismal failure in the Tamworth Cup a week earlier. *"He had a bad alley at Tamworth and got trapped wide but I've always had a big rap on this horse,"* he said.

Crockett paid a measly \$1400 for the Row of Waves-Head for Heights colt at the Inglis sales on behalf of Sydney owner Joanne Hambrook. Miss Hambrook was unable to attend Friday's race meeting in Scone and Crockett was left to celebrate the \$21,000 win on his own.

A crowd of 6,489 people attended the final Scone Cup meeting at White Park, taking advantage of the half-day public holiday and perfect weather. They put more than \$235,000 through the on-course tote on the eight-race program while a record \$1.6million was bet off-course.

Bookmakers' figures were not known earlier this week.

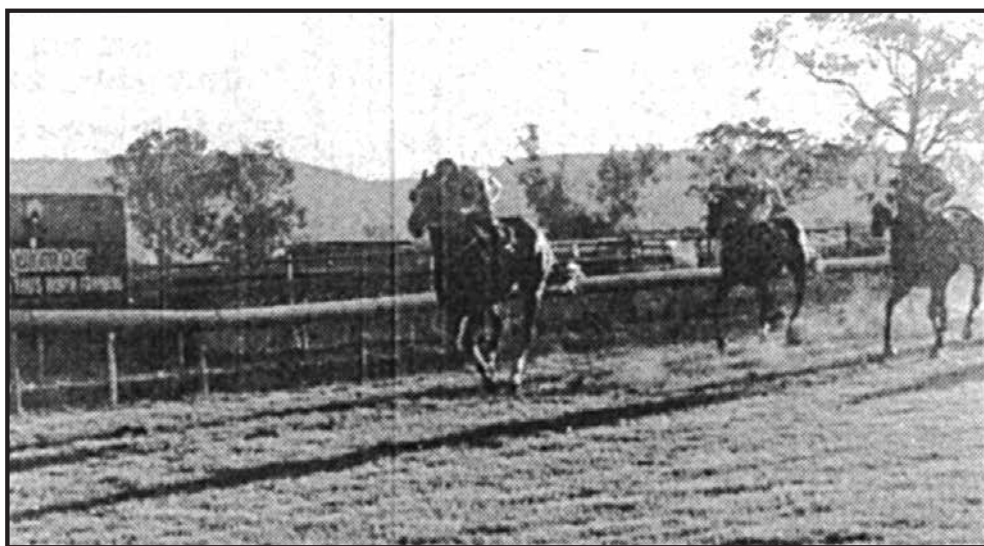
Attendance on Thursday was 963 with turnover of \$109,000 on-course and \$754,000 off-course. At Saturday's non-TAB meeting, a crowd of 930 people put nearly \$32,000 through the on-course tote.

Scone Race Club Secretary Margaret Philp said the three-day carnival was one of the "smoothest" she'd ever run. *"On Thursday we had a lot of barrier scratchings and on Friday a lengthy protest after the second race put all races back about 20 minutes,"* she said. *"But otherwise it was hassle free."*

The \$50,000 bonus offered to any trainer of three winners on the Cup day program never looked like going off, despite a big effort from Broadmeadow trainers.

Max Lees had 10 starters on Cup day while Paul Perry and Charlie Porter each had eight. Perry won the first race with Sir Strike but then the bush trainers took over with winners coming from Muswellbrook, Tamworth, Mudgee, Gulgong and Taree."

THE SPIRIT WITHIN



Gulgong trained bolter Cliff Hanger blitzes the 14 horse field to win the Scone Cup by more than two lengths over Akwazoff and Regal Don.

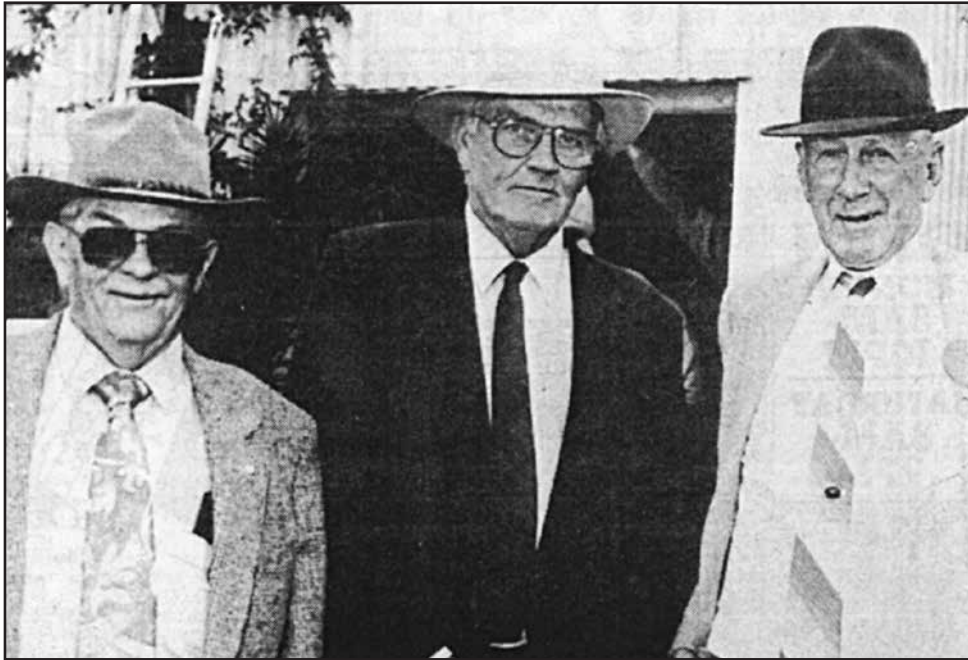


1994 Scone Cup winner Cliff Hanger with Matthew Cahill aboard.



A crowd of 6,489 people crammed into White Park racecourse last Friday to watch the 48th - and last - Scone Cup run at the old track.

White Park Wake ends era



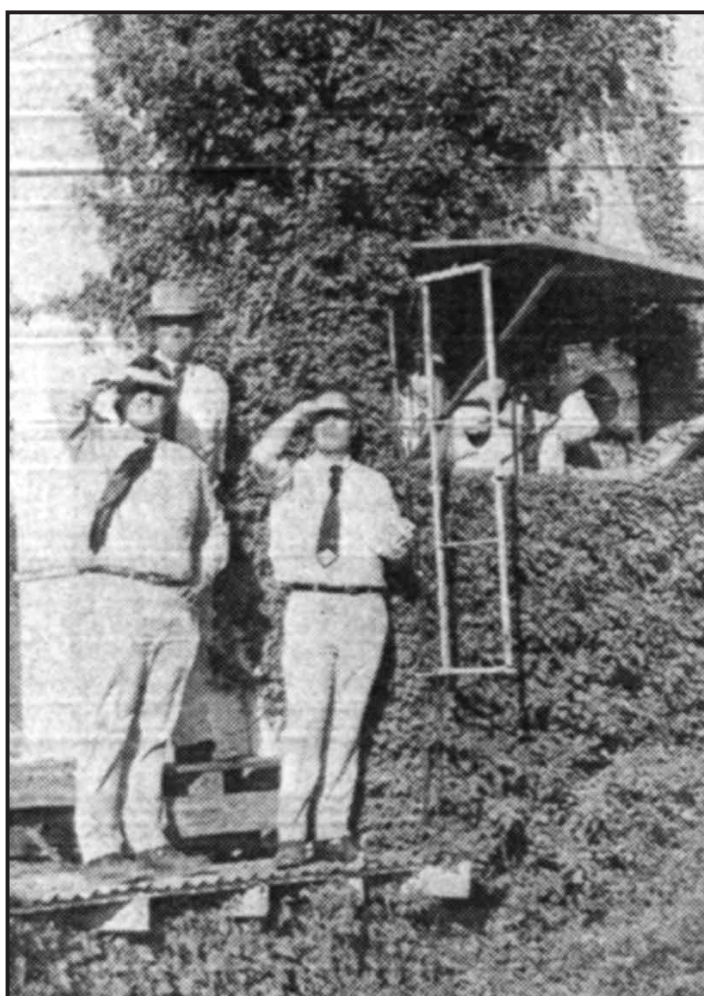
Reminiscing at the White Park Wake race meeting on Saturday October 22 (1994) were, from left, John Harris, Jock Robertson and Jack Johnston.



Past Scone Race Club presidents from left, Bill Howey and John Kelso, with the incumbent president David Bath.



Ross Snowden, left, a former jockey who rode at Scone for 30 years, and Stan Wicks, whose horse Oxford Lad, won the first race held at the White Park Racecourse 47 years ago.



Is that sun or tears in their eyes? Scone Race Club committee members - Jeremy Francis, Mack Lee-Warner and President David Bath watch the historic last race at the White Park track from next to the judge's booth.

Racing era over Farewell White Park



White Park's final winning combination after 47 years was Allan Robinson aboard Sunset Star, trained by Paul Berry at Broadmeadow.



The last time a winning jockey will stand on the White Park scales - Allan Robinson being weighed out by Mack Lee-Warner after the final event on Monday.



Wake committee convenor Bill Howey Symbolically lowers the Scone Race Club flag at the now redundant White Park track - forever.



Horse Talk, what else? Jim Gleeson, Wilf Barker, Ross Snowden and Harley Walden catching up on Saturday. Snowden was a jockey who rode at White Park for 40 years.

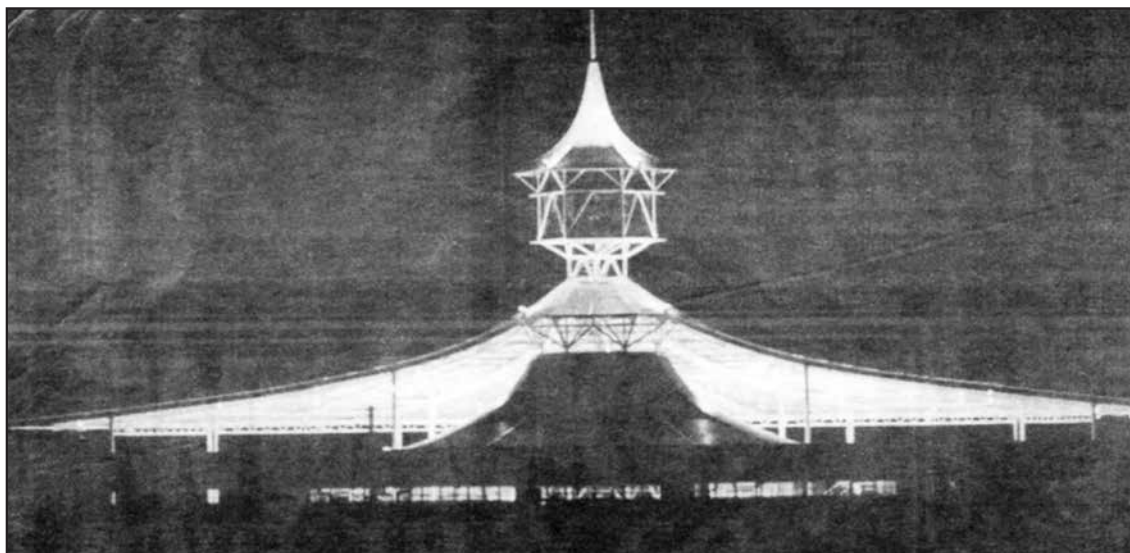


Organisers of the special White Park wake meetings on Saturday and Monday were Warwick Norman, Harley Walden, Bill Howey, Athol Rose, Jack Johnston and Stan Wicks (absent Alec Ashford)



Early Bloodstock Sale: John Inglis (with gavel) and Stan G. Keene (with pen) taking a bid from a prospective buyer. Claud Megennis of the Inglis staff is at far left.

New racing era begins at Scone



New Scone Race Course shining brightly Friday night, is bound to become the beacon of the racing in the Hunter Valley.
Photo by Alistar Jones.



A view of the opening day roll-up Friday November 18, 1994.



These happy chappies were connections of the Cardinal Puff which won the last race of Friday. From left Broadmeadow trainer Max Lees and Yarraman Park Stud syndicate members Noel Leckie and Arthur Mitchell.



NSW Governor, Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair (right) officially opened the racecourse before the first race. He was welcomed by the Scone Race Club president David Bath who never stopped grinning over the two days. "Every time we pressed a button it worked. Even the weather was onside; Mr Bath said.

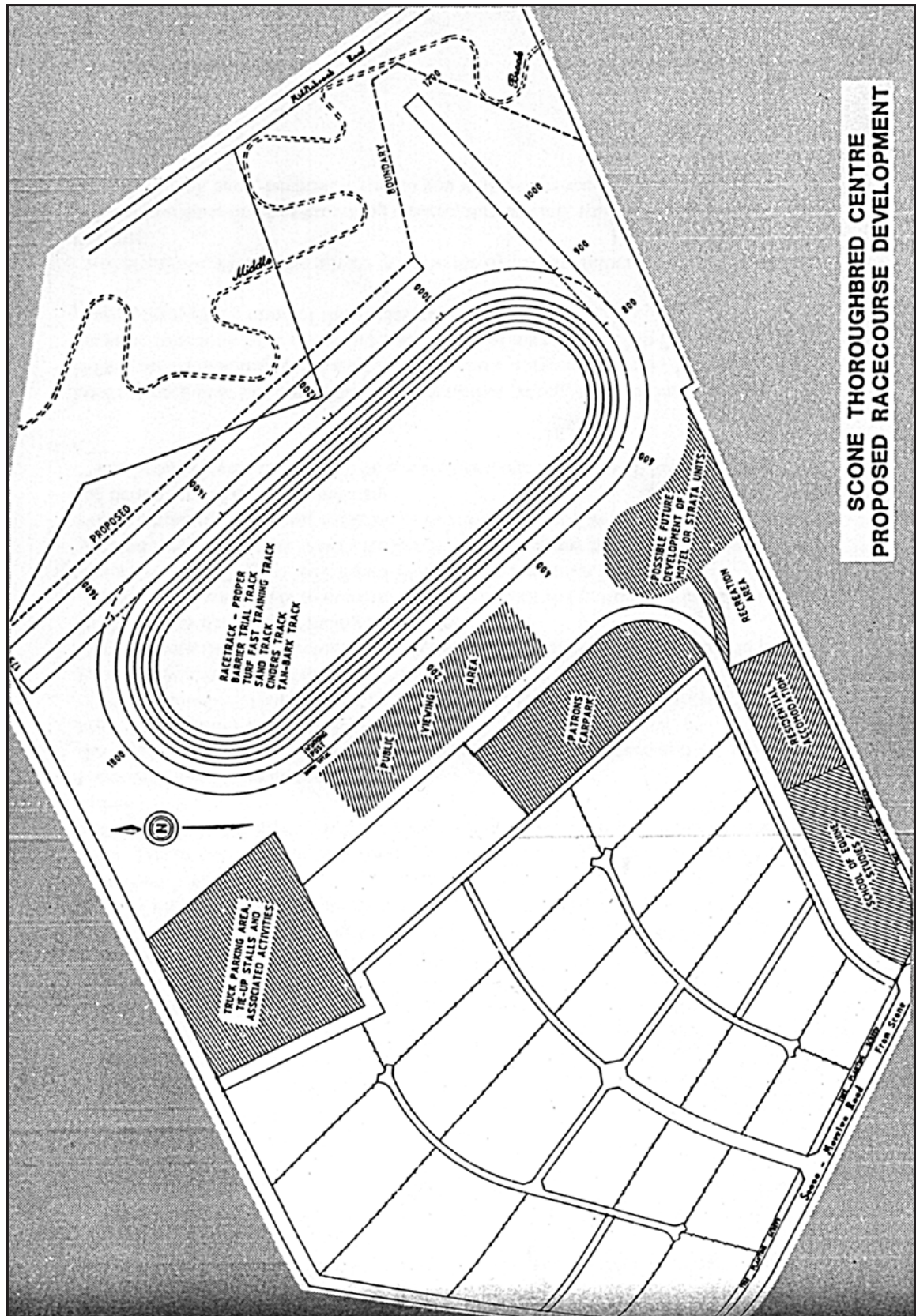
THE SPIRIT WITHIN



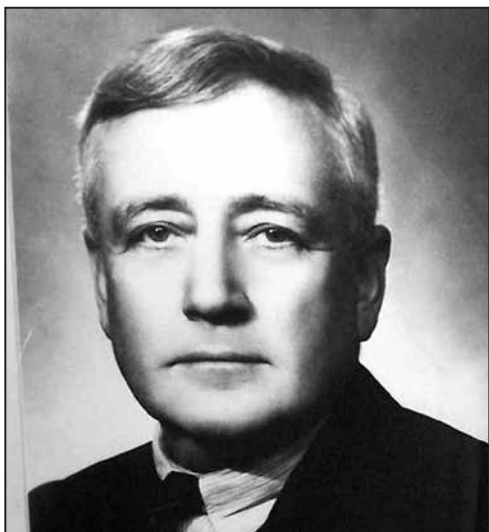
Enjoying themselves are Wendy Ehrlich, Garry Bell and Rhonda Rose.



All the way from Ireland was Peter O'Brien (right), of Coolmore Stud, and Woodlands representatives (from left) Trevor Lobb, Peter Flynn and Nickie Cramsie.



The Presidents



D. H. Robertson



L. B. Israel



H. R. Hayes



J. F. Kelso



W. E. Howey



D. R. Bath

“White Park (Racecourse) Wake”

(Sub-Committee of the Scone Race Club Ltd)

“Invitation

Open Letter to The citizens Of Scone

Our committee has been constituted and delegated by the Scone Race Club Ltd. to organise and co-ordinate activities to celebrate the final Race Meeting to be conducted at the White Park Racecourse on Saturday 22nd and Monday 24th. Of October 1994. We have allocated Saturday 22nd October 1994 as the special day for “Wake” celebrations.

We wish to emphasise that we see this memorable and historic occasion as belonging to the citizens of Scone and Shire, as well as to the wider racing community at large. We would like to ensure that the last meeting at our unique and beautiful little racecourse is marked indelibly in history with an appropriate finale.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks on behalf of parent body and ourselves to all our loyal patrons, supporters and sponsors, and fervently hope for, and seek your continued endorsement for the exciting and propitious future at Satur.

We have expended considerable time and energy in order to secure the “Wake” as an event to be savoured by all. Special entertainment for young and old has been planned so that the whole family and broad community may take part in this convivial occasion.

White Park Racecourse has earned and enjoyed a justifiably high reputation for aura and ambience - we would like to ensure that Saturday 22nd October 1994 is the day of days to remember and unreservedly extend to everyone our warmest and most sincere invitation to participate in one of Scone’s most significant and historic events.

W.P. Howey

On behalf of the White Park (Racecourse) Wake Committee comprising:

W.P. Howey (convenor)

A.A. Ashford

J.W. Johnston

A.M. Rose

H. Walden.

Stan Wicks

W. Norman.”

Nostalgia Planned for White Park Racetrack Farewell

As part of Scone's racing history was about to fade into the past a committee, put together by invitation from W.P (Bill) Howey, a former Scone Race Club president, was not about to let what had become symbolic to the residents of the town and district pass without recognition.

The gentlemen involved included W.P. Howey, (convenor), A.A. Ashford, J.W. Johnston, A.M. Rose, H.K. Walden, Stan Wicks and Warwick Norman.

The White Park Racecourse "wake meeting" was held on Saturday, October 22, 1994 followed by the "wake hangover" TAB meeting two days later on Monday, October 24.

These were the last on the racetrack that had served the Scone racing industry for more than 47 years. They were the finals in 140 years of racing in Scone on various tracks before the club moved to its new state-of-the-art racecourse at Satur in November 1994.

Racing Era Over

"If the crowd was any indication, Scone Race Club should hold "closing down sales" more often. At least 3000 people flocked to White Park on Saturday to farewell the old track.

Forty seven years of racing at White Park came to an end as lone piper George Fraser wailed Auld Lang Syne on the bagpipes and, racing stalwart Bill Howey climbed the ladder to lower the Scone Race Club flag for the last time.

Bill Howey is a former Scone Race Club president and Fraser is the grandson of a long time patron of the club, the late Sir Alister McMullin.

That was typical of the nostalgic presence amongst the crowd, which took precedence over the day's racing as people used the occasion to look back and reminisce.

The end of nearly five decades of racing at White Park had attracted names synonymous with racing from near and far.

Former jockey Ross Snowden who rode countless winners at the old track in the early fifties through the sixties.

Scone jockey Martin (Herbie) Eveleigh the diminutive horseman who knew every blade of grass on the challenging seven and a quarter furlong circuit.

Jock Robertson whose father D.H.(Doug) Robertson was the first occupier of the President's chair, and Tom Payne whose father Stephen Payne was a judge at the first White Park race meeting in May 1947.

There were those who had played a part in the track since its infancy, Jack Johnston, Alec Ashford and Stan Wicks who trained the first winner Oxford Lad at the track on May 7, 1947.

Significantly Stan Wicks had a runner in the final event at White Park, but the Paul Perry-trained Sunset Star, with A.W. (Allan) Robinson in the saddle won Monday's final race.

And soon after, the sun set for the very last time on the racecourse at White Park."

The Memories Remain

"When the newly formed committee of the Scone Race Club met in December 1944 with the intention of building a leisure outlet to be known as the White Park Racetrack, little did they realise that their plans would rise above all expectations. When the final curtain falls on the old track this weekend, what was achieved some forty years ago will be remembered.

For those who have attended some of the many meetings throughout the years, memories rekindled, memories of some of the great horses, jockeys and characters who have felt the joy of winning, the accolades of the crowds or just swapping yarns under the trees or around the bar.

This is what the old course was meant to be and this is how it has been portrayed down through the years, a meeting place where mate met mate and the friendly atmosphere the old track seems to generate, puts everyone on an equal footing.

Progress is a great thing and we must move with it, but for a few hours this weekend, we hope that the present will be forgotten and the past remembered.

Harley Walden"

On behalf of the White Park Race Club "Wake" Committee 22/10/1994"

Results and details of the last race meeting conducted on the White Park track at Scone,
Saturday & Monday October 22/24, 1994:

Saturday, October 22, 1994.

Weather: Fine. Track: Good. Timing: Manual.

1. The Voluntary Workers & Original Committee

Maiden Handicap 1800 metres.

\$1,700, \$450, \$250, \$100.

1/1f Snow Dance 55 A.W. Robinson	1
6/4 La Campos 561/2 H.T roy	2
7/1 Assessment 53cd 511/2 M. Ollerton (a)	3
5/1 School Kid 53 P. Robertson	4
Special Spy 53cd 501/2 C. Dwyer (a)	5
Greta's Gypsy 53 M. McFarlane	6
The Argentinian 54 R. Thomas.....	7

Owner: I.R. & R.N. & F. Webber, N.J. & J. Aurisch. Trainer: P.M. Farrell.

Two and a half-lengths. Four and a half-lengths.

Time: 1-53.29.

2. Presidents & Secretaries Class 1 Handicap 1000 metres.

\$1,700, \$450, \$250, \$100.

6/4 Biscantha 56½ cd 53½ C. Cowper (a)	1
5/4f Jasmine Miss 53 N. Rae.....	2
6/4 Little Avenger 54cd 51½ C. Dwyer (a)	3
15/1 Club Bayview 53 Ms K. Jones	4
Inner Space 53½ M. McFarlane	5
Double Mickey 53 P. Robertson	6

Owner: S.D. & Mrs J.E. North, P.M. Farrell & Ms J. Bowen.

Trainer: P.M. Farrell.

Half a length. Nose. Time: 0-58.92.

3. Judges Open Handicap 1000 metres.

\$1,700, \$450, \$250, \$100.

6/4f Assam 53½ P. Robertson	1
7/4 Billy Hula 58½ M. McFarlane	2
4/1 Tiny Walk 54½ H. Troy	3
4/1 Forthwith 52½ cd 49½ S. Gleeson (a)	4
Struth 55½ N. Rae	5

THE SPIRIT WITHIN

Roaralong 52cd 49 C. Cowper (a)6

Owner: L.G. Greer, J.A. Ward, K.R. Yates, W.T. Murphy, D. Brind & Mrs

J.A. Englebrecht Trainer: J. Englebrecht.

One and a lengths. Three and a lengths. Time: 0-58.53.

4. Treasurer's Class 2 Handicap 1250 metres.

\$1,700, \$450, \$250, \$100.

5/4f French Guest 56 A.W. Robinson 1

7/4 Bower Girl 56 H. Troy 2

4/1 Garavimbi Girl 53½ N. Rae 3

10/1 Golden Spanner 53 G. Cribb 4

Abatan 53 M. McFarlane 5

Longworthy Lady 53 G. Challen 6

Battle Goddess 55½ cd 53 C. Dwyer (a) 7

Pride of Victory 56½ P. Robertson (pulled up)

Owner: L.R. & Mrs J.N, R.A.C. & Miss J. Rowan. Trainer: P.M. Perry.

Head. Five lengths. Time: 1-13.55.

5. Stewards' Class 4 Handicap 2500 metres.

\$1,700, \$450, \$250, \$100.

2/1 Looks Like Tonight 531/2 P. Robertson 1

7/2 Puzzled 53½ H. Troy 2

1/1f Wreckers 56½ cd 53½ S. Gleeson (a) 3

9/2 It's a Crime 54 N. Rae 4

My Blue Canoe 54½ M. McFarlane 5

Owner: M.J. Story, P.C. Orton, G.N. Heaney, A.J. Cox, G.B. Archibald & G.M. Fraser.

