



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



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Aidan O'Brien's Reputation Goes to a New Level

Aidan O'Brien and his sons' reputations as trainers went to a new level last weekend when they decided to withdraw their horses from feature European races, along with Roger Varian. Not surprisingly, some of their peers who were also supplied by the feed merchants at the centre of this controversy, decided otherwise!

Given the apparent clearance of the infected product in Ireland, O'Brien could well have "ran the gauntlet" in the hope that any trace of Zilpaterol would have left the horses' systems by race time. He chose instead to scratch and hence protect himself, his horses and indeed the industry from possible negative consequences.

Aidan O'Brien is a tall poppy, a natural target for some of his competitors and those who thrive on innuendo. Unfortunately for them, the reality is that he is a training genius. As competitive as he is, we also now know that he is not a 'win at all costs' merchant. Through his actions last weekend that potentially cost some horses a stallion career, he displayed a level of integrity that many of us would like to see throughout racing.

In the meantime, those who 'ran the gauntlet' in the hope that their horses will produce clear swabs, will endure a few sleepless nights waiting for results. For the sake of racing, let's hope they are negative.

Fortunately on the local scene, Racing Victoria was quick to take blood and urine samples from the Aidan and Joseph O'Brien horses that arrived at Werribee quarantine, and results have returned clear of Zilpaterol.

OTI NEWS

Runners around the world this weekend for OTI

Tomorrow at Caulfield

GAILO CHOP runs in R6 2000m GR1 Caulfield Stakes for Matthew Williams and Dean Yendall from barrier 3. He has thrived since his last run, and won this race three years ago.

HARBOUR VIEWS lines up in R6 2000m GR1 Caulfield Stakes for Matthew Williams and John Allen from barrier 6 in what is a tough race, but we are hopeful for a top three finish.

YOSEMITE runs in R7 1600m GR1 Thousand Guineas for Robbie Griffiths and William Pike from barrier 1. She is a lovely filly, and we hope she can pick up some black type.

GALLIC CHIEFTAIN starts in R10 GR2 Herbert Power Stakes for Archie Alexander and Damian Lane from barrier 10. At his right distance with blinkers on, he should be most competitive.

Tomorrow at Doomben

GREY LION races in R5 2200m Listed Queensland Cup for Matthew Smith and Robbie Fradd from barrier 7, and he is in great form. We are very hopeful of a good run.

On Sunday at Cranbourne

FUTURE SCORE races in R8 Listed Cranbourne Cup over 2025m for Matt Cumani and Fred Kersley from barrier 10. He came through his last race well, and will improve for the step up in trip.

INVERLOCH also lines up in R8 Listed Cranbourne Cup over 2025m for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young from barrier 5 with Michael Dee in the saddle. The ground should be ideal for him, and his last start should be ignored.

HASSTOBEGOOD lines up in R9 1400m Fillies and Mares BM70 over 1400m for Grahame Begg and Jordan Childs from barrier 5. She has taken great benefit from her last start and will improve for stepping up in trip.

On Saturday at Chantilly

DEMETER starts in the 1300m 3yo Handicap for Edouard Monfort and with Maryline Eon riding. The track should suit her running style, and she is in good form at home.

MONTABOT

On Sunday at Le Pin au Haras, we will see the return of **MONTABOT** in the 2350m Handicap for trainer Pascal Bary. Expected to be a strong chance. We look forward to seeing him run after a layoff.

OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES REMAIN
*Note this offering is for
wholesale clients only.

For more information on wholesale client
requirements: shayne@oti.com.au

VICTORIAN OWNER UPDATE

Racehorse owners who reside outside metropolitan Melbourne will be allowed to attend country Victoria meetings from Monday under Covid-safe protocols.

RV Chief Executive Giles Thompson said "Owners are essential to our sport. They fund the training, care and welfare of our horse and have kept people in jobs right across Victoria with their ongoing commitment to racing during the Covid -19 pandemic"

HAPPY MEMORIES



Three years ago on Caulfield Stakes Day, OTI had two GR1 winners with **ALOISIA** winning the Thousand Guineas and **GAILO CHOP** winning the Caulfield Stakes, whilst **LORD FANDANGO** took out the GR2 Herbert Power Stakes.
[WATCH VIDEO AND RELIVE THE MEMORY](#)

A CONVERSATION WITH DEANE LESTER

On his childhood

I was born onto a stud farm in Dromana on the Mornington Peninsula, my father stood stallions and at the time my father was standing Triple Crown winner Martello Towers. I then moved to Officer, and later Gembrook, and we stood more stallions, I was surrounded by horses and exposed to racing from day one, as my dad also raced horses too.

