



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

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WHAT HAPPENED TO...

After talking to Her Majesty The Queen this week, Prime Minister Scott Morrison mentioned that she was pleased to see racing continue in Australia. She is pictured above at Royal Randwick talking to Ron Quinton and Hilton Cope before the QEII Stakes in 1970.

With that in mind, we hope she was watching the Warrnambool Cup on Wednesday to see Carlton House sire the winner Too Close The Sun. Carlton House ran in HM The Queen's colours, and was a close third in the Epsom Derby in 2011 much to the nation's disappointment.

Sadly she will not be able to attend her favourite race meeting Royal Ascot this year due to the pandemic restrictions, but she will be able to continue watching Australian Racing, and in time European Racing on television like us all when it returns behind closed doors.

OTI continues on and off the track with exciting purchases including the half brother to Te Akau Shark, Akatino, an impressive winner in Germany, and Rider In The Snow, a highly talented French middle distance horse.

OTI NEWS

Following on from the Warrnambool Carnival, OTI will have runners in Victoria and Western Australia this weekend.

At Caulfield:

SOUTHERN ROCK runs in R6 Bert Bryant Handicap over 1600m for Archie Alexander and Jordan Childs. Drawn in barrier 9, he races for the first time in Australia having won four races in the UK. A horse with a lot of ability, he will gain a lot from this first preparation.

At Ascot:

LORD FANDANGO runs in R8 Eurythmic Stakes over 2100m for Lindsey Smith, and jockey Brad Parnham. He is drawn in barrier 1.

On Sunday at Ballarat:

GREGORIAN CHANT will hopefully get a start in the BM64 over 1200m from barrier 14 for Mitch Freedman and Beau Mertens. Currently third emergency, there has already been one scratching.

Next week in France:

SAN HUBERTO has a nomination at Lyon over 2400m in the Listed Prix Bedel for Francois Chappet.

THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART



Matt Stewart reflects on the success of the Warrnambool Carnival and the importance of country racing.

[WATCH](#)

The Inglis Chairman's was held yesterday, and at the time of writing the clearance rate of the 90 lot elite broodmare sale was less than 50%. A concerning time for the breeders.

French Racing resumes on Monday with three meetings at Longchamp, Toulouse and Compiègne with 1069 horses entered to race. The first meetings to take place since March will include Group 3 Prix de la Fontainebleau at Longchamp.

German racing returned after a false start to Hanover on Thursday with jockeys wearing facemasks, as well as all others in attendance.

Irish racing encountered an obstacle in their return to racing with the government announcing sport cannot resume before June 29. Racing authorities are cautiously optimistic they can persuade officials to allow the industry to return sooner. British Racing remains hopeful of a return in mid May.

Richard 'Darby' McCarthy has died. A jockey, and winner of three Stradbrokes, as well as the AJC Derby and Epsom in 1969 he rode for a time in Europe as well. Inducted into the Queensland Hall of Fame in 2004, he was an inspiration for indigenous sportspeople with the Darby McCarthy scholarship awarded each year.

WINNER



BLUE OCEAN

A fine maiden win at Werribee, he may now be aimed the Mahogany Series.

Q&A PHILL CATALDO

Where did you grow up and were you surrounded by horses from a young age?

I grew up in Wellington, the capital of New Zealand and home of the famed Trentham racecourse. I wasn't surrounded by horses as such, however my father raced horses most his life in partnership with the Muollo brothers, Tony and Carl. They bred and raced the dual Group One winner Kingston Bay. I spent most school holidays in the racing stables growing up and had an instant love for the animal.

How did you get involved in the horse racing industry, and did you always want to be a bloodstock agent over a trainer etc?

I grew up in a household where racing was a constant topic of conversation. Through my Father's ownership interest and regular raceday attendance I got to know many people in the industry from a young age. Through my late Father In Law - Bill Wylie the opportunity arose to sell horses via his main owner the late Dr. Bill Luey who bred the great Veandercross. From that point in time I always wanted to be a bloodstock agent.

What is the role of a bloodstock agent?

Primarily it involves buying horses at the best value for your clients, but beyond that that is may include an advisory role managing your clients horses, organising valuations for sales purposes and insurance, as well as airfreight when necessary. Each clients needs are different but generally that's it.

How do you prepare for a sale at public auction?

Prior to the sales I am on the road looking at horses on the farms before they arrive on the sales grounds. This makes the process of elimination a lot easier and allows more time for closer inspections of the "shortlist" once they arrive on site. As well as the physical confirmation inspections, a significant amount of time is spend doing pedigree research, and finding any catalogue update that may go unnoticed by others and devising a strategy to buy.

