

FROM THE WELLINGTON RACING CLUB COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY UPDATE

SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2026

TO OUR VALUED MEMBERS

This newsletter continues the Committee's commitment to regular, open communication - outlining what has gone well, what we are working on, and how members can stay involved.

WELLINGTON CUP DAY – BUILDING MOMENTUM

The day delivered a strong result for the Club as we welcomed a crowd of 8,845 on course, a 35% increase on 2025. This was a significant lift and an encouraging sign of renewed momentum around one of our most important race days. Betting turnover was solid and in line with budgets.

Michelle Donohue and her team did a fantastic job adding the colour and atmosphere back to Cup Day and the feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive.

The horses racing on Cup Day represented more than 1,250 owners, highlighting the scale of participation and the national importance of the meeting.

Thank you to all members who attended, brought guests, and supported the day. Member engagement remains central to the success and sustainability of the Club.



Pictured to the right is Ray Southey in the birdcage after the Cup. Ray has attended every Wellington Cup since his first in 1957 meaning Saturday was his 70th consecutive Cup in the flesh.



NEXT RACEDAY – SUNDAY 1 MARCH

Our next meeting at Trentham will be held on Sunday 1 March, featuring the Group 3 Rydges Wellington Cuddle Stakes.

We look forward to building on the momentum from January and encourage members to attend and bring guests.

Committee members will be on course and welcome the opportunity to speak directly with members. Your feedback, questions and ideas are important to us.



TRACK UPDATE

Once again, we congratulate our Track Manager Jamie Phillips and his team for presenting the track in excellent condition across all three race days throughout January. The Champagne Turf performed consistently and fairly during a demanding period of the season which was a credit to careful planning and execution from Jamie.

We now have a brief break before racing resumes in March.

- **Group 3 Rydges Wellington Cuddle Stakes**
Sunday 1 March 2026
- **Group 2 Wellington Guineas**
Saturday 21 March 2026
- **Group 1 NZ Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes / Group 1 Courtesy Ford Sires' Produce Stakes**
Saturday 28 March 2026

Following these feature meetings, the track will undergo a more aggressive renovation that will include work on the crossing and a turf maintenance and renewal programme, ensuring it is well prepared when we resume racing on Saturday 6 June.

STEPHEN GRAY RACING OPEN DAY 8 MARCH

We are more than happy to support our trainers who race their horses at Trentham. Stephen is having an Open Day on 8 March at 11am. Copper Belt Lodge, 160 Green Road, Awahuri. Please come along and unlock the mystery of horse ownership at a scope to suit everyone. Further details included in this newsletter.

MEMBERS' FORUM AND SGM WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH

4pm at the Racecourse Road Cafe

This forum will provide an opportunity for members to have involvement beyond the usual cycle of AGMs. We also need to update our WRC constitution to align with the new requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

- You will hear directly from the Committee
- Receive updates on facilities and planning
- Be welcome to ask questions and share views in an open setting

We see this as an important step in strengthening transparency and member engagement.

BACKSTRAIGHT LAND SALE

With the Lot 1 sale going unconditional in January, the focus is now on moving our tractor and starting gate shed from this area behind the 1500m mark. With the confirmation of the sale of Lot 2 (land behind 1800m-1600m) due in the near future, the planning for new tie ups and boxes continues and we will share some plans at the members forum on 25 March.

ONGOING FOCUS

Through the remainder of February and into March, the Committee remains focused on:

- Delivering strong upcoming feature meetings
- Careful management and presentation of the track
- Continued improvements to communication with members
- Early planning for the 2026/27 season

We remain committed to keeping members informed as this work progresses.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Wellington Racing Club. Your membership matters, and your engagement - whether on race day or at the upcoming Members' Forum - plays an important role in shaping the Club's future.

We look forward to seeing many of you on course at our March race meetings, and at the Members Forum on 25 March.

Kind regards,

Simon Barber

President, Wellington Racing Club

On behalf of the Committee



Credit: Nicola Troost Photography