



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

OTI NEWS

A CONVERSATION WITH GREG CARPENTER

MATT STEWART

UPDATE ON OTI'S QUARANTINE HORSES

SOMETHING TO WATCH, LISTEN OR READ

FUN & GAMES

The Spring Jockey Challenge

While 2020 will go down as a year when Australian Racing can be justly proud of its ability to continue racing during the pandemic, a challenge is looming over this year's Melbourne and Sydney spring carnivals that will test relationships between racing authorities, trainers, jockeys, and owners.

That issue is the availability of jockeys. With the combination of COVID-19 restrictions, major race clashes in the both cities and no international jockeys, the scene is set for intense competition for the top jockeys. Concurrently, opportunities will become available for many jockeys who would normally not get a look in at these big carnivals. The upshot of this is that connections will be forced to lock in the top jockeys earlier than normal, not really not knowing who might be available on the specific feature days.

Trainers and owners will undoubtedly be frustrated as the top jocks seek to switch rides to ensure they're on the best chances on the day. This situation is already causing some trainers in Victoria to change their program for horses. For example, for the Epsom/Metropolitan meeting trainers are simply unable to secure satisfactory riders for their horses. Their plight of trainers becomes more challenging as the low weighted horses in the major handicaps require light riders. The supply of them is sparse.

While Racing NSW continues with its policy to hold big money races on Melbourne's Derby Day, it may well find that in doing so, it does Sydney jockeys a major disservice by potentially making it impossible for them to compete in the Melbourne Cup on the following Tuesday. As the Greek poet, Pindar, said, "Even wisdom has to yield to self-interest."

OTI NEWS

Many runners this weekend for OTI and partners.

At Moonee Valley this evening

MANTASTIC runs in R6 GR3 JRA Cup over 2040m for Chris Waller and Craig Williams from barrier 6. He has been working well at home and we hope to see him in the finish.

QUICK THINKER is also in R6 GR3 JRA Cup over 2040m for Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman, and Michael Dee riding from barrier 7. He has come on leaps and bounds since his last run.

VIN DE DANCE also lines up in R6 GR3 JRA Cup over 2040m for Symon Wilde and with William Pike from barrier 9 with the winkers off.

BENITOITE runs in R8 1600m GR2 Stocks Stakes over 1600m for Clinton McDonald and with Billy Egan from barrier 11 with her preferred conditions.

At Dundalk, Ireland overnight

EAGLEMONT races in the 2150m Handicap for Joseph O'Brien and with Mikey Sheehy in the saddle.

Tomorrow at Rosehill

ATTORNEY runs in R2 GR3 Colin Stephens Quality over 2400m for Matt Smith and Jason Collett in the saddle from barrier 1. We hope to see him continue his good form this prep.

GREY LION also lines up in R2 GR3 Colin Stephens Quality over 2400m for Matt Smith and with Kathy O'Hara from barrier 5. After a very pleasing trial this week we hope to see him run well.

Tomorrow at Coleraine

KING OF CAMELOT runs in R8 Coleraine Cup over 1800m for Jamie Edwards and with Zac Spain riding from barrier 8.

Tomorrow at Caulfield

BARADE runs in R3 2000m BM84 for Archie Alexander and with Declan Bates in the saddle from barrier 13. A winner last start, we hope to see him in the finish again.

YOSEMITE lines up in R7 1400m GR2 1000 Guineas Prelude over 1400m for Robbie Griffiths and with William Pike from barrier 12.

GAILO CHOP runs in R8 GR1 Underwood Stakes over 1800m for Matt Williams and with Dean Yendall in the saddle from barrier 5. We hope he runs up to last year's mark.

HARBOUR VIEWS runs in R8 GR1 Underwood Stakes over 1800m for Matt Williams from barrier 7 with John Allen riding. We hope to see him fighting it out in the finish.

FUTURE SCORE races in R9 1700m Handicap for Matt Cumani and with Fred Kersley riding from barrier 4. He is in perfect condition for his first up run.

INVERLOCH also races in R9 for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young and with Michael Dee riding from barrier 13. It is a competitive field but he is expected to run well.

On Sunday at the Curragh, Ireland

MIRANN runs in the 2400m 3yo+ conditions race for Johnny Murtagh and he should have a strong chance.



A CONVERSATION WITH GREG CARPENTER

On his childhood

I'm from a coastal town in the south of Western Australia called Albany. Famous as the first settlement in the West (1826) and as the last land based Whaling Station in the world closing in 1978, and most importantly it was the assembly point for 38 troop ships that left King George Sound on the 1st of November 1914 for the Middle East. My uncle was a horse trainer in Albany and his stables were in walking distance of where I lived. I spent a lot of time around the stables, track or beach in the morning with the horses, or after school taking them for a pick or brushing them, cleaning boxes and helping to feed up.

