



By John Peck

New South Wales – Always Home To The First Trotting Race

New South Wales may have had to relinquish the claim to hosting the first trotting race under lights (see Queensland story on page 64), however, they will forever lay claim to the first recorded trotting race in Australia at Parramatta in 1810 – “Horse Racing was the leading feature of the day; and this sport commenced with a race between the celebrated horse Parramatta and the well-known bay horse Belfast; which was won by the former. A trotting match succeeded; when the famous mare Miss Kitty was victorious, going over the ground in a style scarcely to be surpassed by some of the first trotters in England. On these matches bets (sic) to a considerable amount were depending.”

Miss Kitty was quite a celebrity and so was her owner Captain John Piper who was known as “The Prince of Australia” and after a distinguished career in the Army and Navy he purchased Vacluse House and later was granted 190 acres at Eliza Point (Point Piper) where he built the famous Henrietta Villa.

Obviously by the description “famous” Miss Kitty had earlier made her name in the colony of New South Wales and indeed old newspaper records record that she had a son in 1804 called Young Northumberland, by the renowned imported UK carriage stallion Northumberland, who stood at stud in 1807 for Rowland Hassall, an English immigrant who arrived in Sydney via Tahiti.

Young Northumberland’s advertisement read in part – “an excellent three-year-old from that most excellent bay trotting mare of Captain John Piper. The fee was three pounds sterling for use of the horse, ten shillings sterling for the groom and the cash to be paid on demand as soon as the mare refuses the stallion.”

Later in 1810 Miss Kitty was a competitor at the first official race meeting at Parramatta on October 17 and did so as a galloper finishing last in each of three two mile heats for the Ladies Cup.

Miss Kitty was back competing in 1811 as a trotter and did so with mixed success as can be seen from the following press clippings.

“A Trotting Match for 50 Guineas and a Dinner, was on Wednesday last (March 27) decided between Mr. Birch’s pony Tickle Toby, and Captain Piper’s mare Miss Kitty, the distance from the Officers’ Mess-Room of the 73d Regiment, to Powell’s on the Parramatta road, computed at nine full miles, which was performed in 32 minutes and a quarter by Tickle Toby, with a scarce three seconds difference between the two. A number of bye-bets were depending with a trifling odds in favor of Miss Kitty at starting, which was precisely at twelve at noon. Miss Kitty was mostly ahead of her antagonist, and went only five times into a canter during the whole distance; Tickle Toby 16 times, and had each to turn once round every time.

The umpires were, Captains Glenholme and Cleaveland, who rode at a proper distance to prevent interruption from the cavalcade of horsemen that followed, who were very numerous. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. O’Connell were among the spectators, as were also many of the Officers Civil and Military, most of whom went on to Parramatta to spend the remainder of the day; and the next morning Miss Kitty was trotted in from Mr. Larra’s at Parramatta, to the Officer’s mess-room at Sydney, rode by Mr. Ovens’ groom, in one hour, the distance 15 measured miles, over a very hilly road.”

Five months later Miss Kitty was back in the news when Mr Birch rode the mare in a test against time: “for a bet of 60 guineas Mr. Birch was to ride Captain Piper’s trotting mare, Miss Kitty, from Parramatta to Sydney in an hour, being a distance of 15 miles over a hilly road which Mr. Birch performed



Captain John Piper

in 53 minutes - nearly equalling the greatest trotting matches recorded in the Sporting Magazine.”

The Parramatta road was a highly popular drag strip for the trotters of early Sydney as show by a match race held on February 7 1831.

“A trotting match, in harness, which excited considerable interest, took place on Monday last, between a horse belonging to Mr. William Long, and another, the property of Mr. Thorn, of Parramatta; £50 a-side was the object of competition - the distance run, from the toll-bar at Sydney, to that at Parramatta, which was accomplished by the winner, Mr. Long, in 49 minutes; beating his opponent cleverly by 2 miles.”

While the numbers of coaching stallions and Norfolk trotters imported from England were regular not so the instances of actual trotting races at race meetings, they being outnumbered by private matches and/or road challenges against time.

Some of the rare ones were at Macintyre in 1858 on “Calladon” a property of Mr McDonald on the banks of the Macintyre River while the hugely popular Homebush Races in the 1860’s occasionally featured a Trotting Sweepstakes, usually contested over one circuit of the track with one such event in 1865 described as a “great novelty”.

It was in the mid 1860’s that trotting races on galloping programmes became more regular in New South Wales especially in the country, perhaps inspired by the American Trotting Races held at Flemington (Victoria) in 1860, 1861 and 1862.

It was one of the performers at the American Trotting Races, the world class pacer Sir William Don, that captured the imagination of the nation and the interest of Sydneysiders.

For months leading up to New Years Day 1867 the sporting papers were filled with updates of the Great Trotting Match between Sir William Don and the NSW trotter The Fool for the massive sum of 1,800 sovereigns, an amount calculated to be close to \$250,000 in today's currency. As a comparison the 1867 Melbourne Cup was worth 1,150 sovereigns.

Famously The Fool did not turn up for the match race and Sir William Don paced around the Randwick course on his own in 8 minutes 58½ seconds.

That same year in May Lucky Lass won a trot at the Goulburn races and ten days later H.G. Simpson's Tiny won a "three times round the course" affair at the Forbes Annual races.

As far as is known the first genuine trotting race in the Sydney metropolitan area was at Randwick on April 24 1873 at the inaugural meeting of the Sydney Hunt Club and the major attraction was to be the now 16-year-old Sir William Don. Sadly the champion dropped dead enroute to Randwick one morning for a training hitout initiating the newspaper headline – "The King of Trotters Is Dead".

The race of nearly four miles went ahead with just two starters, both Victorians, with Mr Fagan's Bay Judy (ridden in saddle by Mr. Mitchell) upsetting the favourite Archimedes who was driven in harness by the famed horseman Denny Bowes, who had on occasions won on Sir William Don.

The decade from 1870 – 1879 witnessed the arrival of the first North American trotting stallions in New South Wales – George M Patchen Tertius (1875), San Jose Patchen (1875), Union (1875), President Grant (1877), Premier (1877), Alcyone (1877) and they were quickly followed by Ajax, Vermont Junior, Childe Harold, Vancleve, Primero, Strideaway, Little Giant, Startle in the first five years of the 1880's.

That influx of bloodstock created interest in the trotter in New South Wales especially in the western districts as trotting races were run at Goulburn (1878 – F Pooley's Bandsman), Orange (1879 – JW Smith's Shoofly) and Bathurst (1879 – W Whitney's Cyclone) and into the 1880's trotting races were also run at Moama, Cootamundra, Clarence River, Deniliquin and Glen Innes.

The momentum for metropolitan trotting was building at it appeared that in October 1879 ultimate success was near at hand when a number of gentlemen met in the Royal Hotel and James Roberts was voted in the chair.

After a general discussion, Roberts moved a motion, "That it is desirable to establish a Trotting Club in Sydney." Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The chairman was appointed honorary treasurer, and Mr. S. Rose honorary secretary pro tem. Letters were read from several gentlemen apologizing for their non-attendance and expressing warm interest in the club as likely to acclimatise here a new sport, tending to improve the breed of horses. especially as regards hacks and roadsters. Liberal subscriptions were promised, both by letter and by gentlemen at the meeting. An influential committee was formed, with power to add to its number, and it was stated that a very suitable piece of ground for a course was available near Sydney, if arrangements for obtaining it could be made. The subscription was fixed at £2 2s. per annum, commencing from the 1st October.

At a meeting of the Sydney Council on November 18 1879 Alderman Taylor moved, "That permission be granted to the Sydney Trotting Club to occupy certain ground eastward of the Randwick Road, such occupancy to terminate upon a month's notice being given."

Most of the Aldermen expressed their views on the subject and Alderman Green moved an amendment, "That the matter be referred to the City Solicitor and City Health officer, for reports as to the power of the Council to grant the use of the ground, and as to the possibility of the occupancy of it being injurious to the watershed."

The amendment was lost, and the original motion carried by a majority of one. Despite that the alderman opposed to trotting obtaining an opportunity to race continued their opposition and ultimately scuttled the proposition.



James Roberts, a forgotten pioneer of Australian trotting, in disgust left for Melbourne at set himself up in Brighton where he established a farm as well as out at Ringwood (Fairlawn Trotting Stud) and actually organized a trotting meeting close to his home in Brighton. He returned later on in the decade.

The dream was dead, however, with the influential Andrew Town importing Childe Harold in 1882 and an American Dr. Weir arriving the same year with a shipload of trotters and being granted permission to have them provide an exhibition on the Randwick racecourse, hopes rose again.

Trotting races on galloping programmes continued in the country especially at Forbes where several meetings were held in aid of the local Fire Brigade.

On May 6 1882 at Randwick another high profile trotting match was hosted between Mr. Velso's New Chum and Mr. W. Gannon's Paddy in front of a crowd close to 2,000 persons. The distance was three miles, and the stake an impressive £1,000. New Chum, who had 200 yards start, showed a marked superiority over Paddy, and won easily by about 130 yards in 8min. 47sec.

When the Agricultural Society set up at Moore Park and conducted the Easter Show, trotting contests were always one of the attractions.

It was inevitable that metropolitan trotting would happen, and the calendar year of 1884 was probably the tipping point and in particular Wednesday afternoon, September 25, 1884 when an exhibition of American and Colonial Trotting Horses took place.

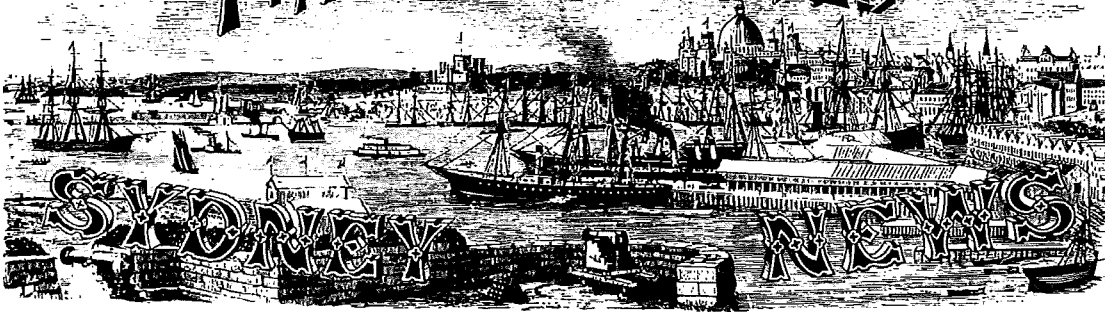
"Yesterday afternoon there was a good gathering of the sporting and general public at the Agricultural Society's Grounds, Moore Park, which was accounted for by the fact that an exhibition and parade of American and Colonial trotting were advertised to take place.

As the show was a somewhat uncommon one, and calculated to be in keeping with the sporting proclivities of the colonists it is sufficient to say that the assemblage was a representative one. It is very rare indeed that a large attendance be got together on an off day; but it is very evident that had the trotting exhibition been held on a Saturday afternoon, or during holiday time, it would have attracted a much larger concourse of people.

The day fixed upon on could not be considered favourable, but to the credit of the promoters be it said that very strong efforts were used to obtain the society's ground, and even the Randwick Racecourse for a special day in order to make the exhibition a pronounced success.

Previous arrangements, however, had been made with regard to leasing the one ground, and, as to the other, the regulations were almost too stringent

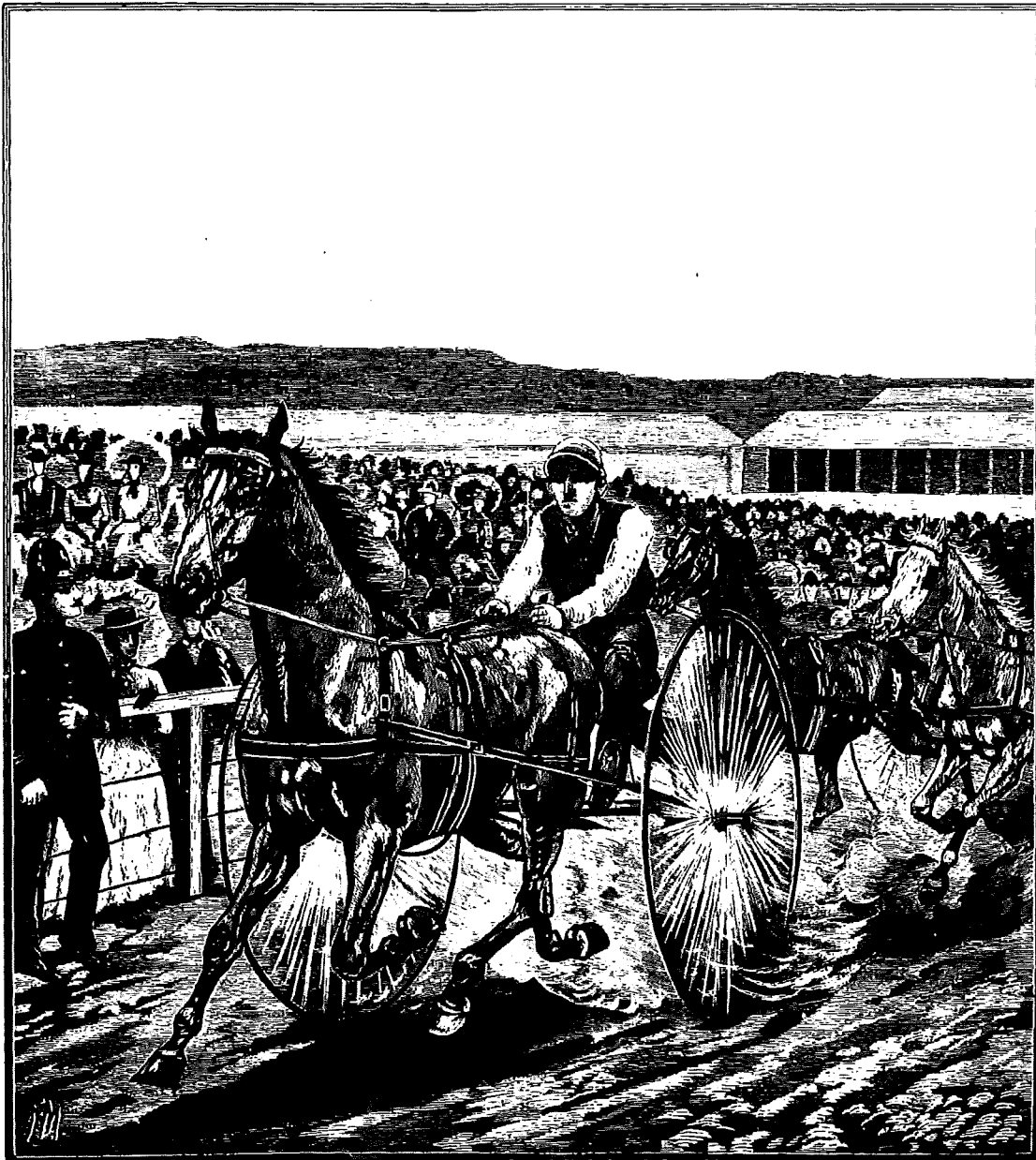
THE ILLUSTRATED



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PRICE (WITH SUPPLEMENT) 1s.
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, 13s.



INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE SYDNEY DRIVING CLUB, AGRICULTURAL SHOW GROUND.

to be negotiated by the small number of gentleman who instituting the proceedings.

It was considered on all sides that an exhibition such as was held on Wednesday would go far towards introducing a much neglected pastime, and further, would be the way of developing that very serviceable class of horse, the American trotter.

As an inaugural gathering with the view of establishing a trotting club, the parade of Wednesday was more than originally satisfactory. It is to be regretted that the attendance did not register the thousands which would have secured the success of a trotting fund towards which the net proceeds of Wednesday are to be devoted. The attendance was a floating one, the counter attraction being offered at the Association Cricket Grounds, where the Grammar School sports were being held.

It is pleasing to observe that nearly all the popular trotting horses of the colony look part in the exhibition, and many more, no doubt, would have appeared had the usual season not been so close at hand.

The parade opened with a goodly number of buggy horses, many of which possessed a gait considerably above the average, and went a long way towards showing the speed that could be attained. In turn came the colonial bred trotters, and comprised seven horses, evidently possessed of qualifications more than ordinarily good.

They were sent in pairs, and paced around the grounds, but without any possibility of securing a correct approximate as to the time, in consequence of the drivers being unacquainted with the distances, which were not clearly marked.

The first pair to go was Ginger and Black Tracker, afterwards came Garry Owen and Darkie, Maid of Mona, Lady Vermont and others, and showed that the colonial bred trotting horse is not in any way a mean performer.

In all instances where the milo had been completed the time was taken, but, as is well known, the horses were not placed on their nettle, and therefore cannot be accepted as a performing test. The trotting ponies were next in order, and comprised three entries. For good and faultless trotting they must be considered next to the American horses as the best show of the afternoon.

The greatest interest, however, was centered in the imported trotting horses, which no doubt proved the big feature of the exhibition. A glance along the sheds, and the American trotters were unmistakable. Remarkable docile in their tempers, each horse commanded great attention, and was eagerly scanned and criticized by those present.

It was not, however, until they were speeded on the course that an approximate idea of their trotting powers could be obtained. The first stepper to figure in the sulky was Fred Tidswell's Swamp Angel, quickly followed by Mr. William Harris' Vermont Junior. Swamp Angel is well known to trotting fame and on Wednesday did not deteriorate in any way in public favour. Her stepping was smart and confident and although it was evident the mare was not allowed her full bent, yet her performance was a pleasing one.

Vermont Junior made up the couplet and when sent round the track it was quite evident that he kept good the reputation of being one of the most remarkable performers that ever left the Pacific Slope. Vermont Junior carries the primest trotting strain of the United States, and combines the blood of Vermont, Black Hawk, Morgan, General Taylor, and American Eclipse. He has a record of 2.33, and that it is said to have been with very little training, which stamps him as one of the most valuable horses in the Australian colonies.

Everything considered, this couple got over a mile in good time, as the step watches showed 2 minutes 55 ½ seconds, with regard to which it must be remembered that neither trotter were speeded to their fullest paces.

The next pair comprised Mr T.M. Alcock's b g Midnight and Mr J. Hamilton's Robert Emmet, both American bred horses. They showed superior pacing, and carried themselves with confidence and gameness throughout.

The principal exhibition of the afternoon was the combined performances of Mr William Harris's brown stallion Startle, and Mr Andrew Town's best

addition to the trotting stud at Hobartville – namely the American bred filly Sylph. Unfortunately for the general success of the exhibition these two grand animals were not paced until nearly the close of the parade. This is probably one of the few oversights of the committee, and should any future trotting exhibition be given under the same auspices it would be well perhaps to have the American horses appear early in the programme.

Startle no sooner stepped on the track than his majestic pacing carried with him the approbation of those present. He bowled along at a great pace with being hard driven, and it is a matter of opinion if he is not the greatest American horse present in the colony. He shows good breeding, and is by the Andrews horse, out of a Messenger mare, and has a record of 2 minutes 26 ½ seconds. Mr Town's mare was much admired, and although somewhat out of training shows promise of a very brilliant future. The exhibition formed the leading step towards the formation of a trotting association, and it is quite evident that the sympathies of many tend in this direction.

With good sound co-operation together with a general committee of all leading gentlemen attached to this class of sport, the Trotting Association may be considered as fairly established. The attendance was estimated at over 1,000 people."

The following year a metropolitan club became a reality through the establishment of the Sydney Driving Park Club with the major office bearers being Patron – G.W. Griffin (American Consul); President – Sir John Robertson; Vice President – Jack Want Q.C., M.L.A.; Secretary – Fred Webster and the influential Andrew Town was a committeeman and an honorary steward.

The Club had to find a venue and thankfully many of their own committee were on the Agricultural Society which led to the following news item in August 1885.

"Prompted by the desire to encourage the breeding of trotting and light-harness horses, the Agricultural Society of New South Wales resolved to make a first-class trotting track on the grounds in Moore Park. Though it is but a few weeks since active work in its formation was commenced, the track is all but finished, the fence only being required to complete it. The track is half-a-mile in circumference, and a chain (22 yards) wide in its narrowest part, the work having cost about £1,000. The members of the Sydney Driving Park Club recently formed in this city are in treaty with the society for a lease of the track for twelve days in the year, for the purpose of having trotting and driving exhibitions. Those competent to judge consider the track the best of its kind in Australia. It is perfectly level, and has no short turns, so that several vehicles can pass one another, and horses can be driven on it at their utmost speed with safety.

So came to pass the inaugural all trotting programme in metropolitan Sydney on October 24, 1885 which was reported thus in the press of the day.

"The first meeting of the recently formed Sydney Driving Park Club took place on the Agricultural Society's Ground on Saturday last. The attendance was numerous, but the sport was very true, and, with the exception of three or four horses, the trotting was a most disappointing character, and not one of the contests brought about anything like a finish. The arrangements were very primitive, and a noisy crowd of self-constituted bookmakers indulged cash betting without interference. With the exception of the private match between Dandy and Nelly, odds were laid on the winner of each event, and there was not anything like excitement during the afternoon. The Burwood Band performed with its usual ability, and the Compagnoni Catering Company supplied luncheon and refreshments. The following were the results and the two winners of the major races were the American mare Folly and Little Dick, by the American imported stallion Daniel Boon:-

THREE MINUTE CLASS, for a purse of 50 sovs., mile heats, best 3 in 5.

Dr. Slate's bma FOLLY, aged	1	1	1
Mr. J. Williams brga Darkie, aged	3	2	2
Mr. J. A. Roberts grma Dozy, aged	2	3	3

Others: Gates chha Tommy, F Falpreys bg6 Allsorts, G Lamberts brg5 Nigger. Folly won the first three heats very easily. Times: 2m 58, 2m 56, 2m 57

TWO MINUTE AND 45 SECONDS CLASS Mile heats, the best 3 in 5.

Mr. J. A. Goodsell's bga LITTLE DICK	1	1	1
Mr. J. A. Roberts grma Bella Campbell	2	2	2

Others: Little Dick, on whom 3 to 1 was laid, won easily, and his best time was 3 minutes 2 1/4 seconds.

THE LADIES BRACELET, value 25 sovs. ; second prize value 10 sovs.

One mile. One event for ponies.

Mrs. G. Baker's pblDM LOTTIE aged 1
Mrs. W. H. Berwick's bga Dick, aged 2
Mrs. P. Capel's pblDMA Jenny Lind, aged 3

Lottie was the favourite, and won easily in 3 minutes 45 seconds.

PRIVATE MATCH for £50 aside. 2 miles.

Mr. Woodhams bga DANDY 1
Mr Carnegies bma Nellie 2

3 to 1 was freely laid on Nellie, but she was driven without judgment, and breaking frequently, Dandy led all the way, and won without an effort in 6 minutes 34 1/2seconds.

A number of the horses entered for the inaugural meeting of the Sydney Park Driving Club next Saturday exercised showed a good gait. A grey mare named Dozy, though not having a raking style of going, get over the ground very quickly.

She is well known in Paddington and Waverley people, by she is as much thought of. Darkie also went round first without weights in even a more resolute manner. Folly was next to appear on the track. She was a very raking way of going, but is hardly keyed up to concert pitch. A little bay mare, Minnie, hailing from Darling Point, also made a splendid show. Little Dick, representing the 2 minutes 45 seconds class, did three good rounds in good time, and his speedy style of going will no doubt make him a hot favourite on the day. Julius Caesar, his hottest opponent, is training at Canterbury. Bella Campbell is training at Kogarah, and quite a number of ponies are also training on the track.

The Sydney Driving Park Club eventually developed a monthly programme of meetings with the largest attendance attracted being in August 1886 when over 5,000 paid an admission fee and were accommodated by twenty two bookmakers on course.

In 1888 the office bearers of the Sydney Driving Park Club were President: Sir John Robertson. K.C.M.G. Judge: WM. Dargin; Stewards: W. Lovell Davis, M.L.A. J. H. Want, M.L.A. John Tait, Wm. Fleming, Secretary: F. R. Morley

There was plenty of opposition to the Club's existence that found its way into State Parliament due to the fact that many politicians were either on the committee of the Club or on the board of the Agricultural Society that was allowing the Club to race on their grounds.

The concerted attacks grew stronger and in 1890 the secretary of the thoroughbred Rosehill Club sent a letter to every member of Parliament that expressed a strong opinion that the activities of the S.D.P.C. should be suppressed.

Admission fees were a bugbear back then with the S.D.P.C charging two shillings (20 cents today) while Rosehill charged 14/6 (\$1.45) and an injunction was taken out to stop the S.D.P.C. from charging admission fees thereby ripping the heart out of their funds. By 1893 the Sydney Driving Park Club was no longer when the Club was refused permission to use Moore Park.

When it became obvious that the S.D.P.C. was going to be hounded out of existence several other entities sprung up to provide metropolitan racing opportunities for the trotting community.

One was the Canterbury Park Galloway, Pony and Trotting Club whose first meeting was conducted on April 20 1889 and many of the officials were subsequent legends in the annals of Harness Racing, Andrew Town and Edgar Deane.

T R O T T I N G,
TROTTLING,
TROTTLING,
and
RACE
RACE

T R O T T I N G,
TROTTLING,
TROTTLING,
and
MEETING
MEETING.

TO-MORROW, JUNE 25
TO-MORROW, JUNE 25,
on the
S. D. P. C. **TRACK**
S. D. P. C. **TRACK,**
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GROUND,
MOORE PARK.

12 EVENTS.

12 noon.—1st heat MAIDEN TROT, Purse 20 sovs. (13 entries)
12.25 p.m.—2nd heat MAIDEN TROT, Purse 20 sovs. 13 entries.
12.50 p.m.—1st heat G. D. H. TROT, Purse 75 sovs. (45 entries)
1.15 p.m.—2nd heat G. D. H. TROT, Purse 75 sovs. (45 entries)
2.5 p.m.—3rd heat G. D. H. TROT, Purse 75 sovs. (45 entries)
2.50 p.m.—GONY FACE, 14 hand and under, Purse 15 sovs.
2.55 p.m.—4th heat G. D. H. TROT, Purse 75 sovs. (45 entries)
3.20 p.m.—5th Heat G. D. H. TROT, Purse 75 sovs. (45 entries)
3.45 p.m.—GALLOWAY RACE HANDICAP, for Ladies' Bracelet
4.5 p.m.—6th heat G. D. H. TROT, Purse 75 sovs. (45 entries)
4.50 p.m.—Final heat MAIDEN TROT
4.50 p.m.—Final heat GRAND DISTANCE HANDICAP TROT.

LUNCHEON PROVIDED.

Any horse not scratched within half-an-hour of the race will be liable to a penalty not exceeding £20, vide rule 17, S.D.P.C.
ADMISSION, ONE SHILLING.
Reserve, 200d.
BAND ENGAGED.
TRAMS will be running at intervals throughout the day.
H. SKINNER, Sec., 135, King-street.

TATTERSALL'S HALL, Hunter-street, to LET for balls, soirees, &c.; piano, gas, 400 seats, free.

BOTANY, BANGATE ESTATE.—Sale on the Ground, NEXT SATURDAY AFTERNOON, CHOICE BUILDING SITES, Main Botany-road. Easy terms. FREE TRAM TICKETS and Lidos, at the Rooms, HARDY and GORMAN, 113, Pitt-street.

The full list of race day officials were:- Stewards: Messrs William M Garling, Frank Weston, John Daly, F. Clissold. W. Fraser-Martin, E. H. Deane, James Slocombe, William Lovel Davis. Judges: Messrs A Town, T. M. Alcock, E. R. Deane. William Fleming, Frank Weston. Handicapper Mr John Daley. Starter: Mr. H Dawson. Timetaker: Mr T. M Alcock. Measurer, Mr. W. M.N. Garling. Clerk of scales: Mr Charles Perry. Clerk of the course: Mr J Ashworth. Secretary: Mr. G. W. S. Rowe.

The press reported thus, "Favoured by cool and pleasant weather, the inaugural meeting of the Canterbury Park Galloway, Pony, and Trotting Club attracted a large assemblage of sporting folk to their popular trysting place on Saturday, and the management have to be complimented on the success winch has attended their efforts to promote that branch of sport.

In the first place no expense was spared in the formation of the trotting track, which is something over 5 furlongs round, running concentric with the course proper, having bold swooping curves with good back and home stretches, plenty of width and properly graded - a track in fact that cannot be excelled in the colonies The business of the day commenced promptly at 1 pm with the Handicap Pony Race.

The Maiden Trot attracted a field of 11 and the imported horse Tom, who had a strong following, was soon elected an even money favourite but he cut up badly on the track, for he was the last to leave the post, and he galloped repeatedly afterwards while Lady Elma who went to the front shortly after the signal was given, held her position to the finish and won with ridiculous ease.

Of the 39 coloured on the card for the Inauguration Time Handicap Trot 20 took the track, and on the strength of her previous performance Lady Elma was installed favourite, while the Melbourne division rallied round Mystery with such force that she went out at a short price, but the latter never flattered her supporters at any stage of the game, while the well-performed daughter of Childe Harold took command ere a furlong was covered, and not or giving anything else a chance, passed the post 30 lengths in advance of Silver Cloud, and the way the others struggled in did not reflect much credit on the

handicapper . A protest, which was entered on the ground that the winner broke was dismissed. The mare, who was nicely handled by Gardiner on both occasions, was bred by Mr Andrew Town at Hobartville, as also was Silver Cloud who filled second place in the Time Handicap.

Mr H Dawson wielded the red banner, and managed to despatch his fields on good terms, Mr Andrew Town officiated as judge with his customary efficiency, and the general arrangements were conducted under the Supervision of the secretary (Mr George W S Rowe) in a most satisfactory manner Appended is a detailed account of the sport -

MAIDEN TROT of 50 sovs, second horse, 10 sovs from the prize, harness only, drivers to carry 10st 10lb -1 mile

Mr James Gardiner ns b m Ladv Elma, by Childe Harold-a Maribynong mare 3 years (J Gardiner) 1

Mr E Jordan ns bl m Ruby, 4 years (E. Jordan) 2

Mr H Dixon's rn g Young Australia, aged (Goodsell) 3 Other starters: Dexter (Blott), Sir Richard (R. May), Cecil D. (E. Pendergast), Tom (imp.), (Jus. Dowling), Tom Spring (R. Wilson), Captain (Brooks), Blanche (Starr), Cleveland (Hetherington).

Betting : Even v Tom, 6 to 4 v. Lady Elma, 10 to 1 v. others.

When fairly going, Lady Elma went to the front, and never giving anything else a chance, won easily by 30 lengths from Ruby, who was eight lengths in front of Young Australia. Time, 5 minutes 52 seconds.

INAUGURATION TIME HANDICAP TROT, of 125 sovs. Second horse 20 sovs., third horse 5 sovs, from the prize. Saddle or harness.-Two miles.

Mr. James Gardiner's (ns) b m LADY ELMA, by Childe Harold-a Maribynong mare (harness), 4 years, scratch (Gardiner).1

Mr. George Hill's g m Silver Cloud (harness), 4 years, 2 seconds (Hevers) 2

Mr. H. Knight's b g Jack (saddle), aged, 15 seconds (F. Pollack) .3

Other starters : Young Australia, aged (J. Goodsell); Bexley (R. Cook); White Wings, scratch (Woodham) ; Freetrader (Hibbett), Sir William (Starr), Burwood, 5 seconds (Wallace); Lady Byron (McMahon), Mystery, 10 seconds (Robbins); Lady Grey, 16seconds, (J. Harvey); Zoe (Vincent), Yendon, 18 seconds, (F. Alexander); Tom (imported) (Dowling), Jenny, 20 seconds (Blott); Laughing Stock (R. Batty), L-Jeanne (Russell), Chanticleer (McGregor), Duchess, 25 seconds (Earnshaw).

Betting : 6 to 4 v. Lady Elma, 4 to 1 v. Mystery, 7 to 1 v. Freetrader, 10 to 1 v. any other. Shortly after the word was given the favourite assumed the lead, was never approached, and won by 30 lengths from Silver Cloud, who was well clear of Jack. Time, 5min. 46secs.

Another was the Rosehill Pony, Galloway and Trotting Club who conducted three meetings in 1889 and 1890 and yet another was the Pony, Galloway and Trotting Horse Owners and Trainers Society who held their first picnic meeting at Moore Park on September 3 1890 and some 2,000 persons attended.

The Trotting Association of New South Wales was formed in 1892 with Frank Palfrey as secretary and held just a single meeting featuring most of the State's best trotters (including Edith who later established a massive family in NZ) at Canterbury on November, 16 1892 before being disbanded and the full report of that meeting follows.

"The inaugural meeting of the Trotting Association of NSW was held yesterday on the Canterbury Park track, and though an interesting bill of fare was set down for discussion, the attendance only numbered about 500. The weather was beautifully fine, the track was in good condition, and some excellent trotting was witnessed.

When properly acclimatised, class trotting should do much to popularise that branch of sport, and though the initial meeting of the association was not so well patronised as might have been expected, better support may be anticipated for the future. The sport was conducted smoothly under the supervision of Mr. F. Palfrey, hon. secretary, and the other officers were equally efficient in the discharge of their duties. Business opened with the Maiden Trot, for which seven started, and King Harold was made an odds-

on favourite. George made the pace for half a mile, when the favourite took charge of affair, but Victor III caught him in the last lap and won comfortably.

Four took the track for the Free-for-all Trot, and Violetta Junior, had the call in the market Rita led for half the journey, when she retired, leaving the favourite in command, attended by Yum Yum who marred her performance by several breaks, and the favourite scored an easy victory.

The 2.57 Class Trot brought out nine performers, and, despite his defeat in the opening event, King Harold was made an odds-on favourite, but again he suffered defeat from Edith, who won from end to end. Hackett, the rider of Darkie, was called upon to account for his performance, and a satisfactory explanation was given.

The 2.50 Class Trot was reduced to a match between Ruth and Maud, and after the latter had a turn at the front Ruth assumed the lead, and won easily. The particulars are appended -

MAIDEN TROT of 30 sovs, plus 10 guinea silver cup presented by Mr F Palfrey, second horse to receive 10 sovs. Saddle or harness. 2 miles

Mr. J.P. Ives br h VICTOR III, by Berlin, 6yrs (Millsom) 1

Mr H. Kinsela's ch h King Harold, 5 years, 2,

Mr J Samuel's blk m Edith, 6years 3

Other starters: George Darkie, Pastime and John S.

Betting: 2 to 1 on King Harold, 4 to 1 v Victor III, 5 to 1 v George

Won by 10 lengths, 30 lengths between second and third. Time, 5 minutes 25 ¾ seconds

FREE FOR ALL TROT of 40 sovs and a silver cup value 6 guineas, second horse to receive 5 sovs from the prize and a trophy, value 3 guineas, presented by Messrs Mammatt and Sons. Saddle or harness. 2 miles.

Mr AM Smidmore's bm VIOLETTA JUNIOR, by Childe Harold, aged (White), 1, Mr A. Pointing's b g Fair Boy, 6 years (Bowra) 2

Mr. W Craig's Yum Yum, aged (Craig) 3

Other starter: Rita.

Betting: 6 to 4 v Violetta Tumor, 6 to 4 v Yum Yum 10 to 1 v others

Won by four lengths; a similar distance between second and third. Time: 5m 14 ¾ seconds.

2.57 CLASS TROT, of 30 sovs , for horses that have no better record at the time of starting, second horse to receive 5 sovs from the prize. 2 miles

Mr J Samuel's blk m EDITH, by Startle, 6 years (Bowra) 1

Mr H Kinsela's ch h King Harold 5 years (Noonan) 2

Mr S B Henderson's b m Kath, 5 years (Lawler) 3

Other starters: Darkie, Plain Bill, Little Ben, Satan, Freetrader, Oakville

Betting: 6 to 4 on King Harold, 5 to 1 v Oakville and Edith, 6 to 1 v Plain Bill, 10 to 1 v others.

Won by 30 lengths, two lengths between second and third. Time, 5 minutes 42 ¾ seconds

2.50 CLASS TROT, of 30 sovs, for all horses that have no better record, second horse to receive 5 sovs from the prize. 2 miles

Mr S B Henderson's b m RUTH by Childo Harold, 6 years (Lawler), 1

Mr F Bowra's rn m Maud, 6 years (owner) 2

No betting. Won by-100 yards. Time, 6 minutes 37 seconds

Yet another ill fated promising venture was the formation of a New South Wales Trotting Club (nothing to do with the later NSW Trotting Club that exists today) in 1893, an organisation that conducted just two meetings on September 13 1893 and October 25 1893. A report of the inaugural meeting follows:-

The inaugural reunion of the New South Wales Trotting Club was held yesterday, on the Kensington Racecourse, and, though the attendance was not very large, it may be regarded as satisfactory, for that branch of sport has been none too popular for sometime.

However, the efforts of the newly formed club to place it on a more satisfactory basis than hitherto appear to have met with the appreciation of owners, and fairly good fields contested the various events. The finishes were

not of an exciting character, but fair times were registered on the grass track. Two of the prizes were secured by Dubbo sportsmen, Mr. Buckland having won the Maiden Trot with Murmur, a handsome daughter of Vanclave and Secret, and the fashionably bred horse Huon, Junr., by imported Huon from Lucilla (imp), annexed the 2.55 Class Trot for Mr. C. H. Fitzgerald, who piloted him to victory.

Despite his lengthy term at the stud, Huon still preserves a nice gait, and finished third to Ariel and imported J. H. in the Free-For-all Trot. The recently imported horse Commercial, by Combination, though entered in the Free-for-all Trot, did not take part therein, but an exhibition of his paces was given in the home stretch during one of the intervals.

The track was supervised by Messrs A. Benson, T. M. Alcock, C. H. Fitzgerald, and Frank Weston, and the card was run through without a hitch.

Proceedings commenced with the Maiden Trot which was run in two divisions of seven each. Odds of 2 to 1 were laid on Murmur for the first division, and she justified her selection by never giving anything else a chance. Harold Prince was made an odds on favourite for the second division, and he also scored an easy win. King Harold was elected favourite for the final heat at 2 to 1 on, and he led to the three furlong post, where Murmur got on terms and beat him home.

Seven took the track for the 2.45 Class Trot, and Ariel was in most demand, but the favourite did not act up to expectations, and George won from end to end. Huon Junior had the call in the market for the 2.55 Class Trot, and he was never troubled, though he was nearly caught napping at the finish. The imported horse Commercial was the only malcontent for the Free for All Trot, for which Rita was a strong order at 2 to 1 on, while Huon was the only other in the betting.

J. H. cut out the work for the first 5 furlongs, when Ariel drew out, and won easily. Murmur, Huon Junior, and Prince Harold declined to compete in the 2.50 Class Trot, and backers laid a shade of odds on Edith, who sailed away with the lead from the fall of the flag, and was never approached. The programme was run through in the following order -

MAIDEN TROT of 20 sovs, second horse 5 sovs, for all horses that have never won an advertised prize. 1 mile.

First division

Mr J. A. Buckland's br f MURMUR by Vanclave-Secret, 3 years (Piper) 1

Mr J. Carleton's b m Jenny, 6 years (Bunyan) 2

Other starters Vanman, Sir Charles, Livingstone, Plain Bill, Hazeldean

Betting: 2 to 1 on Murmur, 4 to 1 v Plain Bill. Won by 20 lengths. Time 3 minutes 1 second

Second division

Mr F. P. Morris's b h PRINCE HAROLD, 4 or 5 years (Morris) 1

Mr J. Farmer's br g Darkie aged (Hackett) 2

Other starters: Mabel, Narragansett, Queen of Diamonds, Gertrude and Merry Boy.

Betting: 6 to 4 on Prince Harold, 3 to 1 v Gertrude. Won by 10 lengths. Time: 3 minutes 6 seconds.

Final heat

MURMUR (Piper) 1

Prince Harold (Morris) 2

Betting: 2 to 1 on Prince Harold.

Won by two lengths Time: 2 minutes 52 seconds

2.45 CLASS TROT of 25 sovs, 1 1/2 miles -

Mr D. Russell's b g GEORGE, by Child Harold, aged (Morris) 1

Mr. H. Knight's blk m Edith, 6 years (Knight) 2

Mr J. A. Buckland's br m Hush, 4 years (Piper) 3

Other starters Cavalier, Ruby, Tom, Ariel.

Betting: 6 to 4 v Ariel, 2 to 1 v Edith, 3 to 1 v Hush, 4 to 1 v George

Won by 20 lengths, a similar distance separating second and third. Time, 4 minutes 6 seconds.

2.55 CLASS TROT of 25 sovs, 1 1/2 miles

Mr W. Pulley's ns b h HUON JUNR, bv Huon (imp) -Lucilla (imp), 5 years (Mr C. H. Fitzgerald) 1

Mr O. Tasker's br g Satan, aged (owner) 2

Mr W. H. Dean's b g Oakville, aged (Sullivan) 3

Other starters: Freetrader, Hazeldean, Alice, Plain Bill, Gertrude

Betting: 6 to 4 v Huon Junr, 2 to 1 v Freetrader and Satan, 5 to 1 v Satan.

Won by a length, 10 lengths between second and third. Time: 4 minutes 21 seconds.

FREE FOR ALL TROT, of 25 sovs, 1 1/2 miles

Mr Frank Hill's junRs, b g ARIEL, aged (Owner) 1

Mr H. Knight's br h J. H. (imp), aged (Donaldson) 2

Dr G. M. Slate's b h Huon (imp), aged (Owner) 3

Other starters: Fair Boy, Rita.

Betting: 2 to 1 on Rita, 3 to 1 v Huon, 10 to 1 bar two.

Won by half a dozen lengths, a similar distance between second and third. Time, 4 minutes 6 seconds

2.50 CLASS TROT of 20 sovs. 1 1/2 miles

Mr H. Knight's blk m EDITH, by Startle, 6 years (owner) 1

Mr J. A. Buckland's br m Hush, 4 years (Piper) 2

Mr O. Tasker's blk g Satan, aged (owner) 3

Other starters: Freetrader, Duchess, Cavalier, Oakville, Tom (imp),

Betting: 6 to 4 on Edith, 3 to 1 v Hush, 5 to 1 v Satan, 10 to 1 v others

Won by four lengths, 20 lengths between second and third. Time, 4m 17 secs

Apart from all these Trotting Clubs there were the pony racing and trotting Clubs, the most famous being the one at Lillie Bridge which opened for business on New Years Night (yes, night) 1890 with a programme of pony races and it was not until the night of February 6, 1890 that trotting made an appearance.

That night, featured an event with two heats and final for ponies 12 hands, 2 inches and under, the distance being three times round the tiny circuit which measured only two furlongs and 30 yards in circumference. These were the races that hitherto were thought to be the first trotting races ever contested under lights.

An Exmoor pony named Ivo Bligh (Uncle Tom - Minnie Warren) won the race in which all competitors were ridden in saddle and ran right-handed around the track.

First Heat

F. Alexander's pldga FAIRPLAY, 9st (owner)

Others: Paddy, 8st (Knox), Fleeto, 9st 5lb (Gleeson), Morpeth, 10st (W. Williams), Fred, 9st 13lb (Flanagan)

Second Heat

F. Hill's bga IVO BLIGH, 7st 7lb (G. Hill Jnr) 1

Others: Beeswing, 8st 5lb (Driscoll), Frenie, 7st 8lb (S. Fuller), Tommy, 7st 7lb (Wells)

Final

F. Hill's IVO BLIGH, 7st 7lb (G. Hill jnr) 1

F. Alexander's Fairplay, 9st (owner) 2

There was some good press for that early meeting with a report saying, "Judging by the large attendance at Lillie Bridge last evening and the interest taken in the pony racing (and trotting) there by electric light seems assured of success."

The popularity of the mixed pony and trotting programmes diminished and especially so with the true trotting lovers who preferred to compete in sulkies on a decent sized track. Nevertheless there were 262 trotting races over a period of eight years - 1890 (41 races), 1891 (47), 1892 (69), 1893 (10), 1894 (12), 1895 (17), 1896 (35), 1897 (20) and 1898 (11). In 1899 the track was transformed into a proper trotting track, renamed Forest Lodge and commenced operations in 1900.

When the popularity of Lillie Bridge was high another club, the Botany

Pony Racing and Trotting Club was established with Frank Smith acting as the secretary and also attracted favourable press early on.

"Pony racing has received a fresh impetus by the formation of a new track at the Sir Joseph Banks Grounds, Botany. The track was opened yesterday, and appeared to be well adapted to the sport. It is situated on what was originally the quarter-mile pedestrian track, and is of the same circumference. It is of ample width, and laid with cinder, the formation having been carried out under the supervision of Mr Frank Smith. There were from five to six hundred people present, and they appeared to be well satisfied with the sport provided.

The programme consisted of five events, over which the sum of £100 was distributed in prizes. The trotting race provided an exciting contest, the winner, Rufus, showing in front, and being overtaken no fewer than three times before he was finally able to claim the judge's award. Mr. J. Murlough officiated as judge and Mr G. Welsh as starter.

TIME HANDICAP HORSE TROT Of 20 sovs for horses, to trot in saddle and carry 9st. About two miles and 120 yards -

Mr S Daniel's ch g RUFUS, aged, scratch (owner), 1

Mr H Chatteris ch g Chanticleer, aged 32 seconds behind (McGregor), 2

Other starters Florence K, scratch, Stella, 3 seconds behind, Ruby, 6 seconds behind, Little Bob, 11 seconds behind, Snip 14 seconds behind Betting 2 to 1 Snip and Rufus, 5 to 1 bar one. Won by two lengths and a half

That wasn't the last trotting club to hold a meeting in Sydney. Dubbo was a hotbed of trotting followers and they formed a Trotting Club in 1893 conducting their first mixed meeting on November 9 1893 at which John Buckland's Van Ness (by Vancleve) won both events for trotters.

With Buckland as President and owner of the great trotting sire Vancleve, the sire of Australasia's greatest standardbred of the 19th Century Fritz, Dubbo were a visionary crusader for the trotter and incredibly conducted meetings in metropolitan Sydney at the six furlong Kensington pony track in the nineteenth century, one on July 22, 1898 (see details following) and another on March 30 1899.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported, "The Dubbo District Trotting and Pony Racing Club held its first metropolitan meeting at Kensington yesterday when there was a very good attendance especially in the saddling paddock which was as well filled as on the usual weekly pony and galloway meetings. The committee of the Club have every reason to be satisfied with the support accorded, and no doubt the financial results are satisfactory; but as the primary object was to popularize trotting it cannot be confidently said that it has attained this object.

The trotting exhibition by Fritz was one of the finest things of its kind seen in these colonies, and the audience were quick to show their appreciation of it. But the other trotting events were simply uneventful processions.

There was no fault to be found with the quality of the animals competing, but the inability of the handicappers as to the past to gauge the pace of trotters by time allowances was very plainly demonstrated.

The Maiden trot proved an uninteresting event. The seven competitors were sent on their journey on every even terms, but before they had gone half a mile the field was strung out over a furlong.

Souvenir passed What, the favourite, who was on the limit, early in the race, and won easily. What would not settle down to trot and broke repeatedly. Outside the first two horses there was no semblance of competition.

Ten started for the Wonbobbie Handicap Trot, and Huon Prince, who was on the limit led to about the five furlong post, where Young Irvington, trotting in good style passed him, and the result was not in doubt afterwards.

A protest was entered against Young Irvington on the ground that he had won races under the name of "Cocky" (it was dismissed after a hearing the day after the meeting).

The interest of the meeting centred in the trotting exhibition given by the champion Fritz in his attempt to reduce his record of 2 minutes 14 4-5 seconds for a mile. The course, which is a soft turf one, is not suitable for fast

trotting, and the bookmakers were laying even money against Fritz covering the mile under 2 minutes 18 seconds.

There was a fair amount of speculation on the attempt, and from the moment Fritz came up to the starting flag with a pacer alongside he was an object of admiration. He passed the stand at a great clip, and the first quarter was covered in 34 seconds, the half mile in 1 minute 6 seconds, three-quarters in 1 minute 42 seconds, and the full journey in 2 minutes 15 ¾ seconds.

The weighing in enclosure was quickly rushed by an eager crowd desirous of examining the champion, and cheers were lustily given for Fritz and his owner and driver, Mr J A Buckland. Many people who timed Fritz made him cover the mile in from half to three quarters of a second quicker time than the official record, and the general opinion was that Fritz would easily break his own record of 2:14 4-5 seconds on a harder track. The results are subjoined."

MAIDEN TROT of 10 sovs. Or all horses, maidens at time of starting, saddle and harness. One Mile.

W Bryan's b h SOUVENIR by Era - Blanche, harness 4-5yrs (W Bryan) 1

J A Buckland's b g What, harness, 2yrs (J A Buckland) 2

Mrs G M Slate's b c Huon Prince, harness, 3yrs (G M Slate) 3

Other starters: Nigger, Vanera, Welcome, Arthur G.

Betting: 6 to 4 on What, 5 to 4 v Souvenir, 12 to 1 others.

Won by 15 lengths, afurlong between second and third. Time: 2m 49 1/2secs.

WONBOBBIE HANDICAP of 17 sovs, second horse 2 sovs from the prize. For all horses (saddle and harness). One mile

J Taylor ns b h YOUNG IRVINGTON, by Irvington 379-Jennie (saddle), aged, 5 seconds bhd (J Leeper) 1

J McGrath's br m Nancy (late St Lawrence, late Miss Curtis) (saddle) aged, 13 seconds bhd (A Millsom) 2

H A Pottie's b h salvator (harness) 6yrs, 7 seconds bhd 3

Other starters: Huon Prince, scratch, Sylvia, 5 seconds bhd, Souvenir, 10 seconds bhd, What, 10 seconds bhd, Charkie, 10 seconds bhd, Economy, 13 seconds bhd, Kathleen, 15 seconds bhd, Sunshine, 17 seconds bhd, Coolgardie, 17seconds.

Betting: 5 to 2 v Kathleen, 4 to 1 v What, 7 to 1 v Sunshine, 10 to 1 v Young Irvington and others.

Won by four lengths, 100 yards between second and third. Time, 2 minutes 45 ½ seconds.

FREE FOR ALL TROT of 20 sovs; second horse 2 sovs from the prize; for all horses (saddle and harness), 1 mile.

C H Fitzgerald's b h HUON JUNIOR, by Huon (imp.)-Lucilla (imp.), harness, aged (owner), 1

J. A. Buckland's blk m Viva, harness, aged (owner) 2;

Mrs. G M. Slate's gr m Silver Cloud, harness, aged, (G M Slate) 3

Other starters: Economy, Hattie S.

Betting: 5 to 2 on Huon Junr, 2 to 1 v Viva.

Won by a dozen yards, a furlong between second and third. Time, 2 minutes 27 seconds,

DUBBO HANDICAP TROT of 25 sovs , second horse 3 sovs. from the prize, for all horses (saddle and harness), 2 miles.

C H Fitzgerald's b m KATHLEEN, by Childe Harold (imp)-Compliment, Imrnw. aged, 20 seconds behind (owner), 1

J McGrath's br m Nancy (late St Lawrence, late Miss Curtis), saddle aged, 15 seconds behind. (T. Milsom) 2

F P Morris b h Prince Harold, harness, aged, 14 seconds behind (D Russell) 3

Other starters: Cavalier, 10 seconds bhd, Sunshine, 25 seconds bhd, Silver Cloud, 25 seonds bhd, Viva, 38 econds bhd.

Betting: 5 to 2 v Prince Harold, 3 to 1 v Kathleen, 4 to 1 each Nancy and Viva. Won by a dozen lengths, a similar distance between second and third. Time, 6 minutes 31 seconds

A profit of 113 pounds was realised on first meeting thanks in no small part to the appearance of Fritz and at the second meeting in 1899 Fritz was once

again on show time trialled in 2 minutes 17 seconds before a smaller crowd of just over 1,000 people.

A smaller profit of 34 pounds resulted from the meeting that saw the Victorian Silver Boy (by Era) and Valdemar (by Viking) win the divisions of the Three Minute Class event - Silver Boy won the final. Other winners were Dr Slate's Huon Prince (by Huon imp - Lucilla imp), Nigger (pedigree unknown) and W McMillan's Sylvehue (by Huon).

The Dubbo Club membership was top heavy with men of some standing within the community as the following list of officials for a meeting in November 1896 (the last at Dubbo before shifting meetings to Kensington) confirms.

Patron-Mr. S. Phillips, J.P., M.L.A. President-Mr. J. A. Buckland. Vice-Presidents - Messrs. C. H. Fitz-Gerald, J.P., J. O. Machattie, J.P., and Dr. Tresidder. Committee-Messrs. H. Smith, J.P., T. H. Purvie, G. H. Taylor, J.P., F. Mack, J.P., J. G. Brown, R. B. Mackenzie, W. Sturrock. Treasurer-Mr. J. W. Sillar. Judge, Mr. D. Cameron. Starter-Mr. J. O. Machattie. Clerk of Scales

Mr. R. B. Mackenzie. Clerk of Course-Mr. M. Moffatt. Timekeeper-Mr. T. H. Purvis. Distance Steward-Mr. W. Sturrock.

That last meeting at the Dubbo racecourse before the move to the big smoke was significant for a number of reasons one being the first appearance of a special lap indicator that had an arm raised as the field approached the winning post with a lap to go.

The racing programme featured two two-year-old futurity races (best two half-mile heats out of three) and if you thought the recent introduction of Mares Based Classics was revolutionary, think again as the 1896 meeting had a Mares Produce Stakes (for progeny of nominated mares Whisper, Fraulein, Phyllis, Lady Patchen, Princess, Lilla G, Silver Cloud) and a Sires Produce Stakes (for progeny of nominated stallions Vancleve, St Louis, Huon Junior, Huon, Lord Harold).

The President of the Club, J.A. Buckland made a clean sweep of both events with the two-year-old colt called Reply (Vancleve - Whisper) who remarkably won four heats on the same day saving his fastest time for the last heat - 1:32.8. clocking 1:33 and 1:35 in the two victories.

Buckland also won the first Time Handicap Trot with Viva giving him fove winners for the day and finished third with Viva in the other Time Handicap Trot and neither the Mares Produce or Sires Produce was ever run again by the Dubbo Club.

As mentioned earlier the interest in trotting in Forbes was evident from the 1860s and almost every New Years Day meeting of the Forbes Jockey Club featured a Trot.

While there was no official Forbes Trotting Club until 1906 there were a number of Pony and Trotting meetings run in aid of the local Fire Brigade and Forbes was the first Club in New South Wales to conduct a two-year-old race for the progeny of a particular sire beating Goulburn to the punch by seven months.

The Forbes event was for the progeny of Startle and W Richard's chestnut mare The Lonely Maid defeated two others easily and then the following day beat the open age trotters in a handicap event. Judging by that and that of Reply there was no molly coddling of a good two-year-old.

Goulburn can rightly claim to be the first official Trotting Club in New South Wales with a Club formed after a successful mixed meeting featuring two trots was run on October 7, 1887, the inaugural meeting being held in bad weather on the Prince of Wales Birthday - November 9, 1887 - and there were three trot races run including a two-year-old classic for the progeny of imported sire Ajax.

Most racing journalists as was the custom in those days despised trotting so it was no surprise to see a scathing review of Goulburn's first meeting appear in the local paper although on further reflection it appears that the journo missed out on complimentary food and drink.

"As is usual with sporting fixtures in Goulburn, the inaugural meeting of

the Goulburn Trotting Club, which took place at Gundary, yesterday (Prince of Wales Birthday) was attended by wet weather. Notwithstanding this, there was an attendance of about 300, The grandstand was well patronized; but there were only three or four ladies present.

Of course, the wet and cold weathered rendered real enjoyment out of the question. The sport was of the most wretched description, there not being a good finish throughout the whole day, The trotting contestes, indeed, were mere processions, and it is almost a waste of space to give a description of them.

The handicaps were at fault, although the gentlemen who undertook to adjust the distances - Messrs H Chisholm, Pooley and Wilson - took the greatest trouble with their task. When there are so many untried horses to deal with it is hardly to be wondered at that they made mistakes, and the in and out performances of known animals often upset the most careful calculations.

The officers appointed for the meeting were:- Judge, Mr. E.R. Deane; timekeeper, Mr. A.L. Faithfull; starter, Mr. H. Chisholm; patrol judge, Mr. J.J. Roberts; distance judge, Mr. W.G. Armstrong; committee, Messrs J Wilson, J.J. Roberts, W.G. Armstrong, H. Campbell, A.A. McInnes, S.F. Pollock (hon. Treasurer) and W.A. Trevarthen.

Several of these gentleman, however, did not attend, or were late. In the absence of Mr. Deane, Mr. A.A. McInnes acted as judge, and also took time for several of the events. Mr. A. McDonell acted as starter (Mr. H. Chisholm not being able to attend till late in the day) and got his fields away well.

The arrangements for the meeting were not what they should have been. The card, for which the sum of one shilling was charged, was scarcely worth one penny. It did not even contain the conditions of the races or the distances, and the colours of the riders were also wanting. The person who was entrusted with the compilation of the card certainly failed utterly to properly perform his duty.

There was no refreshment stall on the ground, and a man either had to pay 2s 6d to enter the grand-stand and 2s 6d for dinner, or go hungry. The same thing occurred in connection with the Coursing Club. In other respects there was not much to complain of.

The publican's booth was in the hands of Mr. A. Nixon and Mr. J. Byrne, provided the luncheon. With respect to the latter it may be remarked that it was impossible to procure a cup of tea, which on a day like Wednesday may almost be called a necessity. Following is an account of the events of the day:-
OPEN HANDICAP TROT - 1st prize £25; 2nd £6 Third £4. For all horses, in saddle of harness; horses in saddle to carry 11st 7lbs; in harness, 11st; 14 hands 10st, 13 ½ hands or under 9st 7lbs. Distance: Two miles.

First Division

A.C. Crawleys's ns ch g DARBY, 75yds 1

W Mills b g Willie, 150yds 2

J.P. Cooper's r g Ben Bolt, 175yds 3

Other: C. McKenny ns b m Gossip, 350yds

Willie and Darby soon passed Ben Bolt, and rounding the turn into the straight Darby passed Willie and a few yards further gave Gossip the go by and went up first. Willie was not long in putting daylight between himself and Gossip. This order was maintained till the finish, with the exception that at the back of the course Ben Bolt took third place, Darby winning by about 150 yards, the same distance separating Willie and Ben Bolt. Darby, splendidly ridden by Mr Graham went in good styke. Time, 5:59 ¼

Second Division

S.F. Pollack ns b g VARMINT, scratch 1

A Mills pld m Daisy, 200yds 2

Other starter: Jas. Williams b g Darkie, 100 yards

Mr. S. Roberts ns b g Dexter, 250 yards was scratched. Daisy passed the post the first time with a lead of about 200 yards. Varmint had passed Darkie in the straight, and led him past the post by a length and a half. Varmint quickly increased the distance, and at the side near the gates overhauled Daisy,

eventually winning by some 50 yards, whilst Daisy beat Darkie for second place by about 100 yards. Varmint gets over the ground well. Time: 6: 14 ½

Third Division

H. Knight Jnr's b g GARRYOWEN, 50yds 1

Other starters: W.H. Anderson's blk g Maori, 350yds, W Kingsell's b g Honesty, 250yds

At the gates Honesty passed Maori, Garryowen doing the same in the straight. Soon after passing the post Garryowen went up first, and from that out the result was never in doubt. Honesty broke his harness at the back of the course and had to be pulled up, and Maori was distanced. Garryowen is a good goer. Time, 6:19

Final Division

DARBY 1 Garryowen 2 Varmint 3

This needs no description. The horses maintained this order in which they started until the finish, Darby in the end winning by about 50 yards, whilst the same distance separated second and third. Darby had the race from the start, for though Garryowen seemed likely once or twice to be troublesome he never actually got near enough to the leader to cause him any uneasiness. Time, 5m 50 1/4s

HANDICAP GALLOWAY TROT. First prize £8, second prize £2. For all horses 14 ½ hands and under, in saddle or harness; weight not less than 8st. Distance, 2 miles

First Division

R.F. Siggs b m LITTLE NELL, 100yds 1

R Carig's r g Blue Peter, 175yds 2

F W Tibbits b m Venus, scratch 3

Mr J. Byrne's br m Florence, 100 yards, was scratched. This was another procession. At the back of the course in the first time round Little Nell passed Blue Peter, and in the end won by about 100 yards. Venus was never in it. Time, 6m 36 ¼

Second Division

F.W. Tibbits' b m LADY, 225yards 1

A. Crawley ns blk m Joan, scratch 2

J Kelly's b g Thakambau, 300yards 3

Other: W. Brown ns cr g New Years Day, 350yds

Lady performed splendidly in this event, and in a winner by about thirty yards from Joan, the only other which had anything else to say. New Years Day pulled off after the first round and Thakambau was distanced. Time, 6:14

Third Division

A.H. Line's blk m GIPSY, 350 yards 1

A Elm's br g Tommy Dodd, 350 yards 2

Pther: J.P. Cooper's ch m Whynot, 100 yards

Messrs Thompson Bros' b m Miss Jane, 50 yards and Mr. A.A. Mcinnies br m Crazy Jane, 75 yards were scratched. Gipsy won with ridiculous ease by about 100 yards, and Whynot was about 80 yards behind Tommy Dodd. Time, 7m 22 ½

Final Division

LADY 1 Gipsy 2 Little Nell 3

This was a gift for Lady who won with the greatest ease. Gipsy easily vanquished Little Nell, Lady passed Gipsy near the gates the first time round and passing the post had a lead of about 40 yards. Time, 6:32 ¼

AJAX STAKES, a sweepstake of £21 each (from starters only) with £5 added, presented by Mr. A. Faithfull, Esq., for all horses the progeny of the imported trotting sire "Ajax". Mile heats, best two in three. Flying start. Saddle, 10st 5lb; harness, 10st 10lb. Three starters or no race. In this race the donor of the prize entered a horse on the understanding that should he win, the prize would be given to the next horse.

A.L. Faithfull's br c BOSTON 1

T McAlister's b g Fitz Ajax 2

W Mills' b m Constance C 3

SPORTING.



NEW ENGLAND TROTTING CLUB. SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1890.

MAIDEN TROT, of 15 sovs. For all horses that have never won a prize exceeding 10 sovs. Harness only. Drivers to carry 10st 10lb. Entrance, 15s. 1 mile.

GALLOWAY HANDICAP TROT, of 12 sovs. For all horses 14 hands and under. Saddle or harness. Riders to carry 10st, drivers 9st. About 1 mile.

NEW ENGLAND TROT, of 35 sovs. Saddle or harness. Riders to carry 11st 7lb, drivers 10st 10lb. Nomination, 1 sov. About 2 miles.

HUDDLE RACE, a handicap of 20 sovs. Over 9 hurdles 8ft on high. Nomination, 1 sov. About 2 miles.

Sydney D.P.C. rules.
Nominations.—Entries for the above events must be made with the Secretary on or before 6 p.m. on SATURDAY, May 17, 1890.

Handicaps, unless otherwise specified, will be declared on or about TUESDAY, May 20, 1890.

Acceptances, FRIDAY, May 23, 1890.
Nominators to furnish at the time of entry age, sex, color, and pedigree (if known), and performance in full.

All riders must be dressed in proper jockey costume. Drivers will be required to appear in white or flannel trousers and racing jacket and cap.

J. B. FITZGERALD,
Hon. Sec.

Mr S Roberts' ns ch g Dexter and Mr R Gibson's b g Crow were scratched. In this event Mr Faithfull's grand colt trotted right away from the other two, who were watching one another. Boston has a magnificent style of going, which is a treat to see, and the spectators were most favourably impressed.

Fitz Ajax and Constance C reversed their positions once or twice, the former eventually beating the other by about 20 yards. Boston had an advantage at the finish of about 150 yards. Time, 3:27.

There were two other heats, but they were not trotted, the owners of Fitz Ajax and Constance C dividing the prizemoney with the consent of Mr Faithfull. It was stated that both of the horses named were distanced.

You could be forgiven for thinking that the only other New South Wales trotting club, apart from Goulburn, Dubbo and Forbes, would have been Bathurst, the home to James Rutherford who imported the first American imports President Grant, Premier and Alcyone to New South Wales.

Despite having close to a hundred trotting races in Bathurst spread over all the public holidays (Boxing, New Years, Prince of Wales Birthday, Foundation, Queens Birthday, St Patricks) there was never an operating Bathurst Trotting Club. One formed in 1899 but thereafter lapsed within two months without holding a race meeting.

There were actually four other Trotting Clubs created in the 19th Century in New South Wales, the New England Trotting Club, the Gunnedah Pony, Galloway and Trotting Club (8-12-1892), Crookwell (26-01-1890) and the Canelo Trotting and Polo Club (14-01-1893).

The New England Trotting Club conducted their inaugural meeting on May 24 1890 at Armidale and distributed £112 over five events. The following officials were appointed to conduct the sport;—Judge, Mr. P. G. Marsh; assistant-judge, Mr. A. Crossman; starter, Mr. G. W. Dight; timekeepers, Messrs. T. Stewart and J. B. Fitzgerald; clerk of scales, Mr. J. Bliss; handicapper Mr. J. B. Fitzgerald; stewards, Messrs. W. Miller, C. Jackes, J. F. M'Kinlay, F. G. Finley, A.W. Simpson, J. J. Bliss, J. A. M'Donald, J. Miller and G. Smith.

The weather was fine for the opening meeting that was described in the Sydney press as a great success with a very large attendance and furthermore

every race was well contested and here were no accidents. Unfortunately due to lax keeping of 19th Century newspapers there was no Armidale or New England paper in the NSW State Library that gave the full results with only the following abbreviated ones available.

MAIDEN TROT

REGINA, 1 Miss, Sylvia, 2

Won easily. Eight starters.

GALLOWAY TROT

TOMMY DODD, 1; Jimmy, 2 New England. 3.

TROT

Mr. Jas. Miller's REGINA 1 Mr. Moses' Bess Harold, 2

Six starters.

TIME HANCOICAP TROT

LADY JANE, 1 Miss Sylvia, 2.

Eight starters.

The Club made the May 24 date (Queen's Birthday) the appointed date for their annual meeting conducting highly successful well attended meetings in 1891, 1892 and 1893, the latter significant for the famous pony Edith (by Startle) winning a double.

Edith later was sold to New Zealand where she established a huge family that has 199 distinct Classic Winners including the likes of 1:50 pacers King Country and Montecito, Free Hall (Inter Dominion), Fleur de Lil, Yankee Loch (Trotters Inter Dominion), Pullover Brown (NZ 3YOF of the Year) and Sovereignty (NZ Trotter of the Year).