Trainer: J.N. Englebrecht.

Nose. Three and a half-lengths. Time: 2-41.74. (Track Record)

Officials

President: Mr. D.R. Bath

Vice-Presidents: Mr. H.G. Cope & Mr J.M. Clift.

Committee: Messrs. Kevin Andrews, David Bath, Tony Bott, Hilton Cope, Jeremy Francis, Bill Howey, Jack Johnston, Mack Lee-Warner, Warwick Menlove, Andrew Palmer, Bill Rose, Ross Cole, Arthur Mitchell & Noel Leckie.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. Philp.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J.S. Francis.

Judge-TAB Days: Mr. D. Dyson.

Timekeeper:	Mr. J.W. Johnston.
Honorary Vets:	Scone Veterinary Hospital.
Hon. Medical Officers:	Scone Surgery.
Local Stipendiary Steward:	Mr. M. Beatie.
Stipendiary Steward:	Mr. P. Dombkins.
Steward:	Mr. R. Foote.
Ass. Steward:	Mr. S. Cullin.
Handicapper:	Mr. K. Bullock AJC.
Starter:	Mr. K. Wilton.
Ass. Starter:	Mr. T. Wicks.

Monday, October 24, 1994.

Weather: Fine. Track: Good. Timing: Manual.

- W.H. Mackay - A.M. Bain - L.B. Israel Class 6
 Handicap 1800 metres.
 \$2,100, \$500, \$300, \$100.

1/2f Merrivale Lad 53 A.W. Robinson	1
7/4 San Fernando 52cd 49½ C. Dwyer (a)	2
16/1 Double Tirage 52 D. McLellan	3

Owner: S. Fontany Pty Ltd Synd. Trainer: P.M. Perry.
 Two and a half-lengths. Three and a quarter lengths. Time: 1-58.2
- H.R. Johnston - R. McMullin-Tooheys Limited
 Maiden Handicap 1400 metres.
 \$2,100, \$500, \$300, \$100.

10/1 Brave Navajo 54cd 52½ M. Ollerton (a)	1
5/1 King Offiah 54½ R. Thomas	2
66/1 Silk Garden 54cd 51 C. Cowper (a)	3
7/2 Go Pedro 55 G. Killen	4
Where's Home 56½(5/4f) D. McLellan	5
Campaign Red 54 T. Green	6

Owner: Mrs K.E. & B.J. McCarthy & D.M. & I.R. Robertson.
 Trainer: T.E. Ollerton. Half a length Four and a half-lengths. Time: 1-25.19.
- WM. Inglis & Son Ltd-D.H. Robertson-Coca-Cola
 Maiden Handicap (Div.2) 1000 metres.
 \$2,100, \$500, \$300, \$100.

- 25/1 Present Draw 55cd 52 C. Cowper (a)1
 11/4 Woolgatherer 56 D. McLellan2
 3/1 Joanne Mary 55cd 52 S. Gleeson (a)3
 2/1f Onze Chevelier 55½ cd 53 C. Dwyer (a)4
 Racing Tripster 55 H. Troy5
 Klarion Sea 55 P. Robertson6
 Owner: W. Wormer. Trainer: Owner. Nose. One and a quarter lengths. Time: 0-59.41.
4. H.R. Hayes - J.F. Kelso - Coolmore Stud Class 2
 Handicap 1000 metres.
 \$2,100, \$500, \$300, \$100.
 7/2 Van Maanen 53 H. Troy1
 7/1 Marco Santanegro 53½ A.W. Robinson2
 6/4f Gold Rhapsody 55cd 53 1/2 M. Ollerton (a)3
 9/2 Love Carats 55 G. Killen4
 Pink Park Lad 53½ W. Cardwell5
 Mary Roo 52 M.Hull6
 Owner: M. King & F.P. Farrell. Trainer: P. Farrell. One and a quarter lengths. One and a quarter lengths. Time: 0-58.64.
5. Sir Alistair McMullin-Magic Millions
 Maiden Handicap (Div.1) 1000 metres.
 \$2,100, \$500, \$300, \$100.
 2/1ef Catecombe 55½ A.W. Robinson1
 4/1 Phego 55cd 53½ M. Ollerton (a)2
 4/1 Toss of the Coin 56½ cd 54 C. Dwyer (a)3
 10/1 Moon Hope 56 N. Rae4
 Joker's Ace 54½ M. McFarlane5
 Velvet Knight 56 (2/1ef) T. Green6
 Sweet Calabash 54½ H. Troy7
 Kym Maree 54½ G. Killen8
 Merryvale 53½ G.Challen9
 Owner: H.J.R. Synd Trainer: P.S. Gover. Two and three-quarter lengths. Four lengths. Time: 0-58.33.
6. M.V. Point- A.W. Riddle - Woodlands Stud
 Class 1 Handicap 1250 metres.
 \$2,100, \$500, \$300, \$100.
 3/1 Clever Answer 53½ A.W. Robinson1

11/4f Instant Reason 55½ H. Troy	2
4/1 Beau Tierra 53½ D. McLellan	3
7/1 Erasmus 53½ W. Cardwell	4
Mystery Descent 54½ N. Rae	5
Ingot 55 M. Hull	6
Fair Lassie 53½cd 52 M. Ollerton	7
Owner: Mrs C.A. Perry & Nambross Pty Ltd Synd. Trainer: P.M. Perry.	
Two and a half-lengths. Two and a quarter lengths. Time: 1-13.08.	

7. Bert Price - L.R. Morgan - Rosemount	
Maiden Handicap 1250 metres.	
\$2,100, \$500, \$300, \$100.	
5/4f Sunset Star 54 A.W. Robinson	1
5/1 Uniform 56½ A. Spinks	2
10/1 Delight to Win 52½ cd 50 C. Dwyer (a)	3
4/1 Dark Tribesman 53½ cd 52 M. Ollerton (a)	4
Miss Finesse 52½ H. Troy 5, Stand Easy 52 W. Cardwell	6
Ports Unknown 52½ D. McLellan	7
Jewel's Pride 52 N. Rae	8
Conch 52 B. Franks.....	9
Slow Friend 52cd 50½ W. Friend.....	10
Owner: A, N.A. & A.A. Pacey, A.T. Loury, P.R. Spalding & R. Blair.	
Trainer: P.M. Perry. Two lengths. Three and a quarter lengths.	
Time: 1-14.34.	

I was privileged to be part of the "Wake" committee that was responsible for organising the day's activities included in the last rites of the historic White Park Racecourse.

A sporting venue I had come to know so well, practically since its existence, not only because of my involvement with horses, but through my father Darcy Walden who was the Clerk of the Course for the Scone Club for many years; my workmate at Sledmere stud Roy Collison who carried out the duties of head barrier attendant in the early years when the rope strand barriers were in vogue; and my old boss M.V. Point, the owner of Sledmere and one of the great stalwarts of Scone Race Club.

It was Maurie Point that presented the Club flag in 1972, the flag of Royal Blue with the letters "S.R.C." superimposed in white which flew proudly over one of the most famous and favoured country tracks of New South Wales, until it was lowered by Bill Howey on that Saturday in October 1994.

So the popular little track, the meeting place of many, the holder of memories was no more and the racing fraternity of Scone, as they had done more than a century ago, turned west across the Kingdom Ponds towards Satur. A new beginning, a new racetrack, and, as the next decade would show, a completely new outlook on the way racing was heading on the country racecourses of New South Wales.

Scone...the kind of place you thought existed only in the fertile imagination of television scriptwriters.

For Scone and its White Park Racecourse had it all... serenity, charm, historical beauty and a country air of hospitality offered by its town and district's population.

The Exodus, The Genesis and "A Dream That Could Be Realised" The Evolution of A New Racecourse

By: Bill Howey

"On one of his frequent visits to the Upper Hunter Valley, Emeritus Professor Rex Butterfield, President of the Australian Equine Research Foundation and Keeneland (USA) representative in Australia, remarked on the similarity of events at that time to the genesis of the Keeneland concept in Kentucky in 1936.

The date was sometime in the early 1980's and the Upper Hunter was witness to a flurry of activity in the development of thoroughbred racing and breeding in the district, possibly unprecedented, even in the bench mark/cornerstone industries so important historically to the locality.

The Thoroughbred Record, October 10, 1936 reports that in his concluding remarks addressed to a mass of breeders and others interested in racing at the Lafayette Hotel on Wednesday afternoon, March 20, 1935, Major Louie A. Beard said *"This may seem like a dream, but I believe it is a dream that can be realised"*.

The meeting witnessed by Professor Butterfield was at the Scone Bowling Club, and was a gathering of like-minded people representing the fledgling Hunter Valley Bloodhorse Breeders Association (HVBBA), and inevitably, the local racing industry.

The significance of the astute Professor's observations as we approach the closing of White Park Racecourse (22:10:94/24:10:94) and the opening date (18:11:94) of the new course at Satur can now be placed in true perspective. Actually, the rebirth of the track at

Satur is a return, after a lapse of some 100 years, to racing in the Satur locality, when first class racing was held at Mr Frederick Augustus Parbury's property from 1892-1915 under the auspices of the Scone Jockey Club.

During the late 1970's to the early 1980's some vitally important decisions were reached in a remarkably chronological sequence which were to have enormous impact on the future development of racing in Scone, and, indeed, to rescue and secure its (precarious) position.

Pivotal in this process were a few individuals, most of whom represented either, or both, the Scone Race Club and HVBBA. The committees of both these organisations had enjoyed a recent period of growth and strength at a fortuitous time.

The early seed for concept of a better race track for Scone had evolved from the fertile mind of local agent F.W. (Bill) Rose. The committee of the Scone Race Club had long deliberated on the restrictions and deficiencies imposed by the less than adequate White Park and, the sharing of the facilities with the Golf Club in particular. The Club was being thwarted in its efforts to attract funding for development from the Racecourse Development Fund established by the NSW TAB. The hidden agenda behind consistent refusals or pittance donations by the TAB was that the discerning decision-makers did not support the further development of White Park Racecourse!!

To its great credit, the Scone Race Club Committee at the time accepted the stark and harsh reality of this observation. The major Problem was what to do about it and yet achieve a realistic feasible solution acceptable to the Race Club and the broad community in general.

The initial response was for the Scone Council, at F.W. Rose's instigation and insistence, to purchase Dal. Adams farm adjacent to White Park and to develop this 'ideal' location as a Sports Complex in perpetuity for the citizens of Scone.

To the great credit of all concerned, this conceptual plan was rescued from potential and, established as reality from this time. The Sporting Development Committee under the chairmanship of Brian McGrath was constituted by Scone Shire Council to expedite and oversee this project.

The secondary agenda underpinning this idea was to separate the interests of the sometime feuding Golf Club and Race Club and permit the expansion of the Racecourse to a 2000 metre track within the confines of White Park. No golf fairway was to straddle the course proper. At an "on site" sub-committee meeting comprising Brian McGrath,

Terry Barnes (Scone Shire Clerk), Bill Rose and the author, the overall practicality and financial feasibility of the total concept was addressed. The quotation for the erection of 3 new creek crossings to support the new track was detailed at \$180,000. The two Race Club delegates conferred, and volunteered the opinion that, considering this scale of finance, the concept was not viable, and that an alternative solution should be found. To say that this revelation surprised Brian and Terry would be a gross understatement !!! It was, however, agreed that the harsh truth of this decision was realistic and that the proponents of change should consider alternative avenues. The importance of this deliberation cannot be overemphasised as absolutely and underpinning all future decision and debate!!!

The outcome for the district was the establishment of a magnificent Sports Complex, accommodating a wide range of sporting pursuits. However it did nothing to alleviate the existing and ongoing problems of the Golf Club and Race Club.

The Chairman of the Sydney Turf Club at this time was Mr. George Ryder, a long time Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Breeder, first at "Woodlands Stud", and latterly at "Kia Ora". George was an enthusiastic, energetic and innovative administrator, but, who on occasion, "ran his own race". He was an active proponent of the total concept to restructure country racing in NSW. In some cases this would involve the amalgamation and pooling of resources of race clubs in close geographic location by improving the overall standard in general and not to, in his opinion, fractionate the TAB distribution "cake" into too many small unviable fragments. It was the perception by many close to the action, that this represented the strong majority view of the AJC, STC and TAB committees as well as NSW Government Policy. The "carrot" as dangled by George Ryder was a sum in excess of \$600,000 provided by the STC to facilitate the relocation of a major racing facility in the Upper Hunter.

It was later revealed that this concept did not have the unqualified support of the STC directors !!

The Scone Race Club Committee deliberated on this proposition, and submitted as one solution, the pooling of resources of the Scone Race Club and the Upper Hunter Race Club to establish a single large modern racing facility, financed in part by the STC, as well as other funds. (TAB, sale of Skellatar Park etc). This was interpreted by the district as meaning one thing only- Amalgamation.

A furious and heated debate ensued, culminating in a very public and well attended meeting at the Scone Bowling Club, chaired by the author, when the Scone Race Club Membership totally rejected, by a very large majority, any consideration of relocation or "amalgamation" of the Club's racing facility. The committee, other than a few "populist

defections", nonetheless, and to its enduring credit, maintained the position that to remain on White Park without major structural change would ultimately and inevitably lead to the demise of the Scone Race Club as a separate identifiable entity in the medium to long term future. This was truly "grasping the nettle", a very vital and compelling decision that was to significantly influence subsequent events as they unfolded. Sir Humphrey of "Yes, Minister" fame would have labelled this politically inexpedient and naive, but "courageous" !!! It would come as no surprise that total membership of the Scone Race Club attained its historic zenith at this time !!! Chronologically, it was imperative to hold this debate and to address the very real issue of the progress and future of racing in Scone. To have hesitated or procrastinated on this issue could justifiably have loaded ammunition for future generations to aim at the administration of the time. The author, with others, was determined that accusations of ineptitude or apathy could never be levelled at the committee of the day !!

It was from this standpoint that FWR, with single minded purpose, vigorously pursued his vision and goal of purchasing and developing of a site selected by him at "Tarrangower", Satur. That he was able to achieve this is testimony to his bullish determination, part of the motivation coming from the challenge of not the principle, but the feasibility of the objective. Other than a select few the procedure and process was largely withheld from the committee in general. This was regrettable, although, in hindsight, probably necessary, in order to achieve fruition. It inevitably led to some dented pride, bruised egos and a somewhat divided committee, but, if the end justify the means, then totally sustainable.

The subsequent purchase and ability to raise the significant funds for the total project brought into play a remarkable and providential series of people and organisations, coincidentally and fortuitously "in the right place at the right time"!!

The vehicle for the fund raising was to be the Hunter Valley Equine Research Foundation, the brainchild of Brian Agnew of Wakefield Stud from his perspective as energetic and popularly elected President of the HVBHBA. This is a registered trust set up by the HVBHBA to raise funds for local equine research projects and, to which, donations were exempt from taxation. The HVERF was to become the "landlord" of the Satur facility and to purchase the property from FWR and grant the Scone Race Club a portion for the new racetrack on a long-term peppercorn rent.

Purchase of "Tarrangower" was for an amount in excess of \$1 million, which had been raised locally. That this was readily achieved is testimony to the ability of all concerned and again attributable in part to some extraordinary circumstances.

This period of time (mid to late 1980's) was arguably the most inflationary and "bullish" market in the history of thoroughbred racing and breeding in Australia. The donation of very high stallion service fees was a major activity in fund raising. Also, the entrepreneurial flair of Tony Bott, recently established as Studmaster at Segenhoe Stud, could be harnessed to organise some very high profile and vastly successful activities at Segenhoe and the Sebel Town House, Sydney at Easter. The auction of donated goods and chattels at these events realised significant sums of money towards the project as well as donations to charity (>\$100,000 NBN Telethon appeal).

That funds were raised and the pushes completed are testimony to the singular purpose and dedication of a number of protagonists and a few in particular. Having secured the title to a suitable property, the Scone Race Club was then in a strong position to approach the TAB-RDF (as previously advised) to provide funding to complete the total concept.

"The procedure of development and fruition has been very successfully guided and negotiated, not without considerable personal sacrifice, by the incumbent Race Club President, David Bath of Bhima Stud. The reality of the complex as it approaches its genesis is a tribute to David's persistence, patience and zeal.

The challenge facing the administration of the Race Club will be to transport and/or re-create the special ambience that was such a very special feature of racing at White Park. Universally this has been acknowledged by successive generations of patrons.

The committee might very well consider the aspirations of Hal Price Headley, on the day before Keeneland opened its 1937 spring meeting, who stated:

"We want a place where those who love horses can come and picnic with us and thrill to the sport of the (Bluegrass). We are not running a race plant to the click of the mutual machines. We don't care whether the people who come here bet or not (!?!?!). If they want to bet, there is a place for them to do it. But we want them to come out here and enjoy God's sunshine, the fresh air, and to watch horses race".

Clearly, in today's climate, some of that logic is questionable, the ideals and principles are highly commendable.

The primary purposes of Keeneland also bear repetition in this context:

1. Preservation of the finest tradition of the sport of racing.
2. Conduct of the world's most important Thoroughbred sales, and
3. Participation as an active "citizen" in the community and state."

The concept that “dreams can be realised” with sufficient motivation and purpose is to some extent fuelled by the emotions as expressed and quoted in Daniel Morgan’s treatise on The Reality of the Turf viz:

“The passion for horses may be ridiculed by persons of narrow mindedness and sedentary lives; but the feeling has ever been characteristic of the most intellectual and powerful races of mankind, and the highest order of literature and art has been inspired by the contemplation of this admirable gift of the creator”. (Sydney Morning Herald. October 3, 1857.)”

The exodus, the genesis and “A Dream That Could Be Realised”, The Evolution Of A New Racecourse was written by W.P. (Bill) Howey, a former Scone Race Club president, a leading veterinary surgeon and, later, a highly respected lecturer in his chosen field.

I have added it to the pages I have penned as I feel it will give readers a greater insight into the battle to save the track at White Park and into the workings of a well-oiled machine that made the Satur Complex a reality.

Racing Returns To Satur

In the late 1970s after modest track upgrading and completion of a joint grandstand and horse sale ring at White Park, Scone Race Club sought assistance from the TAB to upgrade its administration centre, jockey’s room and dining area. The NSW Racing Development Committee (RDC) informed the committee of the Scone Race Club that no further funds would be forthcoming while the club remained at its present location.

One option that became apparent was for the club to amalgamate with the Upper Hunter Race Club situated at Muswellbrook. This move received strong opposition with club members and the citizens of Scone and the plan was abandoned.

In 1987 the club once again approached the RDC for assistance in upgrading the facilities on White Park, but, was once again, told quite clearly that no further funds would be available for the town track.

An option handed the Scone Club, was that they, the Racing Development Committee, were prepared to help build a new racecourse as long as sufficient land was acquired.

With this in mind, the search commenced for a suitable site for a new racecourse.

In 1988 a Scone Race Club committeeman, Bill Rose informed the committee that he had found, in his opinion, the ideal site. At the same time he produced a plan: if the Scone

Race Club would assist the Hunter Equine Research Foundation, then the land at a cost of one million dollars, just west of Scone on the property known as "Tarrengower", on almost the same location as the original Satur course over one hundred years ago, could be paid for.

Certain Scone Race Club members were approached and a guarantee was organised by them to pay for the land. By doing this the criteria laid down by the RDC for suitable land to be acquired was fulfilled.

This made it possible for Bill Rose's plan to go ahead in the following order;

1. Scone Race Club acquired suitable land so that the RDC would build a new racecourse for them.
2. The Hunter Valley Equine Research Foundation required the Race Club to build a racecourse and training complex so they could develop and sell land to raise funds for equine research.
3. The Hunter Valley Equine Research Foundation took over the debt to pay for the land and lease part of it- about 150 acres- to the Scone Race Club on a peppercorn 99- year renewable lease.
4. Scone Race Club promised to build a suitable racing and training complex.

Another Race Club committeeman and Equine Research Foundation member Tony Bott was given the task of fundraising for the Hunter Valley Equine Research Foundation. He gained generous support from the thoroughbred industry and the local community to raise funds for the exclusive use of the Foundation.

Zanolletti is first winner on New Scone Racetrack Committal grabs Coolmore Classic

Racing endures all change. Whatever is done to it cannot alter the contest - humans and horses combining to best the rest. When this happens amid great natural beauty and good-natured crowds no other human creative pastime can equal it.

This was the realisation of the hard working committee of the Scone Race Club and its supporters who along with a crowd of 8272 people were on hand at the opening of the new racecourse at Satur on Friday afternoon.

Amidst one of the worst droughts in the history of NSW the people of the town and district, plus a host of visitors, rallied behind the local race club to launch the opening of the new racecourse.

Friday morning dawned a fine day and, even with the showers that had been prominent the previous day, the track and surrounds were in excellent condition.

The earlier comers on course could have been excused for thinking that they had arrived a day early, paint brushes and power tools were still being wielded, as workmen hurried to apply the finishing touches to some of the on-course buildings, with only the true believers clichéing "Rome wasn't built in a day"

But, as the morning wore on, and the crowd started to roll in, everything that was expected and hoped for began to fall into place.

The vacant lawns were soon filled with colourful umbrellas. Deck chairs and tables set the scene for a great day's celebration and all these were complimented by the magnificent marquee, on loan from the Magic Millions Sale committee from the Gold Coast, which was used to wine and dine the many dignitaries and various racing personalities from interstate and overseas.

Noted visitors on the day were leading trainers Bart Cummings, and Anthony Freedman, also Muswellbrook born jockey Wayne Harris, fresh from his winning ride on Jeune in this year's Melbourne Cup.

Leading Sydney jockeys, Glen Boss, Darren Beadman, Kevin Moses and Larry Cassidy all paying glowing tributes to the new racing surface.

Another popular visitor was leading Sydney trainer Gai Waterhouse, who journeyed to Scone with her entrant Silver Flyer. Running as one of the popular picks for the \$60,000 feature race the Kenmare gelding under the impost of 62kgs, found the task beyond him, but it was his trainer who won the crowd. Gai Waterhouse with her bubbly personality, her readiness to speak to the public makes her a great asset to the sport of racing.

With the opening day crowd creeping ever so close to the expected 10,000, the Governor of N.S.W Rear-Admiral Peter Sinclair, officially opened the new racecourse. "This splendid new racing complex will further enhance Scone's reputation for all-round excellence in the horse breeding and racing industries," he said.

With the official speeches completed, and to the strains of Tina Turner's "Simply the Best", the field for the opening event was led onto the track by the clerks of the course, mounted on four greys, lent for the meeting by the AJC.

Noted among the quartet, and a great favourite with the public, was the dual Caulfield Cup winner Ming Dynasty.

The planning of the track also came to fruition when Sydney jockey Larry Cassidy who rode the winner of the first race, on dismounting from Zanolletti, described it when as *"beyond words- words can't describe it, it's totally fantastic, the surface is magnificent and the turns are banked beautifully,"* he announced.

For Zanolletti's trainer Neil Godbolt, of Port Macquarie, Friday was his first visit to Scone since 1964 when he rode at the old White Park track as an apprentice jockey.

"This is just a magnificent set-up and a beautiful track" he beamed after Zanolletti sprinted away from the Max Lees-trained Palskye and Pat Farrell's Itchy Palm in the 1100 metre event.

South Coast galloper Committal, which spends most of his training hours on the beach at Berry on the south coast of NSW, scored a brilliant win in the feature race the \$60,000 Coolmore Classic over 1300 metres. Ridden by Justin Sheehan, Committal went to the line a convincing one and a half-lengths winner from the fast finishing Mocha, which was last into the home straight. The Muswellbrook owned and trained Jamea was a half-length away third.

Larry Cassidy was again in the winner's circle when he was successful aboard the even money favourite Brummel in the co-feature race, the Magic Millions/Scone Scamper-Two-Year-Old Plate (1100m).

Pardu Bay, winner of the recent Muswellbrook Olympic Rings and Muswellbrook Gold Cup, took out the \$30,000 Rosemount Estate Wines Open (1700m) by a length from Striking Gold (G.Boss). Rembetica (L.Cassidy) was a long neck away third.

Trained at Broadmeadow by Paul Perry and ridden by Allan Robinson, Pardu Bay is raced by a syndicate of Newcastle owners.

Cardinal Puff (Darryl McLellan) came from last on the home turn in the Centaur Asia Pacific Class 2 Handicap (1100m) to score a thrilling one and half-lengths win over the Carol Bowen-trained Skukuza (G. Killen), which appeared to have the race in his keeping less than 30 metres from the winning post. Third in the race going to the 7/2 equal favourite Storm Boy ridden by Darren Beadman.

**Scone Race Results- Day One at the new Satur Complex.
Friday November 18 1994.**

Weather: Fine. Track: Good.

1. Coca-Cola Class 4 Handicap 1100 metres.
\$10,500, \$2,250, \$1,500, \$750.
7/2 Zanoletti 56½ L. Cassidy1
4/1 Palskye 58½ M. Lynch2
6/4f Itchy Palm 56½ H. Troy3
10/1 Mighty Spike 55 D. McLellan4
My Speciality 53 G. Boss5
Objection 52 N. Rae..... 6
Country Switch 52cd 51½ C. Dwyer (a)..... 7
Great Lunch 52cd 49 S. Gleeson (a) 8
Owner: I.N. Livermore. Trainer: R.N. Godbolt. Two and a quarter lengths. Three-quarters of a length. Time: 1-04.60.

