



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



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WHAT HAPPENED TO...

When future generations look back on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic it is highly likely the impact of racing will not be forgotten.

To date, Australian racing, unlike racing throughout most parts of the world and indeed other sports in Australia, has been able to continue effectively uninterrupted. The political support for that to happen, combined with the ability of all sectors of Racing to 'tow the line' through this period is significant for more than just this crisis. It shows that our sport (or industry) still has the ability to unite when the chips are down.

Over the past decade, when various racing bodies and jurisdictions appeared to be fighting among themselves rather than focusing on developing the sport and maintaining racing's 'social licence', the endeavour and experiences in the way the COVID-19 crisis has been handled would have been most welcome.

For many, the acceptance of horse racing in the longer term is at a crossroad. COVID-19 has shown what is possible if we unite and act in a way acceptable to current community standards. It would be a lost opportunity if we did not take the experience into the way racing conducts itself more broadly.

A busy week for OTI with runners across two continents.

Later today in France:

KLOSTER lines up for the first time for OTI and partners in the R6 1400m maiden for 3YO at Clairefontaine for trainer Andrew Hollinshead. Second on his last start, we are hopeful of a strong run in what is a competitive contest.

Tomorrow

At Caulfield:

SELICA will race in R3 for Phillip Stokes and Ben Thompson in the 1440m Handicap from barrier 6.

HARBOUR VIEWS will run in R8 for Matthew Williams and Johnny Allen over 2000m from barrier 10. An impressive winner in his last start, he should run very well.

At Doomben:

LE JUGE races in R5 GR3 Premier's Cup over 2200m for Chris Waller and Michael Cahill. He is in great form at home and if he can reproduce that form he will go very close.

EAGLEMONT will make his racecourse debut in R3 the 3YO maiden over 2000m at the Curragh for Joseph O'Brien and Declan McDonogh. We look forward to seeing him run.

Sunday

At Ballarat:

RAFFISH makes his racecourse debut for Archie Alexander and Neil Farley from barrier 8 in R3 1400m maiden.

At Grafton:

PENSHURST will be racing in the 2230m handicap for Matthew Dunn and Matthew McGuren from barrier 10. An easy winner in his last start, we are hoping for another winning run. At the Curragh in Ireland:

TRUE SELF may take her place in the GR1 Pretty Polly Stakes over 2000m for Willie Mullins.

UPDATE FROM TERRY

Across the globe OTI have been winning races.

Terry talks through the winners and upcoming runners.

[WATCH](#)

Racing returns to the Parisian tracks including Longchamp, and from July 11. French crowds of up to 5000 will be permitted to return to the races with expectations that at this stage the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe will be run in front of crowds.

Owners in Victoria returned to the racetracks this week with social distancing measures in place including strict time limits, as well as the separation between racing participants and owners.

Authorities in WA have announced the return of prize money stakes to the levels pre COVID-19 in August, whilst Victoria and Queensland are yet to make an announcement.

The first Ready to Run Sale of 2020 in Europe took place yesterday at Tattersalls in Newmarket with a top lot of 575,000 Guineas for a son of Night of Thunder. A tough sale for consigners, the average of the sale was down 22% to 94,995 Guineas.

THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART

Matt Stewart touches on the impact of Graham Salisbury and the current racing journalism landscape.

[WATCH](#)

Q&A ALIX CHOPPIN

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

I grew up in Paris so there weren't many horses near me. However I was always keen on horses and did the usual pony club circuit when I was little – bless my Dad for taking me there every Sunday as it certainly wasn't down the road. He had once wished to be a jockey and his family used to be very horsey but his career then took over and by the time I was born, he had completely lost touch with the animal. I guess he enjoyed reconnecting with his childhood dream through my passion.

What is your earliest racing memory?

My earliest racing memory is attending Montjeu's Arc with my Dad in 1999. I was struck by the atmosphere, the beauty of the horses, the roar of the crowd and Montjeu's sensational effort to collar the Japanese raider El Condor Pasa. I was fascinated. Three years later while I was attending business school, a friend of mine enrolled me in the "Students' Horseracing Championship", a fabulous event that allows students to ride ex-racehorses in an unofficial race, yet on a proper racecourse. So I like to say that my first experience in racing was winning at Longchamp – except it wasn't "for real" and I never repeated the feat! It proved a life-changing moment though. More than the race per se, I got hooked by the "behind the scenes" experience – learning the ropes from an ex-jockey at the French Racing School, riding out at dawn on Chantilly's stunning gallops, meeting the many colourful characters who make up racing's fabric, and getting a glimpse of the entire industry required to produce such a breathtaking show.