Crookwell was not specifically set up for the trotter as the name Crookwell Pony, Galloway and Trotting Club shows and at the Club's inaugural meeting just one trotting event was conducted on a day's racing that including three pony and two hack races.

The Crookwell Gazette reported, "The first meeting under the auspices of the Crookwell PG&TC came off at the Valley Farm on Monday last. The weather was favourable, but the attendance was very meagre, owing no doubt to many of the town residents being in Goulburn attending the Highland sports, and the country people being too busily occupied in harvesting operations to spare a day.

The racing throughout was indifferent, and the result of one or two events caused much dissatisfaction amongst those present, owing to the manifestly "stiff" running of some of the competing horses. On the whole, the meeting cannot be considered a success, but it must be understood that the Club officials are in no way to blame for this, as they did all in their power to make the affair pass off in a creditable manner.

Mr. M. Clancy of Laggan held the publican's booth, and Mr. G. Green had a refreshment booth on the ground, and each did as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

Mr G.E. Cansdell acted as judge, Mr. W. Bensley Jnuior as starter, Mr. J. Down, clerk of the course, Mr. A. W. Warn, timekeeper' and Messrs John Naughton, B. Rofe, S. McGuinness, R. Warn and R.J. Stephenson as handicappers. Mr M. McAlister had charge of the measuring stand.

Mr. Alfred Evans, the obliging secretary of the Club, was indefatigable in his efforts to satisfy the numerous calls on his services. All the other officials carried out their duties in an impartial and satisfactory manner. The sole trotting race result was as follows:-

TIME HANDICAP TROT Of 7 sovs. 2 miles

E.C. Bray's b g AJAX (20 secs bhd) 1

H Murphy's b m Seagull (7 secs bhd) 2

J Kennedy's Butterfly (scratch) 3

Others: Dora (scratch), The Clown (7 secs bhd), Dinah (15 secs bhd), Nellie (28 secs bhd), Jerusalem (32 secs bhd).

Ajax was the favourite amongst those who knew the horse's trotting capabilities, though The Clown and Seagull had a number of admirers. After the first half mile Ajax began to pass his opponents one by one, and at a mile

and a half he had assumed the lead, the only animal that challenged him for first place being Seagull. A fairly close contest between those two ensued, Ajax coming in the winner by a couple of lengths. Time, 7 minutes.

The Gunnedah Club's results are unobtainable at present from the NSW State Library due to the missing newspapers, however, the Candelo Trotting and Polo Club's were able to be located.

Once again there is one remarkable two-year-old performer (Matchlock) that competed three times on the one day – in the Maiden (once round the course), the Candelo Grand Trotting Handicap (twice round the course) and the Two-Year-Old Trot (once round the course).

"The initial field meeting of this Club (Candelo T & PC) took place last Saturday, and notwithstanding most unfavourable weather that prevailed, was patronized by a larger number than was the Annual Meeting.

The committee had to caution three persons and disqualified one for six months from riding, for suspicious riding in the trotting races. There was only one vehicle used in the trotting events, competitors seeming to prefer the use of the saddle.

OPENING TROT – Of 5 sovs

Time handicap for all maiden horses in saddle and harness, optional. Saddle to carry 10st; harness 9st; distance, once round; two-year-old horses to carry 9st only

Mr E. Bright's ETHEL, 10secs 1

Other starters: Matchlock, Zero, Patch, Black Bess, Hans, The Child.

CANOELO GRAND TROTTING HCP

Of 15 sovs. Time handicap for all horses to saddle and harness optional; saddle to carry 10st; harness 10st. Distance, twice round the course

Mr A.A. Wren's MATCHLOCK, scr 1

Mr A. Grant's Zero, 5secs 2

Other starters: The Child, Black Bess, Prince, Turpin, Bohemian Girl (late Ruth), Wait-a-while (late Bumble)

TWO-YEAR-OLD TROT Of 7 sovs

Two-year-old horses in saddle or harness optional; saddle to carry 9st; harness to carry 9st; a sweep of 2/6 for starters to go to second prize. Distance, once round

Mr A.A. Wren's MATCHLOCK 1

Mr D.C. Wren's Black Harold 2


Other starter: Yarrildon

There were also "Driving Clubs" one at Orange in 1889 and one in Lithgow in 1893, however, the latter club, unlike its metropolitan equivalent in Sydney and Brisbane, did not always have a trotting race on its programmes with the best performers being Mr Vincent's Creamy and Mr Jones Jealousy.

On the other hand the Orange Driving Club meetings at the Association Ground always featured a Trot and conducted five meetings in the period from 1889 (inaugural meeting May 1) to 1891.

The Orange Driving Park Club boasted 120 members in its early days and the officers appointed to handle the Club's affairs were: President, Mr. M. Casey; vice-presidents, Messrs. S. Kearney, R. Warren, and H. Larance; judge, Mr. W. N. Moulder; starter, Mr. J. W. Smith; committee, Messrs. Bromelow, Lack, Nathan, Dalton, Leeds, Tanner, Coulson, Lamrock and Hamer; timeist, Mr. H. Hansen; clerk of the scales, Mr. P. McDermott; hon. secretary, Mr. F. J. Mullholland.

There were at least eighty other New South Wales towns – the figure may even be double that - that hosted trotting races in the nineteenth century and two of the most consistent were Hay and Deniliquin in the far south.

It would not be unreasonable to calculate the number of trotting races held in New South Wales in the nineteenth century would be in excess of 6,000 and it is embarrassing that none are recorded officially by Harness Racing authorities of any ilk for access by the general public, unlike the thoroughbreds who have faithfully maintained records since earliest times. 



By John Peck

Queensland – New Home of World's First Trot Race Under Lights

Queensland may be the Cinderella State when it comes to organized Harness Racing, however, research shows that prior to 1900 it was well ahead of Western Australia and South Australia when it came to the number of metropolitan trotting races.

Another startling find was that the Brisbane Exhibition Ground hosted the first ever trotting races under lights anywhere in the world, preceding the previously accepted venue (Lillie Bridge, NSW) by some six months.

Akin to every other Australian State and both islands of New Zealand, trotting commenced in Queensland through private matches against time or another horse and initial research has unearthed the following at Ipswich on June 8 1860.

TROTTING MATCH

50 pounds a side; owners up; three times round the course

Mr. J Hardie's br.g. MOHAWK 1

Mr. R Wienbolts chg Living 2

Mohawk led off and Tiring breaking just after passing the stand, Mohawk had a strong lead which he kept all the way home. Living again broke just before coming to the distance-post the third time round, by which he was distanced.

So far as the metropolitan area was concerned the first trotting event at an official race meeting was on New Years Day 1878 at the Fortitude Valley Annual races at the Hamilton Course when it was reported that, "The trotting race fell easily to Bonny, though his rider made a mistake and pulled up before the distance was accomplished, only just managing to win by twenty yards from the second horse."

Toowoomba, Charters Towers, Rockhampton and Townsville had people interested in trotters with the first known Trotting Club in Queensland being the short lived Townsville Trotting Club who held a meeting on November 6, 1879 that was described thus by the papers of the day:-

"The Townsville Trotting Club had a successful meeting on Thursday, but the attendance was not large. Mr A. H. Martin's g.m. Taffee won the Trial of 10 sovs., and Spring Handicap of 10 sovs. Mr E. Silva's br.m. She won the President's Cup of 20 sovs., and Mr J. Roland's b.m. Actress the Disposal Trot of 10 sovs. She trotted in fine style, and was well handled by Mr R. Strickland."

1879 was also significant for the announcement of a bona fide Norfolk Trotter Shales (by imported Young Shales) standing at stud in Kelvin Grove and several years later the first trotting stallion of North American lineage arrived – the NSW bred Prince Jose Patchen (San Jose Patchen USA – Miss Pringle by Shakespeare UK).

As the bloodstock improved through imports from down South in NSW and Victoria where more than fifty American trotters had been imported, the number of trotting matches increased and the desire for organized trotting meetings became irresistible.

One of the better imports from Victoria was Builder, a trotter bred by Sweepstakes King J.J. Miller, being by Contractor USA from. An example of the keen matches happened on Monday, October 4, 1886 when Mr. Tait's ch g Glencoe, and Mr. Coupland's br g Spanker, trotted a match in harness, from Breakfast Creek Bridge (on the Racecourse-road) to Sandgate, distance about ten miles. Spanker, who has won several trotting matches lately in and about town, was the favorite; but though he took the lead immediately the signal was given, he broke badly before going a mile, at the end of which the chestnut was in front, and having more pace as well as style than the brown, kept the lead all the way, winning easily by 1 min 15sec. The winner's time was 37min 45sec. Glencoe is by Express, son of imported Messenger, by Orlando, and was bred at Tarong, near Nanango, the capital of the Burnett district. This

imported Messenger was famous as a sire of trotters, and several of his sons inherited the faculty of transmitting that most desirable but too little cultivated pace. The match was for £50 a side, and a good deal of money is said to have changed hands over the result.

Something had to give and on August 8 1887 the following report appeared in the Brisbane Courier:-

"In response to circulars issued, about twenty gentlemen interested in the formation of a trotting club in Brisbane, attended a meeting in the dining-room of the Australian Hotel last evening. Mr. W. Stephens was voted to the chair. In the course of a preliminary conversation, it was stated in answer to inquiries that several meetings had been held previously, but for various reasons the movement had been allowed to lapse, and it was now intended to make a fresh start. It was thereupon unanimously resolved that a club be formed to be called the "Brisbane Driving Park Club," and after some discussion the following gentlemen were elected a committee for the purpose of drawing up rules and considering suggestions to be submitted to another general meeting to be called at a later period:-Messrs. W. Stephens, G. J. Armstrong, W. Flynn, J. Irving, and W. J. Hooker. Mr. J. Tait, jun., was appointed hon. secretary pro tem. All the gentlemen present, including Dr. Hill, handed in their names as desirous of becoming members, and verbal authority was given to add to the list the names of the Hon. A. J. Thynne, M.L.C., Mr. J. Stevenson, M.L.A., and Mr. John Watson, each of whom had expressed their intention of giving the club his individual support. Mr. W. G. Collier, landlord of the Kedron Park Hotel, intimated his willingness to have a good trotting track prepared on the Kedron Park course, provided that the club would agree to rent it at a reasonable sum per annum, members of the club to have the exclusive right of using it. It having been suggested that the next meeting should be held in a fortnight's time, the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman."

A month later a President and committee was named Mr W J Hooker was voted to the chair, and announced the following gentlemen duly elected -Messrs W Flynn, G.J. Armstrong, W.J. Hooker, George Baynes, J. Irving, G.W. Copenad, J Greaves, J.W. Knight, J Mullen and J.S. Deuchar. The first meeting has held on New Year's Day 1888.

"Fortunately the bad weather - which had prevailed during the past week or so cleared off in time to allow of the Brisbane Driving Park Club inaugural meeting being held at the Eagle Farm Racecourse yesterday under the most favourable circumstances, and the first public effort of this new and promising club was quite as successful as had been anticipated, taking all things into consideration. The attendance was large, between 3000 and 4000 persons being present during the afternoon; the track was in splendid order, although perhaps a little heavy after the recent rains. The racing, both in the trotting and galloping events, but principally in the latter, was good; and everything appeared to work harmoniously towards the attainment of that object which everyone interested in trotting desire to see - a successful introduction of this kind of sport in the colony with the ulterior view of a better class of animals being brought here than Queensland has hitherto been able to boast of.

In the general arrangements for the meeting there may, perhaps, have been one or two omissions of minor consequence, but the Club Committee, and in conjunction with them the hon. secretary (Mr. John Tait) and his assistant (Mr. Wilson), are certainly to be warmly congratulated upon what can only be regarded as a most satisfactory result of their earnest and indefatigable labours. The programme which they presented was a varied one, consisting of three trots and three flat races, which were run alternately, and it would

be hard to say in which of the two classes of running the greater interest was taken. The trotting events were of course quite a novelty, being the first display of the kind ever witnessed in Queensland, and as such, were to many both interesting and amusing.

Except on very rare occasions, however, the finishes of trotting races are not exciting, the competitors in a handicap run being as a general rule spread-eagled from the start throughout. But the sight of a good field of horses, each straining every nerve to cover the ground in the fastest time without breaking, and the sometimes laughable efforts of their riders to persuade them to pace faster and not break, is one which must be witnessed to be fully appreciated or understood.

The officials appointed by the committee performed their multifarious duties in a generally satisfactory manner, although in one instance the decision given by Mr. Mullen, who acted as judge, was openly challenged as incorrect. Mr. W. Flynn, who is at all times to the fore in matters racy, made a first-class starter (in the absence of Mr. Collin Peacock, who for some reason was unable to carry out his promise to act in that capacity), and the good order in which he sent his fields away was acknowledged by hearty applause on the part of the public.

When all expenses in connection with the meeting have been met, it is expected that something like £200 will be the profit to the Club from all sources. This must be considered eminently satisfactory, and it will no doubt have the effect of influencing the Club to continue the good work which they have commenced so well. Of the totalisator speculation, 1605 tickets were

Albion Park in the 19th Century



registered during the day on the inside machine, and 2177 outside. The amounts of the dividends paid are given at the foot of each race.

At the luncheon, which took place in the Stewards' room of the new building, with Sir Arthur Palmer, patron of the club, at the head of the table, Mr. Virgil Power in a short speech said that as this was the first meeting under the auspices of the new club it was only right that they should drink to the health of the committee, the president, and the vice presidents, under whose guidance he was sure the club was bound to be a success, judging from the good sport they had provided for a start. The Hon. A. J. Thyner responded, as a vice-president, and said that the club had began quietly and without much fuss, but it was one which he hoped would go along steadily increasing in popularity year by year until the purposes for which it had been formed were permanently attained. The object of those who had been the founders of the movement was to have the breeding of trotting horses more fully developed in the colony than it had been up to the present, and with that object in view the committee were determined to exert themselves to the best of their power.

Mr. W. Stephens also briefly responded on behalf of the president of the club (Mr. J. Stevenson, M.L.A.) and the committee, and in doing so returned thanks to the Q.T.C. authorities for the kindness of spirit which had prompted them in granting to the new club the use of the course for their first meeting on such favourable terms as half the profits of the totalisator money. As he had been chaffed a good deal about his opinions of totalisators, he took the opportunity of stating that he did not object to them at all on a racecourse, but he did not like to see them got up in small shops in the city. The health of Sir Arthur Palmer was also honoured, and in a few remarks from him in response the club again came in for congratulation upon the success of their inaugural display. Below are the particulars of the day's racing :

THE TROTTING

Shortly after noon, the hour appointed for starting the Maiden Trot, quite a string of horses made their appearance in front of the grand stand, and with the exception of Wanaka, who was debarred, having previously won big races in a Southern colony, including all the performers of the day's trotting, not counting the ponies. So that before this was concluded the travelling capabilities of the different horses engaged were taken stock of with a view to discover if possible the winner in the handicap. Betting was very quiet, but this was only to be expected, as the knowledge of the horses was limited to a few. The manner in which little Devon, notwithstanding that he had a very much swollen knee caused, by striking while at work, romped home in the Maiden, putting Mr. Mooney's handsome mare Gipsy Girl and Mr. Gralton's well-known Performer completely in the shade, led a good many to believe that the handicap, with half a minute's start from the last horse, was a moral for him. Wanaka's performance in the big race, however, was quite beyond anything ever seen here before, the three miles being traversed by him in the fast time of 9min. 3 1/4s.-an accomplishment which many owners of trotters

BRISBANE SPORTS, TROTTING, AND PONY RACING CLUB, BREAKFAST CREEK, INAUGURAL MEETING.

SATURDAY, 31st AUGUST.

FIRST RACE AT 2.30.

SEPTEMBER PONY RACE MEETING,
SATURDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER.

1.—2.30.

TRIAL STAKES, of 10 Sovereigns; for ponies 14 hands and under; pony weight for age and weight for inches; maidens allowed 7lb; 4/ farthings. Nomination, 5s; acceptance, 5s.

2.—3.15.

LUTWICHE HANDICAP, of 20 Sovereigns; for ponies 13-3 and under; 4/ farthings. Nomination, 10s; acceptance, 10s.

3.—4.00.

HURDLE HANDICAP, of 20 Sovereigns; for ponies 14 hands and under; about 1 1/2 mile, over such jumps as the stewards may direct. Nomination, 10s; acceptance, 10s.

4.—4.15.

WELTER HANDICAP, of 20 Sovereigns; for ponies 13-3 and under; approval amateur riders; 4/ farthings. Nomination, 10s; acceptance, 10s.

5.—4.30.

GALLOWAY HANDICAP, of 20 Sovereigns; for galloways or ponies 14-3 and under; 1 mile. Nomination, 10s; acceptance, 10s.

6.—5.00.

SELLING RACE, of 20 Sovereigns; for ponies 13-3 and under; pony weight for age and weight for inches; winner to be sold for 15 Sovereigns; 7lb allowed for every reduction of 5 Sovereigns in selling price down to nil; surplus to funds; 4/ farthings. Nomination, 10s; acceptance, 10s.

Nominations close at offices of the Club, No. 7 Kent's Buildings, Adelaide-street, at 5 p.m., WEDNESDAY, 4th September; Weights, SATURDAY, 7th; acceptance, 5 p.m., WEDNESDAY, 11th. Conditions as for inaugural meeting.

H. TOWNLEY WRIGHT.

in the Southern colonies would be proud of. It was no wonder, therefore, that Devon, who had again hurt his leg in the Maiden Trot, was easily put down by such a fast goer, and even if the former had been quite well, it is questionable whether the result would have been different.

In the hands of an experienced trainer, Wanaka was in the last few days before the meeting worked up perhaps as fit as he could be made, while many of his opponents were wanting in condition. Gipsy Girl, whose running in the handicap was a vast improvement on that in the maiden, had only been in work for a few days, and as a consequence was not in the best of form, but had she undergone a proper course of preparation she would have been hard to beat with her 10sec. start.

One of the horses (Master Fenwike), whose chances of winning were regarded as good, was, I am sorry to hear, tampered with the evening before the races, having (so it is reported) been taken from his stable during the night and "doctored," and then let loose.

His running in front of a sulky in the Maiden Trot would certainly lead one to believe that he was quite out of sorts, and it is to be hoped the mean spirited person who could descend to such cowardly practices to prevent a horse from running true will be discovered and punished as he deserves.

Maiden Trot, of 30 sovs.; for all horses that have never won an advertised prize; distance, 2 miles.

H. D. Maynard's b.g. DEVON, 4 years, saddle (Moore) 1

W. Mooney's bl.m. Gipsy Girl, aged, saddle (Tait) 2

J. Gralton's gr.g. Sultan, aged, saddle (Frost) 3

The other starters were Birdie (saddle), Duchess (saddle), Master Fenwike (harness), Ringlet, Fanny, and Lord William (saddle).

Devon went to the front at the start, and was never headed, winning comfortably by more than 150 yards from Gipsy Girl, who, like Sultan, broke badly throughout the race. The rest were beaten easily. Time, 6min. 20sec.

Totalisator paid £8 16s. inside, and £5 12s. outside

Driving Park Trot.-A handicap of 100 sovs.; second horse to receive 15 sovs. from the prize; for saddle or harness horses; horses 13 hands, riders or drivers to carry 9st. 7lb.; 14 hands, to carry 10st.; 15 hands and over to carry-riders, 11st. 7lb.; drivers. 10st. 10lb.

F. W. Coupland's br.g. WANAKA, 55sec. behind. (Watson) 1

W. Mooney's Gipsy Girl, 45sec. behind (Tait) 2

J. Gralton's Sultan, 45sec. behind (Frost) 3

Major (harness) and Boss, scratch; Devon, 25sec. behind, and Shamrock, 40sec., also started, Master Fenwike, Lost Love, and Paddy having been scratched.

This was a very pretty race, but it could be seen that at the pace he was going Wanaka had it in hand from the start.

The time from the despatch of the first batch to the finish of the winner was 9min. 58 1/2sec, while Wanaka covered the three miles in 9min. 3 1/4s,-a performance which is a cut above anything ever done here before. Totalisator paid £2 10s. inside and 10s. outside.

Pony Handicap Trot, of 20 sovs.-For ponies 14 hands and under; all ponies to carry 9st. 7lb.; distance, 2 miles; entrance, 1 sov.

G. McLennan's b.g. ROBERT THE DEVIL, 10sec. behind scratch.(owner) 1

J. Tucket's Daisy II., scratch.. (owner) 2

J. Hughes's b.m. Will She Win, scratch (owner) 3

Robert The Devil overhauled his opponents one after another without much difficulty, and eventually won by about thirty yards from Daisy with Will She Win, a similar distance away, third. Time, 7min. 22sec. Totalisator paid 13s. inside, and 10s. outside.

Further meetings were held on August 11 1888, March 1 1889 and August 17 1889 and what was impressive was the patronage from highest echelons of society at the last named meeting.

It was reported, "The Brisbane Driving Park Club's fourth race meeting was held on the Eagle Farm Racecourse on Saturday afternoon, and, although the

attendance was not perhaps so satisfactory as had been anticipated, the gathering was a fairly large one, and in other respects the meeting was successful.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady and Miss Norman were present during the afternoon, and were accommodated with seats in the stewards' stand, whence they had a good view of the racing."

August 1889 was a landmark month so far as trotting in Queensland was concerned because another Trotting Club was established, the Brisbane Sports, trotting and Pony Club which was to hold its inaugural meeting on the 10th August but had to postponed until 31st August.

Incredibly yet another Company interested in promoting pony and trotting racing that month, the Norman Driving Park and Pony Racing Company that commenced racing at the National Association Sports Ground on 24th July at night with four pony races illuminated by 60,000 candlepower Brockie-Pell Electric Light. The world's first horse races under lights.

EXHIBITION GROUNDS.

TO-NIGHT.
TO-NIGHT.

**THE NORMAN DRIVING PARK AND
PONY RACING COMPANY.**

Registered under Q.T.C. Rules.

PATRONS:

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Wylie
Norman, C.M.G., D.C.M.O., C.I.E.,

and

The Northern Rugby Union and the New South
Wales Football Team.

TO-NIGHT. TO-NIGHT.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT PLATE,
Closed with 8 acceptors.

**THE BROCKIE-PELL OPEN HANDICAP
TROTTING RACE**

(in saddle)

Closed with 15 acceptors.

THE COUNTRY PLATE,
Closed with 1 acceptor.

**THE EXHIBITION HANDICAP OPEN
TROTTING RACE**

(in sulkes)

Closed with 9 acceptors.

And

**THE NORMAN ELECTRIC LIGHT
HURDLE RACE,**

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD,
Closed with 13 acceptors.

In this race the principal Hurdle Jockeys of Queens-
land will have mounts. This event is already the talk
of thousands, and, as all the hurdles are painted white,
THERE WILL ABSOLUTELY BE NO DANGER.

PRIZE LIST ENTIRELY SUSPENDED.
(Prize excepted.)

**NOTE.—The WHOLE of the Exhibition Grounds will
be thrown open, and visitors from the country will
be able to see both the Exhibition and Norman
Brockie-Pell Handicaps**

**UNDER THE SAME ADMISSION, NAMELY,
ONE SHILLING.**

Gates open at 6.30 p.m. Admission, 1s.

GRAND STAND, 2s., INCLUDING PROGRAMME.

J. A. GRANT,
Secretary.

102 Queen-street, Brisbane.

Officials of the new club were as follows:- Committee: John Macnamara, Dr. Arthur Bennett, G. K. Kirkland, A. Meston, Starter: John Macnamara; Handicapper: Cyril Sandham; Timekeeper: G. S. Deuchar; Judge: A. Feez; Secretary: J.A. Grant.

The new Club took advantage of the postponement of the Brisbane Sports Club's inaugural meeting and held another enjoyable little race meeting at the Exhibition Ground, when no less than twelve events were decided., two of them for trotters.

NORMAN OPEN HANDICAP TROTTING RACE of 6 sovs. (saddle only) ; 1 mile and about 100 yards.

J. Moore's b.m. LITTLE JESS, 18sec. behind (owner) 1
C, Cock's ch.g. Golddust, 5sec. behind (owner) 2
T Keogh's bg Pon, 18secs (owner) 3

Sixteen horses started, and after a good race Little Jess, who was one of the last to leave the mark, won easily by any number of lengths from Golddust, the others straggling out to nearly a quarter of a mile behind.

FIRST NORMAN OPEN HANDICAP TROTTING RACE, of 5 sovs. (in harness), 1 mile and about 100 yards.

H. Wildesmith's b.g. SNIP, 5sec. behind ., 1
E. T. Morse's b.g. Tommy, 5sec. behind .. 2

Eight other horses started, including the imported mare Lady Vermont, who was last off the mark and remained in that position throughout the journey. The first heat, in which four started, was won comfortably by Snip, who beat Little Jess (10sec. behind) by ten lengths in 3min. 34sec. for the mile.

Tommy won the second heat from Figaro and Major in 3min. 50sec, and in the final Snip beat Tommy by a couple of lengths in 3min. 35sec.

Then on August 21 the meeting that changed all known trotting history took place and it was reported thus:-

The second pony race meeting held under the electric light took place on the National Association Ground last night under the auspices of the Norman Driving Park and Pony & Racing Company. The meeting was very successful. The attendance was much larger than at the first meeting, as during the evening there must have been between 5,000 and 6,000 persons present. A great deal of interest was taken in the various events, and some of the finishes were very exciting.

Although there were several falls, none of them were of a serious character, which is a matter for congratulation. Indeed it is surprising that the chapter of accidents was not larger and more serious considering the smallness of the track and the sharpness of the curves. The electric lights around the racing track rendered the racing throughout clearly visible to all present. The various officials discharged their duties satisfactorily, and left but little room for complaint. The following are the details of the trotting events were:-

The Brockie-Pell Open Handicap Trotting Race (saddle only), of 7 sovs.; distance 1 mile and about 100 yards.

J. S. Deuchar's g.g. BOB, scratch (owner), 1
C. Cook's b.g. Spider, 5secs. behind (owner), 2
E. Mansoll's b.m. Lady Fleetwood, scratch (Curry), 3.

Eight other horses started.

Bob was first away and was never caught, leading the whole distance, and winning easily by about six lengths from Spider. Time, 4min. 3secs,

The Exhibition Handicap, open trot (sulkies), of 7 sovs.; distance about 2 miles.-

J. Starr's b.m. LADY VERMONT, 15secs. behind, (owner) 1
J. S. Deuchar's g.g. Bob, 4secs. behind (owner), 2 ;
J. Klaasen's blk.g. All Fours, 4secs. behind (ownor), 3
Molly, scratch ; and Major and Darkness, each 7secs. behind, also started.

Lady Vermont, who showed improvement on her last form, had the others beaten before the first mile was completed, and won as she liked by two lengths from Bob, who was several lengths in front of All Fours. Time, 6 min. 56secs



Captain Wright

In the saddle race the third placegetter was the imported American mare Lady Fleetwood and the winner of the Sulky Trot was the NSW trained blueblood Lady Vermont (Vermont Junior USA – Mountain Maid USA), owned and driven by the American J. Starr.

One day later at the Exhibition Grounds more trotting took place – “A contest between J. Moore's bay mare Rose and Donovan's Glandore was the most exciting of the lot, despite the fact that both horses broke frequently, but the mare with all the style of the American “pacer” showed too good a turn of speed for the old horse.

A great deal of interest was taken in the trotting contest, which, being run in heats, occupied the greater part of the afternoon. Some really good pacing was witnessed, and the close finishes for some of the heats spoke well for the handicapping. In the first heat Prince beat Snip easily, conceding him 7sec, but he was beaten later on by Rose, both off the same mark, this heat being a most exciting contest from start to finish. Glandore beat Jenny off the same mark, and Wanaka, who was on the 20sec. mark. Rose, 12sec, beat L. Jeanne, 30sec, very easily; and Wanaka beat Badger, the latter starting off the 12sec. mark. The pair left in for the final were Rose, 12sec., and Glandore, scratch, and the former won very easily.

The following day the visual feast for the lovers of the trotter continued: -“The handicap trot for the Norman Sheffield Handicap Company's cup was won by Olive, Rose being second. The time for the closing heat for the mile was 3min. 28 1/2sec., which cannot be considered fast time. The trotting on the whole was only fairly good ; the track is small for fast work, but the winner of the event was all out and nearly all the competitors broke frequently.

The second trotter's sweepstakes of one pound each and a cup valued at £10 10s., presented by the Norman Sheffield Handicap Company, brought out a fair number of horses, and the heats resulted thus:- Tommy beat Snip, Olive beat Glandore, Rose beat Little Jess, and Wanaka trotted a bye. Second round: Olive beat Tommy, and Rose beat Wanaka.

Final round: Olive, scratch, beat Rose, 20sec. behind scratch. Time for the final heat, 3min. 28 1/2sec.

The contest between Rose and Olive was close at the finish, but the winner had a little too much start, and Jimmy Moore pushing his mare caused her to break several times. Of all the competitors, however, Olive broke most, and changed from the gallop back into the trot without losing ground. Rose was the only horse in the event which trotted in the low striding style so noticeable in the American horses.

After a week's respite the Breakfast Creek Sports, Trotting and Pony Club

held its inaugural sports and race meeting on the Breakfast Creek grounds (the site of the current day Albion Park circuit) on Saturday August 31.

The press reported, "judging by the attendance and the interest which was taken in the carrying out of the initial programme, the promoters have every reason to anticipate for the club a most prosperous career. The idea of purchasing the property which for many years was known as the Breakfast Creek swamp originated about twelve months ago in the minds of Messrs. M. B. Gannon, M.L.A., and A. L. Petrie, who, recognising the absence of anything like a first class recreation ground within a short distance of, and easily accessible to the city; and having duly estimated the probable cost of the undertaking, they determined to reclaim the swamp and transform it into a racecourse.

With this end in view they appointed as superintendent Mr. H. Downes, who with a large number of workmen commenced operations early in January last, and had it not been for the delays occasioned by wet weather the work would have been completed in six months.

As it was, the whole of the swamp, or at least that portion of it required for use at present, was filled in, a beautiful lakelet was excavated, and the sports tracks formed and fenced off, while the various buildings and other appointments were in a fair way to completion. The recent floods and subsequent unsettled weather, however, threw the work back considerably, and on Saturday last, although the opening meeting was very successful and no complaints were made, the arrangements of the place were still incomplete.

The area of the present enclosure is 30 acres, but in addition to this the company have secured 6 acres, which will shortly be taken in for the purpose of extending the length of the racing track from four to six furlongs. This work is expected to be finished within the present year.

Necessary arrangements for the comfort and convenience of the public are on quite a large scale. The principal grand stand, which faces the south-east, and thus avoids the afternoon's sun, is a handsome building 150ft. in length, and it is estimated to seat about 600 persons. Like the other buildings on the ground, it is built of wood with an iron covering, and is both handsomely and substantially finished.

Underneath the grand stand are ladies' tea and refreshment rooms, and at the rear is being completed a ball and concert room, which, including the stage, is 180ft. long by 70ft. wide, with a first-class floor for dancing. It is intended to erect a gallery 10ft. wide all round the hall, and this will be used as a supper room, and will be capable of seating at least 500 persons. This is the building in which the mayor's ball is to be held on the 5th instant, and in view of that important event, Messrs. Barton and White, electricians, are busily engaged in the installation of 100 incandescent lamps, some of which will light up the hall, while the remainder are to be fitted up on each side of the path leading from the main entrance gate to the dance-room. Besides the grand stand there are also a stand estimated to hold 300 persons, and the saddling paddock stand, in which at least 400 persons could find sitting room, a stewards' stand, containing committee-room, competitors' dressing-rooms, scale-room, secretary's office, lavatory, and stewards' gallery; a totalisator building, jockeys' dressing-rooms, with plunge and shower baths, band stand, booths, horse and vehicle sheds, and last, but not least, a switchback railway, 4.15ft. in length, and having four falls.

Inside the racing track has been specially prepared a cycling track 28 1/2 chains in circumference, and the oval inside this again, which measures 275 yards by 135 yards, has been nicely turfed, and will be used for football, cricket, lawn tennis, and similar games. The lake, on which it is proposed to hold various kinds of sports (such as model yacht racing, waterpolo, tub races, and swimming competitions) during the Summer months, occupies an area of 2 acres, and has a clear reach of 6 1/2 chains from end to end, with a depth of more than 5ft. at any part. The whole of the work in connection with these sports grounds has been done by day labour under



the Superintendence of Mr. Downes ; and when everything is completed, including the formation of the larger racing track and the fitting up of electric lamps all over the grounds, the total cost is expected to reach more than £35,000. Unfortunately the promoters of the club had, in consequence of the unfavourable state of the weather, to work under great disadvantages on Saturday afternoon in carrying out their initial programme, but considering the difficulties which had to be contended against the meeting was in every respect more successful than had been anticipated.

Fully 3,000 persons were present, including a large number of ladies, and although the racing track was in an unsatisfactory and even dangerous state, the racing was got through without accident, and proved very interesting to the onlookers. To prevent the possibility of the track getting into such a bad state in future, it is intended to remove as soon as possible the material which at present constitutes it, and to replace it with quarry metal for a foundation covered with soft earth and turf, giving the track a fall of 18in. from the outside, and cutting a gutter inside the fence to carry away the surface water. When this is done, and the local divisional board have put their drainage scheme into effect, the result of heavy rains at any time will not be so disastrous as it was found to be on the present occasion.

The manager for the company, Captain Wright, has worked hard to insure the club's success, and his efforts were on Saturday ably seconded by the stewards and the gentlemen comprising the committee. The Hon. B. B. Moreton occupied the judge's box, Mr. C. Sandham had charge of the flag, the stewards were the Hon. B. B. Moreton, Major Owen, Major Ricardo, and Captain Wright ; clerk of the course, Mr. H. F. Wickham; and committee, Messrs. J. S. Deuchar, G. Markwell, C. Sandham, G. H. Stuart, A. R. Peirson, F. V. Murphy, Majors Owen and Ricardo, and Captain Wright.

The details of the trotting events were as follows:

TIME TROT HANDICAP of 20 sovs., for ponies 14 hands and under, in harness, 9st, 7lb.; 1 mile.

J. W. Knight's gr.g. TANDEM, aged, scratch .(Owner) 1

G. Livingstone's b.m. Little Sarah, aged, 5sec. behind. 2

J. Stewart's bl.m. Missie, aged, scratch 3

Only the three started, and Tandem, who went to the front from the start, maintained his lead all the way and won easily by several lengths. Of the eighty-three tickets issued thirty-seven were on the winner, and the dividend was one pound

TIME TROT HANDICAP of 20 sovs. (harness) ; 10st. 10lb.; 2 miles.

J. W- Boothman's br.g. TOMMY DODD, 5sec. behind (Strickland) 1

W. Silcock's b.m. Little Jess, scratch 2

J. Smith's b.g. Wanaka, 60sec, behind 3

The other starters were Grey Charlie, 15sec. behind; Major, scratch; All Fours, scratch; Snip, scratch; and Bob, scratch.

Little Jess led until half of the last round had been completed, when she

broke badly, and Tommy Dodd, who had been gradually overtaking her, went to the front, and won easily by about 80 yards, Wanaka, who trotted in splendid style, being about 200 yards away third. Grey Charlie's machine collided with that drawn by Major, and the driver of the latter, H. Westcott, was thrown from his seat and narrowly escaped being killed. When he fell his legs got entangled with the reins, and he was dragged along the ground for some distance, when happily he managed to disentangle himself and picked himself up little the worse for his mishap. The horse galloped round the track and defied all attempts to stop him until Mounted Constable Robinson went in pursuit and succeeded in catching him at the back of the course. There were 150 tickets issued on the event, thirty-two were on the winner, and the dividend was £2 2s.

In October 1889 the Queensland trotting breeding industry suffered a loss when Builder, owned by John Tait senior died.

Builder had been a prominent figure at the Queensland National Association shows at Bowen Park and had proved himself a first sire of trotting stock, and so highly was he thought of that his progeny were distributed all over the colony. He was a bay horse foaled in 1883, by the imported American trotting stallion Contractor from Rebecca, by Panic, and was bred by Mr. J. J. Miller, of Bayswater stud farm, Victoria.

Since he was a two-year-old Builder had an unbroken record in the show ring, and won prizes upon every occasion that he competed and one of his sons, Sir Charles, won the Exhibition trot in 1888 and in 1889 defeated Sydney trotter L. Jeanne (by San Jose Patchen USA) in a handicap trot.

A committee meeting of the Rockhampton Trotting Club was held on 19/11/1891 last evening at the Union Hotel. There were present: Mr. Macdonald (in the chair), and Messrs. M. Kelly, F. Comley, H. J. Risien, C. E. Morton and Captain Calvert. The members of the committee appointed to make inquiries for a suitable ground for holding meetings had selected the Showgrounds, and the Secretary was instructed to write to the Rockhampton Agricultural Society to ascertain on what terms the ground would be obtained. The meeting was then adjourned for a week to receive the committee's report

ROCKHAMPTON TROTTING MEETING.

Officials.-President: F. A. Morgan Vice-President: Dr. W. Callaghan. Judge: B. Fahey. Starter: Captain C. A. Calvert Timekeeper : Dr. W. Callaghan. Clerk of Scales: Mark Kelly. Stewards: Dr. D. S. McDonald, E. Wilson, J. Morrissey, H. J. Risien, T. McLaughlin, J. P. Voss. Hon. Secretary: Captain Calvert

The first meeting of the Rockhampton Trotting Club was held on the Agricultural Society's Show Grounds on Saturday last (26/12/91), the gathering was only a qualified success, there being several things which militated against its being as auspicious as could have been wished. In the first place the day was very hot until late in the afternoon, when a strong breeze sprung up, and lowered the temperature considerably. Then the attendance was disappointing perhaps through the heat probably less than 500 persons being on the ground.

Ladies were conspicuous by their absence, scarcely half-a-dozen of the fair sex being on the ground. But the greatest drawback of all was the "slowness" of the whole affair. This was mainly owing to so many of the events being post entry, and the same horses appearing in each. Then again, most of the events soon became foregone conclusions, and it was consequently impossible to get up either enthusiasm or excitement. A meeting devoted entirely to trotting is all very well in theory, but in practice it needs a large attendance, a good track, and evenly matched competitors to make it a success. Each of those essentials was absent on Saturday, and therefore, under the circumstances, the Club may be congratulated on making the affair go off as well as it did. On a future occasion they will know better how to meet the public taste, and consequently hotter things may be hoped for.

It has been said that the course is not a good one. That is strictly correct, but, on the other hand, it is not a very bad one. The chief drawback is that it is nearly round, and consequently the vehicle on the inside has a great

advantage, it being almost impossible to pass on the outside if horses are nearly evenly matched. In other respects the track is fairly good, and has been clearly marked out by posts. It is a third of a mile in circumference. The club will certainly have to alter the track, so as to give the horses behind a better opportunity of passing those in front, otherwise the good horses will be doubly handicapped.

The officials did all they could to make the meeting go off well, and there was no blame to them that it was so lacking in general interest. There was a totalisator on the ground worked by Mr. Corbett, but investors were by no means eager, and it was found advisable to reduce the price of ticket to a modest crown. A fair amount of business was done, the sparse attendance considered. The money taken at the gates was in excess of £11, so there were very few "dead heads."

Mr. George Boyd had the only refreshment booth on the ground, and his iced drinks were largely availed of and much appreciated, as was also an appetising luncheon.

The trotting needs little remark beyond the description of the various events. Mr. F.B. Hall's Belmont was the hero of the day. He won no fewer than three events, and he certainly should have won the big trot also. In that event, Dick made a sort of stumble at the back of the track, and before he could recover himself ran the wheel against a post. Dr. Stuart, who was driving, sprang out smartly, but lost the reins, and Dick went off at a gallop along the back, and Belmont's driver, to avoid a collision, went inside a post, for which he was subsequently disqualified, which it must be admitted was a hard case. Belmont continued his course, and Dick, after a wild career a couple of times round the enclosure, was caught, neither the horse nor the trap being injured, though the latter had capsized during the runaway. Belmont soon drew up to

Turk, who was leading, but Fred Pratt, the driver of Belmont, unwisely rushed his horse too much, using the whip too freely, and consequently ran so wide that he lost much more ground than he gained. A protest would have been entered against the winner Turk, for jostling, had not Belmont gone inside a post. There is no doubt that Mr. Foran drove his horse out wide on two occasions, and once the wheels of the two sulkies struck each other.

Belmont was bred at the station of that name, and was got by Herod (son of Horror) out of a buggy mare of Mr. W. Pattison's. Turk, the winner of the principal race, is said to be by Fenman (imp.) the mare being unknown. The Novel Race fell through for want of entries.

The meeting was over in good time. Following are full particulars:

MAIDEN TROT (in saddle) of £6: second horse to receive £1 out of the stakes; for all horses that have never won any public money; weight not less than 10 st.: distance about 2 miles, or six times round, Pull and go.

F. B. Hall's b.g. Belmont (by Herod), aged (Mr. C. Portus) 1

N. Tucker's br.g. Stockman, 5 years (Owner) 2

M. Kelly's ch.m. Venus, aged (Mr. H. J. Risien) 3

Albion Park in flood in 1890



Paddy and Farmer also started. From a good start Mr. Portus dashed to the front with Belmont, and soon had a lead of about twenty lengths.

This advantage was increased at will, and eventually Belmont won very comfortably by over a hundred yards from Stockman, Venus a poor third. Time, 7 min. 22 sec. Totalisator paid 8s.

MAIDEN TROT (in harness) of £6; second horse to receive £1 out of the stakes; weight not less than 10st.; distance about 2 miles, or six times round. Pull and go,

V. B. Hall's b.g. BELMONT (by Herod), aged (F. Pratt) 1

J. Laity's b.g. Scissors, 6 years (Lafferty) 2

J. Foran's b.g. Turk, aged (Mr. J. Foran) 3

Scissors dashed away with the load, but broke almost immediately going down the hill, enabling Belmont to get a strong lead.

Passing the judges stand the first time Belmont was leading by twenty lengths, and the race was virtually over, for Mr. Hall's favourite went right away from the others, and finally won in the most comfortable manner by forty yards from Scissors.

Time, 7 min. 42 1/2 sec. Totalisator, 11s.

HANDICAP TIME TROT (in saddle) of £10; second horse to receive £2 out of the stakes; weight not less than 10st.; distance about 3 miles, or nine times round. Pull and go.

F. B. Hall's b.g. BELMONT (by Herod), aged, 35 yards behind scratch.(Mr. C. Portas) 1

T. Barnes' sk.g. Melos, aged, 20 yards, (Owner) 2

M. Kelly's ch.m. Venus, aged, scratch (McBryde) 3

Roany and Stockman also started. Belmont was the favourite. Passing the judge the first time round the order was Stockman, Venus, Melos, Roany, Belmont, but the last named almost immediately passed Roany. There was little change for some rounds. In the sixth round Melos took the lead, Belmont being third, going up rapidly.

Passing the stand the seventh time Belmont was nearly level with Melos, taking the lead in less than half a lap. From this out Belmont had it all his own way, winning with something in hand by eight lengths from Melos, who was fifty yards in front of Venus.

Time, 11 min. 23 4-5sec. Totalisator, 11s.

ROCKHAMPTON HANDICAP TIME TROT (in harness) of £20; second horse to receive, £6 out of the stakes; distance about 3 miles, or nine times round. Pull and go.

J. Foran's b.g. Turk, aged, scratch (Owner) 1

J. Laity's b.g. Scissors, 6 years, 26 yards behind scratch.(Lafferty) 2

F. B. Hall's b.g. Belmont, aged, 26 yards (F. Pratt) Disq.

Dick (40yards), and Melos (17 yards) also started. Dick was the favourite. Turk was leading by nearly half a lap when Dick got away.

Belmont darted away in front of Scissors at once. In the third round Dick ran against a post, and his driver jumped out fearing a capsie.

Dick got away with the trap, causing the only excitement of the day, but was caught without mishap occurring. The entire interest in the race lay between Turk and Belmont, the latter gaining steadily, but surely, both horses going very well.

About two or three laps before the finish Pratt made several attempts to pass Turk, but used the whip so injudiciously that Belmont ran wide and lost a lot of ground, whilst Turk went out wide once or twice.

At length Turk won by twenty feet from Belmont, Scissors a hundred yards away third. A protest against Belmont for going inside a post was upheld, and second money given to Scissors.

No time was taken. Totalisator, £1 17s.

HANDICAP TIME PONY TROT (in harness) of £5; second to receive £1 out of the stakes; distance about 2 miles, or six times round. Pull and go.

A. McArthur's (ns) br. m. MADGE, scratch. w.o.

Madge was the only starter, and merely trotted the distance.

CONSOLATION HANDICAP TIME TROT of £6; Second horse to receive £1 out of the stakes, for all beaten horses; distance about two miles, or six times round. Pull and go.

T. Barnes sk.g. MELOS (S.), 12 secs (Owner) 1

N.Tucker's br.g. Stockman (S.), 5 secs (Owner) 2

H. J. Risien's r.g. Roany (S.), 5 secs. (Owner) 3

Venus (6 sec.), Paddy (scratch), Dick (35sec), Scissors (15sec.), also ran. Passing the stand the first time the order was Stockman, Melos, and Roany all together. Dick began to improve his position, but Melos was going so well that it was seen Dick could not win. Melos held the lead to the end, winning by forty yards from Stockman, who beat Roany by half a length, the rest fairly well up. Time, 9 min. 45 sec. Totalisator. £1.

TOWNSVILLE 24/5/97

About 1,000 people were present at the inaugural meeting, and £290 went through the totalisator

MAIDEN TROT, 12 sovs;

Mr G.S. Edwards BOB

CABMENS HANDICAP, of £10. 2 miles.

Mr G. S. Edwards BOB, scr 1

TROTting CLUB HANDICAP.

Of £25, 2nd horse £5.; three miles.

Mr C. Gordon's b.g. POINTER, 45sec. (owner) 1

CONSOLATION STAKES.

Of 12 sovs. 1 1/2miles

C. Gordon's POINTER (scr) 1

CHARTERS TOWERS TROTting CLUB

In response to an advertisement of Mr A. H. Pritchard, a meeting was held at Winterbottom's Occidental Hotel on Monday evening, the 3rd October 1898 to consider the formation of a Trotting Club. After discussion it was decided to form a club called, the Charters Towers Trotting Club.

The annual subscription was fixed at half a guinea and thirty gentlemen were elected members. - Mr J. W. Jenkins was appointed Hon. Secretary. Mr Pritchard Hon. Treasurer, with a Sub committee consisting of:—Dr. Lister and Messrs D. Winterbottom and A. H. Pritchard, to draw up roles and report at a general meeting to be called at an early date, at which officers will be appointed. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr A. H. Pritchard. It was moved by Mr Winterbottom, seconded by Mr Foley, that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to Mr W. J. Affleck (Hon. Secretary of Townsville Trotting Club,) who came here from Townsville specially to further the interests of the Club. After Mr Affleck had responded, the meeting terminated.

The inaugural meeting of the above Club attracted a good attendance on Thursday afternoon to the Athletic Reserve. The Club has a very fair track, and the sport was interesting.

The officials all worked well to achieve success, and there was no hitch in the arrangements. During the afternoon £160 went through the tote. The results were:-

MAIDEN TROT, Of 8 sovs., second 1 sov. from the prize. Distance about 1 1/2 miles; 11st 7lb.

11 G. Guy's c g SAMMY (Guy) 1

1. W. G. Gorman's ch g Dacca, (Gluyas) 2

2. E. J. Brown's c m Duchess, (Strike) 3

Other starters:—(8) My Pet, (1), Rover, (0) Silver, (0) Lucy, (1) Princess, (0) Pet Girl.

Amount in pool £12, dividend £1.

Betting: 2 to 1 agst Sammy, 4 to 1, Dacca and Duchess, 6 to 10 to 1 others.

From a fair start Sammy and Dacca took the lead, and maintained it between them for the first mile. Sammy then went to the front and won by about a quarter of a lap from Dacca, Duchess ten lengths third, the rest scattered about all over the track. Time, 6 min. 2 4-5secs.

CHARTERS TOWERS CUP, Of 20 sovs, second horse 4 sovs, third 1 sov. from the prize. Distance, about three miles. Weight, in saddle 11st. 7lb., in harness 10st 10lb.

6. W. G. Gorman's ch g DACCA, 8sec. behind scratch (Gluyas) 1

3. W. E. Brown's gr g Snowy, 12secs behind scratch 2

84. J. Wilson ns b g Orphan Boy, 40sec. behind scratch 3

Other starters: (14) Elsie 35secs. behind, (1) Rover scr, (2) Forester scr, (2) My Pet scr., (2) Sliver 8secs. behind, (9) J.P. 12secs. behind, (0) Bob, 30secs. behind, (11) Ginger 36secs. behind, (7) Polly 40secs. behind, (2) She 60secs. behind.

Betting: 10 to 1 Dacca, 6 to 1 Snowy, 6 to 4 Orphan Boy, 6 to 1 J.P., 3 to 1 Elsie, 6 to 1 Polly, 4 to 1 She, 8 to 20 to 1 others. Dividend, £8 2/-

Dacca and Snowy soon after the start went to the front. They had it all their own way for a few laps, and raced together, then Dacca left Snowy and led the field for the rest of the distance, winning comfortably by about fifty yards. Orphan Boy and Elsie were the only ones of the back division that got anywhere near the winner, the favorite just beating Elsie for third place. The neat of the field finished anyhow. Time, 11min. 27sec.

PONY HANDICAP TROT. Of 5 sovs, second 1 sov from the prize, about 1 mile. For ponies 13i hands and under. Weights, in saddle Set. 71b, in harness 9st.

21 A. J. Fosters b g TONIC, scr., (Brown) 1

1. G. Patterson's b m Rosie, 5sec. behind scratch 2

6. G. Bovey's b g Toby, 5secs behind 3

Other starters: (2) Victor scr., (0) Pilot scr. (16) Jack 7secs. behind, (12) Bennie 7secs. behind. Dividend, £1/8/

Betting: Even money Tonic, 3 to 6 to 1 others. .

This race was an easy one for Tonic, for trotting splendidly, he won by about twenty lengths from Rosier. Toby close up third. Time, 3min. 56 1/2secs.

PUBLICANS' PURSE, Of 15 sovs., second 8 sovs. from the prize. Distance about two miles. Weights, in saddle list. 7lb., in harness 10st. 10lb.

10. EL R. Fryer's ch g GINGER, 30secs behind scr. i

3. J. Madson's ch g J.P., 10secs. Behind scratch 2

16. W. G. Gorman's ch g Dacca, .5sec. behind scratch 3

Other starters:—(2) My Pet, scr, (2) Ginger II. scr., (8) Princess scr.. (19) Eaglehawk 5secs, behind, (8) Stanley 5secs, behind, (36) Snowy, 6secs. behind, (8) Elsie 30secs behind. Dividend £4/2/ Betting:—4 to 1 Ginger, 6 to 1 J.P., 4 to 1 Dacca. 4 to 1 Elsie, 6 to 1 Snowy, 3 to 1 My Pet, 6 to 10 to 1 others. My Pet led the field for a couple of. times round, then J.P., Snowy and Ginger closed up on the field. The last few rounds resulted in some good trotting between Ginger, J.P., and My Pet, but Ginger forged ahead coming round the turn for home, and won by two lengths from. J.P., Dacca about seven lengths third. Time:, 6min. 47 1/2secs.

CONSOLATION RACE, Of 7 sovs., second 2 sovs. Distance about two miles.

7. E. M. Brown's c m Duchess, 5secs. behind scratch (Strike) 1

26. J. Wilson ns b g Orphan Boy, 30secs. behind scratch 2

7. J. Farrell's r m Pet Bid, scr. 3

Other starters :—(0) Dewdrop scr., (3)Polly 25secs, behind scratch, (3) Bob 15secs. behind scratch. Dividend, £2/15/- . Betting :—1 to 1 Duchess, 6 to 4 on Orphan Boy, 3 to 1 Pet Girl, 2 to 1 PoJly, 6 to 1 Dewdrop.

This was an easy race for Duchess, who left Pet Girl after the second round and was never caught again, winning easily from Orphan Boy.

Like every other State there are results that are not recorded anywhere and in Queensland's case you are looking at around 19,000. **HRT**

Do You Love Your Broodmare?

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South Australia – First Champion & First Metropolitan Club

South Australia was proclaimed a colony in 1836 and within a period of just eleven years trotting, or rather trotting performances, were newsworthy events.

In February 1847 a trotting match, in harness, for 40 pounds was reported between Mr Dixon's grey colt and Mr Milman's celebrated, mare Peggy, came off at Mitcham. The distance was one mile, and the stakes £20 a side. In betting the cob was the favourite. The colt made the lead, which he kept for half a mile. The mare took it coolly till within 200 yards of the goal; her driver then gave her the reins, and she rattled out, passed the colt, and won easily by three lengths, and accomplished the one mile of road in three minutes and fourteen seconds.

That performance, however, was to just the entrée to the emergence a couple of months later of Australia's first trotting champion, the mare Norah.

The Adelaide Advertiser on July 2, 1847 publishing the following news item:-

MATCH AGAINST TIME

"Mr Tolmer's mare, Norah, rode by the owner, won a match against time, yesterday, on the beach opposite the Light-ship. The match was, to trot fifteen miles within the hour, which she performed with 4 1/2 minutes to spare. A strong breeze was blowing part of the way against her."

This performance was significant in that it was a performance that was recognized in renowned experts in England as one of the greatest ever trotting performances in the world.

Fortunately Tolmer recorded his reminiscences later in life and so the story of Norah and her amazing test against time became folklore and was even published in the press as late as 1952 in Western Australia. Following is the tale of Norah, Australia's first trotting champion.

After years serving in the British cavalry, Inspector Alex Tolmer of the South Australian Police Force could pick a good horse on sight.

"She's a thoroughbred alright!" he said, nodding towards a mottled bay mare named Norah. "About six years old, I'd say."

Mr. Henty, breeder of fine horses on his Wannon River station, sighed. "She's out of a Peter Fin mare by Lord Egremont's Little John and is in foal to Wanderer," he said. "She'd be worth 500 guineas if only..."

"If only what?" hustled Tolmer, an impatient man.

"If only anyone could ride her. She's crazy. Got the killer in her somewhere. Let her near sheep and she'll worry them like a wild dog. My men won't go near her."

Tolmer's eyes glistened. "What's your price?"

"Say £30." "Done."

Henty laughed. "How do you think you're going to get her away?"

Tolmer armed some of his troopers with heavy sticks, and a halter was thrown over the mare's head. Immediately the animal came in to the attack. The troopers clouted her on the nose and kept clouting as long as she continued to rush at them.

After a hectic trip, the police party got Norah to Adelaide. There, in the mounted police barracks, Tolmer broke her in after she had foaled down.

She was a magnificent animal and all the sportsmen in the city came to view her. She was swift in running and leaped fences like a deer with her forelegs doubled tightly under her.

The first steeplechase to be held in Adelaide was scheduled for September 23, 1846.

"I'm entering her," announced Tolmer.

Immediately Norah became favourite. The other seven horses nominated were good, but she was magnificent.



Alexander Tolmer

Tolmer unfortunately hurt himself in the lead up to the historic steeplechase and riding duties were assigned to a Mr Hulkes.

Whether Tolmer's absence had anything to do with it is not certain, however, in the race Norah was a miserable failure. At the first obstacle she balked badly and slithered into a ditch, where she settled. Adelaide roared with laughter, not so much at the mottled bay mare, as at her proud and cocky owner, Alex Tolmer.

The bloods who gathered at the Royal Exchange Hotel (owned by George Coppin, later a MLC in Victoria when it became a State in 1850) were particularly amused.

"He won't be game to show his face in here for some time," they chortled.

Tolmer guessed what they would be saying. He turned up prepared to face an unmerciful wiggling. He received it.

"Your mare can't gallop and she can't jump," crowed one, Paxton whose own entry in the Steeplechase also ended up in the ditch "In short, she's no good."

Tolmer didn't have any defences. He hit out at random: "Perhaps she can't gallop and jump, but she can at least trot brilliantly."

The boys at the bar jeered loudly.

"I'll bet £20 she can trot, seven miles in half an hour," shouted Tolmer wildly.

Paxton came in quickly. "That represents a speed of 14 miles in the hour. Are you serious?"

"Yes," snapped Tolmer.

"Then I'll take your bet."

Alex Tolmer knew he had been boasting and he could ill afford to lose £20. He went home worried.

Next day he took the mare out and trotted her over seven miles.

"By heaven, she really is a champion trotter," he muttered after consulting

his watch. "She did it in just over 27 minutes."

Soon after he strolled casually into the Royal Exchange bar. The bloods were assembled there. Paxton was quick to start ragging him.

"Want to throw in the sponge, Tolmer?" he needled.

"Want to double your bet?" countered the Police Inspector.

Paxton snapped up the offer.

"Very well," said Tolmer. "Its now 8 p.m. I'll trot my mare from Frome Bridge to Port Bridge at five o'clock tomorrow morning. Does that suit you?"

"Suits me well enough," grinned Paxton.

"There's just one more stipulation," said Tolmer. "You must keep the starting time secret I don't want all Adelaide to turn up. Norah might become unsettled and start breaking her gait."

Silence was agreed on.

Walking through Adelaide a short time later, Tolmer found that the starting time was being discussed on every corner. Enraged, he rushed off to find Paxton.

"You've let the starting time become public property," he shouted. "I herewith change the start time to half an hour from this moment."

"But surely your mare is bedded down for the night," said Paxton, startled.

"Nevertheless, I'll ride her. I'll meet you at the Frome Bridge starting point in 30 minutes, and you can tell Charley Campbell, the referee, to post his representatives at Port Bridge to mark the time I reach there."

When Alex Tolmer arrived at the starting line, some 30 horsemen were present. They were going to ride after the trotter to see she performed fairly.

"Ready," called Tolmer.

"Off," responded referee Charley Campbell.

Tolmer walked Norah for the first 100 yards to get her well clear of the horsemen without exciting her. He could hear laughter behind him*

"Come on, girl," he called gently.

The mare broke into a fast trot and held the pace for mile after mile.

Horses that had galloped after her began to drop back, winded. Suddenly she broke her gait. Under the rules of the wager, Tolmer had to halt her, turn round, and start again.

"Can't afford to do that too often," muttered Tolmer.

He was conscious that he had been overbold in selecting the Frome Bridge to Port Bridge run, for it was more like eight than, seven miles. In fact, he was attempting to trot the mare eight miles in under 30 minutes.

Nearing the finish line, a dog rushed out from a house and snapped at Norah's heels. Naturally she broke again, and more precious seconds were lost.

At last Port Bridge loomed up and the trot was completed. Charley Campbell and his assistants compared watches.

"Attention everyone," called Charley. "The mare Norah completed a distance of eight miles two chains in 27 minutes 12 seconds. Mr. Alex. Tolmer wins the wager."

There was much celebrating among the sporting men of Adelaide that night. All agreed that Norah was the fastest trotter the Colony had produced. Maybe she was the best in the world. More champagne was drunk on the strength of that thought.

And no man was happier than Inspector Tolmer. Late in the evening, with his pockets full of notes, he walked round to a hotel stable to collect Norah and take her home. Carelessly he opened the stable door and flashed his lantern outside.

Norah took fright. She reared, plunged and shot through the door. A moment later she was galloping wildly through the streets of Adelaide. Outside the city she ran on to a bridge and crazily tried to jump the railing side on. She smacked the top rail and damaged a stifle joint.

She was useless for months.

Meantime Paxton, keen to get his money back, began to work on Tolmer.



Norah reared, and plunged through the door.

Cartoon depiction of the post race stable visit

"Your mare Norah did eight miles in under 30 minutes. I admit," he said, "but she couldn't do 16 miles in under 60 minutes. She's not that good." Tolmer stood up to the pressure until the Police veterinary got Norah well again. Then he stamped in to the Royal Exchange and singled out Paxton. "I say my mare can trot 16 miles in less than an hour," he challenged. Paxton was quick to respond: "We'll double the original bet. Will we make it £120?"

Tolmer didn't have that much money, but he couldn't bear to back down in front of the crowd.

"I'll stake Norah against your £120" "Done!" cried Paxton.

An agreement was drawn up immediately, It stipulated that the event was to take place within one month and Tolmer was to give three days notice of when he would make the attempt.

Then it started to rain and continued to rain until there wasn't a mile of solid earth anywhere near Adelaide.

Tolmer, was trapped. He knew he'd never find a hard 16-mile stretch within a month.

By chance, he rode on to the beach at Glenelg. Rain was still pouring, but the sand, with the tide out, was firm, and the mare seemed to like performing on it.

Tolmer grinned. "Better than dry earth," he muttered to himself. If she can do the job anywhere, she'll do it here."

The mare needed solid training. Tolmer went to the Governor, Colonel Robe, and requested leave of absence for two weeks to attend to urgent business.

The Governor understood and granted the request.

Norah quickly became fit on a mixture of sea air and exercise. She didn't mind the rain and worked her trotting pace up to 22 miles an hour over short distances.

Tolmer made inquiries and discovered that low tide would be at 10 a.m. a few days later.

"That's my day and that's my starting time," he decided, and sent a formal message to Paxton.

The night before the event a hurricane worked up - one of the worst in the history of South Australia. Thunder and lightning performed overtime all night. The rain came in a continuous sheet.

At dawn, as Tolmer watched anxiously from the window of a Glenelg hotel, the tempo of the storm increased. Great hailstones joined the rain.

Towards 10 a.m. Tolmer took the mare into the storm. He looked for the road from Adelaide. It was covered to the horizon with water.

"Paxton will never get here," he said hopefully

A few minutes after 10 a.m a coach came spraying through the water. Out jumped Paxton and a group of followers."

"You've arrived late," Tolmer attacked. "The trot is off for today."

"Be a sportsman," someone yelled.

Tolmer shrugged and headed the mare to the beach. In theory, the tide was out. But the hurricane had created an artificial high tide, with waves rushing right up into the sandhills over a carpet of thick seaweed.

"There's no beach to trot on," wailed Tolmer, "I can't ride her through the loose sand of the hills, and, if I take her on to the edge of the beach, she'll spend most of her time up to her knees in water and seaweed."

"You picked the pitch and the hour," insisted Paxton.

Tolmer had no answer to that, Horsemen were sent ahead to a point eight miles from the starting point. Norah had to trot to them and back in less than an hour.

Rain and hailstones were still thundering down when the referee bawled "off."

"I'll lay 100 to one against the mare," Tolmer heard someone shout through the storm as he shook out his reins. "

Norah had the courage of the perfect thoroughbred. For stretches of 100 yards she moved through water up to her knees. And when the water was absent for a moment, her hooves tangled with seaweed or buried themselves in the sloppy sand.

With ears forward, she covered the first eight miles.

"What time did we make?" Tolmer bawled at the flagmen.

"Twenty-seven minutes four seconds," the men yelled back.

"I can't lose now," Tolmer cried in triumph, wheeling the mare for the return journey.

He found that he had turned into the eye of the wind, a full sou' westerly. Hailstones and rain were now being driven into his face and the mare's.

Norah kept tossing her head in pain but she held her gait through sea, sand, and seaweed.

To Tolmer, the home run seemed never ending, but when he reached the finish, Norah was still going strongly.

He knew he had succeeded from the wild antics of the drenched onlookers.

"She completed the distance in 55 minutes 2 seconds," crowed the referee in amazement.

Paxton looked bewildered. "She must be the fastest trotter in the world," he declared. "And to think I brought a saddle and bridle from Adelaide with me to take her home."

Everyone laughed heartily at Paxton's discomfiture.

One of the onlookers took Tolmer aside.

"I'm an English artillery officer out here from India on sick leave" he introduced himself "I'm a friend of Paxton's."

Tolmer nodded. "I admire your mare very much. Would you care to sell her?"

"What offer do you make?" the Inspector asked casually. "£500, delivered in Calcutta."

The figure represented a fortune to Tolmer. He was devoted to the mare, but £500 ..

A few days later he announced acceptance of the offer.

Some time later he received a memo from the shipping company: "... regret to advise that many horses were lost in bad weather off the Leeuwin. The mare Norah was one of the first to go."

And then, to turn the knife in the wound, came advice from the editor of "Bell's Life" (London), to whom details of the Glenelg event had been sent: "the performance surpassed anything done by the then greatest American trotter, Tom Thumb, and the English mare Beeswing, and the Australian Norah was therefore the fastest trotter in the world."

Two years later on April 10 1849 the South Australian Jockey Club conducted their inaugural meeting and there were no scheduled trotting events and it was not until February 2 1850 at Brighton that there was anything akin to a trotting match at a sanctioned meeting.

The Brighton affair, for £30 a-side, was rather unique in that it called for the two combatants to race consecutively over two miles trotting, then two miles galloping and finally two miles cross country over the jumps, both horses to carry ten stone. A horsey triathlon of sorts.

As you can see from the report below W. Malcolm's bay horse Jerry (ridden by the owner) defeated Mr J. Harvey's grey horse Marquis (also ridden by the owner in first two heats and by Mr Cobham over the jumps) winning the trotting and hurdle contests.

First Heat (Trotting): Jerry went away with the lead, Marquis breaking, and had to be turned, thereby losing fifteen yards at the start, which he never recovered. Jerry won with ease.

Second Heat (Flat Race): Marquis jumped away with the lead, and was never collared, winning with apparent ease, although Jerry ran much better than was expected.

Third Heat (Hurdle Race): Both went away together, and took the first leap, but at the second they both refused. However, when put, Jerry took it in advance of his opponent, which was well up, Jerry taking the lead to the third leap, which both cleared without refusing: Jerry still leading to the fourth jump, which was refused by Marquis, but topped in first-rate style by Jerry. Marquis took it when put again. The horses then turned and came back to where they started, without refusing a leap (some of which were partly down), and which was decided by Jerry coming in a winner by about fifteen yards. The rider of Marquis, in this heat (Cobham), lost one of his stirrup-leathers, previous to going to the second leap, but was well ridden, his rider not stopping to replace it.

One cannot underestimate the magnetic effects of the gold finds in Victoria (Ballarat and Bendigo) and New South Wales (Bathurst) on the population and there is a noted interlude in the popularity of organized racing and trotting in Adelaide although once the rivers of gold had dried up interstate at the end of the 1850's circumstances changed.

A Norfolk trotting stallion Norfolk Hero was imported in 1860 and after much turbulence racing was re-established at the "Old Course" (now called Victoria Park) in 1863 and the following year the first official metropolitan race for trotters in Adelaide was conducted.

On April 22 1864 at the Autumn Meeting of the S.A.J.C. there were three entries for a 25 sovereign trot over three miles and it was won comprehensively by C.B. Fisher's grey gelding Charlie.

