



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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WEEKLY QUIZ

All-Star in Name Only

With the third running of the All-Star Mile this weekend, it is now time for Racing Victoria to seriously address the benefits of this race for the wider industry.

While it was never the intention of Racing Victoria to be running races, we are now presented with the situation where it not only runs a race (the All-Star), but the race which carries no Group status, and which diminishes the quality and potentially Group 1 status of the Australia Cup. Moreover, the promotional monies spent on this initiative must come from funds that would otherwise be employed to develop Victorian Racing more generally.

The impact of the race becomes almost farcical when, under current WFA conditions, the majority of acceptances have little hope of winning. While there is legitimate Group 1 horses in the race, the bulk of the field has little chance of being competitive. The race may be a novelty, but it is also a mockery to the very foundations that justify horse racing.

Most agree that racing needs innovation. The Magic Millions carnival, the Inglis series, the Everest are examples in recent years where innovation has succeeded. The rebranding of the Melbourne Cup every decade or two has also ensured that it has stayed relevant. Unfortunately, Racing Victoria in its haste to match the initiatives of New South Wales racing have not succeeded with the All-Star. A serious rethink is required.

OTI NEWS

Two Group 1 starters for OTI this weekend, and other exciting runners.

Tonight at Cranbourne

BLUE ANGEL makes her debut for OTI connections in the Maiden Plate over 1300m for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young with Daniel Moor riding from barrier 1. After pleasing in her jumpouts, we are looking forward to seeing her make her racecourse debut.

Tomorrow at Ellerslie, New Zealand

SEVEN TWENTY runs in the G1 Sistema Stakes over 1200m for Sean and Emma Clotworthy with Danielle Johnson in the saddle from barrier 5. She has been really pleasing in her work since her last run.

Tomorrow at Rosehill

CHAILLOT runs in the Coolmore Classic G1 over 1500m for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates from barrier 13. A G3 winner last start over 1400m, we are very excited to see this talented mare run in the top company.

MR SATCHMO runs in the Ajax Stakes G2 over 1500m for Chris Waller and Tom Marquand from barrier 8. Reports have been pleasing and we look forward to seeing him run, particularly if the predicted rain arrives.

Tomorrow at The Valley

HAPPY PHARRELL runs in R3 2040m Handicap for Ciaran Maher and David Eustace with Jye McNeil from barrier 1. He is still building towards peak fitness, but an improved performance is expected.

Next week, runners may include **QUICK THINKER** in the G1 Ranvet Stakes and **SELINO** in the G3 Manion Quality at Rosehill, whilst **SAN HUBERTO** may run in the Listed Mornington Cup, but is more likely to wait a week until the Tancred at Randwick.

In Europe, **MIRANN** will likely run in the first big handicap of the new flat season in Ireland at the Curragh.

WINNERS



EAGLES CRAG

Sandown BM64 1600m
Trained by Archie Alexander



YOSEMITE

Pakenham 1200m F&M BM64
Trained by Robbie Griffiths & Matthew de Kock



MISS CHANG'E

Hamilton 1600m Maiden
Trained by Archie Alexander

A CONVERSATION WITH HERMIONE FITZGERALD

On her first memory of horses and racing

I grew up in Newmarket, England. My dad, Lord John FitzGerald, was a racehorse trainer, and he set up training in England the year I was born in 1985. In his first season, with very few horses he had a Royal Ascot winner called Sizzling Melody, who won the G3 Norfolk Stakes for two years old, and the G3 Flying Childers at Doncaster.

On moving from Newmarket to Dubai

My dad gave up training in 1992, and we moved to the United Arab Emirates for him to set up racing in Dubai for Sheikh Mohammed. I vividly remember the day the horses in Dad's care were sold at Tattersalls and hearing the names of my favourite horses. I stood at the main gate in floods of tears holding my mother's hand, in those days children were not allowed to enter the property.

On the FitzGerald history

I feel privileged to come from a family with a lot of history. Many of the senior members of the FitzGerald family lead a rebellion against a heretic King in Henry VIII, and many senior members of the family were all executed in the Tower of London. I have found the name 'Silken Thomas FitzGerald' in one of the towers. Two hundred years later, we were back in favour of the Royals again. James FitzGerald married Emily, who was the daughter of the Duke of Richmond (Goodwood Racecourse) and became the 1st Duke and Duchess of Leinster. However, their son Lord Edward FitzGerald was killed by the British, when fighting for Ireland's independence. Later still, my great grandfather, Edward, "The 7th Duke" gambled all the inheritance away; perhaps this is why I haven't opened a betting account!

