



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

WELCOME

OTI NEWS

MATT STEWART

EUROPEAN HORSES TO FOLLOW

FUN & GAMES

Q&A
CRAIG NEWITT

JOHN HAMMOND ON
ROYAL ASCOT

WHAT HAPPENED TO...

Horse racing is a global game and France, Ireland and Australia provided a backdrop for a very successful week for OTI Horses with four winners.

Commencing with **HARBOUR VIEWS** on Saturday at Moonee Valley, **MICA MALPIC** attracted attention with his first win over hurdles at Compiègne in France. **SAN HUBERTO** quickly followed with a GR2 win on Sunday at Chantilly. **MIRANN**, in his first race for Johnny Murtagh looked an exciting prospect when winning at Gowran Park.

Following the previous week's controversy on whether the Melbourne Spring Carnival should be reshuffled, debate this week turned to the whip.

A dead heat at Moonee Valley, followed by the awareness that one of the jockeys had excessively used the whip reignited the whip debate. It is now high time that our leaders come together and unite in making some firm and fast rules on penalties should jockeys infringe, and as a result get a competitive advantage on those that don't.

OTI NEWS

A runner in Ireland in the early hours of Saturday, and over the weekend we will see runners in Victoria and New South Wales.

At Gowran Park:

CAMPHOR runs in the Listed Victor McCalmont Memorial Stakes over 1900m for Jessie Harrington with Shane Foley in the saddle. Very unlucky in running on Sunday, she is backing up quickly and we are hopeful for a seamless passage through the race.

Tomorrow at Flemington:

BLUE OCEAN runs in R4 3YO Handicap over 2000m for Phillip Stokes and Ben Thompson. Drawn barrier 9, he ran a superb race last start, and has improved for the run.

ROMANCER runs in R8 for Grahame Begg and Jordan Childs over 1400m. Third last time, he is expected to be competitive as he prepares for the Winter Championship Final.

Tomorrow at Randwick:

MY SWASHBUCKLER runs for Kris Lees in R8 over 1600m in the BM78. A horse with plenty of talent, he continues to acclimatise to Australian conditions.

Tomorrow at Donald:

AU PAIR has accepted in R3 1620m maiden for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young. Drawn barrier 14, she will be ridden by Beau Mertens.

THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART

Is Racing a Sport, or an Industry?



[WATCH](#)

Owners in Victoria will be allowed back on course from Monday, though like in NSW there will be a separation between owners, and the trainers and jockeys.

The riding zones for jockeys introduced by Racing NSW as part of the COVID-19 protocols have been abolished.

Stradivarius won a third Ascot Gold Cup GR1 in sensational style, the third horse to do so in the 213 year history of the race.

Four time Australian GR1 winner Atlantic Jewel was the dam of the GR3 Hampton Court Stakes winner Russian Emperor at Royal Ascot.

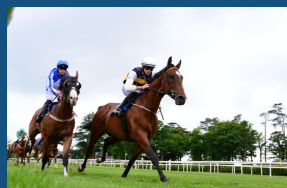
WINNERS



SAN HUBERTO
CHANTILLY



HARBOUR VIEWS
MOONEE VALLEY



MIRANN
GOWRAN PARK



MICA MALPIC
COMPIEGNE

Q&A CRAIG NEWITT

Where were you born, and did you ride from a young age?

I was born in Ulverstone, a small town in Tasmania and I was riding horses from a very young age. I was riding track work for my father, and for Terry Roles from about the age of 13. I was riding as much as I could, even before and after school.

When did you decide you wanted to become a jockey?

I don't think I ever thought about anything else but becoming a jockey. Both my parents were jockeys, my grandfathers were also jockeys and then trainers. I definitely wasn't born to be a basketball player!

Do you remember you first ever ride, and how did you feel?

I do remember it well, I don't think you ever forget that feeling. I was very excited, a little bit nervous. The horse was called Dundas Street for Terry Roles. My father took me to the races, walked the course with me, and kept me calm.

Do you remember your first ever winner?

For sure. It took about 33 rides until I had my first winner. It was Kimbra's Way, at Hobart, and it was for the trainer Johnny Luttrell which meant a lot to me as my Dad had ridden for him over jumps and we had a very close connection, and still do.

How did the move from Tasmania to Melbourne happen?

