



**oakbank racing club**

**2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT**



# 2020/21 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16th September 2021

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## **2020/21 ORC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Arabella Branson - CHAIRPERSON (Country Racing SA Representative)**

**Barney Gask - DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

**John Glatz OAM - Retired April 2021**

**Mark Angus**

**Stephen Charlton**

**Andrew Watson**

**Chris Dittmar**

**Roma Williams**

**John Lewis**

**James Jordan - Filled Casual Vacancy July 2021**





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## OAKBANK RACING CLUB INCORPORATED

### 147<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at Oakbank Racecourse

Thursday 16th September 2021 at commencing at 4:00pm

## AGENDA

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**WELCOME:**

**CHAIRPERSON** - Arabella Branson

**APOLOGIES:**

**CONFIRM MINUTES 146<sup>th</sup> AGM:**

Minutes of previous AGM held on Thursday 17th September 2020 have been tabled prior to the meeting.

PROPOSER

SECONDER

**CHAIRPERSONS REPORT**

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Report Provided in Annual Report

CHAIRPERSON to move the adoption of the Report.

SECONDER

Any member wishing to speak or ask questions.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

CHAIRPERSON TO PRESENT FINANCIAL REPORT OF CLUB

Report Provided in Annual Report

CHAIRPERSON to move the adoption of the Report.

SECONDER

Any member wishing to speak or ask questions.

Cont....

**ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:**

CHAIRPERSON TO DECLARE

In accordance with the Club's Constitution, as the three longest in office without having been re-elected, the terms on the Committee of Messrs M. Angus, C. Dittmar and A. Branson conclude at the Annual General Meeting.

Mr J Jordan was appointed to the Committee to fill a casual vacancy following the resignation of Mr J.Glatz and in accordance with Clause 21 of the Constitution is required to be elected at the first Annual General Meeting following his casual appointment, and has offered himself for election.

**APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:**

CHAIRPERSON TO DECLARE

William Buck, the auditors of the Club, they being the only candidates.

PROPOSER

SECONDER

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Chairperson to invite any Member present to speak on any matter.

The Chairperson to declare the meeting closed.

# OAKBANK RACING CLUB INCORPORATED

## 146<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Oakbank Racing Club – Committee Room

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 commencing at 4.00pm

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### MINUTES

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<b>WELCOME:</b>	<b>4:05pm</b> – Chairperson Arabella Branson Welcomed all
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b>PRESENT:</b>	Arabella Branson (Chair), Barny Gask (Vice Chair), Mark Angus, Francis Nelson, John Glatz, Andrew Watson, Chris Dittmar, John Lewis, Roma Williams (4:10pm), Stephen Charlton, Shane Collins (Club CEO/Secretary)
<b>GUESTS:</b>	Grant Martinella (William Buck Auditors), Sarah Coligan (Profiler PR)
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES 145<sup>th</sup> AGM:</b>	Minutes of previous AGM held on Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 were tabled and provided for acceptance to the members. <b>MOVED</b> – Andrew Watson <b>SECONDED</b> – Chris Dittmar <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>AUDITORS REPORT &amp; FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:</b>	<b>CHAIRPERSON'S &amp; AUDITORS REMARKS</b>  CHAIRPERSON to move the adoption of the Auditors Report and audited Financial Statements. <b>MOVED</b> – Arabella Branson <b>SECONDED</b> – Andrew Watson <b>CARRIED</b>  Grant Martinella from William Buck Auditors gave a brief report providing positive feedback to the club's current position and financial management.  Arabella Branson thanked Grant Martinella and his staff for their work and support to the club.
<b>CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:</b>	Chairperson Arabella Branson provided a written report (in 2019 Annual Report and available on request)

**CEO'S REPORT:**

CEO – Shane Collins started with the ORC on September 1, 2020, so no report for the 2019/20 Financial year is provided.

**ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:**

**CHAIRPERSON DECLARED**

In accordance with the Club's Constitution, as the three longest in office without having been re-elected, the terms on the Committee of Messrs J Glatz OAM, B Gask and A Watson conclude at the Annual General Meeting. Each were eligible, and offered themselves, for re-election.

