

**Minutes of the Counties Racing Club Incorporated
99th Annual General meeting held in the Sponsors Lounge
on Thursday 17 October 2019 at 6.30PM**

Present:

Mr S Cole and 53 members

Welcome:

Mr Cole welcomed the members to the 99th Annual General Meeting of the Club and declared it open.

Apologies:

Apologies were received and sustained from:

John Bennett, John Carter, Ron Chitty, Nick Craig, John Crawford, John Flynn, Alan Fulton, Bob Kriletich, Olga Kriletich, Andy Loader, Daniel Nakhle, Tony Nicholas, Frances O'Brien, Geoff Smith, Barry Spooner, Kerry Stove, Frank Walker, Glenda Watson, Alan Wharfe, Gerald Shand, John McLachlan, John Murdoch and Tim Harrison

(B Collins/K Clotworthy)

Confirmation of the Previous Annual General Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the 98th Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 14 October 2018 having previously been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

(Ms A Stove/R Price)

Matters Arising:

Nil.

Obituaries:

Mr Cole asked the members to stand for a Minutes silence in respect of the following members who had passed away during the past racing season:

John Costello, Wavell Howe, Herbert Green, Colleen Cathro and Bruce Shand.

Annual Report:

The Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Accounts for the season ended 31 July 2019, as available to Members, were taken as read and confirmed.

(Messrs B Duckworth/Ms M Saba)

Chairman's & Financial Report:

The Chairman's Report for the season ending 31 July 2019 having been available to the Members were taken as read and confirmed.

Mr Cole said the 2018-2019 season had been a positive one for the Counties Racing Club and had faced several challenges during his tenure of two years. It had been a time of consolidation for the core businesses, horse racing and training, the motor track and function centre. There had been inroads made towards the rezoning of a portion of surplus land however no commitment had been made regarding the rezoning of the land at this stage.

Regarding the Messara report, he had nothing further to add other than to say that RITA (Racing Industry Transition Authority) was working hard to progress matters and implement changes mentioned in that report. Discussions are taking place to bring the Auckland racing clubs together for the betterment of our industry in the future. The discussions have been difficult with Avondale being reluctant to come together to discuss the future of racing in this area.

It was the Boards view that if we are to survive it would be on a different basis.

Mr Cole thanked everyone who had assisted him over the last two years including Greg Mitchell and his very capable team. He also thanked the Club's Sponsors, who supported Members of the club and also the hardworking Committee. Feels he is leaving the club in a better position and welcomed incoming Chairman Mark Chitty.

Member Bob McCarthy asked the reason why the Avondale Jockey Club would not co-operate with Auckland and Counties. Mr Cole said he could not answer his question there and been one initial meeting held but recently there had been no communication from Avondale and he was not sure why. The meetings were only to discuss the way forward and no discussions re the possibility of merging the three clubs. He reiterated that things needed to change within the racing industry.

Member Peter Walker also commented on the Avondale situation and felt that if they did not want to co-operate, then Auckland and Counties should possibly join together without Avondale. In his opinion he felt that the three-club merger would not possibly happen. He made mention that in the past the Auckland Racing Club did not co-operate with Avondale. However, Racing has to be viable and that racing today is not the same as it was 100 years ago.

Member Clyde Buckingham agreed with Mr Walker's comments.

Mr Shane McAlister commented that he would like to see Avondale as being the savior of Northern racing and would welcome working with them to complete the merger scenario.

Mr Cole said if Avondale did not want to join forces in the future, Auckland and Counties would go ahead alone but did not want to see that happen, preferring a three Club solution.

Member Mark Evans asked which of the clubs were making a profit? Mr Cole said it was probably only Auckland as they had outside income apart from racing and a large amount of funds on term deposit. He hadn't seen the financial accounts from Avondale so was unable to comment.

Member Trevor Littlejohn said the Marton Jockey Club had gone through the same scenario, didn't want to move initially, but with them racing at Awapuni, their club was successful once again retaining their own identity.

Member Richard Collett referred to the Messara Report where it was recommended that the Avondale track be closed and asked why efforts were being made to keep the track going. He also asked what the advantages would be for working together.

Mr Cole said he was unsure as that is why the discussions needed to take place.

