



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

WELCOME

OTI NEWS

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EUROPE
JOHN HAMMOND

FUN & GAMES

WHAT HAPPENED TO..

Whilst everything around us is changing, the racing continues albeit under a different guise. Thanks to a huge amount of effort from all across the board from trainers, jockeys, and strappers to the officials and racing jurisdictions we continue to race.

The Autumns Championships at Randwick commence this weekend, whilst with a reduced prize fund, we applaud the ATC for all their efforts in ensuring we can race, and we look forward to a number of runners in OTI silks over the weekend.

In Europe, racing has been abandoned due to the severity of the situation but horses continue to train. Ed Dunlop, who trains in Newmarket released a video update on the situation and efforts made to ensure a safe environment for all, as well as the keeping up staff morale in this very testing time. Follow the link to watch the video.

ED DUNLOP VIDEO LINK

OTI NEWS

What a Saturday at Rosehill! Two Group winners thanks to **QUICK THINKER** & **NIGHT'S WATCH**.

This weekend there are nominations across four states including :

At Randwick, **GALLIC CHIEFTAIN** defends his title in R5 Chairman's Quality Group 2 over 2600m for Archie Alexander, and Jason Collett. Drawn barrier 1, his preparation has gone well since doing his best work at the end in the Mornington Prelude. **QUICK THINKER** lines up in barrier 6 in R7 ATC Derby Group 1 over 2400m for Murray Baker, and Andrew Forsman with Opie Bosson in the saddle. He steps up in trip after winning the Tulloch Stakes Gr2 last week over 2000m. **NIGHT'S WATCH** will run in R9 The Doncaster Mile Group 1 for Chris Waller and Adam Hyeronimus, after an excellent win in the Neville Sellwood Gr2 over 2000m. Drawn on the outside, he will have to work his way through the field.

At Caulfield, **INVERLOCH** races in R2 for Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young. Second at his last start, he runs over 2400m. **BENITOITE** runs in R8 and this filly is back on her home track and after a very good 4th in top company in the Coolmore Classic Gr1 last start.

The State government in Tasmania suspended all three codes of racing for four weeks as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Good news appears to be coming from New Zealand with talk of racing resuming in the South Island in early May, and the North Island in June.

In Europe, the relevant authorities are in talks with stakeholders and government and have plans in motion for a return to racing once there appear to be less of stress of the health services. This is very likely to be initially behind closed doors.

Inglis Easter Yearling Sales will take place next week starting Tuesday 7th April. The auction will take the format of a virtual sale with an auctioneer at the sales ring at the Riverside complex with participants able to bid via phone or online.

QUICK THINKER

A convincing winner of the Tulloch Stakes GR2 at Rosehill.



NIGHT'S WATCH

Returning to winning way in the Neville Sellwood GR3 at Rosehill.



Q & A ROGER JAMES

How did you get involved in Horse Racing ?

I was lucky enough to grow up on a farm in North Canterbury in middle of South Island, and took up riding from an early age, and competed at a high level in show jumping, but growing up horse racing not really in my sights. After leaving college I was in banking for 7 to 8 years. Fortunately our farm was an hour from Christchurch and I commuted daily for the whole of that period, and could continue to compete. Eventually I followed my heart, and came to the North Island and went to a connection and spent 2 and a half years breaking in with a fantastic horseman in Kit Davison.

What do you love most of training race horses?

They are a wonderful animal, and every horse is different and you have to treat every horse as a individual. Training only 40 as I do I feel I can do that and get every horse to optimise its ability. As well as that you get to meet some incredible people from all walks of life and we all have that same passion for horses.

What is your proudest achievement, or race that gives you most satisfaction when you look back on your career thus far?

A race that gives me most satisfaction is the NZ Derby, and I've been won 5 so far. I named my stables Kingclere after the village in the UK where most Derby winners had been trained. It is now where Andrew Balding trains.

Has having a understanding and background in other equestrian backgrounds given you an edge when it comes to training racehorses?

Being able to teach riders to educate the horses from a young age, and ensuring the horses are balanced and using themselves correctly has been invaluable, and a real asset.

What makes NZ bred horses so special?

I think the fact there are reared naturally. Very rarely are we short of grass, and they develop good bone, and normally pretty sound. Also horseman in NZ are what helps, they are patient, and horses are not pressured early, and I think that is why he horses excel as 3yo's and upwards.

Two years ago you brought Robert Wellwood in to the training partnership. What benefits has this brought to Kingsclere Stables?

We've had to put a lot rules in place for staff, and checking on their living arrangements to make sure people understood that they really needed to isolate outside of work, and how important it was. We are doing temperature checks before work in the mornings and afternoons too. We've changed routines at the track too, keeping the horses and staff separated as much as possible.



Robert Wellwood & Roger James

New Zealand has entered complete lockdown due to Covid 19, what has happened to the horses in training, and your staff?

We were having the best season we've had in 10/12 years with runners in Aus/NZ last weekend with very decent chances and overnight I sent all 40 fit and healthy horses out to spell, as well as guaranteeing to my 12 staff that I would keep them on. It was pretty tough on the emotions, and the bank balance.

Why is Cambridge ideal for training horses in NZ?

Waikato is synonymous with the thoroughbred being the hub of the breeding world in NZ. Cambridge is the 2nd biggest training centre in Australasia with 1000 horses, and with the best facilities and experts, and many racecourses relatively near. We sit on the edge of the beautiful Lake Karapiro. It is stunning part of the country, it was voted the best small town in NZ.

