

NSWROA members have a Sydney Cup to remember

RACEHORSE OWNERS WERE GIVEN A GLIMPSE OF TIE THE KNOT'S MULTIPLE SYDNEY CUP VICTORIES ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE BMW SYDNEY CARNIVAL. WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

Sydney Cup Day – just the sound of these three words puts a smile of the faces of members and guests of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association.

Each year the Association holds a Sydney Cup Day Luncheon and each year our members and guests assemble at Royal Randwick for this wonderful function. It is indeed a very special day.

As we have come to expect, the catering was again a highlight with Australian Turf Club (ATC) providing a fantastic array of food for the buffet style function.

Our thanks to all from ATC who worked on our function with particular mention to Tracey Ware and Roger Brassington for all their help with the function.

A big thank you also to the talented Christy Johns from Sky Racing who was again in charge of the microphone for the afternoon and did a masterful job keeping everyone updated and entertained.

I would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Sandy and Kathy Tait for joining us on the day.

It is not often as an owner that a Sydney Cup comes your way but our special guests Sandy and Kathy Tait were lucky enough to win two consecutive Sydney Cups with their champion galloper, Tie the Knot.

Tie the Knot is one of only four horses, and the most recent, to have won this time-honoured race in consecutive years – 1998 and 1999. The other winners were The Barb (1868-69), Carbine (1889-90) and Mosaic (1939-40).

Sandy and Kathy kindly brought in Tie the Knot's 1998 Sydney Cup for our guests to see and Sandy shared some incredible memories of this wonderful horse that sadly passed away last October at 18yo.

As well as enjoying some wonderful racing, which I will write about later in the article, various competitions were held throughout the day including the Best Hat, Best Tie and the Tipping Competition.

Our lucky competition winners were Jane Pitman (Best Hat), Dennis Pitman (Best Tie) and John Murphy (first prize in the raffle). The prize for the tipping competition had to be split four ways as it was a tie for first place.

Our thanks to Henry Noonan (Top Odds Racing and Sports) for donating the prize for this competition.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank:-

- Our judges for the Best Hat & Tie Competitions – Jillian Mihalyka and Ann Vouris;
- Max Presnell from the Sydney Morning Herald for his

tipping advice to guests;

- Henry Noonan Top Odds Racing and Sports for "fielding" in the marquee and providing tipping advice via Ashley Johnson;
- Ken Callander from the Daily Telegraph for his tipping advice to guests; and
- Steve White for kindly taking the photographs which have appeared in this article.

As readers are aware Sydney Cup Day is the last day of the BMW Sydney Carnival.

It is a racing smorgasbord with four Group One races (Champagne Stakes, All Aged Stakes, Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the Sydney Cup) on the card.

Success in the 2013 Group 1-Sydney Cup went to Mourayan (Ire) trained by Robert Hickmott from Norsqui with Aliyana Tilde owned by NSWROA member Cliff Crockett in third place.

NSWROA members recorded Black Type winners on the day in the Group 1-Champagne Stakes (Guelph – Sheikh Mohammed), Gr 1-ATC All Aged Stakes (All Too Hard – Gerry Harvey and Ramsey Pastoral Company), Listed-ATC Hall Mark Stakes (Rarefied – Sheikh Mohammed) as well as success in the Gr 3-BRC Gunsynd Classic at Eagle Farm (Proverb – Sheikh Mohammed).

NSWROA members also recorded wins during the day at Newcastle.

In closing, my thanks to all who attended the NSWROA Sydney Cup Day Luncheon this year and I look forward to welcoming you to the 2014 function.

The next event on the NSWROA calendar is our flagship event, and the NSW Racing Industry's Night of Nights, Racing's Night of Champions which this year is themed "Celebrating the Best" on Thursday 8 August.

NSWROA is proud to again be supporting the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation (POWHF) as our charity of choice at this year's event. POWHF is an established charitable organisation supporting and promoting research, education, health promotion and patient care for and at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick.

For more information regarding the 2013 Racing's Night of Champions or if you are interested in becoming a member of NSW Racehorse Owners Association, contact the NSWROA office by telephone (02) 9299-4299, by email nswroa1@ozemail.com.au or visit the NSWROA website www.nswroa.com.au **RNSW**



Christy Johns
with legendary
journalist Max
Presnell



Kathy and
Sandy Tait with
the 1998 Sydney
Cup