



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



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FUN & GAMES

Race funding, integrity and the logistics and costs for European spring raiders dominated the racing news this week. All three issues have the potential to have significant impacts on the Australian racing landscape.

With Tabcorp's, the prime source of racing revenue, net profit dropping from \$396m to \$271m, the gambling and media company will attempt to raise \$600m to fund further development. Of particular concern in Tabcorp's figures is the 10% drop in its wagering revenue. It is claimed that many customers are converting to competitors. It is essential that Tabcorp continues to flourish if racing stakes are to be maintained.

In Victoria trainer Richard Laming is claiming that, although his staff were responsible for possible treatment of horses that caused an elevated cobalt reading, he should only be responsible for presenting a horse at the races and not the administration. Should Laming's charges be dismissed, the mind boggles at the wider implications for racing in future cases.

The cost of bringing horses to Australia for the spring carnival grew significantly this week with the announcement that RVL will charge \$10,000 per horse for quarantine services at Werribee. RVL has also announced that it will not subsidise the Newmarket quarantine at Sidehill Stud, thus forcing connections to also pay between a further \$5,000 to \$10,000 per horse for its operation. Despite the cost, horses are continuing to be booked on the "quarantine" flight. The granting of visa's for grooms will no doubt stimulate travel by stables that would otherwise be reluctant to hand their horse to a 'stand-in' trainer.

Spring in 2020 will be a time when flexibility matters. Regulations will continue to change, race experiences will be different from the past and punting will be as strong as ever. Those at the front line of our industry will be challenged to adapt to a very fluid landscape.

OTI NEWS

An incredibly busy weekend for OTI with runners across the globe.

On Saturday at Moonee Valley

YOUNG RASCAL makes his debut for OTI and Archie Alexander when starting in R9 2040m Handicap from barrier 11 for Johnny Allen. We look forward to seeing this exciting prospect run.

TIGRE ROYALE starts in R4 BM78 Handicap over 2500m for Archie Alexander with Declan Bates in the saddle from barrier 6. We hope he can overcome the top weight and continue his fine run of form.

BARADE runs in R5 BM78 1600m Handicap from barrier 10 for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates. He has been in good form at home, and hopefully he gets conditions to suit.

NEVER NO MORE will run in R7 BM90 1200m Handicap for Simon Morrish and with Thomas Stockdale taking the ride from barrier 3. He is in great order at home, and we hope he shows that form in the race.

On Saturday at Randwick

ATTORNEY runs in R3 1600m BM78 for Matt Smith with Jason Collett in the saddle from barrier 7. He is returning after a spell, and will improve for the run.

On Saturday at Wangaratta

MISS CHANG'E makes her racecourse debut over 1400m for Archie Alexander with Neil Farley in the saddle from barrier 6. She will improve for the experience.

MILONIA races in R3 1170m maiden for Archie Alexander and Neil Farley from barrier 10. She will also learn a lot from the run, and will continue to improve over time.

On Saturday on Deauville

AUYANTEPUI is one of 7 running in the Prix de la Nonette G2 over 2000m for new trainer Mario Baratti with Frankie Dettori taking the ride.

On Saturday at York

TRUE SELF has been declared for the Ebor Handicap at York over 2788m for Willie Mullins, and will be ridden by Jason Waston.

On Sunday at Deauville

SAN HUBERTO is one of 12 left in the Prix Kergorlay G2 over 3000m for trainer Fabrice Chappet.

On Sunday at Naas

CAMPHOR is still in the field for the G3 Stanerra Stakes over 2800m for Jessie Harrington.

WINNER



YOSEMITE

1100m Maiden, Bendigo
Robbie Griffiths

THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART CREATING A CROWDLESS EXPERIENCE

Matt explores how racing clubs will use innovative technology to showcase the Melbourne Spring Carnival and create crowdless race day experiences this year

WATCH

A CONVERSATION WITH WILL FREEDMAN

Will Freedman, son of Richard is in his first season of training, and had his first winner on Sunday at Narromine.