The following summer (14/12/1865) a trotting match between Mr. E. M. Bagot's b.g. Hector, aged—a magnificent hack—and Mr. Goyder's cg. Some

Pumpkins, aged, both carrying 11 stone featured at the S.A.J.C. Summit meeting and was reported thus:-

"This event created great interest and amusement, partly from the fancied resemblance of the chestnut to a sporting sketch in the bar-parlor of the Globe. Some Pumpkins, however, showed himself a good one to go, but was not able to pass his handsome rival. The race was three miles, and at the start Hector took the lead; about three-quarters of the way round the chestnut collared him, but Hector got away again and won easily, hard held.

Time, 10 min. 20 secs.

The popularity of that match ensured that the 1866 Autumn meeting would have a Trotting Race, or as they were often called in those days, Match.

A field of ten lined up for the three mile 25 sovereign affair and once again it was C.B. Fisher's grey trotter that was successful (see below).

Mr. C. B. Fisher's CHARLIE aged, 12 st. 1 lb. (Pegler) 1

Mr. O. Ladd's Unknown, 6 yrs., 12 st. 1 lb. (Middleton) 3

Mr. Lewis's Charlie, aged, 12 st 1 lb. (Owner) 3

Mr. Dungey's Volunteer, aged, 12 at 1 lb. (Bosse) 0

Mr. E. Gwynne jun.'s, Jack Sheppard, aged, 12st 1 lb. (E. Gwynne) 0

Mr. E. M. Bagot's Hector, aged, 12 st 1 lb. (McGee) 0

Mr. J. Knowles's Battle, 6 yrs., 12 st. 1 lb. 0

Mr. Brady's Gipsy, aged. 12 st. 1 lb. (Star) 0

Mr. Borthwick's Harry, aged, 12 st 1 lb. 0

Mr. Mullins's Jessie, 2 yrs., 6 st 4 lbs. (Owner) 0

Mr. Woolfit's Captain, aged, 12 st. 1 lb 0

First Heat— This was one of the most interesting races of the whole meeting. Betting upon the event was an absolute lottery, for the performances of the majority of the horses were shrouded in obscurity. The eleven, or rather the ten horses, for one did not go, presented a somewhat unique aspect, and the efforts of their riders to prevent their breaking pace when once on the move was rather ludicrous. Captain was the only one run in harness, and he declared 5 st. over. The two-year old carried more than 4 stone extra, and Mr. Lewis's Charlie was 5 lbs. over. After the start the lot very speedily parted company, and before one circuit had been accomplished they were scattered over more than a quarter of a mile. Mr. Fisher's grey took the lead at once and preserved it against all comers. His speed seemed to become accelerated every half mile, and at the end of the heat he passed the post at a spanking pace, throwing all his rivals completely in the shade. Unknown so far revealed his inscrutable character as to prove himself a very excellent pacer. He came in second, and, with the exception of Mr. Lewis's

Charlie, was the only horse, in addition to the winner, who saved his distance. Hector was about seventh or eighth, the buggy lost by a long distance, the others sprinkled here and there in different places. The time occupied was 9 min. 38 sec.

Second Heat— Unknown and Charlie of Macclesfield were drawn, so that Mr. Fisher's grey had merely to go round the Course to secure the prize. This task he performed admirably.

Mr C.B. Fisher was later to depart South Australia for Victoria in acrimonious circumstances and became a leading light in the Victorian thoroughbred circles both in breeding and administration.

It was over a decade before there was a trotting performance of any significance and it was not on a racetrack, but once again a time trial along a local road.

In 1877 under the heading "Remarkable Trotting Match" it was reported, "The fastest trotting we have had in South Australia for a mile was done on Thursday, May 10, on the Glen Ormond-road, by a black cob belonging to Mr. F. T. Cornelius. A wager was laid by a gentleman belonging to Adelaide that the cob would trot the mile within three minutes, and the challenge being taken up a match against time was made. The rider was Mr. T. Kiernan, jun., and the weight carried 14 stone ; but in spite of the heavy imposition the distance was accomplished in 2 min. 48 sec. Three stop-watches were used,

so that the time taken is likely to be accurate."

After that trotting races became regular one off features on race programmes in Adelaide (old Course as well as Morphettville) as well as country towns such as Warooka, Mallala, Gladstone, Red Hill, Yorketown, Onkaparinga, Pekina, Yacka, Hoyleton, Hamley Bridge and Rapid Bay.

The growth in interest inevitably led to the establishment of Adelaide Trotting Club, the first metropolitan trotting club in Australia, remembering that the American Trotting Races in Melbourne in 1860, 1861 and 1862 were organized by a number of people involved with Cobb and Co and the American Club in Melbourne and not by a Trotting Club as such.

The ATC committee consisted of Messrs. H. Bennett, W. E. Ford, J. H. Aldridge, W. Blackler, and W. Dixon; the Judges were Messrs. J. Richardson, H. Hughes; the starter Mr. W. Blackler and honorary secretary was Mr. J. Harvey.

The papers were not altogether complimentary as few turf journalists of that time in any State had any warmth for trotting and reported the first meeting thus:-

"The opening meeting of the Adelaide Trotting Club took place on the Old Course, East Park Lands, on Saturday, September 18, 1880. As the inaugural effort to promote a class of amusement that is very popular in America; and which might in time become popular in the colonies, the meeting on Saturday must be regarded as a fairly successful one, though not altogether satisfactory from a sporting point of view. Amongst those who are accustomed to the excitement of race meetings, whether on the flat or over the sticks, trotting is usually voted as extremely slow; but while as a sport it fails to satisfy the regular turfite, it has a good deal to recommend it for the encouragement of breeding a fast and stylish stamp of horse for the road. It was many years before the Americans attained the supremacy which they have achieved on the trotting track, and it may fairly be supposed that it will be many years before the efforts that are being made in Adelaide and Melbourne to popularise trotting are crowned with success, or that anything under 2.20 records can be boasted of. In order that our trotting men may be reminded of what they have yet to achieve a few particulars of what has been done on a proper track in America may be of interest:

The authenticated records of the most celebrated American trotters are as follows:— Rarus 2m. 13 1/4s.; Goldsmith Maid, 2m. 14 3/4s; Hopeful, 2m. 14 3/4s.; Lulu, 2m. 15s.; Great Eastern, 2m. 15 3/4s to saddle and 2m. 18s. to harness; American Girl, 2m. 16 1/2s; Occident, 2m 16 3/4s.; Gloster, 2m. 17s.; Dexter, 2m. 17 1/4s; Judge Fullerton, 2m. 18s.; and Nettie, 2m. 18s. We have nothing in these colonies to equal the pace shown by the celebrities of America but the escalation that trotting matches are calculated to excite will bring before the public many good horses that would otherwise be left in retirement, and then it will be discovered how pace can be improved and the time on the track shortened.

From a thousand to fifteen hundred people witnessed the trotting on Saturday. although it looked but a small gathering for the Old Course.

The weather was in every way favorable, the afternoon bring pleasantly warm and fine. There was a fair sprinkling of the usual speculative fraternity who practice on the credulity of the unwary on the hill by selling them purses of pence for half-crowns, and performing the bird trick at a very handsome profit.

There were but few of the leading sporting men present in the grand stand reserve probably on account of the hunt and luncheon at His Worship the Mayor's.

It was a few minutes after 3 o'clock when the eight competitors in the Maidens took their place and Mr Harvey lowered the flag.

The result was an easy win for Tommy Dodd, who was ridden by Mr. Word, Slowcoach, who was driven in a sulky, taking second place, and Dominick, ridden by Mr. P. Giles, third. Jaber Walker, Smiler. Sorata, Rasper, and Sailor were the other starters. The time was fair for a maiden effort and Tommy

Dodd's chances were favorably regarded for the next event. The Distance Handicap brought nine to the post, Pepper being the favorite, and Punch next in demand. The result was a hollow victory for Pepper. Tommy Dodd beating Punch for second place by half-a-dozen lengths, the rest nowhere. The three miles were done in 8 min. 48 secs. Red Rover's trial time for the same distance is reported to have been 8 min 9 secs. Only four were induced to come out for the first heat of the mile and a half Distance Handicap, which Dominick, a raw boned animal from Port Augusta, won easily. Beating Tommy Dodd for second place, Pepper only getting into third position; Dominick also beat Tommy Dodd in the final heat. These were the only event of the day, and as there was a lengthy gap between each, a parade of stallions took place for Mr. James Aldridge's prize.

Three roadster entires were exhibited, and the judges were Messrs. Blackler, Ford, and Chambers who gave the first prize to Mr. R.S. Crabb's Grashopper, by South Australian out of Polly (imported), and second prize to Mr. H. A. Short's Calcutta, by Charley Merrylegs, dam by Trip. Mr J. Hill's Serenader was the third competitor. Calcutta, who is a handsome dark chestnut and very compact horse, was the favourite with the public, but the roan Grasshopper is a better topped one and taller than his opponent, though not so good below. Serenader is a three year-old grey, who will appear to more advantage as he gets older.

Following are the details of the meeting:-

MAIDEN TROT Of 25 sovs., with sweep of 2 sovs.; weight not less than 12st. One mile and a half.

Mr. C. Woods bg TOMMY DODD, aged (Owner) 1
 Mr. W.Boord's br.m. Slowcoach, aged (Baiment) 2
 Mr.P.Giles b.g. Dominick, aged(Owner) 3
 Mr. T. Born's b.h. Serata, aged 0
 Mr. P.Giles b.g. Rasper, aged 0
 Messrs. T. and J. Jackson's b.g. Jaber Walker, aged 0
 Mr. S.Shephard's c.m. Smiler, aged 0
 Mr L Mullers g.g 4 .Sailor, aged 0
 Toby, Dooms, and Alice were scratched.

Betting—Even money about Tommy Dodd.

When the signal so go was given Tommy Dodd went to the front and soon made it apparent that he was master of the situation.

Dominick took second position, butt was displaced by Slowcoach in the sulky. Tommy Dodd and Slowcoach led the field by fifty lengths to the South-Terrace corner, Tommy being a dozen or twenty lengths in front of the sulky. Baiment made an effort to get in front at the turn by the mill, but failed, and Tommy then came home as he liked and won by thirty lengths, Dominick being a similar distance behind Slowcoach, then Jaber Walker further away fourth, Smiler fifth, Sorata sixth, Rasper seventh. And Sailor just coming into view in the straight when the others had turned to weigh in. Time—4 min. 50 sec.

DISTANCE HANDICAP Of 50 sovs added to a sweep of 3 Sovs. One event. Weight not less than 11 at. Three miles. -.

Mr.W.Dixon's g.g PEPPER, aged, 150 yds (Sandisen) 1.
 P O'Reilly's b.g. Punch, aged, scratch (Lowe) 2
 Mr.C. Woods b.g. Tommy Dodd, aged, 390yds (Wood) 3
 Mr. J.McFie's c.h. Ned Kelly, aged, 450 yds. 0
 Mr. F.Tannebring's g.h. Toby, aged, 500 yds. 0
 Mr. J. McFies. B.m. Kate Kelly, aged. 500yds 0
 Mr.C.Folland's b.h. Jet, aged, 550 yds. 0
 Mr. W. C. Pepper's b.m. Polly, aged, 650 yds. 0
 Mr.M.Daly's b.g. Lockleys, 700yds 0

Betting-5 to 2 against Pepper, 2 to 1 Punch, 10 to 3 Jet and 4 to 1 anything else.

The first perceptible difference in position took place when at the South-terrace corner Ned Kelly eased off and Jet made a little headway, but from

the fall of the flag it was apparent that Pepper was overtaking those in front of him, and he passed them one by one, Punch also cutting down the field in the same fashion, but being unable to overtake Pepper. At the South-terrace corner the second time round then were only three in the race—Pepper about ten lengths in front at Tommy Dodd, and Punch a few lengths behind. At the turn for home Punch tried to displace Tommy Dodd, and made a spirited effort up the straight, but neither of them was able to get within twenty lengths of the winner. There was a gap of 300 yards between the third horse and the rest, Ned Kelly, Toby, and Polly being the second division, and Jet, Lockleys, and Kate Kelly bringing up the rear.

Time: 8 min. 46 secs.

MILE & A HALF DISTANCE HANDICAP Of 30 sovs, added to a sweep it 2 sovs.; Heats; weight not less than 12 st

First Heat

Mr. P. Giles DOMINICK, aged, 400 yds. 1
 Mr. C. Wood's b.g. Tommy Dodd, aged, 250yds. 2
 Mr.W.Dixon's g.g. Pepper, aged, scratch. 3
 Mr. J. McFies bm. Kate Kelly, aged, 450yds 0
 Others: Punch 40 yds, Ned Kelly 450yds, Baby 350yds and Have 'Em 350 yds, were scratched.

Second heat

Mr.Giles DOMINICK 1
 Mr.Woods Tommy Dodd 2

Only four faced the starter in the first heat, namely, Pepper, Kate Kelly, Tommy Dodd, and Dominick Before half-a-mile had been accomplished it was evident that Dominick would never be caught, as he was easily beating all but Tommy Dodd, who tried to get up to him in the straight but failed to do so, Dominick winning easily, Pepper finishing third, and the sulky last. Dominick again beat Tommy Dodd in the second heat, these being the only starters. Time —First heat, 4 min. 18 sec.; second heat, 4 min. 15 sec.

Later that year at the Boxing Day meeting on December 27 four races with large fields highlighted the day's sport with the winners being Mr. Linehan's black gelding Ginger Beer (who won the Maiden and then the rich 105 sovereign Three Mile Trot), J.A. Savill's Jessie and H. Hawkin's Blossom.

The feature of the meeting was that several Victorian trotters undertook the long trek to compete in the 105 sovereign trot most notably Frank Robbin's Brown Hawk (later a colonial bred star) and American Charles Colbath's Captain Dearborn who was piloted by star Irish born horseman Andy Mulholland.

Unfortunately for the S.A. Trotting Club the totalisator was banned and interest waned in their meetings over the succeeding years in direct contrast to Victoria where trotting boomed after the introduction of Australia's first track designed for trotting, Elsternwick Park in 1882.

That said interest in the trotter remained high and over the next four years trotting races were contested at meetings in the following localities:- Noarlunga, Edithburgh, Snowtown, Balaklava, Morning Star, Warooka, Yacka, Morphett Vale, Yorketown, Yorke Peninsula, Quorn, Grange, Port Lincoln, Warnertown, Mannum, Elliston, Booleroo Centre, Pekina, Truro, Bowilla, Salisbury, Granville, Lancelot, Aldinga, Burra, Kapunda and Hammond.

Eventually the interest was such that another metropolitan club was created, the S.A. Trotting Club who had its first General meeting at the London Inn on February 2 1885 and duly confirmed programme details for their inaugural meeting at the Old Course on April 11 1885.

Officials at the inaugural meeting were:- Stewards—Messrs. J. C. Campbell, A. Messenger, E. Weidenbach, W. Gordon, W. Blackler, W. S. Billin, R. Sayers, R. G. Bosisto, C. Wood ; starter, Mr. Campbell; timekeeper, W. Vandome; clerk of course, R. G. Bosisto; referees, C. Wood and H. Wilson; judge, W. Blackler; clerk of scales, W. A. Blackler; hon. sec., J. S. McClory.

The inaugural meeting of the S.A. Trotting-Club was held on the Old Racecourse on Saturday, April 11, in the presence of several hundred

spectators. The weather was warm but not unpleasant, and the proceedings on the whole were satisfactory as a first attempt to revive trotting in the colony.

The main interest of the meeting was of course centred amongst the owners of trotters and their friends, and there were but few of the general racing community present. For these two flat races and a selling steeple had been provided, but they filled so badly that they afforded very little sport.

The meeting was, therefore, a very tame affair, and the absence of the totalizator was once more deplored by those who had no way of filling up the intervals between the races.

It certainly requires something better than the programme of Saturday to draw a big crowd to the trotting meetings, but being the club's first attempt their friends were lenient of criticism, and the hon. secretary and other officials did their best to make matters pass off pleasantly.

Ten came out for the Maiden Trot, which was a very soft thing for Raggett's Polly, who won all the way.

A field of eleven faced the starter for the Distance Handicap Trot. Kingslands No Fear, who went somewhat indifferently in the Maidens, warmed up to his work in the Handicap and won very easily, going without a break the whole journey, skilfully ridden by C. Filgate; Raggett's Sardine secured second place, and Bosisto's Sultan taking third place from Maggie on the post.

MAIDEN TROT of 10 sovs. Two miles. Weight, 11 st. Saddle or harness.

Mr. J.J. Raggetts brm POLLY, 3yrs (Jackson) 1

Mr. R. Wilsons blkm Maggie, aged (Wilson) 2

Mr. W.E. Hubble's skbd m Helen. Aged (Mallen) 3

Mr. T. McNamara's b m Actress, aged.

Mr. W. A. Hardy's ch g Red Lancer, aged.

Mr. H. Bone's b g Crusoe, aged

Mr. W. Giles b g Tom, aged.

Mr. C. Wood's b g Jack, aged

Mr. R. Nitschke's grm Nellie T, 5yrs

Mr. D Kingslands bm No Fear, 6yrs or aged

Kate Bell, Sardine and Acrobat were scratched

This was an easy thing for Polly, who led from the start, and was never caught, coming in ten lengths in front of the brown mare Maggie, who was a similar distance ahead of Helen and No Fear, who finished close together, the others straggling off. Time: 7min 22sec

DISTANCE HANDICAP TROT of 20 sovs and silver Cup value 10 guineas presented by Mr L.N. Blackmore. Three miles. 12 st. Saddle or harness. Distace behind scratch.

Mr D Kingslands bm NO FEAR, aged, 350yds (C Filgate) 1

Mr JJ Raggetts brga Sardine (late Jaber Walker) aged, 100yds 2

Mr R G Bosisto's bh Sultan, 6yrs, 7st, 150yds (Hugentoblen) 3

T McNamara's bm, Actress, aged, scratch

Mr H Bone's bg Crusoe, aged, 50yds

Mr R Wilsons blkm Maggie, aged, 100yds

Mr W.E. Hubbles skbl m Helen, aged 250yds

Mr W.S. Billi's bm Judy, aged, 250yds

Mr J Robin's bm Kate Bell, aged, 250yds

Mr R Sayer's rng Smuggler, aged, 300yds

Mr M Minahans blk m Betts, aged, 450yds

All the horse came to the post, Sardine being the favourite. Soon after the start there was a change in positions, and at the South terrace Sardine had a good lead with Maggie next, the Crusoe and Sultan in sulkies.

In this order they passed the stand the second time, Filgate lying fifth with No Fear, followed by Judy, Smuggler, Helen, Actress, Kate Bell and Betts bringing up the rear at a considerable distance from the leader.

Along the back stretch Sardine had a ten lengths lead, but at the South Terrace Filgate went up and joined Maggie, and on the hill, No Fear was in front, Sardine being second.

Sultan then came up and took third position and in this order they came up the straight and finished, No Fear winning easily by many lengths from Sardine who was a length or two in front of Sultan, the followed Crusoe, Judy, Smuggler and others. Time: 9m 50 1/2secs

There was another meeting of the Club on November 9 that year and the press of the day were more complimentary

The number on the coarse was about 800 all told, and more than usual interest was taken in the various events. A corner of the lawn was roped off for the "ring" but this was to a great extent discarded, and the metalicians quietly plied their avocations among1 the crowd.

Both events that day were won by O.V.G. (driven by Walter Mallen), a working horse that was engaged drawing water at Mr. Charles Mallen's Waverley brewery in Mitcham for the previous six months.

Walter Mallen and O.V.G. later went to Victoria and in 1887 won twice at Elsternwick Park and again at Hurlingham Park (Brighton). Then two years later in one incredible afternoon's work at a Moonee Valley trotting meeting the pair raced five times over one mile winning four times and finishing second in the other.

In November 1889 there was some positive press about an organized trotting race along the roads in Port Adelaide:-

"Through the instrumentality of Mr. Arthur Russell a handicap sweepstakes trot was organised a few days ago at Port Adelaide, and created a large amount of interest. The course chosen for the run was from Gepp's Cross to Farrant's Hotel, along the Grand Junction-road, the area to be covered being three miles. There was an immense crowd of persons present from the city and Port, and there were over 100 vehicles at the rendezvous. It the interest displayed in the race be taken as any criterion of the support the Port sporting public would extend to a properly organised racing and trotting club we feel sure that in the event of a race meeting being held in the locality it would be an unqualified success. Six horses competed, and the handicaps seemed to give entire satisfaction. Mr. Hohlmán's Charlie was the favorite, and was backed at 3 to 2 on. Sir. Russell's Britannia, which is a six-year-old, was second favorite. She is a splendid looking filly, and offers of 6 to 4 against her were freely taken up. She had a concession of 850 yards in front of Charlie, and well deserved her win, while her rider is to be complimented on the excellent horsemanship displayed. The race was started at 3.30 and Britannia soon over took Folly and kept her lead to the finish. Mr.

Aldred's McAllum was running a pretty race and was fast closing on Britannia at the past. The results were:-

Mr. Russell's BRITANNIA (330 yards behind scratch) 1

Mr. Aldred's McAllum (200 yards behind scratch) 2

Mr. Purvis's Folly (scratch) 3

The first horse takes £13, the second £3, and the third £1. Mr. Geo. Bishop officiated as starter, Mr. Mallen as judge, and Messrs. Holland and McGowan as referees.

The suggestion by the journalist about having organized trotting races in Port Adelaide was acted upon although it took until November 28 1898 before the Port Adelaide Trotting Club conducted their first meeting. The press reported thus:-

"The Port Adelaide Trotting Club held a race meeting on the old Port Adelaide Course on Saturday. They were favored with excellent weather, and the attendance was good an assemblage of fully 1,000 people watching the various events. The secretary. Mr. D. J. Broderick, has every cause to be gratified with the success of his venture, and considering that it was the initial meeting of the dub, the public had no cause to complain of the arrangements of the committee. Very good fields faced the starter in all the events and with one exception there was no suspicion of anything but straight going. In the Port Handicap Race two horses belonging to Mr. W. Daley were entered. From the start Midnight cut out the pace for Gladiator and the two finished in the order named, although backers of the latter and by far bigger horse thought that they

had not had an altogether fair race for their money. The committee called the owner and jockey of Gladiator before them for an explanation, after bearing which they administered a caution.

One of the most pleasing features of the day was the total absence of disorder on the ground, and although the police were fully on the alert there was not even a noisy drunk for them to arrest. The following were the officials:- Judge, Mr. Chittleborough; starter, Mr. W. Ayers; clerk of course, Mr. H. Martin; clerk of scales, Mr. A. B. Johnson; committee, Messrs. G. Weekes, P. Murphy, J. Musson, J. Elliot, and A. Lee. The following shows starters and winners of the trotting races on a programme that also offered two Hack Races, one Pony Race and a Hurry Skurry:—

MAIDEN TROT Of 4 sovs. First horse, £3; second horse, £1. Two miles.

Mr. S. Shields's TOM (Shields) 1

Mr C Fishers Flour Bag (Hains) 2

Others: Mr. E. Emery's Gay Lad. Mr. R. Ward's Enfield, Miss McDonald's Maudie. Mr. Ward's Ticker, Mr. A. Maloney's Tomboy, Mr. C Amey's Science, Mr. A. Beckham's U.Z., Mr. G. Elliot's Streak, Messrs. Haines & Harold's Roaney, Mr. B. Cox's Lady V, and Mr. W. McAulav's Komeandaveadrink.

JERVOIS HANDICAP TROT. Of 4 sovs. First horse, £3; second horse, £1 Two miles.

Mr. W. E. Mayfield's LUCY (W. McGowan), 135 yards behind scr. 1

Mr. W. Cavanaghs Bob (Giles), 75 yards behind 2

Others: Messrs. Haines & Harrold's Roaney. Mr. A. Beckman's U.Z.. Mr. A. Hugall's Lucid, Mr. C. Amery's Science, Mr. W. Pope's Tom, Mr. Ward's Ticker, Mr. A. Hiese's Fairy. Mr. F. Webster's Mercy, Mr. J. Hann's Beauty, Miss McDonald's Maude, and Mr. E. J. Evans' Unknown.

OPEN HANDICAP TROT. Of £6 10s. First horse, £5; second horse, £1 Third horse 10s. Two and a half miles

Mr. A. Heise's FAIRY (A. Heise), scr. 1

Mr. W. E. Mayfield's Lucy (McGowan) 125 yards behind scr. 2

Mr. & Ward's Enfield (Crocket), 50 yards behind scr. 3

Others: Mr. A. Maloney's Tom Boy, 25 yards behind scr.; Mr. W. Cavanagh's Bob, 50 yards behind scr.; and E. J. Evans' Unknown, 100 yards behind scr.

Preceding the Port Adelaide Trotting Club by a couple of months was the Camden Park Trotting Club who conducted a mixed meeting at Morphetville on October 29 1898.

Mr. T. W. Babbage, manager of the Glenelg Railway Company arranged for special trains to stop at Morphetville to convey passengers to the Camden Park Trotting Club races and also for sale of tickets for the course.

Some three years earlier, however, the first country trotting club in South Australian history, the Millicent Trotting Club held their first meeting on June 24 1895 on a new course at the Recreation Reserve in fine weather.

It was reported that the meeting was most successful, that there was a good attendance, and first-class sport was witnessed.

The meeting consisted of a Maiden Hurdle Race, a Ladies Purse (gallopers), a Hack Race, the popular Cigar and Umbrella Race and two Trots, the results of which follow.

MAIDEN TROT:

Mr. Kiely's MAVAS, 1;

Mr. Patterson's Highland Chief, 2. Sixteen starters.

HANDICAP TROT:

Mr. Walker's DARKIE, 26secs 1;

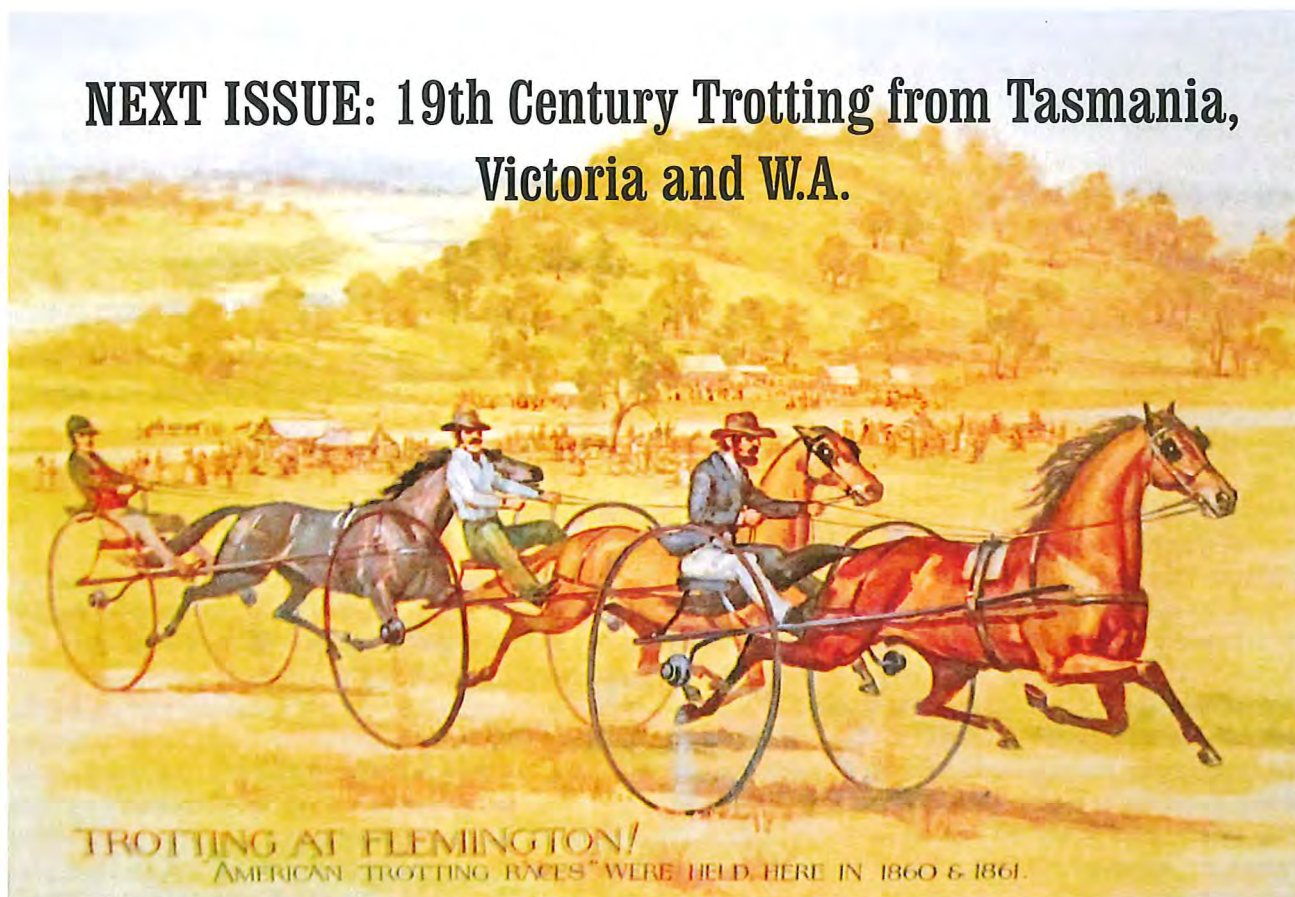
Mr. Bateman's Hattie, 26secs 2.

Twelve starters.

Thus by the time the twentieth century dawned South Australia had witnessed the creation of four trotting clubs, trotting races conducted in over forty towns and locations plus a national champion (Norah).

All that has been permanently recorded for future generations are the performances of Norah and as for the other 500 plus races and matches in South Australia during the 19th Century they remain locked away in the pages of various South Australian newspapers. Not to mention the 20,000 or so races from 1900 onwards. **HRI**

NEXT ISSUE: 19th Century Trotting from Tasmania, Victoria and W.A.





By John Peck

W.A. – The Forgotten Perth Trotting Club

Not only has Western Australia holds on to the honour of being the traditional home of night trotting in Australia and the Inter Dominion, their continuous standard of night metropolitan racing is unmatched by any State.

Same goes for tradition as Western Australia and Tasmania are the only States that has displayed any deference for the history of the sport.

Western Australia created the Inter Dominion, revived it in 1947 after a seven year absence and then produced a successful traditional Inter Dominion Carnival in 2012 amid the wreckage inflicted by the modern day Inter Dominion Events Committee. They have applied for and been granted the centenary Inter Dominion in 2036, an honour that cannot be torn asunder by the IDEC.

Collating and marketing tradition has been Alan Parker's speciality and this has been a godsend for Western Australia over the past thirty years for Alan's various databases of performance and history generating promotion as well as special events out of seemingly nothing, overall being all worth well into seven figures in publicity, marketing and crowds.

However, when it comes to the 19th Century Western Australia comes a very distant last, tailed off in fact, with the only recorded trotting history being a match race at Fremantle in 1834 and mention of some trotting races held on mixed programmes.

There is some forgotten history though and that revolves around the first Perth Trotting Club that conducted three meetings at Helena Park in June, July and August 1898.

Let's go back to the first recorded instance of horse racing in Western Australia on that was on July 20 1829 when there was a match race between two Timor ponies, however the first actual meeting took place on October 2nd 1833 and although there were no trotting races, one of the Timor ponies, Perouze, was to be part of the first recorded trotting match the following year. The papers of the day recorded the first races thus:-

"This not inaptly termed October meeting, took place on Wednesday last the 2nd inst., on the Downs near Fremantle, and presented both a novel and interesting spectacle. As the origin of racing in this Colony will probably be interesting to future chronologists, we feel it our duty to record, that the sporting world are indebted to Capt. Taylor of the Helen, who has lately imported a number of Timor Ponies, aided by Mr. C. Smith and Mr. J. Weavell, for the institution of an amusement calculated to excite a considerable emulation amongst the breeders and importers of Horses. It may be expected from the general interest which was evinced in the sports on Wednesday, that before long some steps will be taken to form periodical meetings. The spot selected for the race course has long been fixed upon as an appropriate site; it is about a mile and a half from Fremantle, on a slightly undulating plain skirting the sea, the adjoining hills affording a full view of the course; booths which were erected on the brow of the hill, with their variegated flags, the ginger-bread nut stall and the lame fiddler, contributed much to the animation of the scene. The groups of fashionably dressed ladies' and gentlemen promenading to and fro, the tilted carts, the busy din of preparation, the cry of clear the course and at length the ponies being placed side by side at the starting post, the jockies all appropriately dressed, we can assure our readers who were not fortunate enough to witness it, presented no contemptible display."

There were four races and in the third Captain Erskine's Perouse most pitted against Mr. S. G. Henty's Jack, and Mr. Scott's Grey, the winner being Grey while Perouse was uncontrollable and bolted.

Worth noting some of the pre-race entertainment - climbing a greased pole for a hat; wheeling a barrow blindfolded to a given mark and a running match.

Five months later the first recorded instance of a trotting race was reported in the press, "On Thursday morning the 20th inst., a trotting match took place on the Fremantle Race Course, distance one mile, between Captain Erskine's Perouze and Mr. Wm. Samson's well-known Roan Mare. The Roan Mare won easily, Perouze breaking. Several bets depending upon this match, it is fully expected another match will be made up. Lieut. Macleod and Mr. A. Trimmer were the umpires."

William Samson was a wealthy Englishman who came to Fremantle in 1929 aboard the Calista just two months after the founding party of Captain James Stirling arrived and later became the first Government Auctioneer. His nephew Michael (son of William's brother Lionel) later became the Mayor of Fremantle.

Two years later the Guildford races were held for the first time and an interesting programme included a race for donkeys and a stipulation that any horse/donkey who was distanced would have to contribute five shillings to the Club.

The first country race meeting in Western Australia was at York in 1843 and five years later the first meeting was held on the site of the Ascot racecourse. Neither of these meetings conducted any trotting races although at the 1845 York Races there was a private trotting match between Mr. Skinner's bay mare Beauty and Mr Sewell's grey mare Watch, which was won easily by the former.

Horses could build up a reputation through these private matches and in 1854 there was an advertisement placed by Captain Meares offering a reward for a 6YO horse of his that had strayed, the breeding of the horse being given as by Whalebone from famous trotting mare Lisa Hardy.

In fact there was very little horse racing at all in Perth in the 1850's, 1860's and 1870's with just an annual two day meeting in summer at Ascot, with a small number of meetings at Canning (commenced 1868) and Guildford (commenced 1872).

You could understand why it wasn't firing when you read that in 1877 there was hardly any grass on the Ascot track that was bedevilled with sandy patches. The patron's view of races was hindered by a hillock in the middle in the centre and there was no grandstand.

Prizemoney was ordinary by any measure and the first 100 pound (\$200) Cups in W.A. were not run in Perth but rather at York, Geraldton and Bunbury.

There were actually only 5,000 people living in Perth in 1881 but by 1891 that had increased to 8,000 and with the a new grandstand, a new branch rail line and a 250 pound Perth Cup being inaugurated in 1887, there was a dramatic and positive change.

Trotting was still an outcast activity at official meetings and in fact it was not until the Guildford Races on 1873 that a trotting race was included on an advertised programme.

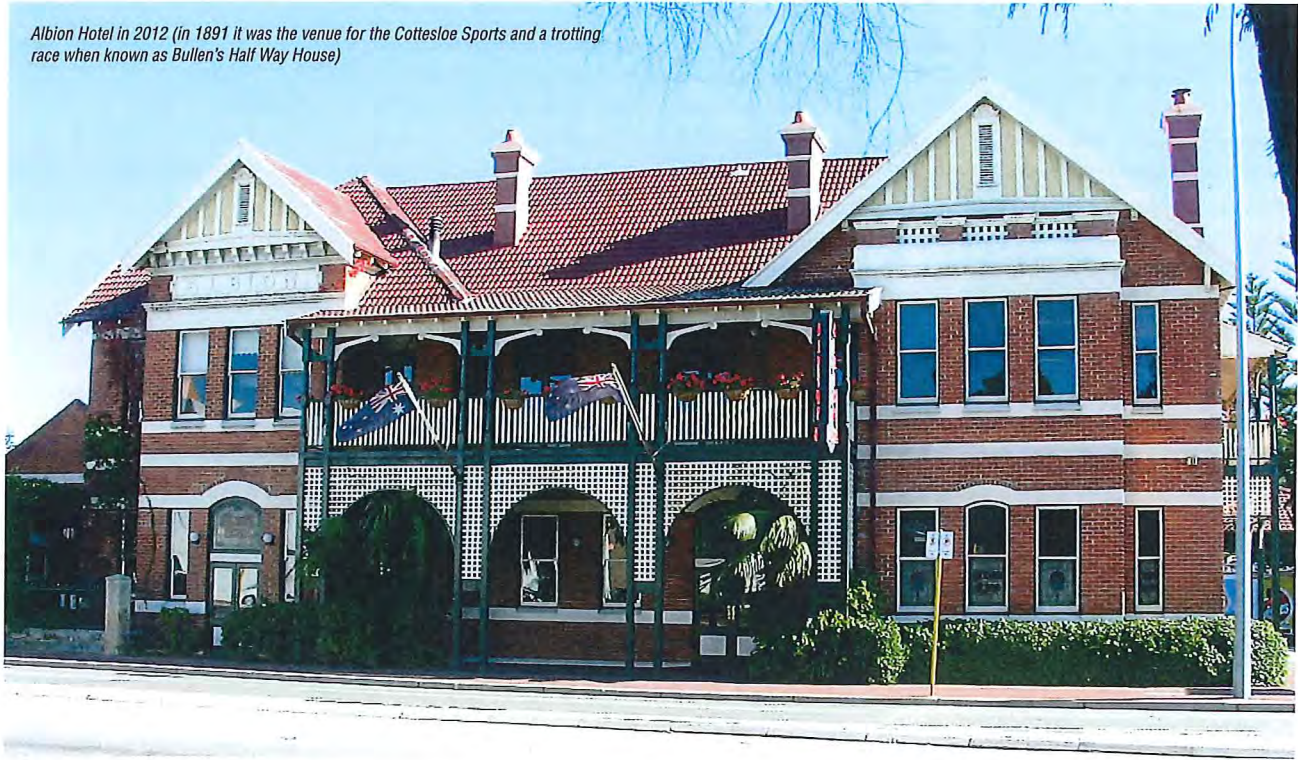
Under the surveillance of stewards T. C. Gull, S. R. Hamersley, S. J. Spurling, J. Morrison, and A. E. Growse, a trotting race, once around the course in saddle, was won by Fanny, owned by British Surgeon-Major W Lapsley.

Another avenue for trotting matches, exhibitions and occasional chariot races in the 1870's were at Briggs Halfway House hippodrome at Cottesloe, however, the next recorded instance of trotting races were at the Newcastle races. Note that Newcastle was later re-named Toodyay to avoid confusion with the Newcastle in New South Wales.

The stewards at the first Newcastle (Toodyay) races were:- E. Hamersley, J. T. Monger, Donald MacPherson, S. H. Parker, E. Dempster, S. P. Phillips, L.



Albion Hotel in 2012 (in 1891 it was the venue for the Cottesloe Sports and a trotting race when known as Bullen's Half Way House)



Lukin, and B. D. Clarkson; Starter - S. Viveash; Clerk of Course - W. Clarkson; Judge - A. E. Growse.

Details of the trot at the meeting on 2/11/1876 were as follows:-

TROTTING RACE of £5, open to all comers; distance, once round the course, or from stand to stand, (about a mile) ; heats, catch weights, entrance 10s.

Mr. Dempster's PEGGY (Captain EJ Courthope)	1	1
Mr. J. Lloyd's Poll, (owner)	2	0
Mr. John Morrell's Sultana (owner)	0	2
Mr. C. S. Monger's Slim Jim (owner)	0	0

For this race Peggy was the favorite, and any odds would have been taken. She had both heats mostly her own way, and had she not broken in the second she would have distanced all her rivals."

Early in 1877 at Wanneroo there was a trotting race over one mile that had the stewards in a bind as the papers reported – "on coming in the Stewards adjudged them to go again, as every horse had broken, and had not run according to rule.

A fresh start was therefore effected, when Mr. W.L. Gibbs' Spider came in a winner, distancing all the rest."

Trotting was once again featured at the Newcastle (Toodyay) races in 1877 with Kitty, owned by Newcastle Municipal Chairman Mr. C. S Monger, being successful.

One humorous happening from the early days involving trotting did not occur on the racetracks but rather was played out in the courts in August 1880 and involved the age-old confusion between trotting and pacing (or ambling).

"On Saturday last, the Hon. J. H. Thomas (Director of Public Works) was charged before the Fremantle police magistrate with trotting his horse over the North Fremantle Bridge, contrary to the notice in the Government Gazette.

The evidence of the policeman went to show that he was stationed at the foot of the bridge to caution drivers of vehicles and equestrians to walk their horses over, which he had done to several who crossed the bridge previous to Mr. Thomas; but believing he was thoroughly aware of the notice and acquainted with the importance of its strict observance, he did not think it necessary to repeat the caution to him. He however noticed Mr. Thomas trotting his horse, and accordingly summonsed him. Mr. Thomas explained that his horse became restive and broke into an amble, going down the hill. He urged that, as ambling is not trotting (which could be seen by reference

to the dictionary), it could not be proved that he had in any way infringed the regulations in passing over the bridge.

The policeman subsequently agreed with the version of the case given by the defendant, and the summons was accordingly dismissed. It appears to me that if a policeman cannot tell when a horse is trotting, he is not a suitable officer to put on duty at the bridge, inasmuch as he will be dragging people before the court unnecessarily, and giving endless trouble into the bargain. In the present case the information against Mr. Thomas was for "trotting." This was sworn to positively, but subsequently the policeman asserted it was only ambling. Then why did he charge the defendant with trotting?

Surely the presence of the Commissioner did not frighten him to such an extent as to render him oblivious of the nature of the original charge. Apropos: History repeats' itself. The inventor of the guillotine met with his death at its hands; there is nothing out of place, therefore, in the Director of Public Works being summonsed for transgressing the rule which he framed. "The engineer hoist with his own petard."

As was the case in all States breeders imported draught, coaching and roadster stallions to improve the quality of the local bloodstock and one of the first noticed in the newspapers was the S.A. born roadster Firemark (Fireaway – fast trotting Crouper mare).

The most famous was Merryspeed who was based at New Norcia monastery and Bay Shales (UK) (by Perfection), the first Norfolk Trotter ever imported to W.A. direct from England.

Others included the Victorian coaching stallion William Tell, the roadster stallions King of the Hills (by Oakley's Tim Whiffler, by Richmond, by Ace of Clubs), Abdallah (by Starlight), Captain Corcoran (by Achilles by Merrylegs UK), Montanburn (by Young Montrose UK), Spot II (by Crowhurst Spot NZ), Prime (by Highflyer) and Norfolk trotter Bay Shales (UK) (by Perfection) and trotters Harold (Douglas – Vermont Maid) and The Childe (by Childe Harold).

Despite all of this interest in upgrading trotting bloodstock there was not a single trotting race during the 1880's in Perth, a situation that irked one of the turf journalist who wrote in 1888, "It is a pity a Handicap Trotting Race is not included in the programme, as Messrs Price, Smith, McArdle, and Clerk are all possessed of rapid movers, the trainer of Footprint having in his stable a real clipper in the shape of a bay pony, who with a few seconds start, would lead the others a merry dance."

Nothing happened but he kept up the campaign and three years later put this contribution in the paper, "It is said that a prize of £3,000 will be offered for any trotter that can cover a mile in 2 minutes, on the straight track at Monmouth Park, New York. The trial is to come off next September, and the probable triers will be Maud S, Sunol, Axtell, Belle Hamlin, Guy and Palo Alto. By the way, can't the W. A Turf Club get up any trotting races or does Turf Club mean racing only? Trotting as a sport has taken immensely on the other side (of Australia), and there is no particular reason why a trotting race should not be of interest here."

The following year there was an advertised trot, worth 15 pounds, on a mixed athletics programme at the Cottesloe Sports Grounds at Bullen's Half Way House (later the Albion Hotel) on Proclamation Day (19th October). Organiser Jack Reany organized special trains to run from Perth and Fremantle.

The trot was welcomed with the press noting in a preview, "A special feature in the programme is the handicap trot, for which ten acceptances have been received, Mr. S. Weaver's excellent handicap bringing up to scratch ten out of eleven nominators. Little Nell has to concede a minute to Brisky, and Charlie, at 20 seconds is carrying a little money."

The field was as follows:- W. Jones bh Brickly, J. Nicholl's cm Polly Cabbage, J. Nicholl's cm Jack, C. H. Yeo's bm Kate, H. Prattley's rm Little Nell, Hummerston's bg Nipper, W. Munroe's bg Tommy, W. Higgins bg Native Cat, E. Blinco's bg Sir William, Robert Holmes' horse Billy. Nipper was successful "in good style".

If you loved trotting you certainly had to be patient for the next race was six months later at the Chidlow Wells Sports meeting which brought together the following field:- R. Hummerston's Nipper (scratch), H. Pratlley's Little Nell (20secs), F. Colbourne's Bidy (55s), H. Thressell's Bungerrorgoria (55s), W. Howell's Beeswing (55s), A. V. Cockram's Fretbly (65s), A. Young's Prince (65s)

A special reporter sent through the following report:- "The above sports took place yesterday in fine weather, the attendance being very good. The stewards were Messrs. R. Hummerston, W. B. Sexton and W. H. Woods. Messrs E. Symonds and J. H. Osborne. The Handicap Trot Race, of £15; with a sweepstake of £1 each. Distance two and a half miles. Six started. This race was won easily by Mr. Colbourne's Bidy."

A trot was held at Katanning on Boxing Day 1893 and another at Mr Moore's racetrack (near the Church bridge) in Bunbury as part of the Bunbury Cycle and Athletic Club in June 1894, although this won was for a trophy, not money.

While the Western Australian Turf Club ruled the racing world at Ascot, trotting was not going to get a look in, however, when two proprietary Clubs, the Canning Park Turf Club and Helena Vale Turf Club, were formed there was a glimmer of hope.

There was actually two trots conducted by the Canning Park Turf Club on Coronation Day 1894, a Maiden and a Time Handicap, both over two miles. The fields and results are shown below and George Cleverly, who won the first ever Perth Cup for thoroughbreds, was successful in the Time Handicap Trot:-

Maiden Trot: Mr. H. Gunstan's Wandering Billy, Mr. G. Bayley's The West, Mr J. Stephens ns Pearlash, Mr. Darlot's Gladstone, Mr. W. Adams Fretelby, Mr. C. Colbourne's Badger, Mr. A. Sainsbury's Dolly, Mr. J. H. Smith's Teddy.

The placegetters were THE WEST (Boyd) - 1; Teddy (Cleverly) - 2; Pearlash (McPherson) -3. Margins: Won by five lengths. Time: 8m 43s.

Time Handicap Trot.: Mr. G. Bayley's The West, Mr. J. Stephens ns Pearlash, Mr. H. Darlots Gladstone, Mr. H. Hummerston's Bidy, Mr. C. Colbourne's Badger, Mr. A. Sainsbury's Dolly, Mr. J. H. Smith's Teddy.

The placegetters were TEDDY, scr (Cleverly) - 1; Bidy, 20secs bhd (Hummerston) - 2; Pearlash, scr (McPherson) - 3. Margins: Won by four lengths. Time: 7m 55s

In between these races and the next Canning Park meeting on St Patricks Day 1895, there was a three mile trot worth 20 pounds run at Northam on December 18, 1894.

That St Patricks Day trot attracted increased interest in the Trotting Race and this was reflected by the turf journalist putting forward his 1 - 2 - 3 tips for the event. He selected Jack, Bess and The West.

The field for the two mile trot was:- Mr. G. Bayley's The West, Mr. J. Stephens ns Pearlash, Mr. H. Darlots Gladstone, Mr. H. Hummerston's Bidy, Mr H. Blinco's Bess, Mr. C. Colbourne's Badger, Mr. A. Sainsbury's Dolly, Mr. J. H. Smith's Teddy. The results of the race follows.

Time Handicap Trot, of £20, with a sweepstake of £3 added. Two miles.

Mr. R. Hummerston's blkh. JACK, 45secs bhd (Hummerston) 1

Mr. H. Blinco's blkm Bess, 25secs bhd (Balharry) 2

Mr. J. Grave's bg The West 35secs bhd (Grave) 3

Bess, by virtue of her start was despatched first, followed by The West and ten seconds later by Jack. The West appeared disinclined to start, and was passed by the limit horse almost immediately. Bess broke several times, and trotted in the lead for the first mile, followed by Jack about a dozen lengths away with the pony a similar distance last. Passing the stand, Jack closed on Bess, and the pony lessened the distance 'between himself and Jack. The last named, then secured the lead, closely followed by West, and Bess was left in the rear. West, however, broke and lost, considerable ground and on recovering, he was again left in the rear. Jack trotted home an easy winner with out being called upon to go, while West's chances were destroyed by persistent 'breaks', Time, 7 min. 18 secs.

The trotters, or rather the working trotters, did compete in a race on the Ascot racecourse in May 1895 as part of the Cabmen and Carriers Grand Demonstration Picnic and Sports in what was quite an occasion.

All Cabs and Carts assembled opposite the Railway Station, in Wellington-street, at 9 a.m. and then formed part of a procession, headed by the Town Band, through the main City streets.

Once they reached Ascot there was a host of activities including three races, a Cabmen's Cup over one mile, a Cabmen's Trot over two miles and a Carrier's Trot over one mile.

On the same day at Katanning there was a Trotting Race that was won by Mr. Cook's Captain Cook who defeated Mr. Taylor's Granger and seven others.

Still there was no organized trotting and it was not until February 1896 that another race was reported, this time at the Sawyers Valley Races when Mr Palmer's Acrobat defeated Mr. Hummerston's Jack in a two mile handicap.

In the 1890's the gold rush commenced at Kalgoorlie and the Eastern State experience of gold, followed by thousands of people, hundreds of pubs and sporting contests was duplicated.

There was a massive gymkhana on the Prince of Wales birthday (9th November) in 1896 and the result of the inaugural trot saw the owners of the major livery business in Kalgoorlie successful:-

TROTTING HANDICAP - Of 6 sovs (with sulkies), all to winner. Horses that break for more than two lengths must turn around. One mile and a half.

Kennedy and Brougham's gg NAP, 30secs bhd (Kennedy) 1

Mr H. Lovelace's brg The Mouse, 10secs bhd 2

Mr F. Wittenoom's gg Rowdy, 6secs bhd 3

Mr J. Cahill's brg Jimmy, 15secs bhd 0

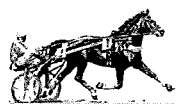
Nap had no difficulty in scoring a win. He trotted cleanly all the way, and passed his three rivals, who all broke at times, without being fully extended, winning ultimately by 50 yards.

Another long wait until a new club, the Lower Blackwood (now known as Nannup) Race Club, conducted a trotting race on March 20 1897 with Jessie winning from Kisber.

Two months later trotting received a splash in the newspapers, albeit for controversy rather than acclaim, over a match race at Canning Park racecourse.

With a prominent headline - "A Trotting Match - An Unpopular Decision - Declared No Race" the following report appeared:-

A Trotting match for 65 pounds between Mr. McGillicuddy's mare Ivy and Mr. Wolfe's Nellie, over a course of a mile and a half, took place on the



Canning Park racecourse on Saturday afternoon in the presence of about a couple of hundred people, the majority being city sportsmen who drove out to witness the match. Mr. Crews acted as starter and Mr. Hummerston as judge.

The mares got away together and Ivy was the first to break, which allowed Nellie to gain a good lead, which, however, Ivy gradually decreased and between the six and five furlong posts Mr. McGillicuddy's mare was trotting so well that it appeared most probable she would overtake Nellie, who had then a lead of over a hundred yards. However, not until the straight was reached did Ivy catch Nellie, and amid excitement Mr. McGillicuddy's mare caught her opponent a hundred yards from the post, which she passed over twenty yards in front of Nellie, who broke badly at the finish.

The spectators were naturally all of opinion that Ivy had won, as she had passed the post with such a clear lead, and it came as a surprise to them to learn, several minutes after the winner had returned to the saddling paddock, that Mr. Hummerston had declared the contest "no race" on the ground that Ivy had galloped at various parts of the contest.

The decision was anything but satisfactory and a row of a nature which the Canning Park Turf Club proprietary would do well to prevent a repetition of upon their course, took place. Very naturally, the owner of the mare Ivy was greatly aggrieved at the decision of the judge, which was most unpopular.

Mr. McGillicuddy's version of the affair is as follows:- "As the start Mr. Hummerston was appointed judge and Mr. Crews starter. At the fall of the flag both horses got away together, but my mare broke badly after a very short distance had been traversed, and lost considerable ground before she was got into her stride again. Wolfe's mare, consequent on this, increased her lead materially, my mare not settling down to her work at all well. Five furlongs from home Ivy started to trot splendidly, and rapidly overhauled Nellie, who was about 160yds. ahead at this stage.

Trotting with a fine swinging stride, Ivy passed Wolfe's mare in the straight and beat her by fully 30 yards, Nellie breaking badly and galloping the last hundred yards under the tape. After the race was over I went out into the straight to bring the mare in, at the same time asking the judge what his verdict was, and he replied, "Your mare has won. By jove, isn't she fast?" I then took my mare to the saddling paddock and was rubbing her down when a friend of mine came rushing down and told me I had better go up to the stewards' stand, as there was some dispute. I said to him, "There can't be any dispute; the judge has given his decision. On being pressed by another friend I went up and was astonished when asked to appoint a referee. I then asked "What for?" and Wolfe replying said "The judge has not yet given his decision." I said, "He has, and there are two or three gentlemen here who heard him. One gentleman who had heard the judge give his decision to me said that he had heard him say that my mare had won, remarking at the time that he had laid odds on Wolfe's mare, and considered that he had lost his money fairly, and intended paying over.

The judge then gave a second decision, declaring it a "No race." I asked him on what grounds was this based, "Because your mare galloped nearly all the way". This, as almost everyone on the course would testify, was palpably in error, as my mare only broke twice, once at the start for about ten yards and again when she had gone about seven furlongs, for about the same distance, losing considerably in each case. I was so disgusted with the whole proceedings that I approached Mr. Wolfe and asked if he would agree to the withdrawal of the stake moneys, and he said he would. I then offered to trot him the same distance under the same conditions in half an hour's time for 100 pounds a side, which he promptly refused to do. I have attended numerous trotting races in the Eastern colonies and never before saw such an unjust "decision" as that given the second time.

That was the end of trotting at Canning Park and indeed in Perth for over twelve months, however, incredibly the first trotting club in Western Australia's history arose from the mire.

Sporting.

TROTTING and PONY RACES, To be held at HELENA VALE RACECOURSE, SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1893.

MAIDEN TROT.—Of 15 sovs. Nomination 10s.
BELLEVUE SWEEPSTAKE.—A sweepstake of 2 sovs., with 10 sovs. added.
HELENA VALE SADDLE TROT.—A sweepstake of 2 sovs., with 10 sovs. added.
PONY HANDICAP TROT.—Of 10 sovs. For ponies 14 hands and under. Nomination 10s.
CAB TROT.—Of 10 sovs. For bond side cab horses. Nomination 10s.
HACK RACE.—Of 10 sovs. For bond side hacks. Nomination 10s.

To be run under the Australian Trotting Association Rules.

NOMINATIONS close at 6 p.m., THURSDAY, 25th MAY, at 9 Lombard Chambers, Perth. Fee must accompany nomination.

D. TURNER,
Hon. Sec. Perth Trotting Club.

PERTH TROTTING CLUB. TROTTING and PONY RACES

To be held
HELENA VALE RACECOURSE,
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1893.
Special Trains will leave Perth for Bellevue on day of races. For horses, 11.30 a.m. For passengers, 12.15, 12.30, 1.10 p.m. Return from Bellevue, 5.7, 5.20, 5.30, 5.55 p.m.
D. TURNER, Hon. Sec. Perth Trotting Club.

The Perth Trotting Club was created by some interested persons involved with the Helena Vale operation and held its inaugural meeting on 18th June, 1898.

The first programme comprised a Maiden Trot, of 15 sovs, a Pony Handicap Trot, of 10 sovs, the Helena Vale Saddle Trot, a sweepstake of 2 sovs each, with 15 sovs. added, a Cab Trot, of 10 sovs, a Hack Race of 10 sovs and a Bellevue Sweepstake, of 2 sovs. each, with 10 sovs. added. Special trains from Perth were arranged for the meeting - for horses, 11.30; for passengers, 12.15, 12.30, and 1.10 p.m.

That inaugural meeting went off satisfactorily despite some poor weather and the track being rather heavy and difficult for those racing in sulkies. The Press the following day reported thus:-

"The inaugural meeting of the Perth Trotting Club was held on the Helena Vale racecourse on Saturday afternoon, the dull weather having an effect on the attendance, there being at most 250 people present. Trotting is a sport which has attractions for only a comparatively small section of the local sporting community, but it has been promoted here by a number of persons with the interests of the sport at heart, and their intention to conduct the meetings of the Perth T.C. on proper lines is an initial augury for the success of trotting, though the meager attendance at Saturday's meeting was not encouraging.

Trotting has had its day in the Eastern colonies. New Zealand being the one place where it now flourishes, and as a first effort to introduce in this colony a sport that, properly controlled, might "catch on" and experience a boom, if only a temporary one, Saturday's meeting was a promising one."

The trotting witnessed was generally good, the action of Sweet Lavender, Billy Boy, Maud (who won a double) and Richmond, being much admired.

Sweet Lavender's gait, a free, easy and swinging trot, particularly impressed the spectators, and Mr. Harrington's mare, who is an importation from the Adelaide (S.A.) stable of Mr. W. Mallen, a well-known trotting enthusiast, was installed favourite in the three events she started for.

Sweet Lavender (the favourite) won the Maiden Trot by three-quarters of a furlong from Palo Alto; Billy Boy (the favourite) finished first, half a furlong in front of Pia, in the Pony Handicap Trot; and Maud accounted for the Helena Vale Saddle Trot by half a furlong from Palo Alto, who was second, five lengths in front of the favourite Sweet Lavender.

A fine stamp of a strong harness trotter in Richmond was made an odds on favourite for the Cab Trot, for bona fide cab horses, and he won by a quarter of a furlong from Mr. Svengali's Trilby.

The greatest outsider of the day to score a win was Paddy in the Hack Race, for which the stewards would not accept several of those nominated as approved hacks. Paddy won easily from Turpin, who was badly ridden, and the largest dividend of the day, £3 3s., was returned to his few backers. Maud furnished a surprise in the last event of the day; proving equal to defeating the favourite, Sweet Lavender in the Bellevue Sweepstakes.

The officials of the day are deserving of commendation for the satisfactory performance of their respective duties. The chief ones were:- Judge. Mr. R. Holmes; starter, Mr. E. G. Harding; and hon. sec, Mr. David Turner.

The ten shilling totalisator worked in the enclosure received fair patronage, about £150 passing through. Following are details of the results :

MAIDEN TROT - One and a half miles.

£3. Mr. W. Herrington's chma SWEET LAVENDER, saddle (W. J. Molan) 1

£1. Mr. Young's brga Palo Alto, saddle (Joe Londonelly) 2

£1 10s. Mr. R. Wolfe's bh6 The Childe, harness (J. Nesbitt) 3

Also started: £1, Mr. R. Hummerston's bga Doctor, harness (Owner).

Sweet Lavender had settled down into a nice trot, upon reaching the stewards' stand, and entering upon the turn to the back she went to the front and stayed there, winning very easily by three quarters of a furlong from Palo Alto, who was two lengths in front of The Childe.

Time, 4min. 40sec.

PONY HANDICAP TROT - One and a half miles.

£18 10s. Mr. G. Davis' skblgd BILLY BOY, harness, 10secs bhd, 147lb. (W. J. Molan) 1

£2. Mr F. J. Wimbridge's rga Pin, saddle, 6secs, 134lb. (Owner) 2

£3 10s Mr. J. Dixon's crga Jack, saddle, 6secs, 134lb (N. McColl) 3

Also started:- £2, Mr. A. Thomson's bma Lucy, saddle, 6secs, 136lb. (Owner).

Billy Boy headed Lucy as they passed the stewards' stand, Pin lying third, and Jack fourth. Billy Boy increased his lead in every furlong, and won by half a furlong, pulling up. Time, 6min. 38sec.

HELENA VALE SADDLE TROT - One mile and a quarter.

£4. Mr. R. Wolfe's bma MAUD, (J. Nesbitt) 1

£1. Mr. Young's brga Palo Alto, a. (J. Londonelly) 2

£15 10s. Mr. W. Herrington's chma Sweet Lavender (W. J. Molan) 3

Also started: £4 Mr. T. Lander's bga Sarsfield, (owner); £1 10s. Mr. H. Hummerston's blkha Midnight, (J. Gebert); £10. Mr. R. Hummerston's bga Doctor (Overton).

Maud was quickest to get going, Sweet Lavender being remarkably slow in commencing. Before a quarter of a mile was traversed Maud was out several lengths in front, and, trotting freely, Mr. Wolfe's mare won in very easy fashion from Palo Alto by half a furlong, Sweet Lavender finishing five lengths off third. Doctor finished fourth, then Midnight, and Sarsfield last. Time, 3min. 47 1-5sec. The rider of Sweet Lavender reported that when at the back of the course he had lost the lead bag from under his saddle.

CAB TROT - One mile and a quarter.

£16 10s. Mr. H. Clifford's bga RICHMOND, harness (D. Robinson) 1

£7. Mr. Svengali's bma Trilby, harness, (Svengali) 2

£4. Mr. F. Willis' bma Sissy, harness, (Owner) 3

Also started. £3. Mr. J. M. Shank's bm6 Pigeontoe, harness (W. Rohan);

£7 10s. Mr. Wm. O'Connor's bma Lottie, saddle, (T. Reynolds).

Richmond took the lead at the start, and won as he liked by a quarter of a furlong from Trilby, who was 10 lengths clear of Sissy. Lottie was fourth, and Pigeontoe Last. Time, 3min. 26 1-5sec.

BELLEVUE SWEEPSTAKES - Two miles.

£15 10s. Mr. R. Wolfe's bma MAUD, saddle (W. J. Molan) 1

£33 10s. Mr. W. Herrington's chma Sweet Lavender, harness (J. Nesbitt) 2

£14 Mr. R. Hummerston's chga Planet, harness (S. Foley) 3

Also started: £6, Mr. T. Lander's bga Sarsfield, aged, (Owner)

The four were at first started from the wrong post and after reaching the straight were stopped and sent back to be started again. Maud took the lead after entering upon the back stretch and trotting well, won easily by twelve lengths from Sweet Lavender, who beat Planet by twenty lengths. Maud's time was 6 min. 19 4-5sec. Sweet Lavender's time 6min. 25 1-5sec

Robert Wolfe, owner of dual winner Maud, was a prominent Perth identity and in 1898 he opened the City Hotel that he had erected on the corner of Murray and King Streets.

Another hotel licensee heavily involved in trotting at the time was Sweet Lavender's owner Walter Harrington, mine host at the Criterion Hotel.

After a drought of opportunities came a flood as the second meeting of the Perth Trotting Club was held the following month on July 30 under the control of the following officials:-

Stewards: Messrs T. W. Hardwick, A. H. Axford, T. F. Elliott, J. L. Donaldson, J. W. Smythe, E. D. Campbell and P. A. Connolly. Judge: Mr. R. Holmes. Patrol Judges: Messrs. W. Macpherson and E. G. Harding. Starter: Mr. S. J. Chipper. Clerk of Course: Mr. E. G. Harding. Clerk of Scales: Mr. T. Norman. Handicapper. Mr. W. Smith. Hon. Sec. Mr. D. Turner.

The press reported thus:-

"The second (July) meeting in connection with the Perth Trotting Club was held on the Helena Vale racecourse on Saturday afternoon. Though the weather was gloriously fine, the attendance was particularly meagre, barely 200 people being present. The sport proved interesting enough, though there was but one finish bordering upon exciting, that for the Hack Race, over five furlongs, which Mrs. H. L. Brookman's Jack, who won a welter event at a Canning Park meeting last year, won by half a neck from Paddy. By Bathurst from Jewess, the winner, a handsome bay, was the only one of the field of five voted to be possessed of a chance of winning, and he started a warm odds-on favourite. Whalebone, who had not previously won in this colony, accounted for the Maiden Trot easily; Lucinda, who started on scratch, had a similarly easy win in the Perth Time Handicap Trot; Lily won the Pony Handicap Trot all the way; Moora, a hot favourite, won the Guildford Hack easily; and Palo Alto



City Hotel was run by 1890's leading owner Robert Wolfe



PERTH TROTting CLUB.

HELENA VALE RACECOURSE.

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1898.

PROGRAMME.

MAIDEN TROT.—Of 15 sovs.; second horse to receive 3 sovs. out of the stake. For horses that have never won an advertised trotting race in W.A. Drivers to carry 145lb., exclusive of harness. Riders to carry 154lb., saddle inclusive, 11b. allowed for the bridle. Horses 14.2 and under allowed 1st. Distance one and a half miles. Entrance fee, 15s.

HACK RACE.—Of 10 sovs.; second horse 1 sov. out of the stake. For horses that have been used as "hacks" since 1st January, 1898. To carry 10st. or over. Distance, five furlongs. Entrance fee, 10s.

PERTH TIME HANDICAP TROT.—A sweepstake of 2 sovs., with 20 sovs. added; second horse to receive 3 sovs. out of the stake. Saddle or harness. Drivers to carry 145lb., exclusive of harness. Riders to carry 154lb., saddle inclusive, 11b. allowed for the bridle. Horses 14.2 and under allowed 1st. The winner of any trot after the declaration of handicaps to be penalised 10sec. Distance, two miles. Nomination, 10s.; acceptance, 10s.

PONY HANDICAP TROT.—Of 10 sovs. For horses 14.2 and under. Second horse to receive 1 sov. out of the stake. (To be measured by Mr. Sam Grimwood, St. George's Terrace, Perth, prior to day of race). Drivers to carry 119lb., exclusive of harness. Riders to carry 126lb., saddle inclusive. Horses 14.0 and under allowed 7lb.; 11b. allowed for the bridle. Distance, one and a half miles. Entrance fee, 10s.

GUILDFORD HACK RACE.—Of 10 sovs.; second horse to receive 1 sov. out of the stake. For bona fide hacks that have never started in a race (other than a hack race). To carry 10st. or over. The winner of any hack race since 1st June, 1898, to carry 14lb. extra. Distance, four furlongs. Entrance fee, 10s.