On what he loved about the sport

I fell in love with the excitement, colour and motion of the races and the characters of racing. But I still believe the best moments in racing are those spent with the horses themselves, around the stables or at trackwork or down the beach in the morning. Dad was a keen punter so as I got older I followed the form very closely, particularly Perth, Melbourne and Sydney racing and trying to pick winners became very important. My uncle subscribed to the Australian Race Results which arrived by post each month and I read them like a novel, thinking about all the different tracks, horses, jockeys and trainers around Australia.

On his career to date

I moved to Perth to study politics at University and to play league football. I was much better at football than study so only completed two years of the degree and then in a sliding doors moment looked for a job as a bricklayer to build myself up over summer for football and instead opened up the Sunday Times to see a job as the junior clerk in the Racing Department of the WA Turf Club. I applied for it and was the successful applicant. That was 1981 and the first job I ever had, so some 40 years later I've been very blessed to have worked that long in the sport I love.

A Melbourne Cup that sticks in his mind

Without doubt Damien Oliver's victory on Media Puzzle in 2002 is the most memorable. Jason Oliver was a close friend of Leanne and mine and our two girls and to go through Jason's fall, his death and the funeral and grieving process was enormously draining for everyone. For Damien to go through that and then fly back to Melbourne and perform as he did to win the Cup was incredible. I watched the race by myself in my office at the WA Turf Club opposite Ascot Racecourse and tears flowed uncontrollably, it was amazing but surreal.

On racing around the world

I've been lucky enough to attend Hong Kong International Day for the last 15 years and the Arc for the last 10 years, two of the great race meetings in the world. But my favourite track in the world is Del Mar racecourse just north of San Diego in California. Built by Bing Crosby and Jimmy Durante in 1937 for Hollywood stars on holiday it's where the "turf meets the surf". I've been to a lot of tracks in Australia from Hobart to Kununurra and a hundred in between.



On the art of handicapping

Handicapping is an imprecise science that is still very much subjective and based on discretionary decisions made by the Handicapper. At the start of their racing career all horses start off an equal mark, independent of their breeding, sale price, trainer or trial form. As the race form of each horse evolves the Handicapper gives a numeric rating to reflect that form that moves both upward and downward throughout the career of the horse depending on their form. With the open rating system that has been in place most owners, trainers and racing fans should have a good understanding of the movement in rating of a horse after each run and before the handicapper makes it.

On how the racing industry has dealt with COVID-19

Racing has indeed been a shining example of how an industry has respected and abided by the most stringent of protocols to balance the interests of health and economy and protecting the jobs and wellbeing of thousands of participants and their families. We should all be very proud of what racing has achieved with the support of Government. I haven't been to a race meeting since March 7 and haven't been into the office since March 17. Fortunately it hasn't made the handicapping work more difficult, just a little less enjoyable.

On the possible weight scale change post pandemic

As much as we can we should seek national uniformity in as many aspects of racing as we can. The temporary weight scale in Victoria because of COVID reflects the circumstances we are living in and the challenges our rider cohort are dealing with right now. Victoria already had the most rider friendly weight scale in Australia around minimum weights, night meetings and weight scales. A permanent adoption of the temporary scale would leave us significantly out of step with the rest of Australia and that would require some very important discussions.

On the 2020 Melbourne Cup

The puzzle has been set but is still a long way from being solved. We are incredibly lucky that we have international participation in such a challenging year. I'm really looking forward to Anthony Van Dyck taking up the challenge of top weight in the Caulfield Cup and Vow and Declare the challenge of trying to defend his Melbourne Cup win of 2019. The horse that excites me most though is Russian Camelot. I think he is an incredible talent and will most likely go to the Cox Plate on the way to the Melbourne Cup. But the Cup is a handicap and if the Handicapper has played his part there will be a number of winning chances as they pass the distance pole (220 yards from the winning post) at Flemington in our most famous race and the winner still not revealed.

MATT STEWART

I received a clip last week from a narky Hong Kong-based racing scribe when I wrote that Australian racing was more determined by luck, barriers, maps and misadventure than anywhere else in the world. He was so upset, he used capital letters. He said such things were factors EVERYWHERE. "Just because you don't see it doesn't mean it's not happening," he tweeted. Ouch.

He's right about Hong Kong, that minor Far-Eastern outpost just to our north, where horses race so often around Happy Valley and Sha Tin that they don't really need jockeys to steer them. Yep, in Honkers they have the same map, barrier and bad luck perils as here but there does seem a simplicity about the racing, the task of getting from A to B, in England, Ireland and America.

Melbourne seems the most "afflicted" of anywhere in Australia. Look at last Saturday's Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes at Caulfield. The wind was swirling, making the jockeys a little toey. None wanted to gallop into the (mostly) strong northerly and all of them mumbled the same thing over and over when the gates sprung; "gotta get cover, gotta get cover, gotta get cover..." So, they all sat up and steered inwards. It was ugly.

