

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER**

of an application by **Wanganui Stock Car and Speedway Club Incorporated** for a renewal of Club Licence pursuant to section 127 of the Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

**BEFORE THE WHANGANUI DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The application for renewal of Club Licence (036/CLUB/002/2016.4) was publicly advertised in the Whanganui Chronicle on the 26 February 2026. No objections were received.

No matters of opposition were raised under section 128 and 129 reports; therefore, the matter is considered by the Whanganui District Licensing Commissioner on the papers contained in the full file provided by the secretary.

**Commissioner: Stuart Hylton**

**RESERVED DECISION OF THE WHANGANUI DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**1. Application**

**Wanganui Stock Car and Speedway Club Incorporated** made the application on the prescribed form received on 30 January 2026.

The application for renewal of Club Licence is in relation to the club's premises at Landguard Road, Whanganui.

The general nature of the business is that of a sports (stockcar) club under the umbrella of "Ocean View Speedway". The Club has been licensed for several years. This is the fourth renewal application for this licence by the applicant. The sale and supply of alcohol is not the focus of the club.

The club's social activities, including all licensed activities, are separated from the sporting operations by both design and physical structure, with functions taking place in the dedicated clubrooms. The current undesignated status of the premises appropriately supports the club's hospitality and social needs, particularly as families are often involved in club events. The licensed area is located within their sporting facility, which operates as a motor sports complex.

The renewal seeks to retain all the current conditions. The premise has not come to the notice of officials during the renewal period and there are no reports of opposition.

**Note:** At the last renewal the agencies provided reports that raised issues relating to record keeping being kept and host responsibility signage being displayed. Therefore, it was pleasing read within the Inspectors report that things had improved – *"An inspection for this renewal application was carried out by the Inspector on 24 February 2026. No concerns were identified during the inspection. Historically, the club's records had been limited. During this current term, new compliance records have been established by Jason Pointon. He has advised that the club has a new committee who are still becoming familiar with alcohol licensing requirements. Despite this, the club is committed to improving its practices and maintaining compliance with its obligations."*

The Inspector will continue to check in with the club in future to monitor progress and provide guidance where necessary.

The complete file included –

- The application
- Supporting letter
- Floor plan
- Reports from Police, Medical Officer of Health and Inspector
- Club's Host Responsibility Policy
- Fire Evacuation Scheme letter of compliance from applicant
- Food / Drink list menu
- Copy of current licence
- Notice of renewal
- Copy of public advertisement and premise advertisement

**2. Decision Making**

In consideration of this application for renewal of Club-licence the licensing committee had regard to the criteria under section 131 and 105 of the Act.

**Section 105/131 assessments:**

**(a) the object of this Act:**

The inspector notes that the applicant has supplied a Host Responsibility Policy stating the measures to be undertaken to ensure the responsible sale and supply of alcohol. There have been no issues raised concerning operations so if the policy is followed then compliance with the object of the Act should be able to be achieved.

**(b) the suitability of the applicant:**

The applicant is an incorporated society since 1977 and located on the current site for many years. The applicant has supplied the name of one certified manager for the licence. This is just adequate to manage the licence.

Jason Pointon is responsible for bar operations and licensing matters and is a member of the club committee. Bar service is supported by volunteers who assist as required. The club operates the bar for approximately 40–50 hours per year, reflecting a very low-volume, low-frequency level of alcohol service. During the Inspector's inspection for this renewal application, Mr Pointon confirmed that the bar does not open until after the track has closed. The applicant has also advised that the club will look to appoint an additional duty manager to provide cover if required for the next season, noting that the current season has just ended.

The suitability of the applicant is not challenged.

**(c) any relevant local alcohol policy:**

The Whanganui LAP has been reviewed and adopted. The licence is mostly in compliance with the LAP with some discretionary conditions adopted. The non-compliance is within the hours of opening which is well explained under (d) below.

**(d) the days on which and the hours during which the applicant proposes to sell alcohol:**

The applicant seeks to renew their existing Club On-Licence, including trading hours of -

- **Thursday to Sunday (and all public holidays) from 6:00 PM to 1:00 AM the following day.**

The requested 1:00 AM closing time does not align with the Local Alcohol Policy (LAP), which sets a maximum closing time for clubs at midnight. However, the Inspector is not opposed to the granting of the licence with the requested hours.

A review of previous licensing decisions shows that this extension of an hour has been granted by the District Licensing Committee (DLC) on prior occasions, and there is no evidence or grounds to suggest that the extension would not be appropriate again. The reasons for this position are outlined below.

**Rationale for Extended Hours**

The applicant has explained that racing events frequently conclude after 10:00 PM, and the club bar does not open until racing has finished. As a result, the period available for members to use the bar is limited, members typically do not arrive at the clubrooms until later in the evening.

While the requested 1:00 AM closing time exceeds the LAP's midnight limit, the extension is sought to reflect the practical realities of late racing schedules and the low-risk nature of the club's operations.

**(e) the design and layout of any proposed premises:**

Past CPTED assessments have not raised any issues. An existing floor plan layout appears to function satisfactorily. There is no change to that already licensed and designated. The open design of the main social area provides an easy oversight of all activities by bar management and Club Officers. The Inspector has no concerns relating to the design and layout of the premises. At the time of inspection, 24 February 2026, the venue was found to be working on ensuring their full compliance with their licensed premises requirements.

**(g) whether the applicant is engaged in, or proposes on the premises to engage in, the provision of services other than those directly related to the sale of alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments, and food, and if so, which services:**

Currently the focus is on sport, namely speedway.

**(j) whether the applicant has appropriate systems, staff, and training to comply with the law:**

Previous operations have been satisfactory and therefore systems seem appropriate. The applicant has indicated staff have a good understanding of the Act.

**(k) any matters dealt with in any report from the Police, an inspector, or a Medical Officer of Health made under [section 103](#). (see 3 below)**

**(s.131(1)(b))whether (in its opinion) the amenity and good order of the locality would be likely to be increased, by more than a minor extent, by the effects of a refusal to renew the licence:**

No issues raised and amenity and good order should not be compromised by the renewal of the licence.

**(s.131(1)(d))the manner in which the applicant has sold (or, as the case may be, sold and supplied), displayed, advertised, or promoted alcohol.**

No issues raised within file.

**3 Reporting Agencies**

The following reports were received under section 103 and 129 of the Act and considered during the decision.

**3.1 Police** – No opposition within report received on 8 February 2026.

**3.2 Medical Officer of Health** - Report received on 27 February 2026 of no opposition.

**3.2 Licensing Inspector** – Full report dated 8 April 2026. The inspector is satisfied the application is complete and has no opposition to the renewal application with suggested conditions.

#### **4 Conclusion**

Based on the evidence provided to me within the complete file, my assessment above of section 105/131 matters and the past operation of the premise/licensee, I conclude that the application meets the statutory criteria to be granted a renewal of Club-licence under the Act for a period of three (3) years.

#### **5. Decision**

The licence can be issued subject to the conditions recommended by the Inspector.

The renewal application is **Approved** for issue immediately.

**Dated at Whanganui District this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.**

**Signed**



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**Stuart Hylton**  
**Whanganui District Licensing Commissioner**