2. Magic Millions/Scone Scamper-2YO Plate 1100 metres.
\$28,000 & \$500 Trophy to owner, \$6,000, \$4,000, \$2,000.
1/1f Brummel 53 L. Cassidy1
3/1 Portifino 53 A.W. Robinson2
10/1 Blitzed 53 Ms L. Cropp3
20/1 Swift Sanction 53 G. Baker4
Zetiung 53 D. Beadman5
Grand Total 53 B. Gatenby6
Jumeirah 52 P. Losh7
Finn Macool 53 R.M. Quinn8
Oak Road 53 D. McLellan9
Legendarne 53 R. Thompson10
Maximum Security 52 G. Boss 11
Owner: Scott Osmond Pty Ltd. Trainer: K.A. Jorden. Three and a quarter lengths. Two and a quarter lengths. Time: 1-04.68.

3. The Rosemount Estate Wines Open Handicap 1700 metres.
\$21,000 & \$500 Trophy to owner, \$4,500, \$3,000, \$1,500.
7/4f Pardu Bay 53½ A.W. Robinson1
7/1 Striking Gold 56½ G. Boss2
4/1 Rembetica 56½ L. Cassidy3

- 9/4 Spiritual Star 56 D. Beadman4
 Christmastide 52 A. Scorse5
 Carey's Peak 52 Ms L. Cropp6
 Owner: S. Marshall Trainer: P.M. Perry. One length. Long neck.
 Time: 1-43.59. (Track record)
4. Scone Veterinary Hospital Class 3 Handicap 1600 metres.
 \$7,000, \$1,500, \$1,000, \$500.
 9/2 Irishella 56 G. Boss1
 33/1 Snow Dancer 52 A.W. Robinson2
 7/1 Prince Veil 52½ D. Beadman3
 9/4 Cossack Raider 54½ D. McLellan4
 Kelknight 52 Ms L. Cropp5
 Composed 52 N. Rae 6
 Master Jive 54½ cd 53, M. Ollerton (a) 7
 Go Steve 57½ cd 541/2 D. Bradbury (a)..... 8
 Danzante 52 P. Losh..... 9
 Final Approach 52 L. Cassidy10
 Fiery Fellow 52 K. Moses 11
 Trimick 53cd 50 G. Mathews (a) 12
 Atlas 52 P. Robertson 13
 Double Mickey 52 M. Logue 14
 Owner: Fairway, Woodhill & Yalister Syndicates.
 Trainer: F.W. Mitchell. Short neck. Two lengths. Time: 1-38.05. (Track record)
5. Tooheys Limited Class 6 Handicap 1350 metres.
 \$10,500 & \$500 Trophy to owner, \$2,250, \$1,500, \$750.
 7/2 Jevheed 55 W. Aspros1
 7/1 Notorious Prince 54½ D. McLellan2
 40/1 Kelly's Shadow 52½ H. Troy 3
 12/1 Mosi-O-Tunya 52½ R.M. Quinn4
 Salivate 56 M. Lynch (11/4f)5
 Lazzara 54 L. Cassidy 6
 Moving Music 53½ cd 50½ S. Gleeson (a)7
 Against Time 56½ A.W. Robinson8
 Simply Gorgeous 52, Ms L. Cropp..... 9
 Beauty Case 52½ G. Boss10
 Charo Girl 52 A. Scorse 11

THE SPIRIT WITHIN

Owner: R.G, Mrs B.F. & G.T. Tyack, Trainer: R.G. Tyack. Short head. Long neck.
Time: 1-21.22.

6. Peabody Resources Class 2 Handicap 1350 metres.
\$7,000, \$1,500, \$1,000, \$500.
- | | |
|--|-----|
| 9/1 Memphis Music 53 R.M. Quinn | 1. |
| 8/1 Sunset Pass 52½ N. Rae | 2. |
| 8/1 Kin Narita 52½ A. Scorse | 3. |
| 7/4f Private 57½ D. Beadman | 4. |
| Captain Starlight 52½ D. McLellan | 5. |
| Dancing Sun 53 P. Losh | 6. |
| Tempest Warning 52½ P. Robertson | 7. |
| Dancing Best 53½ H. Troy | 8. |
| I'm Captain 52 Ms L. Cropp | 9. |
| Jamais Bleu 52½ L. Cassidy | 10. |
| Gold Rhapsody 52½ A.W. Robinson | 11. |
| Wreckers, 52cd 49 S. Gleeson (a) | 12. |
| Shindeo 54½ R. Thompson | 13. |
| Bionic Satan 52 M. Logue..... | 14. |
| Spring 'n' Autumn 53½ K. Moses | 15. |
| Totally Ours 52cd 49½ C. Dwyer (a) | 16. |
- Owner: P, Mrs A.O. & P.J. Murray, Mrs M.A. Kastelein, Mrs C.M. Kitching & C.J. Peoples. Trainer: K.J. Robinson. Half a length. Three quarters of a length.
Time: 1-21.01. (Track record)
Yiu Sun Kingdom (25/1) scratched at barrier, no alteration to betting.
7. The Coolmore Classic 1300 metres.
\$42,000 & Trophies of \$1,000, \$150, \$150 to owner, trainer, jockey.
\$9,000, \$6,000, \$3,000.
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| 9/1 Committal 60 J. Sheehan | 1. |
| 20/1 Mocha 54 R. Thompson | 2. |
| 20/1 Jamea 52 D. McLellan | 3. |
| 50/1 Dan Time 52½ M. McFarlane | 4. |
| Monopolise 54 D. Beadman (2/1f) | 5. |
| Silver Flyer 62 L. Cassidy | 6. |
| Welsh Miner 54 G. Boss | 7. |
| Magic of Money 54 K. Moses | 8. |
| Whiskey Wedding 52 P. Robertson..... | 9. |

Crathie 55½ R.M. Quinn 10
 Jonpilo 52 A.W. Robinson 11
 Owner: J.K. Killorn, T.A. Craigie, W. Sommer, W.A. Lee, M.J. Cattle & E.J. Bokeyar
 Trainer: K.J. Robinson.
 One and a quarter lengths. Half a length Time: 1-16.69. (Track record)

8. Centaur Asia Pacific Class 2 Handicap 1100 metres.
 \$7,000, \$1,500, \$1,000, \$500.
- | | |
|---|----|
| 10/1 Cardinal Puff 57 D. McLellan | 1 |
| 5/1 Skukuza 56½ G. Killen | 2 |
| 7/2ef Storm Boy 53½ D. Beadman | 3 |
| 14/1 Chimelle Star 52 L. Cassidy | 4 |
| Red Smokey 54½ H. Troy | 5 |
| Military Coup 57 G. Boss (7/2ef) | 6 |
| Welease Wodger 52cd 49 S. Gleeson (a) | 7 |
| Present Draw 52cd 49 C. Cowper (a) | 8 |
| Whistling Gold 52cd 49½ C. Dwyer (a) | 9 |
| Sir Leon 54½ M. McFarlane | 10 |
| Golden Bell 55, A.W Robinson | 11 |
| Dashing Blade 52 N. Rae..... | 12 |
| Mersquill 53 M.J. Cahill | 13 |
| Excite, 55½ R.M. Quinn | 14 |
| Bistro Kingdom 55 K. Moses | 15 |
| Aunt Clara 52cd 50½ W. Friend (a) | 16 |
- Owner: A.D. & J.D. Mitchell, N.S. Leckie, Mrs P. Arnott & Mrs K.W. Mitchell. Trainer: M.G. Lees.
 One and a half-lengths. One and a quarter lengths. Time: 1-03.88. (Track record)

Mack Griffith nails Scone win - Scone Apprentice Stephen Gleeson's claim to Fame

Scone trainer Mack Griffith became the first local mentor to win a race on the new Scone track when his promising galloper Mighty Oygle won the Ingham's Class 6 Handicap (1600) on the second day of the opening of the new complex.

Heavily supported in the ring to start 7/4 favourite, the gelding, ridden by Darryl McLellan, raced away over the final stages of the race for an easy 21/4 lengths win from Road To Skye (A. Scorse). Blonde Treasure (W. Cardwell) was 11/2 lengths away third.

Another Scone trainer, Jim Gleeson, was not far behind Mack Griffith in landing a winner on the new track, winning the next race, the Rural Press Maiden Division 2 (1100m), with Joanne Mary, ridden by the trainer's son, apprentice S.Gleeson.

With his win apprentice jockey Stephen Gleeson laid claim to being the first Scone jockey to have won a race on the new Scone track.

"When we hit the top of the straight I knew we were going to win," the 17-year-old said after his success on the second day of the opening carnival.

"I was real happy to win on our new home track."

Beneath him was the locally owned and trained brown three-year-old filly Joanne Mary, raced by Graeme and Clare Smith of Scone.

For young Steve his winning ride was his fourth success out of 55 rides since April this year.

Harry Troy, leading country jockey last season, had to wait until race four on day two before breaking through for a win on the new track when he booted Jester D'Or (5/2f) to victory in the Ansett Maiden Handicap (1500m) for Gosford trainer Bob Law.

The feature race on Saturday, the NBN Television Handicap (1100m) was won by Bally Moreen (10/1) from the Tamworth stable of Paul St Vincent and ridden by Peter Losh, second in the event was The Glen (7/2) Allan Robinson, with Natural Wong (20/1) claiming third prize.

The crowd figure on Saturday was 5797. This when coupled with the opening day attendance of 8272 reached an overall figure of around fourteen and a half thousand for the double-header.

Scone joined the country \$2million club when a total of \$2.333 million was wagered off-course at TAB outlets throughout NSW and overseas on the opening day.

There was another \$381,538 bet on the on-course tote and an estimated \$700,000 with bookmakers.

It continued on Saturday when about \$1.2 million was wagered off-course and \$199,000 on-course.

The computer-designed track received nothing but praise. It was an event to remember. The \$6million newly born project stood the ultimate test and passed with flying colours.

The only real casualty to come out of the two days of racing, apart from a few wounded punters, was Sydney jockey Larry Cassidy whose ride aboard Brummel on the opening day saw him come under the displeasure of the Stewards. He later became the first jockey to be suspended on the new track.

Scone Race Results- Day Two of the New Satur Complex Saturday, November 19 1994.

Weather: Fine. Track: Good.

- 1 Ingham Class 6 Handicap 1600 metres.
 \$8,750, \$1,875, \$1,250, \$625.
 7/4f Mighty Oygle 53½ D. McLellan 1
 5/1 Road to Skye 56½ A. Scorse 2
 10/1 Blonde Treasure 56 W. Cardwell 3
 3/1 Harmonic Sea 54½ R. Thompson 4
 Mahlula Star 53½ P. Robertson 5
 Super Chief 54 A.W. Robinson 6
 Tankarooka 53 P. Losh 7
 Double Era 53 N. Rae 8
 Owner: Mrs J. Griffith, Mrs P. Carrigan, Mrs N.F. Marshall & Mrs S.A. Callaghan.
 Trainer: M.D. Griffith. Two and a quarter lengths. One and a half-lengths.
 Time: 1-35.78. (Track record)

2. Rural Press Maiden Handicap (2) 1100 metres.
 \$3,500, \$750, \$500, \$250.
 15/1 Joanne Mary 54½cd 51½ S. Gleeson (a) 1
 9/4f Palace Bound 55½ N. Rae 2
 7/2 Ma Belle Cherie 55½ D. McLellan 3
 16/1 Left Handout 55cd 52 C. Cowper (a) 4
 Dangar Park 55½ cd 54 M. Ollerton (a) 5
 Speedy Express 55½ A. Scorse 6
 Joaillier 55½ H. Troy 7
 Colma Lass 54½ P. Robertson 8
 Special Tribute 55 P. Losh 9
 Total Affair 54½ cd 52 C. Dwyer (a) 10
 Blue Nicol 56½ A.W. Robinson 11

Club Bayview 55 Ms K. Jones	12
Racing Tripster 54½ R. Thompson	13
Explicate 55½ M. Lynch	14
Plenty of Change 55½ T. Green	15

Owner: G.L. & Mrs C.T. Smith. Trainer: J.P. Gleeson.

One and a quarter lengths. Two and a half-lengths. Time: 1-05.12.

3. Equimec Maiden Handicap (1) 1100 metres.

\$3,500, \$750, \$500, \$250.

14/1 Media Scoop 54 M. McFarlane	1
16/1 Landline 55½ T. Green	2
8/1 In a Stride 54½ A.W. Robinson	3
10/1 Forever 54cd 52½ W. Friend (a)	4
Chontelle 55½ W. Cardwell	5
Lisheenowen 54cd 51 C. Cowper (a)	6
Johno's Switch 58 R. Thompson (7/4f)	7
Dolphin's Gift 55 A. Stephens	8
Beam's Choice 54 D. McLellan	9
Mehtaab 54cd 53 M. Ollerton (a)	10
Gulistan 54 H. Troy	11
Glenora Girl 54 P.Losh	12
Master Gaylord 55½ W. Sorrensens	13
Proud Account 54cd 51½ C. Dwyer (a)	14
Top Timothy 55½ J. Grisedale	15

Owner: C.A. & Mrs S.F. Beaton. Trainer: C.F. Beaton. Two lengths. Half a length.
Time: 1-06.53.

4. Ansett Maiden Handicap 1500 metres.

\$3,500, \$750, \$500, \$250.

5/2f Jester D'Or 561½ H. Troy	1
20/1 Not Satisfied 52 W. Cardwell	2
7/1 Belsarius 52½ G. Killen	3
8/1 Miamber 53cd 50 S. Gleeson (a)	4
Steam 52cd 49½ C. Dwyer (a)	5
Biblical 531½ D. McLellan	6
Sweet Calabash 53½ R. Thompson	7
Prushkin 52 M. McFarlane	8

THE SPIRIT WITHIN

Shot to Pieces 55 T. Green	9
Big Warrior 54½ cd 51½ C. Cowper (a)	10
King Offiah 53 P. Robertson.....	11
Go Gypsy 53 G. Challen	12
Dancing Lad 53½ N. Rae	13
Palace 52 P. Losh	14
Futalac 52 A.W. Robinson	15
My Kind of Charm 52½ W. Sorrenson	16
Owner: M.A. Forbes, P.W. Deaves, B.M. Davies, D.P. Paterson, G.R. Birt & R. Law.	
Trainer: R. Law. One length. Half a head. Time: 1-32.40. (Track record)	

5. Bhima Class 1 Handicap 1200 metres.

\$3,500, \$750, \$500, \$250.

6/1 Ozma 54½ A. Scorse	1
10/1 River Breeze 56½ T. Green	2
7/2f Beaumont 56 A.W. Robinson	3
12/1 Beau Tierra 54 R. Thompson	4
Sadovyi 53 D. McLellan	5
Catecombe 55 K. Gover	6
Erasmus 53½ P. Losh.....	7
Oaklyn 53½ W. Sorrenson.....	8
Ela Denise 53cd 50½ C. Dwyer (a)	9
Hitched 56 N. Rae,	10
High Conquest 53 J. Grisedale	11
Miss Boanne 53 M. McFarlane	12
Regal Advance 54 H. Troy	13
Roadman 53 P. Robertson	14
Periquito 53 G. Challen	15
Foxy Princess 53 W. Cardwell	16

Owner: N.G. Booth & J.C.T. Wong. Trainer: P.J. Hood., Half a head.

Neck. Time: 1-12.15. (Track record)

6. Horsepower Class 6 Handicap 1350 metres.

\$8,750, \$1,875, \$1,250, \$625.

6/1 Monkani 56½ N. Rae	1
5/1 Sir Sable 55. Grisedale	2
6/1 Dashing Man 55 A.W. Robinson	3
16/1 Jy-lland Queen 53 D. McLellan	4

THE SPIRIT WITHIN

Borrowdale 56 P. Robertson (2/1f)	5
Laude Rolle 54 H. Troy	6
Sylvania Gold 53 W. Sorrenson	7
Regarded 53 R. Thompson	8
Sir Parker 53 P. Losh	9
Constant Kariette 53 A. Scorse	10
Ampersand 53 T. Green	11
Prince Haegar 53cd 50 ½ C. Dwyer (a)	12
Owner: A.E. Baxter. Trainer: M.G. Lees. One length. Short neck.	
Time: 1-21.75.	

7. NBN Television Handicap 1100 metres.
 \$14,000, \$3,000, \$2,000, \$1,000. \$500 trophy to owner.
- | | |
|--|----|
| 10/1 Bally Moreen 52 P. Losh | 1 |
| 7/2 The Glen 55 A.W. Robinson | 2 |
| 20/1 Natural Wong 52 N. Rae | 3 |
| 5/2f Romantic Governor 58 M. Lynch | 4 |
| Balista 52 P. Robertson..... | 5 |
| Plenty to Go 54 H. Troy | 6 |
| On the Avenue 52½ D. McLellan | 7 |
| Dadski 52 T. Green | 8 |
| Ricketty Nick 52 A. Scorse | 9 |
| Rough Rider 54½ W. Cardwell | 10 |
| Forthwith 52cd 49 S. Gleeson (a)..... | 11 |
| Owner: R.P. Heath, P. Brady, P. Mimahan, W.J. Hinton, P.R. Hassab & M.E. Brady Long neck. One and a quarter lengths. | |
| Time: 1-03.85(Track record) | |

Scone Race Club Committees 1947-1993-94

1947

President: D.H. Robertson.

Secretary: C. Parry.

Ass.Secretary: Mrs. S. Clark.

Treasurer: E.W. Howell.

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1948-49

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Treasurer: E.W. Howell.

Committee: Messrs. S.G. Keene, A.W. Riddle, S.N. Readford, L.R. Morgan, P. Tyler, H.R. Johnston, P.G. Burgess, G.N. Lochhead, L.B. Israel, F.W. Thompson, M. Thompson.

1949-50

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President: D.H. Robertson.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. S.G. Keene and A.F. Smith.

Secretary: C. Parry.

Treasurer: Charlie Clout.

Committee: Messrs. S.G. Keene, A.W. Riddle, S.N. Readford, L.R. Morgan, P. Tyler, H.R. Johnston, C.E. Spicer, L.B. Israel, M. Thompson, F.W. Thompson, R. McMullin.

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President: D.H. Robertson.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. S.G. Keene and A.F. Smith.

Secretary: C. Parry.

Treasurer: C. Clout.

Committee: Messrs. S.G. Keene, A.W. Riddle, S.N. Readford, L.R. Morgan, P. Tyler, H.R. Johnston, C.E. Spicer, L.B. Israel, M. Thompson, F.W. Thompson, R. McMullin.

1951-52

Patron: Mr. W.H. Mackay.

President: D.H. Robertson.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. S.G. Keene and M.V. Point.

Secretary: Karl Muller.

Treasurer: C. Clout.

Committee: Messrs. S.G. Keene, A.W. Riddle, H.R. Johnston, L.B. Israel, A.H. Young, M.O. Thompson, R. McMullin, D.H. Robertson, A.M. Bain, H.R. Hayes, A.F. Smith, C.A. Onus.

1952-53

Patron: Mr. W.H. Mackay.

President: D.H. Robertson.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. S.G. Keene and M.V. Point.

Secretary: K. Muller.

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Committee: Messrs. S.G. Keene, R.R. Moore, H.R. Johnston, M.O. Thompson, R. McMullin, D.H. Robertson, A.M. Bain, H.R. Hayes, A.H. Young, N.D. Smith, D.W. Smith, T.C. Onus.

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President: D.H. Robertson.

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Treasurer: Athol Rose.

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1956-57

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Treasurer: Mrs. M.I. Clark.

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1957-58

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Treasurer: Mrs. M.I. Clark.

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Secretary: Mrs. M. Philp.

Treasurer: J. Francis, Esq.

Committee: Messrs. Andrews, Kevin. Bath, David. Bott, Tony. Clift, Jonathon Cope, Hilton Francis, Jeremy. Howey, Bill. Johnston, Jack Lee-Warner, Mack. Menlove, Warwick. Mitchell, Harry Rose, Bill Simpson, Allan Spackman, Brian. White, Robert.

1990-91

President: D.R. Bath, Esq.

Vice-Presidents: H.G. Cope, Esq., H. Mitchell, Esq.

Secretary: Mrs. M. Philp.

Treasurer: Brian Spackman.

Committee: Messrs. Andrews, Kevin. Archibald, Gordon. Bath, David. Bott, Tony. Clift, Jonathon. Cope, Hilton. Francis, Jeremy. Howey, Bill. Johnston, Jack. Lee-Warner, Mack. Rose, Bill. Johnston, Ken. Menlove, Warwick. Mitchell, Harry.

1991-92

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Vice-Presidents: H.G. Cope, Esq., H. Mitchell, Esq.

Secretary: Mrs. M. Philp.

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1992-93

President: D.R. Bath, Esq.

Vice-Presidents: H.G. Cope, Esq., J.M.Clift, Esq.

Secretary: Mrs. M. Philp.

Treasurer: J.S. Francis.

Committee: Messrs. Kevin Andrews, Gordon Archibald, David Bath, Tony Bott, Jonathon Clift, Hilton Cope, Jeremy Francis, Bill Howey, Jack Johnston, Ken Johnston, Mack Lee-Warner, Bill Rose, Warwick Menlove, Andrew Palmer.

1993-94

President: D.R. Bath, Esq.

Vice-Presidents: H.G. Cope, Esq., J.M. Clift, Esq.

Secretary: Mrs. M. Philp.

Treasurer: J.S. Francis.

Committee: Messrs. Kevin Andrews, David Bath, Tony Bott, Jonathon Clift, Hilton Cope, Jeremy Francis, Bill Howey, Jack Johnston, Mack Lee-Warner, Warwick Menlove, Andrew Palmer.

Presidents Profile

D.H. Robertson MC

Scone Race Club President 1944-1955

“Australia’s cattle industry lost a pioneer breeder, a leader at the highest level in country thoroughbred racing, courageous soldier and a true gentleman”. These were the words echoed by the many who knew and admired Mr. Douglas Robertson, following his death in 1967.

The late Doug. Robertson had a distinguished record in World War 1 when he was a commissioned officer and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in action.

He founded the “Albinia” Shorthorn Stud in 1934 on the property “Blackdown” in Bathurst and, in 1939, moved it to “Turanville, just south of Scone in the Hunter Valley, NSW.

Mr. Robertson took an active interest in the Scone district, promoting and organising fundraising to help the local hospital and ambulance service.

Being Chairman of the Hospital Board for a number of years, he was also involved in the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, becoming its Vice-President in 1962.

His wise counsel was greatly valued on all of these bodies as well as on the executive of the Scone Race Club where he held the position of President from 1944 until 1955. He headed the steering committee, which built the racecourse on White Park.

A keen racing man, his horses won races at Randwick and other courses around the state. One was Truffle who, from 1958 to 1960, won 14 times. Another, Imogen who was purchased as a yearling, produced the top line racemare Without Reproach, twice successful in the Newcastle Cameron Handicap.

One can only imagine the hard work and frustration that would have come with the President's position, followed by the pride and satisfaction which Doug Robertson and his crew finally witnessed at the opening of the White Park track in the month of May 1947.

Criticism had turned to congratulations, hard work to satisfaction, and the leisure outlet that had been labelled by many as a "pipedream" had been put in place for the people of Scone and district.

It has been said that history has a habit of repeating itself. If this is so, then one could quote the comment made by the president of the Scone Jockey Club, Mr. Thomas Cook, following a meeting held at Satur in 1894. "They had men on the committee who were the right sort, and they needed only to put their shoulder to the wheel and keep going to make the club the best north of Newcastle".

L.B. Israel

Scone Race Club President 1955-1961,1964-1965

Lionel Israel severed his ties with the thoroughbred industry when he sold his Segenhoe Stud in 1985. After 48 years on the famous property east of Scone. His was a sixty-year association with the racing world.

Mr. Israel started racing horses in Newcastle just after World War 1, at the age of 17. He often recalled, *"My father told me I would go broke, but I just loved horses too much to give it away"*.

He earned for himself a reputation for breeding quality bloodstock. A tribute to the shrewd judgement he possessed was probably brought to the fore in 1970, when Kaoru Star arrived at Segenhoe.

The owners of the horse had received many offers from America, New Zealand and, from all over Australia, to buy the well-bred stallion for stud duties, but, it was Mr. Israel who outbid the opposition and retained the-famed stallion for Australian breeders.

When asked to rate the best horse Segenhoe had produced in his time, Mr. Israel could rattle off a list of names. Many ranked among the greats of the Australian turf, but when mentioning Pride of Egypt, there was always something special in the breeder's voice.

The classy three-year-old of the fifties was the product of one of Israel's best imports, Nilo. Nilo was the top-rated youngster of 1954-55 with wins including the VRC Derby and St Leger, the AJC St Leger, STC Rosehill Guineas, the Canterbury Guineas and AJC Hobartville Stakes.

Lionel Israel's reign in the top job of the Scone Race Club was from 1955 to 1961. He then served another term in 1964-65. As a long serving committeeman in an era that saw many prominent Sydney owners, trainers and jockeys complement the local track, Mr. Israel, as an owner, was always ready to nominate many of his top gallopers at the meetings.

