Reflections on 2013 Cup Day

I MUST say, it was devastating for all concerned and undoubtedly would be the toughest day the club and I personally have ever had. Our immediate priority at the time was to emotionally support the Montgomerie family and just as important was to provide financial certainty for Simone’s daughter Kodah through fundraising.

The response from the industry and the national and, in fact, the international community has been unbelievable. We still work closely with Simone’s parents who are real salt of the earth people who actually have given us as much strength to deal with the situation as hopefully we gave them.

With that we are bouncing back bigger and stronger this year and look forward to a huge day tomorrow.

The Neil Dyer effect

YES, I have to agree that Neil is having a fantastic carnival to date. He has been a great supporter of the Darwin Cup Carnival over many years and has brought 18 horses up this year.

Neil obviously has a great understanding of the type of horse suited to our conditions and the results speak for themselves.

In fact his superstar horse Hawks Bay will be leading the 2014 Darwin Cup field out of the mounting yard at Fannie Bay tomorrow.

What does the future hold?

THE future can be whatever we want it to be as long as we are all on the same page and work together.

Obviously we have a great product at present but with the right financial support we could have racing under lights and improved facilities. This could include an all-weather grass track, which would not only attract more southern visitors but we could see international horses arriving on our doorsteps.

Race meetings under lights are spectacular and could then be co-ordinated as a tourism package for conferences or groups.

But, in the meantime we keep doing what we are doing and stay focused. The Darwin Cup Carnival continues to grow as it has done over many decades.

As I said earlier, it is important to give our whole community a sense of ownership and that is a big part of the success.