I was on Cascadian, one of many runners who ran into more traffic than a Bangkok tuk tuk driver. Cascadian should have won. Or run second. Or fourth. It's impossible to tell. All I know is he went to the line under a triple hold. He never had a proper gallop, never gave punters a clue. You could whack him in your black book but you're guessing. Would he have finished off? I'm pretty sure the answer is yes but traffic jams do not yield answers, just frustrations.



Anyone who has seen the Michael Douglas movie "Falling Down" would know exactly what I mean. When I watch races in those vast, undulating racetracks like Goodwood and York, I rarely see jockeys grabbing hold or ducking for short-cuts. You do get hard luck stories, sure. Kameko still hasn't escaped his pocket from the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood back in July.

But the perils are far fewer over there. Even in three and four horse fields, like the two rivals Enable beat at Ascot recently, or the four pitted against Magical and Ghaiyyath in Ireland earlier this month, the handlebars are down a long way out. When races are run at a true gallop, luck and excuses are weeded out. There is no huddle, no traffic jam.

It's the same in the US. There is a tactical element but it's mostly about sustained speed around those circular dirt tracks. They don't care too much about covering ground, they just gallop. Mostly, it's not the fastest horse who wins, or the one that takes the short-cuts, it's the horse with the best speed, stamina and guts. In other words, the best horse.

My Hong Kong mate disagrees, saying Del Mar and Belmont are no trickier than Happy Valley, Munich or Melbourne. He is so adamant, HE USED CAPITAL LETTERS AND AN EXCLAMATION MARK to inform me.

I say he's WRONG.

OTI SPRING CARNIVAL HORSES IN QUARANTINE

With five horses due to leave the quarantine facilities in Newmarket for those in Werribee next week, OTI's owners are excited about the possibilities over the next 6 weeks. Amazingly each of the five have European owners partnering with OTI owners in chasing success...a sign of the glowing influence of global racing.

SOUND OF CANNONS, a 3yo by Nathaniel, will be trained by John O'Shea and be aimed at the second level staying races this spring.

After winning a G2 over 3000m in France with Fabrice Chappet, **SAN HUBERTO** will head to the Melbourne Cup under stand-in trainer Matt Cumani.

MR SATCHMO, a multiple listed winner in France transfers to Chris Waller. The gelding will be aimed at second level races between 1600-200m

Chris Waller also takes over the training of **SELINO** following the horse's 2nd placing in the G2 Doncaster Cup.

Old favourite, **TRUE SELF**, returns with Willie Mullins in the hope of a Caulfield/Melbourne Cup double!



[For more information oti@oti.com.au](mailto:oti@oti.com.au)

SAN HUBERTO and **SOUND OF CANNONS** worked with the John Messara owned Skyward in Newmarket earlier this week. [WATCH](#)

FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- 2 x Listed winner in France
- By Fastnet Rock out of Chenchikova
- Brother to 1000 Guineas winner Fancy Blue

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - In country of birth of Sir Michael Stoute

1. Name the three stallions that all modern day thoroughbreds can trace back to?
2. Who won the 2019 running of the Golden Rose?
3. How much did Behemoth cost as a yearling?

SOMETHING TO WATCH, LISTEN OR READ

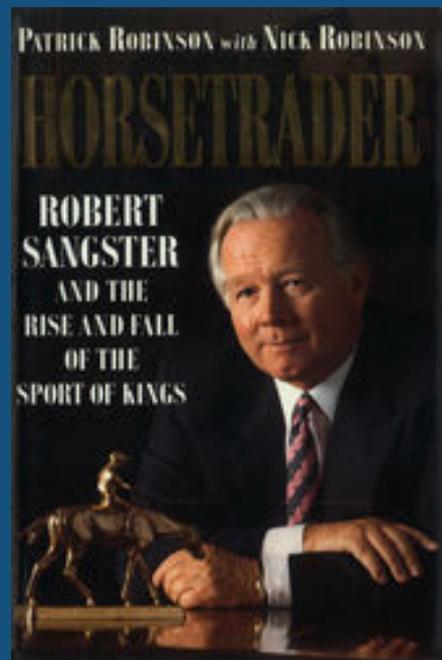
HORSETRADER

Robert Sangster and the rise and fall of the Sport of Kings

This fascinating book recounts the journey of Robert Sangster in the thoroughbred business, and the racing and breeding empire that he built with legendary trainer Vincent O'Brien and John Magnier of Coolmore Stud.

Written 30 years ago with the co-operation of Sangster himself, this book is the inside track on a breathtaking bid to corner the thoroughbred market.

A collectors item, this book can be found through second hand book sellers online, and on Kindle.



QUIZ RESULTS

WHO IS THIS?

Casterton

QUIZ RESULT

1. Byerley Turk, Darley Arabian and Godolphin Arabian
2. Bivouac
3. \$6000 at Magic Millions 2017

THE RACECOURSE

Garrison Savannagh, Barbados
Racing has taken place at the historic since the 1800's and in 1905 the Barbados Turf Club was formed. The highlight of the season is the Barbados Gold Cup over 1800m.

OTI Management Pty. Ltd.

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

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

hermione@oti.com.au