Mr Collett asked what the advantages would be if the three clubs merged.

Mr Cole said the best result would be likened to Sydney where four clubs merged into to one, closed one track and each club had their own identity, but worked under one banner.

Member Darryl Butson asked why the Board made the decision to lease out the car racing and how it was made up, how did the last Super Cars meeting go and how successful would the Super Cars be over the next few years for the Club and what would happen thereafter.

Mr Cole said Supercars have three more years left in the contract. They have run 7 years. During those 7 years the club received no money. In the last three years the club will receive \$100,000, \$150,000 and \$250,000, so from next year we would finally get some income from the Supercars. Over the next couple of years there would be discussions between the Club and Supercars regarding future association with the Supercar Event.

Mr Butson also asked if there was growth in hiring out the track. Mr Mitchell replied by saying there was and recently there had been a meeting with Sky TV, ATEED and Motorsport NZ regarding upcoming events, however he was unable to say too much about it at this stage but was working closely with Speedworks and Pukekohe Motor Sport which would substantially increase the use of the track and bring in considerable funds.

Mark Chitty said the track was expensive too run, but the Club has put in a 5-year Repairs and Maintenance schedule going forward with the assistance of HEB Contracting.

Member Peter Walker asked why the income from the car racing track income was considerably less that last year.

Mr Cole said that the car racing track operation had been taken back under the club's control which in the long term was a far better option for the club.

(S Cole/Ms A Stove)

Election of officers:

Mr Cole asked the Secretary to read the nominations for the various officers.

Chairman

There was one nomination for the position of Chairman, Mr M Chitty and he declared Mr Chitty duly elected.

Directors:

The following nominations for four Directors were received, Ms H McGuire, Mr S McAlister, Mr R Price.

As nominations did not exceed vacancies, he declared the nominations for Director duly elected.

Raceday Stewards:

The following nominations for Raceday Steward were received, Mr M Harvey

As nominations did not exceed vacancies, he declared the nomination for Raceday Steward duly elected.

Mr Cole congratulated the Mr Chitty on his appointment as Chairman and the Directors and Raceday Stewards who have been elected.

Mr Cole then invited Mr Chitty to come forward to finish the meeting.

Mr Chitty then thanked Mr Cole and Mrs Stove for his nomination and was looking forward to his association with the Club. Being a local person, and heavily involved in several horse related associations, he felt he had a good knowledge of the industry. He too agreed that there needed to be change going forward. He thanked the outgoing Chairman and his wife Michele for all their help over the last two years in steering the club to where it is today.

As a token of appreciation, gifts were presented to them both.

Mr Cole replied and thanked Mr Chitty for his kind words. He enjoyed his time with the club and thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

Appointment of Auditor:

It was resolved (Messrs M Chitty/B Collins) that RSM Hayes Audit be appointed as the Club's Auditors for the 2019-2020 season.

Appointment of Honorary Treasurer:

It was resolved (Messrs M Chitty/K Clotworthy) to appoint Mr S McAlister as the Club's Honorary Treasurer.

General Business:

Proposed Motion – Property Fund

The proposed Property Fund motion was included in the Annual Report and Mike Kemps, Kemps Weir Lawyers, provided the background to this motion and explained the reasons.

Following this Mr Chitty put forward the following -

“That:

- 1) the Property Management Fund Committee is disestablished; and
- 2) for the avoidance of doubt, the Committee is authorised to deal with the Fund in such manner and for such purposes permitted by the Constitution.”

The motion was seconded by Ms A Stove and passed.

Member Derek Harries queried the motion and commented that there was approximately only two years of funds left to keep the club running.

Mr Cole replied by saying that the funds were needed to keep the club running and hoped that extra income would be generated through the car racing operation. Mr McAlister commented that we had very valuable commercial land bordering on Manukau Road and outlined the various costs to keep the club running and stressed the overall strong position of the Club.

Member Clyde Buckingham had spoken to the Auckland Council regarding the rates the club was paying, this year it is \$114,542. The Council representative said he would look into reducing the rates. Mr Chitty said he would take this query back to the Board to progress.

Honorary Members

Mr Chitty read out the names of the new Honorary Members and presented badges to those present.

T Littlejohn and V Middledorp

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50PM