



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



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WHAT HAPPENED TO...

As people in racing juggle the ever-changing scenery of COVID-19, an ever-growing cloud follows us. That's the cloud of mental health.

No sector of our industry is immune from the consequences of being forced to deal with an environment that is unpredictable, economically challenging and potentially physically harmful.

Through circumstance and a positive attitude, some may thrive in this environment. For the jockeys and trainers in the front line, the challenges grow daily, and for many, this is taking a significant toll on their mental well-being.

As owners, and sometimes demanding owners, we can help by being cognisant and empathetic to those we rely on to keep racing going. An understanding approach can do wonders when dealing with people in stressful situations. It can not only help them to deal with the challenge at hand but ensure that challenge does not build on others to create mental anguish.

With the proliferation of "experts" and Twitter trolls on social media, we know how harmful certain comments can be, especially for our younger jockeys who are tuned into such media. Tragically, some have lost their lives through such stress.

As a major sport/industry our leaders have a responsibility to develop a strategy to meet both the immediate and longer-term mental challenges that many will face as a result of COVID-19. As owners, punters or fans, kindness to our jockeys and trainers in these challenging times is king.

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

Tomorrow at Flemington

RAFFISH runs in R3 1800m 2YO Handicap for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates from barrier 10. The horse is well, and will appreciate stepping up in trip.

ROMANCER runs in R7 1600m Handicap for Grahame Begg and with Teo Nugent claiming 2kg. Drawn in barrier 2, this is the first time this preparation that he has drawn well, and we are hopeful of a good run.

Tomorrow at Ipswich

LE JUGE runs in R3 2150m Handicap for Chris Waller and Michael Cahill from barrier 8. Carrying top weight and from a tricky draw, he will need a bit of luck in running.

Tomorrow in Ireland at the Curragh

CAMPHOR runs in the GR2 Curragh Cup over 2800m for Jessie Harrington and Shane Foley. Second on her last start, we are hopeful she can gain further black type.

Tomorrow in England at Bath

ANNO MAXIMO runs for Michael Bell in R7 2000m 3YO Handicap from barrier 7 with Kieran Shoemark in the saddle.

Next week in France

MR SATCHMO is nominated in the 2000m GR3 Grand Prix de Vichy for Antoine de Watrigant.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Any subject you want covered?
Anyone you'd like interviewed?

Let me know!

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THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART

From Los Alamitos, California to Warwick Farm, New South Wales – Matt keeps us up to date on how COVID-19 is impacting racing in different corners of the globe.

WATCH

Racing was cancelled on Wednesday at Warwick Farm, NSW after four stablehands required COVID-19 tests. All four have since returned negative results.

Face masks will now be compulsory for those unable to maintain social distancing at race meetings in Victoria.

Magic Millions have delayed their Broodmare and Weanling sale by a week, after border rules changes were made after the Sydney outbreak which would have affected many industry participants.

AFL boss Gillon McLachlan has promised that the rescheduled AFL Grand Final will not clash directly with the big Spring Carnival race days.

Racing Victoria announced the 'RESET (Racehorses, Evaluation, Support, Education and Transition) Program' which will directly support horses that are sound, but have not been successful in transitioning into second careers.

MVRC announce that this year's current membership will be extended until the end of the year.

Officials announced a reduced crowd of 5000 is a strong possibility for this year's 100th running of the Cox Plate.

Q&A JAMIE KAH

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

I grew up in the country in Mount Pleasant, SA close to the original Lindsay Park where Tony McEvoy trains. I started riding miniature ponies and was riding by myself when I was about 3. I grew up doing mounted games, eventing with my ponies and every memory I have from the weekend had something to do with horses.

What do you remember of the first race you rode in?

My first ride was at Streaky Bay, about 8 hours from Adelaide. My parents drove my boss's horse to the races. I remember that it was the first time I'd worn silks, and they were quite slippery so I nearly slipped off the other side. It was quite embarrassing! She ran third, though I don't think I gave her the best ride as we sat wide the whole way! I'll never forget the adrenaline coming down the home straight, and ever since then, I was hooked.

