



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management*



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WHAT HAPPENED TO...

The Autumn racing season in Australia has not only given OTI an ATC Derby GR1 winner in QUICK THINKER, but another milestone in the 100th Stakes winner for OTI.

In fact, thanks to the GR3 win of the Easter Cup by INVERLOCH we are already up to 101!

Founded in 1999, by Terry Henderson and Simon O'Donnell, the continued success of OTI would not be possible without the loyal support of our fellow owners, and services of trainers, vets, agents and others.

This weekend of racing will see OTI aiming to record a Group winner for the fourth consecutive week.

During these testing times globally, the governing bodies in Australia are doing a remarkable job to keep the show on the road. Long may it continue.

A busy Saturday with runners in five states, and Group runners in three.

### At Randwick:

ATC Derby Winner **QUICK**

**THINKER** returns to the track for R4 Frank Packer Plate GR3 over 2000m. Ridden once again by Opie Bosson, he has drawn barrier 10.

**NIGHT'S WATCH** has drawn barrier 5 in R6 JRA Plate over 2000m with Opie Bosson in the saddle. The horse is well, and from that draw we are hoping for an economical run through the race getting ready to finish off strongly.

### At Caulfield:

**BENITOITE** races in R5 The Vobis Gold Mile for Clinton McDonald and Damien Oliver. An unlucky 3rd on her last start she should run well.

### At Morphettville:

**SELICA** takes her place in R8 Auraria Stakes Gr3 over 1800m Kayla Crowther aboard. Connections are happy with her progress, with the Australasian Oaks her main target.

### At Doomben:

**MASTER ZEPHYR** takes his place in the open handicap over 1640m for jockey Dale Smith from barrier 2.

### At Ascot:

**LORD FANDANGO** runs in the Western Australia Cup over 3200m. Brad Parnham rides. He draws barrier 5 in the contest, and should be most competitive

On Monday, **MY SWASHBUCKLER** trials for the first time in Australia for Kris Lees. Group 2 placed in France we look forward to seeing him trial.

Might and Power has died after a bout of colic. The 1997 Caulfield and Melbourne Cup winner has enjoyed retirement at Living Legends since his final race in 1999.

New Zealand announces an aim to start on July 1st at a reduced network of tracks close to areas of horse population. Removal of nominations/acceptances fees will be implemented during the initial period.

UK racing suspended indefinitely, though hopes remain that racing will take place behind closed doors before June. Plans are in place for a return to racing, once appropriate and with government approval. Suggestions include regional centres of racing.

Jockeys in Australia are making arrangements to self isolate in order to ride in different locations. Johnny Allen and Ethan Brown have elected to ride in the Adelaide Festival of Racing. Kathy O'Hara, Jay Ford and Koby Jennings out of the Sydney zone.

## INVERLOCH

Inverloch claims the GR3 Easter Cup at Caulfield for Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young



## Q&A CHARLIE DUCKWORTH - CHRIS WALLER RACING

### **Where did you grow up, and how did you get involved in racing?**

I grew up in West Ilsley which is a little village 1h30 outside of London which has many racing connections. It was the Queen's private training facility, and where Major Dick Hern trained, and now where Mick Channon trains. It was through Mick that I got involved in the sport. As a child, I'd go and ride horses back from the gallops, and then as I progressed I ended up riding work for him. I also had a few rides as an amateur while I was still at school.

### **How did you end up in Australia?**

There was more opportunity in Australia, I had been assistant trainer to Ralph Beckett and didn't see much progression for me in the industry in the UK at the time. I felt there would be more opportunity for me in another country. I'd already worked in Ireland and the USA, so it was a logical move to try and work in Australia.

### **What are the differences between racing in Europe, and Australia?**

There are massive differences between the two. At home the racing is more seasonal. You are not racing 52 weeks a year which adds enormous pressure for us here, but then again we are racing for enormous money so it is hard to complain. Another difference in racing styles is the tempo, and the tightness in the way races are run here. It is a lot looser at home, with a lot more space for horses. Quite often European horses get here, and feel like they are being crowded in their races, even when they are experienced. The training facilities are also wildly different, as you never train on the track in Europe. Most train from yards that they own and rent, in places like Newmarket, Chantilly or the Curragh and you simply pay a fee to use the various gallops. The training centres are in the country too, rather than in cities like here.

### **Favourite aspect of training racehorses?**

Seeing their progression from a yearling. International imports are also for us a black canvass. I enjoy trying to nurture them through to the races, and seeing their physical as well as mental development.



Charlie Duckworth & Chris Waller

### **What is your role for Chris Waller Racing?**

I started out as just as a track rider, with two afternoons in the stables and office respectively. The role has now evolved into being somewhere between his assistant trainer/racing manager and business manager. The job is broad from checking the horses, and whether they've eaten up, to their work schedule and I'm also across the business side to ensure we are being as efficient as possible, and employing the best.

### **What makes Chris such a special trainer to work for? What does he really excel at?**

His attention to detail is incredible, he walks past a horse quickly and he notices everything with a single glance. He is a very fair person to work for. He rewards hard work.

### **What is a typical day for Charlie Duckworth?**

Leave home at 3.30am and will be at track-work from 4am-8am. After that I'm in the office working on nominations etc, organising work sheets for all 4 stables across Australia. That and all the client relations takes me through to about 4/5pm. They are long days but well worth it!

### **If you have time, how do you relax away from work?**

I'm very fortunate to live on a little property with my girlfriend, and in my spare time I help her with her two warmbloods which she shows jumps. I'm a terrible tradesman but I enjoy working on the property and learning new skills and crafts. I've built a fire pit. Bricklaying is a new skill I can now claim to have!



