



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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WEEKLY QUIZ

HOW 'BLOODY GOOD' IS IT TO SEE CROWDS BACK AT 'THE BOOL'

This week's Warrnambool May Racing Carnival saw eager fans flood through the gates to experience three days of high-quality flat and jumps racing action. The Warrnambool experience goes beyond normal racing, showcasing a theatrical atmosphere, passion and the sense of community that goes with country racing. Most importantly, it is the love of the horse that features.

This year's renewal captured every aspect that has allowed 'The Bool' to grow in stature since its humble beginnings on the back of the first Grand Annual in 1872.

To detail all of the amazing moments over the past three days would require a double edition. However, we'll highlight the standouts.

On Day 1 we witnessed scenes of an emotional Amy McDonald in the mounting yard as rising eight-year-old, Flying Agent, kicked clear in the Brierly Steeplechase to secure Amy's biggest success to date.

Trainer and former champion jumps jockey, Brett Scott, was the storyline of Day 2 after saddling up Galleywood victor, The Statesman. Only two months beforehand Brett has suffered a near-fatal incident that saw him placed in an induced coma with bleeding on the brain and facial fractures.

Ric McIntosh provided a classic call to round out three days of jumps racing action, screaming home old sparring partners Zed Em and Gold Medals. The emotion shown by Gold Medals winning trainer Symon Wilde epitomize the importance of the stature of the Grand Annual Steeplechase.

While we walked away empty-handed this year, OTI has had a long and illustrious association with 'The Bool', headlined by Gallic Chieftain, New Kid In Town and Tall Ship each taking out the Warrnambool Cup, along with our well-known galloper Harbour Views breaking his maiden on debut in 2019.

So, here's to plenty more good times at 'The Bool'.

TERRY HENDERSON ON THE CUP CHANGES

The announcement of new veterinary guidelines for Melbourne Cup horses has 'set the cat among the pigeons' in both hemispheres, but particularly the northern hemisphere.

Few will argue that something needed to be done to protect Australia's greatest race. Indeed, the majority of recommendations put forward make good sense. However, some of the new regulations leave huge questions over their application and impact.

As the rules currently stand, a trainer would be playing "Russian Roulette" to expose a horse to RVL's European and Australian CT/MRI scans without having privately assessed the horse beforehand. There is simply no guarantee, either in Australia or Europe, that a failed RVL assessment would not flow onto a horse's career more generally.

For horses already in Australia and racing well, the compulsory CT scan is especially significant. Should the scan show concerns that would stop a horse from taking its place in the Melbourne Cup, it would be inconceivable that RVL vets would then allow that horse to continue racing. This would be despite no issues being detected in the training or racing of that horse.

The position of International jurisdictions and other Australian states on horses that fail the CT/MRI scans is simply unknown. On that basis, connections must 'run the gauntlet', not knowing the broader impact of a failed scan. The only way to mitigate this risk is to do a private scan beforehand and hope that the RVL vets read the scans in the same way as the connections' vets.

Similarly RVL's position on the ban on horses going through the Werribee quarantine, who have had major surgery is necessary, even though those horses may have raced satisfactorily since that surgery. This seems overkill, especially when the compulsory CV scan will detect any residual issue from the original injury. As this rule applies only to the Werribee horses, there's little doubt that the Cup will contain many horses who have suffered the surgeries that would otherwise eliminate the imports. With a couple of trouble free years in the running of the Cup, hopefully this is one regulation that RVL would reconsider.

Outside of the veterinary issues, the trading implications for the Melbourne Cup for many connections is also unknown. The likes of OTI and Lloyd Williams, for example, will not be adversely impacted (other than the scans) as the majority of their imports have been in training in Europe. However last year, eight horses entering quarantine were acquired between June and September. Unless vendors are prepared to include a scan and part of the original vet assessment, buyers would be taking a considerable risk in purchasing such horses.

Unless a European trainer combines with a local trainer to bring a horse to Australia early, it's difficult to imagine many being willing to take the risk unless the horse is owned by Australian's. Despite the attractive prize money, it's hard to imagine Europeans (other than perhaps Coolmore and Godolphin) being prepared to take that risk. Indeed, last year with COVID, Godolphin did not bring horses, so one wonders if its future involvement will be centred around its Australian based operation.