THE VALE TIME HANDICAP TROT.—Of 30 sovs.; second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of the stake. Saddle or harness. Riders to carry 154lb., saddle inclusive. Drivers to carry 145lb., exclusive of harness. The winner of any trot after the declaration of handicap to be penalised 10sec. Horses 14.2 and under allowed 1st.; 11b. allowed for the bridle. Distance, three miles. Nomination, 15s.; acceptance, 15s.

To be run under the rules of the Australian Trotting Association. Nominations and entries will be received up to 5 p.m., Tuesday, 19th July, at 9 Lombard-chambers, St. George's Terrace, Perth. No nomination will be accepted unless accompanied by Nomination or Entrance Fee. Handicaps will be declared at 2 p.m., Friday, 22nd July. Final payments due at 5 p.m., Monday, 25th July. All horses not then scratched will be considered acceptors, and their owners held liable for the balance. Certificates of height issued by Mr. Sam Grimwood, the official measurer to the club. No other certificate will be recognised.

D. TURNER,

Hon. Secretary, Perth Trotting Club.

brought the sport to a close by winning the Vale Time Handicap Trot, in which Lucinda would have pressed him very closely, and might possibly have won, had she not broken badly in the last half mile. During the afternoon £151 went through the ten shilling totalisator worked in the enclosure.

MAIDEN TROT—One mile and a half Of 15 sovs.; second 3 sovs. from stake. For all horses that have never won an advertised race in W.A. Drivers to carry 145lb. exclusive of harness; riders to carry 154lb., saddle included.

Mr. R. Hummerston's chga WHALEBONE (A. H. Gillies) 1

Mr. B. Fish's bg6 Ben (S. Newman) 2

Mr. R. Wolfe's chm6 Nellie (Nesbitt) 3

Other starters: Mr. M. O'Connell's Lottie (Cosgrove), Mr. E. Ingram's Dolly (late Barwon) (F. Boyd), Mr. L. L. Cowen's Go Along (Martin), Mr. H. Hummerston's Midnight (J. B. Gebert).

Whalebone headed Ben and Nellie half a mile from home and came in an easy winner by about three lengths in 4min. 47 2-5 sec; Ben's time being 4min. 49 1-5 sec. Midnight finished fourth.

PERTH TIME HANDICAP TROT—Two miles

A sweepstake of 2 sovs., with 20 sovs. added; second horse 3 sovs. From stake. Drivers to carry 145lb. harness exclusive; riders, 154lb., saddle inclusive. Horses 14.2 and under allowed 14lb.

Mr. N. Gilbert's gma LUCINDA, harness, scr (W. Whelan) 1

Mr. Young's brga Palo Alto, saddle, 12secs bhd (J. Londonelly) 2

Mr. B. Wolfe's bma Maud, saddle, 18secs (J. B. Gebert) 3

Other starters: Mr. W. Herrington's Sweet Lavender, 15secs (F. Malone), Mr. T. Lander's Sarsfield, 10secs (Owner), Mr. E. Wolfe's bh6 The Childe, 7secs (W. Molan), Mr. E. Hummerston's bga Doctor, scr (Leadbeater), Mr. L. L. Cowen's bga Go Along, scr (Mr. E. Cookson).

Lucinda was leading as they went past the enclosure for the first time, The Childe lying second, Palo Alto, Maud and Sweet Lavender next as named. Lucinda, who trotted very freely, was never caught and won easily by fully ten lengths, in 6min 3 3-5th sec, Palo Alto's time being 6min. 8 2-5th sec. Sweet Lavender was fourth, finishing on Maud's quarters, with The Childe fifth, almost up with her. Sarsfield was sixth and Doctor last. Go Along, proving fractious, was pulled up.

PONY HANDICAP TROT—One mile and a half

Of 10 sovs. For horses 14.2 and under. Second horse 1 sov. from stake.

Drivers to carry 119lb., exclusive of harness. Riders to carry 126lb, saddle inclusive.

Mr. R. Wolfe's bma LILY, 5secs bhd., saddle (W Molan) 1

Mr. J. Londonelly 's brha Blacklock, 5secs, saddle (Traylen) 2

Mr. G. Davis' pbdga Billy Boy, 12secs, harness (owner) 3

Other starters: Mr. E. Hummerston's Nobbs, 3secs (A. H. Gillies); Mr. D. Williams' bga Mauri, scr (Foley).

Lily went to the front at once and stayed there throughout, winning by thirty lengths from Blacklock, who was fifty lengths in front of Billy Boy. Time, 5min. 19 1-5sec

THE VALE TIME HANDICAP TROT—Three miles

Of 30 sovs., second 5 sovs. from stake. Saddle or harness. Riders to carry 154lb., saddle inclusive. Drivers to carry 145lb. exclusive of harness. Three miles.

Mr. Young's bga PALO ALTO, saddle, 17secs bhd. (Joe Londonelly) 1

Mr. N. Gilbert's bma Lucinda, scr, saddle (W. Whelan) 2

Mr. R. Wolfe's bh6 The Childe, 10secs, saddle (W. Molan) 3

Other starters: Mr. R. Wolfe's bma Maud, saddle, 23secs (Nesbitt), Mr. W. Herrington's bma Sweet Lavender, saddle, 20secs (F. Malone), Mr. T. Lander's Sarsfield, harness, 15secs (owner), Mr. R. Hummerstone's Whalebone, saddle, 25secs (Cosgrove), Mr. B. Fish's Ben, harness, scr.

Passing the stand the first time round the order was Ben, The Childe, Lottie, Lucinda, Palo Alto, Maud, Sweet Lavender, Sarsfield, Whalebone, and the second time round Ben was still in front clear of The Childe, close behind whom

were Lucinda and Palo Alto. Palo Alto went to the front along the back, Lucinda lying close to him. In the last half-mile Lucinda broke badly, and deprived herself of all chance of victory. Though she made a determined effort to catch the leader, she was not successful, Palo Alto winning by five or six lengths in 9min 13 2-5sec, Lucinda's time being 9min 16 2-5sec. The Childe was a fair third, Ben, Maud, Sarsfield, Sweet, Lavender and Whalebone finishing as named.

Another meeting was conducted on August 20 and the better weather brought an increase in crowd numbers as did the richest ever trotting event seen in Perth, a 400 sovereign match race between Sweet Lavender and Lucinda, which was to have a controversial aftermath when Mr Gilbert was disqualified for not paying over the stake. One paper reported thus on the meeting:-

"The third meeting in connection with the Perth Trotting Club was held on Saturday at Helena Vale, when there was a fair attendance. The course was in a much better condition than many persons anticipated. The weather, although threatening at noon, cleared in the afternoon, and the outing was enjoyable. The chief event on the card was a match between Sweet Lavender and Lucinda for £400, over two miles.

Great interest was taken in the match, and a large sum of money changed hands. Backers had the better of the bookmakers. - The programme was carried through in good time. Mr. Paddy Connolly (an Associate of the W.A. Racing Industry Hall of Fame), who officiated as starter (in the absence of Mr. Chipper), got his fields away fairly well, and Mr. Holmes's decisions as judge were promptly and accurately, given. The secretary, Mr. Turner, had made complete and satisfactory arrangements."

Another paper was not quite as complimentary making particular mention of the facilities for the public:- "The recent heavy rains had the effect of reducing the enclosure and approaches to the Helena Vale racecourse on Saturday, on the occasion of the third meeting of the Perth Trotting Club, to a sloppy and disagreeable condition. After wading through swampy ground from the Bellevue siding to this course, a distance of a quarter of a mile, those of the patrons of the meeting who were not fortunate enough to be admitted to the members' stand were obliged to stand about in the mud during the whole of the day. Though the rain had rendered matters so unfavourable in this respect, the track itself was not seriously affected, and the going was easier than could have been expected under the conditions. The attendance showed an increase on previous assemblages at trotting meetings, but they will need to be considerably augmented before the club can expect to leap any profits." The following are the results:-

TROTting MATCH for 400 sovs. Two miles.

Mr. W. Herrington's SWEET LAVENDER (Molan) 1

Mr. N. Gilbert's Lucinda (Whelan) 2

Betting : 6 to 4 on Lucinda, even money Sweet Lavender.

The pair kept together for a furlong, when Sweet Lavender broke, and lost four lengths. As they swung round the bend into the straight Lucinda was leading by a couple of lengths. Below the distance Whelan took his mount on to the hard going in the centre of the course. This enabled Molan on Sweet Lavender (who kept the inside running) to get on even terms. Passing the stand Sweet Lavender was a neck in front of Lucinda. At the mile post Lucinda got her head in front, and at seven furlongs was leading by a length. Sweet Lavender then made a move up and got alongside of the grey (who broke) in a few strides. She then came right away, and never left the issue in doubt, winning in a hollow fashion by a hundred yards. Time, 6min. 5secs

WOODBIDGE TIME TROT, of 10 sovs. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Young's PALO ALTO, 17secs bhd (J Londonelly) 1

Mr. Ingrain's Dolly (late Barwon) 15secs (Boyd) 2

Mr. Fysh's Ben, 10secs (Newman) 3

Other starters : Lily, scratch (Molan), May, 10secs (Cummins), Midnight, 10secs (Gebert) ; Richmond, 10secs (Campbell).

Lily had hardly settled down before the 10sec. division were let go. The pony took them along at a pretty smart pace for the first six furlongs, and

then broke badly. Dolly, who was close up, rushed to the front, Palo Alto, Ben, and Lily following in the order named. Palo Alto passed Dolly at the half-mile post, and came round the bend into the straight with a ten lengths' lead. No alteration took place up the straight, Palo Alto winning by fifteen lengths, Dolly second and Ben third. Time, 3min. 49sec. Dividend, £11 5s.

VICTORIA TIME HANDICAP TROT, of 10 sovs. Two miles.

Mr. Herrington's SWEET LAVENDER, 20sec. bhd (Wm Molan) 1

Other starters: Nellie, scratch (Nesbitt), Richmond, 10secs (Campbell), Whalebone, 20secs (Gillies), Lucinda, 20secs (Whelan).

Nellie led her field as the straight was reached the first time. At the distance Sweet Lavender and Lucinda shot past her. Passing the stand Sweet Lavender appeared to shirk it, and Molan had to shake her up. Going out of the straight she settled down in real earnest, leaving her field as if they were standing. She trotted in brilliant style, never making a mistake, and won in the easiest fashion, distancing her field. Time, 6min. 26 4-5sec. Dividend, £1 9s.

YALE TIME HANDICAP TROT, of 15 sovs. Three miles.

Mr. R. Wolfe's THE CHILDE, 10secs bhd (Wm Molan) 1

Mr. Yang's Palo Alto, 35secs (J Londonelly) 2

Mr. B. Fysh's Ben, 10secs (Newman) 3

Other starters: Lily, scr (Sorenson); Dolly, 15secs (Nesbitt), Whalebone, 20secs (Gillies), Lucinda, 20secs (Whelan).

Lily, on scratch, would not trot a yard. Ben, on the 10secs mark, was leading coming into the straight the first time round, followed by The Childe, Dolly, and Whalebone. At the distance The Childe passed Ben. As they passed the stand the first time the positions were The Childe, Ben, Dolly, Whalebone, Lucinda, and Palo Alto. At the back of the course The Childe had increased his lead, and Palo Alto improved his position, running into the fourth place. As they came round the bend into the straight the second time The Childe was still at the head of affairs, followed by Ben, Dolly, and Palo Alto, the others being hopelessly out of it. Passing the stand, the second time round The Childe was leading Ben by fifteen lengths, Dolly being three lengths behind Ben, and Palo Alto close up. At the seven-furlong post the last named improved his position, running into the third place. At the half-mile post the son of Childe Harold had the race won. Palo Alto reversed positions with Ben, and gained the second money. Time, 9min. 11 4-5sec. Dividend, £1 1s.

That meeting was the last all trotting meeting in Perth in the 19th century with the sport not provided an opportunity to race in the warmer summer months when the Helena Vale public facilities had been upgraded massively, so much so that ladies attended in significant numbers.

There were, however, single trotting handicaps on mixed programmes for a while at Helena Vale, more often than not being two mile handicaps, the first two being won by ex Victorians Welcome Jack and Sarsfield.

TIME HANDICAP TROT (17-12-1898)

Of 40 sovs - Two miles.

£1 10s. Mr. J. Matheson's rnga WELCOME JACK, 40secs bhd (J. Matheson) 1

£32. Mr. A. Carlisle's blkga Jack, 20 secs (J. Nesbitt) 2

£1 Mr. H. Thompson's pbdga Billy Boy, scr (F. McNamara) 3

Other starters:-10s Richmond (a) 5secs (R. Egan), £6, Sarsfield (a) 10secs (J. Ryan), £1, Whalebone (a) 22secs (R. Hummerston), £8 Sweet Lavender (a) 25secs (H. Molan), £1 10s., Maud (late Village Beauty) (a) 32secs (G. Boyd), £2 Tinker (a) 40secs (C. Leadbeater), £5, The Childe (a) 40secs (W. Molan), Nil, Black Bess (a) 40secs (E. Reynolds).

Billy Boy had maintained his handicap lead up to the time of passing the stand the first time. Jack lying second, with Richmond close on him, Welcome Jack, going well, running fourth. Along the back Jack headed Billy Boy, and Welcome Jack almost immediately did the same. Jack continued in the lead till within five furlongs of home when he broke, and Welcome Jack passed him, and, going easily, the last named came home an. easy winner, pulling up by ten lengths from Jack, who broke inside the distance and walked in second, Billy Boy, fifteen lengths away, just beating Whalebone for third place. Maud was fifth, and then



finished The Childe, Richmond and Sweet Lavender, while Black Bess was half a mile behind last. Winner's time, 6min. 5 4-5sec.; actual trotting time, 5min 29sec.

TIME HANDICAP TROT (04-02-1899) Of 40 sovs – Two miles

£1 10s. Mr. T. F. Elliott's bga SARSFIELD, 5secs bhd (J. Nesbit) 1

£9 Mr. J. Matheson's brga Welcome Jack, 50 secs (J. Matheson) 2

£2 10s. Mr. A. Carlisle's blkga Jack, 23secs (D. Williams) 3

Other starters: £1, Billy Boy (a) 5secs in front (F. McNamara), nil, Dolly (a) 15secs bhd (R. Egan), nil, Whalebone (a) 18secs (T. Lander), £2 10s., Sweet Lavender (a) 18secs (S. Matheson), £3 10s., Maud (a) 20secs (F. Boyd), £1 10s., The Childe (a) 25secs (W. J. Molan), £3 10s., Tinker (a) 33secs (C. Leadbeater), nil, Flora (a), 40secs (H. Molan) Sarsfield headed Billy Boy before the straight was reached and had matters all his own way for the rest of the journey, winning by 15 lengths from Welcome Jack in 6min. 9 1-2sec.

One week later a new unregistered club, Canning and Jubilee Race Club, entered the racing scene and included a trot on their inaugural race programme.

The course was situated in the vicinity of Cannington, a distance of about six miles from Perth and was reached by vehicles (cabs) that ran from the G.P.O. to the course, charging a return fare, of 3s. Buses also made trips from the city to the course from 11.30 a.m. till 1.30 p.m.

The starters for the Trotting Handicap over two miles were:- No Tick, scratch; Silverloch, 5sec. behind; Dandy, 15sec.; Doctor, 25sec.; Clyta, 30sec, Slim Jim, 30sec; Jenny, 32sec.; Lucinda, 50secs, Jack, 50sec. Clyta was successful.

Helena Vale continued with a single trotting race on their monthly programmes in March, April and May with the results of each one set out below:-

TIME HANDICAP TROT (11-03-1899)

Of 60 sovs – Two miles

£31 10s. Mr. R. Wolfe's bma MAUD, 16secs bhd (W. Molan) 1

£6 Mr. H. Thompson's pbdga Billy Boy, 12secs in front (F. Boyd) 2

£5 10s. Mr. C. A. Sweeting's bga Tinker, 30secs bhd (Mr. C. Sweeting) 3

Other starters: £1 10s. Dolly (a) 12secs (S. Egan), £3 10s. Sweet Lavender (a) 16secs (S. Matheson), £1, Flora (a) 20secs (H. Molan); £22, Jack (a) 23secs (D. Williams), £1 10s., Drummer (a) 40secs (J. Day).

Betting : 7 to 4 against Maud ; 2 to 1 Jack ; 5 to 1 bar two.

Billy Boy maintained his lead till leaving the straight, when Maud went to the front and the race was practically over. Jack lost a lot of ground in every furlong, and in the end finished out of a place, Billy Boy and Tinker securing second and third positions respectively, both badly distanced by Maud. Jack was fourth. Sweet Lavender fifth, Flora sixth and Drummer last of those that finished. Dolly not completing the course. Time, 6min. 2sec. Maud was sold for £28 to H. Hiscutt.

FRITZ HANDICAP TROT (04-04-1899)

Of 40 sovs - One mile and a half.

£20. Mr. R. Wolfe's bha THE CHILDE, 18secs bhd (W. Molan) 1

£5 10s. Mr. J. Matheson's brga Welcome Jack, 33secs (J. Matheson) 2

£2 10s. Mr. "Francis" brma Dolly, 6secs (J. Nesbitt) 3

Other starters : Richmond, Flora, Whalebone, Sweet Lavender, Trainmark, Pearlash.

Richmond led past the stand from The Childe and Dolly. The Childe at once assumed the lead, and increasing his advantage in each furlong won anyhow from Welcome Jack, who made up his handicap and gained on all those in front of him very smartly. The Childe was adjudged to have won by ten lengths from Welcome Jack, behind whom Dolly was fifteen lengths away third.

On April 26 the unregistered Cannington Turf Club returned with another two mile trotting handicap the field comprising N. Gilbert's gm Lucinda (45secs), J. Nicholls's bg Struck Oil (late Slim Jim) (40secs), J. Cadden's gg Clyta (35secs), W. Rohan's bg Boliver (25secs), B. Courtney's bm Trilby (5secs), W. Rohan's bm Amy (scr), W. J. Wimbridge's rm Pan (scr), B. Morris's bm Fanny (scr), F. Willis's brm Cissy (scr).

The placegetters in this race were F. J. Wimbridge's rm Pin (scr) 1; F. Willis brm Cissy (scr) 2; J. Cadden's gg Clyta (35 secs) 3.

In May Helena Vale conducted another longer distance trot over two and a half miles and as fate would have it, that race was the last conducted at Helena Vale in the 19th century.

TIME HANDICAP TROT (04-05-1899)

Of 30 sovs. Two miles and a half.

Mr. T. Francis's DOLLY, scratch (Boyd) 1

Mr. J. Matheson's Welcome Jack, 50secs bhd (Owner) 2

Mr. W. Henley's Ben, 40secs (Newman) 3

Others: Flora, 10secs (Molan), Whalebone, 2secs (Rohan), Tinder, 35secs (Mr. Sweeting), Roddy, 40secs (Farrell), The Childe, 45secs (W. Molan).

Dolly started at a smart pace, and was nearly two lengths ahead round the back. Welcome Jack, who broke soon after starting, was quickly got going and he ran through the rest of the field before they had gone six furlongs. Dolly, however, was sailing along at a nice, even gait in front, and the nuggetty brown mare passed the judge's box in the first round nearly a furlong in front of Welcome Jack, who was travelling at a great pace. Though Dolly was going well. Welcome Jack had reduced the gap so much that he, for a few seconds, looked like catching her, but at the five furlong post he broke, and thus lost any chance of overhauling Dolly, who won by 10 lengths; Whalebone, 30 lengths back, third. Time, 7min. 23secs

Two days after the Helena Vale Trot the following Letter to the Editor was published under the heading Helena Vale Turf Club:-

"SIR, Referring to the trotting race which the directors of the above club include in their programme every race day, I, as a shareholder, desire to cater my protect against the continuance of this race on the programme. It is evident to me and I have heard it remarked by other shareholders - that this race is unprofitable and means a loss to the club. Notwithstanding this, however, the directors, who I would point out are merely trustees for the shareholders, will persist in including this trotting race in the programme for which the shareholders will, I contend, eventually have to suffer. I trust that the directors will so far study the interests of the shareholders as to give this matter their earnest consideration and omit the race from future meetings."


It was bravely (sic) signed "A Shareholder" and five days later another similarly brave soul fired in another letter offering similar sentiments under the pseudonym "More Light". He wrote:-

"SIR, I have much pleasure in supporting Shareholder's protest in your Saturday's issue against the trotting race being included in this club's programme. From a punter's point of view this event is a decided failure, for reasons too well known to racegoers; and if the totalisator is any criterion it cannot be a financial success to the club. But, whether or not, a "trot" is not a "race" and it should therefore be abolished."

The Letters to the Editor indeed did the trick and the Trot was replaced as the following news item confirms:- "The Queen's Bracelet, the new event for bona-fide polo ponies, introduced in the instead of trotting races, provided a few of our limited number of amateur horsemen an opportunity for the display of their riding abilities."

So how did trotting in Perth close out the century? With an open trotting race as part of a matinee performance at the Flying Jordans circus on December 13 while the serious trotters had to travel to the third annual Binduli races on December 27 where J. North's Whalebone (5 secs) defeated J. Ruane's Maud in a mile and a half handicap worth five sovereigns.

Based on that farewell it was incomprehensible that trotting could have become the thriving success that it has in Western Australia and whilst it is well known that James Brennan was the driving force behind that, it is interesting to see two names - James Nicholls and Henry Hummerston (and his brother Richard) - involved in those forgotten Perth Trotting Club meetings and Helena Vale Trots.

James Brennan, James Nicholls and Henry Hummerston were the three financial guarantors of the W.A.T.A. in 1911 that ensured that trotting flourished rather than wither on the vine like the Perth Trotting Club. 



Tasmania – Worthy Heritage Bronze Medallist

Victoria may be a runaway gold medallist in the heritage stakes with, in deference to the imported bloodstock by pioneers such as Andrew Town, Dr Slate, James Rutherford, James Roberts in particular, New South Wales earning the silver medal.

The bronze heritage medal though goes to Tasmania, the smallest of all the Australian States, with over 1,000 trotting races in the 19th Century and the beginnings of a maternal breeding base that has subsequently produced Group One winners throughout Australasia.

Tasmania has also been fortunate to be home to some exceptional historians of national importance such as Tas Williams (Australian Trotting Record), Tatlow Medal award winner Peter Cooley (Australian Trotting Record) and Coulter Award winner Peter Ford.

Peter Cooley authored "Back to the Trots" and has collated a list of Tasmanian Standardbred winners from 1900 up until August 1 1986 when the HRA computer kicked in and these can be viewed at www.harness.org.au

This article concentrates solely on the 19th Century as have previous ones for Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales in the August 2012 issue and Western Australia and Victorian metropolitan in this issue. Victorian country and New Zealand will be covered in the next issue of Harness Racing International.

Mention of the name Cooley reminds me that you'll come across that surname many times in this brushstroke of Tasmanian Trotting History in the 19th century that features many fascinating excerpts from the newspapers of the day that transport you back in time.

The first European settlers arrived in September 1803 when the "Albion" and "Lady Nelson" under the command of a youthful Lt. John Bowen anchored at Risdon Cove on the eastern shore of the Derwent River. In 1804 Captain David Collins took over the settlement and moved it to Sullivans Cove on the western shore.

The history of trotting can be traced right back to those early days and in 1804 the settlers held match races on the banks of the Derwent.

So far as is known the first recorded trotting race was a match on Tuesday July 18, 1815 at New Town between horses owned by Messrs Birch and Gordon. The local reverend Robert Knopwood recorded in his diary that the race was won by Mr Birch who rode his mare.

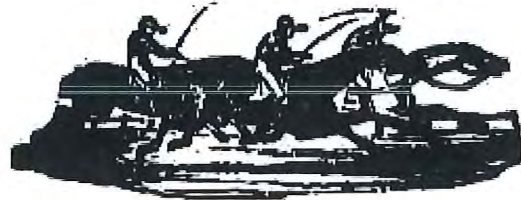
There was plenty of money around as well for contests and although it didn't involve trotting horses it is worth recording details of the first race meeting of sorts at Orielton on September 30, 1816 for nothing else but the incredible sum of money involved – 500 pounds (equivalent to over \$100,000 in today's currency). "Notwithstanding the Difference of Opinions which took place between the Proprietors of the Horses intended for Running at Orielton Park, the Seat of Edward Lord, Esq. on Monday last, the Races commenced. A number of Gentlemen and Settlers attended, and were highly delighted with the Beautiful and Picturesque Scene, on which the favorite Animals were to exhibit their Speed.

First Race - Mr James Mitchell's Black Mare Sally, against Mr. Richard Troy's Mare Miss Platoff, the best out of three two mile Heats, for Two Hundred Pounds Sterling-won by Sally.

Second Race - Mr. William Maum's Bay Mare Beauty, bred by Colonel Geil, and Rode by Mr. Toombs, Lord Bairymore's former Jockey, against Mr. J. Mitchell's Celebrated Arabian Horse Piper, rode by John Eddington, the best out of three two mile Heats, for Three Hundred Pounds-won easily by Beauty."

Trotting matches were held all across Tasmania from thereon in wherever there where horses that could trot and people who had competitive urges

Melton Mowbray



STEEPLE CHASE

WILL come off on **WEDNESDAY, 28th October, 1861, about 1 o'clock.**

STEWARDS,—

**ISAAC BIRDEE, Esq.
ALEX. REID, Esq.
W. B. WOOD, Esq.**

MELTON MOWBRAY STEEPLE CHASE, of 75 sovs., with a sweepstake of 5 sovs. each, second horse to save his stake; distance about 3 miles, and over such jumps as may be pointed out by the Stewards. Weights 11st 7lb.

MELTON MOWBRAY HUNT STEEPLE CHASE, with a sweep of 5 sovs. each, with— sovs. added, for horses that have been out three times with the Melton Mowbray Beagles this season; over about 2 miles.

A. TROTTING STAKE, of — sovs., a sweepstake of £2 each.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Entries for the above Races only taken on condition that the decision of the Stewards in all cases of dispute shall be final. No person shall be allowed to start a horse unless a subscriber of £2. Entries to close at 10 o'clock p.m., Tuesday, 28th October, 1861. m l a w

and/or egos that needed to be satisfied. They could range up to 50 miles on occasions though normally they were in the three to ten mile range.

One of the first reports on trotting, albeit not a pure trotting contest, on a racetrack referred to the New Year's Day meeting at Launceston:-

"The last and perhaps most interesting match of the day was, one against time. Mr. Dry had engaged to ride with W. Field's horse Doubtful nine miles divided into equal portions of trotting, walking, and galloping within an hour. He commenced trotting, and performed the distance in about 11 1/2 minutes. The walking occupied about 37 minutes, leaving about. 11½ minutes to gallop the remaining three miles, which enabled Mr. Dry to complete his task upwards of three minutes within the appointed time amidst the loud plaudits of the assembled multitude."

Race meetings flourished in every corner of Tasmania too, be they on an established course, or in a paddock adorned with flags/markers to indicate the inside running.



Meetings could comprise any combination of thoroughbreds, galloways, ponies, hacks, pony trotters, trotters, hurdle races, steeplechases, however, there were no all-trotting meetings until the 1880's.

Some of the towns where trotting races/matches were held in the 19th century – you may need to use Google to find out where they were – include Avoca, Bangor, Beaconsfield, Bellerive, Belle Vue, Bishopsbourne, Black Boy, Bothwell, Bracknell, Branxholm, Brighton, Bridgewater, Bridport, Burnie, Carrick, Campbell Town, Chudleigh, Clarence & Muddy Plains, Colebrook, Cressy, Currie, Danbury Park, Deloraine, Derby, Elphin, Elwick, Evandale, Exter, Fingal, Forcett, Georges Bay, Greta, Hadspen, Hamilton, Hobart, Huonville, Irish Town, Kempton, Kensington Park, Kimberley, King Island, Latrobe, Lefroy, Legerwood, Longford, Macquarie Plains, Margate, Mathinna, Meander, Mowbray, Newnham, New Norfolk, New Town, New Town Sports Ground, Oatlands, Pioneer, Paling Flat, Penguin, Port Campbell, Queenstown, Railton, Richmond, Ringarooma, Risdon Park, Riversdale, Rocky Cape, Rosegarland, Rosevale, Ross, Sandford, Scottsdale, Sorell, St Helens, St Marys, Smithton, Stanley, Strahan, Swansea, Tunbridge, Tunnack, Ulverstone, Victoria Sports Ground, Weldsborough, Westbury, West Tamar, Winnaleah, Woodbury, Wynyard, Zeehan.

As was the case in all other States of Australia race meetings flourished everywhere on the major public holidays such as Boxing Day, New Years Day, St Patricks Day, Easter Monday, Queens Birthday (May) and the Prince of Wales Birthday (November).

Carrick on Boxing Day was an institution that commenced way back in the 1840's but it was not until 1864 that a Trot was introduced and it was won by Robert Jones' Tom Kearney. It was a tradition that was still going strong 150 years later.

The oldest racing venue in Tasmania was the New Town course that was used off and on until Governor Arthur in granted the Crown Land to be used as a permanent racecourse. The first meeting on the new course was held on March 17 and 18, 1831.

The racecourse and environs covered 100 acres and was offered for sale in 1836 attracting the interest of Mr. Gatehouse who subsequently placed an advertisement seeking 30 gentlemen to buy shares, a \$200 a share.

New Town was thereafter one of the most popular racing venues right through until the end of the 19th century.

One of the first recorded trotting races was in Hobart on April 6 1859 as part of the the famous three (and often four) day New Town race meeting

and in typical fashion for those times it was a marathon affair over six miles that was contested by three trotters, one of which was distanced. The papers reported on the trot in the following fashion:-

TROTTING RACE - Six Miles

Mr. Parker's bma ZOE, 10st. (Mence) 1

Mr. Oldham's brga Scroggins, 12st, (owner) 2

Mr. Moore's blk6 Rollicking Sall, 12st. (owner) 0

Scroggins was made the general favourite, those who happened to draw Zoe in sweeps being willing almost to give their chance away, whilst the Scrogginsites would not sell at any price. The gelding and Sall broke soon after starting, leaving the little mare a strong advantage, which she so improved in each round that the event was soon a certainty. Sall fell lame, and was pulled up after the first round, having strained her near hind fetlock in turning; and Scroggins trotted in such an ungainly three-legged style as more to resemble a canter than fair going. In fact he was turned three times, but would have had no chance had he kept going fairly throughout. Zoe was never pressed, but could certainly have gone much faster; her gait is particularly easy and honest. The time was 21m. 40s."

Another one on March 22, 1862 also comes with a full description of the 20 sovereign marathon event that required the trotters to race down the straight then cover three complete laps:-

Mr. J. Moore's blk. BLACK BESS, 11st 7lb (J. Moore) 1

Mr. T. Oldham's brh Scroggins, 11st 7lb (B. Oldham) 2

Mr. Gore's cg Sam, 11st 7lbs (J. Farthing) 3

Mr. T. Oldham's bm Jessie, 10st. 3lbs (Menoo) 0

At the start the horses got away well together, Sam leading, which position he maintained until they passed the winning post the first time round j 7at two miles Scroggins improved his pace, came up, ' and took the lead which he kept until the horses passed the winning post for the second time as follows, Scroggins leading Sam a good second, and Black Bess third, with Moore holding her hard, Jessie was nowhere. At 4 miles Scroggins broke and his rider had to turn him round, when Moore let out Black Bess, who at once went ahead, improved her ground at every stride and came in a winner by 120 yards; Scroggins second, and Sam third. Timo 22m. 35s.

The liking for long distance races was no different in the North for at a race meeting in Launceston on February 26 1863, the distance of the trotting match was down the straight and four laps. It was won by Mr. Pair's bm Nimbletoe.



Main Road in New Town – venue for the first ever all trotting meeting

One of the first champion trotters that performed at major race meetings was Florence, owned by the colourful Joshua Moore who at various times was licensee of the Royal Hotel in Macquarie Street, Hobart, lessee of the Derwent Livery in Murray Street and accomplished Clerk of the Course in Hobart and in Launceston.

Joshua and Florence first came under notice on January 19 1834 when competing at Clarence and Muddy Plains, a track that had conducted annual race meetings as far back as 1834.

Competing in another four laps and a distance event at a meeting on January 19 1865 when she defeated Mr Allwright's mare Providence and Mr Oldham's gelding Scroggins.

The papers of the day reported thus, "This was the best race of the meeting. Providence led throughout the first and second round, closely followed by Florence; at the close of the second mile Scroggins gave up. In the third round Florence passed Providence, and broke immediately afterwards, but turned round, and going on again caught the mare in the fourth lap where Providence broke, but was quickly turned and brought again to her proper place. Florence also broke once again, but was duly brought round, and in the last two rounds completely outpaced her rival, and came in a winner in 20 min. 55 1/2secs."

The following month at Tasmania's most prestigious race meeting, the three day Launceston Champion Meeting, Florence was again on show.

THE TROTTING RACE

Of 25 sovs. Distance, three times round the course. Entrance, 2 sovs.

Weights - 3yrs, 9st. 5; 4 yrs, 10st.; 5 yrs, 10st. 7lbs; 6 yrs and aged 11st

Mr. Joshua Moore's bma FLORENCE (red jacket & black cap) 1

Mr. Robert Jones's blkga Tom Kearney (green, red, & white) 2

Mr. John Mackey's blk6g Black Prince (green jacket & black cap) 3

Mr. H. D. Parr's brma Creeping Jane (tartan) 0

Mr. T. W. Field's bga Sweet Water (red, blue & black) 0

Time, 10min. 40secs

Not one for sentimentality Joshua had the "celebrated trotting mare" up for sale in May the same year and moved on with his name appearing once again in the sporting news with a trotter in 1867 when he was involved in a horse and vehicle road match on May 31 that the papers reported thus (note the unique way in which a break was penalized):-

"The ten miles trotting match for £20 a-side between Mr. J. Moore's Miss Pope, and Mr. Wood's Spanker, came off on the main road between the Rainbow Hotel and Bridgewater yesterday. Shortly after 10 o'clock the competitors were on the ground, Mr. Moore driving in an American "spider," weighing 140lbs., and Mr. Woods in a gig weighing 4cwt (four hundred weight). The contest was a very close one throughout, and the pace was good on both sides. Mr. Moore led all the way to the Ten Mile Hill, but at that point he was passed by his opponent, who shortly afterwards increased his lead very considerably. According to the conditions of the match, any horse breaking was to be pulled up, and the wheels of his vehicle were to be made revolve perceptibly backwards. At the bottom of the Ten Mile Hill Mr. Wood's horse broke, and whilst his driver was complying with the condition above mentioned Mr. Moore got ahead again, and continued so until he had arrived as far as the Black Snake. Here the road was newly metalled in the centre, but clear and good on the offside. Mr. Wood having made up his last ground at this point tried to pass his opponent, and called the latter to clear the road for him, but Mr. Moore declined to take his horse onto the metal. Mr. Wood tried to take the lead, but was unable to do so, and Mr. Moore passed the post less than a length in advance. Much difference of opinion was expressed as to whether Wood had sufficient room to go to the front, and as through some oversight no referee had been appointed, and the umpires - Mr Bateman jnr for Mr Wood and Mr Gregory for Mr. Moore - could not agree, the matter led to a good deal of difficulty. Mr. James Lord was called in to settle the question at issue, but was unable to do so to the satisfaction of both parties,

BUTCHERS' ANNUAL RACES,

To take place on the
LAUNCESTON RACE-COURSE,

On
TUESDAY, 9th April, 1867.

Stewards—Messrs Silver, Lane, Coningsby, Mosder, and Pittard.

STARTER—W. T. Bell, Esquire.

JUDGES—
CLERK OF THE COURSE—Mr Edward Coningsby.

FIRST RACE (to start at 12 o'clock.)
For first-class butchers' hacks; twice round the course; weights, 10 stone; entrance 10s.

SECOND RACE—Handicap Trotting Hack—For first-class butchers' trotting hacks; three times round the Course; weights, 11 stone; entrance, 10s.

THIRD RACE—For second-class butchers' hacks; once round the Course and a distance; weights, 10 stone; entrance, 7s 6d.

FOURTH RACE—For third-class butchers' hacks; once round the Course; catch weights; entrance, 5s.

FIFTH RACE—Trotting Race—For second-class trotting horses; twice round the Course; catch weights; entrance, 3s 6d.

NOTE—Second horse in each race to receive the entrance money.

and consequently the matter remained open up to a late hour in the evening. Ultimately, we understand that the stakes were paid over by the stakeholder, Mr. Parker, to Mr. Moore."

Joshua didn't quite die in the saddle but in 1889 suffered a traumatic death when he was thrown forwards from his dray that then ran over him crushing his ribs and ending his life.

The previous week to the ten mile match race Miss Pope had finished fourth another trotting race featured on the programme at the New Town Races that also included a hurdle race, hack race and a hurry skurry (sprint). The winner was a grey mare Countess, owned by William Bateman and ridden by Mr Bateman Jnr, the umpire for Joshua's rival in the road match.

The following year at the New Town races Countess and Bateman was again successful with the Hobart Mercury describing the race "as a gift for Countess."

Bateman duly placed an advertisement in the papers over the next three years challenging allcomers to trot against his mare Countess over five or ten miles, carrying 14 stone (89kg), for a stake of £50 to £60 and also his grey mare Zoe over any distance five miles or less in harness for £5 to £10.

In April 1870 seven trotters competed at the New Town Races with Mr. Hustin's grey mare Temptation defeating Mr L. Smith's bay mare Alice with Bateman's Zoe unplaced.

In June that year at the annual Clarence and Muddy Plains Races another star emerged in the form of Coquette, a brown mare owned by Mr. J. Devine.

Coquette won the three mile race by many lengths then at the 1871 New Town Races she knocked off Bateman's Countess after getting 100 yards start at the handicaps in a twice round the track contest.



Two years later at the annual Clarence and Muddy Plains Races Coquette, now owned by Mr. T. Austin, raced in an event that was scathingly described by the press thus:- "The five entered for the Trotting Race are all good nags, but as I regard trotting races of no interest to anyone but the owners of the horses going, I will content myself with the opinion that the black mare wins."

The "black mare" Coquette did indeed win the four times round race with M. Devine in saddle adorned with a Blue jacket and scarlet cap winning by a mere head in an enthralling contest from Honest Lad. The old grey mare Countess was distanced.

The following year welcomed in the first trotting match at the annual Carrick Boxing Day meet, the winner being Mr. Braden's Delitia and in 1875 Mr Davis' Nell was successful. In 1876 the trot was taken out by Mr. T. Armstrong's Nelly Grey, who four months later won a trot at Connorville.

Roll on to the following Boxing Day and one of the best performers seen in Tasmania, Mr. Bennett's Nancy (ridden by Mr Landell), was the backmarker having been allocated a massive 50 seconds handicap.

Although beaten, Nancy, who was described as "the crack trotter of the time" earned the plaudits of the assembled crowd by getting to within 100 yards of the winner Rose of Denmark over the exhausting five mile, four chain (8,130 metres) In March 1878 the first Silver Cup for trotters was on offer by the Tasmanian Turf Club in Launceston and it was no surprise to see Nancy and Rose Of Denmark in the field.

This time Nancy had an even tougher task being off the backmark over 60 seconds over the shorter trip of four miles and Rose Of Denmark was off 10 seconds, therefore no comparative change from the Carrick event.

Rose of Denmark galloped several times and Nancy, at odds of 3 to 1 on, came in a six length winner over Shamrock owned by Thomas Hardman (later a prominent figure in Victorian trotting) in the then exceptional time of 12

minutes and three seconds. Taking off her one minute handicap Nancy had trotted the four miles in 11:03, a mile rate of 2:45.8.

The following month Landell took "Champion of Tasmania" Nancy across Bass Strait to challenge the best Victorian trotting mare, Goldspink's Bessie, at Geelong on April 9.

The pair engaged in a 100 sovereign match race with Mr Goldspink's Bessie over five miles that Bessie won in 15 minutes 38 ½ seconds. Later the same day Nancy competed in the feature three mile trot but was unplaced to Conquering Hero (by Daniel Boon USA).

Later on in 1878 the first foals were born to the imported (from Victoria) trotting stallion Merriman, who was by the thoroughbred Maribrnong from the outstanding trotting mare Lucy Escott, a Flemington winner that is almost certainly the famous Hoyt's Trotting mare, the grandam of famous foundation mare Whisper (Classic Family A21).

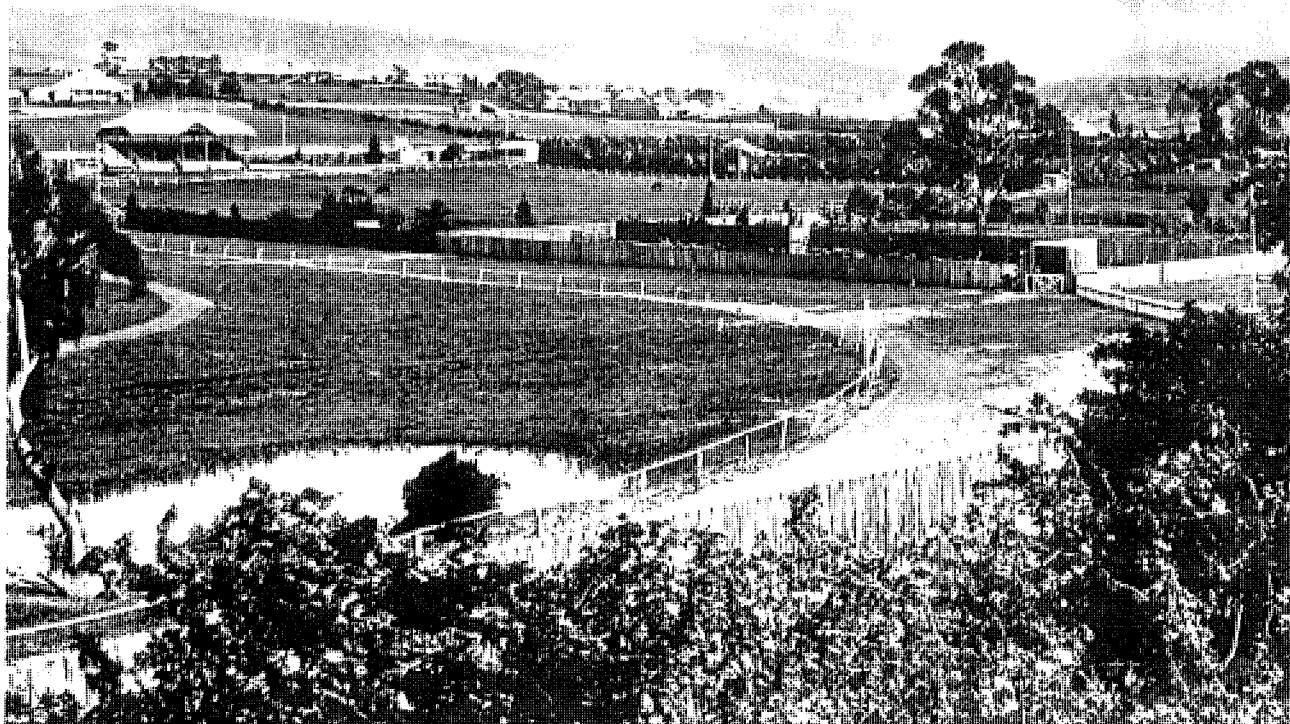
Although a thoroughbred, Maribrnong can be found in several oldtime trotting pedigrees being the damsire of 1898 Auckland Exhibition Cup winner Lusitania; his son Laertes was the damsire of NZ foundation mare Lady Cherry (Classic Family N121) while another son Forest King sired the grandam of Australian foundation mare May C (Classic Family A57).

Merriman wasn't the first trotting stallion ever advertised in Tasmania with others including Traveller (more of a heavy Clydesdale type) in 1837 and the pony trotting stallion Tom Kearney in 1856, however, it was not until 1886 before the first American Standardbred stallion, Len Rose, arrived in Tasmania. More on him later.

One of more significant trotting matches – it was actually a race worth 21 sovereigns comprising two heats and a final – took place on the New Town Road on October 19, 1881. The handicappers were hoteliers W. Webster and C. Cooley.

The Hobart Mercury reported, "In the first heat Mr. J. Fearnley's Butcher Boy (300yds), Mr. J. Goodrick's Don (50yds), Mr. P. Baker's Zillah (50yds),

New Town Racecourse



MERRIMAN

The trotting stallion Merriman will travel the ensuing season through Hobart Town, Glenorchy, Bridgewater, Brighton, Bagdad, Green Ponds, Melton & Cowbray, Bothwell, Hamilton, New Norfolk, Clarence and Muddy Plains, Cambridge, Dulcote, Richmond, Sorrell, and will stand at home.

Mares paddocked. Every care taken, but without responsibility.

Merriman by Maribyrnong, dam Lucy Escott, granddam a Premier mare by Colonel (imported). He is a fine upstanding horse, black with brown points, and is, without doubt, one of the handsomest horses in the colony. He is seven years old, and is guaranteed perfectly sound and docile. He can trot a mile considerably under three minutes, being awarded the first prize as the best trotting stallion in Victoria.

Maribyrnong, by Fisherman, imported. Dam, Rose de Florence, imported, by the Flying Dutchman, out of Boarding School Miss, by Plant-potentiary, out of Marjessa (dam of Pocahontas, Stockwell's dam), by Muley, etc.

TERMS.—Six guineas. For Mares paddocked, Cash on removal; and for others payable on January 1.

Orders left at Eady's Albion Hotel, will be carefully attended to.

BAILEY & SIMONS

Claremont,
Clarence Plains.

and Mr. C. Bateman's Turpin (50yds) started. The last named horse was in harness, and the others in saddle. The wheel of Turpin's vehicle came off and spoilt his chance. Zillah won by about 200yds, with Butcher Boy second.

In the second heat Mr. McRae's Garry Owen (200yds), Mr. Skringer's Banker (200yds), and Mr. Lucas' The Boy (300yds) started, nil in saddle; Garry Owen winning by about 100yds., with The Boy second.

In the deciding heat Zillah won by over 100yds, Butcher Boy second, nearly the same distance ahead of The Boy, and Garry Owen close behind. The course was from the Rosetta crossing to the show ground, a distance of three miles, and the match was witnessed by a large concourse of spectators."

Two months later at Elwick racecourse there was an afternoon's sport consisting of two trotting races, a hurdle race and a Hunters race.

The first trotting race was over five miles, in saddle, and was won by Mr. Jeffrey's Cannon Ball (by the thoroughbred sire Saunterer) off a 350 yard handicap with P. Webster in a time of 15min 14secs.

The second trot was again contested in saddle, this time over three miles and once again Cannon Ball and P. Webster winning in the last 50 metres after the leader Pompey galloped.

Fascination with trotting was rising in 1882 with a decision made to include prizes for the specific class of trotter at the major Agricultural Shows in the north and south.

One of the most important arrivals (or return) to Tasmania so far as trotting was concerned was not a horse but a butcher called Thomas, or as he was better known Tom, Amott.

Tom who was actually born at New Norfolk (Tasmania) had a butcher's shop at 14 Errol Street, Hotham (now Sosta Cucino Restaurant, North Melbourne) and in 1876 was involved in a spirited match race with his cream pony Bobby against the owner of the Haymarket Hotel George Hill and his mare Sommerton.

The pair dueled over three miles along the Campbellfield - Brunswick road (now known as Sydney road) with Bobby being beaten by just a length after looking a certain winner until he ran up the footpath coming through Coburg losing several lengths.

When Kensington Park opened nearby to his shop, Tom was a regular there and winning seven races there on the appropriately named Bones (1), Black Boy (1), Hotham (3 - all in the same afternoon as part of a five heat race) and Rambler (2).

Thomas was Mayor of Hotham in 1879 and 1880 before leaving for Hobart arriving there in 1882 and in late August 1882 there was an interesting item in the Hobart Mercury that emphasized the growth of interest in trotting, "A number of those interested in the formation of a trotting club met at Webster's British Hotel yesterday evening; Mr. Thos. Amott occupied the chair. After some discussion it was decided to form a committee to select a suitable ground for the purposes of the proposed club. It was stated that the Elwick ground could not be secured for several weeks, and it was suggested that negotiations should be entered into with Mr. Stevenson, with a view of scouring a lease of his paddocks opposite the Elwick course. It is hoped that the attempt now made to organise a trotting club will not fall through, because, besides the sport trotting meetings afford, they offer perhaps more than ordinary race meetings inducements for the improvement of a class of horseflesh of more practical use than pure blood stock."

Despite all the positive vibes it was not until 1884 before the Butchers Sports Association - it was never a trotting club - and the Club would be responsible for an annual Autumn/Easter meeting although after a decade a Spring meeting was added.

Their very first gathering did not take place on a racecourse but rather on a stretch of road in New Town from Cooley's Hotel. The Hobart Mercury reported that historic meeting on March 14 as follows:-

"Several trotting matches took place at New Town yesterday afternoon. The first was between Jeffrey and Porthouse, for £5 aside, the course being a mile in length, from Cooley's hotel. Porthouse won by a length. The next was between Porthouse and C. Bateman, which was won by Bateman in a walk. The third race was a handicap trotting match, for which there were several competitors. It was won by Mr. W. Webster's Lubra by a neck."

Two months later at a meeting of the Tasmanian Turf Club at Launceston on May 28 Tasmanians witnessed their first American Standardbred in action on the track when the much travelled gelding Commodore competed in an event over a distance approximate three miles. Handicapped off the extreme handicap of 750 yards failed to place. Here are the details of that event.

TROTTING RACE

Distance handicap of 25 sovs., with a sweepstake of 3 sovs., acceptance added. About three miles, either in saddle or harness. Minimum weight in saddle, 11st. For horses located in Tasmania not less than three months prior to date of race.

Mr. J. Powell's blkma BLACK BESS, 120yds (Thos Hardman) 1

Mr. H. Jones' bm6 Minnie, 20yds (4lb overweight) (Jones) 2

Messrs. Turner & Jones' blk g Blackbird, 450yds (7lb. over) 3

Mr. H. Jeffrey's chga Dick Goldsbrough, 500yds (1st 10lb over) 0

Mr. Walter Master's bga Commodore, 750yds (Vincent) 0

Mr. J. Mann's bga Dilke, 50yds (7lb. over)(Knight) 0

Mr. W. Atkinson's bma Floss, scratch (Manus) 0

Mr. Tasman Ritchie's Actress, 20yds (4lb over) (J. Ritchie) 0

Mr. G. T. Law's gga Oatlands, 120yds (6lb. over) (Owner) 0

Mr. J. Stanfields gha Diver accepted, but did not start. Black Bess, who was the favourite, won easily, finishing 200yds., in advance of Minnie, who was about half that distance in front of the Victorian bred Blackbird (by Daniel Boon USA).

The Butchers Sports became a fully fledged attraction in 1885 when they were able to obtain use of the Elwick racecourse conducted a successful meeting on April 15, 1885 that gained plenty of press coverage (see below).

Apart from the trotting race and a Hack race (once round the course) there were several athletics races over 200 yards for Butchers Only, Youths plus an Association race and two Open sprints over 100 yards won by the champion John Johnson. The trotting race was won by Rollicking Boy, however, the



second placed Butcher Boy, went on to become one of Tasmania's most popular trotters over the next fifteen years.

"Patrons: Messrs. Roberts and Co., Guesdon mid Westbrook, Synnot Bros, Thomas Westbrook. Prosident: Mr. Thomas Amott. Vice-presidents: Mr. J. N. Propsting, Mr. M. Orpwood. Trustees: Mr. L. Walton, Mr. J. Coulter. Committee of Management of Sports: Mr. T. Amott, Mr. L. McGinnis, Mr. C. Pregnell, Mr. Jos. Fearnley, Mr. M. Orpwood, Mr. H. Drake, Mr. J. Coulter, Mr. W. Lewls, Mr. L. Walton, Mr. Wm Gardiner, Mr. J. Armstrong. Treasurer: Mr. Charles Prognoll. Secretary: Mr. R. White. Handicappers: Trotting- Mr. H. Jeffrey, Athletic-Messrs. White and Coulter. Judges for Athletics: Messrs W. Gardiner and L. McGinnes. Referee: Mr. Thomas Amott. Starter: Mr. R. White.

The butchers of Hobart had a gala day at Elwick yesterday, and their initial effort in forming a general gathering of the trade was fairly successful. A little misunderstanding among some of the masters mitigated to a certain degree against what was intended to be a meeting formed for the purpose of master and man coming together in bonds of good fellowship and common enjoyment. One or two of the above list were somewhat conspicuous by their absence, but those present did the work well.

The weather was somewhat inclement for outdoor enjoyment of any kind, but a trip to Elwick at any time rewards the excursionist. It is to the credit of the association that they have been the first to take advantage of the new line - that is, beyond the racing club - to hold sports on a ground the natural advantage and beauty of which could hardly be equalled, and it is a pity that, many more were not present to witness the sports, and observe the over fresh features of the landscape laid before them. Two special trains left the city, one departing at 11.30, and the other at 2 o'clock. By the former the majority of the citizens who desired to patronise the sports proceeded, and, the latter, though a very long train, was meagerly occupied. The majority of those present seemed to have taken advantage of their private conveyances, and the course was lined with vehicles of all descriptions.

All present took the greatest interest in the various events, and the horse racing beyond doubt was the feature of the meet in the eyes of the public. All the races went off well, and there was an absence of anything approaching rowdyism, which redounds much to the credit of all present.

Superintendent Bellette was present with his police force, but, fortunately, their services were not required. On the ground was a totalisator, which was not very well patronised, and the same might be said of an eager metalician (bookmaker), whose double odds were apparently not sufficiently tempting. There was only one accident, and that not a serious one. People would crowd into the course, and, in the Open Trotting Race, one of the horses swerved and knocked down a man. He, however, was uninjured.

The greatest credit is due to Mr. T. Amott (hon. sec), for initiating the meeting, and carrying out personally the practical details. In addition to the other officials, Mr. L. Walton discharged the dual duties of starter and clerk of the course in the horse racing, while Mr. George Westbrook was judge. The sports were over by 5 o'clock, and all returned by rail or road, well pleased with the day's outing.

HANDICAP TROT (for butchers only, twice round)

M. Stump's g g ROLLICKING BOY, 300yds start (Drake) 1

Jos. Fearnley's gga Butcher Boy, scratch (owner) 2

T. Amott'a bga Rambler (owner), agod, scratch, 3

Black Bess (100yds start) broke down soon after the start, and was never afterwards in it. Rollicking Boy led past the stand the first time round by 200yds., Butcher Boy following, but the latter broke in the straight. Rambler took the second place, but was again passed by Butcher Boy at the farm house, Fearnley's horse going in pursuit of Rollicking Boy. The latter, however, had nearly a quarter of a mile lead, which Butcher Boy decreased about half the distance as the winner passed the judge's stand. Rambler third. Time: 9min."

With that experience under their belt the Butchers Association commenced planning for the 1886 meeting and as soon it was advertised for March 17 with an additional Open Trot, it became a popular topic of discussion amongst the general public. The attendance was marvelous and the Hobart Mercury described the scene thus:-

"On yesterday was held the second inaugural meeting of the Butchers' Picnic Association, and having the advantages of cool, pleasant weather, a good track, and all the necessary inducements to a good attendance, the meeting, which last year was merely an experiment, has this year in point of attendance and general success far surpassed its predecessor. With such an admirable location as Elwick, and with the splendid facilities of carriage afforded by road, rail, and river, to this picturesque spot, and with glorious weather, the committee can with no impropriety inscribe on their banners that it is better to be "born lucky than rich."

As a report of the meet would be incomplete without a survey of the scenes attending it, it may be mentioned the New Town-road yesterday exhibited an unusual throng of spicy and fast turnouts, and for a time there was a continuous stream of vehicles along the lane to the course.

Outside supporters and admirers of the "knights of the cleaver" formed no small body in the ranks of the spectators, and with their sporting spirit came prepared to back their particular tradesman's horse and give human ovation, when he passed the winning post. Everyone, in fact, seemed imbued with a buoyancy and elasticity of good humour, no fastidiousness was shown, and everything went as merrily as a marriage ball.

At 2 o'clock, when the first race started, it was estimated there could not have been less, than 2,000 people on the ground, Both stands were packed, there being a large sprinkling of the fair sex amongst the number. The ground was studded with vehicles of every description, most of the occupants forming small family parties, who took advantage of the glorious weather to have a quiet outing on their own account. There were any number of the usual spinning wheels and under-and-over tables on the course, the proprietors of which seemed to drive a brisk trade. The bar under the grand stand was run by Mr.C. Beck, who also had the right of selling liquors on the course.

A body of territorial police, under the command of Superintendent Bellette, were present to keep law and order, but their services were at no time called into requisition.

The programme of events was divided into three branches, with horseracing proper, trotting matches, and pedestrianism, and embraced nine events. The first, a foot race for members, was won easily by G. Billings. The Butchers' Handicap, another foot race, was won by the same runner.

The Handicap Trotting Race brought out four entries, and was won by Mr. Fearnley's Butcher Boy.

The 200 Yards Handiaap, another foot race, was won again by G. Billings, W. Ridley being second. The Hack Race brought out five entries, and, fell to the lot of Mr. A. E. Foster's Minnie, Mr. McGunniss' Witch being second. The Open Handicap Trot was won easily by Mr. W. Webster's Lubra. The Open Hack Race, was appropriated by Mr. G. Hildyard's Rainbow, a nice fast specimen of a hack. the Hurdle Race brought out a field of six horses, and after a fair contest, was won by Rainbow. A protest was lodged against the winner for having run round the hurdles, but after being considered by the committee it was decided to disallow it, and the prize was awarded to Mr. Hildyard, who was heartily cheered when Mr. Amott announced the result. The day's sport was brought to a close by the hunting of a greasy-tailed pig which afforded an infinite amount of amusement to the crowd. W. Lewis was the lucky competitor, shouldering the pig past the stand amidst the shouts of the crowd.

The duties of starter devolved on Mr. Alfred E. Lord, M.H.A., and who proved fully equal to the task, giving general satisfaction to all. The labour of the day was thrown chiefly on the shoulders of Mr. Thos. Amott (the promotor of the meet) and Messrs, W. Willing and W. Stevenson, who worked sedulously.

Mr. W. Willing made an excellent clerk of the scales, and in this duty he received able assistance from Mr. Stevenson, both being assiduous in their efforts to afford the Press full information.

All the other officials with Mr. Amott at their head, did what they had to do to the strict letter.

By 6 p.m. the day's sport was brought to a conclusion, without a hitch or accident of any kind, everyone expressing themselves that the holiday had been a most enjoyable one, and expressing regret that the fine course was not more often used for such gatherings.

The following are the results of the two trotting events on the mixed programme of events:-

HANDICAP TROT

Twico round. For butchers' horses only. Weight, 11st. First prize £8; second £2.

BUTCHER BOY, scratch.(Fearnley) 1

Alice, 300yds start (Alomes) 2

Billy, 700yds start. (Walton) 3

Rambler, 80yds. start (Amott) 4

Billy went off at a sort of a shamle, Rambler and Alice straggling after him.

Butcher Boy, who showed the best style of the lot, was meanwhile making up ground on the whole, Passing the stand the first time Billy still led, Rambler and Alice not having improved their position much. Abreast of the stand Butcher Boy broke and lost a lot of ground. Rounding the bend in the straight Butcher Boy came up on Alice, who had passed Billy. From this point Mr. Fearnley's grey won as he liked, Alice being second, and Billy third, a long way in the rear. '

OPEN HANDICAP TROT

About three miles, with sweepstake of £1 payable at scale. Weight, 11st. First prize £8; second £2,

LUBRA, 250yds start (W. Webster) 1

Blazer, 150yds start (G. Porthouse) 2

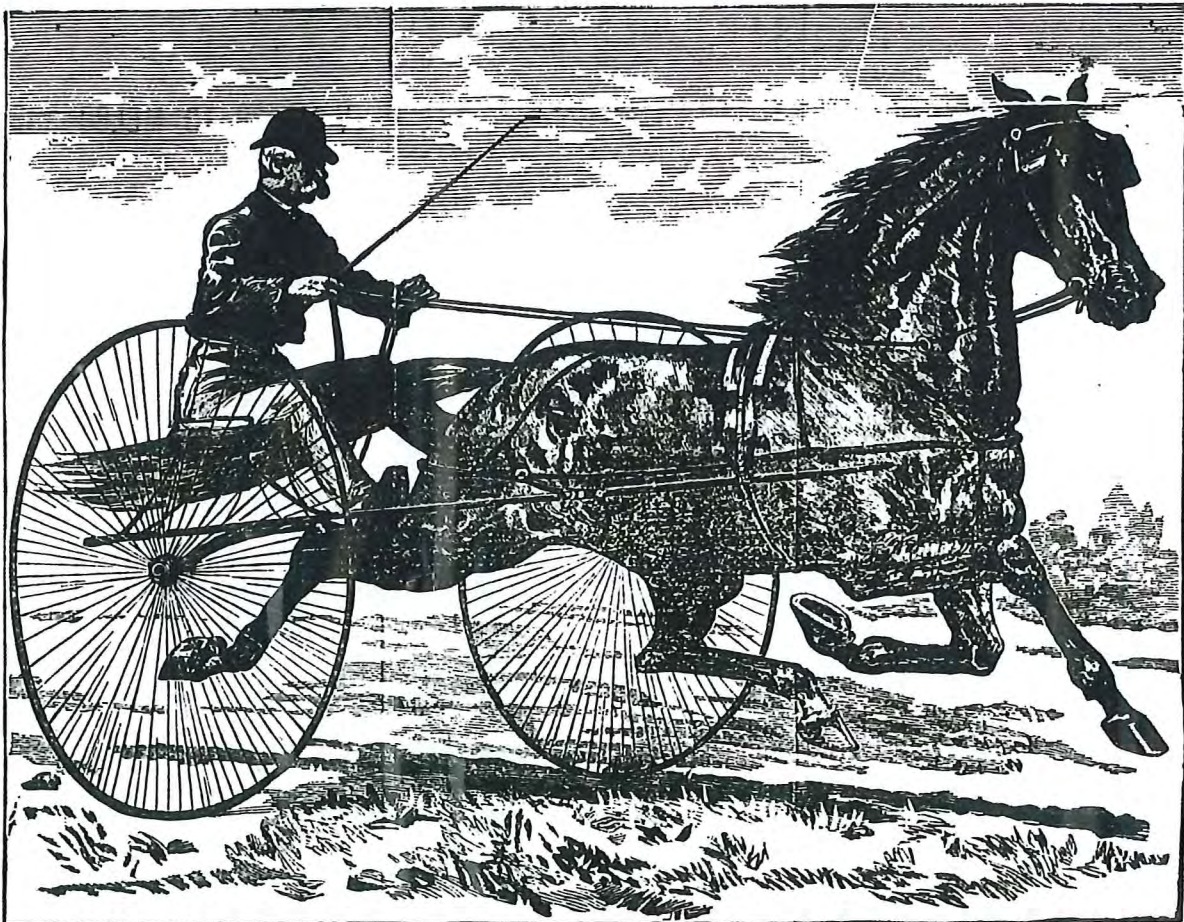
Rainbow Lass, 500yds start (Rice) 3

Others: Butcher Boy (scratch), Rambler (100yds), Zulu (400yds), Romeo (450yds), Grey Dick (450yds), Chester (500yds), Duke (600yds), Billy (800yds).

A good start effected, and the whole of the steeds went off at a rare bat. Passing the house, Webster's mare could be seen to be overhauling the leaders at every stride, and coming up the hill, by a smart burst, her rider managed to obtain premier position, Blazer occupying second place. From this point Lubra won just as she liked, Blazer being second, and Rainbow Lass a bad third. the others straggled in one after another.

The calendar year of 1886 was an important one for the Standardbred breeding industry of Tasmania with the arrival of the first American trotting stallion, the grey Len Rose. The Hobart Mercury reported in their September 15 edition:-

"The celebrated American trotting stallion, Len Rose, will give a trial of his speed this morning at 11 o'clock on the Mowbray racecourse, Mr. W. Grubb, who arrived from Melbourne yesterday, having kindly granted the use of the course. Len Rose will be steered by Len Grimwood, of Melbourne, well known for his skill in the management of trotting horses, and who has been specially engaged by Messrs. Symmons and Dent, the owners of Len Rose, to give the horse the trial."



**LEN ROSE,
THE CHAMPION TROTTING STALLION OF AUSTRALIA.**



Not surprisingly the following month at the Northern Agricultural Show Len Rose took out the prize for the best Trotting stallion, the best of the Australian-breds being Thomas Hardman's NSW import Prince Patchen (San Jose Patchen USA – Miss Pringle by Shakespeare UK). Two of Prince Patchen's daughters became Tasmanian foundation mares – Ruby K (CF A442) and Dewfall (CF A158).

Len Rose on the other hand transformed the breeding industry in Tasmania and apart from his 21 winners, the baseload of broodmares that he left proved a motherlode for stallions such as Judge Huon who followed in the first part of the 20th century.

Some of the early feature winners out of Len Rose broodmares were Elaine (1917 Launceston Show Cup), Hurlston (1920 Tas Trotting Cup), Uranus (NSW Easter Cup) and Nancy Huon (winner Richmond-Vic Flying).

More importantly were the numbers of Len Rose broodmares that established maternal lines now recognized by Classic Families. Here are some of those together with a number of famous descendants.

A694 – Pymont (Vic Grand Voyage 3YO)

A305 – Flying Globe (ID consolation), Fourjay (Aust 2/3YO Trotter of the Year)

A518 – Beau Dorell (Carrick Cup), Four Clues (heat Tas Pacing C'ship)

A389 – Honest Valley 1:57.6 (US), Holly May (Tas 3YOF C'ship)

A32 (Nancy and Rose) – Fathers Wish (Tas Sapling as pacer and later set Australian Mile Record for trotters), Gedlee (Tas SS – Globe Derby 3YO), Cheerful (ID consolation).

He also has three siring sons represented on Classic Families in Len Heart (sire of the stallion Dallas), Len Rose Jnr and Rosebud.

Len Heart sired White Heart, the third dam of multiple Hobart FFA winner Lulu O'Neill (heat Tas. Pacing C'ship) while Dallas sired the foundation mare Miss Waitawhile (CF A53), the ancestress of the super quick Batik Print 1:53.4 and star juveniles Really Mal, Really Anne and Sonja Maree.

Len Heart Jnr sired the dam of Sir Whyee, the sire of foundation mare Goldie (CF – A246), the ancestress of 2:00 performers Our Raynbo and Harley Hanover.

