



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



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There is little doubt that suspensions handed to European jockeys for racing interference are far more lenient than those for similar offences in Australia. What would be a three day suspension in the UK for example, is more likely to be two weeks here.

We all accept that jockeys have an incredibly difficult task of judging the level of aggression that can be applied to give their horses the best chance. However, it is simply human behaviour that more discretion will be applied if the penalties are more severe. More care will be taken if the consequences are harsh.

Over the years, especially in the major races, we've seen potential penalties appear secondary to jockey's efforts to win. Few will forget Greg Hall's ride on Merlene in the Golden Slipper when he was hit with a \$50,000 fine and 2 month suspension. Similarly, the European racing world was shocked when Frankie Dettori was handed a one month suspension following his ride on Max Dynamite in the Melbourne Cup four years ago. Such a penalty was unheard of there.

The Australian way of treating riding indiscretions is welcomed by many connections in Europe as a way of both making the sport safer and of ensuring the best horse wins. Recently key Irish trainers, including Aidan O'Brien, called for harsher penalties to help curb riding interference. Despite such calls, stewards seem cool on changing the penalty structure.

While there will always be ways to improve racing that each jurisdiction can learn from each other, the handling of racing interference by jockeys is one where Australian racing excels and our industry is far safer for it.

Despite our industry's firm approach, racing incidents will happen and our thoughts and best wishes go out to Andrew Adkins who is recovering from a fall last weekend. Those who know Hugh Bowman, who was handed a 6 week suspension for his part in causing the fall, know that he too will be suffering. Bowman is considered one of the safest riders in racing. Just maybe his claim that other activity around him when the fall occurred had some part to play and the fall was a terrible accident.

This weekend will once again see racing action on two continents for OTI.

Overnight in Ireland

EAGLEMONT runs at Leopardstown in the 2400m maiden for Joseph O'Brien and Declan McDonogh. Showing significant improvement on each run, we look forward to seeing him race.

Tomorrow at the Gold Coast

PENSHURST runs in R5 over 1800m in the Class 3 Handicap. In a field of 10, he has drawn barrier 3 and will be ridden by Emily Atkinson.

On Sunday at Sandown, in Australia

TIGRE ROYALE runs for Archie Alexander and Damian Lane from barrier 7 in R4 the 2400m Handicap. Having had a fantastic preparation so far, he will be aiming for a four win in a row.

On Sunday at Sandown, in England

TIPPLER is entered in the 1600m Handicap for trainer Sir Mark Todd.

OTI runners next week may include GREGORIAN CHANT, OUR INSIDER, ANNO MAXIMO, PARADIA and MR SATCHMO.

See our website for the latest news.

THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART

Jockeys have been in the spotlight for contentious rides in both hemispheres this week. Matt chats about the incidents and how they played out on social media.

[WATCH](#)

Three time Group 1 winner Sunlight sold on Monday at the Magic Millions Broodmare Sale for \$4.2 million to Coolmore Stud. She will now visit US Triple Crown winner Justify.

Hugh Bowman was suspended from racing for six weeks for careless riding, after a move in the straight at Rosehill on Saturday.

At Glorious Goodwood Festival in England, Stradivarius won the 3200m GR1 Goodwood Cup for the fourth time.

Fancy Blue took the 2000m GR1 Nassau Stakes for fillies for 22-year-old trainer Donnacha O'Brien, with the Jessie Harrington trained filly One Voice beaten into second by a neck.

Prize money levels in the UK will be boosted from September 1st after an injection of funding from the Levy Board.

Racing Queensland and SKY announce a new 10-year deal to continue to broadcast racing.

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Q&A MATT WELSH

Where did you grow up and did your parents enjoy racing?

I grew up in the heart of Melbourne, and my parents were VRC members who would attend the four days of the carnival but very much for the social side. I had a few family connections to racing. My uncle Peter Lucas, who was a bit of racing tragic worked for Best Bets and other publications, and my paternal grandmother, was a celebrity racing tipster for the Argus many years ago. Also coincidentally Melissa Freedman who is now married to Michael Freedman used to look after me, and she brought me to the stables after Terrific won the Melbourne Cup which was a big excitement!

Do you remember your first visit to a racecourse?