What about your first winner, tell us about that?

Magic Tigress for John Macmillan, my boss. She was a special horse, I won a few races on her, and in town too. It was special as the owners were there, and they had been huge supporters of mine from the start. My family were also there, it was a great day and I didn't wipe the smile off my face for a couple of weeks!

Your parents were Olympic athletes, how helpful was it having their experience for guidance?

Mum and Dad were always very supportive of me leaving school, and starting my apprenticeship. They knew what it takes to be an athlete, having given up the early years of their lives to ice skate so they understood what I needed to do, and what sacrifices I needed to make. They also understood the ups and down of it all, and that was a huge help to me.

You took a break from riding when you were 18. What did you do in that time off, and how did the time away help?

It was 2015, and the pressure of the sport was getting to me at the time as I'd been riding non stop since I was about 16. I hadn't had a normal time like my other teenage friends. I couldn't go out and see them at weekends. We lost a really special friend in a race fall a few months before, and it was a really hard time mentally. Everything was getting to me, so I went overseas to work in a showjumping stable and to visit family. It was so good for me to do something different without the pressure and eyes on me every day.



Being a jockey is full of highs and lows, how do you deal with your every day at work being seen by the public? Do you think there should be greater awareness of mental health for jockeys?

I think social media is making it even tougher for jockeys. People write cruel and horrific things about you or to you on social media that they would never say to your face, and it can really get to you if you let it. I've learnt not to read socials too much, especially after a day that hasn't gone so well. There is nothing better than riding winners, and that is why we do it as it is so exciting, but there is definitely a mental health issue for jockeys, and I think particularly for apprentices who are learning their trade in front of thousands of people. They need to be taught to adopt a certain mindset to help them cope with the pressures. Racing Victoria does a great job, having programs set and people we can talk to, but I think more could be done as it is a very serious issue.

What does a normal day look like for you, and how do you enjoy your free time?

A normal day is busy. My partner Clayton Douglas and I have a property in Somerville and we have a few pre-trainers we look after so I'm always around horses, as I also have a few ex-racehorses. At the moment I am lucky because thanks to the recent weight increases I'm not having to watch my weight and it has taken a huge strain off my routine. I get to wake up and have breakfast, and I'm definitely enjoying that! When I'm not busy at the races, we like to go down to the Mornington Peninsula and to the beautiful wineries to have a few glasses of wine and a cheeseboard. That is probably my perfect Sunday. During the week, we are so busy with the horses that there isn't much free time, but that is what we've chosen to do and I wouldn't have it any other way!

What long term riding aspirations do you have?

Obviously, I want to keep riding, winning races and I'd love to add more Group 1's to my record. Once my race riding days are over, I would love to travel around Australia with a team of horses and show jump at all the major agricultural shows. A bit different from Flemington, but it would be fun!

JOHN HAMMOND ON HIS RETURN TO THE RACES

It was something of an odd sensation to be racing at Longchamp for the first time this year...in July! Effectively the embargo on 'non-professionals' going racing was lifted on Sunday when racing took place at Deauville. There was a touching interview in the Paris Turf with the wife of a life long racegoer who was explaining what a relief it was for her husband to be back on the racecourse, maybe for her too. By the sounds of it, he had been climbing the walls at home.

Joking apart it might be our 'magnificent triviality' in the words of the great Hugh McIlvanny but it doesn't half keep us amused. Maybe it's because, as we are dealing with nature, there are just so many unquantifiable elements involved. We pit our wits against each other in the belief that we can 'work it out' by honest study of the form or more often that 'gut feeling'. We can declare to all after the race, 'I knew he/she would win!' And when it doesn't win we can always blame the jockey or the vagaries of the race, or the ground or any other of the multiple variables that prevented our judgement from being right.