Mr J Lewis was appointed to the Committee to fill a casual vacancy following the resignation of Mr T Shorland, and in accordance with Clause 21 of the Constitution was required to be elected at the first Annual General Meeting following his casual appointment, and has offered himself for election.

At the close of nominations Messrs J Glatz OAM, B Gask, J Lewis and A Watson were the only candidates, and as per the Club's Constitution each were duly elected.

**MOVED** – Arabella Branson

**SECONDED** – Stephen Charlton

**CARRIED**

**ELECTION OF LIFE MEMBERS:**

**NIL**

**APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:**

**CHAIRPERSON TO DECLARE**

William Buck are the Club's present Auditors and with no other nominations received for the position were duly re-appointed.

**MOVED** – Arabella Branson

**SECONDED** – Barny Gask

**CARRIED**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**NIL**

**MEETING CLOSED:**

4:22pm

## 2020/21 CHAIRPERSON REPORT - Arabella Branson



To Our Members,

Season 2020/2021 will be memorable for our Club for many reasons. ORC pulled off a remarkably successful 2021 Easter Carnival under complex COVID compliance obligations which limited attendance to 10 000 patrons. We were extremely proud to achieve near maximum crowd numbers during such challenging times and thrilled to retain our mantle as South Australia's most attended race meeting. Remarkably, all of this was overseen by a new management team lead by our hard-working and popular CEO, Shane Collins. A big thank you also to the incredibly knowledgeable Melissa Dunbar of Big Fish Events who guided us through the COVID regulatory maze and to SA Health for having confidence in our management to host such a large COVID-safe event. We were thrilled when our Club's achievements and safety-conscious approach was praised by SA Police. Having just this month completed the first 12 months of our ground-breaking shared services agreement with the Gawler & Barossa Jockey Club we can now demonstrate the benefits that such an arrangement can reap for racing clubs in this State.

Also significant this year was the retirement of our long standing Committee member, John Glatz OAM after the Easter Carnival. John joined the ORC Committee in 1985 and was Chairman for 25 years. Last year I wrote about John's brush with death during the Cuddlee Creek bushfires. John's subsequent remarkable recovery is well documented. His incredible and continuing dedication to our Club, together with his wife Merri, knows no bounds and for that we are extremely thankful. We look forward to continuing our association with John and Merri as integral contributors to our heritage sub-committee as we focus on collating our history in the lead up to our 150<sup>th</sup> year in 2026. On the topic of heritage, 2021 has also been a busy year for our chair of the ORC Heritage Sub-Committee, Mike Hudson. The retention of the rich history of our small but iconic club is so important and we cannot thank Mike enough for his enthusiastic contribution. We also congratulate former Committee Member, Frances Nelson, on the recent honour of being inducted into Racing's SA Hall of Fame. Our Committee would like to thank Ms Nelson for her contribution to our own Club whilst serving on the Committee.

This year our reinvigorated Carnival-launch celebrations were hosted by our fabulous sponsor, Melt Pizzeria Hyde Park. We were thrilled to host Sports Minister Corey Wingard and many of our other wonderful sponsors and partners. In particular, we thank our major sponsor, Ecycle solutions, for their continuing support to the Oakbank Racing Club. Sandy McGregor of Ecycle must be commended for his push for the acquisition of safer obstacles in jumps races in South Australia. Our Club greatly appreciates the generosity of all of our sponsors and we look forward to offering them ever increasing value as we move to become more than just a once-a-year event.

The 2021 Easter Carnival was held under unseasonably warm weather. Pleasingly, locals were rewarded with a popular victory in the Great Eastern Steeplechase by Spying on You, trained in South Australia by Grant Young. We sympathise with the South Australian jumps racing fraternity whose season has been impacted so badly by COVID-related border closures. Significantly, 2021 was also our first year of showcasing the new-look 3-day Easter Carnival format. We look forward to announcing our 2022 program in the coming weeks.