Last of the trio was Rosebud who sired the grandam of the sire Ashmore and the foundation mare Roseleaf (CF – A850), the grandam of Dixie Voyage (1923 Vic Trotters Derby) and fourth dam of Denny Dee, one of the first 100 Australian-bred 2:00 performers.

The Victoria Sporting Grounds was christened on Saturday, 5th February 1887 and a purpose built cinders track for trotters was included. Well, sort of, as the track had to double as a track for cyclists and measured exactly 440 yards in length. That makes Adelaide's post WW1 "saucer of death" Wayville (660 yards) appear like Tabcorp Park Menangle by comparison.

A new venture was the brainchild of a syndicate composed of the following gentlemen: Hon. A. Dobson, Hon. J. Lord, Messrs. J. W. Syme, K. James, Hy. Dobson, W. Cundy sen, J. Russell, W. Cundy jnr, Wm. Barlow, C. Cooley, Dr. Hodford, C. E. Knight, W. Ferguson, W. Strickland, W. Ferguson, jnr., W. Webster, Geo. Pearce, T. Hallam, W. J. Watchorn, and H. C. Lovett, who have purchased the ground, and laid out a large sum of money in bringing it to its present state of perfection.

The property consisted of about 6½ acres, was metangular in shape, and was situated directly opposite Cooley's Hotel at South Glenorchy as was described as "not too far for a pedestrian to walk, and just far enough to make a drive pleasant."

The inaugural meeting featured six events for pedestrianism (athletics) and cyclists as well as a woodchopping contest and attracted a crowd of close to 1,000 and afterwards all cheques and trophies were presented at Cooley's Hotel.

The desire to have more sporting contests at Elwick resulted in the Tasmanian Racing Club hosting a Handicap Trot three days after the Victoria Sports Ground inauguration and the field brought together the

TROTTING STALLION, QUICKSAND.

The Imported Trotting Stallion QUICKSAND will stand the Coming Season at New Norfolk, and will Travel to Glenora, and then through Macquarie Plains, Hamilton, Bothwell, Green Ponds, Bagdad, Brighton, Old Beach, and wherever his services may be required; making his rounds every ninth or tenth day.

QUICKSAND is a rich roan, by the American Trotting Horse Quicksilver, Very powerful, sure foal getter; and has done the mile in 2'40.

Terms—£3 15s; groomage included, with the usual allowance to hour ride owners, payable by bill dated from January 1, 1883.

F. H. REEO,
Evandale.

best from all corners of the State in particular Butcher Boy, Lubra and Actress, the latter proving a fine advertisement on country tracks for her imported NZ-bred roan sire Quicksand (by the imported UK Norfolk Trotter Quicksilver).

The winner Fairy, who enjoyed the luxury of a 35 seconds start, matured into one of the best trotters seen in Tasmania in the 19th century.

TROTTING HANDICAP

Saddle only. Weight, 11st. A handicap of 20 Sovs, with a sweepstake of 2 sovs. added for acceptors; second horse to receive 10sovs. out of the stake. Distance, twice round the course and a distance (about 2 1/2miles).

Mr. R. Porthouse's bm7 FAIRY, 35secs start (T Austin) 1

Mr. W. Webster's gga Oatlands, 30secs (W. Webster) 2

Mr. W. Fearnley's gga Butcher Boy, 10secs. (Owner) 3

Others: Mr. R. Porthouse's brg7 Freedom, scr (5lb. over)(Wilson), Mr. W. Webster's bma Lubra, scr. (8lb. over)(F. Webster), Mr. G. Lawson's gma Actress, scr. (J. Powell), Mr. W. Wilson's chga Jack, 45sec (Wilson), Mr. T. Amott's brga Rambler, 50secs. (Amott, jun.), Mr. J. Whitneys bma Rainbow Lass, 60secs (Whitney), Mr T. Dillons brga Devonshire Lad, 60sec (Davidson), Mr. R. P. Huxtable's bg6 Vosco, 65sec. (2lb. over) (Huxtable), Mr. W. Bentley's bga Tommy, 65sec. (Bentley).

Actress and Fairy were the favourites. Fairy, with her handicap of 35sec, was never headed, winning by 240yds., with Oatlands second by nearly 100yds. Actress broke occasionally during the first round. Time : 7min. 34 1/2secs.

The 1887 Butchers Sports featured two trots and one worthy winner was Thomas Amott who was successful with Gaffer Grey (35 seconds start) who defeated scratchmarker Butcher Boy. The other was Mr Smith's Bobby ridden by the Tasmania's best horsemen of the 19th Century, Robert Porthouse, who often campaigned successfully in Victoria with his team.

The Tasmanian Racing Club stumped up some stakemoney for the trotters at their June 20 1887 meeting and were rewarded with the best field possible namely the trotters Butcher Boy and Lubra as well as the pacing star Fairy. Robert Porthouse's Jack and the ever consistent Gaffer Grey made up the field.

Incredibly those lucky enough to support Butcher Boy (30 secs behind) on the totalisator collected big time as the machine paid out at odds of 20/1. Lubra (16 secs behind) was only two lengths behind at the finish while Fairy found the 50 seconds handicap beyond her.

Racing was in fashion and in November 1887 yet another new racing enterprise opened for business, the New Norfolk Racing Club on November 29, 1887.

The opening was described in part thus, "New Nortolk, the scene of many aquatic contests, but for the last 35 or 40 years estranged from the more exciting incidents of the turf, was yesterday rendered particularly lively from the fact that a programme of horse races was brought off.

A better day for outdoor enjoyment could not have been wished, and therefore those who visited the township for a day's country air weren't disappointed. Of the three routes, the rail found most patrons, the steamer Monarch having only 40 passengers on board. Several, however, journeyed by road, Cooley's buses conveying a large number.

The aggregate number on the ground probably reached about 1,800, the meet offering attraction for persons residing as far North as Oatlands. The course, a mile less 40yds round, is situated a mile and a half from the township, on land belonging to Mr. Allwright, and known as Kensington Park (that made five racecourses of that name in Australia - others in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Sydney).

The area is scarcely suitable for races, as for a couple of furlongs the horses are lost to view, on account of the finish being in a hollow. The going was very hard, besides ruts abounded, but perhaps the worst feature of all was an awkward, if not dangerously, sharp turn into the straight."

Given that the track became the venue for an annual meeting for the Oddfellows right up to the end of the century, improvements must have been made to remedy all the abovementioned faults.

The trotting race at the inaugural meeting was taken out by Robert Porthouse's Deceiver whose "hoofs were adorned with the beneficial if inelegant trotting weights". Deceiver came off a 25 secs handicap and defeated Butcher Boy who had to contend with the extreme backmark of 85 seconds with Fairy (60 secs) third.

The 1888 Butchers Sports meeting on April 25 was a roaring success according to the Hobart Mercury - "The Hobart butchers held their annual sports meeting at Elwick yesterday, and they had the pleasure of seeing the greatest success they have had since their annual meetings were initiated. The day was as delightful as anyone could wish, the air being beautifully nairn and clear, and the temperature neither hot, nor cold. About 2,000 people assembled on the course, and if there had been a train at about 2.30 this number would probably have been increased by a couple of hundred more."

As always Thomas Amott, now an Alderman, was in charge and John Cooley acted as starter in the absence of Mr. A Lord. Amott was later to become Lord Mayor of Hobart.

Butcher Boy and Joe Fearnley won the Butchers Trot by a couple of hundred yards despite a 65 second backmark and W. Webster's wonderful mare Lubra (45 secs bhd) won the Open Trot.

On Wednesday October 3, 1888 the Victoria Sports Ground that was opened in 1887 introduced horse racing. Hobart Mercury reported thus:-

"The first of what is intended to be a fortnightly racing meet on a limited scale took place at this ground, New Town, yesterday afternoon. There was a fair attendance of spectators, and the racing was of a good character, and the finishes close, added to which the day was a pleasant one, and altogether an enjoyable afternoon was spent."

There were two Trotting Handicaps, two pony races and a hurdle event with Butcher Boy winning both races - the two mile handicap from a 50 seconds backmark and the "six times round" event from 55 seconds behind."

The interest in trotting forced the ultimate, a Trotting Club. Well almost - the Hobart Trotting and Racing Club on October 18, 1888 and who else was leading the way but Thomas "Tom" Amott. If ever a Tasmanian Trotting Hall of Fame is established he surely must get a guernsey as a Pioneer for after he returned to Tasmania a second time in 1902 he revived the Hobart Trotting Club and was still President of the Club when he passed away in 1929.

There was an expansive report in the Hobart Mercury on the creation of the Hobart Trotting and Racing Club, such was the interest in trotting at the time and the roll call was impressive.

Sire Horses

THE TROTTING STALLION

LEN HEART.

Len Ross	Sweet Heart
A W Richmond—Dolly Spanker	Montacute—Faa
Hunt's Commodore—Mambrino.	Panic—Orwell.

Len Heart is a beautiful silver grey, stands 16 hands, with plenty of substance, strength, and activity; has proved himself sure at the stud, and has earned a reputation for honesty and speed on the track not to be surpassed.

Winner of Double H.R.C. 1885, and Open Trot Highton H.C. 1896; only once unplaced.

His sire, Len Ross (imp) 1 mile 5m/s, 27sec., is by A W Richmond, sire of Ramero, 2m/s 22sec., and San Diego, 2m/s 22sec., out of Dolly Spanker by Hunt's Commodore, son of Mambrino, who also bred Minnie Ha Ha, dam of Beautiful Belle, 2m/s 26sec., Sweetheart, 2m/s 26sec., 2m/s 26sec.; and Eva, 2m/s 26sec.

Terms—£2 10s., or as per agreement.

G. K. MADDICK, Hobart; or, W. D. MADDOCK, Kingston.

"A meeting of persons interested in the formation of a Trotting and Racing Club was held at the Albion Hotel last evening. There were nearly 30 persons present, and Alderman Amott was voted to the chair. After the question of starting a club had been thoroughly discussed, it was decided that a club should be formed under the style of the Hobart Trotting and Racing Club, and the rules of the Victorian Trotting Club were adopted, with an addition regulating the receipt of entries

The following officers were elected:- Patron: Mr. Alfred Crisp, M.H.A., Mayor of Hobart; Vice-patrons: Hon. Nicholas Brown, M.H.A., Messrs, John Hamilton, M.H.A., C. S. Agnew, C. E. Davies, J W. Syme, and C.E. Featherstone, President: Hon. John Lord, M.L.C.; vice-presidents, Messrs. A.P. Miller, H. R. Brent. A. E. Lord, and Dr. Gray; Stewards: Messes. Weaver, T Amott, W. Stevenson, C. Cooley, S. P. Lawrence, W. Harrison, and C. Webb; Judge: A. E. Lord; Treasurer: J. Ainslie; Hon Secretary: T. Amott."

The assembled didn't mess around either approving a racing programme to take place in thirteen days time - a Maiden Trot in heats, Open Handicap Trot, Hack Race, and Galloway Race for ponies not over 14-3 hands.

For the historical record here are the results of the two trotting events.

MAIDEN TROT

Of 7 sovs; second horse 2 sovs. out of stake. Weight, 11st., Mile heats, best two out of three.

Mr. C. Cooley's blkq SIR ROBERT	1	1
Mr. R. Porthouse's rg Roaney	3	2
Mr. Wm. Harrison's g Rocket	2	3
Mr. Wm. Manton's bm Clara	0	0

The winner was very well ridden by C. Cooley jnr.

TROT HANDICAP

Of 10 sovs; second horse, 3sovs. Weight, 11st. Three miles.

Mr. W. Manton's chpm TICKLER, 29 secs (owner) 1	
Mr. W. Harrison's gg Gaffer Grey, 30secs (Amott) 2	
Mr. R. Porthouse's rg Roaney, 15secs (J. Fearnley) 3	
Mr. W. Harrison's gg Rocket, scr (owner) 0	



So in the south of Tasmania there were now regular opportunities for the owners and trainers of trotters at meetings of the New Norfolk Racing Club, the Hobart Trotting and Racing Club and the Butchers Sports Association.

Unfortunately the Hobart Trotting and Racing Club conducted just one more meeting at the Victoria Grounds on December 5 1888, in front of a large attendance, before folding.

The winners at that meeting were Mr Blacklow's Lucy who made a clean sweep of the Maiden Trot heats while Mr Mulligan's Newnham (late Roaney) won the Time Handicap.

A fortnight later one of the richest trotting matches in Hobart was part of a mixed race programme at Elwick overseen by Thomas Amott, with the pony Tickler easily defeating Mr. W. Ikin's Larrikin for the prize of 100 sovereigns, winner take all. The Time Handicap Trot was won by Porthouse's accomplished pacer Fairy (50 secs handicap) who just got to the leader Rocket ten lengths from the line "amid loud cheering".

Fairy enhanced her reputation at the 1889 Butchers Annual Sports meeting when she was pulled back to a crushing 70 seconds handicap giving the multiple Elsterwick Park (Vic) winner Prince B, owned by J. Rainbird, Butcher Boy, Lubra and Tickler all 20 seconds start.

The handicap proved small potatoes for Fairy as she performed brilliantly and won by fifty yards.

Over the next twelve months Sorell and Brighton proved to be a popular venue for trotting races, while back in Hobart another 100 pound winner takes all match race took place on March 1 1890 between Prince B and Minnie. The former won easily.

Yet another new Club in the Hobart region emerged in 1890 with the Bellerive Racing Club holding their inaugural meeting on April 12 at Rosny attracting a crowd of 550 persons.

The course was described thus, "about three quarters of a mile round, is picturesquely situated, but a most severe test to equines. The soil is naturally holding, and besides there is a decline leading to the back of the course that requires the strongest of hands to steady horses, while there is a trying ascent before reaching the straight that would tend to spoil a finish."

The Trot was described as "a good one of its kind" and was won in a close finish by Mr. F.W., Bryant's roan mare Merrymaid (ridden by H Gourlay) from a 55 seconds handicap who defeated the favourite Fairy (70 secs handicap) by a mare three-quarters of a length.

The popular Butchers meeting in 1890 attracted poor entries in the trotting races with Mr. C. Prognoll's Tiger (20 secs bhd) defeating Thomas Amott's grey Jimmy (75 secs bhd) with Thomas jnr in the saddle in the Butchers only trot and then with Thomas Amott senior in the saddle Jimmy came out later in the day and won the Open Trot. In the coming months he would also win at Bellerive off 80 seconds.

Another phenomenon around 1890 was the massive popularity of pony racing as the public loved to watch ponies going "hell for leather" at close quarters on smaller tracks. No surprise therefore that Pony Race Clubs started to appear usually in conjunction with trotters.

In Hobart on November 22 1890 a pony and trotting meeting was held at the Victoria Sports Grounds at New Town and J.R. Abbott's mare Minnie won the trot over two miles.

Into 1890 and the Newtown Pony Meeting continued on a monthly basis and was expanded to include two trotting events, one for ponies and one for all comers, although because of the size of the track the best trotters did not compete.

Through 1890, and 1891 opportunities for trotters were at New Town, Kensington Park, Sorell, the Butchers Annual Sports and the pretty Bellerive track at Wentworth (the property of C.E. Featherstone M.H.A.), with the best trotters, such as the grey Jimmy (raced by Thomas Amott and later Robert Porthouse) and Lampkin's Darkie, competing at the latter two venues. Another new club that put on a trot in 1891 was the revived Clarence Racing Club.

The 1892 Butchers Sports gathering was a beauty attracting a large attendance that witness three trots - a Butchers Trot won by F.H. Sherrin's Denny Blake, a Pony Trot won by T. Miles' Magnet and the Open Trot by W. Franklin's Red Mick.

In June that year yet another new Club, the Bellevue Racing Club was formed and presented the public with their initial fare on June 15 at their course at Risdon.

The lone Trot on the programme attracted an excellent field with G. Reading's Countess reveling in the heavy going to win by five lengths from G. Alcock's Saucy and Red Mick with the likes of Denny Blake and the much travelled Kiwi-bred trotter Narrow Gauge unplaced.

The second meeting in August proved a disaster for the image of trotting. The first horse across the line Red Mick was disqualified for leaving the mark before his time and the subsequent winner, Tom Males' Dosey, was disqualified days later when it was deduced that she was one in the same as accomplished NZ trotting mare Anneaux d'Or.

Anneaux d'Or was renowned as not having a tail and the ruse was uncovered when someone, after Dosey returned to scale, pulled the false tail that had been attached prior to the race.

Tom Males was censured and Anneaux d'Or disqualified for two years, however, she was sold to Victoria where she was renamed Coquette and competed at Richmond several times with a second her best result before her return to Tom Males in Tasmania.

In disgust the Club did not put on a Trot at their next meeting, however, relented at the following meeting after pleas from the trotting community with F. Williamson's Denny Blake chalking up another victory.

On to 1893 and yet another Sports organization presented a mixed programme of races and fun activities on January 2, this time at Sandford and the press report is well worth reading, especially the closing punchline.

"The above sports took place at Sandford yesterday on the estate of "Rosehill," the paddock being kindly lent for the occasion by Mr, Geo. Morrisby. There were about 300 people assembled from the neighbouring districts, and a few from Hobart, The weather was fine. Mr. Sid. Ward, from Rokeby, had the refreshment tent. Every event went off well. Mr. McDermott, of Bellerive, who has just had the contract for mails for South Arm, plied three vehicles, which were well patronised. The steam ketch "Victoria" from Hobart, took a fair compliment of passengers, and landed them on the Government jetty at the head of Ralph's Bay. Messrs. J. Morrisby and W. Young acted as judges, Mr. G. Morrisby as starter, and Mr. T Huxley as secretary." The three mile Time Handicap Trot was won by S. Ward's Acrobat.

"The day's proceedings finished with a greasy pig contest, for which there were six entries. After a very exciting and amusing chase, the pig was secured by - wait for it - Geo. Suckling."

The early meetings in 1893 saw good numbers for the trots with eleven at the Belle Vue January 12 meeting (race won by Lampkin's skewbald gelding General), twelve at the February 4 Belle Vue meeting (race won by J. Cooper's Blackie from a 60 secs backmark) and 12 and 13 respectively for the Butchers Sports meeting on February 22 (races won by H Cooper's unimaginatively named Neddy and Tom Males' Darkie).

On March 8 1893 another club was formed, the Bellerive Racing Club, a registered Club as distinct from the Bellerive Club down the road that was a proprietary Club than had pony races.

The inaugural meet of the Club had two 10 sovereign Trots on the programme, one over three miles won by Mr Alcock's Saucy and a two mile affair for horses 14.2 hands and under taken out by the popular Denny Blake with C Cooley in the saddle.

Up on the north coast, Launceston also saw the creation of new Clubs, especially involving ponies with the Kings Meadow Pony and Trotting Club holding their initial meeting on April 1. Despite the meeting being described as "a complete success" the club folded. It was revived in 1895 as the King's Meadow Pony Club and only occasionally programmed a pony trot event.

Stakemoney for trotting races was poor and the only venue that offered 20 sovereigns was the Butchers Sports Association meetings and thankfully in 1893 the Association to inaugurate a Spring meeting on October 11. The Spring meeting winners were T. Hallam's Dolly in the Butchers Trot and F.H. Sherrin's Jacko in the Open Trot.

Everyone was trying to get into the act and a Hobart Pony, Galloway and Trotting Association was set up and conducted their first meeting at the Belle Vue course on September 30, the trotting events being won by J.R. Abbott's Minnie and Tom Males' ex-Kiwi Narrow Gauge, ridden by Robert Porthouse. The Association lasted as long as King's Meadow and also akin to that Club was revived briefly (see later).

Salvation was at hand though in the form of John W. Bradshaw and Joseph Bradshaw. Joseph Bradshaw had cut his teeth working for the Tasmanian Turf Club at Launceston being responsible for the ticket sellers and admission gates while John W. Bradshaw was an accountant by trade and well known and respected in sporting circles.

Both recognized not only the popularity of pony and trotting races but also the glaring absence of regular meetings catering for growing population of ponies and trotters.

The Tattersalls Pony, Galloway and Trotting Race Club was the vehicle they created and operated all associated business from "Tattersalls" at the Central Hotel on Liverpool Street, Launceston.

On October 7, the inaugural meeting was held in Launceston and like so many other promising similar gatherings had been but uniquely it continued to prosper.

The Launceston Examiner reported on that first meeting thus:-

"On Saturday afternoon the initial meet of Tattersall's Pony, Galloway, and Trotting Race Club was held on the club's course at Elphin. The fine weather which prevailed induced a good attendance, some 750 passing through the gates. Favourable opinions were expressed on all sides at the forwardness of the preparations made by the club authorities to convert the late football ground into a racecourse, and a word of praise is also due to the Corporation authorities for having the Elphin road well watered as far as the course.

Taken all through a good afternoon's sport was provided, and if the expressions of opinion on Saturday's meet are any criterion these races will become very popular. The officials worked hard to ensure success, and without exception gave satisfaction. Mr G. W. Field acted as judge, Mr W. J. Southerwood as starter, Mr Z. Dent as clerk of the scales, and Mr Thos. Powell as clerk of the course. Mr John W. Bradshaw was an efficient and obliging secretary. Mr P. G. Monaghan was responsible for the handicapping, while Mr A. J. Goodwin acted as timekeeper. Mr Joseph Bradshaw had a totalisator (2s 6d) on the ground, which was worked to the satisfaction of all concerned, £143 being passed through the machine; and Mr J. H. Clear, of the Newstead Inn, occupied the refreshment booth and attended to the wants of the thirsty."

Of significance was the youthful collection of trotters competing and that the first Trot was won by Len, one of the first Tasmanian crop of the imported American stallion Len Rose (see below).

OPEN HANDICAP TROT

Distance handicap of 10 sovs. Second 2 sovs from stake. Distance: two miles. Weight 10st.

Mr G. W. Field gg6 LEN (Len Rose (imp.) - dam unknown), 600yds (Armstrong) 1

Mr Chas. Pitt's bm4 Lady Bird, scratch (Pitt) 2

Mr J Archer bm4 Lady Clifton, 300yds (Dutton) 3

Others: Laura, 200yds (Sydes), Fairy, 300yds (T. Williams), Lady, 300yds (Bartlett), Recovery, 450yds (Webb)

"The first time round the order remained unaltered. Coming round the second time Recovery, in a "sulky," commenced to move up, passing Fairy and Lady Clifton, and was going well. When half the journey had been

covered Armstrong began to move on Len in real earnest, and picking up his field one by one, challenged Lady Bird just before entering the straight, and shaking her off came on with the lead, eventually winning handsomely by 30yds. Lady Clifton was a bad third; the remainder of the field were distanced. Time, 7min 25sec."

The Club, or rather Joseph Bradshaw, was faced with an early challenge as he was charged in the days after the meeting with having "unlawfully used a totalisator for the distribution of money by way of a lottery."

All five charges were dismissed but the matter remained a sore point with the thoroughbred administrators for years especially as the Tattersalls Pony, Galloway and Trotting Association became a real hit with the public enabling monthly and then fortnightly meetings to be held.

Not to be outdone another Club emerged at Latrobe on January 30 1894 as reported in the daily press:-

"The initial meet of the Latrobe Pony, Galloway, and Trotting Club was held today under the most auspicious circumstances on the Latrobe racecourse. Some 300 people were present to witness the racing.

The various secretarial arrangements were well carried out by Mr. A. Boatwright, to whom the major portion of praise is due for a successful culmination of the day's sport. The following were the other officers: - Judge, Mr. J. Roche; starter, Mr. H. Morrey, M.H.A.; clerk of the scales, Mr. W. H. Kean; clerk of measuring, Mr. T. Lock; clerk of course, Mr. J. Heggarth; timekeeper, Mr. J. White."

The lone trotting event for ponies 14.1 hands and under was won by J. East's Tom Thumb, C Hall's Minnie Warren, Mr Denby's The Ant and thirteen others. Incredibly the first and third placegetters were both over 20 years of age.

While those in the North now had a regular serving of trotting races at Elphin (Tattersalls PG&T Club) plus Latrobe closer to the coast, the Southerners had the annual Butchers meeting on May 2 with three trots - won by C Ward's Leo II, M orpwood's Nancy Lee and W.T. Thrope's Bill Bell - and in the first six months of 1894 there was just one trot at Belle Vue, won by Bill Bell.

Then, out of the blue, the Hobart Pony and Trotting Association arose from the ashes with the first ever All-Trotting programme (four races) conducted on a racetrack in Tasmania.

The historic meeting took place at the Belle Vue racecourse on August 4 1894 and the results from this historically significant meeting was as follows and appropriately Thomas Amott won the opening event:-

MAIDEN TROT - 5 sovs - Abt Two miles

Mr. T. Amott's JEANETTE, Scratch (owner) 1

Mr. W. Heawood's Belle, scratch, 2

Mr. F. Webster's Dick, scratch, 3.

Eight started. won by a furlong.

OPEN TROT - 5 sovs - One mile

Mr. T. Males' NARROW GAUGE, 10secs bhd (Porthouse) 1

Mr. P. Baker's ch g Red Mick, 10 secs bhd 2;

Mr. W. Jenkins' Minnie, 12secs. bhd, 3.

Eight started. Won by half a dozen lengths.

PONY TROT (14h limit) - 4 sovs - Abt Two miles

Mr. E Lampkins GENERAL, 15secs. bhd. (Owner), 1

Mr. J. Cooper's Blackie, 55secs. bhd., 2;

Mr. C. Beck's Bobby, 20secs. behind, 3.

Six started. close finish.

TIME HANDICAP TROT - 7 sovs - Abt Two miles

Mr. W. Harrison's MEDORA, 20secs. bhd. (Harrison, jun.), 1

Mr. W. Jenkins' Minnie, 25ss. bhd., 2;

Mr. J. Cooper's Blackie, 40secs.bhd., 3.

Seven started. Won by three lengths.

Two years later the next All-Trotting meeting was held at the same course on September 16 1896 and dubbed the "Champion Trotting Meeting".



It was anything but with only three events with a Maiden Handicap (won by Marvel ridden by Robert Porthouse), a Cabmens Trot (won by Jimmy driven by J. Whitney) and an Open Trot (won by Lord Cleveland and Mr. C Ward).

The calendar year of 1895 commenced with several trots at various New Year's Day meetings including the regular one at St. Marys and also at Strahan on the west coast where R.S. Black's Hinemoa won what was described as "the best and closest race of the day".

Apart from the ever increasing regularity and popularity of the Tattersalls PG&T meetings at Elphin, the most significant meeting was once again the annual Butchers' Sports held on March 6.

The meeting was dominated by C.R. Maddock's four-year-old Len Heart who won both the two mile Butchers Trot by 15 lengths, but also the two and a half mile Open trot by a dozen lengths.

Over at Belle Vue the mixed meetings began to feature two trots and Thomas Amott's Jeanette won a double at one such meeting while the popular Carrick Club hosted a Queens Birthday meeting in May.

The Carrick programme attracted a huge field of twenty trotters and pacers with pony Butcher Boy adding to his reputation by winning off 300 yards and the next year he was taken to Victoria and won a 100 sovereign trot at Ascot.

It wouldn't be a year without a new Club and the initial meeting of the Lefroy Racing Club (about 10 miles east of George Town on the north coast) was held on April 24 1895 although it was more of a revival as there had been a Lefroy Racing Club formed in 1883.

It was quite a day as special fares had been arranged with transport company Southerwoods line of coaches for the week prior, the Garrison Band was in attendance and in the evening a race ball commenced at 9 o'clock.

The lone trot was won by Robert Porthouse and his veteran Narrow Gauge who rated 3:04.4 for two and a half miles from his 200 yard handicap.

As if the regular Tattersalls PG&T meetings at Elphin weren't enough the opportunities for the northerners was boosted further with the inauguration of the Mowbray Pony and Trotting Club in 1896.

The Launceston born William Doolan was the man behind the establishment of the Club and he proved in time to be in the same Pioneer league as Tom Amott. After three successful years with the Mowbray P&T Club before totalisator legislation caused its demise,

William took over the secretaryship of the Northern Tasmanian Association just after the turn of the century when it was in trouble and proceeded put it on a sound financial basis.

William, an accomplished violinist, built the Imperial Hotel in Derby and so as trotting was concerned he also acted as secretary and handicapper for the Northern Tasmanian Trotting Club. William retired from the NTTA in 1928, one year before his death.

The Mowbray Pony and Trotting Club raced on grounds at the back of the Tasmanian Turf Club's grandstand that eventually became the site of the state school at Mowbray. The first meeting on October 31 1896 consisted of five races, two pony races, a Galloway race, a pony trot and an open trot and the results of the two trots were:-

PONY TROT – 5 sovs – Two miles

Mr. R. Emery's HILDA, 20secs bhd (Emery) 1

Mr. L. Kirbys Sarah, 10secs (Kirby) 2

Mr. E. A. Fawknor's Little Duchess, 22secs. (Owner) 3

Others:- Dolly (scr), Gay Maid (scr), Tom Thumb (scr), Pebble (15secs), Fairy (15secs), Jimmy (32 1/2secs), Ladybird (40secs), Butcher Boy (45sec).

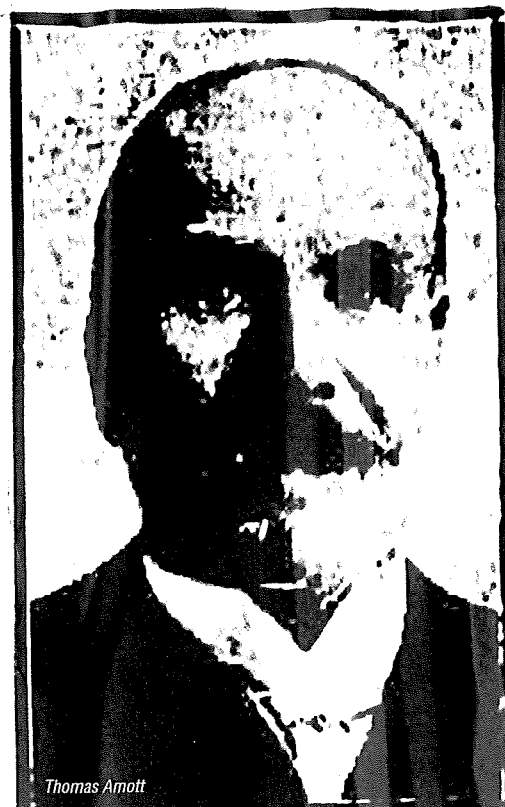
OPEN TROT – 12 sovs – Two miles

Messrs. A. & J. Cosgrove's bm NANCY, 10secs (J. Cosgrove) 1

Mr. W. West's bg Tommy, 10secs. (J Cosgrove) 2

Mr. E. A. Fawknor's Steeltrap, 32 1/2secs (Owner) 3

Others:- Commodore (scr), Pebble (scr), Boss (scr), Brownie (scr), Xmas (5sec), . Comet (15secs), Dandy (17secs), Sultan (20 1/2secs), Gentleman John (35sec), Glencoe (52 1/2secs), Bill Bell (55secs), Coquette (55secs).



The Mowbray Pony, Galloway and Trotting Association conducted 46 meetings in total before running foul of totalisator legislation that was directed at wiping out proprietary clubs in 1898/99 and had to be re-constituted as the Mowbray Racing Club to survive. There were another three 19th century meetings under the new constitution.

In all there were 81 trotting events at those 49 meetings with the major multiple winners being Hopeless (5), Lord Byron (4), Brownie (4), Pebble (4) and The Monk (4).

Meanwhile in the Hobart region irregular meetings were being held at Belle Vue (club and the popular Butchers meets), Kensington Park and Brighton, but in no way compared to the sheer volume of racing in the north.

No surprise then that one of the best stallions ever imported to Tasmania pre 1900, Viceroy, was purchased by a Launceston resident (Mr. A. Curtin).

The Andrew Town (Hobartville) bred Viceroy was of fully imported parentage being by the famed Childe Harold USA from Violetta USA and thus a brother to the four other successful stallions – Era, Lord Harold, Viking and Pirate.

He was also a brother to the brilliant trotting mare Violetta Junior and a half brother to the sire Burlington Junior and Viotta who was exported to New Zealand and founded a maternal line that subsequently produced trotters of the ilk of Inter Dominion heat winners Merrin and Topeka, NZ 2YO trotter of the Year Alabama Whiz, Whizzing By (NZ Trotters Derby) and Eastnot Lad (NZSS 3YO Trot).

Viceroy was splashed across the advertising pages with full column ads, however, he proved to be a disappointment with his best lasting credit was that he sired the grandam of the first Tasmanian Derby winner The Ape.

The popularity of the Butchers Sports meetings never waned and they were always ready to innovate to assist the public and participants, one being the first club to divide the prizemoney among the first four horses home.

For Hobart in 1897 it was truly a matter of good news, bad news. The bad news was that Thomas Amott returned to Victoria and the Belle Vue Club was disbanded due to the deterioration of the track surface and concerns over its small size and shape. The good news was that the track was revamped.

The track was expanded to six furlongs taking in the old Belle Vue course and the Risdon football ground and the design though was far from perfect.

It featured two good long runs each side, but, unfortunately there was rather a sharp turn before entering the straight, and the latter is a sort, this being unavoidable, as the grand, large pavilion of the Football Association was utilised as the grandstand.

Now known as Risdon Park it became the home of a newly created Hobart Turf Club that conducted its first meeting on November 13 1897 with a 20 sovereign Trot, something they did at seven of their eight 19th Century meetings.

It was an anxious wait for that first as it was twice postponed, however, on raceday the Club was blessed with favourable weather conditions and a very good attendance. The result of the only Trot was as follows:-

OPEN HANDICAP TROT

Two miles and a quarter. 15 sovs.; 3 sovs. second horse.

T. Ingersoll's BLACK BESS, 30secs (Cooley) 1

W. Hempseed's Rosebud, 5secs (Webster) 2

C. Ward's Lord Cleveland, 40secs (Ward) 3

Minnie, Dolly, and Tickler also started.

Margins: 20yds X 15yds. Time, 7min. 23sec.

The Danbury Park estate at West Tamar was taken over by George Luck in 1888 and thereafter conducted a Christmas Day picnic meeting each year and this led to the establishment of the Danbury Park Trotting Club in 1898. The Danbury Park Cup is still run today (see Classic Families).

From the mid 1890's there was a growing disquiet among thoroughbred officials over the success of proprietary Clubs, in particular the Mowbray PG&T and Tattersalls PG&T Clubs and this culminated in a drawn out legal case that stopped both clubs racing for the first six months of the 1897/98 season.

While Mowbray was forced to change their constitution and folded early in the 20th century the Tattersalls Club closed operations in August 1899 after offering more than 100 meetings including 200 races for trotters.

Some of most prolific winners at the Tattersalls meetings were the Len Rose gelding Little Hampton (8), Colleen Dhas (7), Little Nat (7) and Dandy (7), the latter winning in Victoria at Richmond.

One fascinating feat that has to be mentioned involving the Mowbray and Tattersalls Clubs was what happened on July 1, 1899 when both clubs promoted a meeting.

The pony trotter Colleen Dhas won the Pony Trot off a 45 seconds handicap at the Tattersalls meeting at Elphin, then was driven six miles across to the Mowbray meeting where she also won the two mile Time Handicap Trot off the front.

While the death knell was being heard in Launceston for both the proprietary Clubs, hopes rose dramatically down in Hobart with the creation of the Butchers Trotting Association.

The inaugural meeting was conducted at Risdon Park on June 21 1899 and the second meeting on July 19 1899. There was never a third meeting.

The newspapers of the day referred to the second meeting as run by the Tasmanian Trotting Association, however, the first meeting of the real Tasmanian Trotting Association was held in the 20th Century – January 31, 1900 – and this is why the Butchers Trotting Association lapsed.

The press reports of the first meeting which attracted some of the largest fields ever seen in Tasmania follows:-

"The first meet of the newly-formed Butchers' Trotting Association was held yesterday at Risdon Park in the presence of a large number of spectators, including several ladies. Two totalisators were worked at half-sovereign tickets, and at the close of the afternoon £1,098/10/ had passed over the counters. A place tote was run on each of the five events. Mr. J. J. "Jos" Wignall, the Hon. secretary, and a willing staff of co-workers saw through a successful meeting. The results are hereafter detailed:

OPEN TROT – 10 sovs – About 1 1/2 miles

Messrs. Lewis & Harrison's ENDOR ROSE, 12secs 1

Mr. U. Robb's Stella, 5secs 2

Mr. A. Buckney's Glen Dhu, 14secs 3

Twenty-one started. Margins: 8lgths X 12lgths

Time, 4min. 54sec.

MAIDEN PONY TROT – 8sovs – Abt 1 1/2 miles

Mr. W. Smith's DOLLY, 5secs 1

Mr. W. Lewis's Jennie, 20secs 2

Mr. S. Spark's Mona, 30secs 3

Seventeen started. Margins: 1/2lgth X 1/2lgth

Time, 5min. 55sec.

OPEN TROT – 15sovs – Abt 2 1/4 miles.

Mr. E. Lampkin's MCGINNIS, 20secs 1

Mr. M. Orpwood's Tradesman, 17secs 2

Mr. T. James's Rob Roy, 45secs 3

Twenty-two started. Margins: 5lgths X 8lgths

Time, 7min. 32sec.

OPEN PONY TROT – 10 sovs - About 1 1/2 miles

Mr. E. Lampkin's POSSUM, 10secs 1

Mr. J. It, Abbott's Minnie, 15secs 2

Mr. F. Lamikin's Queenie, 5secs 3

Note: Tickler won by disqualified for galloping.

Fourteen started. Time, 5min. 18sec.

OPEN TROT – 20 sovs - About 3 miles.

Mr. A. Buckney's GLEN DHU, 30secs 1

Mr. G. Watt's Nipper, 8secs 2

Mr. T. James's Rob Roy, 55secs 3

Sixteen started. Margins: 15lgths X 10lgths

Time, 10min. 1sec.

At the second meeting F. Webster won the three open trots remarkably on the same horse Rob Roy who won the 10 Sovereign trot (abt 1 1/2 Miles) off 32 seconds behind, the 15 sovereign Open Trot (abt 2 1/4 Miles) off 48 seconds behind and the 20 sovereign Open Trot (abt three miles) off 67 seconds behind. The pony trots were won by T. Jones' Polly and J.H. Ellen's Badger.

So one century closed with two wonderful all trotting meetings in Hobart and hope. Just one month into the new century that hope crystallised into a real future with the formation of the Tasmanian Trotting Association.

Once a statewide registration and administration followed the sport flourished and all the blood, sweat and tears of those selfless pioneers and enthusiasts had finally been worth it. **HRT**





By John Peck

Victoria is Harness Racing Heritage Central

When it comes to comparing States with respect to the level of Harness Racing heritage it is no contest as Victoria wins hands down and even a 1,000 page book covering just the 19th Century would not do it justice.

So extensive is that heritage that the following story is just a mere brushstroke of history and covers just the Melbourne metropolitan area with the 200+ towns in country areas that hosted trotting races in the 19th century being held over until the next edition of Harness Racing International.

Victoria may not have had the first ever recording trotting race (1810 - Parramatta, NSW) nor the first race under lights (1889 - Brisbane, Qld), however, the first USA trotting stallion imports (Vermont Boy - 1862, Cambridge Chief - 1864, Daniel Boon - 1869), the first USA trotting mare import (Black Hawk Belle - 1864), the first metropolitan all-trotting meeting (Flemington - 1860), the first two country trotting clubs (Ballarat & Creswick - 1861; Sandhurst - 1883), the first purpose built trotting track (Elsternwick - 1882), the first 2YO trotting race and the first 3YO trotting race more than makes up for it.

Of course in the 20th Century Victoria created the first Pacers Derby and the first Trotters Derby in 1914 but strangely there is no interest in capitalizing on this remarkable heritage in a marketing sense.

Here is a very brief chronological resume of how trotting developed throughout the Melbourne metropolitan area:-

Pre 1860: Match Races were recorded on St Kilda Road, Flemington, Eltham, Campbellfield, Heidelberg, streets of the Melbourne CBD, Prahran, Keilor, Pilgrim Inn (Northcote), Emerald Hill and no doubt many other venues yet to be found.

1860-1864: American Trotting Races - conducted at Flemington in 1860, 1861 and 1862. The 1863 meeting was at Emerald Hill (South Melbourne). A Grand Metropolitan trotting meeting was held at Flemington in 1864.

1860-1869: Races conducted at Northcote (Pilgrim Inn, Red House), Emerald Hill (South Melbourne), Prahran, Essendon, Frankston, Forest Hill and Preston.

1869-1872: Races were held on mixed programmes conducted at the original Croxton Park course on the eastern side of St Georges Road, Northcote adjoining the Croxton Park Hotel (nee Pilgrim Inn).

1873-1881: Races on mixed programmes at Kensington Park, near Macauley Road, North Melbourne as well as two events at Caulfield thoroughbred track and trots on mixed programmes at Dandenong, Wyndham

1881: Three trotting meetings were held at Brighton Beach and Boccaccio Park (Brighton).

1882-1891: Elsternwick Park, a purpose built graded sand/gravel one mile trotting track was built on reclaimed swamp land by the Victoria Trotting Club. Two trots also held on mixed programmes at Rosstown.

1887-1895: Other tracks that hosted races on mixed programmes were the VTC owned Sandown Park (ex Oakleigh Park), Epsom, Mentone, Mordialloc, Oakleigh, Aspendale, Hurlingham Park (Brighton), South Yarra and Thomastown.

1888-1896: Meetings held at W.S. Cox's Moonee Valley track, most of them being 100% Harness Racing events including one marathon 14 race programme.

1891-1899: Richmond track near old GTV9 complex hosted a mix of 100% Harness Racing meetings and single races (many of them for pony sized horses) on mixed programmes. A new smaller Croxton Park was built a mile or so south of the original Croxton Park and although it was in Northcote it was promoted as being at Fitzroy to lull the public into thinking the track was closer to the CBD than it actually was. Only races on mixed programmes.



1893-1899: The Ascot track hosted meetings and races on mixed programmes as did Maribyrnong in 1893 and 1894.

Organisations that conducted meetings up to 1899 were the American Trotting Races (Flemington, Emerald Hill), Australian Trotting Association (ex Union TC) (Moonee Valley, Richmond), Melbourne Driving Club (Richmond), Victorian Driving Club (Richmond), Maribyrnong Trotting Club, Victorian Trotting Association (Ascot), Victoria Trotting Club (Elsternwick, Sandown Park, Ascot), Moonee Valley Trotting Club, Oakleigh & Mulgrave TC (Springvale).

However, back to where it all began. Originally known as the Port Phillip District it was not until 1835 that Melbourne (originally named Bearbrass) was founded and another 17 years before Victoria was declared a State.

It did not take long for the competitive juices of the locals to start flowing and the first recorded trotting match was on March 16 1841 - "A match came off between two horses which was remarkable only from the fact of the streets forming a portion of the course. The race was, from the middle of Little Flinders Street to the flag-staff."

Galloping commenced some years earlier with the first ever race meeting at Batman's Hill on a circular one mile track with a straight of 500 yards in March 1838 and then the Melbourne racecourse (later known as Flemington) was established in 1840.

Thomas Strode, editor and publisher of the colony's only newspaper the Port Phillip Gazette, was also an early recorded participant with racing trotters.

In 1844 his unnamed chestnut mare trotted against a horse owned by Thomas Gibson of Tasmania (then known as Van Diemens Land) over a distance of about five miles - once round the Melbourne racecourse and on to the Crown Hotel in Lonsdale Street. The contest took just on sixteen minutes.

There was another match race on the Beach Road at Emerald Hill in April 1846 between Mr Pattinson's The Corporal and Mr Denham's cob The Rattler for one pound a side and a luncheon. The Rattler was successful.

Matches were usually held in close proximity to a pub where the winners could celebrate with gusto and the losers commiserate.

The first ever recorded advertised trotting race was on February 3rd 1847 as part of a mixed race meeting at Kinlochewe (later known as Kalkallo), and the event was worth 10 pounds with entrance being a sovereign. The distance was twice round the course and there was a stipulation that all competitors must be ridden by gentleman riders and furthermore there must be at least three starters or the race would be cancelled.

Trotting races continued to bob up on race meetings everywhere and the most popular metropolitan venue was the Melbourne racecourse and on May



24 1949 a three heat contest was held between the grey trotter Baron and Wallaby, with Baron winning the first heat and Wallaby the second and third heats and therefore the match.

One of the richer matches in early times was one for 50 pounds between Mr. Gates' Woodpecker, and W. S. Norman's Kitty Darling over one and a half miles on the Pentridge Road. In a sterling contest Woodpecker beating the favorite cleverly by a neck in a time of 6 minutes and 3 seconds.

In the 1850s other race meetings closer to town were at Yan Yean, Heidelberg, Chapel Street, Prahran (Prince Albert Hotel hosted the races) and the North Pole, the latter being the name of a pub at Springfield near Keilor.

The Yan Yean two-day race meeting must have been quite a hoot as some of the events (all for money) listed that were to take place between the various horse races were a Foot Race, Jumping in Sack, Throwing a Sledge Hammer, Catching and Throwing a soap-tailed Pig over the shoulder (the winner took home the pig), Climbing a Greasy Pole, Grinning through a Horse Collar and throwing a 20lb weight.

With each passing year the trotting matches and the money involved increased all over Victoria leading to some spectacular high price contests and eventually to organized racing.

In Melbourne's formative years there were two thoroughbred clubs, the Victorian Turf Club (VTC) and the Victorian Jockey Club (VJC), the former being the big brother of the two.

When the VJC gained permission to conduct a meeting at the Melbourne Racecourse in 1857 it included a trotting race and it was worth an impressive 150 pounds (equivalent to around \$15,000) and another on their 1858 and 1859 programmes worth 100 pounds.

St Kilda Road was a popular venue for both impromptu and organized trotting matches and one held there in 1859 between Long Tom and Robin Hood is well worth reporting for sheer amusement's sake.

"The match for £50 aside between Mr Gardiner's b g Long Tom and Mr George Dodson's b g Robin Hood, two miles in saddle, carrying 15st each, came off on Tuesday last on the St Kilda and Brighton road, the starting

point being near the Busy Bee, and the winning post opposite Mr Halliday's Greyhound hotel, St Kilda.

Messrs George Watson and T. Hills having been appointed umpires, at a little before four o'clock the nags proceeded to the scratch. Long Tom was a great favorite, 2 to 1 being laid, with but few takers; indeed it was so good a thing that everybody seemed anxious to get on. Robin Hood took the lead soon after starting; and on Long Tom's rider calling on him he broke. This occurred twice or thrice, and by the time Robin Hood had reached the Elsternwick hotel, he was three hundred yards ahead, which advantage he maintained during the remainder of the distance without being pressed. The non favorite's easy victory caused considerable surprise to the backers of Long Tom, and some amusement to the non-bettors at the, hollowness of the affair. The competing horses were followed during the race - if it can be so termed - by a large cavalcade, the majority of whom on its termination continued their course to Melbourne. Those who were interested in the match remained to see Mr G. Dobson, the rider of the winner, weighed, taking the off chance that he might possibly be under the mark.

A rush was immediately made to the nearest hay and corn store, much to the owner's wife's astonishment, who could not understand a crowd of excited individuals in the absence of her husband taking possession of her weighing-machine and occupying every inch of her shop. The pendulum weight was placed on that portion of the beam indicating 210lb, and on the rider stepping on the scale, his party declared him weight.

This was, however, disputed by the adverse side, who said that though the rider, had made the beam "quiver," he had not turned it. After a deal of argument on both sides, which lasted some time, the rider meanwhile remaining on the machine, it was very sensibly suggested that the umpires appointed were the only authorised persons to pronounce a judgment on the matter.

Messengers were sent to headquarters (the Greyhound), and it was ascertained that Mr George Watson had gone home, under the impression that Robin Hood was the winner; the other umpire, Mr T. Hills, declared that he had seen the rider of Robin Hood weighed both before and after the race,



and that he was satisfied that he was weight. Mr Dodson, who had been standing for a long time on the scale, perspiring from every pore, holding a heavy pigskin with its appendages, and enveloped in a coat in every pocket of which were deposited pieces of lead to make up the stipulated weight, was now anxiously inquiring when he might get off the scales and out of the crowded shop without jeopardising his chance, adding that if he were under weight he would take one of his horse's shoes off and put it in the seat. Before he was allowed to do to, Mr N. Polak, for his own satisfaction, acted as scrutineer, and declared that he was between 2lb and 3lb under weight. The admirers of the "trot" much to the relief of the lady above referred to, now left the place. In about ten minutes the opponents of Robin Hood returned to the store with the rider of the loser, and after some cajoling induced the landlady to allow him to weigh, and he, of course, was declared weight. The rider of Robin Hood claimed his right to weigh in the same machine, and on stepping on to the platform he then, "mirabile dictum" (it's a miracle), turned the 15st, accounting for the increase by stating that he had just drank off a pint of English ale! As no definite conclusion could be arrived at in the absence of the umpires the disputants soon after departed. In the evening, at the Union Subscription Betting Room, a fresh match was made for 500 sovs a-side (that's \$100,000 in today's currency), 100 of which was posted, the event to come off on the Melbourne course, on the 6th of next month"

To the shock of many Robin Hood (G Dobson) won the re-run defeating Long Tom (Mr Kettle) traversing the two miles in 6m 30s.

There is no doubt that the organisers were mostly American and/or connected in some way to Cobb and Co. were responsible for the first ever all-trotting race meeting ever held in Australia.

Men such as American Cobb and Co "boys", James Swanton, John Murray Peck, Freeman Cobb and John Lamber while the stewards were J.J. Maguire, H. Driver, American Cyrus Hewitt, W. Kent Hall (Chairman of the American Independence Day committee that organized an annual Grand Banquet in the Criterion Hotel in Melbourne), Francis Clapp (later the kingpin of the Melbourne omnibus and tramway systems) and the starter was Irishman George Watson, a famed figure in sporting circles and a VRC legend.

Watson and Hewitt purchased the Melbourne to Ballarat and Melbourne to Bendigo mailruns and later employed another famous name in Harness Racing James Rutherford to handle the Melbourne to Beechworth mailrun.

Others included in the creation of the first all-trotting meeting were Cobb and Co road manager Henry Hoyt who later went into partnership with Clapp in the omnibus business and John Cleeland who was licensee of the Albion Hotel in Bourke Street that was next door to the Cobb and Co building and was used as the venue for just about all the meetings for the VTC and VJC.

That historic first meeting was promoted as the "American Trotting Races" and was held at the Melbourne racecourse on a blazing hot afternoon (the press reported that "the heat was like an over-fired oven") on 21st January 1860.

The official results are detailed below following a post meeting wrap-up for Bell's Life newspaper and one sidelight has to have been the chagrin of the connections of Long Tom who had lost a veritable fortune several months earlier as Long Tom beat home Robin Hood twice on the day.

One aspect to remember were the requirement for horses to be turned 360 degrees if they happened to break into a gallop, a far more severe penalty than is meted out today by Australian stewards but more in line with European standards.

Another is the remarkable endurance of the trotters competing in weather than would have seen a meeting called off under modern RSPCA standards – Long Tom and Mazeppa in their three races would have covered 32 furlongs (four miles).

Bell's Life – "No sooner had the program for these sports published in our columns, than the whole racing world in Melbourne expressed themselves pleased that something in turf matters, out of the common, was about to take place on the Flemington course. Day after day, The American Trotting Races

were more and more talked of, and towards the close of last week there was nearly as much interest shown in the doings of Saturday, as in those at the last November meeting. Had not the terrible north wind intervened to spoil the sport, there would have been, we venture to state, a larger attendance at this gathering, than on any occasion since the Champion Sweepstakes; as it was, those that did brave the pitiless blast deserved all the enjoyment they obtained, and cent for cent added, for a more unmistakably scorching wind it was never our lot to experience, and the sport would have hardly have repaid one for the sacrifice of an afternoon in the most enjoyable of weather. Doubtless the trotting was viewed with a jaundiced eye in consequence of the heat and the nags might have exerted themselves to better advantage had the thermometer stood at about 50 degrees lower; but there can be no doubt about it, the high expectations that were formed of the "American Trot" were not realized, and very few besides the winners care to undergo such an ordeal as they passed this day week. Despite all the drawbacks which human power could not prevent – and no philosopher regrets things he cannot help – the racing was conducted without any serious barneying, and indeed everything passed off amicably."

HARNESS – 100 sovs – Once round + distance heats

First heat

G Watson's bga DONALD, scr (Samson) 1

CG Gardiner's bg Long Tom, scr (owner) 2

WH Hopkins' bm Maid of All Work (Tas), scr (Bradley) 3

Other: R Orr's Mazeppa (Bowes) scr (4th), W Lovell's bg Sebastopol, scr (Peck), WJ Hassall's bg Robin Hood, scr (Trotter)

Margins: Won by 150yds Time: 4m 47.5s

Second Heat

G Watson's bga DONALD, scr (Samson) Walkover

First Heat – "The half dozen went away on good terms with each other, barring Donald, who got a lead of three or four yards which he kept past the stand, followed by Sebastopol, Maid of all Work, Long Tom, Mazeppa and Robin Hood. At the first turn Donald had established a lead of many lengths, Maid of all Work going along well second, Mazeppa third, Sebastopol next, Robin Hood, fifth and Long Tom last. Opposite the gate Long Tom commenced to improve his pace; passed Robin Hood in about a hundred yards, and went on overhauling his colleagues till he got to the last turn where he had secured second place. Donald in the meantime had got further away from his adversaries every step and won by about a hundred and fifty yards, thereby distancing his opponents."

SADDLE TROT – 50 sovs – Once round heats

First Heat

R Orr's chm6 MAZEPPA, scr (R Orr) 1

CG Gardiner's bg Long Tom, scr (Kettle) 2

WJ Hassall's bg Robin Hood, scr 3

Other: W Lovell's bg Sebastopol, scr

Margins: Won by 20lgths

Second Heat

R Orr's chm6 MAZEPPA, scr (R Orr) 1

CG Gardiner's bg Long Tom, scr (Kettle) 2

Margins: Won by 10lgths

First Heat – "Long Tom got the start, closely attended by Mazeppa, these two alternatively led to the back of the course opposite the stand, when Long Tom broke, never after getting within twenty lengths of the mare, and was within two length of being distanced, a fate which attended Robin Hood and Sebastopol, who finished third and fourth respectively".

Second Heat – "Mazeppa went away with the start, and before the second turn was rounded Long Tom had broken twice; at about the half mile he again got in close company with the chestnut, and again commenced to gallop. Mazeppa, more true to her calling, trotted away at her best pace and won in a walk by about 10 lengths".



HACK TROT – 20 sovs – Once round + distance Heats

First Heat

Mawby's brm CRANKY POLL, scr (Waldock) 1

Peck's bga Blueskin, scr (Bentley) 2

Others: Bell & Holmes' bm Old Peg, White's bg Terrible Billy, Garton's bg Charley, McLeod's rnm Sweetbriar, Robinson's bm La Belle Sauvage

Margins: Won by 15lghths

Second Heat

Peck's bga BLUESKIN, scr (Bentley) 2

Mawby's brm Cranky Poll, scr (Waldock) 1

Others: Bell & Holmes' bm Old Peg, White's bg Terrible Billy, Garton's bg Charley, McLeods rnm Sweetbriar, Robinson's bm La Belle Sauvage'

Margins: Won by 6lghths

Third heat

Peck's bga BLUESKIN, scr (Bentley) 2

Mawby's brm Cranky Poll, scr (Waldock) 1

Others: Bell & Holmes' bm Old Peg, White's bg Terrible Billy, Garton's bg Charley

Margins: Won by 10lghths

First Heat – "On the word off, Cranky Poll and Blueskin went to the fore, and at the gate had completely shaken off their opponents. Cranky Poll, however, had obviously the foot of old Blueskin, and gradually drew away from him. Inside the straight running the mare broke, which enabled Bentley to decrease the gap, but she won easily by fifteen lengths. The rest beaten off."

Second heat – "Cranky Poll went off with the lead, Blueskin sticking close to her quarters, the others completely outpaced. At the back of the course the mare broke, which enabled Blueskin to pass her. At the turn into the straight running, the mare, who by this time was again leading, again broke. This gave Blueskin a long lead, and despite an effort on the part of Waldock inside the distance, which, however, resulted in the mare again breaking. Blueskin won by half a dozen lengths."

Third Heat – "All, except Sweetbriar and La Belle Sauvage, started again, though in this, as in the preceding heats their chances were hopeless from the jump. Blueskin made the running with the mare in close attendance; at the back of the course she went up and passed the favourite when she broke. Blueskin now had a lead of half a dozen lengths; the mare, however, was decreasing the distance at every stride. Under the hill Waldock had nearly got up, when Cranky Poll again broke, and the gelding came in an easy winner by the lengths."

After the meeting a Grand Gala was arranged in the Cremorne Gardens where the Pantheon Theatre and the Fireworks Gallery were the main attractions.

The American Trotting Races were held with better weather and patronage in 1861 and 1862 with the attendances those years being on a par with meetings held by the Victorian Turf Club.

Many famous equines competed at those three meetings including the Ballarat Hall of Famer Sir William Don, the one time 13th fastest pacer in the world and Mazeppa, the Creswick Crack.

The 1862 meeting was also significant in that for the first time in history a Form Guide for a trotting meeting was published in the Daily Press.

Apart from Sir William Don and Mazeppa another star was Dozy, one of several star trotting mares owned by Henry Hoyt, who won five times at the 1862 meeting – twice over a mile and half, twice over two miles and once over three miles and a distance.

On each occasion the trotting mare Dozy was driven by famed steeplechase jockey "Billy" Trainor giving him the honour of being the first person in Australasia to win five trotting races on the one programme in Australia or NZ.

Contrary to what was written in Australia's Trotting Heritage (Agnew, 1977) the 1862 meeting was not the last of the American Trotting Races, nor was it the last all-trotting meeting conducted at the Melbourne racecourse (Flemington).

In 1863 the "Fourth Annual" meeting was held at Emerald Hill, a suburb south of the Yarra now better known as South Melbourne, on May 30, a date much later than normal and one that risked the weather.

The man behind the change of venue was James Trotter, the licensee of the Napoleon III Hotel in Emerald Hill and in the week prior to the meeting he laid out a new circular mile track.

The venue was well serviced by public transport as the St Kilda line of the Melbourne and Hobsons Bay Railway Company stopped close by and a crowd of over 3,000 attended despite the Spartan facilities on offer.

The star of the show was a trotter called Tom Moore who cost just seven pounds and ten shillings when purchased at a sale in Bourke Street and was only broken in during March, just two months before the meeting.

Tom Moore's owner and driver was one of original Cobb and Co. crew in John Peck and the pair proceeded to win three one mile Maiden heats plus one two mile Handicap heat and finished second in two other two mile heats. Tom Moore cost himself the last heat and thus the Handicap by galloping in the final stages when looking set for victory.

In 1864 the Albion Hotel once again organized a meeting at Flemington promoting it as the "Great Metropolitan Meeting" and three exceptional equines put a show with the pacing champion Sir William Don winning the feature Albion Cup in straight heats (2:59.0, 2:53.0 and 2:59.0) as well as a three mile race, the 6YO trotter Magic winning the Grand Metropolitan Handicap of six miles and one of Hoyt's elite trotting Lucy Escott winning the Maiden, two heats out of three.

Renowned Ballarat sportsman and horseman Robert Orr, who owned Sir William Don won six times on the day – four times with Sir William Don, twice with Lucy Escott – and almost made that seven but his trotter Whisker was disqualified after winning the Consolation, the last event.

In 1865 there was another all-trotting meeting at Emerald Hill, however that was the last to be seen in Victoria for eleven years, although there were monthly opportunities at several proprietary tracks during that time. Emerald Hill did, however, promote a feature trot in May 1866 and May 1867.

The first proprietary track that was set up for the advancement of trotting, galloping and jumping races was the original Croxton Park track between High Street and St Georges Road (today a railway line runs through where the track was) in Northcote.

The track, or rather tracks, that opened for business on the Queens Birthday public holiday (May 24, 1869) were built behind the Croxton Park Hotel, one for galloping, pony and trotting races and a larger one for steeplechasing.

The Croxton Park Hotel was originally known as the Pilgrim Inn, gaining a licence in April 1844 and the earliest recorded instance of a trotting race held there was in May 1857 when Blueskin, later a Flemington winner for Cobb and Co's John Peck, won for his then owner George Watson, known later as the VRC's "Prince of Starters."

Josiah Goyder bought the Pilgrim Inn in 1865 and renamed it the Red House, having had the building repainted and immediately set about establishing the Hotel as a major sporting venue in Melbourne.

Initially the track was 1200 metres long, although many of the events were cross-country through paddocks that were part of Job Smith's neighbouring farm and where directions pinned to trees along the way and on one occasion a rider got lost.

Goyder, whose brother Frederick was a noted owner/bookmaker and Victuallers Association President, also had a small grandstand built to accommodate the sporting public.

The first meeting at the Red House racetrack took place on October 28 1865 and included a handicap steeplechase, handicap hurdle, a three mile trotting race and a Hack Race.

The trotting race worth 16 pounds was won by Dusky, a trotter owned and driven by Henry Hoyt, the famed Cobb and Co driver who had a fabulous stable of trotters, mainly mares in the 1860s. One of his trotting mares,

thought to be Flemington winner Lucy Escott, was the grandam of Whisper (Classic Families – A21), the ancestress of greats such as Valour, Whislet (Rowe Cup, Dominion Handicap), Flare Alley and Dawn Volo.

Other trotting races held were won by the first ever imported USA mare Black Hawk Belle, Mr Wartman's Tommy while Frederick Goyder's Suffolk Punch was the most successful winning three times.

Goyder may have been a wonderful entrepreneur, however, his business and financial skills were lacking and he was forced to sell the Red House in 1869 to a four man syndicate headed by champion billiards player William Hitchen.

The new owners renamed the Red House "Croxton Park" (after an established club in England) and established the Croxton Park Racing Club, the first privately owned commercial racecourse in Victoria.

The old Red House course was extended to ten furlongs (2,000 metres) to match the track at Flemington and it also included a special six furlong (1,200 metres) section with only one turn, making it easier for inexperienced horses.

A new grandstand – a modest long and narrow building 12 foot high - was built with a capacity for 400 people and had one section for members and another for the general populace while there were new refreshment rooms built along with a saddling enclosure for competitors.

The Stewards at the first Croxton Park meeting in 1869 were Major Baker, Captain Standish, Dr. L. O. Patterson, Messrs. H. Fisher, G. Watson, and P. Keighran. Judge - Mr. R. Tattersall. Starter - Mr. G. Watson. Weigher - Mr. J. Hind. Clerk of the Course - Mr. S. Waldock. Handicappers - Mr. W. C. Yuille and Mr. N. R. D. Bond.

The press were effusive in their praise of the opening meeting that commenced at two o'clock, describing it thus:-

"The inauguration of the Croxton Park racecourse, which took place yesterday, and provided most excellent sport for some thousands of people, was a very successful affair.

Despite the threatening aspect of the weather, which during the early part of the day seemed to frown upon all kinds of outdoor amusements, crowds of visitors went out to Northcote, and thronged the admirable race-ground which Mr. Hitchen has been at much pains and expense to provide for the recreation of the public.

During the afternoon the clerk of the weather, who seemed all the morning to have been in one of his worst humours, began to see the error of his

ways, and permitted the sun to show himself occasionally through the heavy clouds. The consequence was, that fresh accessions were rapidly made to the groups of holiday folk about the grand stand at Croxton; and at one time there could not have been less than 5,000 people on the ground.

The carmen reaped a rich harvest, for their vehicles were to be seen blocking up the roadways, and bordering the running ground of the course, and backing into fences and gutters and gable-ends of houses with that thorough disregard of other people's nerves which is characteristic of the cab driving race in general.

There were scores of private carriages as well freighted as were the tradesmen's carts in which numerous collections of "wives and families" had come out to see the sport; there were squads of equestrians - some of them were very awkward squads indeed - and hordes of pedestrians.

The grand stand, although a very commodious building, was so crowded that one could only with great difficulty obtain a place upon it while a race was going on.

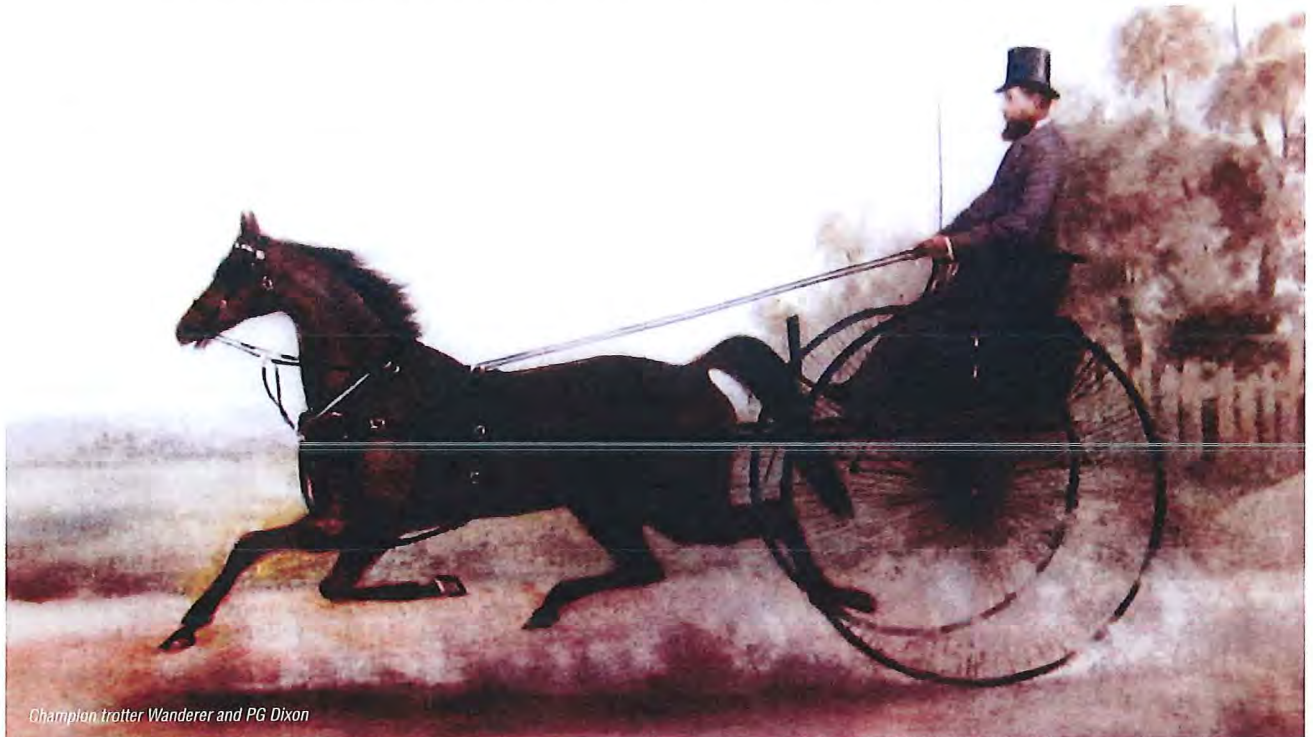
There was such a rush of the populace to the rails on each side of the straight running that all the efforts of the red-coated officials, backed by the exertions of the three policemen who had been sent to preserve order, were not equal to the task of clearing the course. It was a thing that could not be done.