I won the local Cup at Devonport, and not long after came a phone call from the Freedman brothers to ask me to move to Victoria. It took a lot of gentle persuasion from my father that this was too good an opportunity to miss. I was young, and it was a big move. My parents decided to follow me to Victoria, and I will always be indebted to them for packing up their lives, and supporting me as I'm not sure I'd have stayed if they hadn't. It was the best career move I ever made.



You rode at Royal Ascot, and won on Miss Andretti. What was that experience like?

Miss Andretti was a fabulous mare and I was lucky to ride six Gr1's on her. Royal Ascot was special, but I was probably a little immature to really appreciate how big an occasion it was. Not many Australian jockeys get a chance to ride at Ascot, let alone have a winner. It did sink in a little when I came back to scale and Lee Freedman was shedding a tear. That made me realise what a big deal it was, I never thought I'd see him shed a tear!

Did you meet HM The Queen?

I never formally met The Queen, but I did manage to exchange a few words with her which was special.

You've ridden around the world, how do the different carnivals compare?

I've been lucky to ride around the world. I think the Spring Carnival in Melbourne has an atmosphere second to none, and to be able to ride a winner that week is what we dream about. Dubai is a real show from start to finish, and I'd love to go back with a horse good enough. Royal Ascot is unique with the top hats and tails.

How has COVID-19 affected your work?

Racing in Tasmania stopped, so my family and I decided to move to Melbourne, and it has actually gone really well for me. It has got me thinking about my future, and if I should return to Tasmania or stay in Victoria. It has been a horrible time for so many people, but actually for me personally it has caused a great move for my career.

When you are not riding, what are your hobbies?

I like to be with my partner and my four boys when I can. The boys love fishing, footy, soccer and if they are happy I am happy.

EUROPEAN HORSES TO FOLLOW



EAGLEMONT

3yo colt 'Camelot - Erdiyna'
Joseph O'Brien

Trained by Joseph O'Brien, in Kilkenny Ireland, Eaglemont is unraced and looking to debut towards the end of the month for connections.

Joseph O'Brien has been training for 4 years, and has already a Melbourne Cup winner, and multiple Group 1 winners. Prior to training Joseph was Irish Champion Jockey.
[WATCH THIS VIDEO](#) to find out more about the colt.

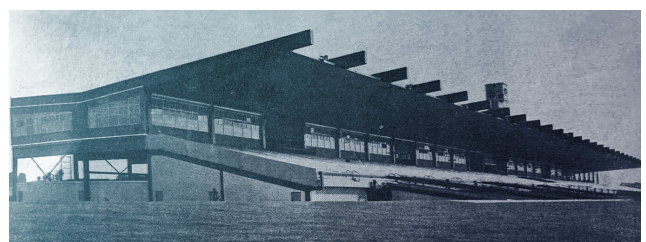
FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- Winner of the Herbert Power GR2
- By Lord of England out of Fitness
- Winner of \$579,983 in Australia

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - This week is the 55th Anniversary of the opening of the racecourse.

1. Who was the first Australian trained winner at Royal Ascot?
2. Who trains 10 time GR1 winner Melody Belle?
3. David Hayes will be training which superstar in Hong Kong next season?

JOHN HAMMOND

I assume, by definition, most if not all reading this are racing fans. To those amongst you who have never been to Royal Ascot I can give you one word of advice... Go!

Sadly, however, not this year. And even if you could, to be 'at the races' at Ascot with no crowds is an oxymoron. In the current circumstances we will take what we can and enjoy watching some magnificent racing on the TV but personally I would rather not be there in an empty grandstand. Just as I always had a great desire to go to Melbourne for 'The Cup' it was for the sheer 'buzz' factor as much as the race itself and I wasn't disappointed. The atmosphere at Flemington and Ascot rival any great sporting occasion; Wimbledon, Lords or the great days at the iconic MCG.

In a normal year three hundred thousand people would attend the race meeting that takes place in the third week of June and stretches over five days. With 19 Group races including 8 Group 1's it is a feast. It is also, for those who are in to that, a fashion bonanza.

They are misguided, Ascot is the definition of a 'sense of occasion'. In the Royal Enclosure (not only reserved for the Royal family in case you are wondering) there is a strict dress code with gents in morning coats and ladies dressed to the nines with hats obligatory. In every generation there is a battle between the traditionalists and the progressives but I think most would agree that Ascot have done a great job of retaining tradition without refusing change. Indeed, they closed shop in 2004 and built a spanking new stand that some likened (not unfairly) to terminal 4 at Heathrow Airport. Yes, it took a little getting used to but the tradition and pageantry were maintained.