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

I am in awe of the animal and addicted to the relationship you build with the horse you ride every morning. So much goes into it – physical effort, patience, love, attention to details and even psychology. It is a team endeavour as well, which creates incredibly strong ties. Feeling a young horse progress from raw material to competitive athlete is an amazing experience and the emotion you get out of seeing "your" horse win is second to none. Thoroughbreds naturally want to run fast and win. Riding them is all about nurturing this desire in them, teaching them how to make the most of their abilities and caring for their weaknesses.

If you were asked to take someone racing for the first time, where would you take them and why?

It would probably depend on the person's interests as racing has so much to offer! For someone who enjoys the social, festive and casual side of racing, I would choose a "Jeuxdi" at ParisLongchamp. These twilight meetings that feature live outdoor music, street-food and an after-racing party have been incredibly popular since ParisLongchamp reopened. Pre-COVID-19, around 10,000 people, mostly Parisian youth who had never been racing before, turned up every Thursday night and had a fantastic time. For someone with a real interest in history and sport, the Prix du Jockey Club or Prix de Diane at Chantilly are bucket-list events. The racecourse is so picturesque with the castle in the background.



What does your role entail with Arqana, and what does a typical day at the Arqana Yearling Sales in August look like?

I am in charge of marketing and business development. What I enjoy the most is trying to attract new owners into the game. We host a number of events in our box at ParisLongchamp, or during the sales in Deauville to introduce newcomers to this fascinating industry. I love sharing my passion and racing is an easy sell – I can't think of anyone who attended morning exercise in Chantilly, racing at ParisLongchamp or the yearling sales in Deauville and didn't have an amazing time! The August Yearling Sale is our biggest event from a business point of view, but also the one with the most fun involved! A lot of marketing, communication and PR keep my team of 6 busy a few months prior. But again, the natural assets of the event make our job easy – with the quality of horses on offer, the appeal of Deauville as a holiday destination and the party atmosphere. It is hard to resist the 'sales paradise'.

How has your work been affected by COVID-19?

We all worked from home throughout the lockdown and have been back in the office since early June. We are lucky to be based in a small town rather than an urban hub, and the Normandy region wasn't hit too severely by the pandemic. However, the events side of my job has been put on hold, which is very sad but understandable. We are looking forward to racecourses reopening their doors to the public from the end of June. We also decided to move our August Yearling Sale to 24-26 September to allow some time for intercontinental travels to resume. We hope Australians will soon be allowed to fly to France!

How can racing, in particular in France attract a new fan base, and ownership group for the future?

I am a great believer in racing's capacity to meet the values of today's society. It is a "green" sport that relies on humans caring for animals and nature, promotes performance at all levels, teaches humility, fair-play and resilience. Every time I take a newcomer to the races, I notice that he or she is keen to return with his/her children so they can share these values – is there a better sign that racing has a bright future? French racecourses are very kids friendly and often lay out a whole lot of activities to keep children entertained between races. Racing is also a fantastic networking opportunity and I believe France has a lot to learn from Australia in this respect – how more could be done to enhance social interactions around racing, be it through syndicates or corporate events.

EUROPEAN HORSES TO FOLLOW



ROLLET

2yo colt Kingman - Foreign Legionary

Trained by Joseph O'Brien in Kilkenny Ireland, ROLLET continues to do all that is asked of him, and looking to make his racecourse debut in July over 1400m. He will be at his best in the second half of the season.

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, and feel free to email us at

oti@oti.com.au

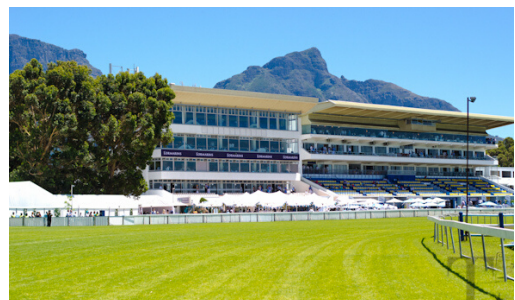
FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- By Black Minnaloushe out of Diamond Babe
- Winner of the GR2 Phar Lap Stakes
- Winner of \$354,776 of prize money

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Racing first took place in 1881 and each January is home to the L'Ormarins Queens Plate GR1

1. All Too Hard is the half-brother to which multiple GR1 winner?
2. Who rode Allez Wonder to victory in the 2009 Toorak Handicap?
3. When and where was the first official horse race in Australia?