HR (Harry) Hayes

Scone Race Club President 1961-1964, 1967,68,69,70,71-1972

"I think he was one of the unsung heroes in Upper Hunter racing".

"He was a very generous man for anything he believed in and he was always a great contributor to horse racing".

These were the words spoken by John Kelso (himself a former president of the Scone Race Club) when describing the late Harry Hayes who passed away in February 1991 but, not before he had left an indelible impression on the community as a whole. A highly successful businessman, Harry Hayes at one stage owned the Scone Abattoir and various butcher shops in the Upper Hunter as well as his "Leighton Park" property at Segenhoe. His brood mare band bred him such good horses as Skellatar, Zozima and Friendly Joy.

Harry Hayes' great love for racing stemmed from his years as a kid riding trackwork at the old Rosebery and Moorefield racecourses in Sydney.

He was a committee member of the Newcastle Jockey Club, stepping down in 1960 after 26 years of service (a term only surpassed by the then present chairman Mr. Roy Mahoney), and the Newcastle Registration Board on which he represented the Upper Hunter.

Harry Hayes served two periods on Scone Shire Council for a total of 17 years and was Chairman of the Upper Hunter County Council for 13 years.

HR, as he was so often called, was a man of involvement, whether it be at the local saleyards, at his abattoirs or, helping at the Scone racecourse.

A man with a sense of humour only matched by a willingness “to have a go”, this brought to the fore many times at the famous on-course barbecues on the eve of the Scone Cup, as the man standing over the hotplate attending the steaks.

As John Kelso said, “*He was an unsung hero*”, but the memories linger on.

John F. Kelso

Scone Race Club President 1965-1967, 1972,73,74,75,76,77,78-79

John Kelso came down from Queensland well over a half-century ago and established the Timor Creek Stud, east of the town of Murrurundi in the upper reaches of the Hunter Valley

The name Kelso has for many years been well entrenched in the horse racing and breeding circles. John’s father, the late Jack Kelso was a well-known racing steward who served on the panel of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club for six seasons in the 1960s. John’s grandfather William Kelso, bred, owned and trained the winner of the 1928 Melbourne Cup winner, Statesman.

John Kelso ran Timor Creek Stud for a quarter of a century, standing the stallions, Raymali and Vibrant.

He was stud master at the famous Blandford Park Stud, Murrurundi (now Emirates Park) when a top line-up of stallions, including Sharp Edge, Juke Box, Twig Moss, Lord Dudley, Raffindale and Cheyne Walk were domiciled there in the late 1970s and early 80s.

However, it was through his tireless work on several committees that John Kelso’s name figured so prominently over the years.

A former President of the Murrurundi district, he was a member of the Scone Race Club for over 20 years, eleven of those as President. He was also President of the Australian Horse Council and NSW Horse Council, President of the N.S.W. Bloodhorse Breeders’ Association for 8 years, with another eight years as Vice-President.

In 1995 John Kelso was nominated and voted the Scone Horse Festival VIP.

After more than fifty years hands-on work with horses John Kelso decided to try his hand as a Bloodstock Agent, a venture that was short lived with his sudden passing in 1999.

The death of one of nature's gentlemen left a void in the ranks of the thoroughbred world, a void that saw his peers from the Hunter Valley Bloodhorse Breeders honouring him with a posthumous award for his contribution to breeding and the racing industry.

WP (Bill) Howey

Scone Race Club President 1978-1984

William. P. Howey-what can be said about the man? One could be swept away in the enthusiasm he injects into any venture he decides to tackle.

Bill Howey, a prominent veterinarian who has spent half-a-lifetime within an industry that has benefited from his beliefs and knowledge.

He has served on many committees during his years in Scone. President of the local club, 1978-1984, committeeman, 1971-1994.

President of the Australian Equine Veterinary Association, foundation member of the Hunter Valley Bloodhorse Breeders' Association and Hunter Valley Equine Research Foundation.

In 1976 Bill and his wife Sarah purchased a small property on the outskirts of Scone, breeding thoroughbreds and rearing beef cattle. From that venture they bred the winners of more than 100 races, including Visalia, 18 wins, Bakerman, 16, California Express and many others.

Bill Howey was elected Scone Race Club President in 1978, taking the club through one of its most turbulent periods, at all times believing in the future of racing in Scone and standing by these beliefs beyond his term in the top job which he relinquished in 1984.

In 1993 Bill and Sarah gave up country life, so to speak, taking up residence in one of the town and districts historical homes, "Geraldton", in Shaw Street, opposite Elizabeth Park.

Bill Howey's passion for the Scone Race Club was again brought forth when, in 1994, he set up a committee to oversee the closing of the old town track at White Park.

Some of the highlights he notes while with the club are the introduction of mid-week TAB meetings, incorporation of the Scone Race Club in 1984, sponsorship, which so many, if not all, clubs rely on, and the promotion of special race days-ARABS Cup, Aberdeen Slipper and Cup Meetings, Murrurundi Cup and the St Andrew's Day Meeting.

The esteem in which the likeable Scot is held was shown in 1987 when Bill Howey was elected as Scone Horse Week's VIP.

David. R. Bath **Scone Race Club President 1984-1994**

When David Bath took over the reins as President of the Scone Race Club in 1984 amalgamation with the Muswellbrook club was still a possibility.

The Racecourse Development Committee had advised the committee of the Scone club that there would be no further money made available for further improvements to the old track and its amenities at White Park.

Like many country clubs, Scone had struggled to make the hard yards with prizemoney and, some of the lesser meetings staged, were not to everyone's liking. David Bath and his committee, rode out those times and when the big annual event rolled around-the Scone Cup Carnival-The promotion was put in place to enable the club to stage one of the most popular racing carnivals in country New South Wales.

David Bath was reared amongst thoroughbreds on the famous "Bhima" Stud, just on the outskirts of the main business area of Scone. With this background, it was understandable that he would be among those who knew what racing and having a racetrack in the immediate area meant to the people of the district.

Over the years, it had become apparent that time was running out for the White Park circuit.

In 1988, there was the light at the end of the tunnel, with the announcement that a new racing complex would be built on the property "Tarrangower", just west of Scone.

The sceptics were there, just as they had been in 1946. Once again the questions were asked -: Could it be achieved? Will it succeed?

Epilogue

The story of Australia's greatest national sport began with an impromptu bush racetrack, the meeting run by settlers near Windsor in New South Wales in 1805.

As the state of New South Wales expanded it was the early explorers who paved the way, and the settlers who followed appropriated tracts of land to make their livelihood.

No township was too small to provide a racetrack, however makeshift.

It has been said that, on the setting-up of a new town or hamlet, the instructions were to build a place of prayer, a school and a racetrack, in that order.

Many of these hastily cleared out bushland to be used as a track and on occasions, have that track act as a picnic or recreation ground for the town's folk.

It was a far-off remote world from what we live in today; people travelled on rough gravel roads and, at times, on tracks cleared through the stringy bark bush, it was in this environment that the horse played a major part.

In the early years horses were an indelible part of life, not only as a means of transport and for use in the workforce, they were making their mark as a leisure outlet for colonial Australians.

Such was the Australian way of life in the bush. Even without a course to race on, there seemed no reason not to compete. Children raced their ponies home from school, and stockman their stockhorses from the cattle musters to the stockyards. In fact, any type of race created interest and enthusiasm from our predecessors. Their stories we still treasure today.

It was not always the sleek, finally tuned thoroughbreds that these early race meetings catered for, ponies, stockhorses, all-heights and scrubbers made up the fields for these outings. Most of the entrants, ridden by their owners with no set weights, running for prizes supplied by the race-day organisers-usually the local Inn Keeper.

As racing gained momentum it was the richly endowed pastoralist and the wealthy townies that were able to gain and improve the racing stock that has become the forebearers of our modern day Australian bred thoroughbred.

People will ask, why? When I have named this book Scone's Racing History I have made the cut-off point 1994.

The past ten years since the move to the new course at Satur has been a trying decade for those who run racing in Scone. In fact the way racing is structured today, with week day meetings, and the way the sport has been handled, especially in the country, has taken a great deal of community involvement away from how it used to be.

Maybe in another one hundred and sixty years someone will add another chapter or two to Scone's colourful racing history and the Satur racecourse will reflect some of the memories and experiences past generations have enjoyed.

Supplement

A Brief Study of Racing in Scone since 1947 by Jack Johnston

During the war years a number of Patriotic Race Meetings were held in Scone, namely at Alabama and St Aubins, to raise funds for various institutions such as the Scott Memorial Hospital, the Red Cross and the CWA.

On 30th November 1944, a final Committee Meeting of the Scott Memorial Hospital Race Club was held and it was decided at that meeting to reform the Scone Jockey Club and endeavour to establish a Racecourse, preferably on White Park, Scone.

At another meeting held on 7th December 1944, which was a great success, donations promised and received totalled £209:6:0.

Mr Doug Robertson was elected President
(Mr Stan Keene declined nomination)
Mr Ted Howell was elected Treasurer
Mr Cec Parry was elected Honorary Secretary

The Committee comprised:

B Price
S G Keene
S M Readford
C Duncombe
L R Morgan
H R Johnston
S Clark
G N Lockhead
Sgt. J G Loombes (10)

The first meeting was held on the new (White Park) race course which was designed on very similar lines to Canterbury, Sydney, the same architect doing both courses.

The meeting was on Wednesday 7th May 1947, with a 6 event programme; £750 total prizemoney; £420 double Flying and Cup.

Results:

Maiden Handicap	Oxford Lad	Etiquette	Fasfoot	11 Starters
Flying Handicap	Jungle Queen	Chief Ticket	Lilla Jean	5
Scone Race Club Cup	Precise	Smart Alick	Wearie	16
Novice Handicap	Double Gift	Aachen	Cangai	
Welter Handicap	Exalted	Chief Ticket	Emerge	8

The club started racing with all accounts paid in full.

The Cup has been run over 4 distances, namely:

7 ¼ furlongs

8 furlongs

9 furlongs

7 furlongs (1400 meters) of late

Some of that fastest horses racing have performed at Scone.

Horses like:

“River Ridge”

“Lady Lightfoot”

“Brother Smoke”

“Styx”

“Susan Brolga”

“Develope”

“Merry Jack” etc., etc.,

In spite of statements made about the tightness of the track, very few accidents have occurred. Only 1 jockey fatality and very few horses have fallen over 46 years of racing and trials. It was recognised as a very safe wet weather track. We still raced one year when the barriers became bogged on several occasions.

Top jockeys who have ridden on White Park include:

George Moore

Ray Selkrig

Arthur Ward

Jack Thompson

Teddie Doon

Len Duncombe

Barry Smith

Skeeter Kelly

Ron Quinton

Vic Thompson

Bill Wade

John Wade

Wayne Harris

Darby Munro (who received \$1:50 for his win on “San Salvador”!!)

Many people will miss racing on White Park. It has served the people well, but progress has to be respected and we will soon be moving to the new site and a beautiful course.

There will be no complaints about the training tracks or the course proper and only the fittest will survive.

I’ve always said if you win a race anywhere, the track is good. Whether it be up and down hill or round sharp turns, it’s still good and few owners complain!!

Having served 39 years as a committeeman on the Race Club and 34 as Timekeeper, I can assure you I have seen a lot of changes but enjoyed it all and am looking forward to doing the same tasks at the new track. (Note: Sadly Jack could no longer continue as Timekeeper because he could not walk up the long spiral staircase to the Judge’s Tower at the new Satur Track).

The Presidents in order are:

1. D H Robertson
2. L B Israel
3. H R Hayes
4. John Kelso Jnr.
5. W P Howey
6. D R Bath

J W Johnston esq.,

Footnote: I strongly suspect (in fact know) Jack’s daughter Lesley typed this manuscript!

Aberdeen Jockey Club 1898 - 1971

Written by Harley Walden in 2000; from the 'Harley Walden Archive' now at the Scone & Upper Hunter Historical Society

See also: <https://www.scone.com.au/the-aberdeen-jockey-club/>

THE Aberdeen Jockey Club was founded in 1898; down through the years suffering a number of setbacks, including three floods, the first in 1913, the second in 1955 and the one that finally ended horse racing in Aberdeen was in February 1971.

It is near on thirty years since the Aberdeen club last unfurled its flag at the pretty Riverside racetrack situated in the bend of the Hunter River at Aberdeen.

Long gone are the times when quietude and lethargy gave way to the pounding of hooves and raucous and staccato voices of the men supporting their satchels, those were the good old days, the roarin' days when the 'Deen boasted one of the most progressive race clubs in Northern N.S.W.

Although we are in the year 2000, and the past seems a long way from the present, a cursory glance through memorabilia will revive memories for the younger of the district whose parents and grandparents were involved when racing was at a pinnacle in "Tiger Town."

Sportsmen and women, like good horses, go the way of all flesh, but the long list of some familiar names still find their place in the treasure-trove of local racing history.

The name Fleming will be remembered and Tom Fleming was a doyen among judges, his verdicts still unchallenged.

Likewise Tom Gallen, whose deft fingers and clear vision enabled him to carry out the important post of timekeeper.

He and his old gelding, Ogo, will be recalled, the old horse must have known every blade of grass on the Aberdeen track, regulars losing count of just how many times the old fellow negotiated the undulating, yet safe surface.

Arthur Hardy in the Secretarial chair giving a hand to welcome all and sundry.

Arthur was a prince in the game, many times filling in as judge for the Scone club in its fledgling years.

The name Day is closely related in all aspects of sport in and around Aberdeen, and a stroll through the paddock finds Roy Day, who holds his hand up in racing—just cannot recall the many charges that passed through his hands.

Harry Oaks, whose success with Allunga, Flying Knight and Co., are well known, while Tom O'Brien would have mirrored the days when he had a hand in Aberdonia and Coruena, both consistent and brilliant gallopers with whom Scott Johnston and "Toss" Gardiner likewise, had a big hand in.

Scott Johnston was always on hand and with him a string of no less than six horses, among them Kinetic, Ruby Queen, Willie Ploma and that slashing mare Blue Tilly, who had a sequence of six wins (three doubles) at meetings between Armidale and Newcastle, all in the space of eight days.

Frank Whyte, from out Tooloogan way was right in his element, keeping with his consistent support of the club, with his charge Our Voyage, a many times winner on the course.

Sid. Whitehead, it was that honest and great old mare, Mater, that made the old gentleman famous, and in her many triumphs Aberdeen supported her to a man.

The mare and Ogo were for many years the idols of the local racing fans.

Others who frequented the track in those days included, Les Haigh of Rogilla history, who received his "leg-up" at Aberdeen, like many other successful mentors of the day.

Frank Cronan, whose bold galloper Pandora reached grand heights, even to the downing of the mighty Beauford, when the champion was in his heyday.

Albert Hussey and the Sevil boys were regulars and with Jingo Joss and Ann Bolyenn carried off more than one well-placed plunge.

Then there was the Alford Bros., with Ruby King, Rorie Queen, and lesser lights.

Jack Almond, over from Denman, always had a handy one.

Bill "Chummy" Gardiner, who kept the best of them striding at their top with his more than useful gelding, Longmark.

Last, but not least Charlie Fittock, official and owner, Albert Friedman of Wingen and Tom O'Donnell, of Scone, Jim Sweeney and Dan Perkins who plied their calling as bookmakers for many years, later their places taken by Ernie Marks, and his second-lieutenant, Arthur Fox.

The Aberdeen Race Club was always blessed with a host of top committeemen, as well as members and supporters.

It was the manager of the Aberdeen Meat Works, from 1924 to 1954, Lou Davies, who is credited with putting the club back on its feet after the First World War.

Not only was he President for many years, but also ran his own string of good horses trained by Eric Cribb.

Such was the strength of the committee, Aberdeen businessman Mr. Arthur Taylor served as treasurer for 32 years, later becoming the club President.

The club ran meetings, three or four times a year and was able to race through the Depression years because of the constant employment at the meat works.

During the early nineteen-forties the Aberdeen club hosted several meetings for the Scone Race Club before the local club settled into White Park.

One such meeting was held on November 11, 1944, resulting in Valiant Hero, trained at Scone by Scott Johnson, winning the Scott Memorial Hospital Cup, run over seven furlongs.

Another feature of the meeting was the dual success of Red Kennel in the Maiden and Probationers Handicap, the gelding prepared at Aberdeen by Jerry O'Brien.

The best performance of the fixture however, went to Jungle King, the brown son of Harinero, landing the Nurses Handicap over six furlongs, with the steadier of 11 stone (70kg), which included 42lb (19kg) of dead weight.

Over the years, if there had to be a highlight singled out for mention on the old track, it probably would have occurred on a Saturday in September 1950. A memorable day for Scone apprentice, Ross Snowden, who rode a double hat trick.

The young horseman riding all six winners on the program, four of these for his "master", Scone trainer Scott Johnston.

It seems ironic that the Aberdeen track should become the scene that almost cost Ross Snowden his life.

It was on this course with its famous "dip" that almost claimed the life of the Scone horseman, when three horses came down in a sensational fall.

The year was 1952, and the fall occurred as the field was about to come up out of the “dip”, a furlong and three-quarters from home.

For no apparent reason, Snowden’s mount, Deep End, crossed his front legs and fell heavily, in a flash, Pacobah, (N. Bell) and Gay Cup (K. Clement), were over the top of the fallen horse.

Clement was unharmed, with Bell suffering a hip injury.

The head injuries sustained by Snowden were substantial, and left him in a coma for several days.

Ross Snowden lived in Singleton up until his death a couple of years ago, often recalled the fall and his close brush with death.

The devastation caused by the 1955 flood left the track and the amenities in complete ruin, but after a long idleness and with plenty of voluntary labour, racing at Aberdeen resumed on May 2, 1959.

With a new President, Mr. Arthur Taylor in charge, the two Vice-Presidents, Mr. J.P. Fleming, then 89 years of age and Mr. W.R.D. Stephens, 82, said they had not seen a better meeting.

It was Scone trainer Scott Johnston and Merriwa grazier, Mr. G. Horden, who scooped the pool at the meeting, winning the Aberdeen Cup with Pitlochry, ridden by Scone horseman, Martin (Herbie) Everleigh.

Pitlochry’s full-brother; Lord Stranrear was successful in the Corinthian Cup for the same connections.

When the Aberdeen Club held its New Year race meeting on Saturday, January 9, 1971, little did they realise that this was to be the final outing on the old track, with the floods that arrived some weeks later laying it to rest forever.

By all reports the meeting was well attended with winners coming out of the stables of Wilf. Barker, Ron Englebrecht, Reg. Fletcher and Roy Hinton.

Crown Prince was successful in the Aberdeen Handicap for Scone owner/trainer, Tom Easy Secret Tom, racing in the colours of Gloria and Stan Wicks won the final event on the old track, the gelding prepared in Scone by Tom Ollerton and ridden by the trainer’s brother, Jim.

Looking back over the history of the Aberdeen Race Club, it is not hard to imagine why those who still remember, speak of the old track, its committees, supporters and competitors with pride, horse racing in days gone by kept communities together, acting as a meeting place and leisure outlet.

There is no doubt that down through the years the people of Aberdeen, who have copped their share of hard knocks, had looked to their racing for a lift, but sadly through the elements and various other reasons, Aberdeen, like so many other smaller country race clubs have hauled down their “flags”, never to be hoisted again.

ARABS CUP

This might not be what you expect? It used to be the ‘biggest thing’ at Scone Race Club after the May Cup meeting. The latter was always the biggest single sporting event in the valley.

Super sleuth George Ryder conjured up yet another brilliant idea from a very fertile and inventive brain. He’s just introduced syndication of stallions to Australia enabling greater consumer participation and ostensibly also ‘affordability’ of superior bloodstock from both local and overseas supply markets. The USA had already forged the way in this as in many other entrepreneurial and commercial endeavours throughout the 20th century. Australia was playing ‘catch up’ with G E Ryder at the helm; a common theme in racing and breeding.

In 1971 George and his partners had sold Woodlands to an interesting International partnership between Lord Derby (UK) and Bob Kleberg of King Ranch, Texas (USA). The great days of domination of Sydney racing by the flagship D Chrystal Snr, D Chrystal Jnr, Dr T Street and G E Ryder owners, trained by T J Smith at Randwick, ridden by G Moore ended forever. Woodlands became Derby-King Ranch for the time being. Perhaps the money tree had shed all its leaves? However the sale enabled George and a few remaining cohort to acquire the famous but jaded Kia Ora Stud in the Segenhoe Valley near both Scone and Aberdeen. Instantly George sprang into action with the syndication of both Gynsynd and Baguette for Kia Ora. The immediate and prescient future was assured.

George then excelled with his Australian Racing and Breeding Syndicate (ARABS). For only \$500:00 per share anyone could buy into the portfolio. It allowed thousands of small players with limited means to both participate in and enjoy the exquisite thrill

of thoroughbred ownership. At least that was the theory. Even I was sucked in. GER could be VERY persuasive! It actually worked; with some corollary benefits for the Ryder family. There usually were. Armed with some more 'new money' (other people's) George acquired an impressive and select band of broodmares. He was good at this. He brought some of them with him from Woodlands. In racing and breeding George knew the score. His network and knowledge were unmatched. The ultimate 'hussler' Bobby Riggs would have been no match for G E Ryder on the tennis court, the golf course or the racetrack.

The ARABS syndicate was instantly successful. The distinctive colours of yellow-and-black diamonds showed up front and central in many races throughout NSW and even further afield. Pat Farrell from Muswellbrook was one of the principal trainers for the syndicate. George picked his team well. Star apprentice Wayne Harris' name was on everyone's lips. Winners began to flow regularly. Hungry appetites and slaked thirsts for new age success were assuaged; at least for the time being.

The major showcase for the syndicate became the Open Day at Kia Ora Stud allied with the Scone Race Club's ARABS Cup Meeting at White Park Race Track in Scone. I can honestly claim title to the latter concept. At least 1000 ARABS patrons crowded into the Upper Hunter for the 'big weekend'. By 1980 George had on-sold Kia Ora Stud to John Clift from 'The Dip' Stud at Breeza on the black soil plains between Quirindi and Gunnedah. 'Gunsynd' had made both names famous throughout the country. The ARABS secretariat office at Double Bay staffed by Ryder family members was also expensive to maintain. Cash flow was imperative. Some lifestyles are fiscally consumptive.

I have just rediscovered the 'Gallop Around' report in the Scone Advocate by Brian Russell of the ARABS Cup meeting April 1980. Brian's ecstatic report featured the headline 'Robert Thompson King of the ARABS'. Should that have been Sheikh? Robert certainly had a great day riding half the program with three winners in the six race card. The main race was the \$2500:00 Mary Tange 2yo Sires Produce Stakes won by 'Miss Bayreme'. Mrs Ron Tange always attended the races dressed immaculately featuring exotic Ascot-style hats. She and husband Ron were great supporters; and sponsors. The latter matter was not lost on G E Ryder!

Years later John Messara sniffed out an opportunity. He launched a successful takeover bid for all the ARABS bloodstock by the simple expedient of acquiring a majority shareholding. George Ryder did not see him coming. It was a sad day for him and his 'family of ARABS'. The distinctive colours also went with the deal. They have been

sported by some of Australia's greatest racehorses in recent times. Miss Finland is a prime example. These are raced under the banner of John Messara's Arrowfield Stud; now perhaps the most successful exponent in the nation? Many would argue convincingly that John is the present day 'Sheikh of Racing'?

Belmore Heights 'Old Course'

Belmore Estate was the original property of Scone builder Mathew Miller who constructed his home 'Belmore House' (now 'Geraldton') on the site as shown. This is now my home. The 'Old Course on Belmore Heights' was further up the 'Public Road to Scone Sale Yards and Scone Common'; now Susan Street. It ran close to the common and the finishing post was near what is now Scott Memorial Hospital in Stafford Street.

The final meeting on the 'Old Course on Belmore Heights' may have taken place in 1941? It was recorded in the Scone Advocate as:

'Springs to Life'

Old Course on Belmore Heights

Hospital Carnival Races Attract Large Crowd

Spasm and Snip Win Principal Double

Interesting Racing and Busy Officials

The old racecourse on Belmore Heights, the scene of many meetings when ARC racing flourished in this and other centres, sprung to life on Saturday, when the major attraction of the Hospital Carnival – the races – was held. There were about 600 people on the ground, and that gate takings amounted to approximately £80. This was a very good result, all things considered, and not alone emphasised the popularity of the sport but proved, once more, one of the best means by which money can be raised for charitable or patriotic purposes.

The meeting was held on property owned by a Miss Wilson. Preparation of the track of 'about 4 furlongs' was undertaken by a Mr J T Aisbett who had previously prepared the successful Red Cross Race Meeting at Segenhoe in August 1940. Perennial volunteer Mr Cec Parry attracted lavish praise as Honorary Secretary; as usual. Other luminaries named in the honour roll were Mr H G Horder (Honorary Treasurer), Messrs F C Nutt, G N Lochhead, J J Hardiman, J F Drew, Mr George Clark (Clerk of the Course), brother Steve Clark, H R Poole, H Barwick, C W Murray, P Fincher and G Erranati.

Clerk of the Scales was Mr J D Tierney, Mr W Rose (Starter), Mr F Firth, Judges S Payne & A W Cumming with Stipendiary Stewards A F Smith, D Hogan and S Felton while both Mr Smith and Mr Felton acted as handicappers. Schoolteacher Mr J Thistlethwayte provided the blackboard and vital information pertaining to the meeting. The lot of classing the 'Scrubbers' fell to Messrs E L Eipper, R Breese and A W Cumming.