What he loves about horse racing

I love the competition, I'm very competitive by nature and played a bit of sport as a youngster. I also love the animals themselves, watching and learning to read them is an integral part of what it is all about. It's an industry I love, from the horses to the people.

On his dream race to win, and who would train and ride it

It would have to be the Melbourne Cup, with Bart Cummings training as he knew how to do it and with Harry White riding as he has the perfect temperament to do it riding four winners in the race.

On his career in racing

When I finished school, I was certain I wanted to be involved and I wanted to train and be hands on like my mother who trained, but due to illness and injury it eventually became tougher to do so. I'd always really studied form and wagering, the day before my 21st I got a lucky break via a family friend and got a job being the track clocker at Cranbourne. It was around that time that I was introduced to David Price who is a bloodstock agent, and it was he who taught me a lot about the form.

On what gives him the advantage in his job

I don't think I'm much better than other tipsters, but I have the time to do it, but also I think I've been exposed to all aspects of the industry. I held a trainers licence for a little while, and I've owned horses since I was 18. I've seen the breeding side of the game too which has given me a broad outlook which helps.

On the skills needed to be a tipster

I think you have to have an overall knowledge of how races structure up, and the speeds maps etc. Understanding trainers and what their trends are is also valuable, as you'll notice patterns with trainers, and how their horses tend to run through a preparation. Read the people as much as the horses sometimes! I also look for horses who have drawn wide barriers for a number of starts and are now drawn well as that means they can be ridden with more intent, as well as significant riding changes and stepping up over the right distance.



Deane, aged 5

On the changes in technology for his job

It is nothing like the job I had. When I started, I had index cards, photo form and steward reports that I'd get in the Sunday papers, and well as sitting through VHS video tapes for a whole weeks worth of races. Now with a click of a button all the information is available.

On what to look for when looking at horses in the mounting yard

Even though we are all watching on TV at the moment, you can still pick up a lot. I certainly don't disregard what I see on screen. I try to build up mental data base on each particular horse and see the horses throughout their preparation, and importantly how they look and behave at their best. For example Manikato was at his best when he was sweating freely on a race day.

On the future of Victorian racing

If there is a race run in Victoria, I've seen it, and I love watching racing, but the current Victorian rating class system has made it bland. It is a little bit sterile in that regard. In my opinion there should be more class 2s. I believe the Victorian racing product can't go forward while horses go back and forth between 58/64 grades. I don't blame owners and trainers for doing it, but I'm not a fan of current class systems. It is the only thing that bores me about racing.

On interests outside of racing

I'm a lover of music and all sports. I love going to concerts, theatres and anything live and I've certainly missed that recently due to COVID19.

On the 2020 Spring Carnival

I think the internationals have a very strong chance in the major races. In the past I was always very sceptical about the foreign form, and how they would travel over, but the internationals have perfected that now. I used to do my form study much later, but nowadays I'm studying it all from May/June in Europe, and have a good idea before they land.

JOHN BERRY

English trainer and journalist, John Berry recounts the Epsom Derby winners who have travelled to Australia, with the return of Anthony Van Dyck this Spring.

One can never be sure which horses are going to run in the big races over the Spring Carnival, as Rothfire, previously described as 'locked in' for the Everest, reminded us when he was injured in the Golden Rose a couple of weeks ago. It can be particularly hard to know which of the internationals are going to run where. Going into quarantine is no guarantee of getting on the plane; getting on the plane is no guarantee of contesting a race. Even so, it was reassuring to see last year's Derby winner Anthony Van Dyke happily settled in at Werribee, a solid Caulfield Cup plan in place with the booking of Hugh Bowman. That engagement is a pretty serious statement of intent. If he does indeed run in Melbourne this spring, Anthony Van Dyck will break new ground by becoming the first Derby winner to run in Australia.

Until 1976, no Derby winner had even ever set foot upon Australian soil. That changed, though, when Charlottown, who had won the 'Blue Riband of the Turf' at Epsom in 1966 under Scobie Breasley, was imported for stud at the age of 13. At the time, the only stallions who came to the antipodes from the northern hemisphere were the ones deemed surplus to requirements in Europe and the USA. The fact that Charlottown was dispatched Down Under tells us how poorly his stud career was going. Disappointingly, it didn't pick up, notwithstanding that his elder half-brother Mellay had already shown himself to be just about the best stallion at stud in New Zealand at the time. In Charlottown's defence, he didn't have many Australian crops as he died in 1979.

The next Derby winner to come to Australia was Snow Knight, who had landed a 50/1 shock at Epsom in 1974. He arrived at Landscape Stud (Vic) in 1986. He too had made a disappointing start at stud (in his case at Windfields Farm in North America) and similarly didn't make much of an impact in his new home.



