



The Carbiner

"For sport and for good fellowship"

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CARBINE CLUB



EDITION 21 of 2024- Nov
60th Derby Eve Luncheon
Hong Kong – Golf Day
London Calling
Calendar of Events

The Carbine Club 60th Derby Eve Luncheon



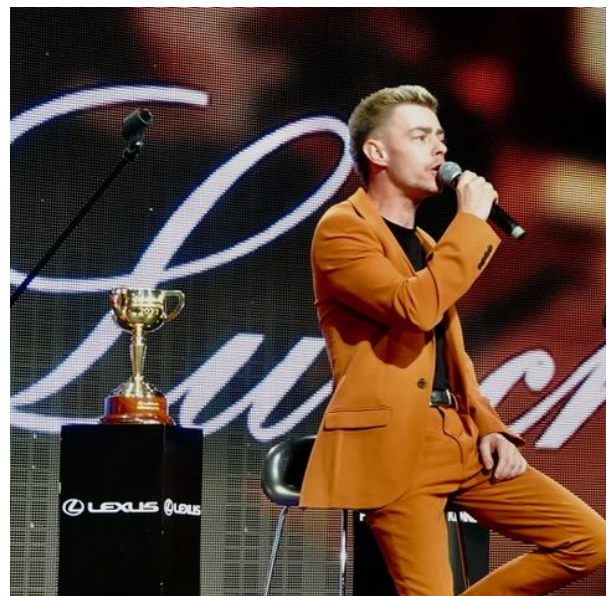
Sheila Laxon, Robbie Dolan and John Symons celebrate Knight's Choice's Melbourne Cup win. (Photo by George Sal/Racing Photos via Getty Images)

Here's winning jockey Robbie Dolan with the 2024 Melbourne Cup, with co-trainers Sheila Laxon and John Symons

... and here's Robbie singing to the crowd at the Carbine Club's Derby Eve event in 2023, with that year's Cup in the background!

Great effort by Knight's Choice to win the Cup with singing jockey Robbie aboard, and co-trained by Melbourne Cup Ambassador Sheila Laxon who ushered the Cup trophy into the room for the Carbine Club's Derby Eve event on 1 Nov this year.

Born in Wales, a sometimes Kiwi who was awarded the Order of NZ Medal in that country, and now based on the Sunshine Coast, Sheila shared her experiences at the 2024 luncheon, an insightful and delightful interview, and hopefully enough info to convince some to have a few \$\$ each way!





Only four Australian bred horses have won the Melbourne Cup this century, an Australian bred sire hadn't produced a winner of the Cup in 25 years, and this is the first Queensland trained horse ever to win the Cup, albeit the final training regime took place at Victoria's Macedon Lodge where CC Member Mark Player, Chairman of the management team at the outstanding facility, hosted Knight's Choice during the stay in Victoria.

So, plenty of Carbine Club connection with the horse – we look forward to seeing who is on stage at the 61st Derby Eve Luncheon next year!

(Thanks to Gordon Bennett for digging into the Club photo archive to find photos of Robbie at last year's event, and for the photos at this year's event).

Carbine Club Secretary Graham Halbish filed this report on the event:



Rob Green, Sheila Laxon, CC President Adam Sangster, and Wendy Green

Consummate host and MC Gerard Whateley, lead an audience of more than 960 guests into a memorable 60th Derby Eve Luncheon in a resplendent Palladium Room at Crown Melbourne.

A fine welcoming speech by CC President Adam Sangster was preceded by a roving Simon O'Donnell, testing the wit of some of the many celebrities and racing identities present.

A stirring rendition of the National Anthem by Richard Thomas and Alex Lidgerwood, was followed by the entry to the Room of the 2024 Melbourne Cup in the safe hands of Sheila Laxon, Trainer of 2021 Cup winner, Ethereal. What an omen for Tuesday's big race. Did we back Knight's Choice?! And, if you do like omens, was ridden by Robbie Dolan, guest singer at last year's lunch. Well, say no more.

The Hon Peter Stanley (Lord Derby) provided a fascinating insight into the origins of the famous English Derby, which was the outcome of a strongly contested rivalry between the Derby and Bunbury families, in the late 18th century. It seems we could easily have been celebrating Bunbury Eve instead!

Gerard then chatted with newly appointed VRC CEO Kylie Rogers, whose enthusiasm for her new role shone through. All the best for a great Cup Carnival, Kylie.

