



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management*



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WHAT HAPPENED TO...

Records were broken in the South Australian Derby when Russian Camelot became the first northern hemisphere born three year old to win a classic in Australia. An extraordinary feat for a horse at least six months younger than his opposition, and it highlighted the strength and superiority of the northern hemisphere bred horses in staying contests.

OTI owned and northern hemisphere bred **HARBOUR VIEWS** races today in South Australia and is displaying the right attributes to dream of a fruitful spring. Born in Europe, he was unraced until arriving in Australia when winning his maiden on debut.

The broodmare and weanling sales season has started in Australia, though in different circumstances to normal years with virtual, and online sales. Magic Millions aim to hold their sale at a delayed date in late July.

Racing resumed in France this week, and saw a number of classic trials take place. John Hammond reviews the return on page four of this newsletter.

# OTI NEWS

Racing today will see OTI have runners in South Australia and Queensland.

At Morphettville:

**HARBOUR VIEWS** runs in R7 RA Lee Stakes Group 3 over 1600m for Matthew Williams and with John Allen in the saddle from barrier 5. Third at his last start when returning from a spell, he is expected to run well.

At the Gold Coast:

**LE JUGE** carries top weight in R2 Open Handicap over 2200m for Chris Waller and jockey Michael Cahill. Third at his previous two starts we hope he can go a few places better.

Looking ahead to next week.

On Wednesday at Ballarat:

**TRENCH WARFARE** looks to follow up on his impressive maiden win with a run in the 1600m BM64 for Matt Cumani.

**DARVIN** has an entry in the BM70 over 2000m for Matthew Williams.

**AU PAIR** is nominated in the 1600m maiden for fillies and mares for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young.

**PERONNE** has two nominations for his debut in Australia in a 1600m BM64 and 2000m BM70 for Symon Wilde.

Also on Wednesday at Randwick:

**MY SWASHBUCKLER** makes his debut in Australia for Kris Lees over 1550m in the BM74.

The Victorian Government have announced aid of \$16 Million to the racing industry to aid the recovery from COVID-19. It will assist in halting further prize money cuts, and maintain funding for racetracks.

In New Zealand, The Minister for Racing Winston Peters pledged \$72.5 million in an emergency support package to the industry but the week also saw the closure of racecourses including Avondale for the season..

British Government announced that professional sport could not return before June 1st. The BHA has formulated a schedule for a return to racing with the Guineas meeting being set for the first weekend in June, and the Derby and Oaks on the first weekend in July. Royal Ascot remains set to take place on its original date. Prize money cuts have been announced across the board with the biggest cuts of 50% being in Group 1 races.

Irish Racing is cautiously optimistic that government will allow racing to return sooner than June 29 which is the plan at present.

Racing returned to California yesterday with racing taking place at Santa Anita for the first time since March 27th.

## THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART



[WATCH](#)

Matt Stewart discusses the level of anticipation surrounding this year's Spring Carnival

# Q&A LIZZIE JELFS

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

I grew up in Oxford, UK and was surrounded by ponies from a young age. I joined the local Pony Club, and I became obsessed with horses, but I didn't come from a family involved in the business.



## **How did you get involved in the horse racing industry?**

I was looking at a British Horse Racing website and came across the trainer Charlie Egerton, and wrote to him amongst others. He was the first person to call me back, and initially offered me a few weeks work experience. He has been a great friend, and he connected me with Lindsay Park, and that is how I came to Australia. I owe 'Edgy' a lot!

## **You travelled the world with racehorses when working for David Hayes. What did your role involve?**

My role was really to deputise for the trainer, and I'd talk to David daily to tell him what the track was like, how the horse had travelled and how it had worked. I'd follow his instructions for the training regime as well as attending barrier draws, and all the media responsibilities. I travelled to Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, New Zealand and the UK. It was the best time!

## **Do you miss being hands on with the horses?**

I do miss it, but I get my fix by playing a bit of polo, and I enjoy riding if there is a spare horse handy. I actually recently rode a bit of trackwork for Toby Edmonds which was fun. When the children are older, and there is a bit more time I hope it get back riding more, and perhaps have a few broodmares too. I've really got into the breeding side of things more, and I'd like to get more involved with that.

