



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

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WEEKLY QUIZ

The Rise and Rise of Bloodstock Values

The mind boggles at the ongoing increase in the cost of bloodstock around the globe. Be it mares, stallions, racehorses, yearlings or foals, prices are headed in one direction – up!

Since the last great bloodstock devaluation in the early 1990's when Bart Cummings, along with a few breeders went bust and banks and finance companies failed as a result of lending on bloodstock, the worst that's happened is the occasional flattening of prices. This is despite the Global Financial Crisis between 2007-2009, COVID and the myriad of lesser business or commodity downturns over the last 30 years.

Putting a finger on the reasons why bloodstock values have been so strong is challenging. The financial benefits of owning race horses has not changed markedly around the world. Indeed, stake money levels in some areas, eg the UK, are at embarrassingly low levels. Racing generally has not improved its public image over the period either. In some areas, the industry is under threat as a result of that image and in others, e.g Italy, racing has almost ground to a halt.

Racing, once the only form of broad based betting, is no longer bookmakers only resource. Sports betting has eaten into racing's gambling dollar and proved to be an increasing threat to funds that would have once flowed back into the sport. There's no doubt that the increased participation of Middle Eastern and Asian buyers has helped the 'buying bench' considerably. We're certainly witnessing that in Australia. However those buyers alone remain a relatively small part of the market.

One is left with one conclusion. Racing horses is a 'luxury item' and unlike a luxury watch, Ferrari or expensive handbag, it's an item that 'hooks' you in for more. That thrill provided by your horse winning, provides far more value to many than most luxury items. And the simple fact is, whether it be Europe, the Middle East, Asia or Australasia, there are more people around who can afford those luxury items.

OTI NEWS

Runners around the world, including in a Group 1.

Tonight at Cranbourne

VEE CECE runs in R4 2060m F&M BM70 for Symon Wilde and Damien Thornton from barrier 3. We are hopeful for a very good run from the mare.

Tomorrow at Flemington

SPIRIT OF GAYLARD runs in R3 1400m 2yo for Mitch Freedman and Jack Martin from barrier 2. He has been pleasing in her work at home, and will certainly improve for the racecourse experience.

ROMANCER lines up in R8 1200m Listed Straight Six for Grahame Begg with apprentice Lachlan Neindorf riding from barrier 1. Running first up after a spell, he will take good improvement.

BLUE OCEAN starts in R9 1800m BM84 from barrier 15 for Phillip Stokes and Craig Newitt. A last start winner, he will be very competitive providing he gets a run.

Tomorrow at Rosehill

DAQIANSWEET JUNIOR runs in R6 2000m 3YO BM72 for Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman with Rory Hutchings riding from barrier 17. Carrying top weight, but we remain confident of a very good run.

GREY LION runs in R7 Listed Lord Mayor's Cup over 2000m for Matt Smith and Kathy O'Hara from barrier 5. He put in a very pleasing trial last week and goes into the race in very good form.

MY SWASHBUCKLER runs in R9 1800m BM78 for Kris Lees from barrier 11. We look forward to seeing him run at a track and distance to suit.

On Sunday at Sandown

MILESTONE runs in R5 BM78 over 2100m for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young with Craig Williams from barrier 7. We are hoping for a change of luck this campaign, and he should run a good race.

On Sunday at the Curragh

TRUE SELF runs in the G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup over 2110m for Willie Mullins and Hollie Doyle. Reunited after winning in Saudi Arabia in February, she is starting her campaign in Ireland with Flemington in November being the target.

AESOP runs in the 2000m 4YO+ Handicap for Jessie Harrington. A winner last time out, he will appreciate stepping up in distance in due course.

MIRANN also runs in the 2000m 4YO+ Handicap for Johnny Murtagh. Appearing to have come on plenty from his last run, we are hopeful for a very good performance.

AUTUMN STAR SELECTOR COMPETITION

It was another action packed competition with 24 individual winners and 64 point scoring performances.

SELINO's Group 1 win in the Sydney Cup made some late changes to the closely packed leaderboard.

Congratulations to **Joan Spence** who took the first prize of a 10% share in a Overshare X Supermoon '19 filly to be trained by Matt Cumani with 86 points.

In second place was **Craig Swan** on 82 points with **Cameron Harms** on 80 points.

Thanks to all who participated!

WINNERS



INVERLOCH

Listed Wagga Cup 2000m

Trained by Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young



SLEEPLESS

2000m BM64 Ballarat

Trained by Archie Alexander

A CONVERSATION WITH MICHEAL KENT JUNIOR

On his childhood

My childhood was similar to many trainers sons, I was in the yard constantly. Both my grandfathers were trainers and my uncle was a Group 1 winning jockey.

