



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



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News That Racing Does Not Want

Just as we head into Melbourne Cup week, two issues have raised their heads that could swing the focus of publicity away from the great race to horse welfare.

In recent days, the Werribee quarantine facility has again seen horses pass through it that have either had to be euthanised or have broken down. No amount of spin can diminish the death or injury toll over the past decade. The numbers simply do not lie.

From direct observation, OTI is aware of the dedication of the team at Werribee. Within the confines of the facility, it provides first class services and is responsive to the needs of the visitors.

However whether it be the condition of the horses when they arrive or the design and surface of the track, the current situation is unsustainable. If RVL is to continue to provide quarantine, it must look at a relocation. Surely Sandown, which is more akin to European training tracks and has worked in the past, is the logical solution. It's a completely different argument especially when so many Australians are buying European horses, whether RVL should provide such facilities at all.

News later in the week that NSW based licensed horses had been taken to a knacker, has shocked us all. It's unthinkable that any responsible person in racing could condone such action, especially when this issue, more than any other, can lead to the rejection of racing among future generations.

Horse welfare is potentially the tipping point for racing. If we get it right, we can attract young people to it. It'll be hard to justify our existence in the future if we do not.

OTI NEWS

The first day of the Melbourne Spring Carnival will see a number of exciting OTI runners.

Tonight in France, at Saint-Cloud

MONTABOT runs in R2 2800m Class 2 for Pascal Bary and Cristian Demuro. An impressive last start winner, he should get conditions to suit.

At Flemington

AZURO takes his place in R4 GR3 Lexus Hotham Stakes over 2500m for Ciaran Maher and David Eustace with Ben Melham in the saddle from barrier 7. Improving with each race this prep, we hope to see him do his best work late.

FUTURE SCORE also runs in R4 GR3 Lexus Hotham Stakes over 2500m for Matt Cumani and Fred Kersley riding from barrier 10. An impressive Cranbourne Cup winner on his last start, we hope to see him in the finish.

CHAILLOT will run in R5 Empire Rose Stakes GR1 over 1600m for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates from barrier 4. A very talented mare, we look forward to seeing her race.

HARBOUR VIEWS is third emergency in the GR1 R8 Cantala Stakes over 1600m for Matt Williams and Kerrin McEvoy from barrier 7. We are hopeful for a start.

At Rosehill

RIDER IN THE SNOW makes his Australian debut for Kris Lees in R4 1900m BM78 where he will be ridden by Louise Day from barrier 12. A horse who will relish going further in due course, he will be doing his best work late.

MANTASTIC is declared to run in R6 2000m Rosehill Gold Cup for Chris Waller and Glyn Schofield from barrier 9. He has been in very good form of late and we hope to see a strong performance.

SOUND OF CANNONS will be making his Australian debut for John O'Shea in R6 2000m Rosehill Gold Cup from barrier 6 for Robbie Dolan. A recent arrival, he has impressed in his work.

At Pukekohe

VEE CECE has accepted to race in R1 BM74 over 2100m for Andrew Forsman and Murray Baker from barrier 13 with Jonathan Riddell riding. Drawn awkwardly, we still hope to see her run well.

On Sunday at Muswellbrook

AU PAIR races in R2 1500m maiden for Will Freedman and Mitchell Bell from barrier 11. She will be wearing blinkers for the first time.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY

The race that stops the nation is nearly here and will be contested for the first time in history behind closed doors.

Whilst we will not be able to be there, nothing will diminish from the excitement of having a runner.

At this time of writing, we are on tenterhooks hoping to have starters in **TRUE SELF** and **SAN HUBERTO**, with the possibility of **FUTURE SCORE** and **AZURO** winning the Lexus and taking the last spot.

Sign up [here](#) to ANZ Bloodstock News to receive the Melbourne Cup Preview which includes Terry's final *Road to the Cup* feature.



WINNER



FURIOSO

Trained by Matt Cumani
1600m 3yo Maiden, Cranbourne

A CONVERSATION WITH CIARON MAHER

On his childhood

I was born in Warrnambool, where my parents had a dairy farm. I was feeding calves, milking cows, calving them down, and helping with the horses from a very early age before and after school. You can say I was bred for labour!

