



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING*



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## The success of The Championships continues to build

Despite being only the eighth year of the Championships, the Randwick two day event is now locked as Australia's second major racing carnival. With over \$20m in stakes available, the carnival is a must for the better horses, as well as racegoers and punters.

At OTI, our owners have been the beneficiaries of the lucrative races with wins in the Sydney Cup, Australian Derby and Chairman's (twice) over the last three years. For our owners, those wins sit alongside successes at Flemington during the spring carnival, another indicator of the success of the Championships.

Unlike Melbourne in the spring where each metro club promotes its own carnival heavily, the Championships benefits from the unified approach taken by Racing NSW and the ATC. This enables a progressive build up of the event through Rosehill's feature races and key country qualifiers. No doubt, it also helps that the Championships are held three quarters of the way through the season. Younger horses have the benefit of further maturity to balance out the impact of a common birthday. The result is a better quality of race.

The participation of imports, or more specifically William Haggas's horses and Tom Marquand, have also added to the marketability and attraction of the carnival. It begs the question: do we need half the Melbourne Cup field to contain imports for the race to attract the local and international interests, or are one or two quality stayers sufficient? Such was the case during the VRC's early days with internationals and indeed is still the case with the Cox Plate.

This year however will possibly be best remembered as the year crowds came back to the races. Not since Winx days have we witnessed the atmosphere evident at Randwick last Saturday.

# A CONVERSATION WITH HENRY DE BROMHEAD

**Irish trainer Henry de Bromhead is one of the latest trainers to the OTI ranks and trains three-year-old Catena Zapata. A trainer of National Hunt and Flat horses, he has had a spectacular season becoming the first trainer to saddle all three of the major races at the prestigious Cheltenham Festival in the same year including a one-two in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. A month later at Aintree, he also won the race that stops the nation, The Grand National with another quinella, and with record-breaking jockey Rachael Blackmore aboard.**

## **On his early years, and experiences**

I grew up where I now train at my family home in Nnockeen, County Waterford, it was here where my father trained before me. We had ponies, and hunters so I was surrounded by horses from a young age. I probably always wanted to train, and I'd spent time in Newmarket with the trainer Sir Mark Prescott. I also worked in other areas of the industry like Tattersalls, and for Coolmore where I sold nominations. I spent time at Coolmore Australia and loved it there. My father announced his retirement and I came home to take over.

## **On his mentors**

I worked for many great people over the years, and learnt a lot from them all, including my father Harry de Bromhead, Sir Mark Prescott, the late Robert Alner and John Magnier.

## **On his training facilities**

We have a variety with two all-weather gallops, a woodchip, sand gallop and grass gallop at home, as well as a spa unit. We also have turnouts paddocks, and small wood chips paddocks outside the stables which means the horses can go in and out as they wish. It is unique for us in Ireland, but I know it's more popular in Australia. We have good facilities, they are not flash but they do the job well.

## **On the training flat horses**

We've started training a few more as we have the infrastructure here to do it, and have had luck in the past running and selling some good horses. It is interesting, and I enjoy it, but we are ultimately a National Hunt yard.



## **On Brexit**

It certainly has made it harder, more expensive and complicated to get horses to the UK to race. I wouldn't say it has affected our business as yet but it has certainly added to the transport logistics with a lot more paperwork and expense.

## **On the spectacular Cheltenham and Aintree**

Has it all sunk in yet? No, Probably not. I was just getting my around Cheltenham and then Aintree happened! The whole thing has been incredible and hard to believe it has really happened. It has been great for the whole team, the staff and all our clients who support us.

## **On Rachael Blackmore**

Rachael has been riding for us for the last three years. She is a great rider, a great horsewoman with a fantastic work ethic who has had to do it the hard way. She appreciates how much hard work you have to put in to succeed. Above all else, she is a really good person and we are very lucky to have her.

## **On where to go racing in Ireland**

There are so many great festivals in Ireland. Punchestown is happening next week, and that is a fantastic National Hunt Festival. At Christmas time, Leopardstown is savage, great fun, and brilliant racing. On the flat, there is of course the Derby meeting at the Curragh in June, and in September the two-day Champions meeting is becoming bigger and better each year. At the grass routes level, and close to us is Tramore with its novelty kind of track. They have a four day festival in August which is always fun with a great atmosphere.

