



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING*



## IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

### OTI NEWS

### A CONVERSATION WITH PIA BRANDT

### STUART BOMAN ON RACING AT ROYAL ASCOT

### MATT STEWART

### OSSIFIED TO PRICE & KENT JNR

### WEEKLY QUIZ

## Female Participation – Racing's Great Opportunity

A recent ABC radio interview on the development of women's soccer and cricket established that, while it was great that women were now participating in more sports, the big benefit from their participation was the increased acceptance on those sports across the broader community. In essence, if women are involved in a sport, that sport attracts wider public acceptance.

In racing in recent years, we seen a number of younger and older women excel. Gai may have seemed to be there since the year dot, but women like Jamie Kah, Annabel Neasham and Michelle Payne have now joined her at the top level of the sport. These women have had no special favours from the racing industry. They have achieved by mixing it with the guys on an equal footing. Indeed, they have had to succeed in many cases against the forces of our game.

One wonders if racing, at a time when it is an increasing challenge to gain respectability among the masses, it should open its arms wider to attract and keep females to our sport. Let's face it, young women are the backbone of many stables as a result of their pure love of horses. Imagine if our sport encouraged these women to stay in the game and supported career paths for them.

There are some good signs, especially in our Apprenticeship School's, where young women are getting a fair go at developing a career in racing. However, numbers are small. The real challenge lies in spreading the word throughout society that racing is an area where females are welcome and supported in their career paths.

If the ABC interviewee is right, it would do wonders for our image in the wider community. Combined with more logical working hours (a topic for another day), it would also be a sure fire way of improving racing's staff shortages.

# OTI NEWS

## Tonight at Royal Ascot

**MIRANN** runs in the Duke of Edinburgh Stakes for Johnny Murtagh. Second on his last start, we are very excited to see him run at this most prestigious race meeting.

## Tomorrow at Flemington

**HAKY** runs in R2 for Archie Alexander and Ben Allen in the 2540 Quality Handicap from barrier 6. His fitness will have improved from his last run, and from the good gate, we hope to see him bounce back to form.

## Tomorrow at Rosehill

**ASHIM** runs in R6 1300m BM78 for Matt Smith and Jason Collett from barrier 5. A recent import from France, he will improve for the run and Australian racecourse experience.

**MR SATCHMO** runs in the Listed McKell Cup over 2000m for Chris Waller and Jay Ford from barrier 4. Needing cut in the ground, he will benefit from the conditions underfoot.

**MONTABOT** runs in R9 1500m BM78 for Matt Smith and Jay Ford from barrier 15. After a pleasing trial, we are looking forward to his Australian debut, although he will appreciate getting further out in trip.

## Tomorrow at Ipswich

**INVERLOCH** runs in R7 Listed Ipswich Cup over 2150m for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young with Larry Cassidy riding from barrier 8. Since his last run, he has been in good form in the mornings and we hope to see a repeat of his Wagga Cup success.

## On Sunday at Bendigo

**EIDOLON** runs in R4 1600m 2yo Handicap for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young from barrier 9 with Luke Currie riding. The track and ground conditions should suit, so we hope to see a top performance.

**SEA CROSSING** runs in R8 1600m BM64 for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates from barrier 4. Second-up, he is fit and well and we expect to see an improved performance from the good gate.

## On Sunday at Pontefract, in England

**CAMPHOR** runs in the Listed Pontefract Castle Fillies' Stakes over 2405m for Jessie Harrington. Rain is forecast which will suit this mare, who is chasing more black-type.

## WINNERS



### ALMSGIVER

*Trained by Matthew Williams*  
Swan Hill 1600m 2&3YO Maiden



### OTTOMAN EMPEROR

*Trained by Johnny Murtagh*  
Gorwan Park 1900m 3yo+ Hcp



### KLOSTER

*Trained by Edouard Monford*  
Craon 1650m Class 4

## LAURIE LARMER OAM

Congratulations to OTI owner Laurie Larmer, who was recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia for "services to the community through a range of roles" in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

# STUART BOMAN ON RACING AT ROYAL ASCOT

A return to any racecourse would have been welcomed after the longest period away from the races in my life but thankfully, we were lucky enough to secure Royal Enclosure badges for both Tuesday and Wednesday at the Royal meeting.

Having not set foot on a racecourse since the 2020 Magic Millions raceday, I was set to race a little keen first time out after a long layoff - arriving early to the scene in Car Park 1 was similar to normal with plenty of picnics and champagne. The usual band was in force and the general mood was positive despite the reduced numbers in attendance.

The weather for the first two days was particularly good - sunny and warm and the going started the week being Good but with drying weather firming up the track to Good to Firm.

The process to get into the racecourse was fairly smooth - after taking a PCR test two days prior to arrival and a lateral flow test the day prior - each person was required to show a negative lateral flow test result prior to entering the course and a mask had to be worn when going through security but not required after that point.

