



The Carbiner

"For sport and for good fellowship"



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CARBINE CLUB

EDITION 6 of 2020- 23 April

ACT Racing Luncheon Report

Carbine Club Classics Reprise

Club Recollection – John Treloar

The Carbiner is also available on the Club website at www.thecarbineclub.org

With the world in turmoil due to the pandemic all club activities are of course on hold – we trust that this will pass and that all Carbiners, their families, friends and colleagues come through safe and well.

We note that once again Vanuatu has been hit with a cyclone and send our thoughts to our club members there.

In the last edition we lifted from the 2001 publication “Carbine Club Classics” and we have done so again for this edition – this time it’s the story by Tom Stanley of how the late and great Harry Gordon came to write the words that describe the essence of the Club- “How We Filled The Gap... With Style” which describes a great part of club history.

We have a report from The Carbine Club of ACT on their Racing Luncheon in March -thanks Paul Walshe, and for this edition a recollection of a special Club evening for the editor.

Did you know???

Carbine was first named “Mauser”?”

If that name had stuck, would we all be now known as “Mausoleums” instead of “Carbiners”?
(info taken from a photo of Carbine on the NZ Racing Hall of Fame website)



Carbine Club of ACT Racing Luncheon



Canberra Racing Club Chair Ian Mackay, Racing NSW CEO Peter V'landys AM and ACT Carbine Club President Cade Brown

On Friday 6 March The Carbine Club of the ACT in partnership with the Canberra Racing Club held their annual Racing Luncheon at the National Press Club of Australia. The luncheon coincided with the Canberra Racing Carnival to be held at Thoroughbred Park on Sunday 8 March featuring the Group 3 Black Opal Stakes and Monday 9 March where the feature race was the Listed Canberra Cup.

With a full room of over 170 people in attendance, special guest NSW Racing CEO Peter V'landys AM had the full attention of the crowd as he spoke about his early days in the harness racing industry, his move to the Thoroughbred racing, outlining the many challenges he faced including EI, the merger of the AJC and STC, the creation of the Everest and concluding with a great insight into the future of the racing industry and his role as Chairman of the National Rugby League Commission.

We were also fortunate to have TAB's one and only Glenn Munsie host the racing panel which included Carbine Clubs very own Michael Heath, local trainers Joe Cleary and Barbara Joseph and Racing and Sports Simon Dinopoulos. This expert panel gave out their tips for the racing carnival which included a number of good priced winners.

Thanks to Canberra trainers Barbara Joseph, Paul and Matt Jones for providing the auction item at the luncheon, a 5% share in a two-year old chestnut colt by Choisir out of the mare Songstar, with the winning bidder paying \$3,600 with all monies going towards the 2020 Carbine Club Scholarship.

"HE PUT IT OVER"

One of our readers gave us this interesting snippet from the past which was reported later under the heading above – maybe Club member and former VRC boss Rod Johnson can tell us if there is any truth in this?

" Jockey H.Neve rode both first and second horses home in the Handicap Hurdle at Mildura on Boxing Day, 1936.

Neve rode Waluda which was one of only two starters in the race. Waluda was in front when Arch Marco dislodged his rider, C.Flowers, at the last jump. Flowers hit the hurdle and later was taken to hospital with head and arm injuries.

Waluda went on to win by a furlong. Neve weighed in correctly, then returned to the last hurdle, mounted Arch Marco, and rode that horse into second place. Again he weighed in correctly. Payment of second prize money was deferred until the case was put to the V.R.C., which later approved and declared the race properly run."

HOW WE FILLED A GAP ... WITH STYLE

By TOM STANLEY

*"For sport and for good fellowship" ...
"far beyond the boundaries of the turf, or even of championship" ...
"winning is important, but grace and courage also matter".*

Those and other words of Harry Gordon about the Spirit of the Carbine Club have been quoted and requoted many times, in many places ... and deservedly so, because they sum up, quite simply, the essence of our club. The soul, if you like.

What generally isn't known, though, is how and why the words came to be written. I had a small role in the process. In a way, I can even claim to be something of a trigger. I'd been involved with the Carbine Club of Queensland since the beginning: although I wasn't a founding member, I was at the foundation lunch in March 1981, invited by our first president Don Alroe. I became a member in September that same year (nominated by Don), and was secretary from 1990 to 1995 – with plenty of help from my wife Norma.

During that period we were having some primitive problems with our luncheon programs. The back and front covers used to be printed early – too early often for us to give accurate information about the guests of honour, speakers, toasts to be proposed, even the menus. In 1995 I decided to solve the problem by stapling in a late insert that would contain these essential facts.

I experimented with some dummy copies, but they just didn't look right. There was a blank page inside the front cover, and it needed content. It was almost as if a tooth was missing. Then I had an idea; I phoned Harry, our resident wordsmith, and told him we needed to fill a gap. I asked if he'd write a few lines about the history of our club, mentioning of course our parent club in Melbourne and our various sister clubs. He said he'd help, as I knew he would.

He phoned back a day or so later, and said he'd preferred to write something about the spirit of the club ... what made it tick. Would I like to see it? I would, I did, and I was mightily impressed. We published those words, "The Spirit of the Carbine Club", for the first time at a luncheon on April 5 1995, honouring the national surf lifesaving championships. We've done so ever since.

