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Dear Member,

Well it's time again to put pen to paper for another President's Report. Having spent the year virtually in the grandstand rather than on the horses' back, one views the scene through a different window.

It's been with much pleasure that I have seen the Junior Grading not only be a resounding success, but produce some real Junior Showjumping Stars.

Consequently the Senior ranks have suffered without the Junior horses being part of their grades, but we must accept this, and look forward to such times when these Juniors become Senior and thus fill our ranks with formidable, experienced Showjumpers. It's this chain of events that to me is the only line of action to take that will resurrect the showjumping scene in the Top End. I feel that abolishing Junior Grades and making them "open" grades again, would be a short-sighted short-cut that would cripple any hope of an ongoing strong showjumping fraternity in the Top End for the future.

Once again the threat of cancellation was the only resort left to find help with the One Day Event. A spirit lifting response came forward at the One Day Event meeting and everybody hopped in and helped, and a One Day Event course was built that was acclaimed as "the best we've seen since the Elizebeth Valley days". Unfortunately the numbers were down but this was compensated for by the many new faces that competed. A feather for the cap of anyone associated with making it a success.

The need for a safe place for the jumps was highlighted the morning of the Twilight Jump Meet, when at 8.30am upon collecting our jumps from the shed we observed the equipment being used as "scaffolding" for the painters painting the shed beams. Possibly it wasn't the footprints all over our \$700.00 recently rebuilt wall that annoyed us, but the black paint that was drizzled all over the jump rails.

I would also like to touch on the subject of escalating entry fees. Due to the large amount of work involved in hosting a showjumping programme, understandably various Pony Club committees are examining new ways to overcome this. Fannie Bay Pony Club put the fees up and paid the "Rovers" to help. Darwin Horse and Pony Club offered us a deal, whereas the entry fee was \$3.00 with \$1.00 refundable to every competitor who helped. Hence the Jump Club received a \$50.00 cheque.

Next year the Dressage and Showjumping fees will be \$5.00. The hosting Pony Club will retain \$2.00 and the remaining \$3.00 will go to the Discipline involved in return for the running of the programme on the day. However, for Showjumping competitors who turn up and help put up and take down the jumps, they will be refunded each \$3.00 per entry they

had. For instance; Mr. Bob McSmith enters four events;

He pays	\$20.00
He helps . . .	
He regains	<u>12.00</u>
	\$ 8.00

The Jump Club will retain the outstanding money from the nonhelpers.

The Maiden Shojumping events have proven to be an extremely popular event. Maiden jumps both Junior and Senior play an important role in a showjumping programme and I urge the Pony Club committees to keep them coming.

Another event proving popular, is the Junior and Senior Equitations. I urge the ring committees to keep them coming too, on their Saturday programmes.

The Twilight Jump Meet proved to be a valuable practise for the Royal Show. Although it was no financial gain to the Jump Club it was an evening thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Highlighted by the superb "Pax De Deux" performed by Judy and Lesley. While not claiming to be a Dressage authority, I thought it was polished, professional, very good and extremely entertaining. Thank you ladies.

Just an added note for the people who winged about the \$5.00 practise fee. The Oval cost \$ 85.00  
The Lights cost 517.50  
So the whole exercise cost . . . . . \$602.50

Not to mention the enormous amount of physical effort that went into it. Some of us started at 8.30am that day, and we were still lifting at 9.30pm. Surely you don't have to be a Rhode scholar to see why we saw fit to charge \$5.00.

Now on the Royal, the showjumping stars made up for what the other ring lacked. How wonderful for Copper King to be Champion Jumper again at a Darwin Royal congratulations Steven and Jenny. Congragulations to Rose Law for winning the prestige event of the NT showjumping calander, the Two Round Showjumping Championships. A couple more Pats on the Back while we're at it. To Sara Hallet and Manaquin for the Reserve Champion sash at the Royal and Scott Slatter for winning Champion Jumper at the Noonamah Gymkhana. Scott, Maxine, Elizibeth and Sophie - real future Stars. I urge, urge, urge the relevant people up here to definetely work towards sending a team of these young people away to the Volvo Interhigh School Equestrian Competition at Brisbane next year. They deserve it.

Lastly thanks to the workers in the committee who kept the club upright. Thanks to Secretary Chris Edgoose who tirelessly worked all year. Special thanks to Vice President Rose Law who uncomplainingly stepped in and took over in my absence.

Yours faithfully,  
*Tracy McCann*  
PRESIDENT

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