## **How did you get involved in racing media?**

I'd just had my second daughter, and David Hayes said they were looking for someone to do a mounting yard role. He thought I'd be a good fit, and put me forward. I wasn't really looking for a new job at the time, but it was a great opportunity. I had an interview, did a week of training and then I was on air!

## **How do you prepare for hosting a days racing?**

It takes probably six hours of form study and compiling of my notes. I have a database of previous notes, and I'll watch races and trials and find whatever exposed form there is. A lot of work happens on the race day itself when I look to my notes, and refer to the database to see if the horses have done enough, or are at the peak of their fitness.

## **When looking at a horse in the mounting yard, what should you look for?**

Firstly it's very subjective - What I like may not be what you like. "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder"

But three classic things I look for are:

Temperament. Is the horse behaving as it usually does? Coat and condition. Whether it looks healthy, fit, and how glossy the coat is.

Thirdly the walk, and if it is the same as it normally is. It may be loose, long and subtle, or a short and shuffly, but whatever is their normal pattern and profile is what I look for.

## **You have continued to host live coverage during COVID-19. How has it affected your role, and how have you adapted to the new procedures?**

I continue to work, and I'm temperature checked each time I arrive at the track. I only interview the winning jockey, and even then I'm two metres away as we use a boom microphone. I don't see anyone except for the horses, my co host and the winning jockey. It is very different at the track but I'm very proud of the racing participants, and how they have adhered to the strict biosecurity measures.

## **In a normal year, you would be covering Royal Ascot. How does racing in Europe, and Australia differ?**

Royal Ascot is probably my favourite carnival, and I'm really sad that I won't be there this year. I'll be staying up late to watch it on TV instead. A difference is the length of the days. Ascot runs for 5 days straight and each day has six races, whereas Flemington has ten races a day over the 4 days. I find having fewer races makes it more palatable, giving you races to really look forward to each day. The UK really does summer carnivals well, and all are special and unique. In Australia, I have loved seeing the growth of The Everest. I think it is really important to put emphasis on change, and new innovations that will encourage a younger generation. There is a nice balance between a wonderful Melbourne Spring, and a funky race like The Everest in Sydney. Having a big sprint race is important because that is what Australia excels at globally.

# JOHN HAMMOND ON THE RETURN OF RACING IN FRANCE

It's back! After a worrying few hours on 1st May, Friday last, French racing was finally given the go ahead late in the evening. Rumours had been swirling during the day that the football fraternity were disgruntled because racing had apparently been given special status and not discarded to the September bin along with other sports. In the end, coming under the fold of the Ministry of Agriculture (and Finance curiously) as opposed to the Ministry of Sport saved their bacon and it was with some relief that having been gated since March 17 that racing was allowed out.

The intervention of Francois Bayrou and Philippe Augier directly with President Macron clearly made a difference. Bayrou, a lifelong racing enthusiast, owner and most importantly breeder would be considered a heavy weight in the French political world. Initially a teacher, then author, he was a minister for education (1993 to 1993) before having three stabs at the French presidency scoring a respectable 18.6 percent of the vote in 2007. A centrist, he was also a founder member of the Democratic Movement and the current mayor of Pau. Augier, Mayor of Deauville had spent his early years in the political world before becoming the managing director of the French Agency for the sale of Thoroughbreds in Deauville, precursor to Arqana. That Macron, in three short years at the Banque Rothschild, rose to be a partner, probably also meant that he would look favourably on an entreaty from Edouard Rothschild, the head of French racing.

It is ironic that French racing though having limited national following compared with Ireland or the UK clearly has considerably more political clout. The French political elite is a relatively small clique and being able to pick up the phone to the President who is the executive head of state gives you a heavy club in the lobbying stakes bear fight.

And so, lucky us, we were treated to a feast of high class racing at Longchamp on Monday afternoon. Odd though it might have been to see jockeys wearing face masks and deserted grandstands (yes, even more than usual, before someone cracks the joke) we were glued to our t.v. as France's best two year old colt of last year, the aptly named Victor Ludorum, swung back in to action in the Prix de Fontainebleau GR3 and Sottsass, last year's prix du Jockey Club GR1 winner, made his annual debut in a competitive looking Prix d'Harcourt GR2. As it happened, both were to be beaten and the story of the day was the bias to those horses who raced on or close to the lead and benefitted from a low post position.