The new RVL guidelines are not the only barriers to imports for the 2021 Spring Carnival. As rules stand, Brexit regulations require VAT (20%) to be paid on horses entering the UK, even if for only a few weeks to do quarantine. While such payments may be ultimately refunded, the impact on horses campaigning from countries other than UK is certainly impacted.

Airfreight capacity is another aspect of importing horses that is different in 2021. With high demand for services IRT will be forced to guarantee horse numbers before all vet tests may be completed. The simple question is; who pays for the no-shows? This issue must be resolved promptly so that connections have some certainty of costs, which no doubt will be considerably higher than in the past.

The impact of all the above for Europeans (especially the smaller stables) is to make targeting the race less appealing. That, some may argue is not a bad thing as it will open opportunities for more Australian and New Zealand based horses to gain a start. Few can argue that, on balance, the changes are necessary if we wish to protect the reputation of our great race.

Runners this weekend:

At Cranbourne tonight

MILONIA runs in R1 1600m F&M Maiden from barrier 2 for Archie Alexander and Jake Noonan. Well into her prep, fit and well, we hope to see her run a good race.

MILESTONE runs in R5 1600m BM70 for Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young from barrier 6. He will be ridden quietly to hit the line strongly for Michael Dee.

MELTDOWN lines in in R8 1400m BM64 for Philip Stokes and Ben Allen from barrier 13. She remains in good form and should encounter track conditions to suit.

At Gosford tomorrow

MY SWASHBUCKLER runs in R5 2100m BM78 for Kris Lees from barrier 10 with Jason Collett riding. A very impressive winner at the track at his last start, we hope he can repeat the performance in a more competitive race.

MR SATCHMO runs in R7 2100m Listed Gosford Cup for Chris Waller and Jay Ford from barrier 14. With ground conditions to suit, we hope to see an improved performance.

YOUNG RASCAL also lines up in the Listed Gosford Cup from barrier 4 for Archie Alexander with Jason Collett in the saddle. He looks to have come back in better shape this preparation and will appreciate the cut in the ground.

In Ireland at Naas on Saturday

CATENA ZAPATA has been declared to run for Henry de Bromhead and Chris Hayes in the 2000m 3yo Handicap. Down in grade, he is poised to run a good race.

Next week

OTTOMAN EMPEROR returns to the races after his impressive last start when winning at Cork with a nomination at Roscommon. On Wednesday at Warwick Farm, there are two likely runners in **AKATINO** and **SOUND OF CANNONS** in the 2400m BM72. **TRENCH WARFARE** may run at Pakenham in the BM64 over 1600m. Next weekend may see the running of **DAQIANSWEET JUNIOR** in Australia for the first time, either in Queensland or at Rosehill.

WINNERS



MY SWASHBUCKLER

Gosford, 1900m Class 1



AMADE

Flemington, 2600m Qlty Handicap



OTTOMAN EMPEROR

Cork, 2000m Maiden



BLUE OCEAN

Caulfield, 1800m BM70



AQUILLO

Geelong, 2218m Maiden

JOHN BERRY ON NORTHERN HEMISPHERE RACING

The weekend which we have just had is just about the best of the year in the northern hemisphere, featuring the first leg of the Triple Crown in both Great Britain (2,000 Guineas) and the USA (Kentucky Derby). It also has the fillies' equivalents: the 1,000 Guineas and the Kentucky Oaks.

Between them, these four Group One contests resolve a winter's worth of hopes, dreams and calculations. They also provide a good illustration of the difference in racing practices between the countries on either side of the Atlantic – both of which are very different from the methods used in Australia. The 2,000 Guineas and 1,000 Guineas are proper championship contests, the first two of the five 'Classics' of the year. They are not warm-ups or dress rehearsals: they are the real thing. The first month and a half of the season (which traditionally starts towards the end of March when turf racing resumes for the year) used to be packed with 'Classic trials', ie races in which the connections of Guineas contenders would put the finishing touches to their charges' preparations.

Until recently, there was a mass of English Classic trials. Numerous racecourses held one or more, including Newmarket, Newbury, Ascot, Salisbury, Kempton, Thirsk, Stockton, Epsom, Liverpool and Newcastle.