If you were to recommned once racecourse to visit in New Zealand what would it be?

It would definitely be Ellerslie in the summer with the parade area with the big English trees. It is a stunning racecourse, and quite a peculiar being a bit undulating with a big turn into the home straight, and a reasonably tight turn out of it, and a dog leg turn out of the back. The big steeplechase races are also quite a spectacle at Ellerslie.

REFLECTIONS FROM EUROPE

As a young boy I remember watching the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) on the TV and being amazed that the race seemed to take place in the grounds of an amazing Castle/Chateau. Going in to the final bend, in a blur the field of horses streams past 'Les Grand Ecuries' for a few seconds surely the most amazing backdrop of any racecourse worldwide.



Literally 'Les Grand Ecuries' translates as 'The big stables' but as all those who have seen them will say, they are so much more than that. 186 metres long, elegant, symmetrical and beautifully ornate if I told you it was a five star hotel situated on Lake Como you would be unsurprised. But it was built to house horses. Louis Henri Bourbon, Prince de Condé was convinced he would be reincarnated as a horse so perfectly logically he decided he would build himself a suitable pad and in 1720 the first stones on the magnificent building were laid.

However it would be another hundred years before racing as we know it started in Chantilly. The 5th of May 1834 was the first day of racing on the oldest racecourse in France followed only two years later by the inauguration of the Prix du Jockey Club, the French Derby.



John Hammond

Effectively it belongs to the 'Institute de France' and is leased to France Galop who are responsible for the organisation of the racing, the centre piece of which is the first two weeks in June when the Prix du Jockey Club and Prix de Diane (French Oaks) are run. Curiously, unlike elsewhere, the Prix de Diane is regarded as the more prestigious race even if the prize money doesn't necessarily reflect that. Ladies first in France it would seem!

From when I first came to France in 1986 the track was in gradual decline until the late nineties when for a while there was even the question of it being shut down.

Hard to believe when you see the stunning setting but those at the helm in Paris regarded Longchamp as their crown jewels and rather looked down their noses at Chantilly. Consequently a rear guard action was fought by the locals and with the invaluable financial and political aid of the Aga Khan the track was not only saved but renovated with a facelift that gutted the main stands but retained the original exterior. It would have been a great shame to see it close.

The training grounds of Chantilly comprise of three villages, Coye la Foret, Lamorlaye and Chantilly linked together by sand tracks and all accessible on horse back. Only 35 miles from Paris it stretches over a total of 5,000 acres.

The main grass gallops, called Les Aigles, span 260 acres and were created in 1800. Beautifully maintained, after each day the divots are meticulously replaced and the work track moved to fresh grass for future work.

With the sun streaming down through the canopy of trees lining the walking paths in the forest Chantilly is a paradise for the 2000 horses trained there.

It is a must visit for any racing aficionado who comes racing in France!



FUN & GAMES

Which horse running on Day 1 of The Autumn Championships at Randwick has won stakes races on three different continents?

Phar Lap had 51 starts in his career. How many wins? 44, 41, 37

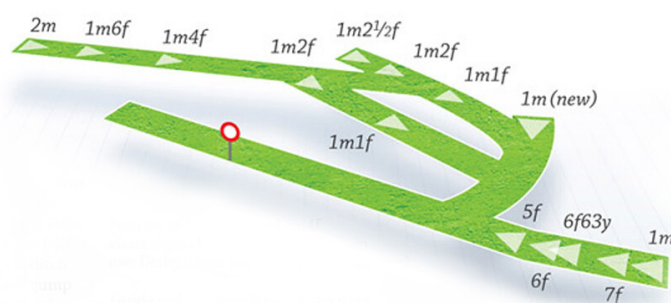
Which trainer's first Gr1 winner was Triple Honour in the Doncaster?

WHO IS THIS?



- Winner of the Geelong Cup G3 in 2008
- By Halling out of Dali's Grey
- Winner of \$1,196,115

NAME THE RACECOURSE?



Hint- Home to the 5 Classics and translated as 'place of the running horse'



Answers on final page.

OPPORTUNITIES REMAIN IN MELBOURNE CUP WINNING RELATION

OTI recently released to market the NZ-bred yearling filly by Vadamos out of Penthouse Princess, the full-sister of Melbourne Cup winner Prince of Penzance.

NZ-based trainer Roger James has been amazed at this filly's attitude and behavioral attributes during the early stages of her handling. We have high hopes for her racing future in both New Zealand and Australia.

For further details, please visit our [website](#) and register your interest.



WHAT HAPPENED TO....

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

TRISTANO

A three-time winner on the track, Tristano is thriving in his new environment at the Vengeance Performance Horses complex under the care of Jess Schneider.

He has continued to impress Jess as he has progressed effortlessly through their highly regarded 'Off The Track' re-education program.

With his graduation from their re-training program imminent, he will soon find himself in another new home as he continues his second career post racing.



For more information on the OTI Equine Welfare Program follow the link.

[EQUINE WELFARE](#)

QUIZ RESULT

1. Con Te Partiro
2. 37
3. Chris Waller

WHO IS THIS?

Bauer

THE RACECOURSE

The Curragh

The Curragh Racecourse in Ireland is located on the Curragh Plains which covers 2000 acres. It also was the set for the battle scenes in Braveheart.

OTI Management Pty. Ltd.

204/425 Docklands Drive | Docklands | VIC | 3008 | Australia

oti@oti.com.au | +61 (0) 3 96700255

hermione@oti.com.au