Sparkling guest Wendy Green (owner of 1999 Melbourne Cup winner, Rogan Josh), brought the house down with some hilarious asides from her days in racing, explaining just how life changing winning the great race can be. Not to be upstaged, colourful owner of Vauban, Rich Ricci, told us of his quest to win the Melbourne Cup, an aim yet to be fulfilled & promised to keep returning to Melbourne until he did!

A welcome breather for main course and refreshments allowed guests to relax and mingle and compare notes on the upcoming auction items. Our thanks to Emirates, Swettenham Stud (Adam Sangster) and Mitchelton (Gerry Ryan), for their generosity and Inglis Auctioneer Brett Gilding. A great result, with funds raised (\$25k+), going towards our support of the VIS & DSR organisations.

We then welcomed ace comedian and CCNSW member, Vince Sorrenti back to Melbourne. Vince was in great form, with his repertoire right up to date as always. A great entertainer.

Gerard then drew the winning entry for the prize provided by CC major sponsor Howden, and welcomed back our outstanding vocalists, Richard & Alex to close off the show. Which they did in great voice, leaving the room buzzing on a high.

Guests were able to mingle for a further hour before adjourning to a packed Atrium Bar. Thanks again to our Sister Clubs, who once again were very well represented on the day.







Carbine Club of Hong Kong Golf Day 2024 – Another Day to Remember (.. and a hole in one!)

The 2024 Carbine Club of Hong Kong Golf Day took place at the picturesque Clearwater Bay Country Club Academy Course, where members and guests enjoyed stunning autumn weather, with warm and breezy conditions enhancing the challenge of the beautifully maintained Par 3 course. Known for being both accessible to less experienced golfers and a test for lower handicappers, the course proved to be the perfect venue for a day of competitive but enjoyable golf.

Patrick Sullivan emerged as the overall club champion, putting in an outstanding round that saw him shoot well under his genuine handicap. The runner-up spot went to Justin Faulkner, affectionately dubbed the "professional bridesmaid" after finishing as runner-up for the second year in a row, just a couple of strokes off the pace.

George Gladstone claimed the prize for Best Guest, while Jenny Chapman took home the title of Ladies Champion. A tightly contested 3rd to 5th places saw a three-way tie shared between Jeremy Stowe, Martin Hills, and Zac Purton.

The Nearest to Pin (NTP) prizes were won by Hugh Bowman and Patrick Sullivan, adding to Sullivan's memorable day. The Encouragement Award was presented to past Hon-Sec Shaun Tibbatts, who earned special recognition for flying all the way from the UK to join his brother Mark at the event.

One of the most exciting moments of the day came when Zac Purton achieved a hole-in-one on the tricky 4th hole, delighting everyone present. This unforgettable shot set the stage for the post-golf prize presentation and dinner, held on the club's balcony as participants enjoyed a spectacular sunset over the South China Sea. With plenty of champagne flowing, courtesy of Zac and his good fortune, the 2024 Carbine Club Golf Day ended on a high note, with members and guests sharing laughs and memories of another fantastic day on the greens.



Jenny Chapman



Danny Zigal, Shaun Tibbatts



Parshid Falahati, Shaun Tibbatts, Andrew Steadson

Prizes given out by Carbine Club VP Parshid Falahati – thanks to Parshid for sharing the day with The Carbiner



Hugh Bowman



George Gladstone



Zac Purton, Jeremy Stowe, Martin Hills



Justin Faulkner



Jenny Chapman



Zac Purton

LONDON CALLING

The Carbine Club of London recently held their AGM at the Bluebird Café where Terry McCaughey became the 4th President of the club after the retirement of Jeff Randalls from the position. Terry paid tribute to the previous Presidents, all outstanding in guiding the Club; the strength of this chapter of the Club is evident in the list of events for 2025 which is included in the calendar of this issue of The Carbiner.

Guest speaker for the evening was eminent economist Roger Bootle, who had been cleverly timed to follow the previous week's UK Budget. Roger was funny, fair, and precise in his revelation of recent political events. A delight to listen to such an erudite and articulate commentator.

The evening finished off with Jim (The Croc) McGrath's usual phantom call of the Melbourne Cup. Not surprisingly, Jim didn't pick the winner this year!

Terry has been assiduous in maintaining the lines of communications to members in London, and in providing news from London for the newsletter, although he admits that on this occasion everyone had such a good time that they forgot to take any photos.