On playing golf at the pro level

My dad was a keen but dreadful golfer, and in Dubai I learnt the basics. When I was 18, I was fortunate to play in the JP McManus Pro-Am, a charity golf tournament in Ireland. I played with Fred Couples and Rich Beam, and it was the most fantastic experience of my life. I enjoyed playing with the crowd of 25,000, and that is what gave me the bug to play it professionally. I had a mixed career but won a few tournaments, however, was plagued by injuries. I'd fail the vet every time!



On OTI

I sat next to Terry at a dinner in Deauville. I was at a bit of a crossroads, and we talked about my goals and future. He suggested coming to Australia. When I came to Australia, I went to Magic Millions and had a fantastic time. A few months later, I quit golf, and a friend said to me, why don't you come back to Australia. So I thought, why not? And one thing led to another, Terry was growing OTI in Sydney, and it all fell into place.

On OTI Sport

The idea behind OTI Sport is that attending the races is not the only aspect of ownership. There are so many more facets to the racing industry. Through OTI Sport, I want to make them available to people to see and understand and learn from. The idea is that racehorse ownership should be an enjoyable social occasion. I've taken several tours in Australia to the Hunter Valley. I've also taken clients on trips to Newmarket, Chantilly and around Ireland. Our next tour is coming up in March to Warrnambool, Dunkeld and Ballarat.

Why Sydney

I don't want to get in a Melbourne v Sydney debate! I know the golf courses and coffee is better in Melbourne but I do love Sydney. I have lots of friends in Sydney and New South Wales so that's what drew me here initially, and racing in Sydney has definitely strengthened and become more exciting since I've been here.

Golf or Racing

I feel conflicted here, as for a time I probably resented golf because I felt I didn't give it up on my own terms, but through injury and personal circumstances and I don't believe I reached my potential. Racing is what I was born into and I can't imagine life without it. That doesn't really answer the question does it?!

MATT STEWART ON THE SLIPPER

It was interesting to note the “shift” at the recent Melbourne Premier Yearling Sale.

A few years back, Inglis bracketed away the staying-bred, late-maturing yearlings to their own “sealed section” of the catalogue.

The intention was to highlight them to particular buyers of particular horses, away from the general theme of the sale – the general theme of Australian breeding and racing – that promoted fast-maturing, easy syndicated sprinters who might, just might, win a race like the Golden Slipper Stakes.

Speaking at an RSN broadcast at the sales, Inglis auctioneer and manager Simon Vivian said the spreading of these less precocious yearlings through the catalogue was a strong signal of their general acceptance in the marketplace. So You Think had not been associated with high-priced yearlings for some years but the recent stunning success of his progeny on the racetrack had parlayed into very good prices at Oaklands Junction.

While heavy promotion of The Championships and Everest has taken some spotlight of the Slipper in recent years, it is still the race that most represents the dreams and realities of Australian racing.

Next Saturday’s edition has gripped us for many weeks, just as it has gripped Aussie race fans and participants, including breeders, since it was first run in 1957. The Melbourne versus Sydney theme, with the Melbourne colts probably the ones to beat this year, is a staple of Slipper excitement.



Winning colts are automatically worth millions. History says colts who win the Slipper become sought-after sires. Many become successful sires – Vain, Baguette, Marscay, Rory’s Jester, Danzero, Stratum, Sebring, Pierro, Capitalist – and those who don’t make so much money in their first two seasons at stud that it doesn’t matter.

There is a far bigger hypocrisy, of course. The Melbourne Cup.

The Cup is our most famous race, way beyond the Slipper for history and folklore, but it’s the one we don’t breed for. That’s why overseas horses now almost always win it. In most modern Melbourne Cups, there have been as little as one locally-bred runner among the field of 24.

But there was a flicker of hope, that maybe things are balancing out a bid, with the tone of the Inglis yearling sale.

The usual precocious types were there but more stoutly-bred progeny of American Pharoah, So You Think, Savabeel, Dundee, Tavistock, Puissance de Lune and Maurice also sold very well.

