



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management*



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## Follow The Money

As the dust settles on another Spring Carnival, ongoing debate rages on many aspects of this year's activities. Clearly, the welfare challenges that marred the Carnival, and indeed the reputation of racing as a whole, will be addressed appropriately by Racing Victoria and the Victoria Racing Club.

No doubt the cost of attracting internationals will also be reconsidered, as there is clear evidence that the Carnival is not perceived the way it once was by the Europeans. However, there is a positive aspect of this year's major Spring races, and upon some research, the feature races over the past decade, that should be highlighted. It is a common misconception that foreigners visit Melbourne and pillage our prize money from the majors.

The fact is that only two of the past eleven Melbourne Cup and Cox Plate winning owners are based overseas, while only four of the past eleven Caulfield Cup-winning connections are internationally based. Six foreign-trained horses have won the Melbourne Cup in the past eleven years, four of which have actually been owned by Australians. The internationals who won the Cox Plate and Caulfield Cup during the same period were all overseas owned.

The attraction for Australians to source bloodstock from overseas continues to grow. It is estimated that over \$10m was spent on international gallopers in just the four months leading up to this year's Melbourne Spring Carnival. As we have seen with the Melbourne Cup, some owners are happy to leave their horses with overseas trainers. Indeed the current quarantine facilities tend to encourage both trends.

While one wonders if the current arrangements for the quarantine facilities benefit domestic breeders and trainers, the important issue is that the bulk of prize money remains in Australia.

# OTI NEWS

This evening at The Valley.

**MILESTONE** runs in R7 1600m BM70 for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young with Michael Dee riding from barrier 10. We hope to see him hitting the line well.

Later this evening in France, at St Cloud

**SCHWANENSEE** races in R3 2400m 3yo maiden for Antoine de Watrigant and Marc Nobili from barrier 12. She is in good form at home.

Tomorrow at Sandown

**FURIOSO** races in R6 1600m Sandown Guineas G2 for Matt Cumani and Fred Kersley from barrier 2. An impressive winner last start, we look forward to seeing him race in higher grade.

**SAN HUBERTO** will run in R7 3200m Listed Sandown Cup for Matt Cumani and Fred Kersley from barrier 9. He has pleased Matt at home, and we hope to see a significantly improved run.

**ATTORNEY** lines up in R8 2400m G2 Zipping Classic over 2400m for Matt Smith and Luke Currie from barrier 8. A pleasing winner of his trial this week, we look forward to seeing him run in this competitive contest.

**FUTURE SCORE** also runs in R8 2400m G2 Zipping Classic for Matt Cumani and Fred Kersley from barrier 6. A gallant 3rd in the Hotham Stakes two weeks ago, we hope to see another strong performance.

**ROMANCER** races in R9 1800m G3 Eclipse Stakes for Grahame Begg and with Luke Currie riding from barrier 4. The ground conditions should suit.

**HASSTOBEGOOD** runs in R10 1500m G3 Summoned Stakes for Grahame Begg and Glen Boss from barrier 15. After her trial earlier in the week, she is going well ahead of the race.

Tomorrow at Dunkeld

**SOUTHERN ROCK** races in R6 1800m Dunkeld Cup for Archie Alexander and Neil Farley who knows the horse well, from barrier 4. We expect to see an improved performance.

On Sunday at Donald

**ZIPITSWEETIE** will run in R6 1620m BM64 for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates. Drawn outside in barrier 13, she is in great order at home, and we hope to see a solid run.

## WINNERS



### TRUE SELF

Queen Elizabeth Stakes GR3  
Flemington  
*Trained by Willie Mullins*



### BARADE

2000m BM80  
Flemington  
*Trained by Archie Alexander*

# A CONVERSATION WITH HUGH BOWMAN

## On his childhood.

I was born in Dunedoo, in Central West NSW, and I've been riding horses all my life as well as dealing with cattle, sheep etc on the farm. I didn't have a lot to do with racing as a child, but at around 14/15 I started doing barrier trials in order to get an amateur jockeys licence, and that was my introduction to racing.

## On becoming a jockey, and what he loves about it.

When I was about 13 and at boarding school in Sydney my parents took me to the races at Randwick. I'd always ridden and loved horses, but going to the races really made me want to be a jockey. Thanks to my profession I have been able to travel the world, and meet so many interesting people from all walks of life. The friendships I've created are special.

