



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



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WELCOME TO FURIOSO

These challenging times have brought home to many of us the resilience of racing. Broodmare and yearling prices have stood up well and there are no bargain buys when it comes to quality tried horses.

Importantly for our owners, we witnessed the return of pre COVID-19 prize money in Australia. Even more importantly is their racetrack success. Be it in Australia or Europe, our owners have enjoyed good results over these past few months.

In Victoria, where the community faces enormous challenges, it is disappointing that NSW racing is not allowing horses to travel north. This makes no sense whatsoever, be it scientific or commercial. In movements between Victoria and other states, the industry has shown the ability to move horses without jeopardising public health.

One would hope that the often puerile 'tit for tat' approach between Victoria and NSW racing administrators has not reached the stage where they are now impacting the ability to race where connections consider best for their horses.

The next few weeks will provide more clarity on the shape of the Melbourne Spring Carnival. The international horses will get here, however they are likely to be without their trainers and handlers. Opportunities will arise for many Australian trainers to work with European trainers in an effort to fulfil dreams of winning one of the majors.

Unique and interesting times, to say the least!

The next week will see runners for OTI in Australia and France.

Tomorrow at Flemington

MANTASTIC runs in R5 over 1410m for Chris Waller and Thomas Stockdale from barrier 10. Running first up after a spell, he has been working well and we look forward to seeing him race.

On Sunday at Bendigo

BARADE will start in R7 BM78 race over 1600m. In a field of 13, he has drawn barrier 11 for trainer Archie Alexander with Declan Bates booked to ride. He has been in good form at home, and will run if the ground conditions are to suit.

On Monday at Clairefontaine in France

KLOSTER runs in the 3YO maiden over 1400m for Andrew Hollinshead. A horse with ability, we look forward to seeing him run.

On Wednesday at Sandown

MILESTONE is nominated to make his debut in Australia in a 1500m BM70 for Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young. He won his trial impressively, and will be seen at his best when going over further in due course.

On Wednesday at Le Lion d'Angers

DEMETER is nominated to race over 1400m for Edouard Monfort. Second on her last start she should be in the frame at the finish.

Later next week

MELTDOWN is likely to make her racecourse debut for Phillip Stokes after pleasing in her trial.

WINNERS



TIGRE ROYALE

Sandown

Four wins in a row for the 5YO trained by Archie Alexander and ridden by Damian Lane. He pulled up well after the easy win and may run on the 22nd at the Valley.



CAMPHOR

Galway

A first win in OTI silks for the ever consistent filly trained by Jessie Harrington and ridden by Shane Foley. A Group 3 at Naas is her next target.

COVID -19 UPDATE

In an ever changing environment with unique circumstances for all around the world, Terry gives an update on the COVID-19 restrictions for the movement of racehorses and personnel domestically and internationally.

WATCH

Q&A ROBBIE GRIFFITHS

Where did you grow up, and did you imagine another career or was it always racing?

I grew up just outside of Cranbourne, and always envisaged being in the racing game, but not necessarily as a jockey. My brother was a jockey, my parents rode, and I actually wanted to be a vet initially, but I ended up being bitten by the race riding bug!

How has being a jockey aided you when it comes to training racehorses?

I was always aware that my time as a jockey would be limited, so I used the time riding to gain as much knowledge from all the different trainers I rode for. I completed my apprenticeship at Mordialloc training centre where a large number of Melbourne Cup winners were being trained from at the time. I was fortunate to be riding the best horses for the best trainers in track work, and on the racecourse and I absorbed as much information as I could on their training regimes, knowing I'd train later on.

You gained experience in Europe. Tell us about that?

I was fortunate when my brother Rod Griffiths went to Ireland to ride Kevin Prendergast who was one of the leading trainers, and still trains now at the top level on the Curragh at the age of 87. I got to spend time in Ireland then, and learnt a lot from Kevin. These skill sets are very important nowadays in Australia especially since there are more and more European bred horses in training here now.

You are chair of the Australian Trainers Association. What does this role entail?

I'm the Victorian President and Federal President of the ATA. As an organisation we concentrate on a number of things including the relationships with the industry associations, and race clubs, integrity departments and ensure the voices of trainers are heard. We meet four times a year in Victoria and twice at a federal level. The committee is supported by a fantastic CEO and staff which is so important so that trainers can concentrate on their priorities which are the horses and their owners.



In the light of the Stage 4 restrictions in Victoria, can you tell us about the importance of continuing to race?

Horses need to be fed and watered, just as with domestic animals and it was so important that we could continue to work. The knock on effect from a lack of wagering for a number of weeks would be a blow, and affect ownership, as well as the employment of a large number of people in Victoria. The support from Martin Pakula has been fantastic, and to hear Daniel Andrews say publicly that horse racing must continue was important because it showed they have listened to us.