A few years later, the 1990 Derby winner Quest For Fame eventually ended up in Australia, becoming a respected stallion at Woodlands Stud (NSW). His best Australian offspring included the Group One winners Dracula (1998 Champagne Stakes at Randwick, 1998 QTC Sires' Produce Stakes at Eagle Farm and 1998 George Main Stakes at Randwick), Viscount (2001 AJC Sires' Produce Stakes, 2001 Champagne Stakes, 2001 George Main Stakes) and Sarrera, who enjoyed a terrific run of form in the autumn of 2008, winning the Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Randwick and following up in the Doomben Cup.

Since the 1990s, it has become less unusual for Derby winners to stand at stud in Australia. The practice of shuttling stallions, so that they spend the first of the year in the northern hemisphere and the second half down under, was pioneered in the 1970s but only became fully accepted after Danehill, who served his first season at Arrowfield in 1990, had become a champion sire on both sides of the world. As it was no longer an either/or as regards which part of the world the horse called home, it ceased to be the case that only the second-tier stallions were available to Australian breeders. Hence more recent Derby winners such as Galileo, High Chaparral, Authorized, New Approach and Camelot having spent shuttle-seasons in Australia, at Coolmore and Darley.

If Anthony Van Dyck does indeed line up at Caulfield, though, he will break new ground as a Derby winner to race in Australia. One could, though, say that he will merely be returning to his roots: both his dam Believe'N'Succeed and his maternal grandsire Exceed And Excel won at Caulfield. The former landed the Group Three Arrowfield Stud Blue Diamond Fillies' Prelude there in 2008 when trained by Mark Kavanagh, while Exceed And Excel landed the Group One Dubai Racing Club Cup there in 2003 when trained by Tim Martin.

GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW OTI OWNERS - TRACEY CHAPMAN

Tracey Chapman (fourth from right) pictured with fellow syndicate members that races with OTI. She grew up in Clayton, Victoria.



When did you first get interested in racing?

I would spend school holidays at my parent's joinery factory which was beside the Epsom racecourse. After trackwork, jockeys would give dad a hand. Throughout my childhood, my parents had racehorses, trained in Warrnambool, so I spent many a weekend watching them racing in the Western Districts of Victoria

Who was your first winner and where?

First horse & winner was Ruscello in the 2013 Lexus Stakes at Flemington

Most successful horses you've owned?

Vin de Dance & Quick Thinker

Race you would most like to win?

The Melbourne Cup of course!

When you win that special race, how will you celebrate?

Champas & laughs with our fellow owners while discussing the next additions to our stable

Favourite provincial racetrack?

Definitely not wild, wet & woolly Warrnambool

What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending?

I did enjoy Ellerslie NZ & the stunning mounting yard experience

Black Caviar, Winx or Makybe Diva?

Winx

International racetrack you'd most like to visit?

Royal Ascot in the Royal Enclosure

Who introduced you to OTI/how did you get involved with OTI?

My dear friend Rohan Gulasekharam aka The Sheikh

What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership?

The social event of going to the races & having a winner

Favourite racing memory?

Vin de Dance winning the NZ Derby & our 1st Group 1

Horse you are most looking forward to seeing over Spring Carnival?

Future Score

OTI FUN & GAMES

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Famous picnic

QUIZ

1. Who won the 2020 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe?
2. How many Gr1's has Probabeel won to date?
3. Who won the 2019 Caulfield Stakes?

OTI PURCHASE DICK WHITTINGTON



We are thrilled that Dick Whittington, a lightly raced and highly rated French three-year-old is on his way to Australia for Matthew Smith to train. Currently rated 108, he has demonstrated exceptional athletic abilities and an excellent turn of foot in his French form.

Having already proven himself most competitive at Group 2 level in France, Dick Whittington promises to contest the high level Australian middle-distance and staying races for many years to come.

John Hammond commented on the horse

"This is a really interesting horse. Elegant and athletic, he is effectively brand new. He won the first two of his four races, and was fourth in a Group 2 and third in a Listed race on his other two starts. His form lines are rock solid"

Matt Smith has established himself as one of Sydney's leading trainers, with multiple Group 1 wins to his name, and success with OTI European imports including recent GR3 winner ATTORNEY

For more information: oti@oti.com.au

QUIZ RESULTS

QUIZ RESULT

1. Sottsass
2. Two (Epsom and Surround Stakes)
3. Cape of Good Hope

NAME THE RACECOURSE

Hanging Rock
Racing takes place twice a year on New Year's Day and Australia Day. Racing has taken place unofficially around the rock since 1870 or perhaps earlier.

OTI Management Pty. Ltd.
204/425 Docklands Drive | Docklands | VIC | 3008 | Australia
oti@oti.com.au |+61 (0) 3 96700255
hermione@oti.com.au