# OTI NEWS

A very busy weekend for OTI.

## Tonight

**MILESTONE** runs at Cranbourne in R6 1600m Class 1 for the Busuttin & Young team with Josh Richards claiming from barrier 4. A run which will certainly bring him on. **OTTOMAN EMPEROR** races in Ireland at Cork in R1 3yo+ Maiden over 2040m for Johnny Murtagh and Ben Coen. A nice debut effort last time out, he should be very competitive.

## Tomorrow at Caulfield

**BLUE OCEAN** runs in R3 1800m BM70 for Phillip Stokes and Ben Allen from barrier 4. He will aim to have the horse switched off and settled in running. **GALLIC CHIEFTAIN** runs in R7 2000m Handicap for Archie Alexander with Ben Allen riding from barrier 10. Allen knows the horse well and he hit the line nicely first-up. **INVERLOCH** runs in the same race for Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young from barrier 9 with Craig Newitt riding. A terrific winner at his start, looking to go back-to-back. **NIGHT'S WATCH** also runs in the same race for Andrew Bobbin with Jamie Mott aboard from barrier 7. Although his form has been below par in recent times, he's in terrific shape at home.

## Tomorrow at Randwick

**GREY LION** runs in R4 JRA Plate over 2000m for Matt Smith with Hugh Bowman riding from gate 9. A run that should bring him on for Queensland targets. **MR SATCHMO** may also run in the same race for Chris Waller and Jason Collett from barrier 10, only if rain arrives.

## Tomorrow at Kembla Grange

**AKATINO** runs in R8 BM64 over 2000m for Matt Smith with Ashley Morgan riding from barrier 5. After a promising first-up run, we look forward to seeing him improve on that effort.

## Tomorrow at Wangaratta

**RAFFISH** runs in R1 1590m Maiden for Archie Alexander and Jake Noonan from barrier 1. We are looking forward to seeing him start his prep.

## Tomorrow at Ellerslie, New Zealand

**DAQIANSWEET JUNIOR** runs in R7 G2 Trelawney Stud Championship Stakes for Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman with Opie Bosson riding from barrier 1. A new purchase, we are very excited to see him run.

## On Sunday at Kensington

**RIDER IN THE SNOW** runs in R5 1800m BM88 from barrier 1 for Kris Lees and Kerrin McEvoy. A first up run, he will certainly improve for it.

## On Sunday at Flemington

**AMADE** runs in R1 2600m Quality Handicap for Phillip Stokes and Ben Allen from barrier 7. He has done well since his Australian debut.

**FURIOSO** runs in the 2800m Listed VRC St Leger for Matt Cumani and Jamie Kah from barrier 5. With potential lofty targets in future, we hope to see a good performance.

**HAKY** runs in R7 1700m Handicap for Archie Alexander and Jamie Kah from barrier 12. Returning from a spell, he should give a good account of himself

## On Sunday at Gosford

**MY SWASHBUCKLER** runs in R2 1900m Class 1 & Maiden Plate for Kris Lees and Aaron Bullock from barrier 7. With the significant drop in grade, he should prove hard to beat.

## WINNERS



**SELINO** - G1 Sydney Cup



**QUICK THINKER** - G2 Chairman's Quality



**YOSEMITE** - 1100m F&M BM64

# MATT STEWART

It's pretty rare for Sydney to criticise its own. Racing commentary is pretty heavily scripted in Sin City. So it was both surprising and refreshing that a number of Sydney commentators and participants spoke out about the state of the Randwick track last Saturday.

The track was rated a Good 4 but clearly raced slow. Sloppy clods were kicked about on a track that some suggested had been engineered to suit glamour import Addeybb and local heroine Verry Elleegant in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

The talk through that rare sunny lead-in to the QE was that, ironically, the QE would be a better "race" on slow rather than good ground. Addeybb was a good horse on good going but a ploughing machine on the soft. Verry Elleegant handles anything but was also best with cut out.

