



Dear Member,

THE committee is acting upon requests from Club Members to improve access to the upper levels of the member's area. Investigations are underway into the installations of a single-storey, personal limited mobility lift. The committee envisages the lift will aid members who have difficulty climbing the stairs from the ground floor member's area entrance to the Weetwood Room on the first floor. Quotes are being received from interested companies and should be ready for Committee consideration shortly. The project could cost more than \$70,000.

CHANGE and success were two key bywords associated with the 2007 Carlton Draught Weetwood Handicap day at Clifford Park.

A bumper crowd witnessed Tellem's stunning victory in the \$175,000 feature sprint; although official numbers suggest the on-track audience was down slightly on 2006. A move to making the Weetwood Handicap day program an event for people aged at least 18 years was probably instrumental in the slightly smaller crowd. But the change was initiated following consultation with Liquor Licensing and Toowoomba Police. The Club and the consensus was that it proved a runaway success. It was suggested the crowd found it easier to access bar and food areas, making it a more enjoyable day. Additional seating was provided in the

Weetwood Room to aid the comfort of members. In another positive move, changes were also made at the entry and exit points and there was a greater police and security presence, which will continue on future Weetwood Day programs. The most recent running of the Weetwood Handicap, won by Tellem, will be remembered for several seasons. It was Tellem's second win in the big race and a fifth Weetwood win for jockey Stathi Katsidis. Tote turnover topped the \$1.6m mark and the corporate and public marquee areas sold out as they did in 2006 and the Fashions on the Field and Fashion Parade attracted plenty of attention. "The TAB holds and bookmaker holds were on par with last year with 20 bookmakers taking advantage of strong fields including many prominent local horses," secretary Gavin McEvoy said.

THE Toowoomba Turf Club has moved swiftly to address concerns over the supply of betting information on track at Clifford Park. Some bookmakers and punters have complained about the clarity of betting information displayed on the closed circuit television system and, as a consequence, the club has enacted a multi-faceted response to rectify any problems. As part of the club's targeted approach, it has engaged the assistance of a professional television system expert and also acquired new computer software. In a third part to its response, the club will introduce new, LCD

television monitors which will be positioned around the course.

"The club has entered into an agreement with a Sydney-based software firm to install a better display screen system which is currently undergoing redevelopment and upgrading and this work is probably three months away from being completed," secretary Gavin McEvoy said. "Once the new software is installed the club plans to replace the screens in the betting ring with LCD televisions in stages to further enhance the clarity on information given to the public. "The last stage of our move towards providing the latest and best betting information technology will be a further software upgrade that will give us the capability of screening tote odds and betting fluctuations on the one screen.

"This will not only allow punters to view all the data more readily but will allow us to send the data to other parts of the course where they are not presently available."

The problems confronting the club emerged when software which had been installed to replace an outdated computer program was found to have some defects.

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Toowoomba Turf Club eNews



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"The current software, which has just been installed, is totally unsatisfactory and as explained we will be replacing it with a state-of-the-art program that is currently in its developmental stage." club chairman Neville Stewart said.

THE Toowoomba Turf Club (TTC) is collaborating with the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) to develop a 'home grown' synthetic track. USQ scientists Gerard Van ERP and Dr Francisco Cardona and working on a compound that comprises a mixture of sand with a small amount of granulated recycled rubber, polly fibres and a polymer binding ingredient.

This compound would be laid on a pilot track for testing, and if successful, would be laid on TTC's existing number 2 training track.

The project follows a visit by committeemen Col Zeller and Norm Pankhurst to David Hayes' complex in Lindsay Park in South Australia.

TTC chairman Neville Stewart and the club commissioned Col and Norm to make the trip as a means of gathering information and to see the all weather tracks in action.

The TTC has been looking at this project for the past year and of late Queensland Racing Limited has recognised the merit of our investigations into synthetic tracks.

It is hoped that if this project is successful this will be the formula used for all Queensland tracks.

The visit to Lindsay Park by Col and Norm was also one of gathering information to assist the club with the maintenance of synthetic tracks.

"It is vital that a track be developed in conjunction with USQ as this will bring extra jobs to Toowoomba and develop a track that will eventually be recognised Australia wide."

Neville Stewart said.

It is hoped that materials and labour for the synthetic track will be obtained from local sources.

THE club has had 58 race dates allocated to it for the 2007-08 season. The first of the new racing season is scheduled on August 4 and there are five non-weekend dates.

Feature dates have been set aside on - Saturday September 22 (Fitton Charity Race Day); Friday October 26 (Toowoomba Cup); Tuesday November 6 (Melbourne Cup Day); Friday November 23 (Magic Millions 2YO), Friday December 28 (Carlton Trophy); Thursday April 10 (Weetwood Handicap).

THE club is marking time to begin construction of on-course stables at Clifford Park. It is understood the Toowoomba Council did not receive any objections to the project which calls for the construction of 66 stables. All the club requires is a formal approval from the council to get the work underway.

MEMBERSHIP fees will fall due on Saturday June 30. Current financial members will receive a tax invoice in the mail in mid-June for the following year's dues.

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