Once in the course, for most of the day it felt mostly like a normal Royal Ascot raceday - with approximately 20% of the normal crowd. The amount of restaurants and bars were obviously reduced and access to certain floors of the grandstand were restricted to box holders only but apart from that you were free to move around the course as you pleased.

Racing on Tuesday this year did not disappoint and it was a pleasure to be able to easily see the horses in the pre-parade, canter down to the start, watch the race live and then see the horses come back to scale.

Palace Pier was a standout physically - a magnificent colt with so much substance and quality. He was a 600,000gns purchase by his trainer John Gosden at the Tattersalls October Yearling Sale Book 1 in 2018 and it was undoubtedly money well spent. He duly obliged at prohibitively short odds to take out the Queen Anne Stakes - his fourth Group One win - to continue his dominance of the mile division.



I was also scouting for prospects and was particularly interested in a few horses for an order to purchase some Dubai Carnival horses - one horse I like for this is Pogo who led the field and ran an admirable race to finish fifth. I had a good look at him cooling down after the race but later learned his owners would never sell him which is unfortunately part of the job of sourcing horses in training. It is not always about identifying the suitable horses but also being able to broker a deal to get them bought. So back to the drawing board on that front.

The King's Stand G1 saw the return of last year's winner Battaash. An exceptionally strong early pace was set in the race which saw the field strung out over many lengths. Unfortunately, Battaash couldn't maintain his effort and tired late leaving Oxted, last year's July Cup winner to close from worse than midfield to win well. Oxted is trained by Roger Teal, who is a smaller trainer but always has a good horse. It was a pleasing result as it is especially hard for these smaller yards to have winners at Royal Ascot.

The final Group One on the card was the St James's Palace Stakes which featured the English 2000 Guineas winner Poetic Flare who has to be one of the toughest and most talented horses I have seen. He was running in his fourth Group One race in less than 40 days - taking in the English, French and Irish 2000 Guineas. Taken forward by his regular rider Kevin Manning to settle in third position chasing a hot pace set by a Coolmore pacemaker - it looked as though he might be doing too much work early. But he was tanking on cornering for home and travelled sweetly up to the leaders until asked to accelerate at the two furlongs and he quickly put four lengths on the field. It was a breathtaking performance.

We spent the later races drinking champagne in the sun and being thankful that life is ever but surely returning to some form of normality.



# A CONVERSATION WITH PIA BRANDT

## On her childhood

I grew up in Sweden, outside Stockholm. My father was a gentleman rider and my parents had a horsebox society. They were transporting most of the racehorses to the races all over Scandinavia. Later my mother started to work at the Swedish Jockey Club for her last 25 years. I was a lucky kid with my own pony at an early age and competed in dressage, jumping as well as pony races. When I was 15, my pony was stabled next to a racehorse stable, and of course I had to try to ride out. After my first good canter I was in love with thoroughbreds, and that was the end of ponies for me.

## On her riding career

At the age of 21 I rode in my first amateur race and between 1997-2000 I rode as an apprentice jockey, and was champion apprentice my first year. Overall I rode around 80-90 winners.

## On becoming a trainer

I had never an intention to train but the trainer I worked for was always away over the winter for three months and I was at an early age responsible for the horses and the training, so it came quite naturally. Later the trainer was thinking of retiring and told me to take a course to become a trainer myself. So I did, and took over his stable in 2000 in August. I spent five years in Sweden as a trainer with decent results.

## Moving to France to train

In 2005, my husband Joakim and I asked our main owner if he might be interested in moving his horses to be trained elsewhere in the world. We even had Australia in our minds since Joakim's mother lives in Sydney, but we had kids and it was too far away. So France was our choice because of the training facilities and the good prize money. The first years were very tough, and I only spoke the basics in French. The competition is extremely high but with a lot of work and better results, we started to get new owners with better horses, higher ambitions and with that the results followed. Since then we have bought our own yard with 90 boxes and we love it.



## On why Chantilly is a great place to train

Today we have 70 horses in training and 50% are 2 years olds, so we have hopes for a good future. Chantilly is 30 minutes from the airport which is great for foreign owners who wish to visit. We have a lovely training centre with different types of tracks- Grass - sand- polytracks - woodchip and a huge forest area. There are straight tracks, round tracks and the horses love it, and so do we. Happy horse-happy me!

## On sending horses to race around the world

I believe that if you have a horse suitable for travelling you should do it. It gives you and owners a great experience, and a lots of fun! One of my dreams is to have a Royal Ascot winner with 70,000 people in the stands! The atmosphere is incredible. I believe it would be the same on a Melbourne Cup Day. I had a horse for the Melbourne Cup called Bathyrhon in 2015 but we decided to wait a year, sadly he got injured. But it is a goal to go there!

## On her routine and training partnership with her husband

I start every morning at 05.30 by opening the entries book with my morning coffee, to make sure I haven't missed anything and I start the declarations. Joakim has already fed the horses and is giving me the first updates about them. Then first lot is going out at 06.30. I normally ride the first lot because winter time it is too dark to see the horses anyway so it is better to be with them. The training goes on until 12 o'clock. I go racing or watching racing until the evening stables at 17.00. We are always doing the check up on all the horses in the evening. How they have been eating and how their legs are. We are always involved in treatments and feeding as well. Of course we disagree at times but I always win! Jokes aside, we discuss the horses together and are trying to find the best solutions for them.