Ascot is still Ascot. Picnicking in the car park remains unchanged. The waiting time to acquire a spot in the number 1 car park is decades, (I kid you not), like family heirlooms they are handed down the generations and if you really want to see just how totally eccentric and a little odd the Poms are go for a wander round number 1 car park pre racing. Keep your ears open too, and yes, people do still talk like that. But our sport unites us and few can go to Ascot and not be thoroughly entertained. Only six races a day, it is the one time you leave the track thinking you would like to see another race. Less is more.

The track is immaculately minded and from up in the stands you look down on the lawn like undulating straight mile at the start of racing as the royal procession of four carriages comes down the track with precision timing. As they approach the grandstand the band strikes up the national anthem and all men remove their hats in homage to the owner of Ascot racecourse, HM The Queen, who's extraordinary resilience, fortitude and unswerving sense of duty even the most ardent republican would admire. Indeed as one of those when asked who they would like to see as President following the abolition of the monarchy said... 'probably the Queen actually'!



Founded in 1711 by Queen Anne who thought it might be fun to make use of a clearing in Windsor Forest for some horse sport. The prize money for 'Her Majesty's Plate' the very first race was 100 guineas, probably a fair wad of cash in those days. It was to be run in three separate four mile heats prior to a final. They must have bred them tougher in those days, even the hardest of Melbourne Cup winners would balk at that.

And so, it evolved to the five day meeting it is now allowing for interruptions of two world wars, occasionally the vagaries of the English weather with thunder and lightning and a postponement due to a national train strike in 1955. This year, however, will be the first time with no crowds. No bulging bars, no ear crashing cheers as the horses hit the furlong pole, no colour, no glamour, no rousing chorus of 'Land of Hope and Glory' round the bandstand after the last... and no ladies leaving barefoot with their shoes in their hands...it will be an Ascot like no other.

It was Ascot but it wasn't Ascot, was the feeling after the first two days. There were iconic moments however. Battaash blasted home in the Group 1 King's Stand stakes over five furlongs on the first day, winning on his third attempt but thereby bagging all of England's major speedball races. But the moving moment was witnessing the empathy between this previously wild runaway sprinter who in the past sometimes 'lost the plot' pre race and his groom Bob Grace as they were in the parade ring. I don't think it would be unfair to describe Bob as a big lad, nor to say that he himself is not the best of movers, indeed some might say chronically lame. Consequently, Battaash had to take small steps not to outwalk his handler. Bob had a firm but kind hold on the shank and even when walking on to the track itself and you could see the pressure building for the horse it was clear that the respect he had for Bob meant that he knew he had to keep a lid on it. Maybe I am moving into the world of anthropomorphism here but I think few would deny that there was much mutual affection between man and horse.

And then there was the Queen's two year old winning the Windsor Castle Stakes. How apt was that, as she herself has effectively been holed up in Windsor Castle itself since the moment of lockdown back in March. It must have given her much pleasure, and no doubt she was on the edge of her sofa as this homebred hit the front at the furlong pole. She is not known to have a flutter but there was a massive betting plunge on this one, so who knows? Maybe 'Her Maj' as she is sometime affectionately referred to in racing circles had got 'stuck in' to assuage her frustration at not being able to be present for what is, one suspects, her favourite week of the year. There would have been some cheer on the track were it Ascot as we know it.

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
oti@oti.com.au



WHAT HAPPENED TO...

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

RENEW

After retiring, Renew has been in the care of Neka Jones and friends. Now known as Beatle, he has competed in the TV show Jump Off, and at the moment is qualifying for the inter-schools with some friend's children. In time he will continue showjumping.

Neka describes him as 'a sweetheart and absolute worker, who always gives 110%'.



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

WHO IS THIS?

Lord Fandango

QUIZ RESULT

1. Choisir
2. Jamie Richards
3. Beauty Generation

THE RACECOURSE

The opening meeting at Sandown in 1965 saw crowds of over 52,000.

There are two tracks at Sandown. The Hillside track has a circumference of 2,087 metres and straight of 491 metres, whilst the Lakeside track has a circumference of 1,857 metres and straight of 407 metres

OTI Management Pty. Ltd.

204/425 Docklands Drive | Docklands | VIC | 3008 | Australia

oti@oti.com.au | +61 (0) 3 96700255

hermione@oti.com.au