When looking to buy a racehorse what are you looking for?

Confirmation is very important and I like a good shoulder, and girth. Athleticism, speed, movement are vital, and so is a sound temperament.



You specialise in buying horses off the track, how do you source the horses?

I go to most trial and race meetings, along with attending track work, visiting stables and farms. I am forever watching races, and studying the form to unearth opportunity to buy. Terry and I have been working together for 15 years, and one of our first purchases Kibbutz (VRC Derby) came off a trial win and from that point we have had a steady flow of above average performers.

Why is NZ such a brilliant source of racehorses?

Our tried and true bloodlines for producing high class middle distance racehorses, along with fertile land, grass growth and rainfall combined produce durable racehorses. The quality of our horsemen and horsewomen is also outstanding.

How has COVID-19 affected your business?

With the suspension of races and trials the supply of horses for sale has been in decline, but I've kept busy rewatching races prior to lockdown to check I've not missed a good horse.

How will NZ racing return after the pandemic?

A difficult one to answer. July 1st is the date we resume. This will be the middle of winter. The programmes are to be limited to 6 races per day and less meetings are scheduled. In my opinion this will leave a lot of horses wanting to gain a start and not enough races which is not ideal for owners, trainers or betting turnover.

However I'm sure come carnival time again in the Melbourne spring, NZ horses will again - "punch beyond their weight".

JOHN HAMMOND ON LESTER PIGGOTT

The reason for my career taking the path that it did was largely down to Lester. I was jobless having just returned from a spell of working in racing in California and bumped in to Lester who I had got to know through a mutual friend. "You got any plans?" "Not really" I replied. "Why don't you go and work for this Fabre fellow in France? He's very good you know, winning lots of races, I'll give him a call for you." he replied and kindly he did and off I went to France. I saw plenty of Lester, as it was the year when he spent much of his time in France riding for André.

One of my jobs as a very junior, kind of assistant was to pick up Lester at the airport and take him to the races. Being semi skint my transportation finances stretched only to a weather worn Austin Mini. The guys on car park duty at the races could never understand how this icon of the racing world would arrive as he did in this tiny nondescript car and not a chauffeur driven Mercedes. As for the great man himself, not a bother on him, he merely wanted to get from A to B and have a bit of a chat along the way. In private he was surprisingly talkative.

Often we would make a brief stop at the smart Parisian flat of Souren Vanian. A larger than life character, literally. Of French/Armenian origin I always thought he made his fortune from car dealerships in parts of Africa, but Wikipedia describes him as an arms dealer.

Whatever, he loved his racing and much of his fortune went on a string of racehorses and broodmares. We would swing by at midday and Souren would appear direct from his bedroom in the most voluminous pair of pyjamas I'd ever seen. He would offer us coffee and fruit and tap Lester for some tips on the upcoming racing we were heading for at Longchamp. In exchange the great man would be offered the opportunity to wander over to the magnificent ornate fireplace and help himself to a fistful of large Monte Cristo cigars from the box on the mantelpiece. We'd only stay for fifteen minutes or so. Effectively it was just a pitstop to load up on cigars!

Later, when I started training I was fortunate that he was still riding, or should I say riding again? He retired in 1985 to start training but made a comeback to riding five years later having undergone a mini 'fiscal blip'. In those days there was no all weather racing so when the flat finished in the UK in early November that was it.

My phone rang just before the last weekend of the month, it was Lester. "You running anything this weekend?" I knew what was coming but all I had to run was a seven year old gelding in a second division handicap who at the best of times was no jockey's favourite ride. "I'll come over" was the reply.

No one was paying his expenses and even if the horse won he would barely break even on the trip but he was sitting at home bored and riding racehorses even at fifty five was still what he loved. I remember him saying to one jockey considering retirement "You'll miss it, you know." He knew, he had.



Contrary to what some have said over the years when Lester was hard on a horse in a finish, he genuinely likes horses and respects them. He knew when they were giving their all or when they weren't. Getting The Minstrel up on the line in the 1979 Derby he gave him the machine gun treatment in the final ten strides but he said to me years later "he wasn't all out you know"

At other times he was criticised for dropping his hands too soon but in reality he was never one to force a horse when he knew it was empty and its chance was gone.

We all know the amazing statistics, he rode his first winner aged twelve then followed 9 Derbies, 11 times jockey championships, and he was without doubt the best big race jockey most of us have ever seen. But intrinsically he was deeply passionate about what he did and the horses that he rode. He understood them. Maybe that was why he was quite so good.

