



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



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WHAT HAPPENED TO...

Racing authorities around the world have different criteria when it comes to the naming of horses. In Australia, a name cannot be repeated for 17 years. Names of certain winners of major races have a special restriction placed upon their reuse, and in some cases names can never be reused. There will never be another Winx or Phar Lap.

Rude or risqué names cannot be used, though some have been known to have slipped through the net including Hoof Hearted and Big Tits. In South Africa, President Trump proved to be difficult and unruly, and had to be gelded. His name also changed after South African authorities decided it was a little too controversial. He is now called Fake News, and continues to show limited ability.

Coincidentally in 2010 at Monmouth Park, USA My Wife Knows Everything battled in the finish against My Wife Doesn't Know. [WATCH](#)

PENSHURST named after the Victorian country town won for the first time in Australia with an easy win at Grafton on Thursday.

OTI NEWS

A very busy weekend for OTI with runners in Australia and Europe.

At Moonee Valley:

SELICA runs in R6 Handicap over 1200m for Phillip Stokes, and with Michael Poy claiming 1.5kg. Drawn in barrier 3, he is expecting her to run another strong race.

HARBOUR VIEWS runs in R8 Handicap over 2040m for Matthew Williams with Johnny Allen in the saddle. Drawn in barrier 6, he has been in the placings in his last two starts.

At Eagle Farm:

LE JUGE is aiming to repeat his GR3 success on his last start, when running in the GR3 Tattersall's Cup over 2400m for Chris Waller, and with Michael Cahill in the saddle from barrier 8.

In Europe:

SAN HUBERTO is in GR2 company in the Prix Vicomtesse Vigier at Chantilly over 3000m for Fabrice Chappet.

CAMPHOR runs in the Listed Noblesse Stakes at Leopardstown over 2400m for Jessica Harrington.

ANNO MAXIMO starts in the 2000m handicap at Leicester for Michael Bell.

MICA MALPIC will race in the 3400m hurdle in Compiègne for David Cottin.

MIRANN is likely to run next week at Gowran Park for Johnny Murtagh over 1900m.

WATCH Terry Henderson talk through the exciting runners overseas.

THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART

Matt Stewart discusses the opportunities for racing amongst a busy spring sporting schedule.

[WATCH](#)

The last week has seen the resumption of equine travel between New Zealand and Australia, as well as the first arrival of horses from Europe next week.

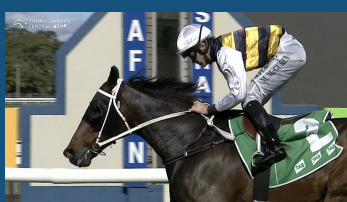
Covent Garden, half - sister to superstar mare Winx was beaten on her racecourse debut at Canterbury Park.

Adjustments to the Victorian jockeys protocols introduced at the start of the pandemic have been eased. This allows some high profile jockeys to return to riding trackwork at selected venues.

ATC members in NSW have given permission to return to the races on Saturday at Rosehill. Members will be required to pre register and pass thermal imaging screening cameras.

The VRC have announced that there will be no changes made to the membership for the forthcoming season.

The MRC have announced an extension of the membership season for this year until the end of September.



PESHURST
Grafton

WINNERS



TIGRE ROYALE
Geelong

Q&A ANDREW BENSLEY

Where did you grow up, and did you love horse racing from a young age?

I grew up in Wangaratta, and it was thanks to a neighbour who used to attend the local races. I caught the racing bug around the age of 11/12. I grew to love horse racing and still do at the age of 58.



How did you forge a career in the sport and media, was it something always wanted to do?

For as long as I can remember I wanted to work in radio, and I've been lucky to make it my career. I started off with 4VL, and worked for Channel 9 for many years and later with Sky. I've been able to enjoy 40 years of non stop work in the sport I love.

What it is that you love most about the sport of horse racing?

