



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



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WELCOME

OTI NEWS

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WHAT HAPPENED TO...

Remember the days when racecourses were packed with crowds?! Hopefully it will not be too long before we are all back together again.

The return of the AFL on June 11th has been welcomed by fans, though it does throw up questions as to whether the dates for some of the main Spring Carnival races should now be changed in order to avoid a clash with the AFL Grand Final.

An interesting debate is taking place with some believing it is an ideal opportunity to rejig the racing calendar with others including our very own Terry Henderson believing that racing should not pander to other sports. Matt Stewart summarises the debate on page two.

Has the coronavirus changed the way horses will sell? Online auctions continue to develop popularity with Rosemont Stud holding an exclusive online sale with Magic Millions, and Arrowfield Stud have teamed up with bloodstockauction.com to sell 25 weanlings in the forthcoming weeks.

Racing today this will see OTI colours carried in Australia and in France.

At Flemington:

BLUE OCEAN will contest in R5 2000m Handicap at Flemington for Phillip Stokes and Ben Thompson. A winner at his last start over 1610m he will relish the step up in trip, though has drawn barrier 12.

ROMANCER runs in R6 1200m Listed 'Straight Six' for Grahame Begg and Jordan Childs from barrier 2. He is in good form at home, and gets conditions to suit. This race should set him up well for his target of the Winter Championships.

SOUTHERN ROCK has his second start in Australia for Archie Alexander and Jordan Childs in R7 Bm84 over 1800m. A number of concerns include a possibility of heavy ground, and he has drawn a difficult barrier in the outside gate, but he has been working well since his debut.

At Bordeaux :

MR SATCHMO runs in a 1900m Listed race over 1900m for Antoine de Watrigant. Running for the first time after a long lay off, he will be ridden by Olivier Peslier from barrier 7, in a field of eight.

Next week:

PERONNE, the full brother to Pornichet, is nominated to make his Australian debut next week at Geelong in a BM64 over 1700m for Symon Wilde.

THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART



Should the Caulfield Cup and Cox Plate move?
[WATCH](#)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is there anything you would like to read about in future editions, or feedback you'd like to give?

Let me know.
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French racing restarted last week, but since then a government change in COVID-19 policy has meant that parts of the country heavily affected by coronavirus will not be allowed to stage racing. Tracks affected include Longchamp, Saint Cloud and Auteuil.

Triple Group 1 winner Sunlight has been retired, and will be sold at the Magic Millions Broodmare Sale in July.

The situation remains the same in the UK with hopes to resume on June 1st, though without government approval at this stage.

Training partnerships have been approved by the British Horseracing Authority.

Export of horses from New Zealand to Australia faced a stumbling block after a mare tested positive to equine piroplasmiasis. Shipment has been suspended indefinitely until the true extent of the infection has been identified.

Irish Racing has received government approval to return to racing on June 8th behind closed doors. Prize money cuts, particularly at the top level will be in place though HRI confirm that not a single Group race will be lost in the programming. Apart from the three Group 1's run on the Guineas Weekend all other top level races will be run in their original slots, and at the original tracks.

Q&A JOHNNY ALLEN

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

I grew up in rural County Cork, Ireland, and I've been riding as long as I can remember. I'd say I was put on a pony's back as soon as I could walk.



Did you always want to be a jockey?

I suppose I was always interested in becoming a jockey but I probably only became focused in my teens. I started working in a local racing yard, and from then on it was all I wanted to be.

Do you remember your first winner?

I do! It was Permiya for Francis Crowley, in a maiden hurdle at Clonmel, Ireland. It was in early Feb 2003, and I was so excited to have that first winner on the board. There were a lot of great jump jockeys in the race like Ruby Walsh, Charlie Swam and Norman Williamson, Barry Geraghty, David Casey and more.

You rode over jumps initially? Do you miss it?

I do miss it at times., especially on the big days when I watch racing on TV like the Cheltenham Festival in England, and Warrnambool here in Australia.

How did you end up in Australia?

There was an advert in the racing paper in Ireland looking for jump jockeys to come to Australia to ride for a bit. I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to travel and see a bit of the world. I thought I'd be here about six months, I certainly didn't think I'd still be here eight years later.

How do styles of races and racing differ between Ireland and Australia?

I didn't really ride much on the flat in Ireland, so it is a little hard to compare, but a big difference is that we race a lot tighter here tighter here and it might be more tactical. There seem to be more hard luck stories here than they are back home.

Do you ever ride back in Europe?

I haven't for a while, but a few years ago I went home for Christmas, and had some rides. It is something I'd like to do in the future.

How do you prepare for a day at the races?

Each day would be a bit different and would depend if I'm riding trackwork or not. I have to watch my weight, sometimes I'd go for a run, or have a sweat in the bath. I'd do my form study in the morning, so that when I arrive at the races I'll fully focused on riding.

How has COVID-19 affected your work?

We've been lucky in this country that racing has been able to continue unlike in Europe. I'm pretty much going about my day to day work the same, but there are more biosecurity measures in place at the races. One thing that did change was that when I decided to go to Adelaide for the Carnival I had to self isolate for two weeks either side which wasn't ideal.