Seven bookmakers attended the meeting with the broadcast arranged by Mr G H Davies. The popular publican's booth was conducted by Mr P O'Brien of Wingen with the Gundy Members of the Hospital Auxiliary providing afternoon tea and other light refreshments.

In all six races were contested. The controversial runner was 'Royal Voyage' who was nominated in three races as pronounced favourite only to be declared a non-starter in the Nurses Handicap (Race 2) due to 'standing at the post' and a 'tardy starter' in the First Class Scrubbers Race No 4. He managed to win Race 6, the Consolation Handicap in a two horse contest against H Wicks' 'Cowboy'. The main double of the Nurse's Handicap (Race 2) and Hospital Handicap (Race 4) were won by respectively by 'Spasm' (D Gilltrow) and 'Snip' (W Holman). Only about 10 or 12 runners actually competed in the six-race programme; most starting at least twice?

The President of the Hospital Auxiliary Mr F W Croaker (Petwyn Vale, Wingen) stated no one could be more gratified with the meeting and remarked that he was pleased to see the public respond so generously in these trying times as per usual.

Blandford Races 1900

Excerpt, Letter to the Editor, Racing at Blandford in 1900, Scone Advocate, Tuesday 4th April 1961; Reprinted in 'Mac Bridge; The Man and his Recollections' by Heather Ashford and Margaret Ashford-Macdougall 1983, Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society, 1983 Bi-Centennial Publication No. 2

Racing at Blandford in 1900

Easter Monday, 1900, was the first time I saw racing at Blandford. The main topic at the time was talk of a previous meeting, when a horse owned by Bill Greer, and ridden by Albert Hussey, failed to take the turn into the straight, and sprawled over the fence and finished up in the middle of the metal road. I do not know how the horse got along, the rider was hurt and badly shaken – no swabbing at that time! But it has been said caffeine would not have been found, but traces of something purveyed by Johnny Walker.

BLAKE'S RIVER (*Co. Fitzroy*) is a small W. tributary of the head of the Nymboi river. Sandstone.

BLANDFORD (or **MURULLA**), 32° 48' S. lat., 150° 54' E. long. (*Co. Brisbane*), is a small postal township, built on private property, in the parish of Murulla, electoral district of upper Hunter, and police district of Murrurundi. It is situated on the Page river and Warland's creek, on the great Northern-road, between Sydney and Armidale, and is distant N.W. from the former, 186, and from the latter, 127 miles. Warland's, Scott's, Splitters', and Sandy creeks, the 3 latter dry in summer, all flow near Blandford; Warland's creek retains water in the driest seasons. The Murulla mountain, the highest in the district, is distant 3 miles W.S.W.; mount Wingen, or the burning mountain, a remarkable natural phenomenon (see **WINGEN MOUNT**), is distant about 7 miles S. The district is chiefly an agricultural one, there being a large number of free selectors settled in the neighbourhood; there is, also, fine pastoral country in the neighbourhood. The nearest diggings are the Denison diggings (quartz), about 20 miles distant. The nearest places are Murrurundi, 3 miles N.; Wingen, 7 miles S.; and Scone, 21 miles S. With these places the communication is by coach; and with Sydney, 186 miles S.E., by coach to Singleton, thence by rail to Newcastle, and thence by steamer. There is a township marked out on the opposite bank of the river Peel, called Murulla, but none of the allotments are as yet built upon. The surrounding country is very mountainous, the township being situated in a lovely valley. The geological formation is sandstone and shale.

BLAND is a county in the pastoral district of Lachlan, containing 300 acres of alienated land, and 1,359,700 acres unalienated. Its boundaries are, however, open to modification.

However, at the Easter meeting, 1900, the double was won by a horse named Trial, owned by the late Harry Hall, of Willow Tree, ridden by Dooley Sevil. One of the bookmakers on course was the late Dan Lewis, spoken of as Dismal Dan. Dan Lewis later became a trainer of some note at Randwick and led in the winners of five or six Sydney Cups and the winner of one Melbourne Cup. (I've been unable to verify this; but let's not spoil a good story with 'alternative facts'!)

At a meeting on Boxing Day, 1900, the late Harry Kenny entered his horse Brolga in a race, but was so much under the weather he failed to get the horse ready and Brolga was still tethered to the fence whilst the race was being run. Brolga, later that season, was killed on the Murrurundi race-course whilst competing in a race.

At the Blandford meeting, I remember three satchel swingers, Dan Lewis, Rufe Naylor, who later took Winooka to America for a racing season, and Jim Kennan, who also ran a horse named Burdekin at the meeting.

During the Boer War, Ted Corbett, auctioneer of Scone, journeyed to Blandford for the purpose of purchasing remounts for the Army. A fair number of settlers turned up with horses for sale. The meeting place was the yard at the Plough Inn. Tom Gilshenan was there with a brown gelding by Tester (cannot just recall the name of the gelding), which was not for sale, but appeared to be there in the hopes of licking up a quid by running a quarter of a mile match race. Tom said "I'll run anything for a quarter of a mile for

a pound". Charlie Hartman said "I'll have you on if you will wait till I get Quiver out of Bill Greer's Lucerne paddock". This was agreed. Charlie Hartman's brother, Mick, rode Quiver, but I forget who rode Gilshenan's horse. Ted Corbett acted as judge, and Bill Greer as stake-holder. In the run, Quiver, by Stockwell, was declared winner, and before the riders dismounted, Tom Gilshenan and Charlei Hartman were engaged in a bout of fisticuffs. A fair amount of gore was spilled, but no one badly hurt. When it was over Ted Corbett was heard to say "Ther's no doubt this is a good place to come for free entertainment".

At this time, Blandford boasted of a hotel, the Plough Inn kept by Mrs Dougherty, and three wine shops were kept, one each by Anthony Schumaker (known as old Shuey), one by Mrs O'Brien and the third by one Heiler.

I saw Jack Norvill ride his Tester gelding, Pardon, in a bridle race over a quarter of a mile. Jack was riding so vigorously and had such a lean-on, some said he wanted to reach the post before his mount. The answer was that Jack was emulating Tod Sloan and was forcing him all the way.

Tod Sloan was an American, whose success in America and England, with the crouched-seat racing position, first introduced by Australians Tot Flood and James Barden, convinced the racing world of the advantages of the crouch style, and led to its general adoption. 'Tod' Smith, son of 'Advocate' Smith was given that nickname because he rode in the same style.

Cecil S Parry

These two men may well have established the template for what has now emerged as the social phenomenon known as the Scone Cup Race Meeting?

When I arrived in Scone (1967) many of the people with whom I mixed waxed eloquently about the late Ces (pronounced 'Cess') Parry. This was especially so for everyone associated in any way with the Race Club and sport in general. Jack Johnston and Harley Walden were especially loquacious.

When researching the Race Club and searching through Harley's rich archive I uncovered the following obituary from the Scone Advocate in the early 1950s. It's written in a prolix style very redolent of the era. There remains no doubt whatsoever Cec Parry was a most important 'cog' in the community and the sporting fraternity in particular.

Obituary

Mr Cecil S Parry

'Big Loss to Sporting Bodies'

When Mr Cecil Stanley Parry passed away to his last long rest late on Friday last, the town and sporting organisations in particular suffered one of their greatest losses in many years, for the subject of these lines had for a long span been indelibly associated with them in their many phases for a span which is the lot of few.

His withdrawal from a life of usefulness, although not altogether unexpected by those of his more intimate friends and confreres, was not tempered by the suddenness and shock which surrounded it. His health had long since been undermined by a complaint, that of bronchial-asthma, which virtually destined him for years of invalidity, but his strength of character, sangfroid and strong sense of humour comprised a bulwark in combating his attacker, his indisposition. But in more recent months, or, perhaps, years, it became more apparent that he was waging a hopeless fight, with resistance gradually weakening.

During the war years, Mr Parry joined the office staff of Messrs Pitt Son & Keene Pty Ltd, later transferring to NZL & MA Co., Limited, with which firm he was still associated at the time of his death.

Born in Scone 60 years ago and the only son (and child) of the late Mr and Mrs Simon Parry, who predeceased him long since, he was a carpenter by occupation, and in this vocation, saw many parts of this and the Northern State, but he made the town of his nativity his home centre almost continuously. He linked up with sport as a lad, remained attached thereto right to the end, and was an undoubted authority on most of its branches.

One of the stalwarts of Scone Football Club, first as a player, then as an executive, he was seen at his best as organiser and in an administrative capacity in those vintage years of 1931 – 33 when the home thirteen became possessed of the prized Barrett Shield, the big magnate of the game in the North and North-West right through to Singleton. The club, of which he was subsequently President until quite recent months, had no greater sponsor, admirer or supporter, and by it and its members down the years he invariably did the right and honourable thing, being at all times a stickler for fair play. In this particular field of play he became widely known and popular in the State from end to end, and his advice on problems was sought with regularity and given just as freely.

By just as many others he will be remembered because of his very close association with the Sport of Kings, and here it will be agreed that he gave of his best in his efforts to place racing on a firm footing in the Upper Hunter, and here also he did willingly proffer

his services to any neighbouring like body seeking advice of information. As Honorary Secretary of the now successful Race Club, he was the personification of courtesy, plus proficiency, was always to be found in his place, and with the premier racing body of the State, the District Association and affiliated clubs, he was held in the highest esteem, with his reputation as an experienced and helpful executive never unsullied, never in doubt. He piloted the fixtures of the club from the days of its genesis at Alabama until it took over its own course at White Park, and watched with justifiable pride its ramifications extend to that of the premier club in its Association and almost without peer in the provincial districts of the State. He was also at the helm, so to speak, when pre-war racing was the vogue on the old St Aubins track. His interest in the club never waned, despite his precarious sate of health, right to the last.

Mr Parry also gave yeoman service to Scone Bowling Club, of which he was likewise a prominent member.

He was also associated with the Scone Soldiers' Memorial School of Arts for quite a term of years in the role of caretaker of the recreation room, where his interest was undiminished down the years, and where his service was also of the best.

A kindly, friendly, sympathetic and understanding citizen, he was also a man of integrity, with the outstanding traits of helpfulness and co-operation ever to the forefront in his gentlemanly make-up. He will be missed by very many friends from well outside his immediate family circle, where his wife (formerly Miss Coral Mould), sons and daughter will be commiserated with in the sad occurrence.

Children are: Simon Jack (Adelaide), Cecil Miller (Canberra) and Mrs R J Clark (Sydney).

The funeral took place on Monday last, with a service at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Scone conducted by Rev J Mallyon, in the presence of a concourse representative of all sections of the community, and including many members of sporting organisations. The last service was at Beresfield Crematorium.

Pall bearers were Messrs N J and A Mould (brothers-in-law), AA Ashford and C R Elliott.

Centre of Excellence

Craig Young lit the fuse in his seminal article in the Sydney Morning Herald (17/05/10) *'Scone presents excellent opportunity to produce something special'*. Young wrote: *"Now thoroughbred racing has a strategic plan, why not start at Scone? Do at least one job properly. Turn the track in the centre of Australian racing's equine heartland into something to behold: a racing and training facility the envy of the rest of the country. England has Newmarket, France has Deauville, the US has Kentucky and Ireland has the famous Curragh," Scone Race Club chairman Noel Leckie said on Friday when told the Hunter Valley team was set to create history again. "All those places are major breeding centres that enjoy their own internationally famous racing carnivals. Scone's internationally recognised thoroughbred breeding industry can join this world-leading racing group and provide great opportunities for our region with a carnival program that compares favourably with our international counterparts. So Scone can lead the way for racing. The time is right. Why doesn't the racing industry rally behind this opportunity like never before? Self-interest - racing's one certainty - will likely again intervene but there is hope. Well, Scone is ripe for a rebuild. We're not talking about erecting an architectural-award-winning grandstand (it has one) that will cost a fortune, but putting in training tracks, stables, walking machine, pools, etc. Scone equine hospital is already there. Then there is Inglis Bloodstock, the equine auction house. Remember, this historic mob is selling up at Kensington, around the corner from Randwick racetrack in Sydney, and moving out west to Warwick Farm. With it the much-neglected Warwick Farm may well become a centre of excellence the envy of all. What an opportunity awaits at Scone. That strategic plan (Racing NSW) talks about funding such developments, for it 'is a crucial element of the investment in infrastructure to be undertaken by Racing NSW'. Racing NSW expects to pump in \$70m over the next five years to make these centres a reality. Anyway, what better time to strike than now? The Scone Race Club certainly isn't sitting still. It has turned its annual Scone Cup meeting into a celebration of racing. Last Friday's (14/05/10) was yet another striking example. The surrounding studs - too many to mention - are the most influential in thoroughbred racing and they've jumped on board with the SRC. That's excellent"*.

I agree! This initiative provides for Scone what no other country race club has ever achieved in the 200 years since the first 'official' race meeting was hosted by Governor Macquarie at Hyde Park. What did you say latterly about 'John the Messiah' Craig? Sounds like manna from heaven to me! Has the Scone Race Club rested on its laurels? No it has not! Prescient and innovative chairman Noel Leckie and others met with the Minister for Tourism and Minister for the Hunter Jodie McKay in Newcastle on Monday 24 May 2010 to start planning a strategy for transporting the thousands of race goers from Sydney and the Central Coast to Scone's stand alone meeting in May 2011. Follow up meetings have already taken place with very positive vibrations. Coverage of this and other meetings places the name Scone firmly on the International map! Forward and lateral thinking and

leadership plus? No pusillanimous cringe here! Also on the agenda for the Scone Race Club is a \$1 million upgrade of its facilities to provide a viewing facility for patrons which will also 'double' as a community conference, entertainment and reception venue. This is so badly needed in Scone. In a recent article journalist Brian Russell coined the catchy title of 'Scone as the Saratoga of the Southern Hemisphere'. I like it! Saratoga Springs in upstate New York is the social, sales and racing Mecca for the glitterati in that part of the thoroughbred world – arguably the most desirable and celebrated destination? Well done Noel and cohort crew! Let's all rally wholeheartedly behind this brilliant achievement – a genuine first!

Champions of Yesteryear: Vo Rogue, Vic & Harley

I've taken the liberty of extracting most of this from the late Harley Walden's most sensitive appraisal of two of his favourites in his regular column for Scone.com. I duly acknowledge the source: <http://www.scone.com.au/champions-of-yesteryear/>

Only Harley Walden has a local connection. I have recorded much of his story in detail elsewhere in my 'blogs' and writings. Harley shares much in common with his heroes Vic Rail and Vo Rogue. 'Battler' is the appropriate adhesive 'glue' in local argot. He likes to take a shot at those whom he considered 'toffs'! It's an inspiring story of triumph over relative adversity in the very best Australian tradition. Vo Rogue was the quintessential people's champion just like 'Gunsynd' before him. Apart from out-and-out real champions like Makybe Diva, Black Caviar and Winx these are the very best promotion racing can have.

There's much more to it than that. Both Vic Rail and Vo Rogue rightly achieved national prominence with some electrifying performances and racing achievements. I vividly recall the incomparable Richie Benaud waxing lyrical in his Test Cricket calls for Channel 9. I do believe Richie was an avid punter? He had to keep working until well into his 80s! Vic Rail later achieved national and even international prominence because of a bizarre set of circumstances. As was his wont Vic Rail was very 'close and personal' in dealing with his horses. It was partly because of this that he became the very first human casualty of what was later named Hendra Virus after the Brisbane superb where he lived, worked and trained his horses.

Hendra Virus is a zoonotic disease. That is capable of transmission between animals and man. Its primary hosts are various species of Fruit Bats or Flying Foxes. These abound and are most prolific in the lush warm humid climate of sub-tropical Brisbane. It's part of history now how the virus was transmitted to Vic's horses by the bats and then to

him. The common modality is contaminated feedstuff. The disease is invariably fatal in both equine and human species with a very high mortality of almost 100%. Several of my co-professionals have died acute deaths as a result of close exposure to the virus in both living and dead horses. Fortunately an efficient vaccine has been produced for use in horses.

Vic Rail was a knockabout bloke; just like Harley.

Champion of Yesteryear: Vo Rogue

Source: <http://www.scone.com.au/champions-of-yesteryear/>

August 27, 2016

By Harley Walden

When Vo Rogue was gelded the veterinary surgeon who performed the operation looked down at his 11-month old patient struggling to come out of the anaesthetic, and decided the horse had no heart in him.

No heart! Six years later the little bay with no heart in him had 16 Group wins, a string of track records, a devoted public and a small matter of \$2.93 million in the bank.

Vo Rogue was one of those gallopers for which the description “freak” is no exaggeration, the product of parents who never won a race between them, Vo Rogue fetched the princely sum of \$5,000 as a weanling, which looked no bargain as he grew into a slow and ungainly juvenile with little interest in running.

Nicknamed Erky, he was always a curious looking animal.

With a thin, patchy coat that needed sump oil to protect it from the Queensland sun.

He was never near a syringe or a vitamin supplement, and if his trainer Vic Rail had had his way, his hooves would never have felt the farrier’s blow.

He was not hosed or shampooed, he was fed oats, lucerne, tick beans, sun-flower seeds and calf manna, with very little corn.

It might all sound a little eccentric, but there’s no denying Vo Rogue could run, like the wind.

Most of all he liked to run in front, with huge ground-eating strides that would break his opponents’ hearts.

It was a race tactic which would set everybody's blood pumping a little faster. The punters knew what they were getting and the challengers knew what they had to do to beat him.

Not since Gunsynd in the early 1970s had a racehorse so captured the Australian imagination.

He won from 1000 to 2040 metres in every mainland state except South Australia, where he never started.

By the end of his career the six-year-old he had won 26 races and placed in 18 of his 68 starts.

"The people loved him not only because of his front running style, they loved him because of his will to win," Rail said.

"He tries hard and he makes sure they get their money's worth."

Although his looks were unorthodox and his parents relatively undistinguished, a closer inspection gave clues to Vo Rogue's ability.

He stood 16.3 hands, with an intelligent head, huge shoulders, plenty of rein and marvellous legs.

According to Rail it was the length of his stride that made him a champion, it also threw him off balance on rain-affected tracks, but on a firm surface he could foot it with the champions of any era.

After a superb five-year-old season which netted him six Group victories and more than \$1 million in prizemoney, Vo Rogue returned to win four more races as a six-year-old, including group one victories in the George Main Stakes (1600m) at Randwick and the Australian Cup (2000m) at Flemington, and his third successive Group Two C F Orr Stakes (1400m) at Sandown.

Victory Rail, so named because he was born the day the Japanese surrendered in the Pacific, had spent much of his life defying conventional wisdom.

When Vo Rogue turned the tables on Super Impose in the C F Orr Stakes in 1989 the critics had their answer.

Vo Rogue led from the jump and pounded down the Sandown straight to win the race for the third year running.

It was virtually a carbon copy of the previous year. Vo Rogue carried the same weight (57.5kg), clocked exactly the same time (1:23.30 and beat the same horse, Super Impose, by almost the same margin (1½ lengths).

"He's proved the knockers wrong hasn't he?" Rail said, scarcely able to keep his grin below ear level.

“He hasn’t lost anything”, nor had his part-owner, Gary Roberts, a professional punter who had taken all the 2-1 the bookies would lay, and confessed that Vo Rogue had “got him out of a hole”.

It was not the first time Roberts had emptied his pockets on The Vo, two years earlier he had paid \$180,000 for a fifth share in the gelding that turned out to be the investment of a lifetime.

The two men closest to the champion galloper were Vic Rail his trainer, a bona fide Queensland battler with a curious name, who never appeared comfortable in his crumpled race-day suit.

In a tragic twist, Rail died in 1994, three years after Vo Rogue retired, after contracting the Hendra Virus.

Vo Rogue was ridden by a jockey called Cyril Small, who was thrust into the limelight by a mighty horse.

Small was born on a cattle property between Grafton and Casino in northern NSW and swears he was riding horses before he could walk.

He loved horses so much he even rode them to school in a small country town called Wyan, where his class mates numbered 20 at most.

Vo Rogue died on May 10, 2012 at the grand old age of 28.

A champion in all facets of the sport, the front-running champion would have people hanging over the fences when Vo Rogue amble back to scale.

They’d chuckle at the irony of this bare-footed, dusty-coated Queenslander, who dragged downed the toffs and was the best horse in an era of champions.

Dan Lewis: Early Education at Scone Old Time Racing and Sport: And Those Who Contributed To It

Acknowledge: This article appeared in the Scone Advocate around the 1950s and was written by A. F. S.; possibly one of the Smith family who had control of the newspaper at that time.

See also: <https://kingsoftheturf.com/1946-dan-lewis-concerto-hit-the-right-note/>

1946 – Dan Lewis & Concerto Hit the Right Note!

By Ian Ibbett

On April 11, 2018

In 1940's

At the beginning of spring in 1946 the man generally acknowledged as the finest trainer of stayers in Sydney, had never won a Derby either at Randwick or Flemington. The figure in question was the 71-year-old Dan Lewis. A Derby victory might have been missing from his curriculum vitae, but he already had four Sydney Cups to his name. A true gentleman of few words, and those few spoken in a soft and courteous manner, Dan Lewis had cut a distinctive figure on Sydney racecourses over many years with his trademark bowler hat, bow tie and pipe. He was to remain reticent throughout a training career crowded with success in which his best two years were still to come, although he never did manage to top the Sydney trainers' premiership. Born in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1875 the son of Henry Lewis, a publican, Dan came from a large and well-educated middle-class family that numbered among his brothers both a doctor and a solicitor. The young Dan was the only son ever attracted to horse racing.

Mention of Dan Lewis, a prominent owner-trainer, now nearing an age when memories are just that. He who has led in six Sydney Cup winners, a Melbourne Cup winner and hundreds of other winners all over the Commonwealth, getting his "kick" at the pigeon matches at Scone, then held near the site of the present Scott Memorial Hospital.

The writer, then a lad, is the last of the pristine trappers employed for the job by Dick Solomons, then the proprietor of the Golden Fleece Hotel, in whose backyard he had a pigeon loft and bred the birds for the sport, which attracted the best shots and back-markers in the land, but these visitors invariably had had it put right to them by Alick Campbell, of Scone, who actually pulled off the famous Monte Carlo in one year, an event open to world-wide competition.

At this time Dan Lewis was then laying (or taking the odds) – his brother Hyman, was his penciller – counted three hundred sovereigns after a day's shoot. It was a big day for Dan, and he counted the yellow pieces again before finally snapping his bag. He cut even on the second day.

One of the "big shots" to make his presence felt at Scone was the widely known McIntosh who at times fired from the 31 yards mark. He used the pseudonym "Lockley".

But the biggest winner was usually the promoter. All unharmed birds returned their loft, to be used another day. And for many a bird that found its way to the loft, Dick Solomons had the trappers to thank. By clandestine means, the pigeons, before being placed in the traps, had their tails plucked. Result, the moment the traps opened, the birds, instead of rising to survey their surroundings, shot like an arrow from the bow in the direction of and beyond the boundary line. "Good bird, that" was the remark heard from shooters and patrons alike.

Not even Dick Solomons himself ever accounted for the appendage feathers when he had a muster of the loft for the next day or days subsequent. Hence the writer and his youthful associates had unwittingly contributed to the wealth of Dan Lewis and Dick Solomons alike. And whereas at the end of the day the shooters "shelled out" most liberally for trappers, all the quartet ever received from the promoter for their day's work was a paltry florin each. The promoter pocketed the balance.

Dan Lewis, a New Zealander, had a very humble beginning in the realm of sport, but success never went to his head, and he has never forgotten his friends of yesteryear, whether it be at Royal Randwick or on his periodical, but now less frequent, visits to the town and district.

He won his first race at Spring Ridge, near Quirindi, with Freddie Snell in the saddle, and later landed a double, at the Belltrees shearers', or picnic meeting with horses owned by James Poynting, that anything but impeccable publican who hung his sign from the old Willow Tree Hotel in Liverpool Street.

He went from success to success after he came into possession of Rue Victoria, a Ruenalf gelding bred at Belltrees which changed hands at auction for £5 because he was afflicted with a most pronounced stringhalt, which in no way deterred his ability to gallop, for he won many races from Brisbane to Randwick, taking the Brisbane Cup of 2 miles in his stride. But there was no paddock of lush pastures for the aged gelding to reflect over his past glories. Saw him leading a big draft of remounts passing through Aberdeen one afternoon, his probable destination being overseas to lump bigger burdens than ever given by the handicapper.

Ernie Marks, now hibernating out Merewether way, was one of the best known bookmakers of these parts during racings' past history in the Upper Hunter. Writer vividly recalls his first real "lift" when swinging the bag. It was at an Aberdeen meeting when the "bolter" came home in the principal event. It was Tea Leaf, a brown mare owned by Sid Smith, of Aberdeen, and by the Merton-owned Dalmeny. Ernie Marks bagged the best part of a

couple of hundred pounds, and when the car broke down near Turanville gates on the way home, he was to be seen sitting on the running-board counting and re-counting his gain. More than likely Arthur Fox, still going nicely at Bunnan, was his penciller.

Then there were Jim Jewel and Jim Casey, of Newcastle, likewise James (Grafter) Kingsley, and “Jumbo” Barnett of Cetigne fame, from Sydney. Well remember the afternoon Casey landed the main double at Scone with his dandy mare, After Twelve, another Belltrees bred, by Ruenalf from After Six. And how she did win! Six lengths first run, ten lengths at her next start, with penalty up.