## JOHN HAMMOND ON ANDRE FABRE

In any sporting arena the stats would be phenomenal. Andre Fabre is an extraordinary thirty times champion trainer in his native country, his brilliance matched only by his longevity. Winner of Europe's premier race the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe on eight occasions he has also won all of the English classics.

Born in the final year of the second world war André's family had no connection with racing. A law degree did not pre-empt a legal career, instead having begun riding out for leading jumps trainer André Adele at weekends he gravitated to race riding initially as a amateur and then as a professional jockey. After winning 250 races, he turned his hand to training. Starting with jumpers and the Grand Steeple de Paris four times from 1980 to 1983, he switched to the flat in 1984.

Statistics alone do not tell the story. I have always said that André is the only trainer I know who if he wasn't training horses would be running a multinational company. I have only met him briefly but suspect Chris Waller might be in that category too. Maybe the rigour of his education in Germany brings a discipline to his day to day training operation that results in long during and consistent success? Young horses are like children, structure and repetition gives them security and allows them to develop their potential.

If I was asked to describe André's training in one word, it would be 'rhythm'. The horses are never surprised. They know what to expect and although trained like soldiers they are viewed as individuals. He has an uncanny sense too of when a horse is struggling with the rhythm and when he needs time out, sometimes not even for very long but the foot is released from the pedal and the horse is allowed to catch his breath and effectively digest what he is being asked to do.

On the racecourse André is a believer in what you see is what you have. Apart from blatant jockey errors not too many excuses will be made for the horses. Yes sometimes a change of trip is needed, sometimes a change of track but by and large André will accept that the finishing position in the race is a true reflection of the horse's ability. Consequently the horses, once their ability is established will be running in the category where they belong. Nothing discourages a horse more than being continually over faced, running in better company than they should be. The enjoyment of playing tennis wears thin if you get a hiding every time you put a foot on the court.

No better example of the Fabre nurturing method is there than his training of three year old colts.



Maybe the best example is Sagamix. His first race was early in the year, 14th March over 2400m. He won, his second race was five weeks later, a winners race again over 2400m. Another win and at this point André realised he had a horse with real potential but who needed time and wasn't ready to be thrown in the deep end. He told the owner that he wanted to bypass the French Derby and 'put him away' until the autumn. The horse wasn't spelled but didn't reappear until September when he won the Prix Niel Gr2. The fourth race of his life was the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe which he duly won. It was a master class.

Personally André is a shy man who can appear aloof until getting to know him at which point you discover a person who is charming, very humble in light of his extraordinary success, erudite and at times extremely funny. He is an excellent mimic, but those he has no time for are not left unaware of the fact. He is extremely well read and knowledgeable constantly producing fascinating nuggets of political, social or military history.

Much has been made of a long running feud with the French racing press with whom he does not communicate although, possibly just to bate the racing journos in France, he is quite happy to speak to the foreign racing press. However, as the old cliché goes, his horses do the talking. They have run with metronome consistency and at a world class strike rate for forty years. He is every punters friend, verbal platitudes are unnecessary.

## AN INDUSTRY VIEW

**3 Minutes  
with Matt Stewart**

Listen to Matt's thoughts on a Spring Carnival without International Raiders.



## FUN & GAMES

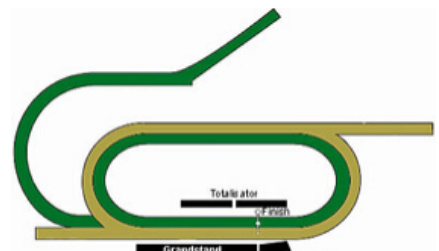
1. How old was Might and Power when he died last week?
2. Prior to 2020 Willaim Haggas had trained a winner in Australia. Who was it?
3. Who won the 2019 running of the Champagne Stakes at Randwick?

### WHO IS THIS?



- Winner of the Lexus Gr3
- By Cape Cross out of Sea Creature
- British trained winner at Flemington

## NAME THE RACECOURSE?



*Hint - Host to the Equestrian Disciplines during the 1984 Olympic Games*



## AND ANOTHER MILESTONE...

This one is in the form of a classically bred colt by Mastercraftsman. Milestone, the horse has recently joined us from Andre Fabre's stable in Chantilly Bred by Ballymore Stables in Ireland, he's a winner and stakes placed. He now poised to make his mark in Australia.

Let us know if you would like more information.

[oti@oti.com.au](mailto:oti@oti.com.au)



## WHAT HAPPENED TO....

As a part of our commitment to equine welfare, we continue to document the lives of all of our past racehorses.

### ROMANESQUE

The big boy 'Romanesque' has fitted in seamlessly to Kelly Dubberley's property in Ballarat, who also held ownership in the gelding during his racing days. Taken back by the horse's most gentle 'cat like' temperament, Kelly shared that the son of Montjeu 'is loving life in his day paddock and retreats to his stable and feed bin at night.' Kelly has already begun winter preparations for the 7-year-old, with extra rugs ordered in advance to prepare for the 'Irish' like winter sure to be felt in Ballarat.



For more information on the OTI Equine Welfare Program follow the [link](#).

### QUIZ RESULT

1. 26
2. Fastnet Tempest, who raced for OTI
3. Castelvechio

### WHO IS THIS?

Ruscello

### THE RACECOURSE

Santa Anita, California  
Home to several runnings of the Breeders Cup. Located at the foot of the San Gabriel mountains Seabiscuit ended his career at the track when winning the Santa Anita Handicap in 1940.

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