



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

WELCOME

OTI NEWS

MATT STEWART

Q&A
JOHN O'SHEA

JOHN HAMMOND ON
THE UPCOMING EPSOM DERBY

FUN & GAMES

WHAT HAPPENED TO...

Few occupations demand a skill set as diverse as a horse trainer. Add to that, the wide range of hours that trainers are expected to be on the job in Australia, and you have a very challenging occupation.

Fortunately, over the past decade, training partners have been allowed. Gone are the days when the son or daughter had to sit on the sidelines waiting for their parent to 'hand over the reins'.

Today partnerships are growing in number, in various guises. Be it Maher/Eustace, Waterhouse/Bott, Sam and Anthony Freedman, the Hayes/Dabernig clan or Price/Kent. It is also encouraging to see that more wives, who have often been the backbone of training businesses now formally share the glory. Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young and Amy & Ash Yargi have had a wonderful year on the track.

One feature that stands out when looking at these new structures, is the experience coming in from the junior member of the partnership. David Eustace, Sam Freedman, Ben Hayes, Michael Kent Jnr have all had the experience of working with some of the world's best. It's little wonder that results are up.

The rest of the world has been slow on the take up of partnerships. The UK has recently approved the structure with Paul and Olly Cole being the first partnership to train a winner at Royal Ascot. Our industry can only benefit from encouraging the young and talented to be formally acknowledged.

A busy week for OTI with runners across two continents. Terry talks through the runners at home and away. **WATCH**

Tomorrow at Flemington

SELICA runs in R7 Super Bowl Final over 1600m for Phillip Stokes and Ben Thompson from barrier 13. A fast finishing 4th over 1440m in her last start, she should run well.

ROMANCER lines up in R8 Winter Championship Series Final over 1600m for Grahame Begg and Jordan Childs from barrier 12. Second in this race last year, we hope he can go one better in this year's renewal.

GREY LION has returned from his spell in good order and also runs first up this preparation in the R8 Winter Championship Series Final for Matt Smith and Johnny Allen over 1600m from barrier 17.

Tomorrow at Randwick

TIGRE ROYALE races in R6 BM78 over 2400m for Archie Alexander, with Kerrin McEvoy in the saddle. Drawn in barrier 15 he will be aiming for a hat-trick of victories.

On Sunday in Italy

AUYANTEPUI is a recent purchase by OTI. Trained by Nicolo Simondi, she will take her place in the Italian Oaks GR2 at San Siro. Unbeaten so far in her career, we are very much looking forward to seeing her run.

THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART

Matt's road trip to Broken Hill has unearthed some historic and unique tracks. What's your favourite?

WATCH

WINNER



OUR INSIDER
Northam

Racing Victoria is seeking exemption from the Federal Government to allow international trainers and staff to travel to Australia for the Spring Carnival. Currently, only Australian nationals and residents can enter Australia though there is no restriction on horses entering the country.

The return of prize money to levels pre-COVID-19 have been announced in Victoria for the start of the new season. The prize funds for the major Spring Carnival races including the Melbourne Cup remain unchanged.

Jockeys were unable to persuade Racing Victoria to keep the minimum weights higher beyond the pandemic.

Due to the worsening pandemic situation in parts of Melbourne, all Victorian vendors, vendor staff, vets and purchasers have been barred from attending the Inglis Sales next week in Sydney.

Owners in Victoria who reside in COVID-19 hotspots will be banned from attending the races until the pandemic in these areas has been controlled.

Q&A JOHN O'SHEA



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

I grew up in a small town called Mareeba in North Queensland, and was surrounded by horses from a young age. I was into all sports including Rugby League, but loved the horses and did rodeos, polocrosse and country racing.

How did you get involved in horse racing, and did you always want to train?

I have been going to the races for as long I can remember. My grandfather was a bookmaker, my father was a bookmaker so racing in one way or another has been a part of my family for a very long time. It was very likely I'd follow suit and started out working for a few local trainers. I did study journalism at The University of Toowoomba first before going to work for Tommy Smith, Bart Cummings, Gai Waterhouse and Gary Moore.

What do you love most about training racehorses?