NEXT LONDON EVENT- The Asthma+Lung UK Christmas Carol service at the beautiful and majestic St Lukes and Christ Church in Sydney Street in Chelsea. It is on Monday 2nd December starting at 7pm and running for an hour, followed by mulled wine and mince pies on the steps afterwards. The readers this year are actress Patricia Hodge OBE, the Rt Hon Sir John Major KG CH, and BBC's Sue Lawley OBE. The choir will again be the Westminster Boys' Choir and their resident tenor and string ensemble.

Thrills and Elegance at the Carbine Club of Tokyo's 2024 Melbourne Cup Luncheon -thanks to Mark Darbyshire for the report from Tokyo

The Carbine Club of Tokyo's 2024 Melbourne Cup Luncheon dazzled 130 racing fans, with attendees dressed to impress. The ladies were glamorous, and the gentlemen looked sharp.



Held in the sumptuous Coriander Room of the Grand Hyatt Tokyo, the event added extra excitement with two new premier sponsors: Cathay Pacific and the Regent Hong Kong. Their generous prize package, a pair of premium economy round-trip tickets and a luxury stay in Hong Kong, sparked interest and spirited bidding.

Attendees from Cathay's team included Nelson Chin and Mikiko Kogami. Regional Head of Marketing Emma Chang coordinated planning from Hong Kong to help bring this sponsorship to life. We also wish to offer special thanks to Regent Hong Kong for its invaluable support.

Thanks to arrangements by member Travis Brown, Treasury Wine Estates donated many bottles of Penfolds wines to keep spirits high throughout the afternoon. The Cathay team presented their prize after a lively auction, raising funds for YouMeWe, a Tokyo-based non-profit supporting 33,000 children in institutional care and another 15,000 in foster homes. The funds go toward guidance and support that empowers these young people to build fulfilling lives beyond high school.



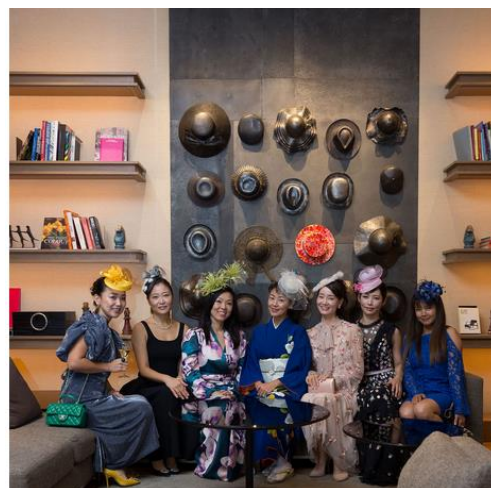
Club member Darren Morrish, a seasoned hotelier and General Manager of the Tokyo American Club, served as the auctioneer, making his final appearance with us before returning to Australia. We deeply appreciate his contributions, especially in securing the Regent Hong Kong stay, and wish him the best in a new stage of his journey.

In total, the fundraising efforts—through auctions, raffles, and other

activities—brought in around million yen, or just under A\$10,000.

Several distinguished figures lent prestige to the luncheon, including Australian Ambassador Justin Hayhurst. Former Wallaby and new Tokyo club member Bernard Foley attracted much attention, warmly posing for photos with fellow attendees. The day was made even more memorable by the efforts of club President Darrin Hartshorn and members like Treasurer Tim Barnstable and Sponsorship Co-Manager Frank Foley, who contributed significantly to the event's success. Frank was one of three unrelated Foleys present who assembled for a special photo together. A special thank-you goes to TopTia Photography's Tia Haywood, an award-winning portrait professional, whose exceptional work captured not only that moment but also a collection of stunning highlights throughout the day, creating cherished memories for all. Also, Danni Brown, wife of Travis, created the beautiful table arrangements.

This remarkable day set the stage for our calendar's grand finale: the inaugural Japan Cup Luncheon on Friday, 22 November, at the Grand Hyatt Tokyo. We look forward to welcoming around 60 racing enthusiasts and professionals from Japan, Australia, and beyond to celebrate one of the crown jewels of Japan's racing season. Carbine Club members from across the globe are warmly welcome to join this special gathering, where we will close out the year in true racing spirit, celebrating the fellowship, thrills, and enduring legacy of this great sport.



