



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

OTI NEWS

A CONVERSATION WITH JOSEPH O'BRIEN

HAVE YOUR SAY GRAHAM GUEST

MARCHONS ENSEMBLE

OTI SPORT 2021 TOURS

WEEKLY QUIZ

The question now must be asked. Do the key drivers that first encouraged the VRC to attract foreign horses to the Carnival still provide a net benefit to racing in Australia. There is a very strong argument that they don't.

The custodians of the Melbourne Cup over the decades have done a wonderful job to ensure the Cup itself retains its unique position in Australian culture. Fashion was introduced in the 1960's, young people were encouraged to dress up and come in the 1980's, imported horses became the focus in the early 2000s. These all helped to ensure the Cup Week was Melbourne's Carnivale.

For the past decade however, the imported horses that have come and plundered have progressively left a negative legacy. Be it in quarantine or at the track, the death and injury rates of imports, the direct and promotional costs of attracting the horses and the lack of interest outside Australia, begs the question: why is racing still providing these quarantine facilities?

The question became more relevant when only four foreign owners were represented in this year's Cup. Australian owners, OTI included, are using the facilities to shorten quarantine times to get horses, often with their international trainers, to the carnival.

The VRC has been the prime driver behind the push for imports for the Carnival. That push worked well for all our key clubs for many years. However for the last few years, the benefits of the strategy have waned to the point where not only the Cup, but the whole industry is the loser. As custodians for the great race, the VRC committee in conjunction with RVL must now act to decommission the current process. Failure to do so will risk the Cup's iconic status in our community.

Until we breed more stayers, there will be no fewer imported horses in the race. We will lose the benefits of a few imported trainers, but frankly that is not enough to justify the huge cost of their presence.

The final day of the Flemington Spring Carnival will see a number of OTI runners at the track.

At Cranbourne this evening

SLEEPLESS runs in R4 BM64 over 2060m for Archie Alexander and has drawn barrier 6 for Neil Farley. We are very happy with him, he looks well and is progressing in the right direction.

Tomorrow at Flemington

BARADE runs in R1 BM80 over 2000m for Archie Alexander with Declan Bates riding from barrier 2. The race should suit, and we are hopeful of a good performance from the gelding.

DOROZA also races in R1 BM80 over 2000m for Matt Cumani and Glen Boss riding from barrier 7. He is in super form going into this tough race.

GALLIC CHIEFTAIN is in R5 G3 Queen Elizabeth Stakes over 2600m for Archie Alexander and John Allen from barrier 8. In a very strong renewal, he is drawn averagely but we are hopeful of a big race.

TRUE SELF races in the R5 G3 Queen Elizabeth Stakes with Hugh Bowman in the saddle from barrier 2, and she will be aiming to defend her title.

HAKY lines in up R5 G3 Queen Elizabeth Stakes for Archie Alexander and Jamie Kah from barrier 7. After a very good run in the Bendigo Cup, we hope he gets into a nice rhythm and he can finish strongly.

CHAILLOT races in R7 G2 Matriarch Stakes over 2000m for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates from barrier 4. She is bright and healthy, and we hope she has the turn of foot at the finish.

Tomorrow at Te Rapa in New Zealand

VEE CECE runs in R7 2100m Open Hcp for Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman from barrier 3 with Lynsey Satherley aboard.

Tomorrow in Ireland at Naas

CAMPHOR is entered to run in the Listed Finale Stakes over 2380m for Jessie Harrington and Conor Hoban. This is likely to be her last race this season, and we are hopeful she can pick up a black type win.

On Tuesday in New Zealand, at Te Aroha

TAAFFEITE is nominated for a 3yo maiden over 1400m. Trainers Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman will decide if the race is suitable nearer the time. She has come through her trial well, and she will benefit from the race experience.

Later next week

PARADIA and **SCHWANENSEE** may race in France. **MILESTONE** may race in a BM70 over 1600m at The Valley.

HAVE YOUR SAY

OTI partner Graham Guest has written his views on the use of the whip in racing in this week's edition on page 4.

Do you have any views that you'd like to share on current racing issues? Or horses, trainers, jockeys or races you've particularly admired? If so, we'd love to hear and publish them!