On what lured him into the sport

The competitiveness of racing first drew me to the sport. I used to race motorbikes and motocross, but one of my brothers had a bad accident and my dad sold all the bikes, so I asked him to teach me to ride a horse. Within about a day, I went from the yards to the rounding up the dairy cows. There was a trainer up the road who started taking me to the races, and seeing the jockeys in competition got me hooked.

On his riding career

I think I might be the only apprentice when claiming 3kgs, to have put 1/2 over. I'd like to say I was very talented, but very restricted by weight! Opportunities were very limited on the flat. I rode a winner but over jumps I was more successful, and got the opportunity to ride in England and Ireland which was a big thrill.

On his early training days

When you are starting out nobody wants to send you a horse, but I managed to buy a few low grade stayers and trained them from some stables that my old man and I had built on the farm. I used what I had learnt over jumps to educate them, and then race them over jumps. Pretty soon had a lot of success with the jumpers. I suppose you could say I've always dreamt fairly big! After the 100-1 winner at Flemington with Tears I Cry in the Emirates the dreams got even bigger.

On the team at Ciaron Maher Racing

The team behind me is everything. I'd worked in many racing stables, and seen that the culture of the stable and staff is so important, and carries through to the horses. When I first started, I decided to try and have young and enthusiastic staff around me. A happy, relaxed and focused environment is paramount.



On co-trainer David Eustace

Early on, I realised that I needed to have an assistant. I knew Dave a little, and was impressed by what I saw, so called him up and offered him the job. Training horses is just one part of it, you need to be able to deal with people from the owners to the staff. Since then the stable has grown rapidly, and having him as a co-trainer allows us to serve everyone better.

On training in a number of locations

Having multiple training locations is a huge advantage. Horses need to be happy and relaxed. Just like people, they all have different characteristics. Some like the excitement of a busy track, and some have ADD and need to be kept calmer. Sydney and Melbourne have different rating systems, races and conditions and having the option of different stables in different states means we can place the horses to get the best results out of them.

On trainers he has learnt from

I was fortunate to spend time with Jim Houlahan, and I learnt a lot about how he fed and trained horses. There was nobody better than Bart Cummings for preparing a horse for a particular day and race. I've spent time with trainers around the world, everyone trains to their location. There is no right or wrong way. It is what suits your environment.

The highs and lows of racing.

My proudest moment was probably my first GR1 win in the Emirates. I get ribbed a bit now as I was so emotional at the time. I suppose it was a pivotal moment in my career. The Cox Plate is one of the big races you dream of winning, so last weekend was special too. I'd say horses are the easy part of training. Managing people, and expectations is probably the hardest.

On the hair!

My mum will kill me if I cut my hair! I can't remember when I last had it cut. It was a long long time ago, even before lockdown. I'd say it was probably over a year ago!

JOHN BERRY ON THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGERS IN MELBOURNE

The European horses have still come out to Melbourne for this year's Spring Carnival, but the human contingent is obviously much smaller than usual. This thought prompts us to reflect on the relatively brief period in which the Melbourne Cup has been anything more than a faint blip on the European radar.

During the 1980s the Cup began to figure in European thoughts, most obviously thanks to the ex-Michael Jarvis-trained Beldale Ball winning in 1980, the ex Tom Jones-trained At Talaq winning in 1986 and the ex-Luca Cumani-trained Nayrizi narrowly losing to Empire Rose in 1988. Even so, it was still hard to find out much about it. Coverage of the race in Europe in the newspapers or on television was scanty at best, and the internet didn't exist.

The first European-trained runners in Australasia appeared in the late '80s thanks to the Tancred Stakes at Rosehill and the Air New Zealand Stakes at Ellerslie being promoted as international events. English trainers John Dunlop (with Highland Chieftain) and Clive Brittain (with Mountain Kingdom and Lapierre) were the pioneers who took up the challenge. The Spring Carnival wasn't on their agenda, although Highland Chieftain did run at Flemington in the autumn of 1989 when he finished fourth under Brent Thomson in a vintage edition of the Australian Cup, chasing home a trifecta of legends comprising Vo Rogue, Super Impose and (Our) Poetic Prince.