## On his mentors.

I was apprentice to Leanne Aspros in Bathurst and her husband Billy was a huge influence in the early days. Darren Beadman who continues to be, as well as Ron Quinton who I was also apprentice to. However my biggest mentor and influence is my father. I'm very lucky to have a very supportive family.

## On riding overseas.

I first rode in Ireland in 2004, and it really opened up my eyes to world racing. In 2007 I got the opportunity to ride in England when Mick Channon offered me a job. It was a real eye opener. The amount of travel involved was a bit confronting, but to ride so many different horses on different tracks was great. I found a real purity about it. It is very different to racing here. I went back again in 2011, which was slightly less successful but it was always a great experience.



## On Winx.

She had many great characteristics, but number one for me was the way she was so relaxed, until she needed to switch on. The older she got, she became even better at it. She was like an old browns cow, she wouldn't flinch when things were going on around her, whether that was at the races or in the mornings. I was very fortunate to get to know her so well. There was pressure of course, but I learnt to grow with it.

## On riding in Melbourne.

I had to make a choice, it was either Bivouac in the Everest or Anthony Van Dyck in the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups. In hindsight I may have made the wrong choice, but I had to make one. Arriving at the course at Flemington without any crowds was eerie, and certainly very different without them. Once I was on the track and racing it made little difference though as you are in the zone.

## On True Self.

Sadly I don't get to ride a lot for OTI, as most of the time they don't get enough weight for me to be able to ride, but to pick up the ride on True Self was great. She was a dominant winner for the second year in a row, and what impressed me most was her turn of foot. It was extraordinary. It is a trait indicative of European horses coming over, and particularly the ones trained by European trainers. They have a certain calmness in the run.

## What he gets up to when he isn't riding.

Christine and I have two daughters Bambi and Paige, and I enjoy time with my family. I enjoy playing golf when I can. I find it a great way to get away from things, and to relax. We also enjoy getting up to the farm in Dunedoo, where my parents are and we have an interest in a property. It is my number one way to spend time away from racing.



## MATT STEWART - IS THE CUP LOST

Some agreed, some thought the desolation had rendered me mad when I harped on the empty park across the river last Tuesday.

It worried me that when the Melbourne Cup field galloped by – the best field yet assembled for the race that “stops the nation” – hardly anyone had decided to witness the great event via a picnic along the adjacent banks of the Maribyrnong.

The sloping lawns of Footscray Park traipse for 400m along the river side of the track. You could hit a sand iron from the park and land on the side straight. It's that close. You could hear hoof clatter and heavy breathing.

It worried me that no one had plonked down a Cup Day blanket and raised a glass of bubbly as the field galloped by, because I'd hoped the race that stopped the nation actually did stop the nation.

Patrons could not enter the course because of rotten Coronavirus (I was able to attend and it was a lonely privilege up there in the old member's stand doing radio) and I imagined some would have hatched imaginative plans to get close.

Those who thought I was mad and clutching at straws said you couldn't expect anyone to watch from across the river because the city was celebrating a release from lockdown and it was a warm day and everyone was at the beach.

But aren't warm days for picnics as well?

If the Cup is supposed to stop the nation then surely its grip on Melbourne, where the Cup lives and its legend has evolved, would be so tight that locals would have been drawn to the nearby park for a peek.

Richard Freedman spoke very bluntly and very well on RSN on Wednesday, saying the over-internationalisation of the Cup, plus an almost annual fatality, had eroded local interest.



No one knows the horses any more, Freedman said. He said that in the olden days, taxi drivers would debate with passengers the merits of the local lead up form.

Freedman said that locals with a passing interest in racing – the people who made the race such a community phenomenon – no longer identified with it.

The challenge for the Victoria Racing Club must surely be to rekindle local love and affection for what Freedman said had always been “the world's greatest horse race.”

The devotion to wooing fly in, fly out internationals has come at a community cost.

Both Racing Victoria and the VRC must return to 1970s style basics; promote the race to local schools, communities and businesses, make the precinct welcome on a daily basis to locals who don't feel particularly welcomed by those big iron gates.