Email: hermione@oti.com.au

A CONVERSATION WITH JOSEPH O'BRIEN

On his childhood.

I was born here, where I train in Owning Hill, Kilkenny Ireland and then moved to Ballydoyle (where my father Aidan trains) when I was very young. I suppose I've never been outside the industry really. A horse that really sticks out my memory is Istabraq who was trained by dad to win three Cheltenham Gr1 Champion Hurdles.

On the love of the horse, and the sport.

We are very lucky to spend all our time with horses. The thoroughbred is an incredible animal. Their speed, athleticism, balance. We are very lucky to work with them on a daily basis. It is an incredible sport, there are so many factors in trying to figure out a good racehorse. There are no rules, there is no law. You never quite know, you get surprises all the time. The uncertainty of it all makes the sport great, and makes winning all the sweeter.

On his mentors.

Mum and Dad are the only two people I've worked for, so everything I have learnt is from them. Over the years of riding at Ballydoyle I was fortunate to ride with some great jockeys and lucky to learn from like Seamie Heffernan, Johnny Murtagh and Kieran Fallon. too.

On being part of a racing dynasty.

Mum and Dad have been very successful in the industry, and I've learnt to deal with that from a young age. There will always be people who will say that your success has been handed to you, but we know that anyone who gets an opportunity still has to make the most of it. We get up everyday and strive to do our best, sometimes you win sometimes you lose. What happens on the track we accept and move on.

On how being a jockey has been advantageous to his training.

Riding in races is certainly a huge help when it comes to working out what might happen in a race, and in particular knowing different jockeys and trainers and how they like to ride. I also have the experience of riding at a lot of different tracks and knowing what it takes to win there. I certainly learnt a lot through my career as a jockey.



On Twilight Payment's Melbourne Cup win.

This year was very different and challenging for many industries, and we are very appreciative of everyone who worked behind the scenes. There was a time when we were not sure we were going to be able to bring the horses to the Cup. We are in full lockdown here in Ireland so haven't had the celebrations yet!

On the art of training horses from afar.

It really comes down to the team that travels with the horses. Everything is monitored very closely with videos, pictures and weights. We keep the routine as simple as possible, and we keep the riders with the horses so they have a very good relationship, and they can very easily and quickly notice if something is amiss. Really I'm a very small cog in a big wheel.

On his professional aspirations.

Obviously I've been very lucky in my career so far. I've been supported by some fantastic owners, and you can't win the big races without the raw material. I have lots of aspirations and goals. For some horses that is winning a maiden, and some it is a G1 race. We tend to try to work on shorter term goals and take it step by step. We try to do the best for each horse and owner in the yard, and then we can rest easy at night.

On his way of life.

I can't say I'd ever thought I'd do anything outside of the racing industry. I knew I wouldn't be able to ride forever, and training was something I wanted to do when I finished riding. I honestly couldn't tell you what I'd like to do if it wasn't racing. I have my dream job, but I love sports, so I'd like to think I'd be involved in another sport. Horseracing is my hobby and passion. It is not getting up and going to work everyday, but a way of life that I love, and I'm very lucky to be able to do it everyday.

HAVE YOUR SAY - GRAHAM GUEST

It's fair to say I've had an interest in thoroughbred racing most of my life and observed horse racing trends over the years. Now, in my senior years and a participant shareholder in four OTI horses and numerous others, I take this opportunity to air my views on the whip.

My father William 'Bill' Guest and two of his brothers were jockeys in the 1950-60's. Dad was the leading jumps hoop in Adelaide, and the best horse he rode was So Merry, carrying weights of over 10 stone in the Steeplechases. As luck would have it, when he was favourite for the 1952 Great Eastern Steeplechase, the trainer didn't make it to the Hills track in time for the race - a wheel came off the float near Mount Lofty - and you guessed it, there wasn't a spare. It was definitely another era.



I've managed to save some of my father's memorabilia from his riding career (see image). He rode at tracks that no longer exist today (Cheltenham, Victoria Park, Snowtown, Crystal Brook). There is the leather-bound photo album, tinted celluloid metal pictures and the pride of the collection, 78 vinyl records of his race wins. Listening to them, I hear how much Australian accents have changed, and how the racecaller pauses during the race, giving the impression he can't be certain which horse is which, reminiscent of a Dad and Dave radio show. I am sure Matt Hill didn't learn his craft listening to those calls!

