



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



**IN THIS WEEK'S
EDITION**

OTI NEWS

**A CONVERSATION
WITH
HOLLIE DOYLE**

**MATT STEWART ON
TRIALS**

**EQUINE WELFARE
PROGRAM UPDATE**

COMME BELLA FILLE

WEEKLY QUIZ

**EDITOR
HERMIONE FITZGERALD**

'The Times They Are A Changing'

...Come gather 'round people wherever you roam and you see that the top jockey ranks are certainly changing...

Currently Jamie Kah and Jess Eaton head jockey premierships in Victoria and South Australia respectively. Danielle Johnson is in the same position in New Zealand with Samantha Collett sitting third. Last weekend Rachel King rode four winners at Rosehill.

If the above doesn't raise eyebrows, then consider the diminutive Hollie Doyle. Talented and also respected outside of racing, she finished third in the BBC Sports Personality of the Year in the U.K last year. She's won at Royal Ascot, ridden five winners on one card and last weekend became the first female to win at the Saudi Cup meeting – on OTI's True Self!

Those of us who have been around racing for decades are quickly coming to grips with the level of talent being shown by these top women. Many experienced observers have compared Jamie Kah to the best they have seen. "Soft hands, impeccable timing, balance" are words becoming synonymous with the way she rides.

So why is this happening, and why seemingly suddenly? Sure the apprenticeship schools are now more equally represented, but there is more to it than that. Many of these women who have now reached the upper echelons have been around for years. They have had to fight off prejudices against female jockeys. Michelle Payne's post Melbourne Cup interview gave us all an insight into the determination required.

The women have had to fight for the opportunity to ride. And they are making the most of that opportunity.

OTI NEWS

Runners for OTI this weekend, and further ahead.

At Flemington tomorrow

CHAILLOT runs in R9 the Group 3 Frances Tressady Stakes over 1400m for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates from barrier 14. A high-quality mare, it will be great to see her back.

HASSTOBEGOOD races in the same race for Grahame Begg, with Jamie Kah in the saddle from barrier 4. She has worked well since her last start and will be ridden patiently.

At Newcastle tomorrow

MY SWASHBUCKLER races in the Provincial Championships Qualifier over 1400m for Kris Lees and Alysha Collet from barrier 7. Returning after a spell, he has been trialling very well and we look forward to seeing him run.

On Sunday at Ballarat

TRENCH WARFARE is declared to run in R4 1600m BM64 for Matt Cumani with Billy Egan riding from barrier 4. He has been pleasing in his work and we are hopeful of a strong performance in his third run this preparation.

Next week will see runners including **AQUILO**, who has accepted to run at Bendigo on Tuesday in the 1600m Maiden. **EAGLES CRAG** is likely to race at Sandown on Wednesday in the 1600m BM64 after his impressive Australian debut run last start. **MELTDOWN** may run at Pakenham in the 1200m BM64. **BLUE OCEAN** will have a nomination at Cranbourne on Friday in the BM64 over 2025m. **SAN HUBERTO** will take his place in the GR1 Australian Cup at Flemington on Saturday next week. At Randwick, we will see the return of **YOUNG RASCAL** and **SELINO** is second-up in the Listed Randwick City Stakes. On Monday 8th March, **BARADE** and **DARVIN** may go to Adelaide for the Group 2 Adelaide Cup while **NIGHT'S WATCH** may start in the Listed CS Hayes Memorial Cup.

WINNERS



TRUE SELF

*Trained by Willie Mullins
Riyadh, 2100m The Neom Turf Cup*



DARVIN

*Trained by Matthew Williams
The Valley, 3000m BM70*



I AM READY

*Trained by Lloyd Kennewell
Stony Creek, 1000m BM58*

A CONVERSATION WITH HOLLIE DOYLE

On her childhood

I was born and bred into racing, as both my parents rode. My dad had a few point to pointers, and broke in some horses. I did pony club and went from there. At school, I was only interested in sport and they were always telling me that I needed a backup plan which I probably did, but I didn't care. I just wanted to ride! My parents were fantastic, encouraging and supported me, and still do, and I'm so grateful for that.

