



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

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WHAT HAPPENED TO...

Horse racing is undoubtedly about the fabulous equine athletes that we are lucky enough to witness at their peak, but it also about the friendships that we have all been lucky enough to forge through this wonderful sport.

There is perhaps no other sport in the world that can unite different nationalities, ages and social and economic backgrounds all with the common love of the sport. Royalty, film stars, sports stars, artists, politicians, businessmen and more have all been known to own racehorses.

This week, our subject for the Question and Answer is another fascinating character who loves the sport, but has more of a story to tell.

Laurie Larmer was a bomber pilot for the RAF, based in England in WW2, and in the space of a couple of months, he was involved in several missions over German cities. In 2015 he wrote to the mayors and civic leaders of each city expressing his regret at the deaths of so many innocent civilians. A gesture that was greatly appreciated.

Q&A LAURIE LARMER

When were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in 1923, in Moonee Ponds. I grew up here in Moonee Ponds, three doors down from Moonee Valley Racecourse.



Did your family follow horse racing?

Racing was always a topic of discussion in my home. I know my grandfather was a member of Moonee Valley Racing Club, and during the depression my father worked at the races. He eventually got a job in the jockey rooms at various city tracks.

Do you remember your first time at the races?

I can vaguely remember going to the races onto the flat at Moonee Valley. I was eight or nine at the time. In those days, there were something like 200 bookmakers on the flat. I can clearly remember having a threepence bet with a bookmaker. That's about my earliest recollection.

You would have been young when Phar Lap was racing, but do you have memories of it?

I can remember him vividly. I had threepence on him with an uncle who was the local SP bookie in 1931. I didn't back him the year he won in 1930! He was a wonderful horse. I do really remember that my father was working in the jockeys room at the time, and he would return on the Saturday (Derby Day) with Jimmy Pike's (Phar Lap's jockey) silks. My mother would wash them and my father would return them to Jimmy on the Tuesday (Cup Day). Jimmy gave him a pound which was an enormous amount in those days. It was as close as I ever got to having a Cup winner.

You fought in WW2, and were rewarded with the Legion d'Honneur for your heroic efforts. Did you ever go racing during that period?

No there was no racing where I was training to be a pilot in Canada and I was preoccupied with the war when I was in Europe. So between the fighting and chasing girls, there wasn't much time. *(At age 21, Laurie was the Captain of a six man Halifax Bomber, but didn't have a car licence at the time)*

Who is the best horse you have seen racing?

Bernborough (1939). It's hard to compare horses. Like comparing Bradman with Tendulkar. Different class, different times but he raced week after week, and with 15 straight wins in 10 months including the Villiers Stakes, All Aged, Newmarket, Chipping Norton. Winx was great of course, but I think for me it was Bernborough.

What do you love about horse racing?

Now I'm getting older, the mateship is what is special too. Every time I go to the races, I'll be sure to see friends. I can have 10 friends around me and the thing we have in common is the love of racing. I also love the uncertainty of racing. It is a game of chance, whatever odds you may be. The bookmakers are not often wrong, but they can be! The general competition, you go to the races and you are trying to beat the books, beat the starter, and then beating the weights. The challenge of the competition is always there.

What horses do you race now?

Le Juge trained by Chris Waller, and who I'm looking forward to watch, and hopefully win, when he races at Doomben on Saturday (today). I also have a share in Barade, who is coming on well with Archie Alexander. At 96, I don't have any yearlings!

OTI NEWS

Racing today will see OTI colours carried in two states.

At Caulfield:

INVERLOCH races in R9 for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young, in the 2000m handicap. Drawn barrier 15 with Thomas Stockdale in the saddle, and claiming 2kg he should run well, after a run to forget last start.

At Doomben:

LE JUGE runs in the 2000m Group 3 R7 for Chris Waller, and Michael Cahill from barrier 2 in a race which will suit him well, and we hope to see another honest run from the horse.

