



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management*



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& LESTER PIGGOTT**

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**CHARM SPIRIT 2YO  
TO BUSUTTIN &  
YOUNG**

On behalf of the team at OTI, we wish you a safe, happy and holy Christmas.

The year has been challenging, however globally, racing has fared better than many other sports or industries. Although cocooned in protective measures, there has been little disruption to racing and training operations. In the scheme of things, given the challenges of the pandemic, the inability to attend race meetings has been a small price to pay.

The determination of racing people to 'tow the line' to ensure protocols were followed to enable racing to continue will, in hindsight, be one of the features of the year. Used to the uncertainties of the sport, racing people were arguably better equipped than most to deal with the challenges of Covid. However, in an industry as big as racing, it would have only taken a few irresponsible types to bring the industry to a standstill. The industry should be both proud and grateful that didn't happen.

Racing, especially in Australia, goes into 2021 in good shape. While there are big issues on the table, the financial base of the game is solid, aided by strong betting turnover during the pandemic year.

Breeders are confident that yearling sales will hold up well. Should that happen, the foundation will be laid for racing to prosper and in doing so, hopefully, provide the opportunity to shore up the general public's confidence in the sport.

Finally, no matter what your role in racing, the OTI team wish you success and joy in 2021.

# OTI NEWS

Runners for OTI this weekend and into the holiday period in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

## At Colac tomorrow

**RAFFISH** runs in R2 1600m Maiden for Archie Alexander and Neil Farley from barrier 2. Whilst the trip is on the shorter side for him, he is ready for his return to the races.

## At Randwick tomorrow

**MILESTONE** runs in R4 2000m BM88 for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young, and with Jay Ford in the saddle from barrier 9. After a very promising run at Pakenham last start, he should run well in preparation for a race on the Gold Coast in January.

## At Doomben tomorrow

**LE JUGE** lines in R4 2020m Open Hcp for Chris Waller and Larry Cassidy from barrier 10. With the outside barrier, it will be imperative he settles early, and conserves energy to finish strongly.

## At Flemington tomorrow

**HASSTOBEGOOD** R6 1600m F&M BM78 for Grahame Begg with Jordan Childs in the saddle from barrier 8. She has been working very well since her last run and should have track conditions to suit.

## At Geelong on Tuesday

**NASSIDIO** runs in R3 1715m Maiden for Mitch Freedman from barrier 1 with Harry Coffey in the saddle. Fifth on his last start, he continues to learn about racing and is in good form at home.

## On 26th December

**NIGHT'S WATCH**, who made a very good return to the races at Pakenham, is being aimed at the Listed Lord Stakes at Caulfield on Boxing Day

**MANTASTIC** had a quiet trial today and will be aimed at the Group 3 Summer Cup over 2000m at Randwick on Boxing Day also.

## WINNER



## DEMETER

1300m 3yo Handicap - Deauville



## Vale Martinvast

The first horse that joined Archie Alexander's stables when he started training in Australia was Martinvast.

The 11-year-old gelding, winner of over \$250,000, passed away last week. His post-race career was best summed up by Dylan McGuinness, who strapped the horse when at Archie's, but looked after him for the rest of his days.

"He was a kind and loving soul after racing, my mum even learned to ride on him, that's how good he was. At the same time, Old Martin was the same energetic and flamboyant horse that everyone fell in love with, thrived when he went on trail rides and always wanted to do more. A true champion on and off the track."

## A SPECIAL JOINT CONVERSATION WITH RON HUTCHINSON & LESTER PIGGOTT

### On their early days

**Lester** - I was born on the 5th November 1935 in Wantage. Recently I was told that I was the first baby boy born at the Wantage Hospital. My father and my grandfather trained at Letcombe Regis, a small village near Wantage, in Berkshire. Most of my family have been involved in racing except for Canon Cecil Wood who was Archbishop of Cape Town. I didn't have the option to become anything else but a jockey.

**Ron** - I was born on the 14th December 1927. From a very young age, I wanted to be a jockey. I wrote an essay at school stating it, and my teacher introduced me to the trainer Claude Goodfellow. My parents had no involvement at all and didn't want me to become a jockey but I threatened to run away if I didn't. I loved everything about it.

### On their first rides

**Lester** - To be honest, the race is a bit of a blur in my mind. I was 12 years old! It was at Salisbury racecourse in 1948 on a horse trained by my father.

**Ron** - It was at Flemington down the straight, and I remember being nervous and uptight, but the horse I rode was a 200-1 and came second so I can't have given it too bad of a ride.

### On the job and experiencing success

**Lester** - I loved riding and certainly back then, for most jockeys, the hardest part of the job was being unable to eat. We didn't have the knowledge about nutrition that is available nowadays.