I don't explicitly remember my first day ever, but I do have fond memories of going to Flemington on Family Day, and would get Mum & Dad to place little bets for me. One of my favourite things to do was to pick up tickets from the floor at the end of the day and hope to find a winning one!

What was it that attracted you to the sport?

I happily admit it was the wagering. Of course I love the horse and bought an ex-racehorse when I was at school, and got it showjumping, but I was attracted to the challenge of doing form and finding ways to get a winner, and all the various betting permutations.

Tell us about your ownership experience?

I've had a bit of luck over the years. I guess I've been fortuitous when it comes to owning horses, as I've bought into very good tried horses including Sonntag who won the Queensland Derby. My first ownership experience was with a horse we rented online, and with Gordon Yorke in Coffs Harbour. I paid \$200 for 5% for the year, and he was called Nuclear Medicine who won a Group 3 and a Listed Race for us. He ran on Derby Day at Flemington which was a fabulous ownership experience, even though he didn't run too well.

Was it always an ambition to be in media, and what was the career pathway to it?

It certainly wasn't. I studied commerce and entrepreneurship and joined my father's importing business, running it for 9 years. During that time I wrote about racing for several publications, but in 2016 I decided I wanted to dive into my passion. Michael Felgate offered me a few free trial spots on RSN and the media work went from there. I wrote for the Herald Sun through the Spring Carnival, and now I'm with racing.com and loving combining my passion of racing with my job.



You specialise in watching race trials. What should we look for when watching a trial?

It has been harder in recent COVID times to do since there are no official barrier trials but solely jumpouts. Jumpouts are harder to discern since we have no idea of the weights of the jockeys, or what riding gear is being used. In trials, I look for horses that are not placed under too much pressure, and appear to be showing acceleration between the 400 and 200 and look to have plenty left in the tank. Times are important in the official trials, and I believe the quality of the opposition is irrelevant.

What can racing do to stay current, popular and relevant with the younger generations?

This is racing's big challenge. To summarise, I think there are two very important issues that need addressing - welfare and integrity. The ABC program last year peaked interest from the younger generations but in a negative way. The younger generation is really in tune with welfare, environmental and integrity issues. I know that the very large majority of the racing industry does a huge amount in the care of but the challenge is to get positive welfare messages out into the mainstream. Integrity issues need to be stamped out, because so often the stories that make the front pages of the media are the integrity issues and that is sticky with the younger generations. If they don't have faith in the product they can bet on other sports like the AFL.

How do manage to juggle the work life balance of having a young family and racing taking place nearly every day of the year, and well into the evening?

It has been particularly challenging during COVID-19 as it has been very busy with work, but I think I've managed it OK! It can be hard to find a balance, because racing was my passion before it became my job, so switching off from it all isn't always easy, but I can't complain as I know I'm lucky to work in a profession I love.

JOHN HAMMOND - WILL THERE BE RACING IN 2080?

In this two part series, John Hammond reflects on the future of horse racing.

Good question, although I won't be around to see it I feel it would be a massive shame if not. I think the question can be divided in to two parts. Firstly, if it isn't why not? What is it that will provoke its demise? And secondly what can we do, what actions can we take now to make sure that this sport which gives us such fun is still flourishing in 2080?

Our hope is that our grandchildren will be discussing how the champions of their day measure up to Winx or Enable and cursing themselves for not having bought in to that OTI horse that has just won a Group 3 and has made the cut for The Cup!

Without doubt the biggest danger to racing's future will come from the animal rights activists. It is important however to make the distinction between animal rights and animal welfare. The welfare of racehorses concerns us all and it is a subject that should be continually revisited.

The whip is the thorniest of these issues and I for one am in favour of more stringent penalties for excessive use. I don't think you need to start disqualifying winners when the jockey exceeds the limit (but that is an option) however a six month suspension would help certain jockeys learn to count up to five, six or seven or however much the number is in the country in which they are riding.

Concerning post racing care of racehorses, most racing jurisdictions be it UK, France, Ireland or Australia, have taken a big interest in the welfare of horses once their racing career has finished, and rightly so. This can be in the form of retraining to become showjumpers, riding horses or the creation of 'retirement parks' for those who cannot be retrained. However there is a section of the animal rights contingent who are extremists and they need to be stood up to firmly.



They would have racing banned tomorrow because in their eyes it is cruel and they wrongly anthropomorphise the situation, feeling that horses like humans should have happy stress free lives. They are wrong on both counts.