Things are very different nowadays. There are now really only two colts' Classic trials ahead of the 2,000 Guineas: the Craven Stakes at Newmarket and the Greenham Stakes at Newbury. Only the Nell Gwyn Stakes and the Fred Darling Stakes ahead of the 1,000 Guineas. And even those have become marginalised as it has become the fashion for horses to tackle the 'Guineas' first up. This year, six of the ten of the runners in the 2,000 Guineas priced at \$21 or shorter were having their first race of 2021. These included the winner Poetic Flare.

Admittedly, if any pairing has enough experience to win a big race first up, then Poetic Flare's 79-year-old Irish trainer Jim Bolger and 54-year-old jockey Kevin Manning (who has worked for Bolger since he was 15) fit the bill. That was no help for punters, though. Poetic Flare was one of six runners in the race who had run in the Dewhurst Stakes, Europe's premier two-year-old race, last October. All of these bar Chindit, winner last month of the Greenham Stakes, hadn't run since then.



Poetic Flare fared the least well of the sextet in the Dewhurst, but a lot can change in six and a half months. With so little recent form to go on, it was pure guesswork which would do best this time around, particularly as in these 'behind-closed-doors' times punters don't even have the advantage of being able to assess the runners in the mounting yard.

The following afternoon's 1,000 Guineas was won by Aidan O'Brien's second string Mother Earth (\$11), the mount of Frankie Dettori. She hadn't run for six months. O'Brien's first string, the Ryan Moore-ridden Santa Barbara, went off as the \$3.50 joint-favourite despite not having raced since taking a maiden race on debut last September. It was impossible to fancy her on form, but she nearly belied her lack of racing (both recent and in total) by finishing fourth, beaten just over a length.

The situation in America is probably midway between that in Europe and that in Australia. It would be inconceivable for a horse to tackle the Kentucky Derby first up. Most of the runners had already raced three or four times this year. The Bob Baffert-trained winner Medina Spirit was having his fifth run of the year.

The obvious difference, however, between America and Australia is that all bar one of the 19 runners had not run for at least four weeks. The only exception (Super Stock, who had won the Arkansas Derby on 11th April, 21 days before the Kentucky Derby) finished sixteenth. The reason for this is that it is legal to racehorses in America on the performance-enhancing diuretic Lasix, so most trainers use it in the belief that it will increase their chance of winning. Its downside is that it leaves horses badly dehydrated afterwards so they take longer to get over the race.

A CONVERSATION WITH VIN COX

On his childhood

I was born and raised on a family mixed farming enterprise in Mudgee, Central West NSW, where my father and more particularly my grandfather bred and raced horses un-commercially.

On what got him hooked on the game

From a very early age I was dragged all round country NSW to various race meetings, which at the time I wasn't that thrilled about. It wasn't until my early years at boarding school, out of boredom I was drawn to the form guide and happened upon the winner of the VRC Newmarket in Razor Sharp, from there I was in. That subsequently turned into quite a profitable bookmaking enterprise at school, the '84 Cup was a skinner, the immortal (in my eyes) Black Knight!

On mentors through his career

Reg Inglis gave me my start in the industry, he had an innate ability to judge the ebb and flow of people and the way they operated in the thoroughbred business. That clarity of thought led Inglis out of a very precarious position in the late eighties. Others like Rogers Beasley from Keeneland in Kentucky, and to work for Katie and Gerry Harvey at Magic Millions was wonderful.

On whether he ever thought about training

Never. Trainers deserve any/all the success they get, there is no harder part of the business.

On his role as CEO of Godolphin Australia

My role is primarily Australian based, with a strong interest in what is going on in other parts of the world. Godolphin Australia is a racing and breeding operation. A big stallion business through Darley Stallions, three racing stables headed up by James Cummings, three stud farms, 300 staff, some 700 horses plus 2000 cattle, there is a bit to think about but I love it.

On what is unique about the Australian Industry

Without question, we have an industry whether on the racing or breeding side of the business, that is a generation younger than our counterparts in the northern hemisphere. Some of our most successful participants are barely 40 years old.



On the health of the Australian racing industry and the strength of bloodstock auctions during the pandemic

The fundamentals for Australian racing are seriously strong, betting turnover is growing well into double digit figures year on year, this then subsidises prizemoney which in turn drives the bloodstock market. Lay over the top of that huge media coverage through free to air TV and general press. No one could have predicted the prices in their wildest dreams, racehorse owners are forever optimists.