**Ron** - I didn't change my style at all going to England, but I had a good clock in my head as I'd ridden a lot of pacework. Winning the 2000 Guineas on my first ride in England was the furthest thing from my mind. I remember meeting Peter Bromley, the ABC reporter before the race and him saying "Just remember, don't go until the bushes." I'd never ridden on such a wide-open track in my life!



### On each other

**Ron** - I first met Lester in Australia at a jockey's invitational. There were jockeys from all over the world. It was a great event. Lester rode some very good winners in Australia including the Australian Oaks I think. Lester was always so cool, calm and collected. You never knew what he was thinking. Nothing fazed him.

**Lester** - Ron is probably right. It would have been in 1957. He was a good jockey and had the advance of being a lightish weight. Ron was one of the most cheerful of jockeys. We were together most days, as we shared a valet and sat next to each other in the weighing room.

### On riding around the world

**Lester** - I rode in so many places. Apart from the obvious places such as Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide and Brisbane, I rode in Canberra, Scone, Toowoomba, and Perth and in The Wellington Boot. The prize money in Australia was very small compared to today. At that time Australian jockeys went all over the world. Styles have changed a lot over the last century. A lot of Australian jockeys were renowned for their bobbing.

**Ron** - I was leading rider in Victoria at the time, and received a telegram from Paddy Prendergast who was offering me a job as his jockey in Ireland. It was a great opportunity to go abroad, and I only thought I'd go for a year, but I stayed many more. I loved riding in Europe. Every day and every track was so different.

### On the whip

**Lester** - This is a controversial subject, but jockeys must have a whip to keep their horses straight. I think Australian racing rules tend to be too strict; a lot of their rules are petty.

**Ron** - It's like a person going into the office without a pen. They are big powerful horses, who need guiding.



# JACKSON FRANTZ

***Young racing journalist and RSN digital contributor  
Jackson Frantz writes about falling in love with racing  
and his views on the problems facing the sport.***

Growing up a country kid I assumed everyone loved horse racing, or at least horses for that matter.

Melbourne Cup day was considered a significant event, the history was taught in school and the race truly stopped a nation. Sadly, the same can't be said for today.

My first recollection of racing is vivid. It was Melbourne Cup day 2005 and my entire school had packed into our classroom-sized library for a glimpse at Makybe Diva. As we sat and watched in awe our teachers encouraged us to embrace a national icon. It was there I'd succumbed to racing's spell.

Racing has provided my fondest memories, the most notable being Saturday's spent with my father, form guide in hand, while Sport 927 played in the background. A pastime that has formed the basis of our relationship.

My interest grew when my father purchased a tried gelding with, Sheila Arnold, mother of champion hoop Steven. We built a family friendship and my fate was secured. For me, it wasn't the money that could be made through gambling or my father's ownership but the people, the stories, the sheer thrill of thundering hooves, and the love of the horse. An unusual obsession.

Now 21-years-old and reaching the backend of a sports journalism degree I remain the only La Trobe student actively pursuing a role in the racing media, and one of a select few who could name a current thoroughbred racehorse.

I worry for the future our sport; racetrack deaths and welfare concerns overshadow positive press; gambling advertisements reign supreme and our youth have been left to endure an anti-racing agenda built on these premises.



Wealth is undeniably the basis for racing's existence, but when the initial interest is developed away from money, a strong foundation is set, and the allure of the thoroughbred conquers all. A similar connection many share with organised sport, it becomes a way of life rather than a means for financial advance.

The further detached we are from the history, the animal, and the faces of our industry, the greater the risk of engineering a fabricated product becomes. One that turns horses into machines and racing into a trackside simulation, designed purely for the purposes of online gambling.

We are rapidly moving in this direction, and professional sport is only a few lengths away. Our most recent national icons Black Caviar and Winx are gone, and while we await our next immortal, it'd take a dreamer to envision society clinging to an equine athlete for faith in their lives. A stark contrast to Phar Lap, who managed to restore the hope of a poverty-stricken post-depression nation.

The scenes of Federation Square as Black Caviar etched her name alongside racing royalty seem a lifetime ago, and if we don't find a way to change the current narrative racing is trending towards inevitable irrelevancy. A pastime that is no longer compatible with the Australian way of life.

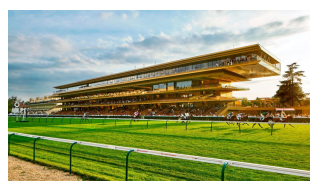
The challenge for racing is to now capture the imaginations of younger generations. We must find our way back into the curriculum, it remains the only way.