Do you notice that you are riding in front of an empty grandstand?

You don't notice it really during the race, but when you come back in after the race it is very different, especially after riding a big winner it can feel a bit flat.

How do you enjoy spending your time off?

The racing industry keeps you pretty busy between all the racing and travelling, but if I do get a moment, and when I'm not having to worry too much about my weight I like to go out for a nice meal with my partner and friends. I also like to get out on my bike and go cycling now and again when I get a bit of time.

JOHN HAMMOND

Bleary eyed and not long off the plane, Terry wheeled me in to the Matty Stewart den aka, Radio RSN. Crumbs! A whole radio station dedicated to racing? 'Yes, there's one in Sydney too mate' came the reply from co jock Michael Felgate. I really was at the other end of the world or in racing nirvana whichever way you wanted to look at it. Whatever, my immediate problem was that microphone in hand, I was sitting opposite Matty about to tangle with his whip smart humour while still suffering from that out of body feeling of stepping off a long haul flight.

I had considered asking Terry if we could make a quick pit stop for a beer to pick me up but decided it might not be a winning move regarding future employment. No beer needed however, Matty and Michael were charming and indulgent at my stuttering replies leading me kindly through some easy questions, just nice easy straight balls, no googlies or bouncers.

So then it was back to Terry and Sue's in the haven that is East Melbourne and a welcome shower. I think the old saying goes 'behind every successful man is a strong woman' or something similar. Actually that's totally true as Sue's not only an amazing listener, but witty, charming and devastatingly attractive. One can well understand why over 50 years ago, Terry never let her go after giving her a lift home from the disco as a teenager.

The following morning it's an early start out to Werribee. Originally named Wyndham after a Scottish soldier, it was appropriately given the aboriginal term for backbone which refers to the river on which the town was built, but for anyone in the racing clan it means where the 'internationals' do their quarantine prior to the Spring Carnival.

The quarantine protocols are incredibly strict. During the first two weeks all stable staff have to shower prior to entering. None of this flicking a bit of water on your torso business either. A full on head scrub is obligatory. A pain for many but those on duty at security still talk of the day the ravishing apparition of Sara Cumani stepped out of the shower for an interview, in her towel. And that was ten years ago!



Sara Cumani

Much has been written and much has been said about the state of the training facilities at Werribee and notably the condition of the track. In short I would say that the facilities in the stable area are very good and the track was better than I had been lead to believe. I know that there have been issues in the past with the international horses picking up injuries in training and no doubt the track was not blameless. However these are often horses coming down after a tough season in Europe who are quite likely to be carrying small injuries, sometimes undiagnosed. Adding this to fast training on a track to which they are not accustomed you have the potential for more serious injuries. Personally I was surprised how fast some of the European horses trained on a daily basis.

And so then to Flemington. Between Derby Day and Cup Day it's a feast, isn't it? To begin with it's a feast for the eyes with all of those stunning flowers hitting you on arrival like a wave of colour. Few things in life are more uplifting than flowers. It's not by chance that they will make her smile and look kindly on you. Never forget the power of a flower lads.

And never let the dress code slip either. A sense of occasion is a phrase with which we are all familiar but we only really know what it means when we are there; and that is indeed how it feels when you are walking in to Flemington either on black and white Derby Day or the colour bonanza of Cup Day. For the racing purist Derby Day is spoiling, four Group 1's, two Group 2's, and three Group 3's along with Ascot, and Arc day it is right up there for the best day in world racing.

And maybe the difference in the hemispheres isn't so big when it comes to our favourite sport. We are enthralled by these elegant animals, enjoying our social interaction and our brains are engaged by the wonderful uncertainty that is horse racing. Long may it remain so.

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
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FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- G3 placed and winner at Caulfield
- By Rajsaman out of Princess Cheri
- Trained in France by Mikel Delzangles

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - The only race meeting under rules to take place on a beach

QUIZ

1. Which horse completed a Melbourne Cup and Caulfield Cup double in 1997?
2. Kerrin McEvoy won the 2000 Melbourne Cup on?
3. Who trained Mr Quickie to win the 2019 Queensland Derby?

HORSES TO FOLLOW IN EUROPE

With the European racing season looming, albeit a little later than normal, we will give you updates on horses in training and horses to follow over the next few months.

EAGLES CRAG

Fastnet Rock - La Salina

Trained by Ed Walker, this three year old colt is unraced due to a setback as a two year old, but is showing plenty of ability at home.

Ed trains from Kingsdown Stables in Upper Lambourn, England, and since starting training in 2010 he has trained stakes winners around the world, including in Australia.



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.

SOLLEVARE

Sollevare has recently been located to Tony Rosolini's Cranbourne stables, where the son of Raise The Flag will be tested over the jumps.

New owner Amy McDonald is hopeful that the gelding will enjoy a long and fruitful jumping career.



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

WHO IS THIS?

Prinz Hlodowig

QUIZ RESULT

1. Might and Power
2. Brew
3. Phillip Stokes

THE RACECOURSE

Laytown, Ireland

Racing each September near Drogheda, racing has taken place since 1868. As the tide recedes in the morning of race day, the race course is quickly set up allowing for six races of between six furlongs and one mile.

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