Simply I think it would be developing your horses into class athletes, and getting them to realise their potential.

What is your greatest training achievement so far?

For me, there isn't just one, but I'd say training 28 Group 1 winners up to now gives me great satisfaction.

You took a break from training after training solely for Godolphin. Has your way of training changed over the years, and after training a large volume of horses?

Training at Godolphin has made me a much better trainer, I learnt a lot from the experience, as with so many horses you have many opportunities to try different things. I would say I am significantly softer on my horses now than 10 years ago.

Getting the best staff is very important for any business. What can the racing industry do to ensure people continue to work in the profession?

We must as an industry start later in the morning. The concept of starting work in the middle of the night is archaic and unjustified. If we start later we will improve industry occupational health and safety. People work better in the daylight when they are not fatigued. If we change this it will give longevity to existing staff. To get people out of bed at 3.30am to work on minimal wages, whilst living in the middle of the city doesn't seem to make much sense.

The implications of COVID-19 caused debate, did you see merit in the proposed Spring Carnival changes?

I was a big supporter of moving the whole carnival back three weeks so that racing does not compete with the football codes, and then allowing the country to focus on racing for the months of October and November. As it stands now the carnival finishes in the first week of November and everyone stands around twiddling their thumbs for the rest of the year with nothing to do.

Outside of racing, and if you have time, how do you relax?

I enjoy spending time with my family, watching them play sport and cooking. I cook all the healthy stuff - bbq's and pasta!

JOHN HAMMOND



The upcoming weekend is a total feast for racing purists. On Saturday the Derby and Oaks are run at Epsom on the same day, surely the first time in living memory; On Sunday, likewise, the Prix du Jockey Club and Prix de Diane are both run together at Chantilly. Sadly crowds are still not allowed so once again we will be restricted to watching the racing on our televisions.

On paper, the English Derby looks to be between English King and Kameko but with Aidan O'Brien likely to run six there will be ample opportunity for party spoiling. English King, a son of Camelot heads the market following an impressive win in the Lingfield Derby trial over solid form horse Berkshire Rocco. He looks sure to stay and a win for trainer Ed Walker and owner Bjorn Nielsen would go down well with many. Neither represents a 'big battalion' and Nielsen's lifetime passion to race 'staying' horses would be justly rewarded if it hasn't already been so with superstar Stradivarius.

The Oaks is reduced to 8 runners this year and looks to be between the wonderfully named Love and the slightly less wonderfully named Frankly Darling. Love won the English 1000 Guineas by a clear four lengths and is a worthy favourite but being out of a mare by Pivotal, ace broodmare sire though he is, stamina could be her achilles heel. Frankly Darling proved her ability to stay with a solid win over a mile and a half at Ascot where she had a length and a half to spare over Ennistymon who reopposes here. Of the rest, the lightly raced Gold Wand could provide a first classic winner for Golden Horn coming from the stable of Roger Varian who had such a good time at Ascot.

The brilliantly named Victor Ludorum heads the Jockey Club field with both the highest rating and the smartest CV. He aims to emulate his sire Shamardal in winning both the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2000 Guineas) and Prix du Jockey Club. When you walk it the bend at Chantilly is considerably tighter than it appears on TV so getting a good position early on and then a clear run at the right moment is important.

The Prix de Diane will have fewer runners but some classy fillies turn up. Jean Claude Rouget starts Raabihah for Sheikh Hamdan and Vadsena for the Aga Khan. The former a daughter of Sea the Stars is unbeaten in two runs and comes off an easy four-length success in a Listed race at Longchamp in mid-May. Fabrice Chappet is well represented with three runners staring Mageva and Speak of the Devil in addition to Magic Attitude. If any improve for more distance they could be in the shake-up but on pedigree that wouldn't be certain.

Arguably the most exciting race in the UK over the weekend will be Sunday's Eclipse Stakes which sees the return to racing of the Enable. Elegant and amazonian she has lit up European racing over the past three seasons but this will be no walk in the park. Including her, there are six Group 1 winners in the field amongst them the bang in form Ghaiyyath winner of 7 of his 10 starts and unbeaten this year. Japan, a dual Group 1 winner from last year, the massively improved Lord North who won the Prince of Wales Stakes at Royal Ascot, Magic Wand a winner of over 3.5 million in prize money and the evergreen Japanese mare Deidre will make a proper race of it.