## OTI QUIZ

### QUIZ

1. Recent Inglis Nursery winner Acrobat is by which stallion?
2. Magic Wand won the 2019 Mackinnon Stakes, but who was 2nd and 3rd?
3. How old was Lester Piggott when he rode his last winner?

### NAME THE RACECOURSE



*Hint -  
The Arc*



## GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW OTI PARTNERS JOE DEL MASTRO AND JOSEPH VERSACE

Joe Del Mastro and Joseph Versace race horses together with OTI. Joe grew up in Brunswick, and developed his interest when washing dishes after school in a butcher shop and having a quaddie every Saturday with the 'old blokes'. Joseph grew up in Moonee Ponds and has always been intrigued by the Melbourne Cup, particularly after backing Think Big to win the 1974 edition.



### **Who was your first winner and where?**

JOE - Mondial at Werribee, March 2000.

JOSEPH - My first winner was All Enquiries in 1996 at Geelong, ridden by Brent Stanley.

### **Most successful horses you've owned?**

JOE & JOSEPH - Aloisia, Tall Ship, Shenzou Steeds, Noblesse Oblige and Grey Lion.

### **Race you would most like to win?**

JOE & JOSEPH - Melbourne Cup, or any Group race will do!

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

JOE & JOSEPH - Together, with family and friends at the St Andrew's Hotel Fitzroy.

### **Favourite racetrack?**

JOE & JOSEPH - Flemington.

### **What meeting do you enjoy attending?**

JOE & JOSEPH - Spring & Autumn carnival in Melbourne and any race that we have a runner!

### **Black Caviar, Winx or Makybe Diva?**

JOE - Makybe Diva.

JOSEPH - Black Caviar undefeated in 25 races including 15 Group 1's and won at Ascot.

### **Which international carnivals would you like to attend next?**

JOE - Kentucky Derby was on the horizon for 2020 but Covid took care of that!

JOSEPH - Kentucky Derby or Ascot with friends and family.

### **How did you get involved with OTI?**

JOSEPH - Joe Del Mastro knew Simon O'Donnell and not long after we became involved with Tall Ship and we haven't looked back since. Terry and Shayne have been wonderful and as such we now have a few more horses with OTI Racing and more to come!

### **What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership?**

JOE - Anticipation of winning and the friendships formed. The thrill of having Grey Lion line up in the Melbourne Cup is as strong a memory I'll have mixing with other owners.....until we win one!

JOSEPH - The friendships made with fellow owners and industry participants and the sharing of the highs and lows with racing, but ultimately being left with wonderful memories.

### **Favourite racing memory?**

JOE - Watching Aloisia win the 1,000 Guineas and our daughters leading her back in with Susan Henderson.

JOSEPH - Definitely Aloisia winning the Group 1 Thousand Guineas and our daughters Sarah (Joe Del Mastro's daughter) and Simona (my daughter) leading her in. Also, Grey Lion being our first Melbourne Cup runner and the build up to the race was amazing.

### **OTI horse you look forward to seeing run in 2021?**

JOE & JOSEPH - Chaillot with Archie Alexander. She has had her fair share of injuries and bad luck, but she showed enough in the spring to look forward to her running again in the autumn. Given good luck of course!

## THE OTI GAZETTE - CHRISTMAS BREAK

The OTI Gazette started during the first week of the pandemic. Since that time in early March, the Gazette has been published for 39 straight weeks and has included articles written by various guests on a broad range of subjects as well as interviews with legends of the sport, and passionate owners.

Returning bi-weekly in 2021, the OTI Gazette is now here to stay, and will continue to bring you insightful interviews and articles.

# CHARM SPIRIT GELDING TO BUSUTTIN & YOUNG



~ Precocious 2yo Aimed at Autumn Racing ~

This half brother to G3 winner Cismontane comes from a family of winners, who continue to produce precocious types.

This son of Charm Spirit caught the eye of Phill Cataldo and his trainers Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young at the recent breeze-up sales in New Zealand. Described by Riverrock Stud as being a determined, kind and cool horse with strong gaskins, and built for speed. He displayed that speed when breezing in under 11 seconds on a very slow track. The strength of this gelding indicates he will be a relatively early runner, and we can expect to see him racing in the autumn.

[TO WATCH VIDEO](#)

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

## OTI QUIZ RESULTS

### Quiz

1. Fastnet Rock
2. Melody Belle and Hartnell
3. 59 years old

### Name The Racecourse

Longchamp, Paris.

Situated in the Bois de Boulogne, the first ever race took place in 1857 in front of Emperor Napoleon III. Racing continued through during the German Occupation of France, and in 2018 the track reopened after a major redevelopment.

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