Calendar of Events



The Carbine Club

www.thecarbineclub.org.au



Australian Capital Territory

Mon 2 December – 12th Carbine Club Russell Parkes Memorial Golf Day - Royal Canberra Golf Club (Members Only)

Mon 2 December – Members and Partners Christmas Cocktail Function – Royal Canberra GC

Friday 13 December – Carbine Club AGM / Christmas Lunch – National Press Club of Australia (Members Only)



Hong Kong

www.carbineclubhk.com

Fri 6 Dec – International Racing Lunch, Grand Hyatt

2025 Events -

19th February- Racing Night at Happy Valley

28th March- Rugby Sevens Luncheon



London

www.carbineclublondon.org.uk

Xmas Carol Service at St Lukes and Christ Church, Chelsea on Monday 2nd December 2024 7:00pm

2025 Events

Pre-Cheltenham Festival dinner at the OXO Tower Restaurant on Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7:00pm

The Royal Box for the Brigadier Gerard Meeting at Sandown Park on Thursday 29th May 2025 from 5pm

CCL golf day at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club on Friday 30th May 2025 from 12 noon

Lord's Luncheon on Thursday 3rd July 2025 from 12 noon (tbc)

AGM, Sam Vestey and Melbourne Cup Eve dinner at the Bluebird Café in Chelsea on Monday 3rd November 2025 from 7:00pm

Manila

www.carbineclubmanila.org

28 Feb 2025-Manila Golf Day

1 March 2025 Inaugural Lunch – The Penthouse, 70th floor at the Grand Hyatt



New South Wales

www.carbineclubnsw.com.au

6 Dec-Christmas Lunch, Waters Edge



New Zealand

www.carbineclubnz.org.nz



Northern Territory

www.carbineclubnt.org.au

December TBC – Christmas Dinner (M& P)



Papua New Guinea

22 Nov – Members Xmas Cocktail Party, Grand Papua Hotel



Queensland

www.carbineclubqueensland.com.au

29 Nov – Members Only Christmas Lunch, Georges Sorrento
6 January 2025 – Magic Millions Lunch, Star Casino Broadbeach



Singapore

www.carbineclub.com.sg

6 Dec – Christmas Lunch (Grand Hyatt)



South Australia

www.carbineclubsa.com.au

5 Dec – Test Cricket Luncheon, Adelaide Oval
12 Feb 2025 – LIV Golf Luncheon



Tasmania

www.carbineclubtasmania.com.au

International Congress – 5-9 Feb, 2026



Tokyo

www.carbineclubtokyo.com

22 Nov – Japan Cup Day Luncheon, Grand Hyatt



Vanuatu

Friday 29 Nov- Members Luncheon
Monday 27 Jan – New Year Function @ Tamanu



Western Australia

www.carbineclubwa.com.au

22 Nov – Racing Luncheon, Frasers Restaurant, Kings Park

The Carbine Club of Tasmania looks forward to hosting delegates for the 2026 Congress.

Here is a brief look at what we are planning! We will be offering a choice of accommodation packages at first class hotels all situated on Hobart's magnificent waterfront, a short stroll to the heart of Salamanca, restaurants, shops, bars and galleries.



Carbine Club Congress 2026
5th – 9th February.



Thursday

Once you've arrived and checked into your accommodation, you will be invited to attend a reception at Government House followed by welcome drinks in our Carbine Club Bar, located in the award winning Henry Jones Art Hotel. This will be followed by a casual dinner.

Friday

The delegates meeting will be held on this morning then it's off to Elwick Racecourse for our Carbine Club Derby Day Lunch and race meeting. You will be transported to and from your accommodation. A leisure evening will be appreciated after a big day trackside! – the Carbine Club Bar will be open

Saturday

Enjoy a morning at Salamanca Market before hopping onboard the Mona Ferry travelling in style in the 'Posh Pit' and arriving at Mona for a casual lunch. You'll be back at your accommodation late in the afternoon for a catch up in our Carbine Club Bar and then get yourself ready for our 'Big Black Tie' event.

Sunday

It's back to Elwick Racecourse for the 151st running of the Hobart Cup. We will have our own Marquee in the Ledger with everything you could possibly need for a great day at the races. Our buses will get you back to your accommodation with drinks in the Carbine Club Bar. Or, if you don't want to be trackside, we will organise an alternative. How about an award winning Pennicott Wilderness Journey?

Monday

Delegates depart unless you choose to stay on for the post congress tour – details on this will follow.

BOOKINGS

carbineclubtasmania.com.au