This might be a hint that the gap between the Golden Slipper and Melbourne Cup is narrowing a bit, that our breeding, owning and racing mentality has evolved.

Maybe we will soon be able to breed horses that can win both races.

OWNER PROFILE - MALCOLM MOSS

British based owner Malcolm Moss grew up in the North West of England. After hunting for many years, and after one fall too many, he gave up, taking on more interest in horse racing. At that time, he was working for an oil company in the UK that had hospitality boxes at York, Redcar and Wetherby etc, and was appointed head of entertaining!

Who was your first winner and where? Ripon (Yorkshire). One of my clients in the Oil Futures market had too many bad calls and I took over his 2-year-old which we called Dodgy Future. Got 2nd in a photo and then scrounged £20 for an objection to the winner. Decision two races later in our favour. I left the car at the racecourse and the jockey took me home in very happy state.

Most successful horses you've owned? Its A Game. Entered in a 26 runner handicap at the Goodwood Festival, The only jockey available was Lester Piggott who is not known for his eloquence. In the paddock, Lester said, "Seen the Videos" and that's all. He was last by 10 lengths coming down the hill but won on the line paying 42/1 on the Tote. My 1-year-old son had to be collected from Creche and during celebrations had £2000 in his nappy.

Race you would most like to win? The Derby or Oaks in England, or the Big One at Flemington.

When you win that special race, how will you celebrate? Don't ask.

Favourite racetrack? York.

What racetrack/meeting/carnival in Europe do you enjoy attending and would recommend to your fellow Australia owners? Royal Ascot, York, Ebor and Goodwood Festival. A hint, if coming over, pre-book very early (or better still, speak to Hermione!).

Black Caviar, Winx or Makybe Diva, Frankel or Enable? Frankel and Winx.

What International races have you attended and particularly enjoyed? Melbourne Cup when we had hoped Lord Fandango might run.

Which Internationals carnivals would you like to attend next? Back to Flemington.

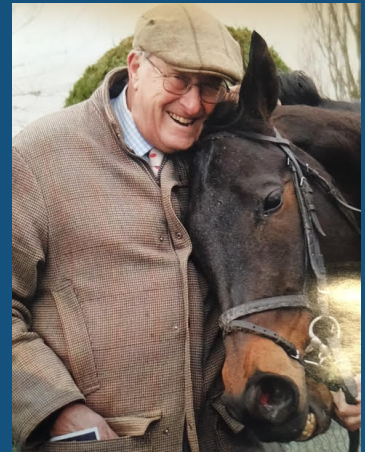
How did you get involved with OTI? Had horses with Jeremy Gask and five of us bought five horses to come over to Australia where they were very well managed by OTI.

What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership? The unexpected thrill of winning.

Favourite jockey? Lester or now David Egan.

Favourite racing memory? Lester winning at Goodwood.

OTI horse you look forward to seeing run in 2021? Eagles Crag,



QUIZ

1. Who won the 2020 running of The All-Star Mile?
2. When was the first running of the Golden Slipper, and who won it?
3. Where would you find Swinley Bottom?

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Home of the last British Classic of the season

APOLLO WITH CHRISTOPHE FERLAND



Strong, athletic 2yo colt by the sire of the Arc winner Sottsass

Standing at 16 hands, this colt continues to strengthen and mature into his impressive frame.

His sire, Siyouni was France's leading sire in 2020 and has had 23 stakes winners to date in both hemispheres. On the colt's dam side, Sailor Moon is the dam of two stakes winners, and Sailor Moon is a half-sister to the dam of Contributor, who won the Group 1 Chipping Norton and Group 1 Ranvet Stakes.

Trained in Bordeaux, France by Group 1 winning trainer, Christophe Ferland who is in the top 10 training ranks in France. He is impressed with what he sees of this colt in the early stages of his preparation, saying "He is a powerful horse who is a very good mover".

Additionally, this colt will be eligible for the valuable owner premiums of an additional 70% of prize funds.

WATCH VIDEO

For more information: oti@oti.com.au

QUIZ RESULTS

- 1.Regal Power
- 2.1957, Todman
- 3.Epsom Downs Racecourse

Racecourse: Doncaster.

Home to the St Leger, the final Classic of the season as well as the two-mile Doncaster Cup, which is the longest continuing regulated horse race in the world, having been run since 1766.

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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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OTI
SPORT