Few, if any, humans have happy stress free lives, that's not how it works. Most of us have to strive to survive and are more likely to find happiness in doing so. To paraphrase Tim Minchin, 'happy' homo erectus would have been eaten long before passing on his genes. For many 'wild' animals life is, as the aphorism says, nasty brutish and short. Most will be killed by other animals or in the case of old horses become arthritic and die in pain of starvation.

Racing needs to be on the front foot here and any talk of it being banned needs to be immediately rebuffed with a loud voice. Make no mistake, if these people succeeded in banning racing they would then move on to show jumping etc and finally the keeping of pets! That's what they do, they are not called 'the antis' for nothing. They are anti everything.

Racehorses are by definition well looked after for the simple reason that horses who are not so tend not to be successful therefore their handlers will go out of business. However the racing authorities do have a responsibility regarding pre race soundness and this was evidenced last year at the Melbourne Spring Carnival by the proactive decision of Racing Victoria to bar certain horses from competing. It might not have been popular with the connections of said horses at the time but that is the role of the racing authorities and we should respect them for that.

Next week John continues his views and we hear from the younger generation.

WELCOME TO FURIOSO



OTI is delighted to announce the arrival of **FURIOSO** who is heading to Matt Cumani in Ballarat.

Recommended by Phill Cataldo after an impressive trial, OTI and Matt Cumani quickly secured the Atlante gelding who turns 3 tomorrow on August 1st.

Out of G1 winner Maroofity's half-sister, the Encosta De Lago mare, De Lago Lady, this imposing middle distance horse is poised to be competitive this spring.

Matt Cumani has enjoyed a career best season finishing 12th on the Victorian Trainer's Premiership.

WATCH

For more information email
oti@oti.com.au

FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- Winner of Listed Barton Stakes
- 2nd in GR1 Goodwood & GR1 Futurity Stakes
- By Spectrum out of Cult Figure

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint -

Originally known as Sandy Course

1. Which member of Abba has owned racehorses for over 30 years, and had Lavender's Blue running in the Nassau Stakes Gr1 at Goodwood yesterday?
2. How much did Viddora sell for at the Magic Millions Broodmare Sale?
3. Who trained ATC Sires GR1 winner Manhattan Rain?

OTI SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



Downdraft

Camelot x Cinnamon Rose

Trained by Joseph O'Brien, Downdraft was a strong winner of the G3 Hotham Stakes at Flemington on Derby Day. The performance booked the 5-year-old a ticket into the Melbourne Cup, fulfilling what is the dream of many owners to have a Cup runner.

OTI'S STARS SELECTOR COMPETITION

Congratulations to **Joe Del Mastro** on winning the inaugural Stars Selector competition. Joe's score of 76 points secured the coveted first prize of 10% in a yearling filly named Indented Head out of Group 2 placed Gripsholm Castle (Dynaformer). She will be trained by Philip Stokes at Pakenham.

In second place was **Steve Lobb** (69 points) who wins a \$750 dining allowance in the Chairman's Club at Flemington, and in third place was **Laurie Larmer** (63 points) who will receive one case of 2012 Red Red Wine (Heathcote Shiraz).

A competitive affair with points scored around the world from the Gold Coast to Gowran Park, we will be announcing further details of the Spring Stars Selector Competition in due course.



WHAT TO WATCH, READ OR LISTEN



SERIAL WINNERS

Joseph O'Brien is no stranger to us, having been on the world stage since he rode his first winner at the age of 16.

The recently released short film 'Serial Winners' documents his career in racing from jockey to now Melbourne Cup winning trainer, and the challenges he has faced in his career.

Hear from Joseph himself, and those that know him best.

If you have 8 minutes to spare, this is well worth watching.

[WATCH](#)

QUIZ RESULTS

WHO IS THIS?

Cargo Cult

QUIZ RESULT

1. Benny Andersson
2. \$2.55 milion in foal to Lope De Vega
3. Gai Waterhouse

THE RACECOURSE

Royal Randwick Racecourse

Situated in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney and host of 20 Group 1's races in the season.

Racing has taken place on the Sandy Course since the 1830's with the rent in 1863 being one peppercorn payable to the NSW Government.

OTI Management Pty. Ltd.

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

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

hermione@oti.com.au