As fast as the human sea was beaten back at one point it oozed out at another, and overflowed the whole space again. This was about the worst feature of the day's proceedings, and certainly on future occasions the persons who have charge of the course should make arrangements for the more effectual controlment of the unruly spectators.

There were some booths erected, and the hotel hard by was exceedingly well patronised by the appreciative public. The greatest good order was observed; only one card-sharper was hold enough to ply his seductive little games among the multitude, and the only disorderly person was a tall gentleman in a drab coat, who, with a beaming face and somewhat soiled attire, was making frantic attempts to dance a hornpipe, amidst the applause of a mob of roughs.

The betting men were in great force, and did a good deal of business. The course is a good one, though the late heavy rain made it rather too soft yesterday. The length of the running

ground is one mile and a quarter, and on the side opposite to the grand stand there is a slight rise, so that a race can be seen distinctly from start to



Champion trotter Wanderer and PG Dixon



finish. The arrangements were very complete, and reflect the highest credit upon all parties concerned.

Of the racing there is not much to be said, albeit some of the events were as hot and well contested as they might have been upon a more pretentious occasion. The Maiden Plate was a gift to Maud, who started first favourite, and fully justified the good opinion of her backers. The Trotting Handicap was a good contest, and gave rise to some little speculation, most of the gentlemen who had money to lay choosing to invest it upon Whitefoot, who, however, did not turn up on the right side of the post at the finish.

Clodhopper, who had 250 yards out of the four miles, won the stakes, but it was by a mere fluke, and in a second match got up soon after, in which he received 100 yards from Whitefoot and trotted the same distance, he was beaten in a manner which showed that he was no match for his opponent.

The Croxton Park Handicap was well filled up, and would have been a good race if Palladium had been well ridden. As it was, Barton's victory was a ridiculously easy one. The Selling Stakes brought out a good field and were won by Palladium, who carried a different jockey. Mischief was looked upon as likely for this race, and 25 to 10 was taken freely about her, but she finished a bad third.

For the Northcote Plate a field of ten rather shy ones started, and the stakes were won by Freetrader the favourite. The day's amusement passed off without accident, although the programme closed rather later than was convenient to many persons."

Complete details of the trotting events were as follows:-

TROTTING HANDICAP

Of 15 pounds. In Saddle or harness. Lowest weight 10st. Distance four miles.

Mr. Finlay's brg CLODHOPPER, 260 yds. (Callanan) 1

Mr. J. Kerr's bm Whitefoot, scratch (Hogan) 2

Mr. F. Poole's b pony g Jumbuck, 300 yds, Mr. Keon's g Sober Robln, 400yds.

There were five entries for this contest, but only the four horses above-named troubled the starter. There was but little speculation on the event, the only wager being about Whitefoot who was backed against the field.

The horses trotted in good style, Whitefoot gradually closing with Clodhopper and leaving the other horses in the rear. The race lay between these two, and resulted in a victory for Clodhopper; Whitefoot second. Time, 12min. 8sec.

A second match was made between Clodhopper and Whitefoot, the latter giving the former 100 yards start out of four miles. This was a very well-contested race. Clodhopper fell back until he was, half a score lengths behind Whitefoot, and kept in that position until when coming down the hill for the last time. Here he began to close, and on entering the straight running was neck and neck with Whitefoot, who broke into a canter. Coming up the straight, however, she regained the lead, and won easily."

In later years Whitefoot was involved in a sensational bribery affair that arose out of a four heat race at Croxton Park. Leonard Grimwood who was partnering Whitefoot was approached by the bookmaker John B Wallis after the second heat and offered 50 pounds to "blue" (or throw) the race.

Grimwood did no such thing and won the succeeding heats and at a subsequent inquiry Wallis was warned off Croxton Park and disqualified from ever running, owning or riding a horse there or operating his bookmaking business.

In all there were less than twenty trotting events, albeit some being multiple heat affairs, held at Croxton Park before it closed its doors for business after its final meeting on July 12 1873.

Despite its brief existence Croxton Park was a godsend for trotting enthusiasts and attracted the two champions of the day, the ageing pacer Sir William Don and the then emerging trotting star Wanderer.

Sir William Don won off a 700 metre backmark over four miles in June 1871 and then was engaged in a stirring duel seven months later when he gave Wanderer 700 yards start over three miles, running him to 30 metres in

a time of eight minutes thereby achieving a personal mile rate of 2:40.9 (the world 3-mile record for a pacer at the time was 2:35.6).

For Sir William Don, then 15 years of age, that effort was his last racetrack start and a measure of his greatness can be gauged by the fact that at Wanderer's next start at Croxton Park Wanderer was placed on the backmark of 900 yards by the handicapper.

Wanderer duly won that race thereby achieving everlasting fame as the trotter that had won off the longest handicap ever in Australia before or since – pulling a sulky/vehicle.

Before the second proprietary track was established at Kensington Park Prior two trotting races in the interim were conducted at the Caulfield thoroughbred circuit, once in 1873 (won by Clansman from Tom Sayers and Lady Lightfoot) and once in 1874 when Lady Lightfoot defeated the champion Wanderer by 30 yards after getting a 500 yard start from that horse over a distance of three miles

As mentioned earlier, the second of the proprietary tracks that hosted trotting races was Kensington Park (formerly known as Cox's Paddock) which was described thus in the North Melbourne Advertiser the week before its opening meeting on 10th October 1874.

"The inhabitants of Hotham can now boast of a pretty little race course, almost in their very midst, for Kensington Park (formerly Cox's paddock) has been changed and advanced into the dignity of a racecourse.

The park is beautifully situated on the hill, at the head of the Macaulay road, commanding a magnificent view of Melbourne and suburbs, Sandridge, the Bay, etc. The accommodation provided for the public, is, ample, as the park is securely fenced around, and a very commodious Grand Stand has been erected.

The course is about a mile round, and the running ground has been thickly sown with English grasses, making excellent grazing; the finish being against a pretty steep hill, which will severely test the powers of the horses engaged after a good stiff race.

The same punctuality, regularity and good order which characterises the Flemington races will be here noticeable, as the names of the "most influential of our racing men" are on the list of stewards.

The inaugural meeting takes place on October 10th, when, if the clerk of the weather consents to smile benignly, there will be a very large assemblage, who, no doubt, will thoroughly enjoy the treat provided them.

A maiden race, hurdle race, Kensington Park handicap; steeplechase and trotting race comprise the events to be decided, for all of which excellent entries have been obtained, thus giving promise of first-class sport for those who attend.

For the benefit of your town readers I may state that the easiest and cheapest way of arriving at the park is by way of the Hotham cabs; which will deposit them at the entrance of the Macauley road, for 3d., and then they will have a nice walk of about a quarter of a mile.

Now, I suppose, your readers will, feel obliged to me if, I can give them the tip for each event. Horse-racing is a funny game, and "spotting the winner" a funnier, but I will do my best, and I feel convinced that my prognosticated winners will be "there or thereabouts."

For the maiden race -The best are Hero and one of Fisher's youngsters (if he can get boys to ride 4st. 2lb); Hurdle race - Shakespeare, Gameboy, and Gunter; Kensington Park Handicap -Gloom, Hesperus and Poodle; Trotting race - Whitefoot and Tom Sayers; Steeplechase – Try Again.

Kensington Park was situated between the matrix bound by Macauley, Dynon, Lloyd and Hampden roads and was controlled by William Samuel Cox who acted as programmer, secretary, publicity officer and even starter on race day. Cox raced a couple of trotters during his lifetime and one of them, Banker (by Daniel Boon) was successful at Kensington Park in 1881.

The new Kensington Park venture commenced in spectacular style as described in the local press:-

"About three thousand persons assembled on last Saturday to assist at the inauguration of Kensington Park. The day was a thoroughly delightful one, the warm rays of the sun being tempered by a beautiful sea breeze which blew fresh from the bay uncontaminated by any Fisherman's Bend odors.

On our arrival shortly before the bell rang for the first race, we had time to notice that all the arrangements for the comfort of visitors were satisfactory, and that 'the course was in splendid condition, the running ground especially being in fine going order.

The greenness of the grass was very refreshing to the eyes of people accustomed only to dusty streets and heated pavements. The only drawback to the general enjoyment was the want of shelter from the fierce heat of the sun, the least the proprietor might have done was to provide an awning for the grand stand.

As was said last week, the ground is finely situated, commanding a magnificent prospect of the surrounding country and the swamp.

All the games for the fortune making of the investors usually to be found at such places (three card trick, under and over, Aunt Sally, shilling sweeps, etc. were here in profusion.

The lessees of the refreshment booths must have done a roaring trade, as Saturday was a day just suited for them.

For the Maiden Plate, Fisher's 2-year-old filly Troy won rather easily; for the Hurdle Race Gunter had it pretty well his own way; in the great event of the day the Kensington Park Handicap, Gloom won cleverly by a couple of lengths; the steeplechase was an easy victory for Try Again; the Trot was won by Whitefoot.

Your correspondent Cursus has reason for self glorification as he gave the winner of every race."

Full results of the trotting event was as follows:-

TROT - A sweepstakes of 3 sovs. each, with 20 sovs added. About Two miles and a half.

Mr. Barnard's bma WHITEFOOT, 150 yds (Chifney) 1

Mr. Allen's bga Rowdy, 180 yds (Smith) 2

Mr. J. Buncles Jnr's bma Clara, 300yds (Owner) 3

Mr. Adams' blga Clansman, 100yds (Owner) 0

Dixon's Wanderer, scratch, Carroll's Pretty Boy, 250yds, Harding's Bess, 200yds also ran.

Betting - Clansman, even money, Rowdy and Wanderer 2 to 1.

Whitefoot and Rowdy soon passed the horses with the longest start and kept the pace up all through. Clansman who broke several times, was observed coming at the back of the course the last time round and one lusty and over-confident bookmaker roars out, "It's a million pounds to a shilling on Clansman" but Whitefoot was too good and won. Rowdy good second and Clara third. Wanderer came in for a good deal of disapprobation for his rather dubious running."

There were over fifty Kensington Park meetings at which trotting appeared and on several occasions the races were a series of mile heats, best three in five, conducted under Long Island (USA) rules.

On one of those occasions in September 1879, the champion trotter Wanderer established a new Australasian mile record of 2:50 in winning one heat of an intense five heat affair that was eventually won by the Western Districts trotter Pride of Duneed.

One of the regulars at Kensington was the Errol Street butcher and later Mayor Of Hotham Thomas Amott who won seven races there. Thomas went to Tasmania where he became the Mayor of Hobart and was the driving force behind many attempts to establish trotting in Tasmania.

W.S. Cox sold the land for subdivision in 1882 and after missing out on a tract in St Kilda Road where the Army barracks now stand he leased Feehan's farm near Dean's hotel at Moonee Ponds where he set up Moonee Valley racecourse that commenced operations in 1883.

Sam's two sons Archie and W.S. Cox Jnr were not just interested in thoroughbred racing but also trotters and greyhounds with a MV Coursing Club set up in April 1885 with a rich annual series of stakes events.

Trotters (and ponies) made their debut at the Moonee Ponds circuit on 25/6/1888 leading to Archie setting up a Moonee Valley Trotting Club in 1890, one that lasted until 1906 and one that hosted some memorable meetings, pacers, trotters and races.

W.S. Cox junior, for whom the Cox Plate is named, was a fine horseman and competed in flat, hurdle, steeple and trotting events and was the rider who partnered the champion jumper Redleap to fame.

Redleap started seven times, winning four races including in the Grand National Hurdle (1889 and 1892), the Caulfield Grand National Steeplechase (1892) and the four-mile Grand National Steeplechase carrying a record 84kg (1892).

Cox was also successful on the skewbald pony trotter Commodore at a remarkable Moonee Valley trotting meeting in December 1890 which saw the champion New Zealand horseman Alf Keith win four times in the afternoon, three of those wins partnering Woodlands who was successful in a two mile event, a three mile event and yet another two mile event.

More on Moonee Valley later.

Croxton Park's closure was not mourned by the trotting fraternity as their "jewel in the crown", the purpose built one mile trotting track at Elsternwick Park, opened in 1882, although just prior to its first meeting Melbournians were provided with a taste of American trotters when the well-heeled and well connected James Alfred Roberts organized a couple of meetings at Boccaccio Park near his magnificent residence "Bronte."

At one of those meeting the imported USA stallion Von Moltke Junior won three times, twice over one mile and once over two miles.

Born in England, Roberts arrived in S.A. in 1843 and moved to Melbourne in 1858, later becoming the first Deputy Grand Master of the Victorian Grand Lodge of freemasons.

He was a successful businessman and in 1878 was appointed to be a Commissioner to the 1878 Exposition Universelle in Paris where he happened to see the great trotter Childe Harold (later to be imported to Australia) defeat the Russian champion Zouberney to win the famed Government Prize. That visit was the trigger that transformed Roberts into a trotting enthusiast through and through.

Some of the more prominent trotters that he imported were the stallions Boccaccio, Len Rose and Pioneer plus the mares Syph, Rosemary, Fern Leaf, Fanny, Cora, Victoria and Laura and by 1884 he was standing five stallions and owned over 200 horses located at Boccaccio Park and at Fairlawn Stud Farm in Ringwood.

Also early in the eighties that a few trotting enthusiasts, many who had competed at Croxton Park, met together and founded the Victoria Trotting Club, the founding officials being President - T Bent MLA (later Premier of Victoria), Vice President - the legendary LL Smith MLA, Treasurer - Stratford Strettle. Members of the Steering Committee included Frederick Goyder, JJ Miller (later known as the Sweeps King and founder of the famous Millers Guide), James Garton JP, Frank Robbins (one of the great foundation horsemen), aerated water icon Phillip Dixon (owner of champion trotter Wanderer), George Glasscock and American Dr. Weir.

After casting about for a site for some time, the VTC fixed upon the Elsternwick Swamp.

Leasing it from the Government for a period of ten years, the lease being granted upon the condition that the swamp should be reclaimed; that the public should have free access to the enclosure at all times, save and excepting on raceday; footpaths should be made across it and maintained in good order, and the place should be beautified by tree-planting etc. The rent would go to the Borough of Brighton, in which district the land was situated and provided that these conditions were faithfully fulfilled, there would be no difficulty in securing a renewal of the lease; so said the then Minister of Lands. That commitment morphed into a non-core promise as you will see later.



Victorian trotting in the early eighties had been buoyed by a flood of North American imports, both equine and human, there was an incredible buzz about Melbourne town in 1882 so far as the prospects of trotting was concerned.

People such as James A Roberts (see earlier), Charles Colbath, J.J. Miller and Dr. Weir had imported USA stallions Contractor, Von Moltke Junior, Boccaccio, Walter Scott, Pioneer, Len Rose and more than a dozen USA mares. Add in those from the northern colony of New South Wales and a revolution was in the making.

The expectation is so evident by the coverage given by the Press of the day that were previously not inclined to give the sport the time of day. One example of this appeared in the Argus prior to the inaugural meeting.

"The committee of the Victoria Trotting Club invited a number of gentlemen to pay a visit of inspection to their newly-formed racecourse, near Elsternwick, on Saturday afternoon, and so great was the interest taken in the attempt to acclimatise trotting races in Victoria that over 300 persons responded to the invitation. The course is situated on the flat immediately beyond the Elsternwick Hotel, on the Brighton-road and what was for many years a dreary and unsightly swamp, the club has, by the judicious expenditure of a considerable amount of capital, formed into one of the most complete and pleasant racecourses in Australia.

Those who knew the swamp in its natural condition can well understand the really wonderful changes that have been effected.

The area in possession of the club has been substantially enclosed with an 8ft timber fence, the stagnant water has been carefully drained, and a broad trotting track exactly a mile round has been formed which experts say will in time rival the finest trotting tracks in America. The entrance gate for foot passengers is situated at the nearest point to the Elsternwick station, from which point a broad pathway leads across the ground to the grand stand on the south-west side of the course, close to the sea. The entrance for vehicles is near to the grand stand. On the right of the stand is a large enclosure, with ample shed accommodation for the trotting horses, which will serve the same purpose as the saddling paddock at Flemington. On the left hand is an equally spacious enclosure for the accommodation of the members' horses and vehicles.

The stand is a very convenient structure placed high above the ground, and giving an excellent view of the course. The judge's box, also well up off the ground, is situated on the inside of the course, opposite to the stand, a wire being stretched across the track for the purpose of assisting the judge in placing the horses.

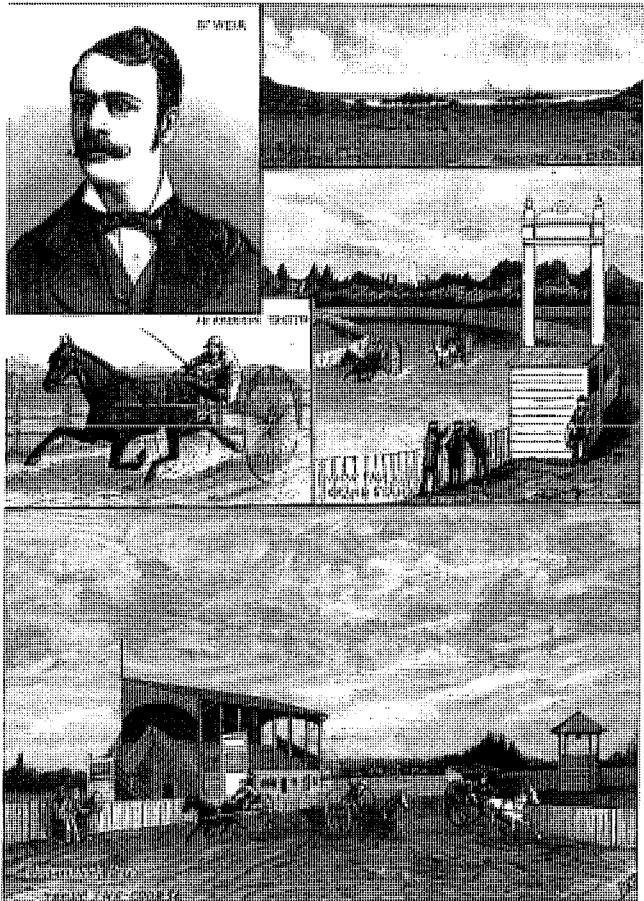
The view from the stand is a very pleasing one; in front is the broad green surface of the course, and beyond that are to be seen in every direction elegant villas showing through the wealth of foliage that is such a marked feature in the landscape. The view along the shore and down the bay are equally beautiful.

In order to enliven the visit a number of trotting horses were brought on to the track, and their paces exhibited. The first to appear were a batch of maiden trotters, who went round the course at a moderate pace and finished up with a spurt.

Then the four imported American trotting stallions, Boccaccio, Vermont Junior, Startle, and Young Giant were brought out. Boccaccio went round the track in grand style, finishing up with a fine spurt, in which he performed so grandly that the spectators cheered him heartily. Startle, a very handsome dark brown horse, was then sent along for a short distance at top speed, and he in turn was well cheered.

After these celebrities had been put through their paces, the Australian bred trotters Captain Dearborn, Native Cat, Wanderer, and Brown Hawk were sent round the course, Wanderer and Brown Hawk performing very well.

The imported American trotters Tilda C and Walter Scott did a steady trot, and to wind up, Mr Robbins brought out his famous pair of American trotters, Commodore and Defiance.



The former, who was driven by his owner, is a handsome bay, more like an English thoroughbred than the usual type of American trotter. The pair were taken steadily along the track, and then Commodore was let out at his best pace. For the first time most of those on the ground saw what a really high class American trotter was like.

As the horse flew past the stand the spectators greeted him with a ringing cheer of approbation. Defiance is a grand old horse, but he was not so well handled as Commodore, and consequently did not show to so much advantage.

After the trotting was over the guests partook of refreshments in the spacious refreshment room under the stand. All the horses, with one exception, were worked in harness, and to judge by the performance on Saturday, trotting horses are more at home in harness than under saddle.

What was particularly noticed was the neatness of the harness and vehicles brought on to the track. They were all in perfect order, and some of the vehicles were remarkable for the beauty of their design and lightness of construction.

The club have effected a great deal in a short time, and they deserve to succeed in their attempt to establish trotting races on a legitimate basis. In the arrangements on the ground there are on every hand the evidences of good taste and sound judgment, for which the committee with one voice give all the credit to Dr. Weir, who has for several months devoted nearly the whole of his time to the work of superintending every detail.

The committee know very little of trotting tracks, and have been indebted to Dr. Weir for his valuable assistance in laying out the track and the various buildings and enclosures on the course. The first public trotting meeting of the club will be held on the 1st of April, for which a very interesting programme is put forward."

So far as the mile dirt circuit was concerned the turns were graded, and it was said at the time "a more perfect track was never constructed". This track was kept in order by a ponderous and expensive track-making machine imported from the United States by Dr. Weir.

The inaugural meeting was undoubtedly the best trotting meeting ever held there thanks to the quality of the trotters competing, a facet that was not always possible at subsequent meetings. The report of that first meeting was in the main a positive one as you can read in the following extracts, despite most of heats being spoiled by poor starts and breaks. Also most interesting to see that twenty minutes between races was considered too long back in those days.

The Weekly Times in part reported, "A special train to Elsternwick started from the Flinders Street station at half-past 12, and was filled to overflowing with passengers, and the ordinary train was also well patronized. Along the Brighton road the scene was very lively. Several well appointed equipages bowled along at a brisk pace, and the various hostelrys en route displayed a large amount of bunting."

The Argus reported, "The opening meeting of the Victorian Trotting Club was held on Saturday at the new track at Elsternwick. The weather was beautifully fine, and the attendance, numbered over 2,000, which was fully up to expectation. The stand was overcrowded during the contests, and there was a fair attendance of ladies.

The track, considering that it has only been recently prepared, was in fair order. The stewards were Messrs H. Fisher, J. Whittingham, D.S. Wallace and M O'Shannessy. The judges were Messrs G. Watson, J. Peck, and E W Clarke. The track was made and the buildings erected under the supervision of Mr Egan, the club's architect, and Dr. Weir, who has had considerable experience in America, lent valuable assistance by way of suggestions as to the locale of the various buildings and surroundings. A sworn declaration by Mr. Egan was posted on the stand that the track was one mile in length.

If the sport is to be made attractive in the future, it will be necessary to devise a more varied programme than that put forward for the opening meeting. Either other racing will have to be introduced to occupy the time between the events, or the trotting matches will have to take place more frequently. Large numbers of spectators left the ground before the first heat of the last event on the card.

The Maiden Plate was won by Fright, a mare by Alarm. She was never extended in either heat, and won the first in 3m 10 1/4s, and the second in 3m 2 1/4s.

The principal event of the meeting was the Trotting Stallions Race, for which there were four starters, all being driven. Startle was installed first favourite, though Vermont Jnr. was by no means neglected.

All the odds at 6 to 4 on Startle and 2 to 1 agst Vermont Jnr were taken in the first heat. Immediately they were sent away the favourite went to the front, and remained there until he passed under the wire several lengths in advance of the others in 2m 38 1/2s. Vermont Jnr broke several times, and Contractor was not in condition. A protest was entered by the driver of Vermont Jnr against the driver of Startle, for interfering with him at the three quarter mile, but after hearing evidence the stewards dismissed it.

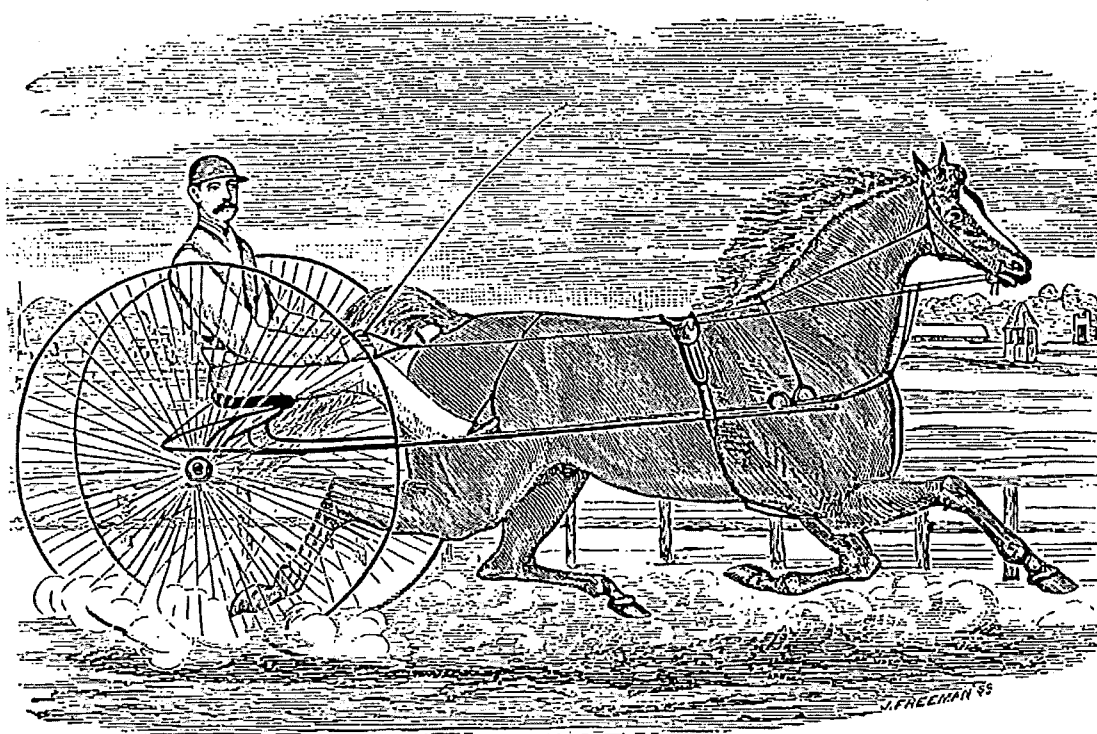
In the second heat, Vermont Jnr had a slight call in the betting. A dozen attempts were made to get them away on even terms, two opportunities were missed, and the spectators were loud in their manifestations of disapproval. At last they were sent away, Startle with a slight advantage, and the other three together. Before the quarter was reached Startle broke, and Vermont Jnr, trotting in grand form led the field by 50 yards from the half mile to the wire. Von Moltke Jnr and Contractor were never in the heat.

For the third heat the public fancied Vermont Jnr. An exciting contest took place after passing the quarter, and at the half mile a foul occurred. Passing the three quarter Vermont assumed the lead, and passed under the wire 20 yards ahead of Startle, in 2m 37 3/4s. The driver of Startle entered a protest for the foul, and after due inquiry the stewards found that it had occurred through the driver of Vermont Jnr not observing the rule, and awarded the race to Startle, much to the dissatisfaction of the owner of Vermont Jnr, and the backers of the horse.

Three horses, two belonging to the same owner, started for the £100 purse. Brown Hawk was the favourite, and won the three heats almost as he liked. Wanderer was second in each heat Mr K Gibney, the secretary, did all in his power to render the meeting a success. The following is the result of the racing:-

MAIDEN PLATE

Of 50 sovs. Mile heats, best two in three. First horse, 30 sovs, and a set of first class sulky harness, presented by Messrs G T Clapham and Co; second horse, 15 sovs, third, 5 sovs



HONESTY.



Mr J J Miller's bm FRIGHT, 6yrs, by Alarm, (H Shepherd) 1
 Mr C H Baker's bm Nelly Bly, aged (Grimwood) 2
 Mr J Cleeland's blk Mare Darebin Maid, 6yrs (J M Cleeland) 3
 Mr C Colbath's brm Lady Pablo, aged (B H Hales) 0
 Mr G Millsom's chg Judge Fullerton, 5yrs (Owner) 0
 Betting:- 2 to 1 agst Fright, 4 and 6 to 1 any others.

First Heat-After one or two attempts they were sent away to an indifferent start, Nelly Bly was first to show in front followed by Judge Fullerton, Darebin Maid, Fright, and Lady Pablo, in that order named. Nelly Bly, Lady Pablo, and Judge Fullerton broke badly. At the quarter mile Darebin Maid passed Nelly Bly who fell back last. Fright broke at this point, and tost considerable ground. At the half mile the order remained the same, all but Darebin Maid breaking. At the three quarter Shepherd got the mare fairly settled to her work, and coming on she overhauled Darebin Maid in every stride. At the distance she headed her, and passed under the wire in 3m 10 1/4s, 20 yards in advance. Darebin Maid was second, 50 yards ahead of Nelly Bly and 100 ahead of Judge Fullerton and Lady Pablo.

Second Heat -After the prescribed 20 minutes had elapsed, the first, second, and third horses started for the second heat. Fright got away with a strong lead, followed by Nelly Bly, and Darebin Maid. The former commenced to break at the quarter mile, where Fright, going well, had increased her lead to 50 yards. Along the back stretch she was going strongly, and at

the half mile was 100 yards in advance of the other two. From this point the race was over. Fright passed the distance with plenty in hand, and won the race in 3m 2 1/4s. Nelly Bly passed Darebin Maid at the three quarter, and beat her by 50 yards. The owner of Nelly Bly rode her in the first heat, and L Grimwood in the second.

VTC TROTTING STALLIONS RACE

A sweepstakes of 15 sovs each, with 100 added, second horse to receive 30 sovs out of the stakes. Mile heats, best two in three.

Mr G C Hall s blk STARTLE, aged, by The Andrews Horse (Owner) 1
 Mr W Harris' bh Vermont Jnr, aged (A Mulholland) 2
 Mr C Colbath's bh Von Moltke Jnr, aged (H B Hales) 0
 Mr J J Millers bh Contractor, aged (H Shepherd) 0
 Betting - 6 to 4 on Startle, 2 to 1 agst Vermont Jnr

First Heat - A very fair start was effected. The favourite led after passing the wire by 10 yards all the rest breaking. At the quarter mile Vermont Jnr, who was last at the turn, passed Contractor and Von Moltke Jnr, and ran up to Startle. As soon as he reached him he broke and lost considerable ground. At the half mile Startle was 20 yards in advance of Vermont Jnr, and 50 yards separated the other two. The favourite at this point was going very strong with no attempt at breaking. Vermont Jnr who was trotting in great style again went up to the leader, but as soon as he reached him persisted in breaking. At the three quarter Startle came away and won easily by 50yds, Vermont Jnr second, Von Moltke Jnr third, and Contractor last. Time: 2m 38.5s (Australasian mile record).

Second Heat - For this event Startle started under protest, the driver of Vermont averring that he was fouled. It was, however, ultimately disallowed. Several attempts were made to get them away on even terms and after the public had evinced their annoyance at two good opportunities being missed they were sent away to a very indifferent start. Vermont Jnr had the call in the betting for this heat but was away badly. Startle led, but before the quarter was reached he broke, and it was not until the half mile was passed that he settled down again. Meanwhile Vermont Jnr had gone away along the back stretch at a great pace, and though 100 yards ahead of the others, broke several times. Startle gained upon him at the half mile, but could never reach him, and he passed under the wire 30 yards ahead of Startle, the other two pulling off. Vermont Jnr's time for the heat was 2m 34.5s (Australasian mile record).

Third Heat - Vermont Jnr and Startle were sent together for this heat and after leading Vermont Jnr at the quarter, Startle broke Vermont then went



up to him and a close race ensued to the three quarter where Vermont Jnr passed him. Startle came again and a very exciting match ensued round the rails to the distance where Vermont Jnr, occasionally breaking drew away, and won by 20 yards in 2m 37 3/4s. A protest was entered by the driver of Startle for a foul. The stewards considered it and awarded the prize to Startle.

PURSE OF 100 SOVS.

Free for all horses that have no public record better than 2:40. Winner to receive 60 sovs, second 30 sovs, third 10 sovs. Mile heats. Best three in five.

Mr F Robbins' brg BROWN HAWK, aged, by Beadsman (Owner) 1

Mr P G Dixon's bg Wanderer, aged (E Giles) 2

Mr F Robbins' bg Captain Dearborn, aged (G Brady) 0

Betting - 5 to 2 agst Brown Hawk

First Heat - Granger, owing to an accident when training was scratched, and Mr Robbins declared to win with Brown Hawk. Wanderer got the best of a fair start, and led to the quarter by two lengths, followed by Brown Hawk and Captain Dearborn. At the half mile the positions were unaltered, except that Brown Hawk had gone up to within 10 yards of Wanderer. At the three quarter he passed him, and won by two lengths in 2m 46 1/4s.

Second Heat - Brown Hawk and Wanderer only started. They ran level for over a quarter of a mile when the favourite drew away and beat Wanderer in 2m 46 1/2s by 16 yards.

Third Heat - Wanderer led on sufferance to the quarter, where Brown Hawk passed him. At the half Wanderer came again, and an interesting match followed to the three-quarters, where Brown Hawk drew away and won easily in 2m 46s."

Overall there were 215 trotting races conducted at Elsternwick Park, most conducted as part of mixed programmes after the first year of operation.

This was because Melbournians had failed to become enamoured with races that more often than not resulted in the winning margin being "won easily", due to the lack of numbers of trotters with similar ability. Established ten years later with an additional 3,000 plus trotters in racing population bred in Victoria and New South Wales would have created a different outcome.

The Victorian Trotting Club was in dire financial strife after two years of operation, however, it was on the right side of the ledger by the time the lease was to be renewed and everyone involved laid the credit for that at the feet of

one man Thomas Haydon who assumed the position of secretary/manager in 1883 when the VTC had a bank overdraft of over 3,000 pounds.

Thomas Haydon takes up the story:- "It was at this particular juncture in the career of the club that I was appointed secretary, and my instructions were to get the club out of debt by hook or by crook. The undertaking at the time did not look over-promising, but, backed up by the directors in no half-hearted manner, the almost hopeless task was accomplished.

Not the acclimatising of the sport of trotting, be it understood, but the paying off the debt, and, above all, returning to the shareholders their capital in full.

All this was not done without some considerable difficulty. In pursuing the very laudable ambition of endeavouring to bring the sport of trotting up to the American standard, and thereby improving the buggy horse or roadster, the directors were getting further and further into debt.

The meetings were poorly patronised, and the sport languished. The occasional introduction of a horse-race did not much improve matters, as the course, being absolutely devoid of grass, was cut up dreadfully by the gallopers; it became almost a quagmire in wet weather, and in mid-summer the dust was blinding.

The crucial question had at last to be put. Were the directors willing to sacrifice so much per annum in bolstering up a sport that the public did not patronise? "Certainly not," they said. "We want to get out of debt, and we want our guarantees back." "Well, then," I rejoined, "if the public won't take on to trotting, let us introduce horse-racing, hurdle-racing, and steeple-chasing." "Do as you like, Mr Secretary, only get us out of debt," was the reply.

From that time forth the track-making machine was discarded, couch grass was planted, and the course gradually became like a carpet. Race-horse owners liberally supported the meetings, large entries always being forthcoming for the various events, and trotting had to take, metaphorically speaking, a back seat; one, sometimes perhaps two, events in the programme being all that would be allotted to trotters and pacers.

This change of front went very much against the grain of the trotting enthusiasts. They could not possibly make "record time" on grass; it would not be worthwhile to keep horses in training; and a thousand and one objections had to be overcome before the commercial aspect of the case would be accepted.

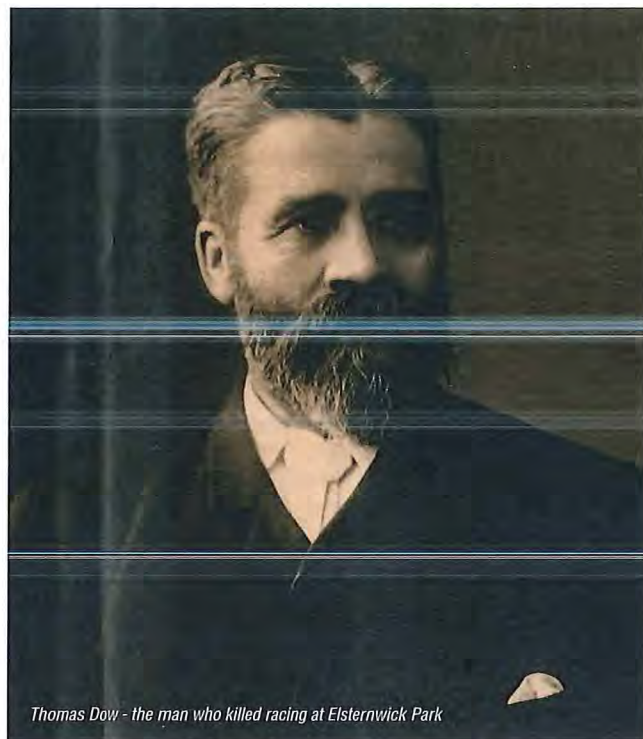
A steeplechase course was, however, soon laid out; mud walls, post and rail and log fences formed the obstacles, eight jumps having to be negotiated in "once round." The quality of the competitors, both in flat races and "over the sticks" was of the highest class, the principal stables always sending representatives, and from being a place but poorly patronised, the visitors at the various meetings in a very short time could be reckoned up at thousands.

Additional Stand accommodation had to be provided, and the management, trusting to the good faith of the Government in the matter of the renewal of the lease, spent money most lavishly. Beautiful buffalo grass lawns, ornamental shrubberies, and flower-beds were planted, and Elsternwick became the "place to spend a happy day."

One significant factor often forgotten was that the public turned out to see the stars racing in the Free-For-Alls, however, all the stars were the imported USA stallions (and ageing ones at that) and thus were unavailable for racing from September right through the stud seasons and were not fit enough to compete until March. Maidens and long distance handicaps were not attractive fare.

That said, Elsternwick still provided many significant moments for the emerging Standardbred sport and laid a foundation for the future development of trotting in Victoria in terms of higher quality bloodstock and people proficient in the training and drivers of trotters and pacers.

Elsternwick Park was the venue for the first ever race for two-year-old trotters won by King Of Bronte (son of the imported Boccaccio) who later gained fame by siring the famous foundation stallion Bronte.



Thomas Dow - the man who killed racing at Elsternwick Park

Then there was the first three-year-old trotting race, the Australian Sires Produce, a futurity that was funded through stallion and progeny payments and lasted for five editions creating a rich incentive for breeders, owners and trainers.

In fact the Australian Sires Produce provided five of the ten richest events held at Elsternwick Park - 500 sovs (Purse FFA won by Honesty), 300 sovs (match race won by Leithamstead), 205 sovs (1886 ASP), 200 sovs (1887, 1888 and 1889 ASP), 160 (VTC Stallion Trot won by Startle), 150 (1885 ASP) and 130 (FFA won by Startle). A sovereign at that time was worth \$100 in today's currency, however, the added bonus was the value of the gold contained in the coin that would be worth a mint (pardon the pun) based on modern day gold prices.

The first Australian Sires Produce was won by Garfield, a son of Charles Colbath's import Von Moltke Junior that at one time stood at stud in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

Both King of Bronte and Garfield were trained and driven by Australasia's first champion trotting trainer and driver, Andy Mulholland who won 27 races at Elsternwick Park ten more than the next best, Frank Robbins.

Mulholland, Robbins, Augustus (better known as "Gus") Millsom, Will Whitburn, Kiwi Alf Keith and American Marshall Albaugh dominated the Melbourne scene from 1870 to 1899 winning almost every Melbourne driving premiership and all are deserving to be admitted to the SEW Eurodrive VHRMA Victorian Harness Racing Hall of Fame in the coming years.

The most outstanding trotter that graced Elsternwick Park was the imported chestnut Honesty who lowered the Australian mile record to 2:30 3/4s at his first appearance and fourteen months later established an Australasian two mile record of 5m 13s.

In all Honesty competed at four race meetings - 17/3/1883 (won three mile heats), 17/3/1884 (competed in five one mile heats for 3-3-1-2-2 finishes), 3/5/1884 (won over two miles) and 17/3/1885 (won Champion Stakes in two straight one mile heats).

So far as the most successful horse at Elsternwick Park that honour went to the grey colonial gelding Leithamstead who won eight races, four in 1882, one in 1883, two in 1884 and one in 1887.

There was another remarkable achievement on the racing front for at one meeting in a saddle pony trot, a seven-year-old boy named Norman Leek was successful on his pony All Fours.



Norman Leek weighed only three stone, four and a half pounds (that is just 21 kilograms) and was also successful five years later with the same pony trotter at Moonee Valley.

Elsternwick Park held its last official race meeting on 17th September 1891, although a week later a special farewell meeting to honour retiring racing official Alf Francis Bradshaw was conducted providing two opportunities for the racing public to say goodbye.

There was general regret expressed when the unjust failure to renew the lease eventuated and complicating everything was the parlous state of the economy following the bursting of the land boom bubble. The whole eastern seaboard was suffering from a severe economic depression, something that was mentioned in last edition's story on 19th century trotting in New South Wales when discussing Andrew Town.

To give you an idea of just how tough the economic conditions were, consider this news item from the Canterbury Times (NZ) in May 1889 in relation to one of the trotting highfliers, J.J. Miller – "I find that I am not getting any younger, eyesight failing, and being a member of a bust-up land syndicate, my friends advise me to relinquish my business, therefore I intend to offer the whole of my trotting stock without the slightest reserve, thus giving the opportunity to purchasers of getting their lots at their own prices. I know that it is a bad time to sell, but needs must when the old fellow drives, and I may as well sell on my own account as await to be sold up by others."

As mentioned earlier the Victorian Trotting Club accepted all conditions placed upon them when they first obtained the ten year lease on Elsternwick Park and carried out the extensive works with the utmost good faith.

Fully ten thousand pounds were spent in reclaiming the swamp and forming it into a park, which in due time became an ornament to the neighbourhood and a most attractive pleasure-ground.

It has been roundly reported in many latter day publications in that the demise of Elsternwick Park was due to the work of a few wowsers who regarded racing/trotting as evil as the demon drink.

Thomas Haydon differed, attributing it all to two or three "goody-goodies" (led by Hugh Reid, chairman of the Elsternwick Improvement Committee) backed up by a Member of Parliament, of "high tone" simply objecting to the traffic on race-days temporarily interfering with their comfort and convenience.

They resented these "racing people" coming "betwixt the wind and their nobility" and they, in most intemperate language, opposed the renewal of the lease, and, shameful to relate, were successful in so doing.

Haydon went further in railing against the man responsible James Lamont Dow by writing, "Never was a grosser breach of faith perpetrated by any Minister of the Crown. Petitions to the Minister of Lands, largely signed by the immediate residents in the locality in favour of the lease being renewed, were presented and supported by members of both Houses of Parliament, but all their arguments were ignored, and the mysterious influence of the one member in opposition prevailed. Not content with having gained their point, the aggressors further harassed the club by raising objections to the caterer being granted the customary license to sell wines and spirits; here again they were successful.

Their opposition was universally condemned, but by straining every legal point and insisting on the letter, not the spirit, of the law being carried out, they triumphed, with the result that the club had to shift its quarters.

Some were moved to say that there was plenty of karma associated with the closure of the track – one group noting that Dow lost his seat at the next election while others were quick to point out that President Tommy Bent had been responsible for closing down the opposition Hurlingham Park in Brighton that conducted several mixed meetings in the 1880's.

Subsequent to the VTC vacating Elsternwick Park a poll conducted of ratepayers in 1893 resulted in 572 of the 784 residents polled being in favour of racing returning to Elsternwick Park.



MASTER NORMAN LEEK,
YOUNGEST GENTLEMAN JOCK IN THE WORLD.

The politicians took no notice of the poll and within one year Elsternwick Park was recorded in the press of the day as "the grounds, fences, trees, &c., have become waste, dilapidated and destroyed, while the bridges were unsafe. The park is a dangerous place."

The Victorian Trotting Club moved on and in 1891 purchasing Oakleigh Park that had been operating since 1888, renamed it Sandown Park and continued to conduct mixed programmes there, the first on October 14 1891 and the last in the 19th century on Christmas Eve 1894 when the star NZ trotting mare Calista won for her legendary trainer/driver Will Whitburn.

While Elsternwick Park may have been the major venue there were a couple of other interesting places where trotting races were held in the metropolitan area in the 1880's.

One was Rosstown (near Carnegie) and the other was the Oakleigh and Mulgrave Trotting Club which conducted their one and only mixed programme on 29th January 1887.

The press reported, "A successful meeting was held by the Oakleigh and Mulgrave Racing and Trotting Club, on the racecourse adjoining Mr. Ford's Springvale hotel, on the corner of Dandenong and Springvale roads." The result of the trotting race was as follows:-

TROT – 20sovs – Three Miles

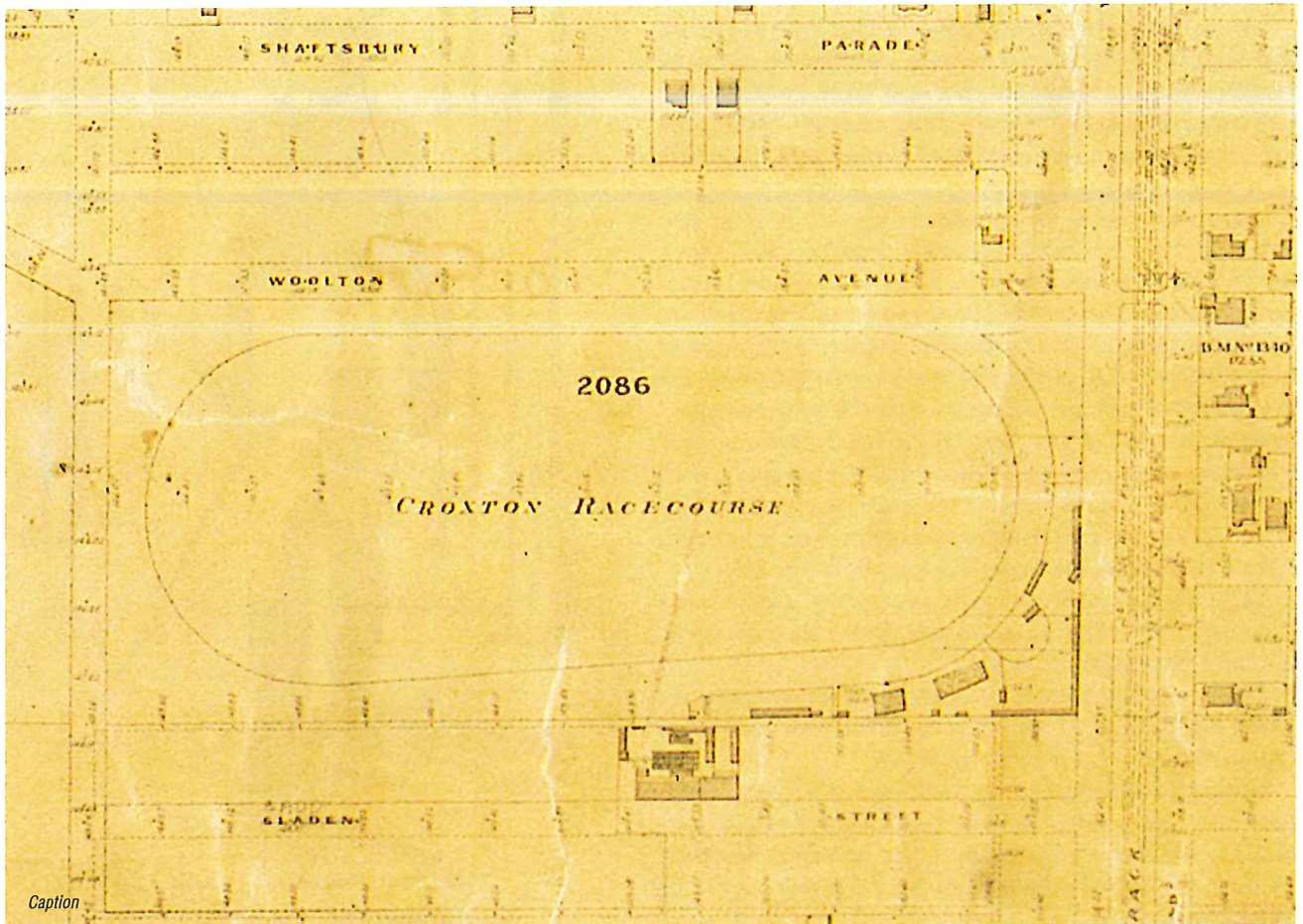
J Clark's brga DIXIE (Stretton) 1

W Thompson's bga Johnny Go (Martin) 2

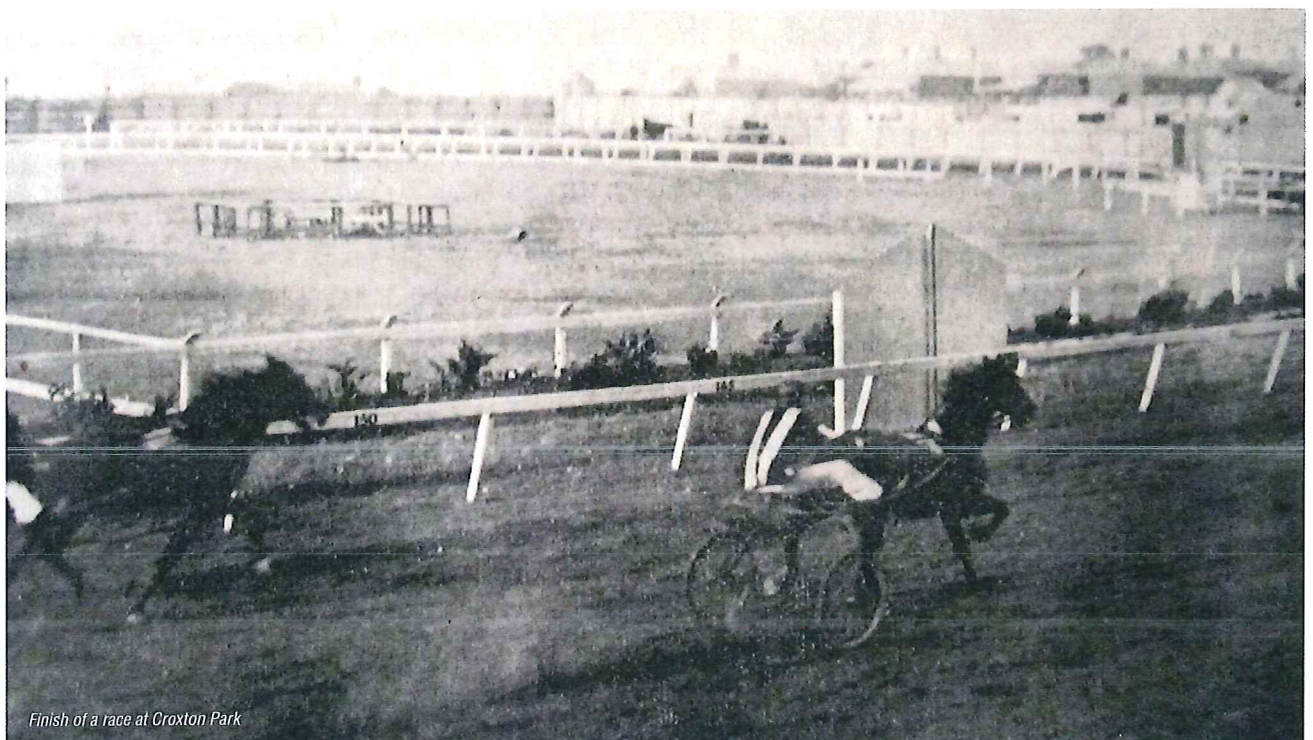
T Daley's chma Rosalie, 600yds (Millsom) 3

Others: F Howell's grga Chance, scr, A Hewitt's rnga Butcher Boy, scr, Miss P Bagley's bm5 Lillie, 100yds, WH Stower's chha Mac, 100yds, W Cullen's chga Red Chief, 100yds, FB Lovelock's bga Albion, 300yds, EW Jeffries' brma Maud, 300yds, J Walsh's blkga Loco, 500yds, T Daley's bma Polly, 500yds, Z Todd's chha Talk, 500yds
 Margins: Won easily

There was an explosion in the number of proprietary tracks scattered throughout the Melbourne suburbs at this time and most hosted trotting races – Epsom (1890 – first trotting race won by the American mare Lucretia), Oakleigh (not to be confused with Oakleigh Park) (1891), Mordialloc (1892), Aspendale (1892), Mentone (1892 – first race won by the soon to be Australian trotting mile champion Osterley) and even at South Yarra in late 1893.



Caption



Finish of a race at Croxton Park



The South Yarra track was so small that only pony gallopers and ridden pony trotters competed and in early 1894 there were actually pony races conducted under lights there.

Three other suburban tracks, the new Croxton Park in "Fitzroy", Ascot (alongside the Melbourne Showgrounds precinct) in Ascot Vale and Richmond circuit, in Burnley, all were particularly significant for trotting.

The new Croxton Park was a mile or so south of the original Croxton Park and the first trot was held there on October 29 1891 and meetings most times were conducted weekly.

In January 1893 J.W. Scott who managed the Sherwood Park course in what is now known as Wattle Park (one of the few metropolitan tracks that never hosted a trotting race – Williamstown was the other) took over Croxton Park and changed the venue to the home of the Fitzroy Pony, Galloway and Trotting Club.

Even though the track was in Northcote, Scott used Fitzroy for a reason always promoting and advertising it as Fitzroy to con the public to thinking it was far closer to the city than it actually was.

Ascot, which opened for business in October 1893, was run by John Reilly who had earlier controlled the Oakleigh track and in a remarkable logistical exercise, Reilly hired 150 men with horses and drays to move all the buildings from the defunct Oakleigh course and have them set up at Ascot.

That move all happened in a single night, however, local residents took umbrage to all the noise in the middle of the night and Reilly had to bail his men out of the Moonee Ponds police station in the early hours so they could complete the erection of the buildings.

The all cinders Richmond track was sited opposite the tram terminus in Bridge Street and opened for business during 1891 Melbourne Cup week and the first trotting event was held on December 23 the same year.

It is impossible to detail the hundreds of trotting races conducted in the Melbourne metropolitan area during the 1890's, so best to select some historic and unique events instead.

So far as the major tracks that conducted the most all-trotting metropolitan meetings during the last decade of the 19th century Moonee Valley and Richmond led the way ahead of Ascot and Maribyrnong.

Moonee Valley without any doubt conducted the most prestigious race in that time and the one race that is still regarded the most significant event in Australasia in the 19th century.

That contest was the Inter Colonial Free-For-All on the 4th March 1896 and incredibly there was not another race for trotters or pacers for more than decade at Moonee Valley subsequent to the Inter Colonial FFA.

The Intercolonial FFA was held on a Wednesday during a festive week squeezed in between the Australian Cup (Tuesday) and the Champion Stakes (Thursday) at Flemington and the Moonee Ponds precinct was buzzing after more than 2,000 people enjoyed a music and dance carnival in the public gardens on the previous evening that terminated at 11 pm.

Rightly claimed as the inspiration for the Australasian Championships in Perth in 1925 and the iconic Inter Dominion Championship that commenced in Perth in 1936, the Inter Colonial FFA attracted the best from both sides of the Tasman.

The locally owned trio comprised the NZ bred holder of the Australian trotting mares mile record Calista (by Berlin), the fastest pacer in Australasia, Mystery (by Honesty), the fastest trotting stallion in Australasia, Osterley while the challengers from New South Wales were their two best FFA trotters in St Louis and Fritz.

Fritz who two seasons earlier had defeated NSW's top trotting mare Rita and the imported trotter Huon in a Free-For-All as a 3YO was the trotter



everyone wanted to see and he did not let anyone down with three stunning miles, each of which represented a new Australasian Mile record. The full details of his demolition are shown below:-

INTER COLONIAL FFA – 100 sovs – Mile heats (best 3 in 5)

First heat

Mrs JA Bucklands bg5 FRITZ, scr (John Buckland) 1

J Robertsons bha Osterley, scr (Dugald Taylor) 2

CE Alexanders brma Calista, scr (Will Whitburn) 3

Others: JA Bucklands bha St Louis, scr (Claude Piper), J Robertsons chma

Mystery, scr (Frank Batt)

Margins: Won by 70yds. Time: 2m 19s

Second heat

Mrs JA Bucklands bg5 FRITZ, scr (John Buckland) 1

CE Alexanders brma Calista, scr (Will Whitburn) 2

J Robertsons bha Osterley, scr (Dugald Taylor) 3

Margins: Won by 75yds. Time: 2m 16.4s

Third heat

Mrs JA Bucklands bg5 FRITZ, scr (John Buckland) 1

J Robertsons bha Osterley, scr (Dugald Taylor) 2

CE Alexanders brma Calista, scr (Will Whitburn) 3

Margins: Won by a distance. Time: 2m 14 1/6s

Betting: 4/5 Fritz (1st heat) 1/6 Fritz (2nd heat), no betting (third heat)

The other star performer at Moonee Valley was undoubtedly the chestnut pacing mare Mystery who became the darling of the press and the public.

A Paleface Adios lookalike, Mystery won on debut as a four-year-old at Elsternwick Park on 16th March 1889 and won three further races there including an Australasian pacers record for two miles (5m 11 1/4s).

She also won three times on the one program at Moonee Valley on 11th October 1890, one of those wins being a mile in 2:30.0, the first time a pacer has gone this fast in a mile race.

After that victory Mystery was asked most times to give starts of 400 yards plus or 50 seconds but still managed two more wins at Moonee Valley, two at Richmond and one at Ascot. She also raced as Aspendale, Maribrnong, Fitzroy and Sandown.

The handicapping system forced her owner/trainer Frank Robbins to consider match races as a way of earning stakes, be it against equine or homo sapien.

The first was a highly publicized patriotic clash named the "International Trotting Match" On 29th July 1891 against the imported American trotting gelding Valentine, owned by Sydney dentist Dr. Slate. The match race worth 200 sovereigns proved a total mismatch as Mystery distanced her American rival, pacing the mile in 2:34.5.

Then came a series of match races at Richmond against the fastest trotter in Australia, Osterley in 1893 – the first on 13th September over one mile (best two heats of three), the second over two miles on 11th October and the third over three miles five days later on 16th October.

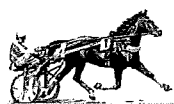
The contests captured the imagination of the public and the press who produced this wonderfully informative report after the third contest.

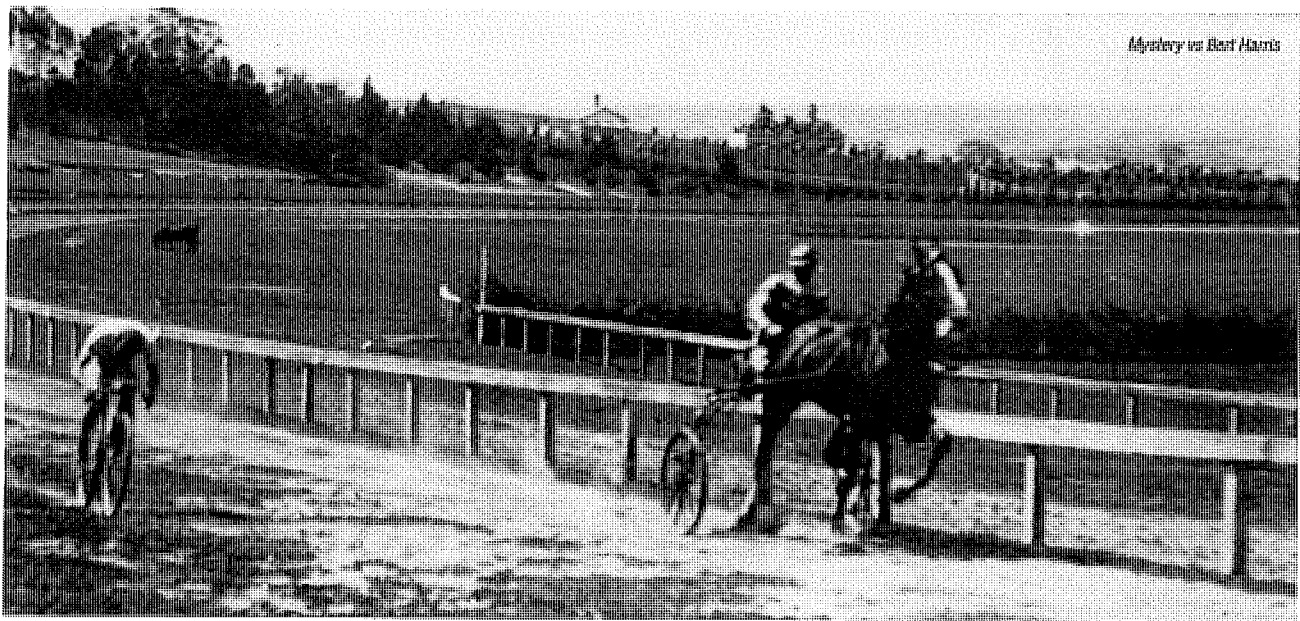
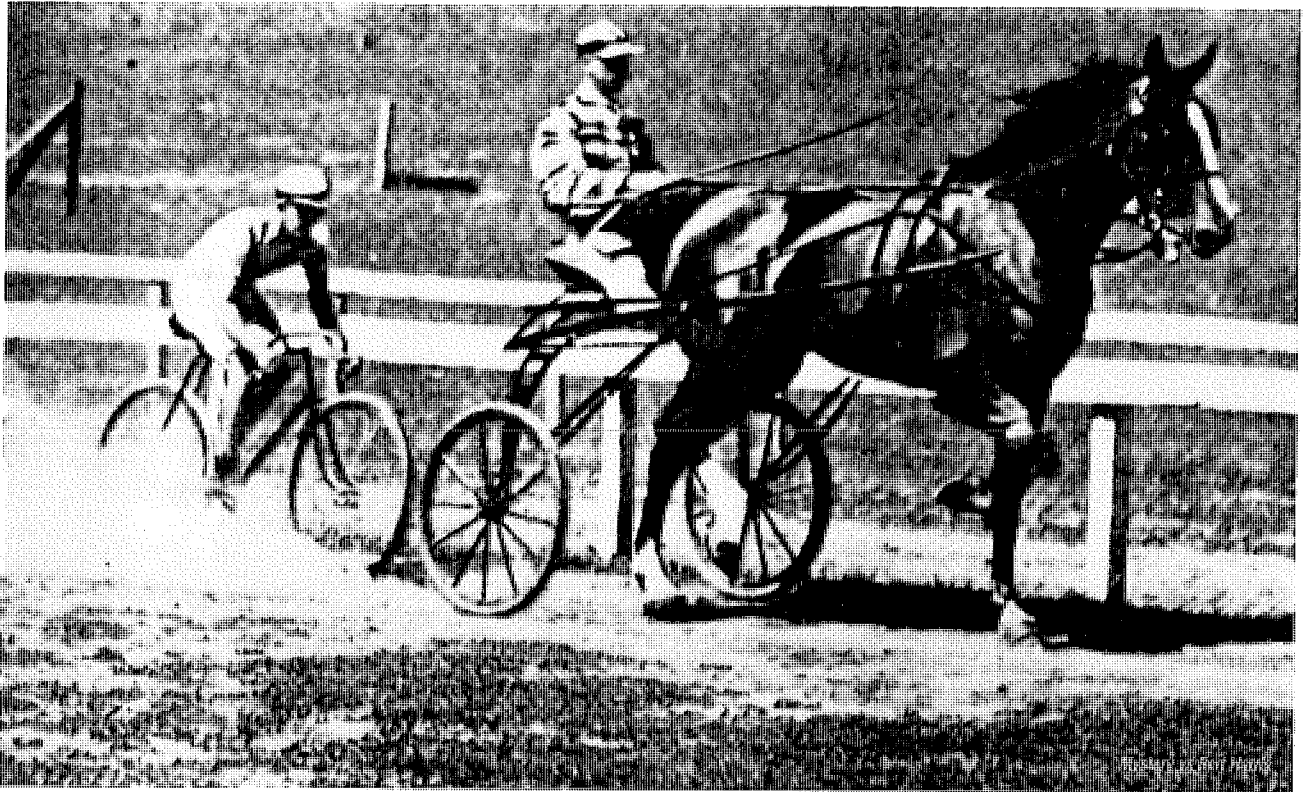
"The third and final division of the Osterley - Mystery trotting match took place on the Richmond course yesterday, a large number of people going, out to see the famous performers measuring strides over three miles. Those present were rewarded with a splendid exhibition of trotting the contest proving interesting in every way.

On the first occasion of the meeting of the two cracks the conditions being the best of three heats of a mile each Osterley won with two straight heats but the merit of his victory was somewhat discounted owing to Mystery going dead lame during the second heat. At the second meeting (over two miles) Mystery gained a creditable victory.

The mare was a slightly better favourite yesterday than Osterley though many people doubted her ability and also that of her veteran owner to stay a severely contested three miles. As it turned out these doubts were pretty well founded for after leading most of the way Mystery hung out signs of distress a quarter of a mile from home, and her driver being also a little distressed Osterley shot to the front and eventually won easily in the splendid time of 7 minutes 30 3/4s which is far and away superior to anything of the kind previously shown in Australia the nearest approach to it being Hero's 7min 52 1/4s at Sandown Park in December, 1891. In America where trotting has been reduced to a science and where the tracks are as fast as lightning the record over three miles is 7min 21 1/4s put up by Huntress in 1872. Osterley's record yesterday considering the difference in the tracks in the two countries compares very favourably with the performance of Huntress.

Osterley broke slightly once or twice but was so cleverly managed by Albaugh that the horse lost very little ground and at every turn he gained an advantage by hugging the rail. He broke in the last hundred yards and was





slackened down as he passed the post, otherwise the time made would have been even faster.

Osterley is without doubt the most brilliant trotter over this distance ever seen in Australia, though Mystery is probably superior up to two miles. Mr Robbins handled his mare well throughout, and though he and Mystery lost the match, neither was disgraced.

That the pace was "on" right from the start may be judged from the fact that the first mile was covered in 2min 24 1/2s, and the second mile in 4min 56s. A record has been put-up at each meeting of the cracks, Osterley a time on the first occasion, 2mm 25sec, being much better than anything in this connection done in the colonies before, and Mystery a 4min 56 1/2sec over two miles at the second meeting cut the previous record by several seconds.