Whilst much of our focus is on delivering our annual Easter Carnival, our staff and Committee work tirelessly all year round and I cannot understate my appreciation for their efforts. We are excited that the 2021/2022 season will see more race-meetings held at our beautiful Adelaide Hills racetrack than ever before, with 7 race meetings scheduled over the next 12 months. This is a fantastic result for both our members and our sponsors. This unprecedented number of race meetings at Oakbank would never be possible without the determined efforts of our head track curator, Tim Hutchinson, and his assistant Colin who have both been instrumental in making some changes to our track management so as to ensure that we can showcase our iconic track more often and in pristine racing condition. Thanks must also go to Racing SA for their ongoing support of our Club throughout the year, especially during such difficult times and credit must go to them for ensuring the safe continuation of racing throughout the pandemic. This year we also welcome new team member, the exceptionally well - credentialed Carla Deacon, as Operations & Marketing Manager. We thank Carla for her unwavering enthusiasm and commitment to our Club.

Last year I commented on the importance that media plays in the success of our annual Carnival and we are proud to have continued to receive exceptional media coverage over the last twelve months. We are grateful to Sarah Colligan of Profiler PR for her significant contribution and achievements over that period, which included our second 'Advertiser' cover-page within 12 months.

Having just completed my second year as Chair of the Club and 4<sup>th</sup> year on the Committee, I am so honoured to continue to be involved in such a historic club and an iconic part of South Australia's social and sporting heritage. It is a great privilege to be granted such an important role and I am grateful for the support of my fellow Committee members. Our Club is incredibly fortunate to have a Committee comprising such a broad range of skills and expertise and I thank them for their continuing support in 2020/21.

Turning to the year in review from a financial perspective, I am pleased to report that ORC has returned to a financial surplus for the 2020/2021 financial year, despite numerous challenges. The loss of income and additional expenses arising out of COVID has, however, sadly delayed plans for an investment into upgrading our heritage grandstands. Members and sponsors can nevertheless be reassured that the renovation of our historic facilities remains a priority for our Committee.

The team at Oakbank is exceptionally small but we continue to punch above our weight when it comes to achievements. We approach the 2021/2022 season with great enthusiasm and are excited to work on our many plans for building on our Club's continual prosperity.



## 2020/21 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT - Shane Collins

What a thrill it is to be leading the team here at the Oakbank Racing Club. After 12 months in the helm, it has been a real eye opener for me, who has only ever previously attended the venue as a guest or a member all my life.

While we contend with the trying Covid conditions put in front of us, it was a huge thrill to be in a position to carry out the 2021 Easter Carnival even though it was under managed circumstances. The engagement of a professional events company to work with SA Health in getting us a result to maximise the carnival was a great bonus for the club.

I must say a big thankyou to Arabella Branson and her amazing leadership here at Oakbank. She is a wonderful leader and the club is in great hands under her direction. The committee of the club should be congratulated also, allowing a management team to come in from another club and basically handing the keys over to let us manage their business. A big congratulations to John Glatz OAM also, who I only worked with for a short amount of time, however his decades of service to this club are so unbelievably important to this clubs history.

Its been a wonderful experience creating positive relationships with all people involved with the club, no clubs are the same and learning the different agenda's and roles all people play here at Oakbank has been an exciting challenge.

The trainers and their business is very important to us, so to be able to help support them, promote them and work with them on getting better, means we all benefit. Positive relationships with all our key partners to make sure they enjoy a positive experience to help their business is important to us.

The team of staff that work here at Oakbank are very passionate and do a wonderful job. Whether that is Tim and Colin out looking after the track and our wonderful facilities or our new employee in Carla Deacon who has added a wonderful level of professionalism and passion our team. Carla now heads up all our Marketing, communications and Sponsorship Management which has injected some great results and positive commentary from our partners already.

Speaking of track, I cant thank Track Manager Tim Hutchinson enough for his understanding and passion to seek greater results. We have worked hard with Industry Track Manager John Tonani in seeking some small changes with the track management here at Oakbank and the results are starting to come through. Hearing jockeys advise that the track 'has never raced better' and the horses are enjoying the beautiful ground provided is a wonderful result and hopefully key to an even bigger and better racing future.

In closing, thanks to our valued Members of the club, your support and passion for Oakbank is somewhat breathtaking. Meeting so many of you passionate long time supporters of the club reminds me of how privileged I am to be here doing what I am doing. Working with key industry personnel and a hard working team here, I look forward to an exciting season in 2021/22.

Regards Shane Collins

# SIGHTS AND SCENES OF OAKBANK EASTER 2021