On his childhood memories

Horse racing was very much a part of my life from day one. We grew up at the stables, I fondly remember the Freedman Brothers operation at Caulfield. It may sound strange, but I have a very vivid memory of the taste of molasses. We (my cousins and sister) used to think it was so strange and all our fathers used to get very grumpy after finding the drum of molasses dripping over the pavement!

On being a Freedman

Firstly, I'm very fortunate to have such a great network and support from my immediate family. I suppose it does come with some additional pressures, internally and externally, but all-in-all I'm very proud of what my father and his brothers were able to achieve. It's something that no-one can really expect to replicate. At the least, it gives you something to chase. Something to strive towards. Myself and Sam (my cousin), will probably never fully step out of their shadow, and that's ok as long as we're happy.

On his musical ambitions

You may laugh, but becoming a horse trainer was career path number two for me. My first dream was to be the next Chris Martin and tour the world as a rockstar. I played in a couple of bands after school, and did a little bit of touring around the country as a singer. However, after a stint at Yarraman Park, I knew horse training was my calling. They are such a wonderful animal we get to look after. It was only this morning I heard Ron Quinton's advertisement on Sky that acknowledged that he has never felt like he's worked a day in his life. I tend to agree, it may seem like hard work, but it's really a hobby for most other horse lovers, and we get to do it as a profession.

On choosing to train in Scone

It was a simple option for me, firstly it was because it's the horse capital of the world and people all throughout the Australian industry have a respect for the area. It's the mecca for horse racing in Australia. Secondly, it was because the facilities in Scone are continuing to be supported by the racing administrators. We aren't yet rivalling the hill track at Ballarat but we will have our own horse training hub here in no time. Racing NSW have bought the land and in combination with Paul Messara at Arrowfield, they have a masterplan that really excites me. The lure of having my own private training facility was also something that intrigued me because from my time spent at Willie Mullins, I could see the bones of a property that was going to see horses do really well.



On assisting the bushfire relief in January this year

I came about through my sister and her partner. They had done some bushfire relief runs, helping out communities that had been devastated by the fires. I initially said to them that they could take some of the hay from the stable and they gave it to the animals in the areas that had all of their pasture and supplies burnt down. After seeing the amazing work they had done, I decided to load up the horse float with supplies for animals all along the way and we did a few drop offs. There are animal lovers all throughout this country, and through some very charitable support from the fruit markets we gave supplies to a lot of domesticated and wildlife throughout the state. It was very rewarding, but the Australian culture runs everywhere, we always give a helping hand where we can.

On training his first winner on Sunday

There was a sense of relief to know that the systems we had put in place at home were working! We've had 3 starters to date, and all three have performed as we had expected. We got home at 8:15pm, so I think we had a wine followed by a deep sleep!

On his social media and the future of the sport

I've tried my best to be informative. I'm certainly not saying what I do is gospel and the blueprint on how to train racehorses. However, I've always tried through my communication to put some horse terminology into everyday terms. It's important for the public to actually know how much thought, and effort is put into these athletes. Not everybody can afford a share in a racehorse, but we still need to engage them in our sport. I think moving forward, we need to make racing seem like a sport that young people can participate in. Gambling, particularly in Australia, has always been a great past time, however, now with sports betting, we need to market our game in a positive light. Trainers probably need to take up the slack of trying to broadcast some personality, they are often the enigmas of the racing world, I think that might need to change.

On where he sees himself in ten years time

Good question. In ten years, I'd like to think I've got a few Melbourne Cup contenders. It's going to take a while to build up this stable. However, I do have a dream to replicate Willie Mullins, of having horses walking around with riders as he dunks his biscuit in his tea and watches the horses work. If I have happy, healthy horses, on my own property, and am training plenty of winners. I'll be very happy. So hopefully I see a happy Will Freedman in 10 years, not another generic grumpy trainer!

MATT STEWART ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PICNIC RACES

My city-centric mates reckon I enjoy racing upside down. I'd rather watch the slow horses than the fast ones, they say, and they're mostly right.

I enjoy Cup Week but I probably enjoy the country carousel a bit more. I think a fair bit about the good, fast horses who run at Caulfield and Flemington. In fact, I think about them often, in a dreamy sort of way, as I drive off in the opposite direction into the lovely country valleys in Victoria's east which play host to the state's annual picnic racing circuit.