There is so much to love about the whole racing industry, but one thing that is special is the people you meet along the way, and all with the common interest in the sport. It's particularly evident now in these times of COVID-19 that everyone has pulled together, and kept the sport going.

If you were to recommend a racecourse / race meeting to someone to attend for the first time, where would it be and why?

I find it hard to identify just one, but the country tracks are special, the likes of Bendigo with its famous beautiful grandstand. Towong has a lot of history, and was where scenes of Phar Lap were filmed. The country racing cups bring a special atmosphere, and are hugely important for the local communities. Having said all that, Randwick and Flemington are always special and you can smell the atmosphere.

COVID-19 has affected us all, how has it affected your work at this time?

It has been a peculiar time for me as I'd long since planned to finish working for Sky on Anzac Day, and then COVID-19 happened, and it hasn't quite been the end I had envisaged. For one, I've not been able to say goodbye to my colleagues, and I will look forward to doing that once we are back to normal. Fortunately in Australia, the racing has continued so I've kept busy on the socials giving the news updates, and with a blog where I've been interviewing a few people, and the form analysis for the weekends. It certainly has been different, but I suppose it was always going to be when I finished on the radio.

What were your views on the restructuring debate of the Spring Carnival?

I can see both points of view and in particular with the Melbourne Spring Carnival and of course this is a most extraordinary time with the pandemic, and the effect of the crowds but as it stands we don't actually know at the moment when the AFL Grand Final will be.

Do you believe racing will be adversely affected by the clash with the AFL?

One thing that I think it worth noting is that I was in England last year there was an enormous amount of top level sport through the summer and it all clashed. From racing, world cup cricket, The Ashes and Wimbledon, but it didn't seem to cause an issue. It will just be important for racing to work together with the state government, and the AFL to ensure we all help each other. We will still be holding the best racing in the world, whatever the date and with what other sports there might be.

When you are not working, and now that you've stopped with Sky, how do you spending your free time?

I have to say I am quite enjoying having a bit more time on my hands now that I'm not working quite so hard. I'm enjoying seeing friends and family, with social distancing measures. I'm still very much following the racing, and I've continued to be busy on Twitter, as well as doing form study on Saturday.

EUROPEAN HORSES TO FOLLOW



TRUE SELF

7yo Mare Oscar - Good Thought

The globe trotting mare who has raced in Saudi Arabia, Australia, Hong Kong, England and Ireland in the last year is back at home at the stables of Willie Mullins, in Co Carlow, Ireland. Willie Mullins is a multiple National Hunt champion trainer, and has won feature races around the globe.

She will once again be targeted at the staying races around the world towards the end of the year. [Watch and listen](#) to David Casey talk about the mare.

FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- 3rd in the Railway Stakes GR1
- By Danehill out of Agathe
- Winner of \$639,019 in Australia

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint

Oldest Racecourse in the Southern Hemisphere

1. Who trained Lankan Rupee?
2. Who won the 2020 Stradbroke Handicap?
3. Seabiscuit retired with 33 wins from 89 races. As a 2yo he raced 35 times, but for how many wins? 5, 15 or 22?

JOHN HAMMOND

John reviews the first European Classics of 2020.

It's always good to see a champion two year old reconfirm at three and so it was with Victor Ludorum. As expected he reversed placings with those who finished in front of him in the Prix de Fontainebleau. Taken back from the start to get some cover he came with a strong sustained run on the stands side to stamp his dominance on the race and win going away by a length and a half.

It was a taking performance. Clearly the horse has a good racing brain, and despite it being a sweltering day he went to the start in a relaxed and cool manner. As the old saying goes, he went down like a winner! It doesn't look like the extra 2.5 furlongs of the Prix du Jockey Club will pose a problem for him and he will go to the start as a strong favourite. The Summit ran a solid race to be second and deserves respect but Ecrivain who started second favourite disappointed. Alson ran a solid race to be third, with more distance and softer ground, he has a good race in him somewhere.