After harking back to Ruenalf, a son of Grand Flaneur, there was the occasion when his son Ruenalf II, mentored by George Hopper, who guided the destiny of the then Crown and Anchor Hotel (then the Empire, now the Thoroughbred), Scone, planned a great coup with his brilliant galloper.

He aimed high – the Caulfield Cup. The horse arrived in Victoria, and accompanying George Hopper was none other than Aldino Erranati, otherwise colourful character known as “Italian George”. Each supported the horse to win £10,000 at long odds.

The great day dawned, but the horse finished down the straight, George Hopper was not only disappointed but also chagrined. He told the rider, one of the best known in the game, what he thought of the run. He went further. He reported it to the stewards, who brushed him aside, advising him not to be a “squealer”, Oppor, as Italian George called him, offered to donate £500 to any charity named by the stewards if the horse failed to reduce the time taken to run the Cup on the same course next morning. This offer was likewise treated lightly by the officiating gentry. Ruenalf II, absolutely and unknown quantity over two miles had also been entered for the Melbourne Cup.

He was saddled for the premier race in the land, but with another rider up. The “boy”, who did anything but carry out the instructions given him, “went for the doctor,” so to speak, the moment the webbing ascended. The Scone horse was soon showing a clean pair of heels to the opposition, and did not surrender his lead until the last hundred yards of the race, with the gallant prad, still fighting on, going to the post just beaten out of a place. George Hopper was afforded every reason to assert his claim that Ruenalf II was a certainty beaten in the Caulfield Cup.

If any person should have made racing pay it was “Jumbo” Barnett, who almost invariably brought a full box (three horses) to the Scone outings. But they were usually given an “airing” and taken to Quirindi and Tamworth with the same ends in view. Eventually

they were produced at Armidale, where the “big note” was placed. But by the time the horses had arrived back in Sydney, Barnett had smilingly collected full rebate both ways from all four clubs! When the clubs simultaneously resolved to put an end to his smart way of financing transport, “Jumbo” bypassed the meetings of all concerned.

Related

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Great Clashes of the Past

September 17, 2016

By Harley Walden

Acknowledge: <http://www.scone.com.au/great-clashes-past/>

My late great friend and colleague Harley Walden was virtually the ‘Bert Lillye of the Bush’ when it came to writing about racing with a bucolic flavour? He excelled with this contribution on Scone.com. Thank you also Liz Flaherty of Scone’.

Harley writes:

THE Australian and New Zealand turf is studded with memorable and heroic clashes between champions, yet there is one that stands alone and 82,000 people who were at Randwick on September 30, 1922, would vouch for that.

The horses were Gloaming, of Christchurch, and Beauford of Newcastle.

They met four times in 25 days at weight-for-age in Sydney and the score was two each.

Testimony to their greatness and the excitement of their tussles in that spring of 1922 at Randwick and Rosehill is found everywhere closing in of nearly a century later both in Sydney and no doubt New Zealand, too.

Looking down on patrons at the top of the Members’ Stand escalators in the Canterbury track are framed pictures of the finish of two of their races—the Spring Stakes and the Craven Plate at Randwick.

Gloaming won 57 races from 67 starts.

Agitated jockeys probably never notice and stewards are usually too busy to look at the pictures on the wall, but the stipes inner-sanctum at Randwick is adorned with poses pictures of two plain looking geldings, Beauford and Gloaming.

The two old champs seem to stare down on everyone and everything, including the video equipment which did not exist in their day.

What makes this pair the pick in the history of Australian racing?

What makes them so mighty and how did they attract 82,000 to Randwick for their decider in the weight-for-age Spring Stakes (12 furlongs) on September 30, 1922, when the Australian population was five million?

There is a heap of candidates for the best of the great clashes in major weight-for-age classic and handicap events in New Zealand.

Not the least of them the Bonecrusher and Our Waverley Star, the two New Zealand geldings who fought it out head to head, shoulder to shoulder, with whips cracking in the \$750,000 W S Cox Plate over 2040m at Moonee Valley on October 25, 1986.

The public did not seem to mind that this an all-New Zealand finish, that the two geldings from across the Tasman annihilated the Aussie opposition, and that in fact the third horse, the Filbert, was also a New Zealander.

Who could ever forget the finish of the 1956 Melbourne Cup, as Bart Cumming's two champions Light Fingers and Ziema went to the line locked together and the Prince of race-callers the late Ken Howard declaring a dead-heat, and then! "No I'll give it to Light Fingers".

That one was one of the many in a list of hundreds with New Zealand horses, jockeys and trainers playing a major role, from the days of Carbine in 1888 when he was a three-year-old, over from the Dominion to take on Australia's best.

Phar Lap did not engage in any notable clashes for the good reason that he was in a class of his own and the same applied to Tulloch when he was at his peak as a super three-year-old. And it was a pity that Bernborough never met Shannon.

Kingston Town's amazing finish to win his third W S Cox Plate in 1982 put him in the history books forever, yet the King did not have many great weight-for-age struggles as he was usually too good for his opposition.

The modern generation will remember the enthralling bouts between the big grey mare Emancipation and the compact bay three-year-old colt Sir Dapper in the Sydney autumn of 1984.

They stated off in the Expressway Stakes (1200m) at Randwick on February 11.

Sir Dapper (Mick Dittman) was first by 1-3/4 lengths from Emancipation (Ron Quinton).

Emancipation finished the race with blood oozing from a wound on her hind leg.

She had an excuse.

The stage was therefore set for round two in the George Ryder Stakes over 1400m at Rosehill on April 7.

This time, Emancipation (Quinton) led all the way to beat Sir Dapper who was pocketed, Dittman having no room fore or aft as the wily Quinton held Sir Dapper in.

Sir Dapper started favourite for their third clash in the All Aged Stakes (1600m) at Randwick on April 22.

Emancipation led all the way, holding Sir Dapper's challenge, but the courageous colt was badly stripped in the run, blood pouring from a sickening-looking hole in his hind leg.

Emancipation had won the three round contest 2-1 and the two Sydney horses had outclassed their rivals.

Sir Dapper did not get his chance for revenge as his trainer Les Bridge and owners – Mr and Mrs Peter Horwitz, Mr and Mrs Morrie Macleod, Mike Willesee and Robbie Porter—retired him immediately to the Trans Media Stud at Cootamundra.

Many of these clashes are fresh in our minds, but the real big start came with the meeting of Cruciform, a New Zealander, and Wakeful, a Victorian, in 1903.

Mr G.G. Stead set the ball rolling by practically challenging Mr Leslie Macdonald of Melbourne to pit Wakeful, the champion of Australia, in the Spring Stakes against Cruciform the champion of New Zealand.

Mr Stead bought his famous mare across the Tasman and the newspapers did the rest.

This distinguished pair duly met in the Spring Stakes and they were received by a crowd which old hands declared doubled the biggest ever previously seen at Randwick.

Cruciform (Les Hewitt) beat Wakeful (F Dunn) by a head after a dour head-to-head struggle over the Randwick 1½ miles. Wakeful was trained in Melbourne by Hugh Munro, the father of the champion jockeys Darby and Jim. Cruciform was trained by Dick Mason who was to return with Gloaming.

If half of what one read in the Melbourne papers was correct, it was fair to assume that double as many people went to Flemington as to Randwick.

The day Carbine beat Abercorn in the Champion Stakes there were certainly double as many at Flemington as at Randwick a month later when Abercorn downed Carbine in the Autumn Stakes.

But the sporting enterprise of Messrs Stead (owner of Cruciform) and Macdonald (owner of Wakeful) transformed comparative sympathy into keen interest and, people have since enriched racecourse proprietors beyond the dreams of avarice.

These great clashes virtually founded racings' appeal to the public.

It was of course to become the nation's number one spectator sport until the birth of the TAB which has encouraged the masses to bet but not attend the track.

If Carbine, Abercorn, Wakeful and Cruciform were the first to draw the crowds after the construction of grandstands, then there were memorable contests to follow.

The stands got bigger.

Some of these horses are legends, not merely by virtue of the history books of the turf, but by pub and club differences of opinion.

Shannon never clashed with Bernborough, one of the great contests that never came off.

Kindergarten had one run here, failed and went back to New Zealand where he remains a legend.

And yes Todman did beat Tulloch in the Champagne Stakes in the second of their meetings, Tulloch won the other (conclusively) in the Sires' Produce Stakes of 1957 at Randwick.

Gunsynd and Tails revived memories of the greats of the past at Randwick on April 4, 1972, when they had a ding-dong battle down the straight in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes over 1 ¾ miles.

Tails (Sammy Howard) beat Gunsynd (Roy Higgins) by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a length.

This was one of the best races of the modern era, two personality horses of character and fighting spirit going stride for stride and the crowd roared its approval for Tails even though Gunsynd was the hot favourite.

Chatham, Rogilla and Winooka—three of the greatest horses ever to grace Randwick—ran first, second and third in that order in the 1932 Epsom after Rogilla and Chatham had dear-heated in the Tramway Hcp leading up to the Epsom.

They were almost certainly the top three as a group ever to fill the placings in a major Group one handicap over a mile at Randwick.

Gunsynd, Tails, Comic Court, Emancipation, Sir Dapper, Chatham, Peter Pan, Rogilla, Carbine, Abercorn, Wakeful and all the others included could not match the sustained excitement of the four Beauford-Gloaming bouts of 1922.

This is how they finished—Chelmsford Stakes Sept 9, 1922 won by Beauford, the Hill Stakes Sept 16, 1922 won by Gloaming, the Spring Stakes Sept 30, 1922 won by Beauford, the Craven Plate Oct 4, 1922 won Gloaming.

The cold results cannot tell the story.

The score was one-all going into their third meeting in the Spring Stakes which Beauford won by a neck after the two geldings singled out head to head over the last furlong before an 82,000 crowd at Randwick on Derby Day.

The Craven Plate, their fourth clash, was no anti-climax.

Maybe it was a record for a Wednesday meeting at Randwick on October 4, 1922, when an estimated 50,000 watched them do battle with Gloaming strolling away to an easy three-length win on a wet, windy day.

The reports were that Beauford was weary and wouldn't eat and that is why Gloaming started favourite at even money.

Beauford was a big, gangly gelding bred by his owner W H Mackay and trained at Newcastle by Sid Killick.

The Newcastle-Maitland and Hunter districts has always been proud of its sporting champions—Les Darcy, Jim Pike, Stan Davidson, Wayne Harris, Beauford, Rogilla, Luskin Star and Dave Sands for example.

Darcy was fresh in the memories when the Coalfields fraternity had another hero—Beauford.

W.H. Mackay bred him at his property Albano, near Maitland. The big fellow was by the imported Beau Boulton from Blueford.

Bert Griffith, a resident of Scone (grand-father of Mudgee based trainer Mack and Luke Griffith of Scone) whose father Bob worked for W.H. Mackay for 40 years, said Beauford was big and nervous, a horse who hated noise.

Recalling his father's recollections of the horse Bert Griffith once said: "Long after his retirement Beauford bolted and took to the bush. Dad couldn't find him for a week or so."

"He had swum the Hunter River, then gone to the top of the range near Mr Mackay's property. The horse was content to be out there on his own. He was a loner, highly strung, a one-man horse. He used to go off his tucker and everyone use to say that Gloaming would never have beaten him only for that. Beauford was eventually put down by Bob Griffiths at the Mackay property Anambah outside Maitland on the banks of the Hunter River."

Gloaming was bred in Victoria by Earnest Clark who sold him to G D Greenwood of Christchurch, NZ, as a yearling for 230 guineas.

Gloaming eventually won 57 races from 67 starts.

The only time he did not finish first or second was the day he fell in a race at Trentham.

If he was not the greatest gelding ever to grace the Australasian turf then there have been few better.

Racing's history will be further enriched in the years to come if we can produce another Beauford or a Gloaming.

Gundy Races

Acknowledge: "The Davidsons of 'Spring Vale'" by Daphne Bryden

When researching potentially interesting historical vignettes occasionally a few 'gems' leap onto the page. Such was the case with the discovery of the Warialda Sires Produce Stakes in the "Tucka Tucka" Dispersal Sale. I had no idea there were races held at Warialda; or indeed Yetman.

Much close to home was the revelation of the existence of races at the village of Gundy to the east of Scone. Gundy was the birthplace of renowned 'feminist' author Barbara Janet Ainsleigh Baynton, Lady Headley (4 June 1857 – 28 May 1929).

The evidence for the story of Gundy Races turned up in an encomium to legendary local horseman John William 'Jack' Davidson of "Spring Vale", Gundy by Daphne Bryden. Jack Davidson (1875 – 1961) had earned his stripes in the tough school of horse breaking, buckjump riding, rodeo and racehorse breeding and training plus dairy farming. This long career took him from horse education at "Belltrees" to buckjumping championships near Redfern and the race tracks of Sydney. He competed with and against the legends of the showman and western style touring troupes. His contemporaries and competition were Arthur and Jack Dempsey, Lance Skuthorpe, 'Martini', Billy Waite and the American 'Bronco George'; quite a tough school! Later in life Jack succeeded in races at Sydney with the likes of 'Sirino' in the Ascot Flying Handicap 2nd Division in May 1928.

Bachelor Jack Davidson passed away in the Scott Memorial Hospital, Scone on 18th August 1961 aged 86 years.

Gundy Races 10th March 1886

See: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/18884529>

By Wanderer:

To make St. Patrick's Day as much of a holiday as possible it was decided to have a day's racing at Gundy to celebrate the day.

A very meagre attendance saw the opening race, the Maiden Plate, 1½ miles. After a chestnut gelding run his spin of a quarter of a mile, Juan cantered away from him and won by 150 yards.

Mr. B. Houseman's b c Juan, 6st. 11lbs.(Dodds)	1
Mr. B. Houseman's b g Sovereign, 9st. 2lb	2

Second Race: Flying Handicap, 1¾ miles, was a walk over for Malta, 8st 6lbs.

The next, the event of the meeting, handicap, 15 sovs., 1½ miles.

Mr. R. Stewart's ch g Hunter, Bat. 71b.(Smith)	1
J. Ga'llmore's br g Malta, 8st. 7lbs.(Owner)	2

Faugh-a-Ballalgh, 8st 4lbs.

Wallaby, 7st. 9lbs.

After Malta made most of the running for about a mile Smith began to work Hunter up, and from the straight a good race between Hunter and Malta resulted in a win by a length for Hunter, thanks to Smith's clever piece of horsemanship.

The Belltrees Purse, 1¼ miles; weight for age; 6 sovs.

Mr. B. Houseman's b c Juan, 6st, 9lbs.(Dodds)	1
Stewart's b m Eva, 9st. (Smith)	2
Faugh-a-Ballagh, 9st. 3lbs.	3

Only three starters. Smith brought Eva with a splendid rush at the finish, but could not quite overtake Goldsborough's fine son, who won by a length.

Hack Race, 1 mile; 3 sovs. ; weight, 9st.

Mr. J. Hardcastle's b m Wallaby. (M. Burke)	1
Campbell's br g Stranger (Hector)	2
Stewart's b m Eva	
Campbell's b g Chelsea	

This proved the best race of the day. Smith on Eva made the most of a good start, and lead Wallaby half a length past the stand; the other two well up. Up the hill Wallaby took command, and lead by a length in the straight, where she was challenged by Chelsea and Stranger; but Wallaby, coming when called on, won by a length.

Publicans' Purse of 6 sovs ; 1¼ mile.

Mr. R. Stewart's ch g Hunter. (Smith)	1
Gallimore's br g Malta.	2

Malta ran with heavy iron shoes on, but the boy was merciful – he did not punish the horse with the whip.

The Forced Handicap wound up the proceedings, which resulted in a canter for Malta, Stranger second.

Scone, 19th March, 1886

Harley's Horse Racing Legacy

Caitlin Andrews

May 30 2013 - 10:52AM

<https://www.sconeadvocate.com.au/story/1538047/harleys-horse-racing-legacy/>

To say Harley Walden is a passionate racing identity is an understatement - he is more than that.

Harley has only missed three meets at Scone Race Club since it moved to the current track 18 years ago, he spent his whole working career as a key player of thoroughbred horse studs and he has never missed a Scone Cup since the very first one at the original White Park race track which he wagged school to watch in 1947.

To most these days Harley's love for the race horse industry is well known as he spent about six years writing columns for The Scone Advocate from November 1997 and he is still a valuable contributor writing the odd article for print today.

The Scone Race Club life member has also written for publications such as Australian Thoroughbred.

Harley is like a living book, he can enlighten you with thoroughbred racing history most only dream of knowing and he still has every column he has written tucked away in what he calls his "den".

A born and bred Scone man, Harley was proudly involved in the official visit of the Melbourne Cup to Scone in 2010 after which he received a letter from Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon congratulating him on the work he does for the local community.

Being an only child to Darcy and Doris Walden, Harley has pondered a love for horses his whole life.

Over the years Harley has built strong bonds with some the greats including Peter Snowden and his family, Roy Greenwood, Ray Selkrig, Tommy Smith and Peter Lawson.

After attending school at the Old Scone Convent - next to the White Park race course - where he was taught by the Sisters of Mercy, Harley knew all too well the value of good discipline.

He said in those days discipline was a great thing.

"I copped a few canes, but I deserved them."

"The way of life has changed now but I think discipline has been taken away and that's not such a good thing," he said.

When he was a boy Scone boasted three butchers, three barbers, four bakeries, six cafes, about six garages and a picture show with a full house six nights a week.

"Campbell's Corner was like an emporium, you could buy everything you needed from there," Harley said.

Harley's family moved to Sledmere Stud when he was three-years-old as his father worked on the place and as a five-year-old Harley learnt to ride.

Following in the footsteps of his dad, Harley left school when he was 15 and started working alongside his father at Sledmere, where he continued to work for the next 27 years.

In this time, Harley enjoyed the annual voyage to Sydney to the yearling sales and showing thoroughbreds at the Sydney Royal Easter Show at Moore Park.

In 1980, Harley and his wife Heather (nee Nunn) made his only ever move away from Scone when he moved to Tamworth to set up Stratheden Stud for John Parke, however when his father fell ill he transferred back to Scone.

From then Harley worked for Major James Mitchell as the stallion man at Yarraman Park, then worked at Alabama for Andrew Bowcock before being forced to retire due to health reasons.

Harley said he has always enjoyed working with horses and has loved racing history for as long as he can remember.

"In my years we had to make our own fun so I used to jump on my horse and go up into the bush chasing kangaroos," he said.

Harley rode in Scone Pony Club and enjoyed rodeos, but said racing has always been his main objective.

Harley has witnessed many changes in Scone over the years – where we sat on his verandah for his interview used to be the original Scone Saleyard.

He and Heather have raised two children – Grant and Tracy – in Scone and are proud grandparents of Joseph.

"I've seen a fair bit of water flow under the bridge, but one thing I do hope is that in my lifetime I never see the mines encroach on this area."

But the 76-year-old said some things never change.

"I've always enjoyed living in Scone, it's a town that hardly ever changes – the people you meet in Scone are good country people who are always willing to put their shoulder to the wheel and help out when someone's in need," he said.

"Scone is a real country town with a country atmosphere."

Harley Walden

I had the honour of presenting Harley Walden's eulogy at his memorial service on Monday 24th April 2017. Peter Snowdon and Tommy Ollerton were two of the pallbearers. If it hadn't been for Harley's lifelong consuming passion for the thoroughbred industry and the Scone Race Club in particular much valuable history would be lost to posterity. Among many other attributes Harley was a prolific amateur journalist. He wrote and recorded more about the Scone Race Club than anyone else I know.

The family history I repeat here was not my own presentation but rather taken from his son Grant Walden's handwritten notes prepared for my encomium.

Harley Walden:

Born at Scone Hospital (then at 'Brancaster House') on 10th May 1937 to Dot and Darcey Walden

Harley lived at Sledmere Stud most of his life.

In later years Harley worked for the Mitchell family at Yarraman Park Stud before returning to Sledmere.

1981 saw Harley move his family to Tamworth where he worked at Stratheden Stud for John Park.

In Harley's younger years he, like many others, rode a horse to school now known as Scone Grammar School.

While attending school it was quite well known that he would 'wag' class so that he could attend the races; funny how things never changed.

Having such an interest in horses, he left school at 15 and went to work with his father, Darcy, at Sledmere; and so his adventure began.

His father having been well known for breeding top thoroughbreds, Harley followed in his footsteps and achieved many prizes for showing his favourites at the Royal Easter Show before they were later sold by WM Inglis.

Harley had a love of all sports not only horses, if he wasn't playing he was at the ground supporting his favourites.

Harley decided to play Field Hockey and as with his interest in horses, jumped head first in and devoted much of his personal time to sport.

From playing in the local area, becoming a registered umpire and then treasurer of the Upper Hunter Hockey Association for sixteen years.

Harley was very much the larrikin as a younger man and attended many a dance in the local area. His sweet talking style made him popular.

In the late 50s Harley met Heather Nunn who had left her family home in Murrurundi to work in Scone, and some say Harley was smitten.

Harley proposed to Heather in 1961, apparently she said, 'Yes'. They were married the following year in September 1962.

Four years later they decided to grow their family and along came Grant. All could have stopped here with his behaviour but Harley and Heather being the people they are decided to extend their family further so in 1971 along came Tracy, the apple of his eye.

Harley and his father Darcy, supporters of the Scone Thoroughbred Rugby League Team, the senior having played many a time. Harley was well known to support his other team Manly Sea Eagles and wear his shirt and cap with pride.

Martin 'Herbie' Eveleigh: 'Local Legend'

Apparently he was christened Martin Eveleigh; but never known by his mother's specially chosen Sunday name. He was always just 'Herbie'.

During the time White Park was the official home for the Scone Race Club (1947 – 1994) Herbie Eveleigh graduated from apprentice rider to master jockey. No-one knew the not-so-sublime subtleties of the tight little course better than Herbie. His inaugural mentor

(master) was the late Scott Johnston based at Tyrone Stud on the extreme northern edge of the township. Rumour has it that from the age of 14 or even less young Herbie walked across the paddocks from the Eveleigh family home on Noblet Road to ride work for Mr Johnston. School attendance became irregular. Herbie's future was set. There were more regular 'works outs' and track-work commitments at White Park.

Knowledge of local conditions gave Herbie a significant advantage at the local meetings. However his skill set improved to the extent he became champion apprentice in the Newcastle, Hunter and Central Coast Racing Association. He graduated later to champion jockey (number of winners) within the same jurisdiction. This was a major achievement with jockeys of the calibre of Bill and John Wade based with major trainers at Broadmeadow in Newcastle. Herbie also rode regularly in the North and North West Racing Association area rarely venturing outside these two domains. There was enough to be done near home.

Most of Herbie's early wins came at the behest of his master Scott Johnston. Scott had a great team to train on behalf of an elite clientele. Many owners were pastoral beneficiaries of the Korean War inspired 'pound-a-pound' wool boom of the 50s and early 60s. Many successful graziers from the Upper Hunter and especially the Merriwa district could indulge their every whim. For many this was the means to afford racehorses. 'Pitlochry' raced by Mr Geoff Hordern and 'Farnham Castle' owned by Mr S E Edwards were extremely prolific winners for all concerned. I think Herbie won about 40 races on each? It amounted to a great score for the little local champion jockey.

Trainer Alf Marks who arrived in Scone in 1968 with Sam Hordern was Herbie's nemesis; but it was each-way traffic. Alf was skilled but succumbed to a chronic affliction. Exposed very early to the ravages of alcohol addiction Herbie resolved never to touch a drop in his life. He hasn't; advantage Herbie. Alf was different. He struggled with his demons. He was always suspicious Herbie was 'taking him for a ride'. I doubt it; but the gremlins persisted. 'He's seven fox power cunning' was one of Alf's favourite descriptors. 'Mrs Kelly wouldn't let Ned play with Herbert' was another pearl. He claimed they both suffered from insomnia ('the insomniac' was his exact call). 'He lies awake all night thinking how he's going to outsmart me; and I lie awake all night thinking how he thinks he's going to outsmart me!' They were interesting times.

Alf was my nemesis; but I really liked him. Late one night I received a call from Alf. He was suffering from the 'horrors' in his room at the Golden Fleece Hotel. His old mate Jack Gill had been in town with Gill Brothers circus. Alf and Jack had been on a five day 'bender'. Alf called me 'Herbert' when in the horrors. He claimed 'they were after him'. 'They' turned out to be 'imaginary weasels with faces thirty feet long, a long dark bloke

in a corner' and he 'thought he had hepatitis'. He probably did. I called my friend Dr David Warden and described the clinical signs. David immediately diagnosed DTs.

He prescribed the tranquillizer 'Largactil' which I could pick up at the hospital. I did. It was now about midnight. I called to see Alf. He was in a mess like I hadn't seen before. Glazed anguished expression and profuse sweating were obvious clinical signs. Then there was the diatribe about 'weasels with faces thirty feet long, weird strangers in the room and claims of hepatitis'. I managed to insist he take the medicine while I looked on. I left and went back to bed. I lived not far away. About 2am my telephone rang. It was Alf again; same story. I didn't want to disturb anyone. This time I took some animal/horse 'Largactil'. I now knew the human dose. I watched as he took my embellished dose of 'Largactil'. I left and went back to bed; again. Two days later I saw Alf. He acknowledged me and told me 'he'd slept like a baby for 24 hours and when he woke up he was fine!' He no longer called me Herbert!

