



# The Carbiner

"For sport and for good fellowship"



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CARBINE CLUB

EDITION 3 of 2023- 25 March

**London Report**

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**PNG AND WA EVENT SCHEDULES FOR THE YEAR NOW AVAILABLE**

## London News

The Carbine Club of London continued on its winning way with a successful Cheltenham Festival Preview Dinner at London's Oxo Tower on March 7<sup>th</sup> when horse racing enthusiasts turned out in force for an evening of great food, fine wine and top notch tipping from their panel of experts: George Baker, Nick Luck, Jim McGrath and Richard Phillips. *(Pic Jim McGrath & Nick Luck on Racing TV)*



Guests included pre-eminent racehorse owners with live chances at the Festival and guest speaker Roger Devlin, owner of Pyledriver, a horse he tried unsuccessfully to sell for £10,000 but which went on to win last year's King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Royal Ascot.

The next function in London is another big one – the Lord's Luncheon in the Long Room on June 19<sup>th</sup> which has long been sold out, but there is a waiting list in case of cancellations.



## CCACT President Cricketing Honour

As a part of Cricket ACT Centenary Celebrations Carbine Club of the ACT President Cade Brown was announced in Cricket ACT's Teams of the Century. The Teams of the Century were voted on by a panel of ACT cricket greats, Cricket ACT representatives and board members, current and former Canberra media, and local historians.

Our congratulation to Cade!

## ACT Black Opal Stakes Racing Luncheon

On Friday 10 March, the Carbine Club of the ACT in partnership with the Canberra Racing Club held the 50th Anniversary of the Black Opal Stakes Racing Luncheon at the National Press Club of Australia. The luncheon coincided with the Canberra Racing Carnival that was held at Thoroughbred Park on Sunday 12 March featuring the Group 3 Black Opal Stakes and Monday 13 March where the feature race was the Listed Canberra Cup.

This report from Paul Walshe, Hon. Secretary, CCACT:



With over 150 people in attendance the luncheon was an outstanding success, and we were extremely fortunate and honoured to have Hall of Famer Ron Quinton as our special guest. Ron, who is a member of CCNSW, has parlayed his love of horses into a lifelong career, first as a jockey and then trainer. After nearly 30 years in the saddle, Quinton retired with a career tally of 2168 winners, 190 feature races and 46 of them at Group 1 level, including four Golden Slippers. We also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Black Opal Stakes.

*(Pic- Ron Quinton with CCACT Sec Paul Walshe)*

Carbine Club Secretary Paul Walshe said on the day: "Today we are celebrating the 50th running of a horse race, a horse race that holds great significance in the nation's capital, Canberra. It is the Black Opal Stakes.

A gem so very significant to Australia was chosen - the black opal - and so the race name was born. The first race in 1973, which was then called the Black Opal National Stakes, offered a total purse of \$15,600 and a black opal valued at \$600. National was dropped from the race name from 1979 onwards.

Many horses who have won the Black Opal have gone on to stellar careers, some on the track, some as successful stallions and others as valuable broodmares. There are other winners who failed to capitalise on their early potential and those whose careers were shortened because of injury. There are the highs and lows experienced by local prominent trainers who sought Black Opal glory and pushed forward for greater achievement. This was experienced in the very first race when trainer Jack Gordon's Wanted Man went down by the barest of possible margin to Rich Reward. Rich Reward won by the white of his nose.

Time rolled on for another 19 years before a footballer-turned leading trainer in Queanbeyan, and an American with a potentially classy young racehorse became the first local winner in 20 years of Canberra's premier race. That combination was Frank Cleary, Ken Jones jnr, Clan O'Sullivan and the "Clan Fans". Fast-track seven years and Cleary and Jones succeeded again with Catbird.

Catbird went one better than his stablemate by winning the pinnacle of 2-year-old racing in the southern hemisphere - the Golden Slipper.

Local trainers may have struggled to produce winners in the first 20-year history of the Black Opal but in the past 30 years success was achieved five times - by Frank with Catbird, John Morrissey with Speed Week and Pembleton, the late Neville Layt with Sarthemare and Gratz Vella with You're Canny. The future of our great race promises much.

