



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

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Clock Ticks Towards Spring

As the clock ticks down towards the Melbourne and Sydney spring carnivals, the planning of which horses will be able to race where remains both a regularity and logistical challenge.

The ongoing restrictions on international movements combined with renewed pressures locally from COVID-19 mean that all plans for spring, especially if horses have to travel, remain tentative.

However, there are a few things we do know. There will be one intake only of horses from Europe for the Melbourne Spring Carnival with a maximum number of 16 horses. These horses will be released from quarantine in time for the Caulfield Cup.

It is highly unlikely that any international trainer will accompany their horse. Irrespective of whether the horse remains in Australia or returns to Europe, an Australian trainer will be in charge of it during the carnival. Japanese horses were victorious in the Cox Plate and Caulfield Cup last year, but this year they will field no runners. The Melbourne Racing Club has cancelled the \$100,000 travel subsidy for international horses that run in the Caulfield Cup.

New Zealand trainers and their staff will be required to apply to the Department of Immigration for visas. If approved they will have to do two weeks quarantine in Australia, most likely in Sydney.

Finally, it is anyone's guess as to whether spectators will be allowed to attend the races.

OTI NEWS

Over the next few days we will see OTI silks carried in Australia, and in France.

Tomorrow at Rosehill

GREY LION runs in R7 Listed Winter Challenge over 1500m for Matthew Smith and with Jean Van Overmeire riding from barrier 2. Running for the second time this preparation, Matthew Smith is very happy with the way he is working in the mornings, and we are hopeful of a good run.

On Sunday at Coffs Harbour

PENSHURST has accepted for R6 1515m Handicap for Matthew Dunn and with Matthew McGuren in the saddle from barrier 9. He should run well with track conditions to suit.

In France next week

FUNAMBULIST has a nomination at Compiègne for André Fabre in the 1400m 2yo maiden on Monday. This will be the second start for the New Bay colt, and he will have come on a lot for the debut run.

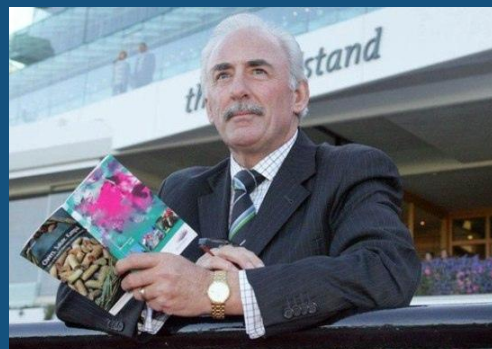
Matthew Smith has purchased Luskin Valley Stud, in the Hunter Valley region of NSW and will use the property as well as his Warwick Farm base for the training of racehorses.

Alligator Blood has been stripped of his most lucrative victory in the Magic Millions 3YO Guineas after returning a positive sample for a prohibited substance.

Racing Victoria announces changes to the implementation of the whip rules which will be made for the start of the new racing season.

The Mildura Cup was run at Swan Hill on Friday due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Racing has not taken place in Mildura since the introduction of biosecurity protocols in March.

VALE ROBERT GAYLARD



Early this week we learned of the passing of a great friend, Rob Gaylard.

Rob was immensely talented, be it behind the microphone, teaching young jockeys how to handle the media or in educating show horses.

His love of all horses was characterised as a breeder and owner of thoroughbreds, harness racers and eventers. At OTI, Rob, with his wife Karen, was a proud owner of the highly talented Petruchio.

Rob will be missed greatly by all of us who have been proud to have him as a friend.

Our love and support go out to Rob's wife Karen and his daughter Casey during these most challenging times.

Q&A MATTHEW WILLIAMS

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

I grew up in Warrnambool, and started riding horses when I was 7 or 8. My uncle helped out a local trainer so we would go and help on weekends and in the holidays. We also grew up with ponies as kids, attended pony club and did local eventing competitions.

Did you always dream of training racehorses?

I always had a passion for training, but after finishing school I decided that I needed to have a trade to fall back on so I trained to become a welder, but rode track work in the mornings. After four years of training to be a welder I'd had enough, and I decided I really wanted to train! I don't regret learning that skill now though as it is very useful to be able to build your stables, fix problems on the property or on your float.

What is your proudest moment or achievement so far in your career?

Certainly Gailo Chop running in the GR1 Kingston Town Stakes and getting so very close was very special, especially for such a wonderful old horse. Training the winner of the Wangoom is very special when you train from there. Harbour Views winning at the Warrnambool Festival was important too as there was a fair amount of pressure, and it was super to see happy owners.

Tell us what is so special about the training facilities in Warnambool, and what advantage that gives you when training?

Our biggest advantage is Lady Bay Beach, and the saltwater which is a huge benefit and can help horses recover from their races. We have a great training facility with open boxes and water walkers which all aid in prolonging the racing careers of horses.



What do you love most about your job?

It would certainly be training winners, as simply it is the reward for all the hard work that is put in by the whole team. There is a relatively long process involved, and that is the ultimate success.

What is your view on the whip rule?

I believe the punishments for overuse of the whip need to be much harsher because at the moment at the punishments are not stopping the jockeys from using it beyond the guidelines.

Do you think the whip will see be used in horse racing in 20 years time? Could we see the sport without it?

I don't believe the whip should be abolished because having the whip is a safety tool, as much as anything else. I do understand that we are in a changing world and the public perception is very important, which is again another reason why the rules regarding the whip need to be well implemented.