JOHN HAMMOND

John looks back on the 2020 Ascot Gold Cup and previous three time winners of the race.

The Ascot Gold Cup, the highlight of Royal Ascot, run over two and a half miles is an iconic race. By definition, it takes an iconic horse to win it at least three times. Three have achieved that in my lifetime, Sagaro, Yeats and now Stradivarius. To keep an entire horse sweet enough while at the same time getting him fit enough to run that distance for successive years is something of an art form so I don't think it is by chance that all three were trained by trainers who were the leaders in their homelands during the times of these successes.



I remember well as a teenager glued to the telly (illicitly) at school watching Royal Ascot as the Gold Cup field swung into the straight. Sagaro was last with Lester Piggott sitting motionless, bum perched up high, the ominous sign that he was aboard a horse with a tank full of petrol. And so it was, as he lowered his rear so the horse accelerated. With a whoosh he went from last to first and had the race sewn up in a dozen strides.

Thus it was in 1975, 1976 and 1977, what fun it was to see a stayer produce such a dazzling turn of foot. Trained by the late great Francois Boutin, a farmer's son from Rouen who came from nowhere to train a hundred Group 1 winners from La Lagune to East of the Moon. At heart Francois was an 'homme de la terre', a man of the land or maybe best translated in this case as a stockman. Brilliant trainer too he was a total gent, and much missed.

Yeats achieved the unique feat (at least in my time) of winning the Gold Cup four times. At three he was touted as Aidan O'Brien's Derby horse but having won his only two starts early that year he was off the course from May until May of his four-year-old season. Maybe he would not have been the horse that he later became had he danced all the dances a good three-year-old usually does. Who knows?

Well probably Aidan knows the answer as he clearly did an amazing job in the four following seasons to produce him every Thursday of Ascot week both fit enough and enthusiastic enough to retain his crown each year. Reading between the lines (Aidan is always a master of diplomacy) I would say that Yeats had something of a mind of his own at home and 'wasn't easy' as they say. No doubt that a little 'kidology' was required to persuade him to train and race as he did. Whatever, it was some feat by both horse and trainer

Geldings will continue to run through the pain barrier for you year after year and a tough filly, she will run through fire for you and continue doing so, but the 'full horses' as they are known are inclined, after a few hard races in successive seasons to turn their heads and say 'that's enough boss'. So to win a two and a half mile Group 1 race with an 8-year-old entire ...hats off.

Stradivarius has been beautifully campaigned by John Gosden. Although, like the other two multiple winners he has never been asked to race more than six times in a year, he has not ducked any of the major staying races for three years now. Ascot Gold Cup, Goodwood Cup, Yorkshire Cup, Doncaster Cup he's raffled them all. Indeed he was only beaten once in eleven starts over the 2018 and 2019 seasons. That's some feat when the horse is running over extreme distances. A not overly big but bonny and brave animal he has charmed us all each time he has gone to the sports.

Seeing Frankie sitting motionless, Lester like, halfway up the Ascot straight last Thursday as Stradivarius had them all cold was a real joy for all racing enthusiasts. We love those stayers.

[WATCH](#) this British newsreel of Royal Ascot, the Royal Family, the fashion, as well as the 1977 Gold Cup showing Sagaro winning for the third time.

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.

TALL SHIP

Tall Ship has retired from racing, and remains in the care of Dale Wagstaff and family, in Muswellbrook, NSW. A lovely natured horse, he is out spelling in the paddock at present but once COVID-19 restrictions are eased he will return to showing, and eventing for Dale's partner Rachelle. A lovely natured horse who still rushes to the fence when he sees a carrot, he has become a family favourite with 8 year old daughter Qiana keen to ride him too.



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

WHO IS THIS?

Blackie

QUIZ RESULT

1. Black Caviar
2. Michelle Payne
3. October 1810 at Hyde Park, Sydney

THE RACECOURSE

Kenilworth, Cape Town
Located under Table Mountain, Kenilworth is home to a conservation area with the best preserved patch of Cape Flat Sand Fynbos on planet and 20 plant species threatened with extinction.

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