I grew up in Victoria, before moving to Singapore where my Dad trained for six years.

On career aspirations

All I ever wanted to do was train. My parents were keen that I finished my education, and Dad wanted me to become a vet, maybe so he could save on vet bills! I never had a passion to be a vet, and during my time at uni I worked for Lindsay Park at Flemington, and did skip the odd lecture!

On riding in picnic races

I don't think I was that good, but I look back on it all very fondly. I had about 41 winners from 200 rides, but had a good record at Yea. It paid off to walk the track there, as there was a golf course inside that was watered. The sprinklers went onto the track, and the inside would be a soft 7 while the outside was a fast 1. I'd track to the outside fence and had blistering sectionals. It worked. 7 wins from 13 rides!

On working in Newmarket

Travelling to the UK to work for William and Maureen Haggas was the best thing I ever did. You couldn't find a harder working couple. They run the best ship, such a professional outfit and their results speak for themselves. I learnt so much from them about managing racehorses. Newmarket is a great place to be as you are immersed in the racing world. Each morning you can see how the great trainers like John Gosden and Roger Varian train. Even going to the pub, where the other assistant trainers and I would only talk about racing form and training methods.

On linking up with Mick Price

I was doing some bloodstock work and got to know Mick through that, and out of the blue at the Inglis Sales he called me asking where I was on the complex. We met up, and just like that he offered me a job, and I've never looked back. It works really well as he is the master and I am the apprentice. He won 37 Group 1's without me. He is very decisive, and tells me what he is thinking. In a stable there are 100's of riddles to solve a day, from horses, staff, clients to stable management.



On a typical day

I wake up at 4am, and get to Caulfield at 4.45am. At trackwork we are clocking times, watching the horses actions, getting feedback from riders, jockeys and sending videos. From 8.30-9.30 we are in the barns looking at horses with the farrier, vet or dentist. For the rest of the day until about 2:00pm we are in the office making calls, race programming and dealing with a number of things. If I'm not racing in the afternoon, I generally get home around 4pm.

On burnout in the racing industry

Trainers are forever tired, as our body clocks never stay in rhythm. The racing calendar has evolved with more and more racing, as well as in the evenings. We see the benefit of that with the increase in turnover which contributes to the lucrative prize money, but it is very hard on the staff who are at the races late. In NSW, there is a pool money system for the staff, but Racing Victoria don't have it in place which is disappointing. I agree there should be a levy for equine welfare, and the jockeys but I would like to see something similar for the staff as they are vital for the industry continuing to prosper.

On ambitions to race internationally

I'd definitely like to be able to race our horses internationally. It would be fantastic to campaign our best against the worlds best, and the prestige in winning one of the big races would be fantastic, and the prize at the top level is very good.

On the future of the Price/Kent stable

It is exciting, and in the next 5/6 weeks we will have completed the new stables at Cranbourne and we will have state of the art facilities at what I believe is Victoria's premier training centre. We don't want to get much bigger, but we want to focus on finding Group 1 horses. Hopefully Hezashocka is one for OTI!

THE IMPORTANCE OF RACEHORSE OWNERSHIP

Guest Journalist: Jackson Frantz

Jackson is currently interning with OTI as part of his Bachelor of Media and Communication degree at La Trobe University.

As the field turned for home rounding the Gawler straight, it might have seemed like any old race, but not for the ownership group of four-year-old Phillip Stokes-trained mare, Four Of A Kind.

Expectation had weighed heavy on her since last May when a group comprised of myself and few mates acquired for many their first share in a thoroughbred. Despite things getting underway in a Morphettville Benchmark 58, the ownership group assembled in lounge rooms and pubs across the country, heart in mouth, bet slips in hand, and hopes and dreams invested in apprentice Caitlin Jones.

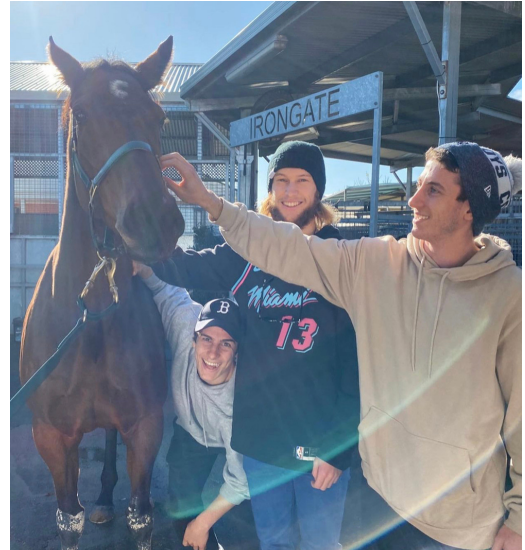
After blowing the start, Four Of A Kind rattled home into third, and with even money the place no one walked away disappointed.