# OSSIFIED WITH MICK PRICE AND MICHAEL KENT

~ Rising 2yo Colt – Expected Early Runner ~



Group 1 winning trainers Mick Price and Michael Kent Jnr are training **OSSIFIED**, a son of Group 1 winner Hellbent.

The colt moves fluently, is perfectly balanced and possesses an excellent temperament.

Paid up to compete in the lucrative Magic Millions races in January, this colt has developed physically to be a promising racing prospect as a two year old. Under the tutelage of Mick Price, who has been long respected as a trainer of two years old, he will have every opportunity to succeed. OTI and the Price/Kent stable have enjoyed recent success with the rising star I'M THUNDERSTRUCK, and hope that this colt will follow.

Colourmegal, the colt's dam, is a daughter of champion stallion Galileo, plus she is from a multiple group winning family, being the three-quarter sister to Group One placegetter, Aloft. This is also the family of Le Juge, known well to us at OTI.

With all costs, including insurance paid up to July 31, 2021, at \$5,900 plus GST for a 5% interest

To view more information, as well as a video, click [here](#).

## QUIZ

1. Who won the Gr1 Ascot Gold Cup this year?
2. Who rode Choisir to both his Royal Ascot victories?
3. Who trained Scenic Blast to win the 2009 King's Stand Stakes?

### NAME THE RACECOURSE



*Hint - Under the Benbulbin and Knocknarea Mountains in Ireland*

# MATT STEWART

The awarding of Order Of Australia gongs to John Patterson and Bill Gibbins takes us on a wonderful history lesson.

“Patto” wandered into town from Coleraine in the late 1950s with dreams of being a jockey; briefly fulfilled before Patto became a breaker and from 1961, the Flemington clerk of course.

“At the time, Flemington and Newmarket were a country town in the middle of the city. There were sheep and cattle walking around everywhere back in those days,” Patto told the Herald Sun after receiving his gong on Monday.

Patto’s are the only stables that remain off course at Flemington. The ponies once used by Patto and now by his sons John Jnr and Shane are stabled in a lean-on out the back of the family home across Epsom Road from the Flemington front gate.

I remember pushing through Derby Day traffic a handful of years ago. At a pedestrian crossing, the race-day cars stopped at a red light as the Patto horses wandered across with racegoers who had arrived by tram.

Patterson crossed that road on horseback hundreds of times. On 50 occasions he led the Melbourne Cup winner back to scale.

Remarkable.

Gibbins is also a remarkable man.

Racing is forever tied up in bureaucratic red tape, bogged down by inaction and in-fighting. Gibbins, just one individual with a vision and an iron will, trod all over this environment of dithering when he created the Jericho Cup.

Gibbins, a wealthy philanthropist and punter, read a book called “Bill The Bastard”, became obsessed with the stories of Bill and the battles of Romani and Beersheba and was decided to commemorate the Jericho Cup, an impromptu race staged in the battlefields of Jericho in 1917.



Gibbins stumped up most of the cash and the first Jericho Cup meeting was held at Warrnambool in 2018.

It was hampered by bad weather in 2019 and COVID last year but Bill’s Jericho has touched a chord. Everyone loves it, everyone wants to win it. It means something. It reminds us of the link between the Diggers and the horse races. It gives battle-weary horse racing a free ride.

Jericho Day is unique. Impeccably-dressed soldiers mingle with the crowd. The ANZAC theme is everywhere, from parades of the famous waler horses to an eerie annual rendition of The Last Post.

The Jericho provides non-racing people with a flicker of interest.

I’m proud to say I’m a mate of Bill Gibbins, an old fella who has managed to capture the imaginations of many youngsters, including mine, with his Jericho Cup.

Bill sent me a portrait of another legendary warhorse, Midnight, and it hangs on my youngest son’s bedroom wall. Max loves Midnight every bit as much as he does Winx.

Ollie says his greatest racing memory was the Jericho in 2019, even though it was unseasonally freezing, and Max is completing a school project on Bill The Bastard and can’t wait to tell the class he knows Bill Gibbins personally.

# INCASE YOU MISSED IT

Incase you missed it  
**Watch us on Facebook LIVE!**



## Our Speakers



**Terry Henderson**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Hermione FitzGerald**  
International Marketing Manager



**Shayne Driscoll**  
General Manager

On Wednesday night we went LIVE on Facebook and discussed all things OTI, our process of buying and importing international horses, plus we answered some questions for the audience. In case you missed it, click on the play button above to watch the recording.

## QUIZ RESULTS

1. Subjectivist
2. Johnny Murtagh
3. Daniel Morton

### NAME THE RACECOURSE

Sligo.

A right handed oval track holding both National Hunt and flat racing, with many race meetings held in the summer evenings.

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