A few years later, when Max Walker was attending one of our luncheons, as president of our parent club, he said he loved those words in our program, and would be very keen to use them in Melbourne. He asked Harry if he'd be happy to amend them slightly, to give them wider appeal. Harry, of course, did the job. Other clubs followed, as did congresses.

So what started as a solution to a problem evolved into a brief, eloquent declaration that defines our Carbine identity. I reckon we filled that gap pretty well.



From left:

Tom Stanley and Bill Dwyer, each is a Carbine Club of Queensland life member

Harry Gordon

Jack Handasyde, a Carbine Club of Queensland foundation member, with life member Don Alroe

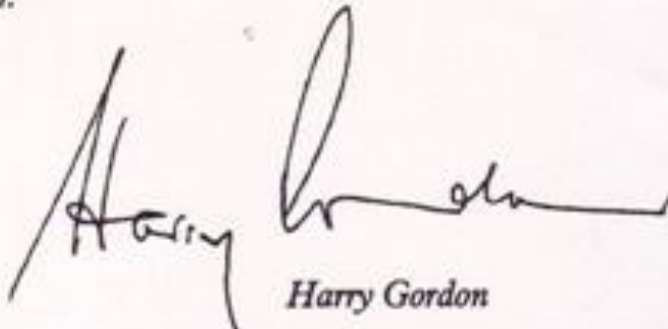
The Spirit of the Carbine Club

Members of the Carbine Club of Queensland are bonded by a couple of simple but very significant affections: for sport and for good fellowship. The club was founded in 1981 as a northern echo of the original Carbine Club, which had been established in Melbourne just 20 years earlier, and has long enjoyed a distinctive but unostentatious prestige.

While retaining the values (and the constitution) of the club on which it was modelled, the Carbine Club of Queensland came of course to establish an identity of its own. It acquired an impressive membership (limited, like that of its parent club, to forty) which embraced champions from many fields of sport, including horse-racing, Olympic swimming, Test cricket, international rugby football of both breeds, surf lifesaving and motor racing. Other members had established reputations in sports administration, business, politics and the media.

As well as enjoying the company of each other, and of those whose contributions to sport it often salutes, its members have over the years managed to display a certain generosity; one that asserts itself most notably in the raising of funds to encourage youth in sport.

The club's name honours a racehorse, one of the greatest and bravest this nation has ever known. But the spirit of the Carbine Club extends far beyond the boundaries of the turf, and even of championship. It is the spirit which celebrates sporting endeavour... and thus recognises that winning is important, but grace and courage also matter.



Harry Gordon

Club Memories – a recollection from the Editor



The Carbine Club is many things to many people – we all have many memories of great Carbine moments, from special lunches, the Congress, the opportunity to meet and mix with sporting greats, the list goes on.

One most memorable Club moment for me, amongst many, was an evening spent with Olympian John Treloar who later passed away in 2012.

John was a treasured member of CCNSW, a champion athlete in his day, a successful businessman and administrator, he was the epitome of nature's gentleman, and the memory of that evening has lodged firmly in my mind.

Just a very small group as I recall in a Sport club surround in Waverley, our 'fireside chat' was inspiring – in his understated way John shared with us his story of the 1948 Olympics in London. While all the plaudits on his passing revolved his other achievements, to me his achievement in 1948 was probably his greatest.

The long journey to England in 1948 was in itself enough to ruin any preparation, but once in London the team were to find that country still had food restrictions lingering from the war a few years earlier; the best grub didn't go to the Aussie team is probably the best way to describe it.

John didn't complain or look for any excuses – he said that his 4th in the 100yds and 200yds semi-finals was entirely his own fault because he was notoriously slow out of the blocks (this was the first time that starting blocks had been used in the games) .

John became one of my sporting heroes that evening, leaving me with a lasting impression and an appreciation of the Carbine Club in giving me the privilege of spending time with a great yet humble man.

Here's what Wikipedia says of John Treloar:

"John Francis Treloar AM (19 January 1928 – 23 July 2012) was a track and field athlete, who is considered to have been one of Australia's greatest male sprinters. He was ranked as one of the world's fastest men between 1947 and 1952. A triple gold medallist at the 1950 British Empire Games, Treloar made the 100m final at the 1952 Summer Olympics finishing sixth – just 0.1 s behind the winner – in the closest finish in Olympic history.

In his career, Treloar won a total of six Australian championships at 100 or 220 yards.

Treloar died on 23 July 2012. His son notified the Australian Olympic Committee of his father's death on 23 July; in this notification he stated that "Dad passed away exactly as he ran. Quickly."

Treloar was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2001.

In 2011, his old school, North Sydney Boys High School named their recently refurbished gymnasium in his honour.

Treloar competed at the 1948 London Olympics and again at the 1952 Helsinki Games where he qualified for the 100 yard final, finishing sixth, just 0.1 seconds behind the winner in what is believed to be the closest finish in Olympic history."



All contributions to "The Carbiner" are welcomed – with Club activities on hold we would love to hear of any special "Carbine" moments or recollections .. our email address is:
carbiner@netspace.net.au