LOWER SOUTH ISLAND (SOUTHERN HARNESS) REGIONAL FORUM
PO Box 96
Invercargill

Executive Summary

Southern Harness Regional Forum

Date: Monday, 24 March 2025 | Time: 7:00 PM | Location: Gore, Southland

---

Purpose of Meeting

The Southern Regional Forum was held bringing together club representatives, breeders, trainers and drivers and Matt Pedon from HRNZ to review and discuss recent performance statistics, address operational challenges, and provide input on national racing policy and regional strategies.

Key Matters Discussed

- Decline in breeding numbers and sales performance.
- Syndication interest and challenges.
- Club communications and strategic planning.
- Programming concerns including reduced funding and calendar gaps.
- Horse availability and classification data.
- Concerns raised regarding stakes and incentives.
- Review of tote staffing responsibilities and costs.
- Club funding model feedback and operational conditions.
- Technical updates on HRNZ app, race data, and photo finish services.
- Acknowledgement of staff retirements and starter succession planning.

Concerns and Challenges

- Concerns around stakes for maiden and low-win horses in the south.
- Financial risk and lack of Southland buyers affecting yearling sales and breeding.
- Programming concerns between regions
- Costs related to tote staffing and lack of club control over selection and deployment.
- timing of Silk Road and Met Multiplier concepts

LOWER SOUTH ISLAND (SOUTHERN HARNESS) REGIONAL FORUM

PO Box 96
Invercargill

Decisions and Outcomes

- Clubs encouraged HRNZ to consider stake increases or bonuses for non-winners.
- SHR purchased a new Ford Ranger mobile barrier vehicle.
- Review of mobile barrier and secretarial fees planned.
- HRNZ to consider supporting Hunter Myers Fund.
- Protocol to be developed for deceased horse procedures.
- HRNZ acknowledged feedback on stakeholder communication and will respond.

Next Steps

- Consultation on club constitutions and funding model to continue.
- Invite HRNZ Board member Stephen O'Connor to next forum.
- Possible pre-Diamonds Day function to be discussed further.
- Formal follow-up letter to be sent to HRNZ regarding stakes in the south

---

References

- HRNZ Communications and Data – www.hrnz.co.nz
- Southern Region Performance Reports
- Club Feedback and Strategic Submissions