The mystery of the race was why the jockeys elected to go to the middle of the track rather than staying on the stand's rail which has historically been the place to be. Pierre Charles Boudot on Arapaho, who was drawn 1 ended up trying to make a run on the outside of the pack up the middle. Seemed crazy to me, a waste of a good draw.

The fillies race produced the tightest finish seen for years. Dream and Do had a peach of a race sitting third with cover just behind the leaders. Sensibly, Maxime Guyon bided his time before making his run as the filly only just gets the mile. In the end she just hung on from the fast finishing Speak of the Devil who, coming from the back of the field would have won in the next stride. Frustrating for trainer Fabrice Chappet who also trained the third Mageva.

She's maybe one to note as although drawn 12 of 12 jockey Stephane Pasquier sensibly weaved his way to the stands rail where she finished strongly to snatch a place. Good tactics. The favourite Trop Beau seemed to get a decent run and finished a solid fourth without appearing to have too many excuses. Overall, while they were an interesting bunch of fillies the quality didn't look as good as the colts.

France has some hot stallions at present with Siyouni confirming his dominance, particularly with fillies as the sire of Dream and Do. Wootton Bassett had a good day too with both second place finishers in the respective colts and fillies races being his offspring. Le Havre, also, has some good three year olds around, notably Port Guillaume and Vaucelles.



The English 2000 Guineas saw the turning over of the hot favourite, last years champion two year old, Pinatubo. Previously unbeaten he had been given a higher rating than Frankel at the end of his two year old season. Clearly very precocious last year it takes more than average improvement to stay ahead of the posse at 3. Has he not progressed sufficiently or maybe he doesn't stay a mile, who knows but he ran with merit nonetheless to be third to Kameko and Wichita.

The winner had done little wrong last year, winning twice and being second twice in four starts. He provided a little poetic justice for his owner, Sheik Fahd al Thani who last year lost his champion Roaring Lion to colic in his first season at stud.

The winner was ridden by rising star jockey Oisin (pronounced usheen) Murphy who was champion jockey for the first time last year. Not shy of the microphone he speaks eloquently and talks sense with a charming Killarney accent and an engaging personality. A fervent user of social media he looks set to follow in the footsteps of Frankie Dettori to become an important salesman of English racing in the years to come.

The fillies race, the 1000 Guineas was won by the sweetly named Love trained by Aiden O'Brien. Aiden often employs a shotgun approach to the big races in running up to four or five horses. Those in the know say that usually means he doesn't have a number one choice so maybe it was significant that Love was his sole runner. A well seasoned filly she had run seven times at two and she wrapped this race up like a real pro and won with domination. A daughter of Europe's superstar stallion Galileo she is out of a mare, Pikaboo, by the evergreen Pivotal who must now be England's best broodmare sire.

Out of the drought of lockdown we are now drinking our fill at racing's oasis with the good races coming thick and fast. Hard to believe that we have Royal Ascot next week although it will not be like any other. Ascot with no people, an oxymoron. And for the Queen, sitting at home with her feet up watching it on the telly... That will be a first. Indeed I think it will be the first time ever that she has not been present at all. What a weird year this has been.

OTI TO RACE - RIDER IN THE SNOW

Five year old son of Intello, RIDER IN THE SNOW has been purchased by OTI. He arrives in Australia next week 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](#)

For more information
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WHAT HAPPENED TO...

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

CEFALU

After his retirement from racing, his home has been at Simon O'Donnell's property. He is excelling in his role as paddock companion to the young colts.

In a large hail storm three weeks ago, he kept all the horses safe and calm with none of them going over the fence, when others did.



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

WHO IS THIS?

Annenkov

QUIZ RESULT

1. Mick Price
2. Tyzone
- 3.5

THE RACECOURSE

Champ de Mars, Mauritius

The aim of the founders of the Mauritius Turf Club to set up horse racing at the Champ de Mars was to reconcile the French settlers with the English administration who had conquered the island in December 1810.

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