I digressed; but with Herbie Eveleigh and Alf Marks it's worth it. There is no doubt Herbie Eveleigh is a local living legend of the racetrack. Now over 80 he's a great credit to himself and his extended family. Still active and competitive he breeds, breaks, trains and races his own. He's not strictly licensed; but who said anything about rules? On Noblet Road you make your own laws; and claim adjacent 'Crown Land' territory for grazing rights. Herbie has a very sharp mind and razor wit.

Homes of Hope

September 24, 2016

By Harley Walden

THE year was 1935, Peter Pan had just come off his second Melbourne Cup win (1932-34) the Great Depression rolled over the lives and hopes of millions, an Anglican minister came up with a plan to house some of the families evicted from their homes, often with no means of financial support.

Robert Hammond was archdeacon at St Barnabas' Anglican Church in Sydney's Broadway.



Rev Robert Hammond at Hammondville (State Library of NSW, hood_12739)

Wondering what he could do to alleviate the suffering he saw all around, he invited married men to a meeting in February 1932.

His idea was what he called a 'consolidated settlement', a residential development on new land where families of unemployed would help themselves and each other to build, rent and eventually purchase their own homes.

Each would use their skills to help others and after around seven years would have paid sufficient rent to own their houses outright.

To qualify for the scheme a married couple needed to be unemployed, have at least three children and possess a skill useful to the community.

They had to show that they had been recently evicted and make a commitment to joining the community in growing its own food.

Rents were very reasonable and did not need to be paid by those who continued to be unemployed.

The 'Pioneer Homes' scheme, as it was originally known, received 800 applications and began with 13 acres near Liverpool.

Although the initiative received little official support, donations from the public enabled a start to be made.

Now comes into the picture, Mr Rodney Dangar.

After his great horse Peter Pan had won his second Melbourne Cup, he learned that Canon Hammond had an option of purchase over ground which added 150 acres to Hammondville.

That made a total area of 210 acres.

Mr Dangar knows good land from bad. He went out and had a look at the soil. "It is good," he said. "Here men could get something out of the land they tilled. How much?" "£3,750!" Canon Hammond answered, "I'll let you have it!"

"The option expires tomorrow!" the Churchman mentioned, but Mr Dangar works like his horse raced, without thought of tomorrow.

The ground was made available for closer settlement, the scheme had justified its existence, Peter Pan, the one horse of the entire world's horses, had been responsible for a thriving community.

It was a great record of which Mr Dangar was immensely proud.

One hundred and forty pounds put up another house and enabled another poor family to be transported from the hell of dismay to the paradise of hope. Five pounds will give the settler the essential seed and manure for his first year's work.

Some big men of the turf helped immensely, they helped like gentlemen do, without ostentation, without publicity, giving without hope of reward.

Mr Arthur White of Belltrees, Scone erected a cottage in the early settlement, that was £100.

He went to the settlement and believed in the scheme, he sent five tons of wire netting, which proved of inestimable value to the settlers who kept poultry.

Later he added two rooms to his cottage, great work from the pastoralist-sportsman.

He at least knew what he had done was far greater than charity.

He had given down-and-out brothers opportunities to rehabilitate themselves, he had helped men with nothing to help themselves to economic security, and in helping themselves they had helped others, because to that date the present settlers had repaid £800 of their obligation, which was put into new houses to enable other men and women submerged in economic damnation to make a new start, where every penny they repay is credited to them to make their improved acre their own.

They were the prayers of actions, which made barren fig trees bear fruit for the benefit of the community.

Twenty six homes were completed in the first year. Another 40 homes were built the following year, and another 160 acres was purchased with a generous individual donation.

By 1937, 110 homes were housing families.

Hammondville, as it came to be called after its visionary founder, had a church, post office general store and school by 1940.

A senior citizens facility was developed in later years and Hammondville continued to thrive.

The community grew even further during the war, and many of the men served in the armed forces.

By the end of the war in 1945, most families had already paid off their properties and now owned them along with the acre of land on which they stood.

Hammondville tradition was full of stories about individuals who made great contributions to a unique community.

They included Constance Jewell and her 'Depression recipe' cakes, so popular at dances and fundraisers.

Shopkeeper Alf Morley was known as the 'Mayor of Hammondville' because of his popularity.

Alf opened the town's first shop with a 100-pound loan from the founder and provided generous terms of payment as well as free ice-creams for the kids.

Other notable people from the community included property developer Jim Masterson and politician John Hatton, Reverend Bernard Judd and his wife Ida, had a long connection

with Hammondville and were prime movers in establishing various local institutions, including the Girl Guides and the Senior Citizens Home.

Robert Hammond's vision and energy were recognised in 1937 when he was awarded an OBE, he died in 1946 at almost 76 years of age.

Jack Johnston VIP

Jack and Tiger are both local legends! Jack was the inaugural Horse Festival VIP in 1985 and again in 1994; the only person to receive the coveted award twice. Tiger was the VIP for 1996 while Ben McNaughton's father Bruce is another most accomplished horseman managing Glenrock Station for a number of years.

Jack was a direct descendent of the hegemonic Johnston clan steeped in Scone folklore from the very earliest days of the 20th century. Jack's father Scott was a champion trainer throughout the Hunter Valley and North & North West. He established Tyrone Stud on the northern outskirts of Scone as his home base where he stood a succession of productive thoroughbred stallions and racehorses. Jack succeeded his father and added further cachet to the genre. Perhaps he was most visible and memorable leading the horse parade every year resplendent on his trusty steed richly caparisoned with Master-of-Foxhounds red coat and silk top hat! He was also an innovator boasting a long tradition with Scone Race Club and the early Scone Horse Festivals. Field events skills days were hosted by Jack at Tyrone Stud each year.

Tiger was no less an icon; in his case with the Australian Stock Horse Society, Campdrafts, Rodeo and Pickup. He was a proud native of the Timor area where the prevailing fodder and water supplies appeared to produce horsemen and women of very high calibre as well as richly talented all-rounders?

Keith Banks et al

With all the justifiable euphoria about Winx and others such as Haydon Angel Jewel it might be timely to quietly reflect on the behind-the-scenes aspects of glamour horse sports?

Without wishing to be a maudlin pariah I can recount many incidents which have seriously affected me over the past 50 years. The low point of my stewardship of the Scone Race Club came early in my Presidency beginning in 1978. Apprentice Jockey Craig Ayton came to grief at White Park in a summer meeting in 1979. Craig was apprenticed to Alan Bailey at Wyong. A coronial inquest delivered a verdict of death by accidental work-place 'situational' misadventure without apportioning blame to any third party. However it's a very bitter pill. One never forgets. I've always speculated if Alan Bailey's subsequent relocation to the Gold Coast might have been a 'geographical' appeasement?

Many friends from the 'good old days' perished in arguably the most dangerous of horse sports: Campdrafting. Skull fractures seem to be an occupational hazard. Many notable Upper Hunter families are still marked by residual grief. My late close friend Harley Waldon brought all this together in his own unique style. He mentions Greg Cribb and Keith Banks in his minutely researched article which appeared in the Scone Advocate on 7th February 2013. I have written elsewhere about Greg's father Eric 'Shorty' Cribb as well as his brother-in-law Peter Snowdon. It was a conversation with Keith Banks recently that prompted me to write this and also liberally quote Harley. Keith told me that despite many vicissitudes he rode in most major races and on most principle race tracks throughout Eastern Australia; including two Melbourne Cups. He was a very gifted natural lightweight.

February 7 2013 - 10:12AM

<http://www.sconeadvocate.com.au/story/1285427/racing-behind-the-scenes-of-the-glamour-sport/>

Racing - behind the scenes of the glamour sport

Harley Walden

Life as a jockey appears an illustrious career on the surface, but scratch a little deeper and it becomes apparent that living in the saddle can be an explosive mix of mental and physical torment.

The body rigors that these young, at times not so young, people are prepared to go through to reach the pinnacle of their chosen sport would make the most hardened punter, who at times are the jockeys worst critics, bite back the words they offer.

Extreme dieting; hours of wasting; at times to the unbelievable; driving to the races with an overcoat on and the car heaters going.

And then there is the pressure of public scrutiny and the thought that one wrong move can be fatal are stark realities facing the men and women who wear the silks.

The ones that become great can handle the mental side of things. Those who fall by the wayside generally can't—and unfortunately there are many.

In October 2010 champion Queensland jockey Stathi Katsidis was found dead on his lounge room floor, he should have been riding high at the Cox Plate meeting that weekend, instead the pressure told. He had been sweating a lot to get his weight down but it just was not coming off. Hitting the gym. Sweating. Completing the Damascus course for those battling drugs.

A young jockey with so much to live for. This is the darker and sadder side of racing. The realistic fact of how well our jockeys are respected, even lesser known ones, was born out in early 2007 with the death of young Mudgee horseman Damien Murphy after a fall at Wellington on Australia Day.

The sudden death of the popular 23-year-old stunned the Central West community – racegoers or not – and they packed St Mary's Catholic Church in Mudgee to say their last goodbyes. Trainers and horse breeders sat side by side with hotel publicans and taxi drivers and were left to dwell what a cruel sport racing can be.

On a Monday morning in early August 2004 the close knit town of Scone in the Upper Hunter were in shock as the news filtered through of the death of Greg Cribb in a freak road accident.

Greg Cribb, 43, beat the odds when he survived a shocking race fall at Tamworth in 1985. His heart stopped a few times but he came through. He had a fractured skull and other injuries and was out of racing for seven years.

A fall like this would have had most jockeys hanging up the saddle, but not the Scone horseman who returned to what he loved doing – riding winners.

When Greg Cribb chose to follow the path of race riding he knew the element of risk he would encounter. But it was the unexpected and the unknown that claimed his life.

Former champion jockey Keith Banks, who lives on the outskirts of Scone, started his riding career in an era when cigarettes and alcohol were accepted as a vice, while living in the back pocket of an SP (starting price) bookmaker or riding the odd dead-un was frowned upon by racing officials.

One thing that will live in Bank's memory will be his first ride in a race and it could have been his last; it was a sensation, at Warwick Farm in March, 1959.

Hilton Cope's stirrup broke in a packed field; Noel McGrowdie's mount came down over Cope and Golden Grove, piloted by the then 16-year-old apprentice Banks, crashed on top of both.

Banks was admitted to Liverpool Hospital with a broken thigh and pelvis, a broken arm and dislocated shoulder.

He was in hospital for six months and out of the saddle for a year.

Keith Banks says racing been good to him, a lifetime that has spanned an era of hard knocks, controversy and battlers.

These are just some of the pitfalls our riders face every time they are leg-up on an animal that weighs in the excess of 500 kilograms and travels at 65 kilometres an hour with featherweight jockeys aboard a split second decision that could go wrong could mean a broken body or worse.

On July 13, 2010, a shocking four horse fall at Scone put Alison Threadwell and Jodie Riley in hospital with bone fractures and lacerations. Riley suffered a fractured right collarbone and left eye socket. Threadwell fractured vertebra in her neck, broke three ribs, sustained a tear to her liver and damage to the kidney region.

The other two victims of the Scone calamity, Jeff Penza and Clair Pettigrew, walked away unaided. Two races later Pettigrew was back in the saddle. While the other two young ladies have since returned to riding.

After centuries of a male dominated sport we find an influx of young female jockeys. They are well presented, well-spoken and in the main attractive – so what possesses these young ladies to pursue a career in racing?

A weight claim is attractive to owners and trainers but once out ridden it becomes a hard slog to gain rides, sometimes only a handful a week.

And this is where the young and naive, and I do not only elude to the girls, the boys can be just as tempted and there are those out there ready to push the boat beyond the boundaries of the rules of races.

Harley Walden is the author of Sixty Years of Scone Cups.

Betty Shepherd: 88 not out

Local racing icon Betty Shepherd celebrates her 88th birthday at The Thoroughbred, Scone

Caitlin Reid

April 10 2019 - 4:17PM

SHE'S known as the first female trainer in Australia and, possibly the world, and Wednesday was a chance to celebrate the lady herself.

Well-known Scone resident and local icon Betty Shepherd toasted to her 88th birthday surrounded by family and friends at a special lunch at The Thoroughbred in Scone.

It was just over two years ago that the Scone horsewoman officially opened the building, which features various images taken in her training days at White Park and racing memorabilia in its interior.

(See also 'Remaking a Thoroughbred': <http://sconevetdynasty.com.au/remaking-a-thoroughbred/>)

Betty played an integral part of bringing to life some of these memories during the renovations stage of the old Thoroughbred Hotel.

In 2019, it's been 53 years since she was the first licensed female trainer to have a runner in the Caulfield Cup and Melbourne Cup with her horse 'Trevors'.

The pioneer trainer also made her mark in breeding, as one of the first women to ever take a yearling through the ring at the Inglis Horse Sales.

Mecca of Racing

I rediscovered this article when I was searching for some information on Herbie Eveleigh. It reminded me of the loss of Harley Walden; commemorated so well in the 'Thoroughbred' reiteration. I acknowledge the source in www.scone.com. The commentary is both classically and quintessentially Harley. He retained a lifelong love of the Scone Race Club in particular and racing in Scone in general. I cannot recall a more devoted patron who wrote so passionately on his favourite topic for so long. Vale Harley.

May 13, 2016

<http://www.scone.com.au/mecca-of-racing/>

By Harley Walden

SCONE, less than 200 kilometres from Sydney, served by air and fast modern trains, lies at the northern end of the fabulous Hunter Valley cradled against the distant peaks of Barrington, Woolooma's Mount Royal and the Liverpool Range.

It has been described as one of the most magnificent stretches of country in the southern hemisphere, dominated by its rich grazing land and is the equivalent of the famed Blue Grass country of Kentucky, USA with its host of famous studs.

One of Australia's great racing journalists Bert Lillye, who died in 1996, was a great advocate of the Scone Cup meeting held every year since 1947.

Bert often spoke of Race Week in Scone as the Mecca of racing.

The first Scone Cup meeting was a task for men who had gone out on a limb, not only to build the race track, but to run something of this proportion that the town had not before experienced.

A one-day event turned into two and then in 1987 another milestone was achieved when the Cup Carnival was run over three days.

Prizemoney for the Cup increased with every running from the 300 pounds that Precise won in 1947 to around \$120,000 plus trophies the winner will receive this year.

The Cup winner's trophies were also unique down through the years, from silver and gold cups to canteens of cutlery and at one presentation, a set of ladies and gents wrist watches.

In the early years the two day meeting saw the running of three feature races – The Sire's Produce Stakes, Scone Guineas and the Scone Cup, events that were sponsored by local studs and always patronised by horses they raced.

The Cup has always been the flagship of the Carnival but the Scone Guineas when it was run over the Cup journey of 1 mile and 100 yards is a race probably highlighted by the great performance in 1952 of the winner Neat Andrew, owned by leading Sydney bookmaker Jack Mandel.

The chestnut colt backed up the next day to take out the Scone Cup, the only time the feat has been achieved in the running of the two events.

Ironically, it was Jack Mandel who that year donated the Cup trophy.

Down through the years feature races have been dropped and new ones added, but the Cup steeped in history and tradition is the event that everyone wants to win.

Some great performances have been established to win the trophy.

Granada's effort in 1954 under the impost of nine stone 8 pounds (61kg) to give jockey Ernie Walmsley his third Cup success and also a record; and wins in the 1969-71 Cups by country champion Merry Jack to give northern NSW trainer Arthur Gore his third in the race.

In 1981-82 saw a unique performance when Bridgeman made it back to back Cups for jockey Kevin Gover, a feat equalled by Brave Prince and Jamie Innes in 2000 and 2001.

Local horseman Martin (Herbie) Eveleigh wrote his name in the history books to become the first Scone jockey to ride a Cup winner aboard Sky Sailor in 1967 and again on Norm Park in 1977, the Cup meeting being postponed and held on a Saturday in June.

The Scone Cup Carnival over the years has been blessed with the array of horsemanship that has been on show through the years with the likes of the greats: Jack Thompson, Ray Selkrig, Mel Schumacher, Arthur Ward and Muswellbrook's famous Wayne Harris who all had success in the Cup.

Patrons were also privileged to witness the riding feats of Darby Munro, George Moore, Neville Sellwood and Des Lake.

In recent years at the old White Park track and the complex at Satur have seen wins by Gavin Eades, Jim and Larry Cassidy, Glen Boss and a former exponent of the pigskin in Darren Beadman.

The bush has also produced its share of top horsemen like Cecil (Skeeter) Kelly, Leon Fox, Barry Smith, Doug Weir, Ernie Walmsley and Robert Thompson who all rode with success over the Cup meetings and proved they could mix it with the best on the city tracks.

Leading Sydney trainers Tommy Smith, Jack Green and Jack Denham along with Victorian Lee Freedman were great campaigners at the Carnival in the early years.

Nowadays the support comes from the new breed, Gai Waterhouse, Ron Quinton, Peter Snowden and John Hawkes with Newcastle trainers Paul Perry and Kris Lees are up there with the best of the metropolitan trainers.

In 2009 Paul Messara rang up number one for the bush when he became the first Scone trainer to win the Cup with Obvious Choice.

Although it should be noted that Charlie Dodd who prepared Piccadilly Lad to win the feature event 1949 was a Scone-ite but his horses were prepared at Newcastle.

For many years a ladies place in racing was expected to be a quick parade in the Fashions of the Field or the sashing of the winners.

But at the Cup meeting in 1984 a few eyebrows were raised when Sydney lass Debbie Packwood led in four winners over the two-day carnival, including Donna Lydia, winner of the co-feature race the Bim Thompson Lightning Stakes.

The Lightning Stakes, as it was known when first run in 1962, has carried the name of many of the club's stalwarts and local studs who have sponsored the race through its time on the club's agenda.

As time moved on more and more women began to play a larger role in racing and lady riders began their part in the Sport of Kings.

Into the 2000's the girls were well entrenched and leading Sydney female horsewomen Kathy O'Hara announced their arrival when she became the first female to win the Scone Cup, not once but twice, 2006 aboard Fighting Fund and again in 2007 on Spy Zaim, both horses prepared in Sydney by the late Guy Walter.

Two thousand and three Wyong trainer, Louise Munce put her name on the leader board, when she became the first female conditioner to win a Scone Cup with Full on Magic.

A thousand stories could be related about the Scone Cup Carnival – racing, training, riding feats, the characters, the highs and lows – the list goes on.

One may never know what it was that drew Bert Lillye on his annual pilgrimage to Scone each year.

But everything above may easily have prompted the journalistic icon to refer to the Scone Cup Carnival as the “cordon bleu” – the blue ribbon of country racing.

Old Racing Days Recalled

Excerpt, ‘From Old Satur Racecourse Recalled’, Letter to the Editor, Scone Advocate, Tuesday 27th June 1961; Reprinted in ‘Mac Bridge; The Man and his Recollections’ by Heather Ashford and Margaret Ashford-Macdougall 1983, Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society, 1983 Bi-Centennial Publication No. 2

Half a century ago racing history was made on the old Satur (Scone) racecourse.

The old course is now part of Sledmere, three miles from Scone on the Bunnan Road. The old track, which was classed as one of the best in the State, had a circumference of eleven furlongs with a testing straight of upwards of two furlongs. Meetings on the old track drew entrants from all parts of the State, including Sydney.

History was made a long time ago when the third horse was placed first. The Friar ran first in a race from Lanoline, with In Doubt (a Nandowra owned gelding) following the pair a few lengths in third place. When The Friar was about to take the lead a short distance from the post, from Lanoline, ridden by George Courtney, the latter caught hold of the bridle reins of The Friar. Even this did not stop the leader from running home in first place. Courtney was sent out for two years for his share in the breach, and his mount was eliminated from the placings.

A whisper went the rounds that The Friar was a ring-in. An inquiry by the officials confirmed the whisper.

Result: Winner and connections ousted for a long stretch. The twenty to one In Doubt moved up from third to first place.

The late Ernie (“Stump”) Marks, well known identity around Scone about the turn of the century, recalled the times when he was bookmaking with Dan Lewis. He said Lewis came from New Zealand and carried his swag from Sydney to Scone. The two became partners in a bookmaking venture in 1910. He said Lewis won his first race with a horse named Graphite at Spring Ridge, near Quirindi (probably this horse was ridden by Fred Snell of Scone).

Later, Dan Lewis was a successful trainer at Randwick. The winners he trained were legion.

Marks said he wanted to be a jockey but his parents ruled otherwise, and apprenticed him to the saddlery trade under the guidance of Edward Solomons. Two he mentioned who served their time with him were Frank Thrift of Parkville and Arthur Fox of Bunnan.

More than seventy years ago Marks rode track work on Scone's first race course, now part of the site of Scone Hospital. He said the best horse he rode was a 14.2 bay stallion named Dunwell. Before his owner, Jim Hardcastle (familiarily called Old Bussen) knew the pony could gallop he was one of the four in hand in the mail coach that plied between Scone and Moonan Brook. Ernie said in those days horses never broke down or became touched in the wind, and blamed the hosing down of horses on winter mornings for the wind ailment. Horses worked in blanket rugs and were thoroughly dried after working.

The only horse he ever owned was Pantheist, bought for £20 and sold for £40 after winning a Merriwa handicap. Charlie Dodds, a Newcastle trainer, rode Pantheist.

Marks told a humorous story about a race meeting he attended at Rooty Bank, between Moonan Flat and Ellerston, many years ago.

A bookmaker went up against the favourites and could not pay. The bookie and clerk had planned to escape in a buggy if the worst happened, which it did. They jumped into the buggy, slashed the horse with the whip. It jumped clear of the shafts and bolted. Someone had undone the harness. They were then left to the mercy of the crowd. The majority only got their money back and the police took charge of the two men.

A quartet that raced about the Upper Hunter in the 1890's was Sylva, by Zeno (bred by James Campbell of Arden Hall), Lagoon, Hesitation and Lazy Girl. Breeding of the latter three is unknown to the writer.

The last named, Lazy Girl, won a Scone Cup on the track near the present hospital. She was given the back-breaking weight of thirteen stone. The rider was that good horseman, 'Jimmy' Smith. When it came to the weighing out, it was found that there was not enough lead in Scone to make up the difference between the weight James and saddle and thirteen stone. Wet corn sacks were brought into use.

The reaming trio won a great number of races. The four were stabled in premises on the southern side of St Aubins Street, between Guernsey and Hill Streets. The horses were given their light exercise work on the flat between Hill Street and what is now the farm on the eastern bank of Kingdon Ponds.

Another good mare that won races throughout the Colony was Cyanide, owned and raced by Jim Hardcastle, at the run of the century mine host at the Railway Hotel at Scone, now the Royal Hotel.

Cyanide in 1900 competed in both the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups with profit to her owner.

James had two half brothers, Jack ('Rooty') and Ernie ('Boodle') Willis. Once Jim took the mare to Newcastle, one half of the brothers accompanied him, and, on seeing the Pacific Ocean for the first time, mistook it for a vast Lucerne paddock and said, "Jim, what a paddock to turn Cyanide in for a spell! Not even a stump she might hurt herself on. You know, Jim, there are too many stumps in Bakewell's Paddock where you turn her out for a spell. I'm always afraid that someday we will find her crippled".

'From Old Satur Racecourse Recalled', Letter to the Editor, Scone Advocate, Tuesday 27th June 1961;

Dan Lewis was in charge of the billiard room at the Willow Tree Hotel, Liverpool Street (now Morgan & English, Lawyers). In Scone at the turn of the century M H Bridge mentions that Dan Lewis conducted a billiard room where Elders Office is now located in Kelly Street.

The Royal Hotel remained in Jim Hardcastle's hands until he sold it in 1928 to S G 'Stan' Keene.

Peter Snowdon Scone Bred Champion

Prologue Update (Sunday 14th October 2018)

Just when we were thinking things couldn't become any better; they have! Peter and Paul Snowdon have scaled 'The Everest' twice; with outstanding sprinter 'Redzel'. Billed as the richest-race-on-turf in the world the contentious and controversial 1200 metre sprint, now in its second year, was a scintillating success again yesterday (13/10/18) at Randwick. The \$13 million race filled the fine old course to capacity. The gates were closed early 'capturing' well over 40,000 hedonistic patrons. It appears Sydney has not lost its voracious appetite to party following the initial 'great romp' in late January 1788! The Snowdon camp has collected the majority purse now in both competitions including the inaugural running for \$10 million in 2017. It adds yet further cachet to the magnificent 'rags-to-riches' saga of the Snowdon cadre from Scone.

This is a story of inspiration almost beyond the limits of reasonable possibility let alone probability. Chris Roots wrote about it in the SMH on Wednesday 30 November 2011 under the headline 'Snowden's amazing journey defies belief'. See: <http://www.smh.com.au/sport/horseracing/from-scone-to-dubai-snowdens-amazing-journey-defies-belief-20111129-1o57e.html>. Previously I had written to Peter Snowden to compliment him on his extraordinary success and absolutely outstanding achievement in becoming Australia's champion thoroughbred trainer. I reflected on the following:

'You have achieved all this while still retaining your natural country humility, grace and charm. Success and fame have not changed you – a true test of character! I am reminded of your early days with John Noonan and 'Wiffo' Barker and quietly reflect on how proud your parents Ross and (stepmother) Pat would have been! Justifiably so! It would not have been any different if your escalation had not been quite so stratospheric! I also retain very fond memories of son Paul in my Junior Cricket Team. He certainly learned 'how to play a straight bat'.