When you are not busy training racehorses, how do you enjoy spending your free time?

Ultra my wife who does a fantastic job running the racing office and I have four children so when we are not busy working, we like to watch the children at pony club. I think that going to pony club is a great life lesson for children. It teaches them so much, sometimes ponies do what you ask them and sometimes they don't! We like to go camping when we can too. The children enjoy going to the races with us too, especially when their favourite horses run!

JOHN HAMMOND ON ENABLE

Tomorrow sees the running of the race we all refer to as 'the King George' at Ascot. It is England's primary all-aged race, their Arc or their Cox Plate. Always a fascinating contest and the winner is often given the highest rating of a flat horse in the UK.



Generally speaking, the entries are made months in advance so there are usually a fair number that then they get whittled down by the various forfeit stages. Due to 'the virus' and the rejigging of the race programme following ten weeks without racing all entries are made six days in advance this year. It was something of a surprise, therefore, to discover that there were only TWO trainers who made entries in this year's race, Aidan O'Brien and John Gosden.

Eyebrows were raised. Indeed it does reflect how there is a concentration of good horses in few hands, but this is an elite sport that is pyramidal (if the word exists) in structure and it is the same the world over with the powerhouse trainers be it Chris Waller in Australia, or Bob Baffert or Chad Brown in the USA dominating the good races.

The hot favourite will be Enable, dual Arc winner and the current superstar/darling of European racing followed by Anthony Van Dyke, last year's Derby winner, Japan the highest-rated three-year-old colt in Europe last year and Sovereign last year's Irish Derby winner.

Whilst a very small field, what is not to like about those horses doing battle on the Ascot turf? Another surprise is that there is no representative from Godolphin, who have hundreds of fantastically well-bred horses in training in Europe but this is not a race that lacks strength in depth.

All eyes, however, will be on Enable. Now six, she is effectively Europe's Winx. The winner of thirteen of her sixteen races including ten Group 1s, she has been beautifully trained by John Gosden. Ok, she's very good but talk about putting the horse in the right race on the right day, just have a look at her score sheet.

Only Waldegeist, trained by magician André Fabre came between her and immortality by preventing her from winning three Arc de Triomphe's last year. Indeed there are many parallels with Winx. These are two amazons. In human terms, they replicate those long-legged, loose-limbed female four hundred meter runners who turn our heads every four years at the Olympics. You know the ones, those with the thigh bones to die for. That's what Enable reminded me of when I saw her striding into the paddock at Longchamp last year. A total athlete. I was fortunate on one of my trips to Flemington that Chris Waller very kindly let me go into the box to have a good look at Winx and the same word came into my head, 'wow', what an athlete.

It is interesting how although fillies can be mercurial (no sexist comments please lads) when you get a good one they will run through fire for you and continue doing so, more so than the colts who will at a point in time not agree to continue to run through the pain barrier in the same way or at least to the same extent.

As always it will be a fascinating race and a most tactical affair. The Ballydoyle runners will be there to test the great mare and there is no doubt she will have to bring her A-game to town.

However, I suspect that even the Coolmore trio of John Magnier, Michael Tabor and Derrick Smith, sportsmen that they are, will doff their hats and smile if Enable passes the post in front on Saturday. In our sport, we all love to see a champion.

OTI SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

NIGHT'S WATCH

Redwood x Glory Run
Chris Waller



A breakthrough win in the G3 Neville Sellwood was the first of five Group wins across the autumn for OTI. It was a much-deserved reward for the talented galloper and his group of connections, after enduring some bad luck in quality races across the season.

FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- Winner of GR3 Premio Dormello
- By Myboycharlie out of La Boiserie
- Trained by Marco Gasparini

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Home to the Glorious Meeting

1. Which jockey in Australia holds the record for number of wins in a season?
2. Lankan Rupee beat Brazen Beau in which Group 1 over 1000m in 2015?
3. Leading stallion Deep Field was trained by?

2YO LOPE DE VEGA FILLY TO BE TRAINED BY JESSIE HARRINGTON

OTI acquired this well bred 2YO filly named Spanish Class.

Bought after displaying an impressive breeze up that placed her in the top 15% at the Tattersalls Breeze Up Sale last month, she is now in the hands of trainer Jessie Harrington who is pleased with the filly's progress since arriving in the stable. [WATCH VIDEO](#)

Lope de Vega is one of the hottest sires in Europe, and sired a most impressive 2YO winner this season in Cadillac, who is also trained by Jessie Harrington.

A real athlete, and beautifully balanced, she has residual value should she reach Stakes class.

For more information
oti@oti.com.au



THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART

WHEN A RIVER BECOMES A WALL

The continuing restrictions put in place by Racing NSW to stop the transfer of racehorse between Victoria, and licensed premises in New South Wales continues to cause many ramifications. We hope that the situation on the border is resolved soon for Mitch Beer and other trainers in the region.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



WHO IS THIS?

Noblesse Oblige

QUIZ RESULT

1. William Pike
2. Lightning Stakes
3. Michael, Wayne and John Hawkes

THE RACECOURSE

Goodwood, England.

Situated on the Sussex Downs, Goodwood Estate is also famous for the world renowned Festival Of Speed, and motor circuit. It is also home to the oldest existing rules of cricket drawn up in 1727 for a game being played at Goodwood.

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