We may have had to wait a little longer this year for this classics, but what a weekend it promises to be!

OTI LINKS IN THE CLASSICS

The Derby

Ed Walker, English King - Many owners will remember a fresh faced Ed Walker being favourite for the swapped by the media as OTI's Ruscello won the Lexus Stakes on Derby Day at Flemington in 2013. On Saturday Ed, only 10 years into his training career, prepares a horse that, should it win the English Derby, will change his life. We first met Ed, when the foreman for Luca Cumani. Intelligent, good looking and with a great sense of humour, Ed's career started well. However for no fault of his own, he was forced to move from stable to stable as his landlords had alternate plans for facilities. Eventually Ed and his family developed a relation with Bjorn Neilsen, who owned the magnificent facilities of Kingsdown Stables in Lambourn, and from there Ed's career has flourished and he is now regarded as one of England's top young trainers. Ed currently trains the exciting colt Eagles Crag for OTI.

Max Vega- Although not as fancied as Ed Walker's colt, the owners of the 4yo mare Camphor, trained by Jessie Harrington, will be hoping for a win by Max Vega. The colt is the younger half brother to the OTI mare. Needless to say that, although already a stakes mare, Camphor's value would rocket should Max Vega win the Derby for English trainer Ralph Beckett.

Jessie Harrington - Trainer of Camphor, Jessie has classic runners in two countries this weekend. In France, in the Prix de Diane (French Oaks) she trains the favourite Alpine Star who was a comfortable winner in the Coronation Stakes GR1 at Royal Ascot. At Epsom in the Derby, Jessie trains Gold Maze, an outsider in the field.

Prix de Diane

Fabrice Chappet

Having recently won a G2 for San Huberto's owners, Fabrice Chappet lines up three runners in the Prix de Diane. Fabrice's stable has gone from strength to strength over these past few seasons and he is now established in Chantilly as one of the country's top trainers. We wish him well.

And in Italy – Auyantepui in the Italian Oaks. Good luck to our new owners and our Italian partners Massimo and Giovanni Parri in the Italian Oaks on Sunday. Our exciting filly Auyantepui promises to be hard to beat.

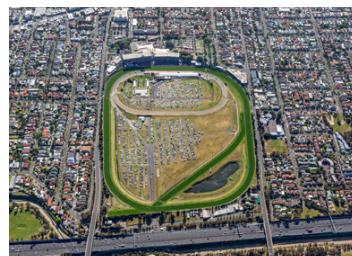
FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- Winner of GR3 Easter Cup
- Winner of \$486,736
- By Fastnet Rock out of Ideal

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint -

Established in 1883 and home to 4 Group 1's

1. Who won the 2019 Epsom Derby?
2. Joao Moreira the HK Champion jockey was born in which country?
3. At which racecourse, and over what distance is the Group 1 Flight Stakes?

ONLY 20% REMAINS IN RIDER IN THE SNOW

Five year old son of Intello, RIDER IN THE SNOW, has been purchased by OTI. He has arrived in Australia and is currently in quarantine (pictured).



Rated 92 as a 3 year old, he has been placed five 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 who will be trained by Kris Lees, in Newcastle, NSW.

[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.

SUPER IMPRESSIVE

Life after racing for Super was over a decade of service in the Victoria Police Mounted Branch. After that, he has been an ambassador of racing at Living Legends. Super is a gentle giant and his police training and experience means that he can be taken in public in every situation. For several years now he has been a special guest of the Governor at the Government House Open Day to celebrate Australia Day. The attached photos of Super were taken at Government House Open celebrating 2020 Australia Day



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

WHO IS THIS?

Inverloch

QUIZ RESULT

1. Anthony Van Dyke
2. Brazil
3. Randwick, 1600m

THE RACECOURSE

Moonee Valley

The first meeting took place on the 15th September 1883 and was a dead heat between Eveline and Pyrette. The track has the shortest home straight in Australia measuring 173 metres.

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