It is mildly ironic and equally prophetic that one of your early successes was with 'Promising' (by 'Osmunda') for Roger Neill and Paul Field? How this modest beginning has blossomed into today's quintessential triumph! No doubt you are immensely proud of your close family and enjoy the unqualified support of your extended family not least from your devoted spouse Lynn?'

Chris Roots continued: 'Peter Snowden never imagined he would train in Sydney when he was a battler in Scone. He certainly didn't dare to dream he would travel the world for Sheikh Mohammed, the ruler of Dubai, and take horses to the World Cup meeting in the UAE State. So when Peter, now the Sheikh's head trainer in Australia, got the call to take star three-year-olds Sepoy and Helmet to Dubai, he was surprised and delighted. "I didn't even think I would have a winner in Sydney when I was in Scone," he said. "This has been an incredible journey to get to where I am. I'm just honoured that they would want me to keep training these horses over there. They could have just taken them over and I'm sure they would have got the job done." Peter Snowden views with a mix of "anticipation, excitement and trepidation" news that his champion colts Helmet and Sepoy will race on Dubai World Cup night, the richest race program in the world, next year.

Previously Godolphin had summoned some of Peter Snowden's most promising horses to Europe but they had no success under different trainers. Sepoy and Helmet are clearly the two best Darley products to have headed overseas and it is a change of policy to keep them under Peter Snowden's care. It will be the first time Peter will prepare horses to race in the famous Godolphin royal blue, which has only been seen in Australia when it

chases the Melbourne Cup. Sepoy, a winner of 10 of his 11 starts, will carry the blue silks in the \$2 million Dubai Golden Shaheen over 1200 metres on an artificial surface called Tapeta at Meydan, while Helmet will be entered in the \$2 million UAE Derby. Both races are on March 26. Snowden said the two colts are likely to have starts in Melbourne in Darley colours before heading to Dubai. Peter's son Paul who runs the Melbourne part of the operation will be the travelling foreman.

Sepoy and Helmet lead Darley's unprecedented sweep of the two-year-old Group 1s last season, winning two each and they have trained on to win the biggest three-year-old races of the spring in Melbourne. They were both expected to leave Australia for European campaigns next year but the timing has just been moved forward. Sepoy, a son of Elusive Quality, is the highest-rated three-year-old in the Australia on a mark of 129 with Timeform. He won the Blue Diamond and Golden Slipper as a juvenile and then beat the older horses at three in the Manikato Stakes before taking out the Coolmore Stud Stakes on Derby Day at Flemington. He will race for the final time for Snowden in Dubai after which he will be transferred to one of Godolphin's European trainers and target the Golden Jubilee at Royal Ascot and July Cup at Newmarket'.

Local boy makes own fame

CAITLIN ANDREWS - Scone Advocate 15 Dec, 2011 12:13 PM

He is one of the best trainers in the country and master of the highest earning racing conglomerate, but locally bred Peter Snowden still remembers where he came from.

As the thoroughbred racing trainer secures his position at the top of the pool, he hasn't forgotten his beginnings in Scone and the people who have believed in him his whole life.

Snowden, the head trainer for Darley controls the Sheikh Mohammed's stables - Crown Lodge at Warwick Farm, Flemington and Agnes Banks at Hawkesbury.

Earlier this month it was also announced he would take horses to the World Cup meeting in Dubai.

Snowden's top feature horses at present Sepoy and Helmet will be the runners to go, also preparing for the Dubai World Cup night next year.

Snowden told The Scone Advocate, these two signature horses are the best in the stables at present with Sepoy winning four group 1 races and Helmet proving just as good with three group 1 victories under his belt.

With more than 250 horses in training at one time, Snowden works with a team of highly dedicated people starting work at 3.30am in the morning and working through to 7.30pm seven days a week.

However, Snowden doesn't take his success lightly as he expresses extreme gratitude to the support of his wife, Lyn, son Paul, master of stables in Melbourne and daughter Lisa, a lawyer, throughout his career.

Snowden's highly illustrious career started here in Scone when he followed in the footsteps of his father, Ross, who was a local jockey.

He first started riding as a teenager as an apprentice to John Noonan when he lived with close friends and mentors Scone racing identities Tom and Joy Ollerton.

Snowden and Lyn married in Scone and the couple tries to visit as often as possible, with family still living in town.

Bowing to the pressures of keeping the weight off, Snowden took advantage of the opportunity to train and has never looked back.

Snowden started training for Lionel Israel, then moving to Warwick Farm to train for Woodlands before taking over from John Hawkes as head trainer at Crown Lodge.

Last season Darley had seven group 1 winners, the second highest in the country to Black Caviar's trainer Peter Moody (nine), was the highest earning stud topping \$16 million and boasted the most winners in the country.

Snowden said it feels good to be doing so well, but he still doesn't forget where he came from.

"I was born in Scone and grew up in Scone.

"Scone is where I first started and I will never forget where I came from," he said.

"I've had a wonderful life in racing and I've had great opportunities that I have taken advantage of.

"I've worked really hard, my job is my life, but I have great support from my family."

Snowden said he believes the future of racing in Scone looks terrific with a committee that is very driven, very passionate and very committed to keep striving to be the best and attract the best in the country.

He said he would definitely bring up quite a few horses to the 2012 Scone Racing Carnival.

One of Snowden's biggest followers Tom Ollerton said back in the day Snowden was a good rider in the bush and rode a winner in town too.

"Peter has put in the hard yards and he deserves all he gets.

"I feel proud of Pete, he did it tough when he first went to the city but to his credit he stuck it out," Mr Ollerton said.

"You can take the boy out of the bush, but you can't take the bush out of the boy."

Local racing reporter Harley Walden has also watched Peter grow from a little boy to the self made success he is today.

"What Peter has done, he has done himself," Mr Walden said.

"He was ready made for his appointment at Darley as nothing is ever left undone with Peter.

"He is a good country lad doing well.

"Peter Snowden is a chap that if he walked up Kelly Street today people could talk to him and he would talk to them and he'll never be any different."

Former veterinarian Bill Howey, who has suggested Snowden may even be the highest sporting achiever ever produced in Scone, said Snowden's story was a story of inspiration almost beyond the limits of reasonable possibility let alone probability.

"Snowden has achieved all of this while still retaining his natural country humility, grace and charm.

"Success and fame have not changed Peter – a true test of character."

I posed the following question to a well-informed Scone sportsman recently: 'Is Peter Snowden the highest sporting achiever ever produced in Scone'? I could only come up with Laurie Morgan who won Olympic Equestrian Gold, Badminton Three Day Event and both the Liverpool and Cheltenham Foxhunters Chases in England with Salad Days II, Colledge Master and Gold Ross? I mentioned inspiration? Should we all take stock and learn from Peter when we are feeling perhaps a little hard done by and grumbling about our lot in life?

Encomium - Peter Snowdon

Peter was born into a racing environment in the Hunter Valley, which itself is the epicentre for thoroughbred breeding. He has by his own endeavours achieved a level of success that others can only dream about. What's more he has done this without ever compromising his own high standard of integrity and fair play.

There have never been any short cuts or hiccups in Peters' professional life, which makes his story so much more remarkable.

He remains the same modest, likeable and thoroughly trustworthy person he ever was.

I am sure that these qualities are plain to see during his frequent T.V. interviews. What he tends to downplay is his total commitment to the training and well-being of the horses in his care and the level of patience and understanding needed to bring out the best in them week in and week out.

R. G. Morgan, Sussex England
August 2016

Footnote

It was totally in character when I asked Peter to act as a pall bearer for the late Harley Walden. He unhesitatingly agreed without question. I had given him no notice. I approached him in church prior to delivering my eulogy.

Racing's Forgotten Past

March 12, 2016

By Harley Walden

Harley Walden, racing columnist

The story of Australia's greatest national sport began with an impromptu bush racetrack, the meeting was run by settlers near Windsor in New South Wales in 1805.

As the state of New South Wales expanded it was the early settlers who paved the way and those who followed appropriated tracts of land to make their livelihood.

No town was too small to provide a racetrack however makeshift

It has been said that, on setting-up a new town or hamlet, the instructions were build a place of prayer, a school and a racetrack, in that order.

Many of these were hastily cleared out of bush land to be used as a racetrack and on occasions, have that track act as a picnic or recreation ground for the town folk.

It was a far-off remote world from what we live in today; people travelled on rough gravel roads and, at times, on tracks cleared through the stringy bark bush, it was in this environment that the horse played a major role.

Evidence of advancing civilization as one Governor wrote to his superiors in London.

By the second half of the century after the land had been taken up and the gold discoveries had brought a population into the bush, horse transport was the means of linking these settlements to the larger cities.

Such was the Australian way of life in the bush.

Even without a course to race on, there seemed no reason not to compete.

Children raced their ponies' home from school and stockmen their stock horses from the cattle camps to the stock yards.

In fact any type of race created enthusiasm from our predecessors.

Their stories we still treasure today.

Along with the horse came the sport of racing which soon became the focus of social life, sport and entertainment in these scattered communities.

By the end of the first century the racecourse was part of the topography of every town of any size and some of the larger stations laid down their own racecourses their annual or picnic race meetings.

Our own local district, in the past, had many of these courses laid out on private properties.

One would have been Alabama owned by Allan Cooper and then Ray Bowcock, a track where Scone Race Club held its early meetings before moving to White Park.

The races held at Wingen, just north of Scone, would take place on Petwyn Vale a property owned by Mr. F.W. Croaker.

One of the first race meetings held in Murrurundi was on April 2, 1879, it took place on Mr. F. B. Haydon's property at Blandford.

The Merriwa Cup which is still held once a year had its original course on Brindley Park owned by the Bettington family.

Other smaller settlements close to Scone had their clubs registered; Moonan Flat and Gundy were recognised in January and March of 1896.

The Queen's Birthday and St Patrick's Day were popular days to hold a race meeting all over the country and locally the Easter Monday Races at Moobi-Howe's Paddock April 6, 1896.

Clubs were formed to hold special Annual meetings or a race meeting was put on for such occasions as the end of shearing, the arrival of the railway, or Easter or Christmas holidays.

One such local meeting in days gone by was held on the famous Belltrees property, home of the White family, to commemorate the conclusion of shearing, and they put through 150,000 sheep in those years.

Although the first race meeting in Scone was held in 1842 by the late 1840s racing had become a well-organised and well-patronised recreational activity in the town.

Interest in the sport enabled a three-day meeting to be held on the 26-27 and 28 December, 1848.

Popularity of the sport continued over the Christmas and New Year holidays, as reported in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1887, "In this colony alone no less than 66 fixtures appear, beside numerous meetings in less popular parts".

In the latter years the popularity never waned if we look at the North and North West Racing Association fixtures for early 1956:

- January 26 – Barradine, Gunnedah, Glen Innes, Denman, Mungidi.
- January 28 – Glen Innes, Camden Park, Coonabarabran.
February 2 – Tamworth, Scone.
- February 6, 7, 8 – Armidale Cup Carnival. February 15 Walcha Cup.

Looking back through the old records we come across many racecourses and clubs whose flags no longer fly, lost in as the dust settles and time marches on: Barmedman, Tinonee, Belimpopina, Monaro, Bokhara, Cannonbar, Nettelgo, Moombi, Wombat, Ivanhoe, Murrumburrah, Adelong Crossing, Patrick Plains, Rutherford, Carcoar, Berrima, Clarence Town, Maquarie Fields, Mitchell, Sunny Corner, Lower Manning, Breeza, Reid's Flat, Tooleybuc.

In the Hunter three of the major towns who race no more are Denman, Singleton and Maitland.

Then there was Currabubula, a small town situated between Tamworth and Werris Creek in northern NSW, where champion Scone horseman Arthur Holman started his sequence of rides that won him a place in the Miller's Guide.

Holman rode five winners from as many mounts at Currabubula October 12, 1946, continuing at Camden Park, Tamworth October 14, 1946 with another three, a week later at Quirindi adding a further one and a half wins to the total.

Nine and a half straight.

The lost racecourses were not all in the bush settlements or country courses.

There were racecourses in the cities and larger country towns that no longer exist today.

We will never recapture that part of our racing our ancestors knew, when a trainer set off on the road to walk his horses to the course, when women dressed up in their best, and when the publican put-up his booth in the shade of a gum tree, shared, in most cases by the one and only bookmaker.

What happened to all these racecourses many of whom are now simply traces of the past era, left behind by a few panels of railing, a furlong post or a judge's box left standing in a paddock?

Many have disappeared from the landscape altogether.

For some their fate was sealed by nature, drought or flood, as was the case of Scone's neighbouring town Aberdeen.

The Aberdeen Jockey Club was founded in 1898; down through the years suffering a number of setbacks, including three floods, the first in 1913, the second in 1955 and the third that finally ended horse racing in Aberdeen was in February 1971.

Some went out in wartime while many could not withstand the financial hardships of the Depression.

Some were simply part of the larger process of change in the makeup of how racing is run today.

One such club was Denman.

Denman Race Club is thought to have begun racing in the 1890s, although there are reports that in March 1860 the two-day Pickering St Patrick Races were held on the 'Big Flat' which was part of Martindale the property owned by Edward White.

In 1905 the racecourse was moved to Denman Park where racing continued until the track was closed in 1976.

The club now conducts its meeting at the Skellatar Park complex at Muswellbrook.

If had not been for some old newspaper cuttings or some frayed race books we might never have known that in the past the starter dropped his flag on a race meeting at Sunny Corner, Piper's Flat, Nundle and Bimbi or closer to home Woolooma and Cundi's Flat and Moonan or the meeting that was held at Kars Springs, just west of Scone, in 1925.

Scaling the Heights

I know it's a hoary old cliché but I promise this title was the very first thought which sprang to mind after watching the inaugural running of 'The Everest' at Randwick yesterday Saturday 14th October 2017. Chris Roots wrote in the 'The Sun Herald Sports': "Snowdons scale new heights in classic win". He stole my line! Mind you I've purloined a few of his in the past. There will always be only one inaugural winner. That's perennially and interminably unique.

It was an amazing day. I was a sceptic. I'm not usually like that but I couldn't see it working. That's why Peter V'landys has his job; and I don't have mine. In any case I'm delighted for all concerned. One of the main reasons I decided to write these 'blogs' was my conviction we weren't doing enough as a community to applaud and recognize our outstanding citizens. The first major I wrote was 'Scone Bred Champion' about Peter. I rate Peter and Paul Snowdon in that category. I'm thrilled by their success. Peter's spouse and Paul's mother Lyn (nee Cribb) is right up there too. I'm proud to have known both sides of the family for over 50 years. Paul was in my junior cricket team with my son Hugh. He could play a straight bat even then.

'Everest Day' at Randwick was a great occasion for Scone and the Upper Hunter. Apart from the 'Redzel' triumph other local representatives in the field of twelve included 'Houtzen' (Late Noel Leckie & Toby Edmonds) and 'Clearly Innocent' (Greg Bennett & Bruce Neill of 'Cressfield'). Unlucky first emergency 'In Her Time' won the consolation Sydney Stakes for Ben Smith. His father Ian ('Ginge') Smith and his grandparents are solid friends; also from Scone. I could go on. I think 83% of runners were sired by Upper Hunter-based stallions.

I think I'll sneak out and have a drink with one of Peter Snowdon's very first patrons. I know where to find him. Stockman and shearer Geoff Palmer will be in the bottom bar at

the Belmore Hotel at 5:30pm as usual. I'll report more a little later. It's a good story.

I've just had a beer with Geoff. He was very informative; as usual! He remembers Peter riding his own good horse 'Palmer's Hope' when trained by apprentice Peter's Master John 'Noisy' Noonan. He also recalls Peter taking a tumble under one of the old Pepper Trees decorating White Park. Jack Kelso eliminated them. They obscured the vision from the 1400m start. They 'all got a virus' according to Jack. It could have been a bloke with a 'Tordon Poison Axe' if other rumours have any substance? On another occasion Peter wasted for a week on lettuce leaves to make the weight to ride 'One Eyed Queen' in the Ramornie Handicap at Grafton. This tale might have had an exquisite conclusion; if 'One Eyed Queen' hadn't bucked coming out of the barriers to unseat Peter. It would have been 'whip crack' elimination in less than 8 seconds in the Rodeo Ring! Memories! Memories!

Amazingly these stables were also where Toby Edmonds started. Geoff Palmer was there. 'Wiffo' Barker had them before Noisy Noonan. He recalls the first time he led Toby out onto the training track. It's been all upwardly rapid progress since then. Geoff also regaled me with the time Eric 'Shorty' Cribb bought a mare to teach his grandson Paul Snowdon how to ride at the old Scone Saleyards? It was not an auspicious start! Paul didn't last 8 seconds either! Apparently he showed his displeasure in no uncertain terms. These are my words; not Geoff's! He was more explicit with elaborate vernacular.

Scone: Nursery of Champions

Remember you heard it here first. However both honour and honesty demand I admit the truth. It wasn't my idea. The tribute and title belong to my spouse Sarah. We were sitting together in the Upper Hunter Council Chambers. On the menu for discussion was the future of Kelly Street post-bypass. This is called the Kelly Street Revitalisation Project Committee. I'm all in favour and have had some input. We are considering a Scone Horse Heritage Precinct encompassing the central commercial corridor of our conurbation. It was a spontaneous and inspired instant of epiphany for Sarah. Scone: Nursery of Champions. That's it I thought! We don't always agree on sudden impulses!

It's all about branding I suppose? At least that's the message I dragged with me from the 20th century. Now I have to justify the claim. If we are talking horses and thoroughbreds in particular (which we are) then the august assertion is a given. I would say that wouldn't I? A further mantra is to focus on what we have now as an advantage. I like it almost as much.

Here are some examples of what 'we have now as an advantage'. Since 1900 the champion thoroughbred stallion has been based in the Upper Hunter on 73 occasions on 8 – 10 special studs. The multiple title winning stallions include Lochiel (4), Grafton (4), Maltster (5), Linacre (2), Valais (5), Magpie (2), Heroic (7), Midstream (3), Delville Wood (5), Star Kingdom (5), Bletchingly (3), Marscay (2), Danehill (9), Redoute's Choice (3) Fastnet Rock (2) and Snitzel (2). Widden (9/24), Tarwyn Park (1/7), Kia Ora (3/10), St Aubins (2/5), Baramul (1/5), Arrowfield (5/10*), Darley (3/3) and Coolmore (3/10*) are the stand-out host studs. These statistics firmly establish the Upper Hunter Valley as Australia's principal thoroughbred breeding nursery with Scone at its apex. About half the thoroughbred foals born every year in Australia are both conceived and delivered in the Upper Hunter Valley. (Number of Champion Stallions/Number of Championships * = Shared Title 'Danehill')

To add grist to the mill here's a list of some of the best thoroughbreds to grace the Australian Turf with strong allegiance and/or affiliation to/with the Upper Hunter Valley:

Cornucopia List of Hunter Valley Thoroughbreds

Abercorn, Ajax, Amounis, Artilleryman, Baguette, Beaches, Biplane, Biscay, Black Onyx, Blazing Saddles, Bletchingly, Canny Lad, Carioca, Cetigne, Chatham, Chester*, Columnist, Crewman, Dark Eclipse, Dark Jewel, Delta, Duke Foote, Duke of Athol, Greenstead, Emancipation, Eskimo Prince, Eurythmic, Evening Peel, Faringdon, Fine and Dandy, Flight, Flying Spur, Freckles, Gunsynd, Hall Mark, Hector, Heroic, Hydrogen, Inspired, Jane Hero, Jorrocks, Kaoru Star, Kennaquhair, King Apollo, Kingster, Kingston Town, Lanius, Linacre, Lonhro, Lord Cardigan, Lord Dudley, Lord Nolan, Luskin Star

Maltster, Manfred, Marceau, Marscay, Miss Finland, Mooltan, Murray Stream, Nebo Road, Noholme, Nuffield, Osmunda, Peter Pan, Piastre, Planet Kingdom, Poitrel, Poseidon, Positano, Prince Foote, Rajah, Red God, Redoute's Choice, Rogilla, Royal Sovereign, Sabah, Sailor's Guide, Shannon, Shifnal, Sky High, Skyline, Snitzel, Star of Heaven, Subzero, Sunset Hue, Tattenham, The Buzzard, Time and Tide, Todmaid, Todman, Todwana, Trafalgar, Vain, Valicare, Wallace, Wiggle, Winx, Windbag, Zephyr Bay.

Not to be outdone the largest horse breed society in the nation, the Australian Stock Horse Society has established its headquarters in Scone since inception in 1971 and built its enviable reputation on the early foundations. On the human resources front Peter Snowden and Toby Edmonds haven't done too badly as thoroughbred trainers?

Toby Edmonds

Toby Edmonds is another Scone-bred local who is making tsunami scale waves at the very top level. I am reminded by Geoff Palmer in the 'Belmore Hotel' that he taught Toby to ride when at Noisy Noonan's old stables at the bottom end of town. Another stable mate was emerging champion trainer Peter Snowden. There must have been something in the feed; or water in lower Aberdeen Street? Maybe it was Geoff's exquisite early tuition? Geoff was multi-skilled at shearing, stockman, horse breaker, track work rider, trainer, rouse-about, slaughter man and a variety of other.

The mix of old school horsemanship taught to him by two greats in Neville Begg and Peter Snowden and new training techniques learnt by vying his trade in some of the best training centres in Australia has given Toby the necessary tools to compete with the best.

Based on the Gold Coast at Bundall the climate and facilities enable horses to produce their best performance possible on race day.

Toby believes in his ability to place his horses to perfection giving owners the ultimate chance at success they strive for.

Toby offers first class facilities at the Gold Coast Turf Club home to the famous Magic Millions Carnival and also the time honoured Hollindale Stakes.

After spending 2010 as Patinack Farm's Queensland foreman Toby is now training back in his own right and has already firmly entrenched himself as one of Queensland's leading trainers. Toby's facilities consist of a 37 horse barn, 8 horse-walker, a beautiful canal walk to the track where the horses can stop for a pick of grass and all the world class training tracks. Col Watts told me Toby has recently expanded his stables with some serious 21st century construction. With nearby beaches frequently utilized there is every reason to believe any horse will be a winner with Edmonds Racing!

Scone Cup Ring in 2019

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Critto of the Hawks Nest Caliphate returns to Scone for the Scone Races Darley Cup Presentation in 2019! Alan Crittenden ('Critto') is featured second from the left on the rostrum wearing felt cap with a fellow Hawks Nest 'intruder'. The official party are blissfully unaware that neither 'Critto' nor his mate had anything at all to do with the running of the race or were associated in any way with any starter; least of all the winner! The Darley / Godolphin supremo presentation group includes Vin Cox (GM), Alastair Pulford (SRC President) and Ross Cole (Company Secretary). I doubt

even media host Gary Harley guessed at the identity and/or legitimacy of the intrepid interlopers? There's even a fabulous photo of the Hawks Nest duo with the winning owners of 'Special Missile' holding the Cup! This is Group I gatecrashing at its very best!

It's not as bad as it sounds. There's no 'Fine Cotton' or Haydn Haitana in this; just a liberal dose of good old fashioned Aussie larrikinism. No harm done! In an age when racing's literary legends (journalists) are lamenting the passing of 'real characters' it's timely that men like 'Critto' re-emerge. It could be 'Critto' was cajoled into this 'substitution' by his cohort busload from the Hawks Nest Golf Club Social Group? It's a good yarn after a few schooners late on a Thursday afternoon anyway!

Like the streaker's defence it was both a bold audacious move; and a good idea at the time! It takes ample brio and plentiful chutzpah. I wish I'd thought of it; and had the guts! In vindication of 'Critto' I think we can perhaps dubiously postulate he was substituting for the 'Big Man' in Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum; the real sponsorship proponent. Perhaps he'll make a comeback in 2020? God willing ('Inshallah') and Salaam aleikum to all you infidels and unbelievers alike!

Alan 'Critto' Crittenden is the quintessential extrovert country character; incorrigibly chirpy, gregarious and garrulous. I first knew 'Critto' when he was employed at the F J Walker Abattoir in Aberdeen as a Meat Inspector in the late 1960s and 1970s. It was his job to ensure the animal protein we consume is the highest quality. He was very good at his job and extremely deft with the regulation inspector's exquisitely honed slicing knife. Nowadays his most dangerous 'weapons' are his fishing rod and a Sand Wedge!

Apart from Service Clubs Alan's other role in the Scone Community was as Clerk of the Scales (with his best mate Bob Wells) at the regular Scone Race Club Meetings then held at White Park. I was an 'official' on the Scone Race Club Committee of the day. Both Alan and Bob were as regular as clockwork and utterly reliable. They were on duty when John 'Jerky' Wade was arraigned by Chief Steward Pat Hartman attempting to manipulate the weigh scales at a Spring meeting of the Scone Race Club in 1977. John was banned from riding in races for 6 long months. He missed the early 3yo stakes winning rides on Luskin Star on whom he'd recorded a record breaking win in the 1977 Golden Slipper Stakes at Rosehill. Not a wise move John!

THE SPIRIT WITHIN