Things finally changed for good in 1993 when two horses, one from England and one from Ireland, challenged for the Melbourne Cup – and one of them, Vintage Crop, won it under Mick Kinane, taking the Melbourne Spring Carnival from the recesses of the European consciousness to centre stage in 203.4 unforgettable seconds.

The two horses and trainers were the obvious ones to lead the charge. Vintage Crop had just won the Irish St Leger, while the other horse (Drum Taps, who finished ninth under Frankie Dettori) had won the past two Ascot Gold Cups. Vintage Crop's trainer Dermot Weld was already established as a ground-breaker. In 1990 he had become the first European trainer to win an American Triple Crown race (the Belmont Stakes with Go And Go). In 1991 he had been the first to score at the recently-inaugurated Hong Kong International Meeting (with Additional Risk in the HK Bowl).



Drum Taps' trainer William Hastings-Bass (now Lord Huntingdon) had worked for Colin Hayes in his youth before starting training in 1976 in Marriott Stables in Newmarket's Hamilton Road. A regular visitor to the stable was Gai Smith (now Waterhouse) who was living in London at time. By coincidence, Gai Waterhouse had her first Melbourne Cup runner in that same 1993 Cup, saddling the \$126 chance Te Akau Nick to finish second under Bobby Vance.

After he had been training for two years, Hastings-Bass found he was going well enough to retain a stable jockey – so he brought Harry White over from Melbourne to spend the summer in Newmarket, the partnership's highlight being the success of Greenland Park in the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot. White heading back to Australia towards the end of the year and before long Hastings-Bass followed, relocating to Warwick Farm in Sydney.

However, he soon returned to England, settling into Coronation Stables just across the road from Newmarket railway station before eventually moving down to Berkshire to train in the West Ilsley Stable owned by his godmother (ie the Queen) from which he sent Drum Taps on that ground-breaking journey. He trained for the Queen throughout his career, one of the horses which she had with him being Australia Fair, the Aus-bred daughter of Without Fear who, in a scheme organised by Colin Hayes, was Australia's present to Her Majesty in 1977 to mark the Silver Jubilee of her reign.

It seems like a lifetime ago, but it's only 27 years since Europeans first challenged for top honours in the Melbourne Spring. They're part of the furniture now!

ADDRESS



~ by Dissident out of Miralago (Fastnet Rock) ~

ALL THE QUALITIES OF A TOP CLASS FILLY

This well balanced filly possesses a beautifully balanced galloping action, along with a quality pedigree. Her winning mother is a full sister to stakes winner Mewstone Rock, along with there being multiple Group 1 winners in the first three dams.

Finishing off impressively in her only trial to date, she should be at her best up to 1600m. On arrival to Australia in mid-November, she will be trained in Warrnambool by Lindsey Smith. The 3yo stakes races in the autumn will be her first major targets.

[WATCH](#) Phill Cataldo talk through her credentials.

For more information: oti@oti.com.au

MELBOURNE CUP QUIZ

1. Who won the 2019 running of the Lexus Stakes to gain his spot in the Melbourne Cup three days later?
2. The smallest field for the Melbourne Cup was in 1963 with how many runners?
3. How many 3yo fillies have won the Melbourne Cup?
4. Which two jockeys have won the most Melbourne Cup?
5. Who was the first female to ride the winner of the Melbourne Cup, in what year and on which horse?
6. Name the first three in the 2019 Melbourne Cup?
7. When was the first running of the Melbourne Cup, and who won?
8. Who was the quickest winner of the Melbourne Cup?
9. How many Cup winners did Bart Cummings train?
10. How many grey horses have won the Melbourne Cup?

WORLD HORSE RACING



"It is just one of those experiences that you'll never forget."

Terry Henderson, CEO of OTI reminisces on Doriemus' 1995 Melbourne Cup victory and describes what winning the Cup in the navy and gold silks would mean to OTI and our owners!

WATCH

MELBOURNE CUP QUIZ RESULTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Downdraft | 6. Vow and Declare, Prince of Arran and Il Paradiso |
| 2. Seven runners | 7. 1861, Archer |
| 3. Three | 8. 1990, Kingston Town |
| 4. Bobby Lewis and Harry White with four apiece | 9. Twelve |
| 5. 2015, Michelle Payne on Prince of Penzance. | 10. Six |

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