Picnic racing is racing through a filtered lens. There are none of the big city worries or scandals, none of the peer of punting pressures, none of the narky green coats on gates, none of the food'n'bev rip-offs, none of the sardine-tin trains and trams that chug in and out.

The basics are the same, the rules and the racing, but the vibe is a world away. Picnic rugs under big old shady trees, beers on tap and eskies on lawns, dress-ups, hen's parties, kiddy face-painting, two-buck snags in bread and backdrops that Arthur Streeton couldn't paint.

The races are won by the fastest of the slow, around up and down tracks that turn sharply and sometimes share space with golf courses. Many are way up bush, where the racetrack nestles into volatile scrubland. Buchan and surrounds were burnt to a crisp in February this year but the races were somehow run, complete with a half-charred winning post.



Alas, this rotten coronavirus threatens to put a stop to my beloved picnic season. My teenage sons, who love them as much as me and adore our two slow picnic nags, are dreading a summer without those lovely country drives and catchups with Pistol and Maldestro. Unless the crowd ban is eased, officials believe there's no point holding the picnic season because the races at Yea, Woolamai, Alexandra, Balnarring, Buchan and beyond are pointless without crowds. It would literally be akin to having a picnic with a rug and a bottle of wine but no people.

The people "are" the picnics. There is no off-course tote betting so racing does not gain wagering income from them. The betting is all on course, via a band of bookies who roam from track to track. On track revenue is achieved via the gate and the beer and food stalls. The only chance for a picnic season is for officials to have an agile plan that might mean a condensed season beginning as late as February, pending a drop in coronavirus cases and potential approval of on-course sporting crowds of under 5000. Only the Balnarring blockbuster on Australia Day attracts a crowd above 5000.

The slow old picnic warriors could be kept in racing and training via reverse-ballot professional races while us picnic people hope for a green light. It would be a terrible shame if the picnic season was forced onto the shelf. It's been my family's summer staple for years and I'm too old to learn how to surf.

SOUND OF CANNONS JOINS JOHN O'SHEA



OTI is delighted to have purchased 3YO colt Sound of Cannons from the UK. He will arrive in Australia in the next few weeks, where he will join the training stables of John O'Shea in Randwick, Sydney.

The high quality colt will be targeting the Bendigo, Ballarat and Rosehill Cups immediately this preparation before having a spell and acclimatising to Australian conditions. The colt has been racing in the highest company in England, including being second to Pyledriver, who was a most impressive winner of the Great Voltigeur GR2 at York this week.

A winner over 1600m, we look forward to seeing this colt in Australia, where we believe he will be ideally suited to the conditions with his combination of speed and staying ability.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

For more information:
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FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- By Lord of England out of Perima
- 1st Cranbourne Cup & 3rd GR3 Carlyon Cup
- Trained by Mick Price

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Shares name with NSW /QLD border town

1. Bob Hawke owned which GR1 Golden Slipper winner?
2. Name the full sisters who both won a stakes race in Australia last season?
3. Where does the name of the famous Ebor Handicap derive its name?

SOMETHING TO WATCH, LISTEN OR READ



True Self runs tomorrow in the prestigious Ebor Handicap at York for trainer Willie Mullins. Willie Mullins started training in 1988 after being assistant trainer to his father Paddy and Jim Bolger. Crowned Champion National Hunt trainer in Ireland for the last 13 years, he has trained more winners at the Cheltenham Festival than any other trainer in history. No stranger to success on the flat around the world, he has been a regular raider to the Melbourne Cup in recent years.

This video showcases his magnificent stables and private gallops in County Carlow, Ireland.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

QUIZ RESULTS

WHO IS THIS?

Pakal

QUIZ RESULT

1. Belle Du Jour
2. Sunlight and Sisstar
3. Eboracum is the Roman name for York

THE RACECOURSE

Killarney - located in picturesque County Kerry, racing has taken place since 1822, with both national hunt and flat racing. The three summer festivals of racing taking place in May, July and August are the highlight of the season.

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