The officials yesterday were:- Judges, Messrs. W. T. Kendall and T. K. Bennet, starter and timekeeper, Mr F.H. Samson The details of the contest are appended:-

MATCH of 140sovs. Three miles

J Robertson's b h OSTERLEY, aged, by Childe Harold (Imp) - Kentucky Maid (imp), 11st 1lb (Marshall E Albaugh) 1

F Robbins s ch m Mystery, aged, by Honesty (imp) - Blacksmith's Daughter, 10st 10lb (Owner) 2

Betting: -5 to 4 on Mystery

"Osterley had the inside running, but the moment the signal was given to a flying start he broke, but lost no perceptible ground. As the first half mile was completed Osterley was 30 yards in front, but on reaching the back of the course he broke, and Mystery then being almost on level terms took the lead and the inside running, passing the stand for the second half mile 25 yards in advance. She retained this advantage until close on the completion of the second mile when Osterley again broke, but lost a couple of yards only. As they passed the stand the fifth time the mare was 20 yards to the good, but skimming the turn out of the straight Osterley gained five or six yards,

and at the back was almost level with Mystery. In the last quarter of a mile Mystery perceptibly tired, and Osterley passing her a furlong and a half from home went on, and eventually won easily by 60 yards. Time, 7min 30 3/4sec."

Two years later Mystery time trialled at Moonee Valley in 2:25.0 to establish an Australasian mile mark for pacers and seven weeks later on January 22 1896 she was pitted against the world champion cyclist Albert "Bert" Walter Harris from England in a best of three one mile heat contest, also at Moonee Valley.

Harris had established UK records for a half mile in 57.3 seconds and one mile in 1:58.3 in September 1895 at the Herne Hill velodrome, so he was in fine form when he undertook a long tour of Australia and NZ taking on everyone in every type of contest imaginable.

As you can see from the pictures on page 93 the contests were keen, however, the chestnut pacing champion won the first contest by six yards in 2:26.2 and the second by ten yards.

Tragically when Harris returned to England he fell during a ten mile race on Easter Monday 1897 and died two days later after not recovering consciousness.

Mystery was actually pregnant to Osterley at the time of the match race with Harris and only competed in the Intercolonial FFA six weeks later for promotional purposes and it was no surprise that the then rising 12YO mare performed poorly.

For the record Mystery only produced three foals and sadly for the breeding industry in Australia, there were no daughters to carry on her legacy as all three foals were colts.

Those three colts, Frank Robbins (by Osterley), Osterley II (by Osterley) and OYM (by Owyhee USA) all stood at stud and Classic Families reveals that they all found themselves in the pedigrees of Classic winners.

OYM sired the NZ Cup winner Agathos, Doraldina (NZ Derby) and the NZ mile champion Our Thorpe (NZ FFA); Frank Robbins sired four Classic winners as well as Dot Robbins, the third dam of the incomparable False Step (three NZ Cups); Osterley II sired one Classic winner but more importantly had a daughter known as "Ohlin's Osterley II mare" that created Classic

Family A102 (15 Classic winners) whose credits range from Murray Chimes (1924 Richmond 500 pound Cup) to Modern Classic 1:53.6 (one of the first 750 1:55 performers in Australasia).

The Richmond track was four furlongs, 52 yards in circumference and 20 yards wide and it was the venue of two other firsts in the 1890's that has hitherto gone unreported – the first Tradesmens meeting and the first trotting races under lights in Victoria.

The first Tradesmens meetings were in 1893 and were hugely popular attracting the patronage of local politicians and thousands of the general public with all funds directed to a local charity.

Some examples of the races conducted – horses competing must have been bona fide working horses – were for Butchers, Bakers, Milkmen, Grocers & Greengrocers and Fishmongers.

Night racing in Victoria was hitherto thought to have commenced in 1947 at the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds except for exhibition events at the Royal Melbourne Show in the 1930's.

Not so, for in 1893 it was attempted midweek at two different Melbourne venues – the South Yarra Oval (near where the Darling Gardens are today) for pony gallopers only and mixed programmes at the Richmond circuit (28 October and November 1).

One of the meetings was promoted thus by the press:- "The Richmond races will be held on the Richmond racecourse to-night under electric light, when a first class programme for ponies, galloways, and trotting horses will be run through. The club is giving away 100 sovereigns in stakes, and as large entries have again been received for each of the events some good racing is anticipated. The first race is timed to start at 8 o'clock. Cabs and trams run along Flinders street to the entrance gates. The admission to the grandstand is 3 shillings (30c), and the course one shilling (10c)."

Only three trotting races were held with one being a pony trot that was won by one of Melbourne's best and most durable trotters Miss Jessie, a 13.2h chestnut mare that raced more than 100 times on the various Melbourne tracks winning at Moonee Valley, Croxton Park, Richmond and Maribyrnong for owner/trainer and driver George Davis.



Previously unpublished photograph of Edie (John Buckland)





The other two events for all trotters and both were won by Dear Boy, a trotter owned, trained and driven by the Frenchman Pierre Lacaton, mine host at Maison Doree (149 Lonsdale Street) one of the first French restaurants in Melbourne.

The lights used back then were rudimentary and neither powerful enough nor anywhere in sufficient numbers to provide an acceptable view for the public, so the idea lapsed.

There remains one more sensational incident that is worthy relating from the thousands of stories that could be told about 19th century trotting in Metropolitan Melbourne and it involved the popular grey Leithamstead.

At the suburban track of Mentone on 19th November 1895, the then 19-year-old Leithamstead won a two mile event against the most incredible odds as the press report of the day relates:-

"Over a trotting match at a race meeting at Mentone on Wednesday a disgraceful scene took place. There were seven starters, and immediately the betting opened, Leithamstead who, although 22 years (sic) of age, still retains his smartness as a trotter, was heavily backed down to 6 to 4 on, but as soon as the favourite neared the distance a gang of men on the flat, who had evidently made careful pre-arrangement, overleaps the fence, and, standing in a line

across the course, formed a solid wall against the approaching horses. At first E. Grace on Leithamstead did not appear to realise the ruffianly intentions of the gang, but when three of them made a dash for the horse's head he saw the full significance of the demonstration. Whipping up his horse, he galloped at full speed through the crowd, nearly knocking over two of the obstructing party, and as Leithamstead had been frightened almost into madness by the conduct of the mob, his rider had the greatest difficulty in pulling the horse up, as required by the rules, after breaking into a gallop and in getting him to settle down to a trotting pace again. About three yards from home, however, the rider was able to get Leithamstead into his stride again, and amidst the greatest excitement the favourite led past the winning post by half a length."

That completes a cursory look at the rich racing heritage of 19th century trotting in Melbourne and as the new century approached so too was emerging a new battalion of stars including the trotters Emulator and Lightfoot plus the pacer Silver Boy.

Maybe one day all those 19th century owners, horseman, stallions, horses, tracks and administrators will be afforded their true worth with individual chapters in a celebratory tome that also covers the breeding facet as well. I hope so. [HRI](#)

NEXT ISSUE: COUNTRY VICTORIA AND NEW ZEALAND



By John Peck

Victorian Country Lengths Ahead In 19th Century

Concluding the three issue series on previously unpublished material on the extent of 19th Century Harness Racing (or trotting as it was known then) in each State is Victoria.

While New South Wales may have had the honour of the first trotting race in 1810 at Parramatta, Victoria completely dominated the trotting facet of the racing industry once the State was founded.

The extensive Melbourne metropolitan scene that hosted the first ever metropolitan trotting meeting in 1860 (American Trotting Races) and Australasia's first purpose built trotting track at Elsternwick in 1882 was covered in the October 2012 issue.

This article concentrates solely on the country areas and the extent of interest in trotting right across Victoria was nothing short of phenomenal as evidenced by a later chart of all the towns known to have been the venue of a trotting race.

The first instance of an advertised trotting race was at Kinlochewe (re-named Donnybrook in 1854) on Tuesday 3rd February:-

TROTTING RACE For £10; entrance 1 sovereign. Twice round the course; three to start or no race. Gentlemen riders.

There is no written record of the race or indeed, the race meeting having taken place but the following year there were a couple of races or matches that were recorded in the newspapers.

The first was over three miles at Colac where a trotter owned by visiting Melbournite Mr Condell jnr defeated Hugh Murray's Jingle.

Far more significant was a trotting match in gigs that took place on the Portland racecourse in May 1848 that saw Mr Robinson's Jenny defeat Mr Isaac Wilson's Creeping Jane, for a stake of £30.

The contest would be won by the trotter that could cover the most distance, without stopping, in one hour with both horses trotting 13¼ miles and each horse had to be turned once after breaking (the rules in the old days were that horses had to be turned 360 degrees if they galloped).

The annual Barwon races in 1853 featured two trotting matches and at the Christmas meeting at McIvor (later called Heathcote) there was a trotting match for the not inconsiderable sum of 50 pounds.

Maryborough, now known as the Home of the Trotter, was next to feature with the first three figure trotting match - £100 - between Polly and Captain.

After a well-contested race Polly was successful with the press of the day accrediting her victory to the superior riding and really creditable jockey-ship of Mr Ogle.

Geelong and Ballarat were the main regions that attracted trotting matches and on May 29th 1856 at Geelong a new record stake of £400 between horses owned by Messrs Milner and Sanders.

Later that year at the Ballarat and Creswick Races a trotting match took place between Mr Cohen's bg Blueskin (ridden by Kettle) and Mr Haynes bm Mrs Macnab (ridden by Taylor) over six miles.

Blueskin distanced his rival trotting the distance in 23 minutes, 11 seconds and attracted the attention of American John Peck (Cobb and Co) who acquired the gelding for racing purposes in Melbourne.

Inverleigh, which is located not far from Geelong, hosted an American style event that required trotters to contest heats over two miles, best two out of three. The unique race for 10 guineas was won by George Allen's Rover who defeated Mr. Cameron's Rose, the latter winning the first heat.

The first conditioned trotting race – for trotters that had not won a race worth 15 pounds – was held at Tarrengower on April 5th 1858, but the headline act for the year came five months later when a then record 650

pounds match took place at the McIvor racecourse (Heathcote).

A fantastic contest ensued and Kettle's grga Rambler (ridden by owner) defeated Mr. Roberts bga Old Joe by just two lengths over four miles, the time for the match being 16 minutes, 31 seconds.

Sandhurst (later re-named Bendigo) announced itself in the history of the Standardbred in Australia in September 1858 when Mr. Rankin's Spider, ridden by noted horseman Kettle, time-trialled twice over one mile at the Epsom track, the first in four minutes, the second in 3 minutes, 24 seconds, the latter being the first official Australian mile record.

The following month over 400 persons flocked to the Epsom track to witness a match race between Mr Keighran's Waggoner and another of Mr. Rankin's trotters in the grey Lark. The former won by four lengths after the pair traversed three circuits of the track.

There was hardly a newspaper in Australia that did not carry a story on the famous, some would say infamous, 100 mile trotting match between Proctor's cream gelding Archy and Mr. Warren's bay gelding Whisker.

The race that was detailed in our special publication – Ballarat 150 Years Australia's First Trotting Club – commenced early at 5.50 in the morning at the 46 mile post near Beaufort, had a stopover in Ballarat before proceeding to the Western Hotel in Geelong where Archy arrived at 3.26 p.m. Whisker did not finish after a hectic first 46 miles were covered in 3 hours, 10 minutes.

The interest in trotting was intense in Ballarat and this led to the creation of Australia's first trotting Club – the Ballarat & Creswick Trotting Club that held its first meeting at Dowling Forest on 25th October 1861. The results were as follows:-

MAIDEN SADDLE – 25sovs – 13f 109yd Heats

First Heat

Carpenters bga SPANKER, scr (Higgins) 1

W Warrens grga Happy Jack, scr 2

Other: W Kirks blkga Tommy (Macminimy), D Jones grma Jessie, scr, Macks bma Flora, scr

Time: 5m 40s

Second Heat

W Kirks blkga TOMMY, scr (Higgins) 1

W Warrens grga Happy Jack, scr 2

Carpenters bga Spanker, scr 3

Others: D Jones grma Jessie, scr, Macks bma Flora, scr

Time: 5m 50s

Third Heat

W Kirks blkga TOMMY, scr (Higgins) 1

Carpenters bga Spanker, scr 2

Others: W Warrens grga Happy Jack, scr, D Jones grma Jessie, scr, Macks bma Flora, scr

Margins: Won by 5lgths Time: 5m 39s

GRAND HARNESS TROT – 100 sovs – Six miles

R Orrs chma MAZEPPA (Orr) 1

Warrens brga Whisker, scr 2

D Jones bma Dinah, scr 3

Other: Richards chga Giraffe, scr

Margins: 5lgths X 6lgths Time: 18m 13s

SADDLE TROT – 75 sovs – Four miles

W Bowes grga LITTLE JOHN (J Smith) 1

J Quineys brma Dinah 2

Margins: Won easily



HARNESS TROT – 50 sovs – Once Round heats

First heat

W Warrens bga WHISKER (Warren) scr 1

Other: W Bowes grga Little John, scr, W Kirks blkga Tommy, scr

Second heat

W Warrens bga WHISKER (Warren) walkover

At the Club's second, and as fate would have it, the last meeting on April 1863 the first Australia's first racetrack champion, the pacer Sir William Don, won his first race winning the twelve furlong maiden in straight heats in record rate of 2:41.2.

The Australian record set by Spider at Epsom also went by the wayside when Cleeland's Cranky Poll won the Grand Harness Trot, a best three out of five heats over one mile contest, setting or equaling the Australian mile record in every heat – 3:01.0, 3:01.0 and 2:57.5.

Geelong, Sandhurst (Bendigo) and Geelong were the venues for the major country trotting races for the two decades and attracted all the stars of the time – in particular the pacer Sir William Don and the grey trotter Magic (later a star in New Zealand).

When the celebrated local Archimedes won a 50 pounds Trot at Bendigo in August 1865, the owner was subsequently challenged to a match race by the owner of the brilliant Magic.

Promoted as the Great Trotting Match the pair lined up, both pulling sulkies, in front of over 600 people at the Epsom track to match speed and strength over four miles.

An exciting contest ensued, well, to be truthful it was until disaster struck at the half way mark when Archimedes passed Magic in the back straight on the second of three laps.

The press reported the incident thus, "The driver of Magic got too far inside the posts, and either in manoeuvring to pass outside, according to the rules, or by some other mishap, his near wheel caught one of the posts; he was thrown out, the horse bolted with the sulky and a portion of the harness, and galloping wildly off the course, took by instinct the nearest road to his stables in Sandhurst. In his careering he then countered the closed gates of the nice course fence, which he burst open without ceremony, but not without injury to himself."

Sir William Don set a record of 2:43.3 for four miles at Ballarat in 1866 and then at Epsom two months later won again over four miles pacing the first mile in 2:50, the first two miles in 5:34.0 and the first three miles in 8:22.0 – all Australian records.

Better was to come in May 1867 when Sir William Don, after conceding up to 600 yards to his opponents, won over three miles, the first mile being covered in a sensational 2:25.0 and the second mile in 2:37.0 while the third mile was not timed.

That 2:25.0 elevated Sir William Don to being the thirteenth fastest pacer in the world, a status that has never been bettered by any Australian or New Zealand pacer since.

On the breeding side, Australia had witnessed the arrival of the first American Standardbreds Vermont Boy in 1863 and Cambridge Chief (and his UK born son Flying Morgan) in 1865.

Vermont Boy died after a single season at stud but he managed to sire a son of the same name that stood at Kilmore in 1867 providing country breeders first access to this new breed.

The game changer, however, was Daniel Boon who was imported from America in 1869 by wealthy pastoralist Frederick George (better known as simply George) Docker to stand at his Bontharambo stud in the Wangaratta region. Once Daniel Boon's progeny started racing they made quite an impact.

In the 1870's metropolitan, opportunities were limited to Croxton Park (Northcote) and Kensington Park (Hotham) with the three major provincial cities of Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo offering equivalent and often higher stakes than in Melbourne.

As a consequence the better trotters around – Wanderer, Tom Sayers and Bay Judy (winner at Randwick) - were able to be seen by country folk, no doubt raising the interest in trotting.

Wanderer in particular was outstanding and in 1875 easily won a twice round trot at the Geelong racecourse after conceding 625 yards to the runner-up Black Bess.

Wanderer was owned by soft drink magnate P.G. Dixon who also owned Tom Sayers and although the latter was far inferior to Wanderer, at a Bendigo meeting in December 1875 he was asked to give the winner Teviot an incredible 1,000 yards over a distance of one and a half miles (2,640 yards).

Teviot duly won and soon became a bit player in a historic match race with the Castlemaine owned and trained trotter Alice May that made the front pages of the press in the form of an etching in July 1876.

Epsom in Sandhurst was the venue for the £200 a side contest that required both horses to contest three heats – the first over three miles, the second over four miles and the last over five miles - the winner being the one that won most heats.



Champion trotter Wanderer and PG Dixon

Both horses contested the first heat in sulkies that Teviot won easily in 9:06.0, however, Alice May was switched to being ridden in saddle in the second heat which she won in 11:40.3 after Teviot lost a shoe in the final straight and galloped.

To the surprise of many the diminutive mare Alice May (Paddy Bell) carrying 12 stone, seven pounds in weight thrashed Teviot in the final heat over five miles clocking 15:52.0.

The duo of Teviot and Alice May became arch rivals meeting for at Epsom in November they met again at a two day meeting with Alice May successful in a best two out of three heat affair over ten furlongs. The same day Teviot finished third in a three mile race with Alice May unplaced, the same result occurring on the following day in a similar event. They bred 'em tough in those days.

In 1876 the first progeny of Daniel Boon, the 6YO Conquering Hero, won the annual All Saints Trot at Ballarat and the following year another, Dexter, won the rich annual trot at the Geelong Racing Club's winter meeting.

In 1878 yet another son of Daniel Boon, Daniel Boone, trained and driven by the famous horseman Frank Robbins, won the Geelong feature from Conquering Hero. Unplaced in that race was Wanderer (conceded 85 seconds to the winner) and another of Daniel Boon's progeny Lady Boone, owned and ridden by Henry Hoysted.

In 1879 a 40 sovereign race with a 25 guinea Cup and Epsom attracted the likes of Wanderer and emerging colonial star Brown Hawk, trained by Frank Robbins and although neither won, the close and thrilling contest fuelled the flames of desire for a trotting club to be formed.

The 1880's was a decade of revolution for trotting when a swarm of American imports of both sexes arrived in the colony and the Victoria Trotting Club was established in Melbourne and set about creating the first all purpose trotting track at Elsternwick Park.

Prior to that in the country the annual Geelong feature was the premier event and in 1880 Frank Robbins drove Brown Hawk to victory over the imported American trotter Von Moltke Junior, while the following year Black Diamond (by Daniel Boon) defeated Von Moltke Junior, Conquering Hero, Brown Hawk and imported UK Norfolk Trotter Serenader.

It was odds on that Sandhurst or Geelong would form the first trotting club after the demise of the Ballarat and Creswick Club in 1863.

Unbelievably though it was neither and the tiny town of Mystic Park near Lake Boga and Lake Charm took the honours with the emergence of the Mystic Park Jockey Club and Trotting Association.

The Trotting Association held their first trot on 24th May 1882 at Box Creek and continued to hold an annual meeting right through until the end of the century.

Three weeks later at Epsom, Sandhurst a fantastic field - in hindsight the best field ever seen in the country area in the 19th century - competed in a 40 sovereign three mile trot - the backmarker was the USA gelding Defiance while others included the USA imported stallion Contractor, the colonial champion Wanderer (who won), the country pony star Frederick the Great and J.J. Miller's 4YO mare Fright, who only the previous month won the first ever event at Elsternwick Park.

That was the final impetus needed and not only a Club was formed but also it was decided to build the first ever track specifically built for trotting outside the metropolitan area (see separate story).

On 26th September 1882 details were put together at Henry Burrige's Beehive Hotel, Pall Mall for the inaugural race meeting of the Sandhurst Trotting Club, Victoria's official second fully fledged Trotting Club and that inaugural meeting took place on the 24th January 1883.

President - Mr R. Carr. **Stewards** - Messrs R. Carr, J. Goudge, G. M. Pickles, R. Moorhead, H. Burrige, and C.H. Hoffmeyer. **Judges** - Hon. D.C. Sterry M.L.C., R. Carr and J. C. Stamp. **Starter** - Mr W. O'Connor. Clerk of the Course - Mr W. Howe. **Clerk of the Scales** - Mr H. Roberts. **Timekeeper** - Mr Cook, manager for Messrs Joseph and Co. **Secretary** - Mr J. G. Weddell.

The opening meeting of the above club took place yesterday on the new track on the Epsom course, about three miles from Sandhurst. A capital trotting track of a mile has been laid inside the steeplechase course. The weather, although warm, was very fine, and the attendance was excellent. The track was in fine condition for trotting, but the dust was at times, very disagreeable.

EPSOM TROTTING TRACK – AUSTRALASIAN FIRST

Yesterday afternoon a number of members of the Sandhurst Trotting Club and Bendigo Jockey Club visited the Epsom Racecourse to inspect a new trotting track lately formed.

The work of laying out the track was left in the hands of Mr. W.J. Starr, a recent arrival from America, and who has for the past few months been in Sandhurst.

A look at the track yesterday fully convinced the members of the Club that they fortunate in securing Mr. Starr's services and experience.

The track has been formed between the Steeplechase and Jockey Club's training tracks. It is 56 feet wide, and a mile in length, and is formed on the American principle.

There is a quarter of a mile straight in front of the grand stand, and a quarter mile back stretch. At each end are ovals of a quarter of a mile, and the turnings have been so formed as to be easy for horses.

The surface of the course was first scarified, then harrowed, and afterwards leveled and rolled. At the back of the course some difficulty was experienced in having to remove some very large trees from the track.

This has been done, and some granite rocks near the stonewall have likewise been removed and the holes filled up. At another part of the track were a number of furrows made many years ago when a ploughing match took place on the course.

These have been filled up and leveled off so that the whole track is now

as smooth as a table top. Two small culverts had to be put in to carry off the water from the small rises near the stonewall.

The remainder of the track is very solid, and those professing to be judges of such matters, have stated that it will be a three seconds faster track than Elsternwick.

Two machines of American construction were used by Mr. Starr in the formation of the track. The first, "a leveler" is somewhat curiously constructed. It is made of four pieces of quartering, with three inches by one inch hardwood stays. It is 15 feet long, and 12 feet wide at one end, and 6 feet wide at the other. A chain is attached, and can be reversed instead of turning the "leveller".

Two horses are used in dragging the "leveler" along the track. It takes off every small mound, and fills up any ruts.

A Yankee harrow was also used. It is a triangle 10 feet long and six feet wide. The teeth are very "chubby" and are fixed four inches apart. The two implements will be retained on the course for leveling and repairing the track at any time.

All that is now required to settle the ground is a shower of rain. Outside the course, and within 50 yards of the gate, Mr. J.G. Weddell has erected a fine stable for trotting horses. It is built of hardwood and contains four horse stalls and a keeper's room. The size of the stalls vary from 10 to 14 feet, thus giving plenty of room for horses.



However, as it was, great praise was given to Mr. Starr for the fine track, and it can be seen from the times done that it is faster even than Elsternwick.

The trotting, considering it is a new departure on the Epsom course, was most encouraging. The assemblage was just short of two thousand, although more numerous than on some occasions at Elsternwick. The carriage paddock was well filled, and consequently the grand stand had a full complement of ladies. The lawn, which wore a thick, velvet coating of couch grass of over a foot long, was much enjoyed by the lords of creation, and we were pleased to see so large an interest manifested in the different trotting events.

There were a fair attendance of bookmakers from Melbourne, a special train having been placed at their disposal.

The arrangements were fairly good, the officers, and time-keeper in particular, discharging their duties satisfactorily. We need hardly tell our readers that for the last three years a good deal of attention has been given to the advancement of trotting, and the improvement of the trotting horse, in our columns, not, however, for the purpose of making the trotting horse a medium for betting and bookmaking, but solely for the practical application of this class of horse to every day use. We have published articles from time to time bearing on every phase of the subject. We have recounted thrilling episodes of the American Trotting Turf, and we have given the history of the American trotting horse from his descent from the English Mambrino, and Messenger, imported to America seventy or eighty years ago. Our professional gentlemen and storekeepers use for the most part only trotting horses, and to the improvement of this class of animals they should give some countenance and encouragement. We have done our part by putting facts before our readers, and we believe to a very large extent the present trotting track is the result of our efforts. The trotting horse is certain to be one of the institutions of the colony and the absorption of recent importations of trotting horses from America, is sufficient evidence that already a lively interest is being taken in their practical use. Ballarat, Geelong, and other places in the colony will, I have no doubt, possess their trotting tracks soon, and we may look forward to breeding faster trotting horses every year. As an instance of the slowness of our horses, we may mention the Walter Scott Stakes; there were, eight entries of mares without special training, and the owners of each mare thought she was very fast, but the best time a mile could be done in was 3:30. Compare this with the ordinary trotting horses running through the streets of American cities, their speed ranging from 2:30 upwards, and we must conclude at once that we are far behind our American cousins in horse flesh. Let us therefore encourage the breeding of strong, active, fast trotting horses, with ability to pull a wagon with desired speed.

There was unfortunately a serious drawback to the complete success of the afternoon's sport, viz. the failure to run the 2:46 class. On the card there were eight entries for this class; Native Cat, Leithamstead, Walter Scott, and Sylph, were scratched, leaving Brown Hawk, Captain Dearborn, Contractor, and Von Moltke Jnr, in the race, the first two of the last mentioned horses belong to Mr Robbins of Sandridge.

One of the conditions of this race was the a horse having trotted under 2.46 was compelled to go to wagon, and Von Moltke Jnr. having trotted a mile on a previous occasion in 2:45 1/4. Mr Colbath, when entering, stated that if there would be any bother about Von Moltke Jnr. going in a sulky he would decline to enter. The stewards then met and decided, as they did yesterday, that the fraction of a second did not count, and that Von Moltke could go to sulky. Mr Robbins the owner of Brown Hawk and Captain Dearborn protested against this proceeding and eventually scratched his two horses leaving only Contractor and Von Moltke Jnr for the race, and as there could not be a contest without three horses starting the event fell through. The question arises - who is to blame for this fiasco? Do fractions of a second make a record. When the Sandhurst Trotting Club was initiated, the rules of the Victorian Trotting Club were adopted, and the following extract from those rules seems to meet the case.

Rule 6, Section 1 - Fractions of a second shall be considered in determining the time made, and shall be entered in the record, but they shall not operate as a bar in making entries; i.e. a horse gaining a record of 2:29 1/2 shall remain eligible in the 2.30 class. The following are the particulars of the other races.

TROTTING PURSE

Of 50 sovs. For three minute class. For all horses that have never beaten three minutes; saddle or harness. Mile heats, best three in live ; 1st prize, £40; 2nd, £10 10s.

T. Pitman's gg3 DICK (by Young Australian) sulky (Millsom)	1	1	1
T. Wilkins' chga Dick Goldsborough; saddle (Grimwood)	2	2	2
Charlton's gga Frederick the Great; saddle (Owner)	3	0	0
J. R. Robinson's bga Hector; sulky (Starr)	0	0	0

R. J Moorhead's blkga BB; sulky (Pierce) also started.

Happy Jack and Little Dick were scratched.

Betting £7 to £4 on Dick, £3 and £4 to £1 others.

First Heat: After one false start, the horses were got well away together. The favorite at once went to the front, followed by Frederick the Great, and Dick Goldsborough. At the first turn Frederick the Great broke badly, and Dick Goldsborough went up second, with Hector and B.B. close at hand. Dick, trotting splendidly, began to gain ground, and at the quarter of a mile post was leading by several lengths. Here Frederick the Great passed Hector and BB, but the game little horse was not fast enough to get on terms with the leaders. After passing the stonewall Dick Goldsborough went up to within a length of Dick, but broke, and the heat was over, the latter winning, hard held by three lengths; BB was distanced. Time - 2m 49 secs.

Second Heat: The horses went away in a line Dick Goldsborough going to the front followed by Hector and Dick, Frederick the Great breaking up going round the first turn. Dick went by his opponents in rare style, and soon opened daylight. At the back of the course Frederick the Great passed Hector who fell in with inferior company behind. Grimwood began to ride, and crawled on Dick by inches to the turn, but he was never able to overhaul the gallant grey, who won easily by a length. Frederick and Hector who had a race for themselves were distanced. Time - 2min 44secs.

Third Heat: Dick and Dick Goldsborough got well away, Dick leading his opponent by a length. This position was not changed until the distance post was reached; here the race became exciting, Goldsborough coming on the quarters of his opponent, who, however, won by half a length, hard held. Time - 2min 49secs.

It should be here mentioned that Dick is a fine upstanding grey gelding, two years and ten months old. He has deceived many good judges of horse (flesh by his superior development is bone and muscle, and many yesterday thought he was much older than he is. As an instance, of how a horse can be improved, the owner of this horse, some time back, offered him for £12, and he was not sold. Yesterday he proved himself to be one of the grandest trotting horses for his age in the colony, and immediately after the race he was purchased by the Hon. D.C. Sterry, M.L.C., for the sum of £250, with all engagements. There maybe more horses of this calibre in our district, and it will hardly be believed that Dick Goldsborough was purchased from Messrs Yeo and Son, of Kerang, a few months ago for the sum of £10, out of a mob, and he is now worth £100.

WALTER SCOTT STAKES

For mares only. The services of Walter Scott will be given free at Sandhurst for the season 1883 to one and up to six mares that will show a mile in 3min 10sec or better. The mare that shows the fastest record to get entrance fees. In the event of time not being done, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd mares to have service of horse free.

R. McConnachie's gm DINAH; sulky (Starr)	1
Mr T. Hamlyn's bm Flora; sulky (Featherstone)	2
Mr. A. Munson's bm Lubra; saddle (Pook)	3

Betting - £2 to £1 on field.

Others: J Dillon's blkm Black Bess, sulky (owner), J Pierce's bm Waverly, saddle (owner), C.H. Read's gm Etty, saddle (owner), G.K. Pickles' bm Dolly, saddle (owner) and F.E. Hunter's rnm (The) Kentish Mare, saddle (owner).

Great interest was taken in this event, the mares all belonging to the district.

After one false start Mr. O'Connor sent them away together. Lubra, Dolly, and Etty went to the front but the latter two broke up badly at the quarter post, and Flora went to the head of affairs. Here Dina who was in the ruck showed herself to be dangerous, as she began to overhaul Lubra, who broke near the stone wall and she was succeeded by the mare before mentioned. From this out Dina showed her superiority, and collared Flora at the turn home. A grand race ensued, Dina winning easily by half a length, 30 yards to the horse. Time – 3min 30secs. Only one heat was run in the above event.

The great event for 2m 46sec class, having fallen through, Captain Dearborn, Contractor, and Brown Hawk trotted two miles. Their style of going was much admired by the public, and the drivers succeeded in making a good race of it. Von Moltke Jnr afterwards trotted several short distances. A great deal having been heard of this horses' good qualities, he as a matter of course, attracted a good deal of attention. He fully satisfied the spectators by his action and pace that he was a most superior animal, and one of the fastest horses we have in the colony. Von Moltke would have trotted with Mr Robbins and Mr Miller's horses but the latter gentleman positively refused to allow his horse to go on the track with Von Moltke Jnr.

SWEEPSTAKES

Of £2 10s for local horses: Two miles.

S. Lazarus's gg DICK, sulky (Starr) 1

Mr Gray's gga Ranger, saddle (Grimwood) 2

Mr. Pickles' Kate, sulky (T. Pickles) 3

Others: C. Balderstone's bga Billy, saddle (owner), W Watsons's bga Toothpick saddle (Craike), J.E. Featherstone's bga Little King, saddle (owner).

Dick, was the first to show in front followed by Kate and Ranger. At the stone wall Dick was leading by fully 100 yards, and he won as he liked by 40 yards with Ranger beating Kate easily by thirty yards. Time - 6min 37secs.

This concluded the programme about five o'clock and the several brushes on the well watered road home terminated, we hope a satisfactory afternoon's sport.

The Sandhurst Trotting Club members subsequently held regular Wednesday afternoon social meetings where horses would time trial and compete in match races. They members sought to emulate the famous Driving Clubs in North America.

Occasionally they would conduct a single trotting event and after the 1884 meeting was abandoned due to the inclement weather it was not until 1885 that another trotting meeting was conducted as evidenced by the following press report.

"A meeting of the Sandhurst Trotting Club was held last evening (July 16 1885) at Burrridge's Beehive Exchange. There was a large attendance, Mr. G. M. Pickles in the chair. It was decided to hold a trotting meeting on the 29th inst., when the match for £50 between Mr. D. C. Sterry's Snowdrift and Mr. Pickles' Dandy will be decided. The following programme was decided upon:-

Handicap Selling Trot of £10, winner to be sold for £30; one event of two miles. Handicap Trot of £15, and sweepstake of 10s for acceptors to go to the second horse. Distance one mile and a half.

Handicap Ladies' Bracelet of £15, for local hacks, the bona fide property of residents within 20 miles of Sandhurst. 1st prize, £10 bracelet, 2nd, £5 bracelet. Once around the course. Amateur riders. Weight not less than 10st. Messrs. Featherston, Weddell, Carr, Williamson, and Moorhead were appointed to carry out the arrangements. It was decided to only admit those bookmakers who paid £1 towards the club.

That meeting which was postponed to Wednesday 5th August was the last ever held by the Club although the Bendigo Jockey Club later conducted two feature trots each year, usually at their Winter and Spring meetings.

The central district of Victoria continued to be a haven for trotting and another small town that displayed an interest was Boort, and on the Queen's Birthday (May) every year from 1885 through to 1891, a meeting was held with at least two trotting races.

Boort in many publications in the 20th century was always promoted as the first trotting Club in Victoria, however, as we now know it was preceded by Ballarat and Creswick as well as Sandhurst.

There was yet another trotting club that preceded Boort and that was Kerang, which given its close proximity to Mystic Park, was probably no surprise.

The Kerang District Trotting Club held its inaugural meeting on October 22nd 1890 and the newspaper report of that meeting follows.

President – W.J. Davey. **Vice Presidents** – Dr. Austin and W. Yeo. **Treasurer** – Mr. J. Cullen. **Secretary** – Mr. A.D. Bell. **Stewards** – Messrs J.H. Bell, J. Singleton, E. McHale, R. Crawford, S. Winterbottom, Guy Dougharty, W. Doherty, J. Barkall, J. Middleton, R. Avard, T. Wilkins, E. Wilkinson. **Handicapper** – Mr. T. Adams. **Judge** – Mr. R. Kemp. **Assistant Judge** – M.F. Breton. **Starter** – Mr. J.H. Bell. **Clerk Of Scales** – Mr. G.G. Worner. **Assistant Clerk of Scales** – Mr. H.W. Richardson. **Timekeeper** – Mr. Jas. Wilson. **Assistant Timekeeper** – Mr. O.J. Buscombe. **Clerk of Course** – Mr. J. O'Connor. **Assistant Clerk of Course** – Mr E. McHale.

The first meeting of the newly formed Kerang District Trotting Club was held on Wednesday, and was a pronounced success. The fields were good, the trotting excellent, and what is of importance to the stewards and officials – a financial success, as after paying all the prizes and incidental expenses there will be a balance to carry forward to the credit of the next meeting.

Besides the advantages attending all new undertakings the Club had two or three difficulties to contend with that were undoubtedly detrimental to a fuller success. In the first instance, after the day of meeting had been publicly announced it was found that the County Court would be held the same day, and as several of the club's principal officers would be engaged as possible jurymen or litigents, it was wisely decided to postpone it.

Then when the day of the meeting was near at hand the district was visited by a heavy downpour of rain, which made the roads so heavy that visitors from a distance could not be expected to be present.

The Club were, however, secured from the number of entries received, that, from a sporting point of view, their expectations would be fully realized, and this proved to be the case, as the trotting was good and the excitement maintained from start to finish.

There were one or two cases of suspicious trotting during the day. In the Open Handicap Larry's performance created doubts in the minds of several, as the horse has done good work at Elsternwick, and it was thought his performance would have been better.

At any rate it was the opinion of many the horse was capable of winning. The winning of Nora was also questioned, the owner of the second horse going so far as to protest against the stakes being handed over, his contention being the mare had won money at Daylesford and other places under the name of Kate.

But no direct evidence could be brought forward to substantiate the statement. The whole of the surroundings were, however, of so suspicious a nature that it is possible the matter will not be allowed to drop.

A little incident occurred also in the Pony Trot owing to the difficulty of some of the owners of the ponies in making those over 14 hands high pass as under the height, It seems strange that people know their horses to be over the height should expect bounce and bluster would influence those who had charge of the measuring staff.

One dissatisfied parties tried to show afterwards that the measurement was wrong, but after careful preparation the pony's height was against him.

Despite these two or three incidents, everything passed off smoothly. The course was somewhat heavy in places, but improved considerably as the day wore on.



SANDHURST TROTTING CLUB.

GRAND OPENING MEETING WEDNESDAY, 24TH JAN.

FIRST.

PURSE, 50 SOVS.

Three-minute class. Best three in five.

SECOND.

WALTER SCOTT STAKES

(MARES ONLY).

Entries for this event will be received up till five p.m. on Tuesday, 23rd instant.

THIRD.

PURSE, 75 SOVS.

From 2 mins. 40 secs. to 2 mins. 46 secs. class. Mile heats. Best three in five.

FOURTH.

SWEEP OF £2 10s. EACH

(For LOCAL HORSES).

Two miles. Entries for this event will be received up till five p.m. on Tuesday, 23rd instant.

TICKETS.

	R.	d.
Grand-stand	5	0
Vehicles to the course	2	6
Cabs for the day	3	6

Tickets and all particulars can be obtained on application to

JAMES G. WEDDELL,

Hon. Secretary.

Albion Chambers, Sandhurst.

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KERANG DISTRICT TROTTING CLUB.

THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1890

(Not 8th of October as previously advertised), on the

KERANG RACECOURSE

(Kindly lent for the occasion by the Kerang Turf Club).

President—W. J. Davey. Vice-presidents—Dr. Austin and W. Yeo. Treasurer—J. Cullen. Stewards—J. H. Bell, J. Singleton, E. M'Hale, B. Crawford, S. Winterbottom, Guy Dougharty, W. Doherty, J. Barkell, J. Middleton, R. Avard, T. Wilkins, E. Wilkinson. Handicapper—T. Adams. Judge—R. Kemp. Assistant Judge—F. Briton. Starter—C. H. Yeo. Assistant starter—J. H. Bell. Clerk of Scales—G. G. Warner. Assistant Clerk of Scales—H. W. Richardson. Timekeeper—J. Wilson. Assistant Timekeeper—C. J. Buncombe. Clerk of Course—J. O'Connor. Assistant Clerk of Course—E. M'Hale.

PROGRAMME.

HAIKEN TROT.

Of 10 sovs. Second horse to receive £2 out of stake. Two miles. For all horses that have never won a public race. Nomination, 7s 6d.

PONY RACE.

Of £7 10s. For ponies 14 hands and under; second pony to receive £2 10s out of stake. Three-quarters of a mile. No pony to carry less than 9st. Nomination, 7s 6d.

OPEN HANDICAP TROT.

Of 20 sovs. Second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of stake. Three miles. Nomination, 10s. Acceptance, 10s.

LADIES' BRACELET.

First bracelet, £5 10s; second bracelet, £3 10s. One mile. To be ridden by amateur riders only approved by the stewards. Walter weight for age. Nomination, 10s. Horses to be nominated by ladies.

DETRACT SELLING TROT.

Of 15 sovs. Three miles. Winner to be sold for £20. 10 seconds allowed for every reduction of £5 on the selling price; any surplus to go to the club. Nomination 15s.

FINAL TROT.

Of £7 10s. Two miles. For all horses trotting during the meeting; winners of any event to be debarred. Entrance, 7s 6d. Handicaps to be made after the District Selling Trot by the stewards.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The V.T.C. rules strictly observed. Nominations for Open Handicap Trot to be in the hands of the secretary by 8 p.m. on Saturday, 4th October. Other entries and acceptances 8 p.m. Friday, 17th October, the night of General Entry.

In all above Trote riders to carry 11st 7lb; drivers to carry 16st 10lb, except where otherwise specified.

Nominators to furnish, at time of entry, pedigree and all performances and full description of brands and natural marks; whether trotters or pacers.

All Riders must be dressed in jockey costume.

Drivers will be required to appear in belted cord trousers and racing jacket and cap.

For any violation of this rule the judges may impose a fine not exceeding £5, and, if they think fit, forbid the horse to start.

Admission—Grand stand and riding paddock, 2s 6d; other parts of the course free.

V. tickets, 1s 6d; heronson, 1s.

A. D. BELL, Hon Sec.,

1256 Fitzroy-street, Kerang.

The catering was in the hands of Mr. R. Crawford, who supplied a good luncheon, whilst the liquid refreshments were under the management of Mr. J. Cullen.

The showers of rain that fell about midday no doubt prevented several of the towns people from being present, but the attendance on the whole was very good.

The day's proceedings opened with a trot for horses that had never won a public race. Fifteen entered for this event, but only eleven put in an appearance at the starting point. They were all got away fairly together with the exception of one or two who seemed slow to get into a swing.

Three of the horses gradually drew away from the others, and after the first mile it was seen the pride of place rested with one of them. Lady laid claim to this position, and secured it.

Five started for the pony race, but whatever chance Maud had dissipated by a mile gallop before the start.

The race of the day was the Open Handicap, and for this five horses started. The ease with which Nora won the race, when compared with her efforts in the Maiden, was surprising to several who fully expected some of the horses with a reputation would have passed in front.

The Bracelet was a well contested race, and resulted in Mrs Martin's Hero securing the first, a Mrs Wilkins Oscar the second.

Immediately after this event a second pony race was run. The owners of the rejected ponies, wishing to test the capabilities of their horses, got up a sweepstake and asked the Club to take charge of this race.

This was done, and after a spirited spin Mickey Free was declared the winner.

The Selling Trot was a surprise to many and showed there were at least one good trotter in the district.

Orphan, who has been unsuccessful in his previous efforts, was entered by his owner to be sold at the low price of five pounds, who had no doubt got disgusted by his public performance.

This gave him a handicap, but events showed he could have done without it, as from start to finish he trotted steadfastly, never one showing any inclination to break. The great difference with this horse's performance was due to his having boots on, as without them he always cut himself, and so prevented that freed him of action he displayed as soon as his feet were protected. The day's proceedings concluded with the Final Trot.

The settling took place at the Kerang Hotel the same evening. Immediately after the stewards and officials assembled, the protest of Mr. Roberts against the prize in the Open Handicap being handed over to the winner was considered. Mr. Roberts said he was able to bring evidence forward though perhaps he could if he had more time. But if Mr. Moorhead would make a statutory declaration that he was the owner that could be accepted. This Mr. Moorhead said he was prepared to do, and further stated he purchased the horse from Mr. J. Linane who bought it in New South Wales.

Mr. Linane was called into the room, and corroborated what had been stated. Under these circumstances the protest could not be upheld, and was dismissed accordingly. After this business had been disposed of, the stakes were handed over to the respective winners. A few toasts were then indulged in, and the meeting closed at an early hour. The following are the details of the day's racing:-

MAIDEN TROT

Of 10 sovs. Second horse to receive £2 out of stake. Two miles. For all horses that have never won a public race. Nomination 10s.

Mr J. McHugh's bm LADY, scr (Rinder) 1

Mr. D. Crossan's bg Beaconsfield, scr (Price) 2

Mr. E. McNaughton's brm Bess, scr (Linane) 3

Others: Beeswing (Roberts') (scr), M Lake's Kate (scr), H Moorhead's Nora (scr), T Davis' Mace (scr), J.T. Hogan's Helmet (scr), Beeswing (Peacocks') (scr), Sparrow, C Bell's Dexter (scr).

The first to go to the front were Beaconsfield, Bess and Dexter, but on coming to the home stretch Dexter gave way, and was passed by Lady. The first six horses that passed the post were Beaconsfield, Bess, Lady, Beeswing (Peacock's), Beeswing (Roberts') and Nora. After another two furlongs had been traversed Lady challenged and passed Bess. At the back of the course, Beaconsfield was still leading, with Lady and Bess close up. Lady shortly after supplanted Beaconsfield and established a good lead. Bess looked as if she would pass Beaconsfield, but an unfortunate break caused her to lose ground, and before she could make it up the winning post was passed. Margins: Won by 20 lengths Time: 6min 25 2-5secs

OPEN HANDICAP TROT

Of 20 sovs. Second horse to receive 5 sovs out of stake. Three miles. Nomination 10s. Acceptance 10s.

Mr. H. Moorhead's bma NORA, scr (Martin) 1

Mr. J. Roberts' blkma Beeswing, scr (Sheehan) 2

Mr. R.P. Crowe's bga Larry, 25secs bhd (Price) 3

Others: R. Crawford's Polly (10secs), Dick (20secs).

Nora and Beeswing having the start of the others, and being together, occupied first attention, but Nora soon took the lead, and when passing the stand the first time, was closely followed by Beeswing, Polly some distance away, Dick closing up and Larry behind. When one round had been completed Dick, who had been gradually overhauling Polly, passed her, and at the end of another half mile Larry took the lead off Polly and in about two miles Dick had also to give way to him. About three-quarters of a mile from home Beeswing passed Nora, the general idea being it was on his merits, but it was only on sufferance, the rider wisely easing his horse through a bad place, and when that was passed the positions were soon changed. Dick managed to keep close to Larry for some distance. In coming up the straight it was seen that Nora was leading, with Beeswing close up and Larry third, and in this order they passed the judge.

Margins: Won by 12 lengths. Time – 9min 49 1-5secs

DISTRICT SELLING TROT

Of 15 sovs. Three miles. Winner to be sold for £20. 10 seconds allowed for every reduction of £5 on the selling price; any surplus to go to the club. Nomination, 15s.

Mr. L.M. Taverner's bga ORPHAN (£5) 30secs (owner) 1

Mr. J. Fyfe's bg Jack (nil) 40secs (Mason) 2

Mr. H. Moorhead's bma Nora (nil) 40secs (Martin) 3

Others: Callaghan's Jack, Oscar.

Orphan soon lessened the distance between him and the two leaders, and having secured the premier position, kept it until the finish, Fyfe's Jack taking second place and Nora third.

Margins: Won by 150 yards.

The winner on being put up for sale realized £15 5s. Nora was also claimed and ran up to £22 10s at which price she was bought in for the owner.

FINAL TROT

Of £7 10s. Two miles. For all horses trotting during the meeting. Winner of any event debarred. Entrance 7s 6d. handicaps to be made by the stewards.

Mr. W. Yeo's gg5 DICK (owner) 1

Mr. R. Crawford's bma Polly 2

Only two started. Dick winning easily.

The following year the Boort Trotting Club (it was later amended to the Boort Racing and Trotting Club) was formed and held its first meeting on 5th August 1891. The details of the meeting and officials follow.

President – R Coutts, Esq; **Vice President** – Dr. Bird; **Judge** – Dr. Bird; **Handicappers** – The President and Messrs P. Cameron & J. Phillips; **Starter** – Mr. T. Kinley; **Clerk of Scales** – Mr. W.B. Harvey; **Clerk of Course** – Mr. J. Dwyer; **Treasurer** – Mr. R.H. Carr; **Secretary** – Mr. W.J. McAuley.

The first quarterly meeting of the newly formed Boort Trotting Club was held on Wednesday last and passed off in a highly successful manner indeed,



TOWNS THAT CONDUCTED A TROTTING RACE/MEETING IN 19TH CENTURY (FIRST YEAR ONLY LISTED)

ALBERTON	1888	CAMPBELLS FOREST	1896	GISBORNE	1863	LEIGH ROAD	1884	NUMURKAH	1893	TANTI	1884
ALEXANDRA	1871	CAMPERDOWN	1882	GLEN THOMPSON	1896	LEXTON	1857	NUNTIN	1897	TARADALE	1857
ALLENDALE	1883	CARAMUT	1896	GLENGARRY	1891	LINTON	1884	OMEQ	1890	TARNAGULLA	1858
ANAKIE	1891	CARISBROOK	1860	GLENLYON	1866	LISADURNE	1892	PENSHURST	1891	TARRAWINGEE	1899
APSLEY	1870	CARNGHAM	1888	GLENMAGGIE	1892	LISMORE	1886	PICOLA	1887	TARRENGOWER	1857
ARARAT	1857	CARRON	1897	GLENORCHY	1885	LITTLE RIVER	1866	PIMPINIO	1891	TARWIN	1898
AREEGRA	1894	CASTERTON	1886	GOBUR	1884	LONGWOOD	1890	PIRRON YALLOCK	1888	TATALIA	1899
ARTHURS SEAT	1868	CASTLEMAINE	1857	GOORNONG	1888	LORD CLYDE	1884	PLEASANT CREEK	1865	TATURA	1881
AVENEL	1896	CAVDENISH	1888	GOOROC	1897	LOWAN	1887	PLOUGH INN	1859	TATYOON	1886
AVOCA	1857	CHARLTON	1886	GORDON	1883	MACARTHUR	1892	PORT FAIRY	1871	TERANG	1883
AXEDALE	1875	CHETWYND	1892	GRANTVILLE	1897	MACORNA	1894	PORTARLINGTON	1893	TERRICK	1875
BACCHUS MARSH	1893	CHILTERN	1895	GREAT WESTERN	1884	MADDINGLEY	1897	PORTLAND	1848	THE BOOSEY	1899
BADDAGINNIE	1871	CHRISTMAS TOWN	1899	GREEN LAKE	1884	MAFFRA	1882	PURNIM	1892	THOMASTOWN	1894
BAIRNSDALE	1868	CLUNES	1864	GREENS CREEK	1886	MAJORCA	1874	PYALONG	1897	TIMMERING	1882
BALLAN	1866	COBDEN	1877	GRENVILLE	1886	MALDON	1865	PYRAMID HILL	1886	TOOAN	1899
BALLARAT	1857	COBRAM	1894	GUNBOWER	1884	MALMSBURY	1873	QUEENSCLIFF	1860	TOONGABBIE	1885
BALMORAL	1887	COLAC	1848	GYMBOWEN	1899	MANSFIELD	1873	RAYWOOD	1881	TORQUAY	1895
BANYENA	1896	COLDSTREAM	1891	HADDON	1859	MARONG	1870	REDESDALE	1886	TORRUMBARRY	1892
BARFOLD	1863	COLERAINE	1883	HAMILTON	1871	MARYBOROUGH	1855	RIDDELLS CREEK	1899	TRARALGON	1890
BARINGHUP	1894	CONDAH	1896	HANGING ROCK	1886	MEERING	1885	ROCHESTER	1876	TRENTHAM	1892
BARMAH	1884	CORACK	1887	HARROW	1890	MELTON	1899	ROKEWOOD	1883	TULLAROOP	1857
BARNEDOWN	1892	CORINDHAP	1883	HAWKESDALE	1896	MEREDITH	1883	ROMSEY	1883	TUNGAMAH	1888
BAROOGA	1898	COROP	1885	HEALESVILLE	1894	MERINO	1889	ROSEBROOK	1886	TYNONG	1884
BARRAKEE	1885	COWWAR	1888	HEATHCOTE	1854	MERTON	1898	ROSEDALE	1882	UNDERA	1896
BARWON	1853	CRAIGIE	1871	HEDI	1888	MIEPOLL	1896	RUFFY	1896	UPPER YARRA	1892
BEALIBA	1878	CRANBOURNE	1867	HEYFIELD	1883	MILAWA	1888	RUNNYMEDE	1875	VIOLET TOWN	1887
BEAUFORT	1861	CRESSY	1865	HEYWOOD	1899	MILDURA	1893	RUPANYUP	1885	WAHGUNYAH	1863
BEEAC	1895	CRESWICK	1868	HIGH CAMP PLAIN	1886	MINCHA	1896	RUSHWORTH	1891	WALLACE	1883
BEECH FOREST	1896	CUDGEE	1897	HOPETOUN	1896	MINYIP	1884	RUTHERGLEN	1896	WALLSEND	1886
BEECHWORTH	1859	DARGALONG	1885	HORSHAM	1883	MITIAMO	1875	SALE	1866	WANALTA	1898
BELFAST	1882	DARGO	1897	INGLEWOOD	1861	MOE	1895	SANDFORD	1888	WANGARATTA	1859
BENALLA	1883	DARRIWIL	1894	INVERLEIGH	1858	MOORA	1895	SCARSDALE	1898	WANGAR	1899
BENDIGO	1858	DAYLESFORD	1860	JAMIESON	1872	MOOROPNA	1884	SEA LAKE	1896	WARRACKNABEAL	1891
BERWICK	1882	DEAN	1886	JEPARIT	1896	MORNINGTON	1862	SEBASTIAN	1883	WARRAGUL	1895
BET BET	1890	DIAMOND CREEK	1885	JUNG JUNG	1883	MORTLAKE	1866	SERPENTINE	1879	WARRNAMBOOL	1874
BETHANGA	1898	DIXIE	1899	KAARIMBA	1890	MORWELL	1878	SEYMOUR	1872	WATCHEM	1894
BEULAH	1896	DOCTORS CREEK	1897	KAMAROOKA	1894	MOUNT BOLTON	1865	SHEEP HILLS	1888	WAUBRA	1897
BIRCHIP	1893	DONALD	1886	KATAMATITE	1894	MOUNT HOOGLEY	1890	SKIPTON	1894	WEDDERBURN	1885
BIRREGURRA	1889	DONCASTER	1882	KATANDRA	1887	MOUNT MORIAC	1880	SMEATON	1859	WHOROULY	1878
BLACK GATE	1895	DONNYBROOK	1847	KERANG	1879	MOUNT PLEASANT	1880	SMYTHESDALE	1859	WICKLIFFE	1899
BLAMPIED	1890	DOOKIE	1894	KEWELL	1885	MOUNT PROSPECT	1890	SOMERTON	1887	WILBY	1896
BOCHARA	1884	DROUIN	1885	KHULLS RANGE	1883	MOUNT WYCHEPROOF	1888	SOUTH ATLAS	1892	WILLETT	1896
BOILEAU	1895	DRYSDALE	1883	KIALLA	1895	MOYSTON	1896	SPRINGDALLAH	1884	WINCHELSEA	1869
BONNIE DOON	1899	DUNKELD	1888	KINGSTON	1891	MUCKATAH	1887	SPRINGHURST	1896	WODONGA	1898
BOORT	1885	DUNOLLY	1860	KIRKSTALL	1883	MUNDOONA	1877	ST ARNAUD	1876	WOODEND	1864
BORUNG	1899	DURHAM OX	1880	KNOWLSEY	1894	MURCHISON	1895	ST HELENS	1894	WOODSIDE	1891
BOWEN VALE	1895	ECHUCA	1879	KOONDROOK	1884	MURTOA	1885	ST JAMES	1886	WOODSTOCK	1874
BRABICE	1897	EDDINGTON	1895	KOROIT	1883	MUSKERRY	1894	STAWELL	1872	WOORAK	1897
BRANJEE	1895	EGERTON	1884	KORONG	1875	MYERS FLAT	1894	STEIGLITZ	1883	WOOSANG	1897
BRANXHOLME	1894	ELAINE	1883	KOROROIT CREEK	1888	MYRNIONG	1886	STEWARTS BRIDGE	1898	WUNGHU	1885
BREAK O'DAY	1899	ELDORADO	1899	KOTUPNA	1898	MYRTLEFORD	1893	STOCKYARD	1895	WYCHEPROOF	1897
BRIAGALONG	1877	ELMHURST	1893	KYABRAM	1889	MYSIA	1890	STRATFORD	1866	WYCHITELLA	1890
BRIDGEWATER	1884	ELMORE	1884	KYNETON	1892	MYSTIC PARK	1882	STRATHBOGIE	1888	WYNDHAM	1875
BUANGOR	1888	ELTHAM	1893	LAKE BOLAC	1892	NAGAMBIE	1884	STRATHFIELDSAYE	1884	YACKADANDAH	1860
BULLAROOK	1861	ERCILDOUNE	1897	LAL LAL	1878	NARADA	1893	STREATHAM	1896	YAMBUK	1889
BULN BULN	1885	EUROA	1891	LALBERT	1895	NATHALIA	1885	STUART MILL	1881	YARCK	1899
BUNBARTHA	1884	FLYNNS CREEK	1890	LANCEFIELD	1893	NATIMUK	1896	SUNBURY	1898	YARRA GLEN	1894
BUNGAREE	1864	FOSTERVILLE	1898	LANDSBOROUGH	1895	NATTE YALLOCK	1888	SUTTON GRANGE	1889	YARRAGON	1896
BUNINYONG	1862	FRANKSTON	1860	LANG LANG	1899	NAVARRE	1861	SWAN HILL	1893	YARRAM	1890
BURRAMINE	1895	FRYERS CREEK	1859	LARA	1887	NEWRY	1896	TALBOT	1863	YARRAWONGA	1883
BURRUMBEET	1891	GARVOC	1895	LAURISTON	1893	NEWSTEAD	1860	TALLAROOK	1866	YARROWEYAH	1896
CAMPBELLFIELD	1857	GEELONG	1856	LEAGHUR	1891	NHILL	1896	TAMLEUGH	1896	YEA	1896
CAMPBELLS CREEK	1868	GIRGARRE	1887	LEARMONTH	1861	NORADJUHA	1893	TANTANOOLA	1887	YINNAR	1891

and we feel confident that the Club has before it a career of increasing usefulness, prosperity and popularity.

The object of the Club is the encouragement of a breed of trotting horses, which are alike useful to the farmer, business man, and those of independent means.

Trotting horse breeding is a good commercial enterprise, and for this reason – with a view to improving the general prosperity of the district – we advocate the utility of our trotting Club.

The day was very suitable for racing, and the track in first class order. The attendance was good, and the absence of the disagreeable spicing element lent additional pleasure to the public, and ensured more honest going among the horses than if heavy sum were involved in the issue.

Greater interest attached to the races on account of the local character of the entries, which in the races run, were of an excellent character.

The President (Mr. R. Coutts), was unable to be present, owing to indisposition, but his energetic lieutenant (Dr. Bird) performed the arduous duties of vice president and judge in a manner which is beyond praise, and with apparent satisfaction to all.

Mt T.B. Kinley made a capital starter, while the popular secretary (Mr. W. McAuley) succeeded in getting off the different events in good time, and conducted in many ways to the success of the meeting.

The close finishes showed that the handicappers (Messrs Coutts, Cameron and Phillips) had done their work well. Other officers and members lent valuable assistance. The following are the results of the trotting races (there was also a pony race, a hack race while the steeplechase was cancelled due to lack of entries):-

MAIDEN TROT

Of 4 pounds. Two miles

R Irving's COCOA, scr (Irving) 1

H Williams Cockey, scr (White) 2

Jas Moylan's Blanche, scr (owner) 3

The three placed horses kept their positions from post to finish, and passed the post several lengths apart.

TIME HANDICAP TROT

Of 6 pounds. Three miles

H Williams COCKEY (White) 1

N McMillan's Charcoal (McDonald) 2

Jas Moylan's Blanche (owner) 3

Others: Lincoln, Stella, Trowboy (won but DQ for galloping)

This was a good race. Shortly after the start Dr. Bird's Trowboy assumed the lead, though fully tried by Blanche, who in the second round overhauled him and took the first place for a short time.

Trowboy, however, again showed his nose in front and Cockey crept up into second place, dangerously near Trowboy's quarters. Charcoal who started 20 seconds behind, now began to forge towards the leading horses, and at the three-quarter post had passed Lincoln, Stella and Blanche, and neared Cockey.

Coming into the straight, Cockey closed on Trowboy, while Charcoal almost came alongside the former. When a couple of lengths from home Trowboy unfortunately broke, and cantered past the post a couple of lengths from Cockey, who was therefore declared the winner.

HANDICAP CONSOLATION TROT

Of three pounds. Two miles.

Dr. Bird's TROWBOY (McAuley) 1

N McMillan's Charcoal (owner) 2

Jas Moylan's Blanche (owner) 3

Trowboy won with comfort though Charcoal ran well for second place.

The settling up took place at Moroney Hotel in the evening.

The Boort and Kerang Clubs lasted into the 20th century with the Kerang Club going out of existence in the 1950s, although the newly built Swan Hill

BOORT TROTTING CLUB RACES.

OPENING MEETING — AUGUST 5TH.

To Commence at 1 p.m.

President—R. Coutts, Esq ; Vice-President—Dr Bird ; Judge—Dr Bird ; Handicappers—The President and Messrs P. Cameron and J. Phillips ; Starter—Mr T. Kiniry ; Clerk of Scales—Mr W. B. Harvey ; Clerk of Course—Mr J. Dwyer ; Treasurer—Mr R. H. Carr ; Secretary—Mr W. J. M'Auley.

—: PROGRAMME :—

Maiden Trot, 2 miles : for all maiden horses ; First prize £3 ; second £1.

Time Handicap Trot, 3 miles : First prize £5 ; second £1. Winner of Maiden Trot to be penalised 10 seconds behind his previous handicap

Pony Race, ½ mile, 14 hands and under: First prize £3 ; second 10s.

Handicap Consolation Trot, for all horses beaten during the meeting ; 2 miles : Prize £3.

District point to point Steeplechase, about 2 miles for horses and riders within a radius of 20 miles from Boort post office ; minimum weight 11 stone ; Course to be decided on by the Stewards. Prize, £7.

Hack Race, ¾ mile ; 9 stone up : Prize £2.

Races to be run under V.T.C. Rules.

Nominations for the Handicap Trot and Pony Race to be in the hands of the Secretary on Wednesday, 29th inst. Handicaps will appear in the "Boort Standard" on 31st.

All other races to be post entry.

W. J. M. McAULEY, Hon. Sec.

1,000 circuit (home of the Nyah Club) provides somewhat of a comeback for an area that had a solid trotting foundation as far back as 1882.

Boort, of course, still exists as the Boort Trotting Club and can rightly claim the title as the longest surviving Club in Australia, although akin to every Club in Victoria it did not race during the Second World War.

As mentioned earlier there were an incredible number of towns that conducted trotting meetings that you are unlikely to read about in any historical publications, however, my life's aim is to remedy this in the next decade.

Stawell and Pleasant Creek, Marong plus Maryborough & Carisbrook were the only venues apart from the trotting clubs where multiple trotting events were featured on programmes in the 1890's. That said, the Boxing Day meeting at Campbells Creek and the New Years Day meeting at Lal Lal (near Ballarat) were events not to be missed.

The number of trotting races in country areas and the range of venues that they were conducted at – take a look at the complete list of 378 shown elsewhere in the article - in the 19th Century have never been recognized as being as significant by anyone or any organisation. They should be.

As the calendar year of 1899 wound down all that was missing for a future for Victoria was a State Controlling Body as was the case with every other State and fortunately in the first decade of the 20th century this happened and trotting became an integral part of the Victorian and indeed the Australian sporting scene (not that you would know if you relied solely on Australia Post - Harness Racing still awaiting for our first depiction on a stamp). **BRF**





By John Peck

NZ Harness Racing In The Nineteenth Century

No coverage of Harness Racing in the 19th Century would be complete without mention of New Zealand, and although much has been covered in Ron Bisman's tome "Salute to Trotting" there are some aspects that were not simply due to limited space.

This article and the one on the other Addington in this issue by Peter Craig completes the picture, although still more could be written simply on all the bloodstock, not just the Standardbred ones, that contributed to the foundation of the New Zealand breed.

While Canterbury was the epicentre of NZ Standardbred breeding in the 1880s, no one should ever forget the contribution of the Southland in the formative years, especially Dunedin, where a substantial stake was offered at the Dunedin Jockey Club meeting in Autumn from 1867.

In keeping with the scene in Australia, racing was driven by the military, the gold rushes and the embedded racing ethos of immigrants.

Most historians agree that the first horse races in NZ were held by the Military Garrison (Auckland) at Epsom, Auckland on 5th January 1841, while the first organized race meeting was held on the Petone beach on October 20 1842.

Trotting was not included at either of those gatherings but it was not long before private trotting matches on the road became a regular occurrence eventually leading to an occasional trot being included on a racing programme in the 1860s.

The first significant gold find in New Zealand was at Gabriel's Gully in the Otago region and within a twinkling the Americans and Australians involved with the famous Cobb and Co coach operation set up operations to convey the thousands of hopeful miners to the diggings.

The find was described thus – "In 1861, gold was found at Tuapeka. On 4th June of that year, Mr Gabriel Reed discovered auriferous ground in the famous gully now named after him. By the month of July 2,000 diggers had

assembled, and 600 tents had been erected. The excitement spread all over the colony. People even ceased clamouring for "news of the Maori war" and longed for "news from the Otago diggings." On the first of August the whole area of 51,000 acres at Tuapeka was declared a gold field. By September the miners numbered 4,000, and the yield per week reached 10,000 ounces"

The following year in April a three day trotting meeting was held at the Taieri racecourse in Dunedin and on the third day a trotting match worth 30 sovereigns was run over four and half miles, or three times round the course.

The gelding Orlando, owned by Mr. R. Julius who won the main galloping feature (Provincial Cup) on the second day, was successful defeating J.C. Campbell's grey gelding Peter and an ex-Aussie Sebastopol who competed in the American Trotting Races at Flemington in 1860.

Orlando remained the measuring stick for the local trotters until the arrival of another ex-Aussie in Gentle Annie (1859) who was brought across to New Zealand from Victoria in 1865 by Messrs Abbot and Holmes.

On July 25 1866 Gentle Annie (ridden by the 13 stone Mr Corkery) and Orlando (ridden by noted jockey Bob Ray who weighed in at just 8 stone, 7 pounds) met in the then greatest trotting match seen in Christchurch racing from the River Styx to the Carlton Hotel, a distance of four miles, for a stake of 200 pounds (100 pound a side).

With 300 spectators present and sixty riders following the contest, Gentle Annie was dominant winning by 175 yards – they were pretty serious back in those early days – and trotted the distance in 12 minutes and 40 seconds, an Australasian record for a trotter (the freak pacer Sir William Don had recorded 11 minutes 21 seconds in Australia).

Gentle Annie continued to compete up until 1869 when noticed giving 440 yards start to another promising trotter Rosebud at a Hokitika meeting.

That wasn't the end of Gentle Annie's fame for she became one of the most



famous foundation broodmares in New Zealand for Samuel Garforth leaving eight foals, the first in 1870, before passing away in September 1881.

Her maternal line was instantly successful when her daughter left the champion trotting mare Calista (by Berlin) and is still alive today, the last Group winner being Save A Sixpence who won a heat of the 2012 Inter Dominion Trotters Championship.