However, the thought of what could've been remained. In five starts that followed the ownership group was subjected to four narrow placings, but they continued to ride the wave and itched for every little stable update along the way.

"FOAK", as we have labelled her was no superstar, but she has created a spark for many, and her first win for the extended ownership in a \$37,500 Benchmark 60 at Gawler in early January felt every bit as thrilling and rewarding as a Group 1; well at least we all made it out to be that way.

The celebrations continued for days and the smiles are yet to be wiped off our faces. Multiple owners have proceeded to fork out \$250 for framed memorabilia of the day that their first racehorse managed to go all the way.

Despite only winning one race for connections, the ownership group will remain involved with the mare throughout the next phase of her life as a mother. Now based at Noorilim Park in Arcadia, "FOAK" will live out the rest of her days subject to only the best care and love from the team at Noorilim and the ownership group that holds out hope of her progeny getting up to race.



In summary, ownership is a pathway that will see true interest in racing remain, we can no longer rely on gambling revenue as a sole indication of where our industry is placed today, as plenty of my mates hold a fleeting interest and have an occasional flutter but are unwilling to part with their hard-earned for even the smallest of shares.

Australian racing through syndication has created the perfect opportunity for anyone no matter their financial status to hold an interest in a racehorse, and if the industry can increase prizemoney at the bottom end and focus on making ownership more attractive to the masses, it will ensure that the next generation can sustain what has already been built to be so great.

As the aftermath of winning is a feeling that can't be taken away, the euphoria is something that will remain, regardless the scale of race and the monetary figure that had initially been outlaid.

So, as racing continues to fend off a growing wave of external pressure, we must continue to display the grassroots stories, the relationship with the animal and offer an insight that captures what it truly means to race.

And all of this can be achieved through ownership, I've personally seen first-hand how those previously on the sidelines can have their perspective almost instantly changed.

ANNABEL NEASHAM TO TRAIN LADY LAGUNA



LADY LAGUNA has recently arrived to Warwick Farm, she has been described as a 'beautiful mover, straight forward in attitude and a filly that appears to enjoy being in work'.

She is by Overshare, a Group 3 winning son of champion sire, I Am Invincible.

Lady Laguna's dam, Catalina De Lago (Encosta De Lago) won three times between 1200 and 1600m, and hails from the 1st dam line of Group 2 winners She Will Be Loved and Luke's Luck.

We welcome you to join us in racing this filly, who we hope to see running early on in her two-year-old season, and enjoy the Sydney racing experience with Annabel and Hermione.

With all costs, including insurance, paid to the end of the season (July 31, 2021), a 5% interest will cost \$4,250 plus GST.

For more information : oti@oti.com.au

QUIZ

1. The Goodwood GR1 winner Savatoxl was defeated in an Alice Springs Cup. True or False?
2. Trainer Gary Moore rode which European Group 1 as a jockey on Gold River in 1981?
3. Which late owner/breeder's stock is being dispersed at present through Magic Millions?

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - An hour from Melbourne

OTI EQUINE WELFARE PROGRAM



During the Warrnambool Cup Carnival, we took the opportunity to visit High Bridge, a past Flemington winner and now a member of our Equine Welfare Program.

High Bridge, aka 'Harry', has become a much-loved addition to the Lenehan family after being rehomed to their Garvoc property following his retirement at the beginning of last year.

"We adore him; he is a kind boy and is very tolerant when it comes to learning new things. We couldn't be more grateful that he ended up here." said new owner Kristen Lenehan.

Renowned for his gentle yet professional temperament, the long-striding 10-year-old has taken to his newfound role as a showjumper incredibly well. Kristen's daughter, Charlotte has already formed a profound connection with 'Harry', where mutual trust has started the foundation of a lovely friendship.

For more information - [click here](#)

QUIZ RESULTS

1. True
2. Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe
3. Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum, Shadwell

NAME THE RACECOURSE

Yarra Valley.
Racing started in 1858 at a track built at Brushy Creek in an area then known as the Yarra Flats.

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