Oh her first ride

I was actually still at school when I rode my first winner. It was in an amateur riders race at Salisbury on Mongoose, and I won it. It was an amazing day, and even though I was so young, I felt like I'd been waiting a long time for it!

On her mentors

Growing up I was a huge fan of Cathy Gannon and Hayley Turner, who are jockeys in Ireland and England. Ryan Moore is such a professional too, and I always looked up to jockeys like that.

On the past few years, and media attention

I've had the year of my life including riding my first Group 1. It was hard work to get there, and staying at that level will be tough. I was nominated for BBC Sports Personality of the year, and I was so surprised to be nominated. At the awards ceremony, I was surrounded by the biggest sporting stars and it was a bit surreal. I was so nervous, and it was completely out of my comfort zone. It was very different for me, I never wear makeup, or dress up much. It was an amazing experience and I couldn't believe I came third. Being in the spotlight hasn't come naturally to me, as I'm more comfortable riding horses, but I'm still very grateful for the support.



On True Self and riding in Saudi Arabia

It was fantastic to ride True Self to victory, and a huge honour to ride for Willie Mullins. I thought she would have a real chance in the race. She switched off nicely in the run and had a great burst of speed. She is a tough little filly, and I'd love to ride her again! It was an experience and the track rode beautifully on the turf and the dirt. I arrived in Saudi a few days earlier and rode track work one morning, and also took part in the jockey's challenge on Friday. I found that all really beneficial ahead of the big races on Friday.

On the highs and lows of her profession

I love horses, and I'm ultra-competitive. I like winning. I've had a few nasty falls. One time I was kicked under my jaw, I lost a few teeth and swallowed a few more but it was okay. They can be replaced and I was back riding ten days later.

On riding in Australia

I'd love to ride in Australia, and in fact, my fiance Tom Marquand has just finished quarantine in Sydney as he will be there for the Sydney Autumn Carnival to ride. He loves it, and I'd also like to get there one day but I need to find the right time, as I have a lot of support from trainers in the UK to ride on the all-weather, and I don't want to let them down.

On free time

I don't get a lot of it really, as I'm always on the go, but right now I'm in quarantine at home and doing all the jobs I never get around to doing. Tom and I are so busy, that we just like to spend time together at home. Might seem odd when we are often at the same race meetings, but we don't actually get to see each other much!

MATT STEWART ON TRIALS

In the “reader comment” space underneath stories of mine on the RSN website, two readers – Ross and John – dive in more than most.

The more they contribute, the more I've learned they're two smart cookies, thinkers.

They often disagree with me and each other. Ross, in particular, can thunder in off a long run but he's a hard man to argue with. He's always well-armed, well considered.

I wrote a yarn a few weeks ago about trials and jump-outs, and how they are used as punting tools despite having more pot holes in them than that rotten road between Digger's Rest and Toolern Vale.

For instance, you don't know who is riding in these trials, so you have no idea of relative weight. Clive Palmer (or someone his size) could riding one of them, Laura Lafferty the other. Horses are only “casually” identified.



Form gurus and “smart punters” insist it is vital that these jump-outs are better filmed and more easily found. Some are buried on Facebook pages or found via obscure links. These gurus aren't necessarily hollering that weights are revealed and horse identities proven because many of them reckon this part of the process can be solved by their expert sleuthing.

Grainy replays of these jump-outs are shown on racing.com and SKY, with arrows identifying the ones to watch.



Ross asks: do these barrier-sprung track gallops (canters mostly) with unidentified riders actually help punters find winners? Where's the evidence?

Warrnambool trainer Dan Bowman pointed out two glaring examples of jump-outs that buried punters; Pinkum and Sir Dragonet had trialed like Pegasus, started raging favourites at Caulfield last Saturday and were soundly beaten.

Probabeel finished a furlong out of the frame in a Geelong trial and then won at Caulfield, like Phar Lap, proving the only testing ground that really matters is race-day and proper, fully-disclosed race conditions.

Ross said: “Viewed seriously, how many punters have actually benefited from viewing jump outs (or trials). I'd guess (which I loath to do) 5-10% of 'professionals' make less selection errors than they did prior to jump out/trial vision being publicly available.