That has not been her only contribution as there have been other successful maternal lines founded by daughters of Gentle Annie's sons Spot (sire of foundation mare Little Jane in particular) and Dexter (sire of New Zealand's first champion pacer Princess whose story features later in this article).

Gentle Annie was not the only Australian mare imported to New Zealand in the 1860's that would have a profound effect on the evolution of the New Zealand Standardbred.

Another was Sally, a trap mare of unknown pedigree imported by Robert Wilkin that was sold by Wilkin to John Tod and from whom Tod bred four colts sired by imported Norfolk trotter Shales and one filly by thoroughbred Touchstone.

That filly was named Pride of Lincoln and became the Dominion's most famous foundation mare and was subsequently honoured by being assigned as N1 in the Classic Families classification system. As at November 2012 the tribe of Pride of Lincoln had produced 418 Classic Performers.

In 1867 at the Taieri course in Dunedin the first ever American style two heat trotting race worth 60 sovereigns was conducted over the unusually short distance for those times of 12 furlongs (one and a half miles).

This new innovation was no doubt pushed by George, one of the four American Hoyt brothers who were integral in the success of Cobb and Co and also the running of the American Trotting Races a couple of years earlier at Flemington (Victoria, Australia).

George, however, was unsuccessful with his gelding Ranger who finished third after conceding 50 yards in the first heat to David Corsan's Major who won in four minutes and 46 seconds and went even 13 seconds faster in the second heat.

Major won several races in 1867, yet by 1868 he had been surpassed by George Smith's Ranger as the best trotter in the Southland.

That said both were completely outshone when the Australian grey trotter Magic arrived in Otago after the number of racing opportunities diminished in Melbourne with his last wins being at Emerald Hill (South Melbourne) in 1866, Prahran in 1867 and Emerald Hill again in 1867.

Magic (1857, by Warhawk), owned by George Dodson, had earlier won the Grand Metropolitan Handicap at Flemington in 1864 and was runner-up to champion Sir William Don in the Albion Cup on the same day, a performance that led to an infamous match race that proved to be the last time in the 19th century that trotters would compete at Flemington.

Magic first won in New Zealand at the Tokomairiro annual meeting on March 26 1869 coming off the scratch mark and conceding 125 yards to Ranger and 450 yards to Major.

The next month Magic performed admirably at Silverstream on April 28 in front of the Duke of Edinburgh at the first ever race meeting in New Zealand attended by a member of English royalty.

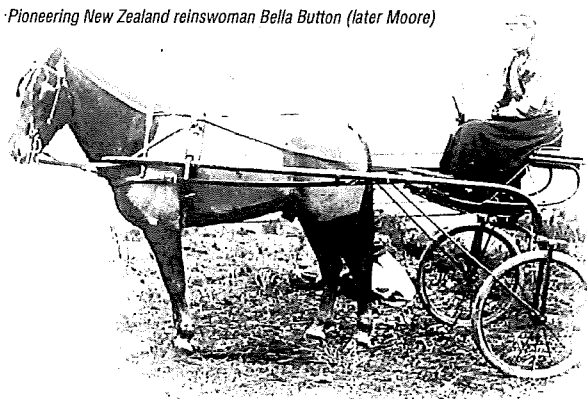
The Duke stunned all and sundry in insisting to drive one of the drays that conveyed part of the Royal Party to the races and the papers reported that, "His Royal Highness handled his team over the rough road between Mosgiel and Silverstream as cleverly as the best of our Americans could have done."

Magic won – "with the greatest of ease" – the 50 pound handicap over three miles and a distance from the scratch mark, conceding 175 yards to his nearest competitor (Ranger)

Magic was pulled 225 yards the following year for the annual Dunedin feature and did not compete while in 1871 both he, Ranger and Major had to lower their collective colours at Tokomairiro to David Corsan's new trotter Dick who had 400 yards at the handicaps on Magic.

Undaunted by that defeat the following week at the inaugural meeting

Pioneering New Zealand reinswoman Bella Button (later Moore)



conducted at Forbury Park, Magic turned the tables on Dick in front of the Governor, His Excellency Captain Pitt. Obviously Magic rose to the occasion when luminaries were in attendance.

Incredibly by 1874 Major won twice at Ohoka and Magic was still competitive despite having to concede massive handicaps finishing third at the Dunedin Jockey Club meeting in November 1874.

Not all the action was on the racetrack though as the old trotting against time on road challenges so popular in England were also in evidence in New Zealand.

In the early seventies probably the most famous was a challenge undertaken by John Stevens Fred Green, a former steeplechase winner by Roderick Dhu (a half draught stallion) from the thoroughbred mare Estelle.

Roderick Dhu had a penchant for siring trotters having also been the sire of other long distance trotters Rodney and Scott's Annie, the latter the dam of Marmion, a celebrated trotter in the Wanganui district.

Perhaps his most famous effort was when he was backed to trot sixteen miles within an hour on a metalled road, the course being from the 18th milestone near Pakipaki to the two mile post outside Napier which was close to the old Maori Club.

The two appointed timekeepers were Messrs R.T. Danvers (Napier) and Mr Jacobs (Wellington) and the un-jockey like Stevens rode Fred Green in a special 7lb saddle lent to him and the pair accomplished the distance in 53 minutes and 30 seconds. The performance was held to be a world's record in a saddle and with a heavy weight up.

Meanwhile in the North Island one of the richest match races took place in early 1875 at Auckland between Mr Dornwell's pony Charlie (by the thoroughbred Ake Ake) and Australia's best trotting mare, Bay Judy who had won races at Croxton Park (Northcote, Victoria) and at Randwick in 1873 for Mr Fagan who later sold him to Mr. Perkins (NZ).

Charlie won easily, however, a couple of months later Bay Judy earned her keep by winning a match race at Ellerslie against Graham's Creamy, one of the rare times that trotters have ever graced that famous racetrack.

Later that same year Magic, now 18 years of age, was again competing from the backmark at the Dunedin Jockey Club's Spring meeting and bravely finished second to Kennedy's Lucy – beaten 100 yards after conceding 200 yards at the handicaps.

If you thought that was the end of Major and Magic you would be wrong. In 1876 Magic was second at the Dunedin Queens Birthday meeting (May 24) in front of 3,000 people to John Collar's cream mare Polly while Major won easily at Tai Tapu the following month.

In November 1876 Major and Polly shared the backmark at the Dunedin JC Spring meeting but were unplaced and three days later Major won a 100 pound match race at Forbury, then followed up in 1877 with victory at Kaiapi.

In 1877 another time challenge on the road made news. Tom Hammond's Millie trotted from the Oroua Bridge to the Club Hotel in Palmerston North and back, a total distance of sixteen miles that she covered in 55 minutes and 30 seconds.

A newcomer in the 1874/75 season was Billy Kirkwood's pony trotter Betsy (by Ake Ake) and in 1878 she had her name changed to Our Pony and duly made news by winning the feature Three Mile Trot at 1878 Dunedin JC Spring meeting in nine minutes 4.5 seconds defeating, among others, the scratch backmarker Black Boy.

On 17 May 1879 T Milner's Black Boy took part in a notable rich road match worth 400 pounds (200 pounds a side) against Millie, owned by W Evans of Rangitikei.

The contest commenced and finished at the Railway Gates, Riccarton Road with the 15 mile course being to the Yaldhurst Hotel and back

Black Boy (ridden by W Thompson) led from the start and when passing the racecourse was about 200 yards ahead. The mare then caught up and was level at the turn. Black Boy went away again at led by 200 yards at the Bush Inn at which point the mare was pulled up - time 49 minutes and 25 seconds.

By 1880 trotting races were increasing in number becoming a feature on race programmes and on roads in towns as diverse at Kaiapoi, Ellesmere, Winton, Kaikoura, Wanganui, Waitaki, Invercargill, Chertsey, Lincoln, Hororata, Waimate, Albury, Winslow, Duntroon, Temuka, and Geraldine.

It was obvious now that the creation of New Zealand's first trotting Club was not a matter of if, but rather when and where. That when and where was 19th January 1881 at Wanganui and it was just one highlight of a landmark year for New Zealand Harness Racing.

The Wanganui Trotting Association was formed at a meeting at the Pier Hotel on 1st December 1880 at which 36 persons enrolled as members and paid their annual subscription of one guinea each.

One of the driving forces behind the creation of the Association was Charlie Chavannes, who was regarded at the time of his death as one of greatest all round sportsmen in New Zealand and appropriately won a race at the inaugural meeting.

Charlie was actually a gumsucker (affectionate term for an Aussie in the old days) being born in Gisborne (Victoria), coming to Wellington as a lad with his father before the family moved to Wanganui.

At Wanganui Charlie worked in the booking office for Cobb and Co. later becoming one of the most renowned coach drivers in the North Island, being one of the first to tackle the perilous mountain road between Hawera and New Plymouth.

After giving up the coaching business, he purchased the old Victoria Hotel, Wanganui, and converted it into one of the best houses on the coast, and became as popular with tourists and the travelling public as he was with the citizens.

As soon as he could ride Charlie competed in amateur races on the flat and over the jumps, bred and owned successful thoroughbreds, rode and drove trotters, was a prominent member in the gun and dog field as well as indulging in deer-stalking, fishing and coursing (greyhounds).

The inaugural meeting featured five events involving 23 individual horses and it was an incredibly varied programme as you can see from the Wanganui Chronicle's reporting of the historic meeting and highlighted the toughness of the breed in the early days as Marmion competed in four races, winning two and covering twelve miles in the process.

"The attendance at the first meeting of the newly formed Trotting Association, which was held on the racecourse yesterday, was only moderate, the threatening aspect of the weather and strong wind which blew all day preventing many persons who would doubtless have been present from attending.

The Grand Stand was, however, tolerably patronized, and the booths seemed to be doing a fair trade. The interest manifested in the various matches was, taking all things into account, considerable, and in most of them the competition was worthy of it; but the excitement which attends ordinary race meetings was wanting, and the money which changed hands was not a large sum.

There were a number of "legitimate" games and also one totalisator on the course. These seemed to be the chief centre of attention to the majority of the pleasure seekers.

On the lawn the Wanganui Rifle Band did their utmost to enliven the proceedings by performing some excellent selections of music, but the lawn was rather bare of promenaders.

The arrangements made by the Committee for the carrying out of the programme was most excellent, and gave thorough satisfaction. The following are the events:-

VEHICLE DRAWN BY TWO HORSES

About 3 miles. Prize 10 guineas. Time start.

Mr. F.W. Evans' MARMION & MILLIE (Hammond) 1

Mr A Dickie's Blythe and Caesar (owner) 2

This being a time start there was no excitement, as Mr Dickie's pair were at the half mile post before the other pair started; but it was soon evident the latter had an easy thing on, as they gained nearly a quarter of a mile in the first round, and could have gone very near catching Mr. Dickie's pair if pressed.

Time (Mr Dickie's pair) 1st mile - 4:36; 2nd mile 4:43; 3rd mile - 4:29; Total - 13:48

Time (Mr Evans' pair) 1st mile - 3:44; 2nd mile - 4:16; 3rd mile - 4:14.3; Total - 12:14.3

TROT RACE FOR HORSES IN SADDLE

About 3 miles. Prize 10 guineas. Level start.

Mr F.W. Evans' grm MILLIE (Hammond) 1

Mr. F.W. Evans bg Marmion (Watt) 2

Mr J Higgle's bg Brewer (owner) 3

Others: Puck, Ross' brown mare, Frantic, Ruby, Quickstep, Fidget, Stella, Nettie.

This was a soft thing for Millie who could not be held within "cooey" of the others. There was an exciting struggle for last, as some of the riders were playing low for the handicap.

Time of the winner: 1st mile - 3:10; 2nd mile - 3:36.0; 3rd mile - 3:16.8; Total 10:02.8

VEHICLE DRAWN BY ONE HORSE

About 3 miles. Prize 10 guineas. Time start.

Mr C.H. Chavannes bg JACK (owner) 1

Mr F.W. Evans bg Marmion (Hammond) 2

Mr Dickie's brm Cleopatra 3

Other: Mr McCaul's Glengarry.

Glengarry led off, followed by Marmion, who was making splendid time when an accident to the harness caused him to be pulled up. After a delay of one minute he was set going again, and made up his time wonderfully. Cleopatra and Jack went next, and the latter won.

Time: Jack - 10:51.0; Marmion - 11:04.5; Cleopatra - 11:07.5; Glengarry - 12:23.0

TROTTING RACE FOR PONIES

About 2 miles. Not over 13hh, Prize 7 guineas

Mr Peel's GEORGIA 1

Mr McDonald's Jenny 2

Mr. R Watt's Eye-witness 3

Mr Peel's pony had this race in hand from the start, and won by a distance, Eye-witness spoiled his chances by breaking.

TROTTING HANDICAP RACE (SADDLE)

About three miles. Prize 30 pounds.

Mr. F.W. Evans' MARMION, 25yds start (Watt) 1

Mr. F.W. Evans' Millie, scr (Hammond) 2

Mr Chavannes Frantic, 525yds start (owner) 3

Others: McTavish (750yds), Lydia Howarde (700yds), Ruby (550yds), Stella (525yds), Minnie (550yds), Tim Whiffler (600yds), Glengarry (540yds), Puck (400yds), Nettie (425yds).

A good start was effected, and Mr Evans' pair at once began to make play and lessen the distance between themselves and the leaders, Marmion passing several in the first mile. At two miles and a half they had passed everything



else, and a good spin for pride of place ensued, which ended in the brown gelding's favour by a neck, Millie doing her best to pass him in the last few strides without success. Time: 8:54.2

CONSOLATION HANDICAP (SADDLE)

About Two miles. Prize 7 guineas
Mr McKenzie's MINNIE, 275yds 1
Mr Chavannes Frantic, 100yds 2
Mr Dickie's Cleopatra, 125yds 3
Six others started.

Minnie speedily went to the front, and obtained a lead, which she kept all the way, winning by several lengths. Mr Chavannes' horse broke several times, and thus lost a lot of ground."

The Wanganui Trotting Association only conducted seven meetings before being officially wound up in August 1883.

The following month after the inaugural meeting of the Wanganui Trotting Association trotting was featured in just about every newspaper across both islands because of the most celebrated match race of the 19th century between Native Cat and Our Pony at Forbury Park.

It was rather a journey to get to the eventual match because in December 1880 Mr Philp, owner of the Dunedin based trotter Native Cat challenged any trotter in New Zealand to a match race over three miles for the huge sum of 500 pounds a side. Native Cat had been bred by Mr. Fraser of Waitahuna, Otago and purchased by Philp as an unbroken concern.

Billy Kirkwood, a Wanganui publican who had just moved to Christchurch took up Philp's challenge to race the oddly coloured flecked white/grey Native Cat and placed a first deposit but forfeited that money when he failed to nominate a trotter.

Kirkwood contacted the Dunedin owner a couple of weeks later in early January and requested that the match be revived with his representative being Our Pony (late Betsy). Obviously some sparkling trials over the festive season had emboldened him.

The match race came off over three miles (thrice round the Forbury track) on the second day of the annual Dunedin Jockey Club race meeting, the minimum weight to be carried was ten stone and the diminutive Our Pony was granted a five second start.

This wouldn't be the first match race that Our Pony had won for in 1878 she had thrashed the Auckland trotter Jack over five miles along the road from Sandon to Foxton.

The papers reported, "Little or no betting took place on the match until the pony made an appearance on the ground and then 3 and 4 to 1 was freely offered against the "little rat" and just as freely taken up by the select few who knew the merits of the pony. How many Manawaturites went broke over the affair I did not hear but there a great many long faces when the rat went to the front and kept on increasing her lead until she finished the journey alone, the referee unable to go the pace."

Prior to the match race with Native Cat there was much excitement and speculation with the Otago Witness saying "The race is sure to be fast, and we shall probably get from it a best on record for this colony for one, two and three miles. Ten stone is a big weight for Our Pony to carry but from what I know of her she must take a deal of beating.

At catch weights she is probably the fastest animal in New Zealand, and stands under 13 hands, 2 inches high. She is by Ake Ake, a horse owned by Mr McGee of Auckland from a Bishop of Osanburgh mare called Frenzy."

Thousands turned out to witness the match race at Forbury Park on the second day of the Dunedin JC Autumn meeting and Native Cat started the official tote favourite with 78 of the 143 tickets taken out on him no doubt because of the knowledge of a private trial of 2:56 the week prior. Added to that were more than 3,000 pounds in side wagers, not to mention the winner take all stake of 400 sovereigns.

Native Cat, ridden by Harry Goodman, commenced on his journey some 50 yards behind Our Pony (ridden by Mr Thomson) and that was the closest



Robert Wilkin

he ever got as he galloped on two occasions and the tiny Our Pony eventually won by 250 yards in 8:38.5, a new record for the colony.

Later that year Native Cat was sold to prominent Melbourne turfite Francis Goyder and was runner-up in a three heat mile affair to imported American trotter Contractor at Elsternwick Park on 26th August 1882.

Native Cat later won races sporting his red and white stripes of his owner at Elsternwick Park in 1882 and later five races in Sydney from 1886 to 1889 where he was trained by American Frank Baldwin and then by Bill Kelso, later a famous thoroughbred trainer who prepared the 1928 Melbourne Cup winner Statesman. Native Cat died in 1890 when he broke his neck after attempting to jump over a fallen log.

Our Pony almost died herself in October 1881 when she escaped her groom at Campbelltown, bolting across the bridge and up Victoria Avenue galloping furiously beneath a verandah on the footpath near the Rutland Hotel. The mare collided with a heavy furniture dray with great force, cut both her knees badly and seriously injured her head.

She was made of stern stuff though as she recovered and on February 11 1886 won a two mile pony saddle trot at the inaugural all trotting meeting of the Lower Heathcote Racing Club, the first of its kind in the Canterbury region.

Two months later she easily won a 40 sovereign match race at Lower Heathcote against Narrow Gauge, the latter being subsequently exported to Victoria where he won four races at Moonee Valley.

For some strange reason after that Our Pony reverted to her original name Betsy and under that nomenclature competed in the first ever meeting of the Lancaster Park Trotting Club on May 29, 1886. She died in 1890, coincidentally the same year as her great match race rival Native Cat, after being kicked by another horse shortly after she foaled to Balderdash.

Returning back to the calendar year of 1881 there was a hugely significant arrival in late December of Berlin, the first ever Standardbred stallion imported to New Zealand.

Berlin had been purchased in USA as a two-year-old by John Hendrie of Scotland, raced in England and Germany and stood at stud in Scotland before being purchased by Robert Wilkin in August 1881.

One of Berlin's Scottish born daughters Jenny Lind was the grandam of UK mares mile record holder and winner of Famous Musselburgh Pace Jenny

Lind II, who was herself imported to New Zealand becoming the grandam of 1928 WA Pacing Cup winner Nazimova.

Six months after Berlin arrived another shipment of American Standardbred trotters arrived in Auckland on the mail steamer Pacific after being purchased in America by John Carter on behalf of Wilkin.

There were two males in the 4YO Blackwood Abdallah, an unnamed yearling colt by Harold (later to be named Vancleve and leased to Andrew Town, NSW), Messenger Maid, Blue Grass Belle, Jeanie Tracey, Fannie Belle, Woodburn Maid and an unnamed filly by Almont II that subsequently died.

The New York Times reported, "This is a very well bred lot and we are pleased to note such an acquisition to the trotting stock of a country only recently rescued from complete barbarism."

One month later a San Francisco mail steamer brought eleven more American trotters to New Zealand for Nelson horse breeder John Kerr – seven stallions Fitz James, Pinole Patchen, Irvington, Newlands Hambletonian, Oakgrove, Corbett, Bill Allen and four mares Lady Allen, Smoothbriar, Fanny and Lady Sylvia.

Scottish born Wilkin suffered from a rheumatic condition from the age of sixteen and was a sickly man in his latter years dying in June 1886, sadly never having seen even one progeny of his valuable importations succeed on the track.

So in just one year the bloodstock foundation for New Zealand had been set in stone by just two men and it would be nine years before further American imports arrived viz.

1892 – Electioneer (sire), Imperious (sire), Sacramento (sire)

1893 – Del Paso (sire)

1894 – Albert Victor (sire), Allandale (sire – re-named Lauderdale), Antrim (sire – sold to Qld), AW Anther (sire died before serving any mares), Grand Moor Junior (sire – sold to NSW), La Rue (sire), Pleasanton (sire), Shoemaker (sire), Wildwood (sire), Alice Azmoor (mare), Norbell (mare)

1895 – Ha Ha (sire)

1896 – Companion (sire), Wilmington (sire)

1898 – Judah (mare – via the Sandwich Islands), Vola Clair (sire)

None, however, could hold a candle to the Australian-bred son of Childe Harold, Rothschild (brother to Australian mile trotting stallion champion Osterley) who arrived in New Zealand on 22/7/93 and was described as "a very fine specimen of a wiry, active horse with an extremely nice middlepiece and well turned quarters". Rothschild became the first Standardbred stallion in Australasia to sire over 300 winners.

Returning to 1883, the final meeting of the Wanganui Trotting Association and Australian-born Alf Keith took the honours with a double.

The Lower Heathcote Jockey Club continued to attract huge numbers for their single trotting event on race meetings and at their 1884 winter meeting some 19 trotters lined up in the three mile trot with victory going to outmarker Warrior ridden by the emerging star horseman Alf Keith.

Although it seemed a stone bonker that the South Island would provide the second Club to conduct an all-trotting meeting, the Northerners stepped up with the creation of the Epsom Trotting and Racing Club that held a mixed meeting at Potter's Paddock on August 30, 1884 consisting of three trots, a hurdle, a flat race and a hack race.

On the day Mr A Matheson won two the trotting events taking out the Silver Cup with Maggie (ridden by Tom Clarke) from the 400 yard mark and the two mile Maiden Trot with Maggie (Tom Clarke) while Buckland's General won the Consolation.

Maggie, however, was disqualified from the Maiden as she had previously won money at a Thames meeting, the upgraded winner being Buckland's General who subsequently lost the stake for the Consolation, that going to Creeping Jane.

The Epsom Trotting and Racing Club only held one further meeting before being disbanded.

One of the highlights for trotting fans in the Deep South was the importation of the fast American trotting gelding Oliver who had won a FFA heat in 2:33 1/4 at Elsternwick Park (Victoria) and had also been runner-up in three Free-For-Alls to Startle, Ajax and Honesty.

Oliver was located at Forbury where he was prepared by James McGregor and always competed in harness and a sulky, a rarity in New Zealand.

He made his debut in October at Forbury where he finished unplaced in a two mile trot after conceding up to 50 seconds to his opponents.

After that run the press reported, "The USA trotting horse Oliver may be seen every morning taking exercise at the Forbury. He has a very high action, but seems to get over the ground fast and I think that whatever beats him will win the Open Trot next week."

He didn't but was oh so brave from his backmark passing all but one of his eighteen opponents, eleven of whom he conceded a start of one minute or more to.

The following year Oliver did indeed emerge victorious at Forbury Park's Anniversary meeting with owner J. Poole riding the champion in saddle, the pair winning by sixty yards in 8:34.8 to loud applause by the large crowd.

He tried for a second win the following month but with most of the field getting 65 and 70 second starts from him, Oliver was unplaced but nonetheless the papers of the day reported, "Oliver is a perfect idol with the public and was greeted with a round of applause every time he passed the grandstand."

The race was won by the famous Dan O'Brien who rode his grey gelding Erin (65 seconds start) to victory. Later in life O'Brien was to own champion trotting mare Calista (by Berlin) and more famously the immortal thoroughbred Carbine.

O'Brien fortuitously purchased Erin at the first ever all-trotting meeting in the South Island that was conducted under the auspices of the Lower Heathcote Racing Club on 11th February 1886.

After Erin had finished third in the third event O'Brien approached Erin's owner Mr. Burke, purchased the mare and duly drove Erin to victory in the fifth race to become part of history.

A full report of the meeting, courtesy of the Christchurch Press follows:-
"There were about 600 visitors on the ground. The weather was fine, but a strong nor'-easter was blowing, which made things unpleasant. Those immediately engaged in the racing appeared to enjoy themselves well enough, but to the general run of visitors it seemed a somewhat dreary outing.

This was no doubt felt the more inasmuch as the first three events produced two protests and although much time was expended in hearing the evidence, they were both adjourned till Wednesday next.

This had the effect of locking up a good deal of capital in the totalisator. The officers of the Club worked with a will, but the details of a new branch of sport are not grasped in a day, and we may consequently hope that in future there will not be the same amount of irksome delay which characterized yesterday's trotting meeting.

The last race of the day was set for 4.30 p.m., but it was close upon seven o'clock before the Consolation Handicap was over. It might be well for the Committee to consider whether they have got too many events on the card, and I would also suggest that an official timekeeper is indispensable at trotting meetings.

The fields were all large, and turn your eye where you might, trotters were visible, dotted all over the course, but there were no closely contested finishes. The second pony trot caused some excitement. Ten ponies were harnessed up for this event and shortly after the start, the driver of Taradale tumbled out the back of the sulky, and the pony careered madly round the course, interfering considerably with the other horses, and was finally brought up by capsizing the trap at the back of the stand.

Nellie also parted with her driver, but she soon came to a standstill, through the reins getting foul of the wheel.

The totalisator was fairly patronized, Messrs Hobbs and Goodwin passing about £1500 through the two machines, but this amount would no doubt



have been largely increased had that £517 been in circulation which was locked up due to protests. The following are the details:-

MAIDEN TROT (in saddle)

20 sovs. 10st minimum. Break & turn. Abt 3 miles

Mr. R Paton's bga CONGER (Kettle) 1

Mr Rodrigues blkg4 Victor (owner) 2

Others: Nora McShane, Charlie, Maori, Rosey, Maggie McGregor, Jenny Lind, Ivy, Jerry

Conger was in the lead throughout, and Victor second. At the last time passing the stand Conger was 200 yards in front of Victor, but the leader slowed down at the back of the course and won only by five lengths. Time: 9:13.5.

A protest was entered against Conger on the grounds that he had won public money and it was adjourned to Wednesday next (Note: Protest upheld and Victor awarded the race).

HANDICAP TIME PONY TROT (SADDLE)

20 sovs. 8st minimum. Break & turn. Abt 2 miles

Mr. W.C. Wood's bma OUR PONY, scr (Kirkwood) 1

Mr Rodrigues rnm Vixen, 55secs (owner) 2

Mr. G Wardell's crma Queenie, 50secs (owner) 3

Others: Trueman's brga Taradale (35secs), Horner's gga Shakespeare (35secs), Harcourt's crga Taffy (45secs), McNaught's chga Yankee Tom (45secs), A Innes' brga Bloxwich (50secs), Goodwins grf3 Nelly (55secs), Cleavers brga Tommy (55secs), Pimms ga Chokebore (55secs), Carters grma Grace Darling (55secs), P London's grga Sefton (55secs), Hensleys bma Tandy (60secs), J O'Neill's bga Dandy (60secs), Berry's Tiny (60secs), Tilly's crga Dido (60secs), Sheenan's bga Mount Cook (60secs), Thurston's cga Mac (60secs).

Vixen and Queenie were in front till entering the straight the last time, where Our Pony, who had gradually passed all the others, caught the leaders, and won nicely by half a dozen lengths. A good finish between second and third.

HEATHCOTE HANDICAP TIME TROT (SADDLE)

45 sovs. 10st minimum, Break & turn. Abt 3 miles

Mr. Patons bga CONGER, 60secs (Keith) 1

Mr Rodrigues blkg4 Victor, 65secs (owner) 2

Mr Burke's grga Erin, 75secs (owner) 3

Erin held the lead, with Conger second, till three furlongs from home, when Erin broke, and while turning him round Conger and Victor passed him, and Conger won by a couple of lengths, with Erin close up third. A protest was entered against Conger on the ground that he broke and did not turn and a similar complaint was laid against Victor. Their consideration was adjourned to Wednesday next and the totalisator impounded, pending the inquiry (Note: Both protests were upheld and it was decided to declare the event null and void as Erin did not weigh in on the day).

HANDICAP TIME PONY TROT (HARNESS)

15 sovs, 14.1hh & under. Abt 2 miles

Mr. A Innes' bga BLOXWICH, 50secs (C Kerr) 1

Mr A Drake's bma Dot, 45secs (owner) 2

Mr W.C. Wood's bma Our Pony, 10secs bhd scr (Kirkwood) 3

Others: Taradale (35secs), Kate (45secs), Tommy (55secs), Marie (55secs), Toby (60secs)

Won somewhat easily. Our Pony a good third.

HANDICAP TIME TROT (HARNESS)

40 sovs. About 2 ½ miles

Mr. D O'Brien's grga ERIN, 55secs (owner) 1

Mr Douglas' bg4 Wait-A-While, 55secs (owner) 2

Mr Ross' bma Gentle Annie, 60secs 3

Others: Oliver (scr), Narrow Gauge (30secs), Energy (40secs), Miriam (50secs), Conger (50secs), Distress (60secs)

The race lay all through between the three placed horses. Gentle Annie held the lead for the first round, when she was superseded by Erin, who held the

lead until the finish, winning by two or three lengths. Just before reaching the home turn, Wait-A-While passed Gentle Annie and secured second place.

CONSOLATION HCP TROT (SADDLE)

10 sovs. 10st minimum. Abt. 2 miles

Mr Parish's bga ENERGY, 30secs (Kerr) 1

Mr Sutherlands bga Cock Robin, 20secs 2

Mr Edwards bga Fidget, 50secs 3

Others: Randall (scr), Narrow Gauge (25secs), Jimmy Brown (30secs), Jenny Lind (35secs), Alma (40secs), Miriam (45secs), Nora McGregor (50secs), Wait-A-While (50secs), Gentle Annie (60secs), Jerry (65secs)

Gentle Annie held a short lead of Fidget for the first lap, when they changed places, and at the end of a mile and a half Fidget was 50 yards in front of her, and Energy close up third. Rounding the top turn Energy passed Gentle Annie, and Fidget breaking as he entered the straight, passed him also and won easily. Cock Robin came home fast at the finish and secured second honours by a short length from Fidget.

Following hot on the heels of the Lower Heathcote came the news that the first trotting club in the South Island, the Lancaster Park Trotting Club, would hold its inaugural meeting in May 1886 in the cricket grounds, albeit after due to two postponements due to flooding. The papers reported on the inaugural meeting held on 29th May 1886:-

"The much postponed first meeting of the Lancaster Park Trotting Club took place on Saturday afternoon. The weather was favourable enough, though the wind was south-west and there were suspicious looking bank of clouds in that quarter.

A track, a third of a mile in circumference, was laid on the grass inside the running course and was covered with a layer of tan.

The dressing room in the pavilion was utilized as a weighing room and the lawn to the east of the pavilion did duty as a saddling paddock. Close to the entrance of this Messrs Hobbs and Goodwin ran a totalisator. The necessary notice boards were erected in convenient positions.

The bar in the pavilion was under the direction of Mr, Fuchs, of the Wellington Hotel, and Mr Keane, mine host of the Scotch Stores, had a booth on the ground for the sale of refreshments of a stimulating character.

A confectioner's booth in charge of Mr Robinson, furnished refreshment for those who did not care to patronize either of the others.

The Addington Workshops band, who had generously given their services, played at intervals during the day.

Mr. C.A. Calvert acted as starter, Mr J.B. Gresson as Judge and the duties of Clerk of the Course were performed by A.M. Ollivier.

The attendance was, all things considered, certainly good. When the first race started there were perhaps 400 people on the ground, but ere the close of the meeting some 11,00 persons had passed through the gates. The money taken which amounted to upwards of £38. During the afternoon £1,512 was put through the totalisator."

The Christchurch papers listed all the officials, the Stewards (Messrs F. Cotton, J.B. Gresson, F. Jones, H.H. Prins, A.E.G. Rhodes, A.C. Wilson and C.H. Williams), Handicapper (B.J. Bale) and the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer (C.J. Penfold).

They also made mention of a new innovation – "The riders or drivers, as the case might be, wore numbers on their right sleeves corresponding with the numbers on the card, and we found this a great convenience, as it directed one straight to the horse's name without searching the card for the colours."

Another feature of the day was that all the stewards wore rosettes of black, green and gold – the black, a tribute to the demise of the proprietary trotting clubs, the green the verdant youth of the new institution and the gold its future prosperity. The results follow.

MAIDEN SADDLE TROT

10 sovs. 10st minimum. Nine times round (Abt 3m)

D Barn's bm MINNIE, scr (owner) 1

J Kingston's blk m4 Gipsy, scr (Rodrigues) 2
R Tubmans's bm6 Irish Queen, scr (owner) 3
Others: J. Allingham's bma Lady (scr), G Thompsons bm5 Zella (scr).
Won easily. Time: 9:57.0

HANDICAP TIME TROT (HARNESS)

30 sovs. Six laps (Abt 2m)
T Douglas' bga WAIT-A-WHILE, 35secs (owner) 1
D O'Brien's grg6 Erin, 30secs (owner) 2
R Sutherlands bm Miss Scott (late Gipsy) 45secs 3
Others: E Rowe's bha Jimmy Brown (25secs), J Guthries brga Titokowaru (35secs), W Weelan's brma Gentle Annie (45secs), J Randall's brma Distress (50secs), M. Livingstone's brma Pauline (50secs)
A good race. Won by a length. Time: 6:15.0

HCP TIME PONY TROT (SADDLE)

15 sovs, 14.1hh. Six laps (Abt 2m)
J Rodrigues rnh5 VIXEN, 60secs (owner) 1
J Wilsons crma Queenie, 60secs (Keith) 2
G Clements chg3 Cobweb, 70secs (Malley) 3
Others: W.C. Woods' bma Betsy (late Our Pony) (scr), B.A. Trueman's bma Taradale (50secs), W Horner's grga Shakespeare (50secs), J Hannan's rma Silvertail (70secs), P Landon's grga Sefton (70secs)
Won easily. Time: 6:48.0

LANCASTER PARK TROT (SADDLE)

40 sovs. Nine laps (Abt 3m)
B Edwards' grga FIDGET, 50secs (owner) 1
D O'Brien's grga Erin, 40secs (owner) 2
P Howards brma Malvina, 50secs (Keith) 3
Others: Cock Robin (10secs), Energy (25secs), Frolicsome (30secs), Wait-a-While (30secs), Billy (40secs), Titokowaru (50secs), Lady (60secs), Gordon (65secs)
Won very easily. Time: 9:00.0

HANDICAP PONY TROT (HARNESS)

20 sovs. 14.1hh. Six laps (Abt 2m)
W Smithson's brha TAFFY, 60secs (Keith) 1
A Rattrays bga Bloxwitch, 50secs (Kerr) 1
A.C. Ford's chma Topsy, 70secs (owner) 3
Others: Betsy (scr), Taradale (50secs), Dot (50secs), Jo (55secs)
Won by 3 seconds. Bad third. Time: 7:33.0

The only other new Club in the 1880's was the Cromwell Trotting Club who held their inaugural meeting on the 1888 Queens Birthday (May 24), the Hawkes Bay Trotting Club who held their inaugural meeting on March 30 1889 and the Timaru Trotting Club who held their first meeting on 31st October 1889.

Winners at the Cromwell inaugural meeting were S. Mountney's Black Bess who won the 15 sovereign Maiden Trot covering the two miles in 6:55.0; J. McKenzie's Polly (18secs start) who won the 25 sovereign Trotting Handicap covering the three miles in 9:08.0; R. Old's Kilawarra (55secs start) won the 15 sovereign Selling Trot – no time; Mr. Mouat's Fossicker (23 secs start) won the 10 sovereign Consolation Trot covering the three miles in 9:47.0.

The Cromwell Club's last meeting was in 1891.

Unlike many trotting Clubs, Hawke's Bay conducted an all-trotting programme free of pony and hack races on the Park racecourse under the control of the following officials – President: G.H. Swan; Treasurer – R Smith; Stewards – G. Ellis, W Broughton, J McVay. W Ellingham, D Glendinning & R Smith; Judge – G.H. Swan; Starter: R Smith; Handicapper – A.T. Danvers; Clerk of Scales – G Ellis.

The inaugural meeting received good press – “When the Club first came into existence it was thought by many that the fields would be so small as to offer little if any inducement to assemble people on the Park racecourse, but all doubts were quickly dispelled on the appearance of the entries, which

totaled 67 for the five events on the programme. The weather on Saturday afternoon was simply delightful, and as the first race had been fixed to start at 1.30 p.m. it allowed ample opportunity to those availing themselves to the Saturday half holiday to reach the course in time to witness the whole of the trotting. The Napier Bus company placed a number of vehicles at the disposal of the public at the low fare of one shilling (10 cents) and as a consequence fully 500 persons must have been on the course when the starting bell sounded for the Open Trot, and many more put in an appearance as the day wore on.”

As an all-trotting meeting, albeit all saddle events, it deserves a complete report to salute those pioneering owners and horsemen, many of whom were of Maori descent.

OPEN TIME TROT (SADDLE)

15 sovs. 10st minimum. Two miles
Mr Weretas grm MAKOKOMIKO (Sydney) 1
Henri Nuku's bg Whaurangi (Cheer) 2
Dr. J Reed's bga Jumbo (Saunders) 3
Others: Dido, Dandy, Tommy Dodd, Irishman, Doctor (25 secs bhd), Jealousy, Nukuka, Tempting, Fleabite, Nun, Nelly.

PONY TROT (SADDLE)

10 sovs. 14.2hh & under. One & half miles
Mr Ihaia's blkga DARKIE (owner) 1
Mr Renairangi's chga Tommy (Taranaki) 2
Mr P. Tetukuwaru's rnha Native Cat (Hirini) 3
Others: Rosebud, Collector, Dolly, Jack the Ripper, Glessande, Tansy, Daisy, Flirt.

OPEN HANDICAP TROT (SADDLE)

20 sovs. 10stone minimum. Three miles
Dr J. Reed's bga JUMBO, 60secs (Saunders) 1
Mr. W. Proffitt's brga Tommy Dodd, 60secs (Peters) 2
Mr. F. Millman's grga Doctor, 60secs (McTaggart) 3
Others: Dido (75secs), Whaurangi (30secs), makokomiko (scr), Wineglass (30sec)

HANDICAP PONY TROT (SADDLE)

15 sovs. 9 stone minmum. Two miles.
Mr. J. Smith's bga COLLECTOR, 60secs (Gilpin) 1
Mr. P.C. Threlkeld's bma Flirt, 60secs (Turner) 2
Mr. Rengairangi's chga Tommy, 25secs (Taranaki) 3
Others: Tansy (25secs), Dolly (55secs), Rosebud (60secs), Glessande (60secs), Lady Clare (10secs), Native Cat (25secs), Daisy (30secs)

FINAL HANDICAP TROT (SADDLE)

15 sovs. 10 stone minimum. Two miles
Mr Wereta's grma MAKOKOMIKO, scr (Sydney) 1
Mr. F Millmans grga Dctor, 10secs (Millman) 2
Mr. henty's brma Jealousy, 35secs (Monteith) 3
Others: Tommy Dodd (20secs), Irishman (30secs), Nuhaka (30secs), Snip (40secs), Wineglass (40secs), Tempting (40secs).

The first Timaru meeting was held on the South Canterbury Athletic Club's grounds on Otipua road with the track being three laps to the mile and was described as being “not up to Lancaster Park form, but about equal to most other courses for this kind of racing about Christchurch.”

It was an extensive programme with eight events contested, including a Maiden Trot decided by two heats and a final. One of the competitors in the first ever race was Factory Girl, now recognized by Classic Families as the fountainhead of Family N260.

The eight winners were J. Henderson's Nigger (Robinson) who won a heat and the Final of the Maiden, B. Edwards bg Dick Turpin (owner) who also won a Maiden heat, Mr. Pitt's Imp (owner) who won the Handicap Time Trot, D Prince's Willie Reilly (owner) who won the Selling Trot, Mr. Pitt's Imp (owner) who won the Three Mile Handicap, Mr. Fitzgerald's Jenny (Jeffrey) who won the Pony trot and Mr. Lambert's Krippel (Butterworth) who won the Consolation Trot.



The final decade of the 19th century was a tumultuous time for Harness Racing when clubs came and went with regularity, however, overall it was a growth period because of the interest in trotting and the quality progeny of that first wave of 1882/1883 American imports of Robert Wilkin and John Kerr hitting the racetracks. Herewith is a summary of Clubs that raced from August 1, 1890 to December 31 1899, with a note that the Greymouth Trotting Club and the Nelson Trotting Club held their inaugural meetings on the 1890 Queens Birthday (24th May):-

AKAROA - 1892
ASHBURTON – 1890, 1891, 1892 (2), 1893 (2), 1894 (2), 1895, 1896 (2), 1897, 1898, 1899
AUCKLAND -1890 (2), 1891 (3), 1892 (3), 1893 (3), 1894 (3), 1895 (2), 1896 (1), 1897 (3), 1898 (4), 1899 (3)
BLENHEIM - 1892
CANTERBURY – 1890, 1891 (2), 1892 (2), 1893 (5), 1894 (3), 1895 (2), 1896 (3), 1897 (3), 1898 (3), 1899 (3)
CROMWELL - 1890
DUNEDIN AMATEUR – 1891, 1892, 1893 (3), 1894, 1895
GERALDINE – 1894, 1895, 1896
GORE PARK - 1893, 1894
GREEN ISLAND – 1891, 1892
GREYMOUTH – 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898 (3), 1899 (2)
HAMILTON PONY & TROTTHING – 1894, 1895
HAWERA – 1896, 1897, 1898
HAWKES BAY – 1891 (2), 1891, 1892 (3), 1893 (3), 1894 (1), 1895 (3), 1896 (2), 1897, 1898 (2), 1899 (2)
JOHNSONVILLE & HUTT COUNTY – 1892 (2), 1893 (3), 1894 (2), 1896, 1897, 1898
KAWARAU (OTAGO) - 1891
LANCASTER PARK – 1890 (2), 1891 (3), 1892 (4), 1893 (3)
LANCASTER PARK AMATEUR – 1893, 1894 (4), 1895 (3), 1896 (2), 1897 (2), 1898 (2), 1899
LOWER HEATHCOTE – 1890, 1891 (4), 1892 (2), 1893 (2), 1894 (2)
MARLBOROUGH - 1894
MASTERTON – 1898, 1899
NELSON – 1892, 1893, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899
NEW BRIGHTON RC – 1890, 1891 (2), 1892, 1893
NEW BRIGHTON TC – 1895 (3), 1896, 1897, 1898 (2), 1899
NORMANBY - 1894 , 1895 (2), 1896, 1897
NORTH OTAGO - 1892
NORTH CANTERBURY JC - 1893
NZMTC - 1899
ONSLow – 1891, 1892, 1893
OTAHUHU – 1891 (2), 1892 (2), 1893, 1894 (2), 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899 (2)
PALMERSTON NORTH -1893, 1894 (2), 1895 (2), 1896 (2), 1897 (2), 1898 (2)
PLUMPTON PARK – 1891, 1892 (3), 1893 (3), 1894 (2), 1895 (2), 1897, 1898 (2), 1899 (2)
POVERTY BAY - 1891
SOUTHLAND – 1895, 1896, 1897
STRATFORD - 1895
TAHUNA PARK – 1892 (2), 1893 (4), 1895, 1896 (3), 1897 (3), 1898 (3), 1899 (3)
TARANAKI TROTTHING ASSOCIATION – 1894, 1896
TEMUKA – 1894, 1899
TIMARU – 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1896, 1897
UPPER HUTT – 1893, 1894, 1895
WAIKATO PONY & TROTTHING – 1891, 1892
WAIRARAPA – 1891, 1893 (2), 1894
WANGANUI – 1894 (2)
WASHDYKE – 1894, 1895

WELLINGTON – 1892 (2), 1893 (3), 1894 (4), 1895, 1896 (3), 1897, 1898, 1899 (3)
WESTPORT - 1899
WINTON – 1895

As mentioned at the commencement of this article the complete history of Addington plus other early Trotting Clubs/tracks in the Canterbury region has been compiled by Peter Craig and is published elsewhere in this edition of Harness Racing International and as for Auckland look no further than Ron Bisman's "Harness Heroes" publication that commemorated 100 years of trotting in Auckland.

There were some remarkable trotters and pacers that graced New Zealand tracks in the 19th century, some celebrated, some not so.

There was the 1890 Cromwell (thoroughbred) Derby winner The Wizard who suffered a shocking leg injury after that win that necessitated one leg being in a sling for a month. Once healthy he was tried at the trot and proceeded to establish a New Zealand record for two and a half miles, trotting the distance in 6:36.6, a mile rate of 2:38.5.

The Australian-bred trotters dominated the record books with the imposing mare Yum Yum (by Childe Harold) being the first standard performer in New Zealand, trotting one mile in 2:27.5 in saddle (won pulling up by 15 lengths according to the press of the day). Incredibly she was still racing at Auckland at the age of twenty.

Another daughter of Childe Harold, Rita, trotting the first standard performance in harness (2:30.0) as well as setting the NZ two mile record in saddle, clocking 4:58.5.

So far as long distances were concerned Specification (by Contractor USA) was in a league of his own. His career along with that of his champion trainer/driver Alf Keith was covered in full in the July/August 2009 edition of Harness Racing International.

Specification, in the race before Yum Yum trotted her historic mile at a Queens Birthday meeting of the Canterbury Park TC, won the feature 100 sovereign Canterbury Stakes over three miles in a NZ record 7:35.5, despite having to concede starts up to 52 seconds to his rivals.

Then he went one better in a time trial by breaking the world four mile record by five and half seconds around the tiny Lancaster Park circuit, trotting the distance in 10:47.

The most amazing pacer from the early days was Princess, who was by Dexter (a son of the early champion Gentle Annie) from a Tripp Station mare by the imported UK Norfolk trotter Prickwillow.

Her story and that of her owner/trainer Dave Price has subsequently been inaccurately told in countless publications in Australia and New Zealand, so now finally the truth can be related.

In the early 1880s, the Beach family, farmers at Eifelton, mid-Canterbury, owned a mare by the imported UK Norfolk Trotter Prickwillow.

Mated with Dexter (Talisman – Gentle Annie), the mare produced a filly whom Mrs Beach and her husband sold to Tinwald farmer Frank Black, who then named her Princess.

Frank bred two foals from her (both by thoroughbred stallions) namely Prince Edward (1887, by Macilleathain) and Prince Albert (late Prince S) (1888, by Perkin Warbeck II).

One day in 1889 while returning from Ashburton twenty-year-old Dave Price happened upon Black and two companions on the road and noticed that the mare that Frank was riding was pacing, and sweetly at that.

He inquired about purchasing her and the following morning Frank Black rode Princess in a trial over one mile with Dave galloping alongside on a thoroughbred.

Although the mare galloped several times, the mile was covered in 3:06, a time that was 25 seconds off the then NZ record held by Lunatic.

Price and his brother Newton immediately offered twenty pounds but that was refused no after some negotiations the Price boys got the mare in

exchange for 20 pounds then and there, 20 pounds if the mare ever bettered three minutes and an investment of two pounds placed on her for her first win.

Dave was a jockey who had never had a trotter or indeed a pacer before but was well aware that the most lucrative events were the famous two day meet at Dunedin Exhibition meeting in May 1889, so he entered her and Princess was allocated a 30 seconds start from the backmarkers in the two mile race and a 15 second start in the one mile event.

Dave knew Princess was good, but in an endeavor to find out how good he tried to singlehandedly time her over a mile, but in his own words, "riding a mettlesome mare, and trying to pull out a pocket watch was beyond me."

He held a council of war with his brothers Newton and Tom and decided to trial the mare over two miles on the Ashburton road, but knowing that many other owners in the area had horses entered for Dunedin, the brothers opted to do so at three o'clock in the morning on the Ashburton racecourse.

First, Princess had to jump a hedge that enclosed the course that according to Price she "cleared like a bird" and then Price trialled her, keeping her under check until the final furlong while the brothers timed.

Newton had the time at 5:30¼ and Tom had 5:30, which considering the existing NZ two mile record was 5:31 was unbelievable.

So unbelievable in fact that the three brothers agreed that the mare should be sent over the two miles again and this time she was let go earlier. The time on both watches was a sensational 5:15.

Still unbelieving Dave and his brothers went back to the track and measured the two miles, one yard out from the running rail and found that the distance covered had been spot on.

The champion trotting mare Calista was the favourite for the Dunedin two mile heat and final feature, but it was Princess who won the second heat in 5:34.5 with plenty in hand (the first heat had been won by 4YO Pinole Patchen gelding Telephone in 5:51).

As Princess bettered a three minute mile rate and paid 23 pounds and ten shillings on the totalisator, Frank Black was to receive an additional 67 pounds on top of the 20 pounds that had been paid over previously.

Princess easily defeated Calista in the final in a record 5:33 and not surprisingly was pulled back to scratch in the one mile feature later in the day and was actually having to give current mile record holder Lunatic three seconds start.

Dave were super confident and that confidence was boosted further when Princess easily won her heat at odds of 15 pounds to one and was privately timed to go 2:44.

After the heat Dave declared to his brothers that Princess was the greatest certainty in the world for the final and that he had 20 seconds up his sleeve in the heat.

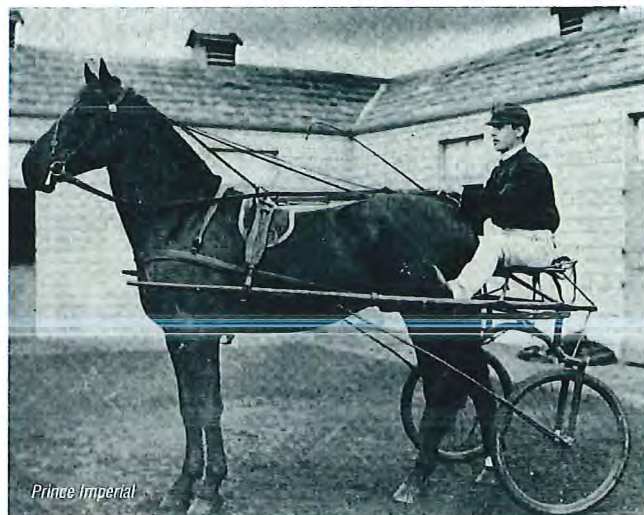
Every piece of currency the boys had went on Princess in the final and as an even money favourite she again won easily in a new NZ mile record time of 2:38.5 and it was reported that she paced the first mile in an unheard of 71 seconds.

Four races, four wins, two New Zealand records – not a bad day's work.

Price then took Princess to Australia along with Prince Edward, her first foal that he only found out about some time after he purchased her from Frank Black. Princess' other foal Prince Albert distinguished himself by winning three races on the May 2 1895 Wellington Trotting Club meeting – the 70 sovs Wellington TC Handicap (two and a half miles in saddle), the 55 sovs Miramar Handicap (two miles in harness) and the 30 sovs Electric Handicap (one mile in saddle). In the latter two races he defeated the imported American gelding JH.

In Australia Princess had her first two starts at the one mile Elsternwick Park, the first off a 45 seconds handicap when unplaced and an infamous effort off 55 seconds on 21/6/1890 when she, Newton and Dave Price were disqualified for an indefinite period for suspicious running.

NZ Press reported, "we have no sympathy for the young New Zealanders who are rapidly earning for this colony a very unenviable reputation in Victoria and NSW."



Price and his brothers returned to New Zealand in September 1890 leaving Princess in the care of Bob Crowe, but before doing so Dave Price gave an exhibition in August with Princess for the Sandhurst (later called Bendigo) public in the centre of town.

The following report was printed in NZ, "New Zealand mare Princess gave a splendid exhibition on the Mall (at Sandhurst), the rider being Dave Price, the celebrated New Zealand jockey, who owns the mare.

The performance attracted large crowds to see what was undoubtedly the fastest trotter (sic) in the Australasian colonies.

Price gave exhibitions of skill in equitation, jumping off the saddle and remounting when the mare was going at full speed."

In December 1890 Dave Price attended the Spring meeting of the Dunedin JC but as soon as stewards became aware of his presence they promptly warned him off the course.

The same month the NZ press carried the following report, "It appears as if the Price Bros are not yet out of their troubles with regard to Joe I, the winner of the three mile trot at the Dunedin meeting. The stewards have not yet paid over the stakes and are examining a report that Joe I is a horse of another name that has performed with success in Victoria."

Meanwhile back in Australia Princess was mated with the imported American horse Hambletonian Bell Boy and duly produced a handsome colt in 1891 at Bob Crowe's property.

Named Prince Imperial the colt was broken in by American trainer W.J. (Geo) Starr who had based himself in Sandhurst (Bendigo) where he was responsible for building the first trotting track in Australasia outside the metropolitan area.

Prince Imperial had one start as a two-year-old at Richmond on 4th October 1893 before Price returned in 1894 to take over his training.

Special dispensation had been given in 1893 for the ban on Princess to be lifted and when she returned to the track at Richmond on 1st March that year incredibly one of her opponents was her arch rival from NZ, Calista. In the succeeding eight months Princess started an amazing 31 times winning twice at Richmond on 26th June over two miles and again on 25th July 1893 in a Selling Trot (Dave Price bought her back for 45 pounds).

Princess did run second in three mile heats of a FFA to Osterley at one meeting and also came second at one of the only two meetings held under lights at Richmond on 1st November 1893.

Finally Princess broke down in a race at Richmond on 24th November 1893, was served by Osterley and was advertised for sale once any future racing prospects had been ruled out. Sadly for the breeding industry she was sold for 3,500 rupees to India being exported in May 1894 but died shortly after arriving there.

Dave Price then turned his attention to Prince Imperial and at his first start as a 3YO was unplaced in a race won by brother Tom on Turpin and at his



third start he was unplaced again in a race won by Dave Price on Miss Starr. After the event the Victorian Trotting Association severely cautioned Dave Price in connection with the inconsistent performances of Miss Starr.

On 14th November 1895 Prince Imperial won, with Dave Price in the sulky, at the Melbourne metropolitan track of Epsom rating a modest 2:48.4 and afterwards the pair returned to New Zealand.

Prince Imperial quickly rose to the top and inflicted a defeat on the renowned USA import Wildwood on that stallion's NZ debut which led to a famous 1,000 sovereign match race in September 1896 between the pair that Wildwood won in straight heats of 2:38.0 (won by neck) and 2:24.5 (won by 60 yards)

Wildwood became a top sire with 115 winners, however, Prince Imperial outshone him with 130 winners and the influence of his broodmares have been revered for a century.

Dave Price was never far from the headlines though and in May 1897 the papers reported that, "D Price has been excluded from the CJC meeting as he has been laying tote odds at various meetings. Price has appealed saying he has given up the practice."

In 1897 Price took up cycling as the result of a bet and proved to be an absolute natural at it and after his wife died in June 1898, he threw himself into training.

So impressive was his speed that on December 16th 1898 Dave rode in the country's biggest race for cyclists, the New Zealand Wheel race, in which he was off 100 yards (he was unplaced in his heat).

Dave was back into the horses after that and he along with brothers Newton and Tom all developed significant stables.

In the new century Price teamed up with the champion pacer Ribbonwood and the pair became part of NZ folklore and then later Dave Price switched over to the gallops and become a leading trainer in Victoria, at one time training for Sol Green.

Controversy wasn't far away though as Price was disqualified in 1935 but while he was obviously a corrupt individual, there were two misdemeanours that have been laid at his door by an Australian author in at least five publications over the past forty years that can be dismissed totally.

Those alleged transgressions were that Price twice used Princess as a "ring-in" in Victoria – as Lady at Elsternwick Park then again as Brunette at Sandhurst (Bendigo).

Yes, New Zealanders and a NZ mare (Maid of Munster) were involved but one massive problem for the veracity of the ripping yarns told against Price – the Elsternwick Park race was on 14/4/1888 and the Sandhurst race was on 29/11/1888, which were months before Price had ever sighted Princess.

There was one opposition trotter that Dave Price always did recognize as an out and out champion and that was Fritz, stating, "had he'd been mine I would have taken him to America."

Fritz, of course, was the champion of champions and attracted thousands to the track every time he competed in New Zealand, be it in a race or in a time trial.

When Fritz first came to New Zealand Buckland brought respected horseman Claude Piper with him and stabled at the Racecourse Hotel and several years later Buckland purchased Lonsdale Lodge from Dan O'Brien and set Piper up there as a trainer for his horses.

The press after Fritz's first NZ win was effusive – "The brilliant achievement of Fritz, however, marked a red letter day in the annals of New Zealand trotting. Mr Jas. Buckland's – or to be strictly correct, Mrs Buckland's – horse has been a world famous trotter for some years now. Fritz may be said to have captured all hearts by the exhibition he gave of his powers. A veritable Carbine among trotters is Fritz – a fair and square trotter, with the smoothest possible action, and one that requires no artifices to help him. Mr Buckland could not but be gratified at the reception the champion received from the public, the crowd cheering horse and driver again and again."

Not previously in the annals of trotting in Canterbury has a day's sport been carried on in the face of the elements such as they were yesterday. The stewards met after the first race to take into consideration the advisableness or not of postponing the meeting.

They didn't but rain fell steadily throughout the afternoon, and the track and the enclosures were in a terribly muddy state; the trotting ground, indeed, long before the last race, being reduced to a quagmire. The attendance, despite the weather, reached about 5,000 to see Fritz compete. Now that's star power.

Fritz had three opponents in the Free-For-All (Monte Carlo – later to be the winner of the first NZ Cup, Buckland's FFAller St Louis and American import Ha Ha – NZ record 2:22.5), but the champion drew right away from the moving start, and went by himself, putting up 2:28.5 for the mile – a great performance considering the state of the track.

The newspapers reported, "As Fritz splashed home in the mud and the rain in the FFA, the band played – See the Conquering Hero comes."

In the final race on what could only be described as a mud heap, Fritz went in saddle over one mile giving starts of up to 14 seconds.

Fritz was tardy off the mark but in an astonishing display of sportsmanship a la Olympic mile athletics champion John Landy many years later, Buckland pulled Fritz to a stop to assist Dave Price who was lying prostrate on the track with his horse Little Willie after falling. The only difference being of course was that Landy got going again and won.



One week later on June 2, 1898 Fritz made two attempts – twenty minutes apart - at the Riccarton racecourse to lower his Australasian mile record of 2:14.4 set in the Inter Colonial FFA at Moonee Valley in 1896.

Paced by Magazine (ridden by trainer Patrick Campbell) Fritz undertook his time test on the trial grass gallops track inside the course proper which was slow to heavy due to recent rains and incredibly clocked the same time – 2:14.8 – each time although the splits were different (see below).

TRIAL	1fur	2fur	3fur	4fur	6fur	Final
1st	:15.6	:31.6	:46.0	1:04.2	1:36.4	2:14.8
2nd	:17.0	:32.4	:48.0	1:06.8	1:38.4	2:14.8

In the summer of 1898-99, Fritz again visited NZ, and it was on this trip that, for a purse of 100 sovereigns, he made an attempt to lower 2.15 against time when he returned for the Canterbury Park TC Summer Meeting (December 26 – January 2). Fritz stunned everyone on the first day by refusing to start for quite a long time, which when added to his handicap, ended any possible winning chance.

On the second day Fritz and Buckland had the crowd cheering again when paced by the galloper Navigator (ridden by Claude Piper) he time-trialed in 2:13.0 (first half in 65 seconds), a new Australasian mile record for a pacer or trotter.

Buckland collected 100 sovereigns for the record which was quite remarkable effort considering the track was only 667 yards in circumference.

It was an eventful day for Buckland because of several happenings that have not been reported in latter day publications.

Firstly a reversal of form from the first day saw Buckland's Sunshine win the New Year Handicap and "large sections of the public received the win with demonstrations of disapproval, while others cheered lustily."

Then Buckland's What, favourite for the Canterbury Stakes, behaved badly at the start and lost all chance inciting "some hooting as Mr. Buckland drive back to the paddock, and one of the crowd, who lost his temper and made offensive remarks, was visited with a taste of Mr. Buckland's whip as he passed."

The day was not over for Buckland or Fritz for that matter as when the Premier arrived after race six Buckland was asked to time trial Fritz again for the Premier.

Although Fritz had pulled up a little sore after his record breaking trial, Buckland obliged to the request with Fritz clocking 2:16.0 (first half in 66.5 seconds).

Five days later Fritz lined up on the first day of the Wellington TC Summer meeting and once again he missed the start, or more to the point refused to leave the mark.

In an interview afterwards Buckland suggested the behavior may be genetic saying, "That his dam Fraulein would immediately slacken her pace if she heard the sound of a whip or any other unusual noise and on the repetition of it would come to a dead stop and stand shivering. Fraulein has evidently transmitted a portion of her nervousness to her son."

Anxious not to disappoint the large crowd Buckland agreed to trial Fritz and his trotting powers after his event and "sending him on a mile by himself which he carved out in 2:22.4, the last half mile in 1:09.4. Everyone was delighted with his fine style, for he strode out magnificently, and made not a single mistake. The crowd deservedly cheered horse and owner, both during his task and at its conclusion."

To end the discussion of New Zealand Harness Racing in the 19th Century that has escaped the eyes of historians on both sides of the Tasman thus far, I have chosen one of the finest trainers of the period. He was not a Kiwi, nor a Gumsucker, but a darn tootin' Southern Yankee and his name was Marshall Edwin Albaugh, who was instantly recognizable by his unique beard.

Albaugh came out to Australia in company with Dr Weir (designer and builder of Elsternwick Park) and drove the imported trotter Oliver into three second places in Free-for-alls in Elsternwick Park's first year and actually drove a winner (Dorothy) at the last meeting at Elsternwick Park.

He later teamed up as a private trainer for J.J. Miller (of Millers Guide fame) and won races for him with Sir John (Elsternwick Park), Probitus (1888



The champion Fritz (John Buckland)



Australian Sires Produce) K.K. (1889 Australian Sires Produce) and Lucretia (MV and Epsom) as well as a second place finish in the 1887 Australian Sires Produce with The Burglar.

His other winners were the champion Osterley (12 wins at Richmond, Apsendale, Sandown Park and Mentone), Dorothy (4 wins – 3 at Epsom), Whistler II (one win), Granger Junior (one win) and the champion pacing mare Mystery (one win).

In October 1895 Albaugh took across the final ten of Miller's trotting bloodstock to Dunedin where they were stabled at Ted Hankin's Forbury Lodge before being sold at auction on November 29 by Wright, Stephenson and co.

Balmy Breeze was by far the best performed subsequently leaving Woodland Whispers (1905 Greymouth Juvenile) and Lady Rothschild, the latter the ancestress of Inter Dominion Trotting champion Poupette and millionaire pacer Double Identity.

Albaugh stayed on for a while and drove King Harold in the NZ Juvenile Stakes, the first ever 2YO Classic in New Zealand, in which he finished second in the heat and third in the Final to Dictator.

Albaugh's first star to come out of his Russley training establishment was The Baron, appropriately by Rothschild, a brother of a champion he handled in Australia, Osterley.

The Baron won seven including three as a three-year-old (a rare achievement in the 19th Century) while another good performer for him was Captain Popham's Polly Huon.

In August 1899 Albaugh broke one of his legs and the esteem in which he was held can be seen by the immediate pledging of monies from the Canterbury Park Trotting Club, South Island Trotting Association, NZ Metropolitan Trotting Club and the Plumpton Park Trotting Club.

Two months later he was back driving for the final stanza of his career which saw him win multiple races with Velox (8), Frederick (3), What (2), Vaunt (2) and Foxhall (2).

Times became tough and in the 1907/8 season he won just one race and the last time he found himself in the placings was on Al Franz at a NZMTC meeting on 14th August 1908.

Two months later Marshall was found drowned in a creek in November 1908 and an inquest could not find how he found himself in the creek and returned an open verdict of "found drowned".

His death elicited the following eulogy from the distinguished Andrew Robertson, manager of the famous Allendale and Blackwood Park Stud Farms for the Tye brothers in Victoria.

"The death of Marshall Edward Albaugh which took place at Christchurch, NZ on Wednesday, 18th November, removes from the field one of the oldest and most prominent trotting trainers in Australasia.

He was an American by birth, and was born in the State of horses and ability to handle them was a natural gift to him.

He came out to this country in company with Dr Weir in 1882, and from then, up to the time of his death, he was a professional trainer and driver of trotting horses.

Amongst the many horses he trained were Osterley, The Baron, Mystery, Polly Huon, Young Burlington, Velox, Vaunt, What, Elector, Lopp, OYM, Roseneath, Al Franz and scores of other good horses.

Mr Albaugh's career as a trotting horse trainer was well known throughout Australasia. He had learnt the business from the ground up, as most successful breeders have.

As a reinsman his achievements speak for his abilities, although for several years past his career was marked by epochs of successes and failures, but it may truthfully be said that when he had the horses to drive he handled them as competently as any other man could have done.

As a conditioner and trainer he had few equals, and as a man he was universally liked and admired.

Probably the fastest pacer he ever trained was What, and his best three trotters were Osterley, Velox and Vaunt, all champions.

Albaugh was always a hard-working energetic trainer, and took his defeats better than any man I ever knew.

He was a horseman of the highest type, and in his young days he gave evidence of the qualities which distinguished him throughout his life.

Always neat and careful about his own appearance he gave the same attention to his charges and equipments.

His outfits were always spick and span, and attracted the admiration of all racegoers.

He was a man who would have been a credit to any profession he could have chosen. He was naturally fond of horses.

His love for them asserted itself when he was a boy, and he appreciated the trotter at its true worth.

I think he was a man of extraordinary ability, for I know the conditions he oft labored under were not always those conducive for success.

During the time I have known him, our relations, always friendly, were such so as to afford many opportunities for observing and studying his character and abilities, which were in many ways original and unique.

Many pleasant hours have I spent in listening to him relating his experiences on the trotting turf in this country and America.

Many of his sayings were truly original and witty, and he spoke with that southern accent (which colonial life had sandpapered and oiled down a bit) which made him nice to listen to.

While he was prominent in the front ranks of trotting horseman as a trainer and driver, he was pre-eminent in the ranks of those noted for integrity in all business and social relations, and had a scrupulous appreciation of honesty in all things concerning racing.

He was a man of many friends and few enemies, a thorough gentleman in appearance and at heart, and during his long career on the trotting tracks I don't think he was ever accused of anything that was not strictly above board.

On the trotting tracks of New Zealand his presence will be greatly missed, but, I trust, kindly remembered.

His early death will be exceedingly regretted, and I, with all other trotting horsemen extend my sincere sympathy to his wife.

"May he rest in peace" will be the farewell wish of all that knew the "Grand Old Man"

So as the 20th century dawned New Zealand Harness Racing was in a good place with the NZMTC installed at Addington and a national administration of racing and breeding also in place.

The latter proved to be the most integral ingredient for success not only in New Zealand but also in every State of Australia. Without a national organization there is just chaos. **BR!**