Next week:

In England:

EAGLES CRAG has a nomination for a 1600m maiden at Kempton Park for Ed Walker. He has shown talent at home, and we look forward to seeing him debut if he makes the field given the record number of entries.

In Australia:

GREGORIAN CHANT has accepted to run in R9 at Warrnambool in the 1200m BM64.

AU PAIR is being aimed at the 1590m maiden at Wangaratta.

ATYPICAL will run in a 2000m maiden also at Wangaratta.

Racing is due to start on 1st June in England with a fixture at Newcastle with 369+ entries prior to final declarations.

THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART



Matt Stewart discusses consideration that needs to be given to owners and racing's opportunity alongside other sports in the spring

[WATCH](#)

Royal Ascot has announced a revised race program for this year's meeting due to the unique circumstances. There will be more races each day, with the reintroduction of races to the programme. Two year old races will be placed towards the end of the week, as well as the St James's Palace Stakes and the Coronation Stakes running on the final day.

Racing NSW Chief Executive Peter V'landys and Racing Victoria Chief Executive Giles Thompson have stated that if the numbers of infections continue to fall, owners could be granted entry to the races before July 1st.

The Queensland Racing Winter Carnival has been extended with 10 extra races.

Flights between New Zealand and Australia are set to resume next week with new biosecurity regulations in place for piroplasmiasis.

Racing Victoria has announced that quarantine for international horses to Melbourne in the spring will be open.

CAKE WALKER



Maiden 2100m Ballarat

WINNERS

TIGRE ROYALE



BM64 2460m Geelong

JOHN HAMMOND

Tim Holland posed the question "We all know horses get classified broadly into "on pacers" and "run on" but does the way they are trained influence their racing style, or is something intrinsic to a particular horse?"

Tim's question is most interesting. In short, the way horses are trained will have an influence on their racing style. There are horses that are 'one paced' and you will also get horses that possess a 'turn of foot' (acceleration) but how they are trained can exaggerate their intrinsic capabilities. I don't think it is possible to turn a one paced horse in to a quickener but it is certainly possible to train the speed out of a horse and effectively turn him in to what appears to be one that doesn't accelerate.

However, before labelling horses, it is important to examine individual race times and fractions. In a very fast run race where two front runners take each other on early for the lead the race could be won by a 'one paced' horse coming from the back. He might appear to be quickening in the home straight but in reality he is actually slowing down although less so than those who have gone too fast up front. Likewise in a very slow run race the 'quickener' who is held up at the rear appears to be one paced because he can't make ground on the leaders who are coming home in 22 seconds for the last four hundred.

It also goes without saying that some horses need more work than others. Underworking a horse who needs plenty of graft means he will come up short in his race and overworking one who doesn't need much work will mean he runs flat. I guess its not unlike using salt when you are cooking, some dishes need more than others and 'just the right amount' is what is required!

Statistics say that your percentage chance of winning a race is increased if your horse is in the first four turning for home. Therefore certain trainers train their horses to be 'up with the leaders' so they are, in theory, increasing their chance of winning more races. I suspect this is Gai Waterhouse's policy. I know it is the modus operandi of Mark Johnston in the UK who wins more races than any other trainer. But in order to adopt this policy you need to have your horses super fit. The flip side of this is that you will have to employ a more intensive training regime which will tend to lead to a higher rate of attrition in terms of injuries and these figures will not be shown in the 'win table' in the newspapers.



The other side effect which is less well known is that horses who are super fit will tend not to quicken (accelerate) quite as well, basically you can train the speed out of them. The late Bobby Frankel who trained so successfully for many years in California once told me that for really good acceleration you were better to leave your horses a fraction 'short of work' going into a big race. It sounds a counterintuitive way of trying to win a big race but I discovered it was so, by accident.

Forgive me for veering off of the tangent here, but years ago I trained a horse called Red Bishop. Effectively I inherited him from John Gosden as a lightly raced six year old! He was a big heavy horse and John told me that he required very little work and the moment he was capable of doing a strong canter on the grass to just close my eyes and run him. And so I did. With almost no proper work and thinking he would certainly need the race off a four month layoff He won first up for us in a good conditions race in Deauville over 2000m.