“If jockeys can't reliably assess a trial performance, I'm pretty sure the vast majority of punters couldn't either and they're just deluding themselves if they think they can.

“Using racing.com form & trial 'experts' as a benchmark it is hard to mount a case that they outperform the punter in the street. If they did, they'd all be driving Lamborghinis and be retired to the Bahamas.”

OTI ACQUIRE COMME BELLA FILLE



OTI is delighted to purchase three-year-old **COMME BELLA FILLE** from New Zealand, who will be trained by John O'Shea in Sydney. The three-year-old filly by Complacent, out of Danske mare Danbelle, will have an exciting autumn campaign in store with targets including the Group 1 Queensland Oaks.

With only three starts to date including a maiden win, she has had her form franked a number of times including being third behind promising galloper Whimsical, who went on to win the Group 3 Eulogy Stakes her following start.

Her impressive form in her two most recent runs and her recent development indicates that she has the ability to compete at the top level and we look forwarding to seeing her race in Australia imminently.

[WATCH HER RECENT RACE](#)

For more information: oti@oti.com.au

QUIZ

1. Who won last year's running of the Group 1 Chipping Norton Stakes?
2. Who trained Hey Doc to win the Australian Guineas in 2017?
3. In which state is Emerald Racing Club?

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Willie Mullins is the winning most trainer in the history of the main festival.

EQUINE WELFARE PROGRAM

As a part of our commitment to equine wellbeing, we check in with our recently retired racehorses Mantastic and Le Juge.

The former Chris Waller-trained pair Le Juge and Mantastic have settled in nicely to their new homes in Goulburn and Healesville respectively. The two European bred geldings will both enjoy a well-deserved break before possibly commencing some light showjumping down the track.



New owner Craig Hawes has been thrilled with the way Le Juge has adapted to his new environment, labelling him as "the best behaved and calmest thoroughbred that he's had delivery of." Interestingly, in relocating to Craig's Goulburn property, Le Juge will share a home with another former Waller stablemate in Instant de Reve.

Mantastic's new owner, Jenny Reddin, had similar positive praise for her gelding, commenting that "he is settling in beautifully, has a lovely nature and has made friends with her other horses."

QUIZ RESULTS

1. Te Akau Shark
2. Tony McEvoy
3. Queensland

Racecourse: Cheltenham

Home of the Cheltenham Festival, racing has taken place at the foot of the Cotswolds since 1780 with the main four-day meeting taking place in March, with the highlight being the Cheltenham Gold Cup run over 5300 metres with 22 fences to jump.

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LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE OTI SPORT TOUR

Warrnambool - Dunkeld - Ballarat

23rd - 26th March 2021

Join me for a three night tour visiting the training stables of some of Victoria's leading and emerging trainers, all of which are in very different environments. Each evening we will stay in luxurious hotels and enjoy the finest hospitality amongst friends and trainers.

Kind Regards, Hermione FitzGerald

ITINERARY

Tuesday 23rd March

Depart Melbourne in the afternoon for Warrnambool where we will stay at the beachside Lady Bay Resort. Dinner in Warrnambool with local trainers.

Wednesday 24th March

Morning on the beach watching horses exercise with Warrnambool trainers. Breakfast at the beach before visiting Matt Williams' rehab stable and Symon Wilde's property. Travel to Dunkeld via Port Fairy, where we will have lunch. Stay at the award-winning Royal Mail Hotel in Dunkeld with dinner in its Parker Street Project restaurant.

Thursday 25th March

Morning at Grampians Racing, sand training stables of trainer Andrew Bobbin (ex Matt Cumani). Travel to Ballarat where we stay at Victoria's Best boutique-style hotel, The Provincial. Dinner at the award-winning restaurant, Lola's, with local trainers.

Friday 26th March

Morning at the Ballarat Training Centre visiting the new state of the art training stables of Tony McEvoy as well as the Cumani and Alexander stables. Lunch at Tuki's Trout Farm before returning to Melbourne.

Price guide based on 12 guests

\$1950 pp sharing

\$450 single supplement

To express interest:

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SPORT