On whether saying all that there is cause for concern

Absolutely, there are two things that are a threat to the industry, one external and that is perception of the game and the other internal, narrow minded jurisdictional parochialism.

On staff shortages in general and during the pandemic

It hasn't been easy, staff generally is another issue facing the industry, fortunately there is some robust discussion taking place in addressing the many and varied issues in gaining and retaining staff.

On his role on the board of the VRC and the 2021 Spring Carnival

I guess a familiarity with the industry generally, whether that be participants or the effects of what we do at the VRC across the commercial aspects of the bloodstock industry. With the quality of horses in the country at the moment and good helping of international horses coming in for the carnival, Covid allowing, we should see crowds as good, if not better than ever.

On advice to anyone thinking of a career in the industry

Get a start wherever you can, then peddle like mad with a smile on your face. You will love it.

OTI OWNER PROFILE - JAYNE BENSON

Jayne grew up in Ringwood, Victoria, and first got interested in the sport when her dad took her to Caulfield for her 13th birthday. He'd bought her a hot pink slack suit and her first pair of high heels! Jayne spent the day at the tie ups with the horses while he did his betting!



Who was your first winner and where? Rouge Ribbon at Cranbourne. We were lucky to be there and it was fantastic!

Most successful horse you've owned? Quick Thinker and Vin de Dance. Both Derby winners!

Race you would most like to win? The Melbourne Cup or Cox Plate. Can't separate, both magic

When you win that special race, how will you celebrate? Well I'm sure my husband Brad, my brothers Rob and John Ritchie, Geoff McCormack and some of the other owners we've met will be celebrating together and at a top restaurant too

Favourite provincial racetrack? Sale in Gippsland

What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending? Anywhere where one of our horses is running. It is the thrill to have a winner anywhere whether city or country

Black Caviar, Winx or Makybe Diva? I'll have to go Makybe Diva as I was lucky to be at all Melb Cup wins

What international races have you attended and particularly enjoyed? We've been to Epsom in England and Ellerslie, New Zealand. Vinnie winning the NZ Derby puts that at number one

Which international carnivals would you like to attend next? Anywhere we'll be allowed to travel to. I'll be happy with anything at the moment!

Who introduced you to OTI/how did you get involved with OTI? Geoff McCormack. He put Vinnie before us and Brad jumped at the chance (nice work Geoff)

What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership? The thrill of the win, the excitement, the beautiful animal and the people you meet

Favourite jockey? Although Jamie Kah hasn't ridden one of ours, I'm going to have to say her. GO GIRL!

Favourite racing memory? Leading Vinnie in to the winners circle after the NZ Derby win. I never expected that. Thanks very much to Terry for the opportunity

OTI horse you are most looking forward to seeing run in 2021? Quick Thinker of course but after that we have another So You Think gelding with Andrew and Murray ... maybe another Derby winner? Let's hope!

QUIZ

1. How many jumps are there in the Grand Annual Steeplechase at Warrnambool?
2. What year was the first race meeting held at Warrnambool?
3. How many times has the Patrick Payne-trained Zed Em finished in the top three of the Grand Annual Steeplechase at Warrnambool?

NAME THE HORSE



Hint - Gaul

LORNE

~ Lovely two year old filly to race soon ~



Trained by Mario Baratti in Chantilly, France, **LORNE** is showing all the signs that she'll be ready to make her racecourse debut in June or July.

Her winning dam Height Of Summer is the mother of three winners and a half-sister to Group 1 winner I'm A Dreamer. Our filly's Group 1 winning sire Dariyan was the sire of 10 two-year-old winners from his first crop in 2020, which included group horses Princesse De Saba and My Kurkum.

[Watch Parade Footage](#)

For more information: oti@oti.com.au

QUIZ RESULTS

- 1.33
- 2.1847
3. Four - 2018 (2nd), 2019 (1st), 2020 (3rd), 2021 (2nd)

NAME THE HORSE

Gallic Chieftain.

The Gallic Chieftain killing himself and his wife.
Roman copy of a bronze original in Pergamon,
Turkey c. 230-220 BCE.

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