Having been placed in a couple of Group races in France and being beaten a whisker in a group race in New York we were invited to run in Hong Kong for the Vase over 2400m. The horse was shipped out about 8 or 9 days prior to the race. On his second day he went lame after the blacksmith 'pricked' him with a nail in the wrong spot. Consequently he was hand walked for five days with the foot being regularly poulticed. The day before the race he was able to go out for a jog and we decided to roll the dice and run him. Still last of 13 on the home bend he produced a blistering acceleration to win easily breaking the track record. Go figure as they say. I did!

Continued.

JOHN HAMMOND

No doubt this horse was something of an exception and lucky me in being given invaluable information by his previous trainer. I am sure also that there were times in the past when I didn't have horses fit enough, but as long as you can acknowledge that you can make adjustments for the next time. Easier to add salt to the dish than to take it out.

But to get back to Tim's question I think that some trainers do have a certain 'style' and their horses have to conform to that. In some cases it's a positive and in some cases not. Personally I feel that the really great trainers, the Fabre', the Wallers etc will cover all bases and be able to dose just the right amount of work for each horse. They will give plenty of work to those who need to win their races by stretching their opponents and they will be more reserved in their training of those who can win by acceleration or just need less work. By their own admission I am sure also that they will give examples of horses they have worked too much or too little and how they would had done the preparation differently with hindsight, indeed that is what makes them the brilliant trainers that they are. Successful and humble men too.

Concerning the 'be in the first four policy', although the stats say that a higher percentage of horses in the first four at the head of the stretch win races there is, by definition, only room for four to be in the first four! If everyone wants to be there that generally means they will be going too fast up front which will play in to the hands of the closers. I would also add that hold up horses who have good acceleration will not quicken in the same way if they are asked to race close up to the pace seeing daylight. I'm not quite sure why, but it is definitely the case.

As always with racing, there are many different ways to cut the cake and the fact we can have opposing opinions is what makes it such fun. Personally nothing excites me more than seeing a horse held up for a late run then scything down the opposition to win with something in hand. It's a taking visual spectacle, one that we go to the races to see. Winx was a case in point. In addition such tactics tend to add longevity to a horse's career even if we do want to jump out of the stands with frustration when a horse gets 'boxed in' and finishes as an unlucky loser full of running. But as a jock once said to me after such a race probably to calm me down, 'don't worry John, he'll run like King Kong next time!'. And he did.

FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- Winner of GR1 Australian Cup
- By Linamix out of Mintly Fresh
- Trained by Peter Moody

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - The centre of breeding in Australia

1. U.S Army Ranger trained by Aaron Peterson in Ballarat was previously runner up in which English classic?
2. Who won the 2019 running of The Stradbroke Handicap?
3. Who trained four time Chipping Norton GR1 Tie The Knot?

OTI TO RACE NZ TRIAL WINNER MELTDOWN

OTI was delighted to secure two year old filly Meltdown through our New Zealand agent Phill Cataldo.

Beautifully bred by Showcasing out of Savabeel mare Tantrum, she boasts not only the ability, but a pedigree of broodmare value. An easy winner of her trial in New Zealand, she will travel to Australia where she will be trained by Phillip Stokes.

Let us know if you would like more information
oti@oti.com.au

[WATCH](#)



WHAT HAPPENED TO...

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

RUSCELLO

Rusty has been an invaluable member of Alexander Racing, taking the young horses and nervous ones onto the track in the morning, and well as accompanying them to the races.

He has been caught breaking into the tea room before to steal cake and biscuits which he loves, although banana are his absolute favourite!



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

WHO IS THIS?

Manighar

QUIZ RESULT

1. The Derby
2. Trekking
3. Guy Walter

THE RACECOURSE

Scone, NSW Australia

Scone is located in the Hunter Valley, and is home to the countrys leading stud farm. The Scone Cup Carnival is held each May, and includes the Dark Jewel Classic Gr3.

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