When the running rail at Longchamp is at 'zero', an easy lead is gold dust if your horse is relaxed. On other days when the rail can be pulled out by as much as 15 metres, it rides like a different racetrack. Victor Ludorum was drawn 8 of 8 and found himself stuck three wide, running keen in his first race for seven months. In the circumstances, albeit losing his unbeaten tag, I thought he ran a decent race to be third.



Meanwhile the winner, The Summit, from the one hole (as the Americans say) lobbed around on the lead with his ears pricked before sprinting clear in the straight. He also benefitted from having had a run in March but it would not be a surprise to see the placings reversed when they next meet. It was a similar deal for Sottsass. A little anxious prior to loading he settled well enough although a fair way off the lead but never landed a blow on the tough and high class Shaman, who, like The Summit, benefitted from controlling the race on the lead, glued to the fence and winning well. However, Sottsass threw in a similarly uninspiring effort to his first start last year and his trainer would have left plenty to work on so we'll surely see a different horse next time.

Although his horses wouldn't be fully cranked up yet after the enforced lull in racing, champion trainer André Fabre still landed a Group 3 with the stunning looking Tropbeau who was given a judicious ride in the Prix de la Grotte (fillies trial for French Guineas) snugly looking like there was a little more left in the tank than the winning distance of half a length would suggest. She looks to be one in line for a good year.

For the moment we are still restricted to watching racing from our sofas at home but isn't it great that its back on here? In the UK they are talking about the end of June. In Ireland jury is still out, and the word from there is that the caretaker Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar isn't much 'into' racing which is not helpful. Crumbs, how did he get elected in that country in the first place?



# OTI TO RACE RIDER IN THE SNOW

Five year old son of Intello, RIDER IN THE SNOW has been purchased by OTI, and will be trained in NSW by Kris Lees.

Rated 92 as a 3 year old, he has been placed six times in 10 starts, and a winner on three occasions. We look forward to racing this half brother to Group 1 winner Mille et Mille.

[WATCH](#)

Let us know if you would like more information  
[oti@oti.com.au](mailto:oti@oti.com.au)



## FUN & GAMES

### WHO IS THIS?



- Winner - GR2 Belmont Gold Cup Invitational
- By Casamento out of Sheba Five
- Trained by Alessandro Botti

### NAME THE RACECOURSE



*Hint - Built on what was originally know as  
Wong Nai Chung Valley*

## QUIZ

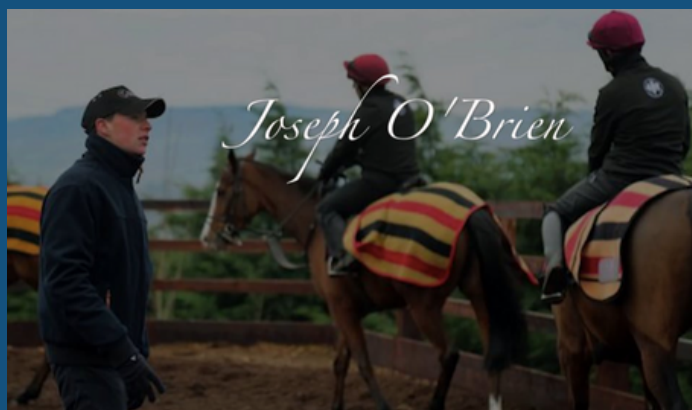
1. How many Group 1's did So You Think win?
2. Who won The Goodwood in 2019?
3. Who rode all seven winners at Ascot, UK in 1997?

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Joseph O'Brien trains in County Kilkenny, Ireland from the same property that his father started training, and his grandfather before that.

This special feature provides a detailed insight into the differences in training between Australia and Europe.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



## WHAT HAPPENED TO...

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

### MIGHTY QUINN

Toowoomba based trainer Todd Banks has been delighted with Mighty Quinn's improvement since joining his stable.

After reducing the gelding to sprinting trips, the son of Redwood has put in a string of nice performances, finishing in the money in his last two starts.



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

### WHO IS THIS?

Amade

### QUIZ RESULT

- 1.10
- 2.Despatch
- 3.Frankie Dettori

### THE RACECOURSE

Happy Valley, Hong Kong  
Racing has taken place at Happy Valley since 1846, and is one of two racecourses in Hong Kong. Racing takes place on Wednesday evenings in the heart of the city.

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