Were you confident that racing would be able to continue through Stage 4?

I was confident that if given the opportunity we could race through Stage 4, because as an industry we have worked together so well ensuring up to now that the sport continues. There are always a number of biosecurity measures in place, and we have just had to increase them, but I'm so proud of how we have worked together as an industry. What we can't control is what happens outside of our industry, but we will take one day at a time.

What will be the longer term effects of this Stage 4 upon trainers and the racing community at large?

Each situation will be different and for trainers it will depend hugely on the demographic of their clients, and if these clients have been hit hard by the restrictions. For example clients in the hospitality trade may find it harder to continue investing in horses, but those in the tech world may find that COVID-19 has hit them less.

JOHN HAMMOND - WILL THERE BE RACING IN 2080?

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

Regarding the second question, what can we do to guarantee racing's popularity? The solution is not complicated, we have to stimulate the interest of the young. How we achieve that is less easy to work out. People will generally only bet if at some point they have been to the races, and have enjoyed the spectacle. Once they have the taste they will rarely lose it even if they only go racing three times a year.

Something we have learnt from the virus 'lockdown' is how we all miss social interaction. As the old saying goes, you don't miss it until you don't have it anymore. Few places generate as much social interaction as the racecourse. Where else do you get 70,000 people mingling, chatting having fun together as you might at Ascot or Flemington? All ages, creeds, colours, genders united by their interest in our sport. Social interaction vs virtual reality is where the battleground lies. The lives of the young (well, not only them now) revolve around their phones with the latest apps like Instagram, Snapchat et al to conduct their social lives. But they will come to understand that nothing replaces the physical.

Years ago I was on the train from London to Ascot mid-morning on the first day of the Royal meeting. Three-quarters of the passengers toggled up in their morning suits or summer dresses were obviously heading to the races. I was asked by two girls travelling on their own to give them a hand in opening their bottle of champagne. They were just two pals off to the races together, who were clearly intending on having massive fun on their day out. When else could they dress up and wear hats? This was a big part of their day, certainly not at the football, rugby or in the pub? This is racing's trump card, it is precious and almost unique to our sport.



As life becomes more technologically driven these moments of original social interaction will become ever more appreciated. We need more ladies' days, more best-dressed competitions with prizes to include stable and morning training visits. Those of us who work in this world easily forget the 'wow' factor for someone on their first visit to see what goes on in the early mornings and getting close up to the horses. The young need to be weaned on to this.

What is needed are young people who can become 'influencers' (I am learning the lingo). The young follow the young. They need to learn that racing is fun, it is a mixture of social interaction and appreciating nature. Few things fill the eye like an elegant racehorse and few things raise the heartbeat like watching an exciting finish.

Last year in the UK, they ran a charity race at Goodwood called the Magnolia Cup. It was won by a young Muslim girl called Khadijah Mellah who was the first person to win a horserace on a British racecourse wearing a hijab. In doing so she acquired overnight notoriety not least because she was telegenic, charismatic and eloquent when interviewed afterwards on the TV. Her enthusiasm for the sport was palpable and her whole demeanour would encourage other young people to come along and try it out.

She did say, however, that the drinking and betting weren't her ticket so maybe racecourses should think of having a non-alcoholic bar not far from the paddock where people who are just into the horses can hang out. Whatever, her sense of enjoyment for the sport and her appreciation of not only the horses but the sense of occasion was infectious and that is what is needed to encourage the next generation to come to the races.

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 turned three on Saturday 1st August.

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 VIDEO](#)

For more information email
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FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- Three time Group 1 winner
- 2nd to Winx in the QEII Stakes
- Winner of \$4,400,000

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint

Internationally known for holding 18 races a day

1. Which fashion designers racing silks of pink with a white hoop on the arms were sold at auction in Paris in December 2019?
2. What is the first Group 1 of the Australian racing season?
3. In Australia, how many dead heats in Stakes races were there last season?

OTI SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



TRUE SELF

Oscar - Good Thought

Willie Mullins, Co Carlow Ireland

Following a 2nd placing in the Geelong Cup, True Self was a dominant winner of the G3 Queen Elizabeth on the final day of the Melbourne Cup Carnival. The mare is raced by Australian & Irish partners and they look forward to seeing her in Melbourne once again this spring.

QUIZ RESULTS

WHO IS THIS?

Gailo Chop

QUIZ RESULT

1. Coco Chanel
2. Winx Stakes at Randwick, August 22
3. One. La Falaise and Fascino in the G2 Moonee Valley Fillies Classic on Cox Plate Day.

THE RACECOURSE

Club Hipico de Santiago

The oldest racecourse in Chile and home to South America's oldest stakes race, the Clásico El Ensayo. The grandstand built in the 1920's showcased the grandeur of racing in South America during the period.

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