Racing NSW emperor Peter Vlandys has argued consistently that Sydney's wet-beset tracks did not need waterproofing because most horses preferred cut out and that yielding ground was best for their recovery. But the track was rated a Good 4. That was the issue.

Nevesh Ramdhani, Sydney's head of tracks, said the culprit was not the preparation of the track but an unscheduled overcast day on Saturday. Had the sun poked through, he said, the track would have been perfect. The gripe wasn't that that sun hadn't poked through but that the track was (arguably) inaccurately rated. This is the bane of punters and participants all over Australia. JUST CALL IT.

Back in February, on a hot day in Victoria's north-west, the Swan Hill track was rated a Good 4, improving to a Good 3, but was much firmer according to a number of trainers and jockeys. Local trainer Nathan Hobson told racing.com after he won the eighth race that the track was fast and that the club should have put more water on it. This angered the club who demanded an apology and handed Hobson a suspended \$2000 fine.



Hobson was not happy about this censure, nor was the Australian Trainers Association, but Hobson bit his lip because he is a tenant of the club and thought internal brawling might not be in his best interests. Two horses were fatally injured that day, including one trained by Archie Alexander, who did not attend the meeting but said his staff had told him the deck was fast.

Shawn Mathrick potted the track on the day and a horse of his that raced on it smashed two sesamoids at its next start 10 days later and was euthanised.

The Randwick and Swan Hill incidents highlight two issues. In the case of Swan Hill, what are the free speech limits on participants who highlight what they believe is a welfare issue? You wonder if Swan Hill has created a precedent. Will trainers at other clubs fear speaking out for fear of being fined?

Randwick highlighted the apparent flaw in the 1-10 track rating system that has been imposed Australia-wide for a decade. Does it confuse more than assist? Ramdhani, Flemington track manager Liam O'Keefe and Racing Victoria chief steward believe we should return to the less onerous old system of Fast, Good, Dead, Slow and Heavy. They believe the 1-10 model is far too nuanced for gradings of tracks that are living organisms, exposed to fickle weather conditions.

They believe the old system reflected the broad variations of tracks and that punters understood them far better and track managers had less headaches in trying to attach numbers restricted to such narrow ranges. The spectrum of a rainbow is red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet – ROYGBIV – and any more shades would be too much, too confusing, unnecessary.

Maybe a return to the old track system could be dubbed "the rainbow model."



# OTI TO RACE SOUS LES NUAGES WITH MATT CUMANI

*This consistent, lightly raced 4yo gelding was highly recommended by John Hammond and André Fabre, his previous trainer.*



Rated 91, with two wins and two places from 11 starts this son of Holy Roman Emperor, also the sire of Mongolian Khan and Designs On Rome. He is a ideal type for Australian Racing, and will be most competitive at Country Cups level.

Out of a Montjeu mare, and half brother to a multiple group three winner in France SOUS LES NUAGES will be trained by Matt Cumani in Ballarat, Victoria.

Due to arrive in Australia in Mid -June, he will immediately go into work with targets in the spring.

Click [here](#)

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

## QUIZ

### NAME THE JOCKEY

1. Where will the stallion Written Tycoon stand next season?
2. Which Victorian based Melbourne Cup winning jockey was riding in the Tamworth Cup today?
3. How many Group 1 races has Addeybb won?



*Hint - The Crown*

# OTI EQUINE WELFARE - URBAN LUMBERJACK



Urban Lumberjack appears to be thriving in his life after racing under the care of Alisa Hinch.

"Jack is enjoying trail rides, dressage and is commencing show-jump training both at home and also down at the local riding club", Alisa noted. She went on to share that 'he is ridden every day and is much loved by everyone at Empower Racing.'

We are delighted to hear of 'Jack's' newfound endeavours and look forward to continuing to follow his journey in his life post-racing.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE OTI EQUINE WELFARE PROGRAM.

## QUIZ RESULTS

1. Yulong Stud, Victoria
2. Craig Williams
3. Four, including three in Australia

### Who is this?

Prince Charles, Prince of Wales.

Prince Charles rode as an amateur jockey in the 1980's including over fences at the Cheltenham Festival. He came second a few times, but never rode a winner.

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