In public he was a man of few words but they were often well chosen and well timed. One occasion in Newmarket when faced with an irate trainer (of a small string of horses) after dismounting from a beaten favourite who said, at the end of his tirade "you'll never ride for me again" the reply came, "well I guess I'd better retire then."

Or being asked in Washington when he won the DC International on Karabas in 1969, a feat in those days, he was asked at what point did he think the horse would win, "two weeks ago" he said with a smile. At the height of his career he was a household name in England, enigmatic and dominant in his sport. Indeed, every year the question of what Lester would ride in the Derby generated as much newsprint as the race itself.

Appropriately for the country where many of you will be reading this his last winner was in Canberra in March 1995. After spending much of his life surviving on coffee and cigars (he was tall for a jockey) I hear he now requests cheese soufflé or black pudding for lunch!

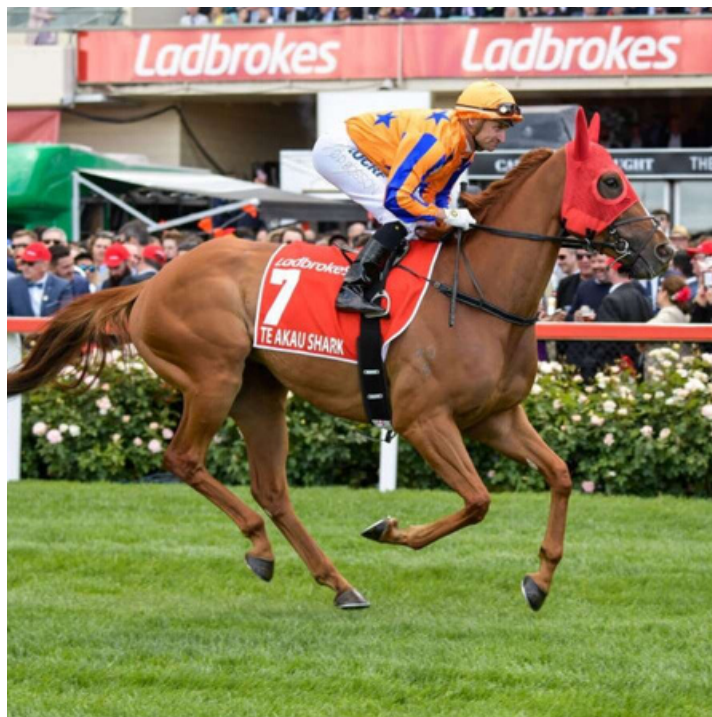
OTI TO RACE HALF-BROTHER TO TE AKAU SHARK

A recent addition to the OTI Stable is a Redwood yearling colt out of Bak da Chief.

He will be trained in Sydney by Chris Waller.

In New Zealand this week, our agent Phill Cataldo inspected the colt, and sent this [video](#).

For more information contact us
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FUN & GAMES

QUIZ

1. Which Australian jockey has recorded the most Group 1 wins worldwide?
2. In which country was 2019 Warrnambool Cup winner Furrion born?
3. What are the three legs of the American Triple Crown?

WHO IS THIS?



- Winner of the GR2 Blamey Stakes
- By Acclamaion out of Laxlova
- Winner of \$671,983

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Known as the Roodee



THE EGG CHALLENGE



Terry challenged Hermione, and she did not falter!

WATCH

The Egg Challenge originated in Ireland as a fundraiser to send 1 year old Dan Donoher to the USA for life saving treatment for Spinal Muscular Dystrophy. 2.1 Million Euros has been raised, and other charities have since been chosen.

Many of the racing community in Europe have been downing eggs, and challenge has now reached Australia!

WHAT HAPPENED TO...

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

HIGH BRIDGE

After succumbing to a career ending injury earlier this year, High Bridge has settled in beautifully to Kristen and Simon Lenehan's property in Garvoc.

Kristen shared that 'he is getting treated like a king by our 13-year-old daughter Charlotte and she is incredibly happy to have him here!' We look forward to following High Bridge's progress as he enjoys life post-racing.



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

WHO IS THIS?

Lidari

QUIZ RESULT

1. George Moore
2. Great Britain
3. Kentucky Derby, Preakness & Belmont Stakes

THE RACECOURSE

Chester Racecourse, England
Britains oldest racecourse dating back to 1539. The track is just over 1 mile round, and the straight measures just over 239 metres.

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