Shout local residents a free coffee and muffin when they wander in. Make them feel part of the precinct, gently educate them about what goes on there. Invite them to pat a horse.

Give them a picnic rug and free entry to the next race meeting there. Some may come, some may not. It's a start.

They might be talking a bit more about the Cup at the Curragh and Newmarket than they were 20 years ago but they're not talking about it anywhere near as much in Melbourne as they used to.

Last Tuesday, they were more interested in the beach than watching the Melbourne Cup a stone's throw away across the river.

## GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW OTI PARTNERS - SHANE DYCKER

Shane Dycer grew up in Yahl, a small township on the outskirts of Mount Gambier, South Australia and races horses with his family under Dycer Racing.



**Who was your first winner and where?** For my 18th birthday I was given a share in Lady's Man and he won at the Mount Gambier Cup Carnival four weeks later in a 2400m hurdle. He was a great old horse winning us half a dozen over fences and a couple on the flat. He only died last year aged 32 in a family paddock.

**Most successful horses you've owned?** We have been lucky to have been in Lidari and Gallic Chieftain.

**Race you would most like to win?** The Melbourne Cup locally and the Arc internationally.

**When you win that special race, how will you celebrate?** In my cellar at home we have a special magnum of red blended by the top Coonawarra Vignerons which we won in 1999 for winning the Coonawarra Cup with Top Chance. It will be opened and consumed in Terry's courtyard!

**Favourite provincial racetrack?** Warrnambool.

**What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending?** Flemington, Cup Carnival week takes some beating.

**Black Caviar, Winx or Makybe Diva?** Lucky to have seen them all but Black Caviar winning used to give me goosebumps.

**What international races have you attended and particularly enjoyed?** My father and I had the pleasure of attending Royal Ascot a few years ago with Terry and Sue. Amazing carnival and I look forward to returning there with a runner next time.

**Which international carnivals would you like to attend next?** I would like to attend the Arc meeting definitely.

**How did you get involved with OTI?** My wife Cath is a cousin of Terry's, we caught up at Flemington one day for a drink and chat. 13 years later we have horses in three countries and a lot of fantastic experiences along the way thanks to Terry, Shayne and the team.

**What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership?** It doesn't matter if it's a Mount Gambier Maiden or a Group race at Flemington, the thrill of a win never gets old, I can't describe that to anyone who hasn't been involved. The great people you meet along the way makes the experience more enjoyable.

**Favourite jockey?** Dwayne Dunn & Damian Lane.

**Favourite racing memory?** Star Scream winning a three-year-old race at Moonee Valley, we bred him, raced the dam and it was the first city win with Terry and the team. A special moment.

**OTI horse you are most looking forward to seeing run in 2021?** Mirann. I can't wait to see where he gets too next year & Future Score, he's looking the goods already.

## OTI QUIZ

### QUIZ

1. Who won the 2019 running of the Sandown Cup?
2. Who rode Makybe Diva to victory in the 2002 Queen Elizabeth Stakes?
3. Who won the 2020 Breeder's Cup Classic?

### NAME THE RACECOURSE



*Hint - At the foot of the Grampians*

# ROLLET WITH JOSEPH O'BRIEN



OTI have a strong association with 2020 Melbourne Cup winning trainer Joseph O'Brien with the likes of 2019 G3 Lexus winner DOWNDRAFT, EAGLEMONT, and the unraced 2yo colt ROLLET.

ROLLET is by leading sire Kingman, out of Foreign Legionary who is herself a daughter of Galileo and the dam of MANTASTIC.

Joseph O'Brien has been training the colt since he was broken in, and has taken a steady but patient approach with the colt who is nearing his racecourse debut.

*"We are very happy with him so far. He is a grand, straightforward colt with a good attitude. We expect him to be at his best going 1400m-1600m in his three-year-old season and beyond,"* O'Brien commented.

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## OTI QUIZ RESULTS

### Quiz

1. Azuro
2. Luke Currie
3. Authentic

### Name The Racecourse

Dunkeld

The first official meeting took place in 1874, though reputedly racing may have been run earlier in the 1800s. The track has no permanent grandstand, but continues to be a hugely popular carnival with the highlight in the Dunkeld Cup held each spring.

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