My trip to the races was to watch San Huberto take his next step towards the Melbourne Cup. An elegant late maturer who hadn't run at two, OTI bought into him last year when he showed that he was a young stayer with potential having won a Listed race in Deauville. He has proved to be an inspired purchase. Now a winner of 4 of his 10 starts including a Group 2 race at Chantilly he has only been out of the money on one occasion when he raced on a very soft track in the autumn last year.

This week was a tall order as he had to carry a 3 pound penalty for his Group race win which meant that he was being asked to give weight to some tough, high class, battle hardened stayers. There might have only been 4 runners but the other three had won €2.5 million between them. Our horse lay third as the race unfolded with the four horses in Indian file. Perennial front runner Holdthaisgreen cut out steady fractions with the super tough Red Verdon lying second, San Huberto third and Group 1 winning favourite Called to the Bar at the tail of the field. As they turned for home Frankie Dettori on Red Verdon hit the gas and was gone. He threw in a 10.73 furlong from the two to the one. San Huberto quickened well to finish only just over a length behind the winner in third, the last four hundred metres being run in 21.98. And they call these horses stayers! It was a great race to watch and San Huberto has now surely booked his ticket to the Cup in November.



To switch subjects slightly it was extraordinary in the current context to see the July sales at Newmarket return a clearance rate of 96%. What a resilient business we inhabit. Maybe it's because it's such fun, who knows? Ok, we can all be accused of dreaming, but what a build up we enjoy. As the old saying goes, the journey is as important as the destination.

I was checking out OTI trainer Jessie Harrington's phenomenal results the other day and wondering why it took the racing industry so long to work out that she's a brilliant trainer of young horses (previously she was known for training jumpers). She can't stop training two-year-old winners at the moment and her Lope De Vega colt Cadillac (great name) put up the best performance seen of his age group in Ireland this year when winning at Leopardstown recently. After being blocked in a furlong out he blasted home to win by seven lengths against previous winners. His sire, currently standing at €100,000 is, as they say, the real deal.

No doubt Jessie will be happy to receive the OTI filly by him, well bought at this year's breeze ups, out of an interesting young family and will weave her magic with her in a similar way.

Sorry to read from this side of the world of the lockdown in Melbourne. We've been through it here, no fun. Curiously in Europe, we now have the feeling that we have learnt to live with it (the virus) but I think all agree that life has to go on and while lockdowns might sometimes be necessary they should be strictly delineated otherwise they, in turn, create too much collateral damage.

OTI SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

INVERLOCH Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young



The son of Fastnet Rock will be coming back from a career best preparation when he returns in the spring. Trained by Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young, the 6-year-old showed an affinity for Caulfield, winning the G3 Easter Cup as well as the Mornington Cup Prelude.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- Winner of GR3 Cumberland Lodge Stakes
- By Gailieo out of Play Misty For Me
- Winner of \$403,614

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Formed in 1866, the first Cup was run on the Marshalltown Course, next to the Barwon River

1. Which four time Group 1 winner was confirmed the World's Best Sprinter this week?
2. How many years in a row did Sunline compete in the Cox Plate?
3. Which Australian born jockey was crowned this season's champion in Hong Kong?

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

OTI acquired this well bred 2YO filly by Lope De Vega out of the Invincible Spirit mare School Run.

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.

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

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



WHAT HAPPENED TO...

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

INSTANT DE REVE

The French born gelding was retired from racing earlier this year, after succumbing to a career ending injury. Fortunately, the 7-year-old has since been relocated to Craig Hawes property in Goulburn, where he is now enjoying some well deserved rest. Craig is hopeful that in the future, he will be able to entertain some low level dressage with the chestnut.

We look forward to following his progress with Craig as he begins his journey post-racing.



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

WHO IS THIS?

Quest for Peace

QUIZ RESULT

1. Nature Strip
2. Four
3. Zac Purton

THE RACECOURSE

Geelong

The first running of the Geelong Cup was held in 1872 and won by Flying Scud. In 1905 the original location of the course was deemed unsuitable due to low lying water, and a new track was built closer to the town.

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