

DALBY AMATEUR PICNIC RACE CLUB HISTORY

1990 – 2012

Since the beginning of the 1990's the club has continued to hold very successful meetings while also having to navigate some changes along the way in order to ensure its continued future. Reports in the Dalby Herald from early in the 90's are all indicative of the club's achievements:

- 1992 – “Capacity fields of quality horses and a very, very big crowd set the scene for an exceptional day's racing....Seasoned by 80 years of experience this year's picnics proved another quality event as hundreds turned out to dance, dine and dabble at a win.”

- 1995 – “Capacity fields of quality horses and a very, very big crowd set the scene for an exceptional day's racing. . . Crowds gathered to watch the horses thunder by for a total of \$42,000 in prize money.”

However, transition for the club was not far away. In order to become a TAB meeting and access the extra funding that that would afford the club, the race day was changed to a Sunday in 1999, a format that has continued to the present time. Robin Burrows was instrumental in this initiative. The increased prize money available greatly assisted in attracting quality horses and ensuring exciting racing.

Around this time the club began to suffer other difficulties. Although the club has always remained financial, the high costs involved in running the event was taking its toll on monetary reserves and it became apparent to the committee of the time that the club would not be able to continue without some amendments to the format. Up until this time patrons followed the tradition of bringing their own picnic lunch and refreshments. To ensure the club's survival patrons were no longer able to bring their own drinks. Since this change the club has remained financially secure and continues to host very successful meetings with great crowds and most importantly exciting racing.

Early in the 90's the social functions surrounding the race meeting remained much as they had for many years prior with a dinner dance and then a formal ball following the day's racing. The venue for both events remained the Show Pavilion that the committeemen's wives decorated with great skill. In addition to decorating the pavilion, the race marquee was adorned with beautiful large flower arrangements lending it a very elegant air. The pre-race dinner is no longer part of the picnics festivities and by the end of the decade the venue for the evening function, a more relaxed dinner, had moved from the Show Pavilion to the trackside marquee. The evening entertainment remains in the marquee where patrons now dance the night away to a live band.