We were privileged to have Barbara Joseph, pictured at left with Ron Quinton, do the Toast to Racing.

We were also fortunate to have again TAB's one and only Glenn Munsie and his wife Anne join us for the luncheon and host the racing panel.

It was also a great occasion for Kim Shoard who was announced as the recipient of the Carbine Club Scholarship for 2023. Kim is currently employed at Joe Cleary Racing in Queanbeyan where she is undertaking her jockey apprenticeship.



A great afternoon was had by all”.

## The Racing Panel



## Calendar of Events

### *The Carbine Club*



20 April – Annual Meeting and Members Lunch, River Room 3, Crown Towers from 12 noon

25 May – Outgoing President’s Dinner, Cellar Room, The Australian Club (by invitation)

27 July – Annual Dinner (venue tbc) preceded by Delegates Meeting at the RACV at 12 noon.

June/July (tbc) VRC Committee Room invitation at the races – Saturday

26 Sept – AFL Luncheon at Crown Palladium from 12 noon

3 Nov – VRC Derby Eve Luncheon at Crown Palladium from 12 noon

(tbc) Dec – Members Xmas Lunch

### *Australian Capital Territory*



TBC

### *Hong Kong*



31 March – Rugby 7’s Lunch, HK Football Club

19 May – AGM & Dinner – HKJC or HK Club (TBC)

### *London*



24 May- Annual Golf Day, Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, Richmond

19 June- Lord’s Ashes Test Luncheon

### *New South Wales*



### *New Zealand*



Wed 19 April- AGM, Remuera Club followed by Members Only Luncheon

**Northern Territory**



TBC -

**Papua New Guinea**



26 May Friday – Sportsman Lunch, Hilton Hotel  
16 Jun Friday- MO Gantry Lunch, RPYC  
25 Aug Friday-MO Italian Lunch, Lamana Hotel  
22 Sep Friday- Sportsman Lunch. Hilton Hotel  
28 Oct Saturday-CoxPlate Day, Aviat Club  
18 Nov Saturday-MO Lunch, NFS Lounge  
8 Dec Friday Members Xmas Cocktail Party, venue TBC

**Queensland**



22 March – AGM, Kurrawa Surf Club

*The Carbine Club of Singapore*

Friday 16th June: ‘Crabs, Clams and Cans Lunch’; Grand Hyatt, Singapore.

Friday 15th September: ‘Singapore Grand Prix Lunch’; Grand Hyatt, Singapore.

Friday 15th December: ‘Xmas Lunch’; Grand Hyatt, Singapore.

**South Australia**



19 May – SAJC Luncheon “The Goodwood”, Morphettville  
26 July - Members Anniversary Luncheon, “The Drive”, Adelaide Oval  
21Sept- SANFL Grand Final Luncheon

IN THE PIPELINE:  
Test Cricket Luncheon

**Tasmania**



12<sup>th</sup> May – Cricket Luncheon, Blundstone Arena



*Tokyo*

TBC



*Vanuatu*

TBC



*Western Australia*

Wednesday 19 April Midweek Racing Luncheon Members + 3 guests Directors' Lounge, Ascot Racecourse  
May (date TBC) Legends of Sport Luncheon Full Tables Hyatt Hotel  
Friday 14 July 35 Year Anniversary celebration Members Frasers  
Friday 22 September WAFL Grand Final Luncheon Full Tables Hyatt Regency Perth  
October (date TBC) Wine Tasting Luncheon Members +1 Guest Swan Valley  
Friday 24 November Racing Luncheon Full Tables Hyatt Regency Perth (Railway Stakes scheduled for Sat 25 Nov.)



**Vanuatu** has again experienced extreme weather with a state of emergency declared after two cyclones hit the islands within days of each other early in March. CCWA member and Congress Chairman Lloyd Meredith has been in touch with the Club over there and has confirmed that all CC Members are okay, albeit in clean up mode after the devastation wreaked by Mother Nature.