Another thing that is evident from the past is how frequently the whip was used. I cringe watching replays of races even in the recent past, where jockeys frantically persuade their mounts. It just looks wrong, an unsavory image to project to the non-enthusiast, irrespective of whether whips are padded. My wife and I do not discuss our involvement with horse racing with our two adult children, even if we have won a race. They consider the whip archaic and from the stone age and do not support "adults seeking entertainment by thrashing an animal."



Why is Darren Weir under trial for use of the jigger? Because inflicting pain to an animal can urge it to run faster. Does the whip have a similar function albeit through an adrenaline shot? I have to ask why is there a reluctance to NOT use it?

Some trainers and jockeys, might feel (rightly) affronted when they, as experts, are being questioned about their treatment of horses that they love. What right do outsiders have to comment? Or it may be a reluctance to pander to those who abhor horse racing - the greenies, leftists etc. The response is understandable in one sense, they are very close, invested, and it would be a major change to their professions.

But still the 'harmless whip' is being used. Another analogy is that of smacking children. A tap on the bum never hurt a child, but modern society, in step with societal values, drew a line in the sand, citing this was a practice not to be tolerated as a means of shaping child behaviour.

Jamie Kah is often credited by the media for her exceptional riding style. Horses seem to "run for her" and I believe she stated she wouldn't have any qualms with the whip being relegated to the pages of history, with greater emphasis given to rhythm, balance and soft hands in a jockey's skill set.

Of course, recently progress has occurred to reduce the number of strikes per race. However, the counting of strikes at various stages of a race remains problematic, evidenced by recent protests.

My feeling is this: without a total ban, the image problem will persist, drawing attention to itself as a contentious topic. Wouldn't it be pleasing to see in 2021 and beyond, the whip be only carried for safety and correction, never to enhance performance? We would never see a horse bashed to the finishing line and everyone could admire the athleticism of horses that win simply because they are well trained, and they willingly love to run.

BUSUTTIN & YOUNG TO TRAIN MARCHONS EMSEMBLE



~ Progressive Young Stayer Sure to Relish Australian Conditions ~

The three year old gelding son of Pour Moi (Montjeu) is a dual-winner in Ireland, and will be ready to race in Australia in the autumn.

He will be based at the Cranbourne stable of GR1 winning trainers Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young, who have had considerable success with similar profiled horses.

Possessing proven form around the highly rated OTI owned **EAGLEMONT**, we look forward to seeing this lightly raced horse progress through the grades in Australia.

For more information: oti@oti.com.au

OTI QUIZ

QUIZ

1. Who was Bart Cummings first Melbourne Cup winner?
2. Who won the 2019 running of the Mackinnon Stakes?
3. How many rides in the Melbourne Cup had Jye McNeil had prior to his victory in this year's race?

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Bordered by the historic Swan River, and home to the GR1 Railway Stakes

OTI SPORT



With the announcement this week that the Victorian and New South Wales borders will be opening, as well as the expectation that the Trans-Tasman border will be opening up in 2021, OTI Sport will be looking to schedule some trips and excursions to destinations including New Zealand and the Hunter Valley.

All these tours promise to be educational, sociable and enjoyable for, all whatever your level of interest in racing and breeding.

*"Thank you Hermione, our first trip to the Hunter Valley delivered a wonderful opportunity to learn so much about the breeding side of horse racing, which the tour presented so beautifully.
We thoroughly enjoyed the delightful homestead accommodation, delicious meals and great company that the tour provided."*

For more information or to express early interest, please email Hermione at hermione@oti.com.au or call her on 0404 361 587.

OTI QUIZ RESULTS

Quiz

1. Light Fingers
2. Magic Wand
3. None

Name The Racecourse

Ascot, WA

In 1848 a race meeting was held on J.W. Hardey's 'Grove Farm'. Soon afterwards a site was selected for a permanent course on Hardey's property - this became the Ascot Racecourse.

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