



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING*



## IN THIS EDITION

OTI  
NEWS/RUNNERS

WINNERS

A CONVERSATION  
WITH MATTHEW  
DUNN

OTTOMAN  
EMPEROR TO ST  
LEGER

GREY LION IN  
RETIREMENT

MATT STEWART

DESERT FUN -  
PRECOCIOUS 2YO  
FILLY

QUIZ

OWNER PROFILE -  
PAUL VAWDREY

## Impact of Recalcitrant Jockey's Actions

Until a week ago, all members of the racing family were proud that racing in Australia, unlike many other countries, had continued throughout the Covid pandemic. That changed with the news on August 26 that a group of jockeys had partied together in contravention of Victoria's Covid restrictions.

Fortunately, on this occasion, due to the widespread condemnation of the industry and the swift action by Racing Victoria to suspend the jockeys, Victorian Racing dodged closure. And fortunately, even the racing critics were largely silenced as they appeared to appreciate that the actions of the irresponsible few were not representative of the industry.

Racing does go on, new jockeys will be found to replace those suspended and, almost unbelievably, some of the jockeys will appeal their sentence. If that's the last of these indiscretions, it will simply be remembered as just another scandal that Victorian racing usually faces at this time of the year. There's one group however that may carry longer term consequences from the action of the five jockeys. That group is their fellow jockeys.

Jockeys are the true sportsmen of our industry. Despite wearing the brunt of jokes and criticism when horses run poorly, it is their skills and bravery that is the cornerstone of racing's excitement and theatre. We laud their amazing feats. In recent years, the level of respect for their craft has grown. The formal and informal levels of financial support for injured and retired jockeys is a testament to the greater appreciation the industry has for them.

One wonders if the five jockeys thought of the damage they might do to their peer group when they decided to party. It's one thing to run the gauntlet and break rules that might put racing activity at risk, but it's another to drag down the reputation of their profession. That profession deserved better.

## Runners This Weekend

### Tomorrow at The Valley

**BARADE** runs in the 2040m Handicap for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates from barrier 12. We are hopeful of another very strong performance after finishing second on his last start return from a spell.

### Tomorrow at Randwick

**SELINO**, the 2021 Group 1 Sydney Cup winner, starts his campaign for Chris Waller and Kathy O'Hara from barrier 2 in the G2 Chelmsford Stakes.

**ATTORNEY** also returns in the G2 Chelmsford Stakes over 1600m for Matt Smith and Tom Sherry from barrier 6. Both Attorney and Selino will hopefully set themselves up for a tilt at the Melbourne Cup in November.

**CEPHEUS** lines up in the 1500m BM94 for Matthew Dunn and Jason Collett from barrier 10. Running for the second time since arriving in Australia, he put in a very strong performance when finishing 4th last start and should be in the mix again.

### Tomorrow at La Teste de Buch (FR)

**RIVAPORT**, a promising 3yo filly by Le Havre, will take her place in the 1800m 3yo Maiden for Antoine de Watrigant with Fabrice Veron booked to ride. Off the back of her last start 2nd, she should prove very competitive again.

### On Sunday at Casterton

**PANKHURST** makes her long awaited debut for Matthew Williams and a patient group of connections in the 1400m Maiden. With Dean Yendall riding, she should be given every chance to figure in the finish on debut.

### On Sunday at Geelong

**SEAWHATYOUTHINK** returns to the races for the first time since early 2019. Now with Matthew Williams, this son of So You Think has always shown a good deal of promise and is poised to run well first-up with Zac Spain in the saddle.

## WINNERS



### SEVEN TWENTY

1200m Maiden, Goulburn  
*Trained by Matthew Smith*



### TAAFFEITE

2100m Class 1, Lismore  
*Trained by Matthew Dunn*



### PETRUCHIO

1600m BM70, Sandown  
*Trained by Archie Alexander*



### INVERELL

1429 Maiden, Sale  
*Trained by Clayton Douglas*



# A CONVERSATION WITH MATT DUNN

## On his childhood, and his riding career

I grew up in Avalon on the beaches of Sydney. I surfed a lot, but then my grandparents, who owned a few small shares in horses, introduced me to racing at the age of 15 and I was fascinated by the sport. I rode as a jockey but I only rode for about one year after I finished my apprenticeship. I was always too heavy and lacked ability to be honest!

## On the start of his training career

It all happened very quickly. I was replaced on my last race ride, as I couldn't make 59kgs. That was on a Saturday, by the following Tuesday I had a trainers licence and my first three horses were in work at Port Macquarie.

## On his break from training and what he learnt from it

After a few years I left training to go and work in my Father's earth moving business. That is when I learned how to manage people and a business. It was necessary, as I finished riding and simply became a horse trainer in three days. I had no plan and not much money. The time I spent working for Dad gave me some savings and knowledge of business and people management which has helped me a lot since then.

## On his time working for Gerald Ryan

I moved from the Gold Coast, where I was working about 15 horses, to Rosehill to run Gerald Ryan's then satellite stable. I already knew how to train a horse, but Gerald taught me how to train big numbers, and again that helped me get to the next level.

## On training in Murwillumbah

Murwillumbah was established as a satellite stable in partnership with Gerald. We kicked off with three horses, once the numbers got to a good level the stable transferred to my name, which was always the plan. We chose the location due to the close proximity to a lot of tracks in both QLD and NSW. The fact we are only just over an hour from Brisbane, yet still on a country track made the location perfect.



## On working closely with Keira, his wife

Keira and I spend almost every minute of every day and night together, we rarely argue, and have learnt how to separate work from home life. She is the best person I know, I am very lucky. Work takes up a lot of time but I am also an amateur bee keeper, and have six hives at our place in Murwillumbah.

## On setting up in Sydney and juggling the two training centres

Initially I was spending about 50% of my time at both stables. This was difficult. We have now made the decision to concentrate on Sydney, so I now call Sydney home. I still travel back a lot, however our team at Murwillumbah are very good. There have been a lot of very proud race day moments. I think the proudest moment for Keira and I would be the day the ATC gave us permission to train at Warwick Farm. It was just so pleasing that our hard work is being recognised by the leaders of our industry.

## On the OTI horses in his stable

The star of the show is **Cepheus**, our first import direct from Europe, he is very exciting. His one run here was outstanding. **Holstein** is a 3yo Snitzel gelding who is 1 from 1 and trialled this week. He has a bit of mental maturity to achieve, but is a very talented horse with a bright future. **Stuck With You** is a young, lightly raced horse with a great staying future ahead. **Taaffeite** is doing a great job for the Murwillumbah stable and has won two from five since arriving from NZ. We also have the likes of **Southern Rock** and **Trench Warfare**, who will hopefully be winning races for us.

## OTTOMAN EMPEROR

Although he is only a three-year-old, Ottoman Emperor has already taken his owners on a ride beyond all expectations. On Saturday the 11th of September, their horse will line up against the best of Europe's staying three-year-olds in the St Leger at Doncaster.

Being the oldest of the five classics on the English calendar, there'll be no shortage of adrenaline for the trainer, jockey or the owners as he loads into the barriers. Indeed, it will be the first time that any of them have their horse line up in such a classic.

Ottoman Emperor is not classically bred. In fact, he was sold for only 7,500 euros as a yearling. He was then withdrawn from a couple of sales as a 2yo before being spotted by agent Stuart Boman after running second in a Dundalk jumpout.

Johnny Murtagh then inspected the colt for OTI. He liked him and a deal was then done to buy him. After finishing 6th on the synthetic at Dundalk, Ottoman Emperor is unbeaten in his four starts since.

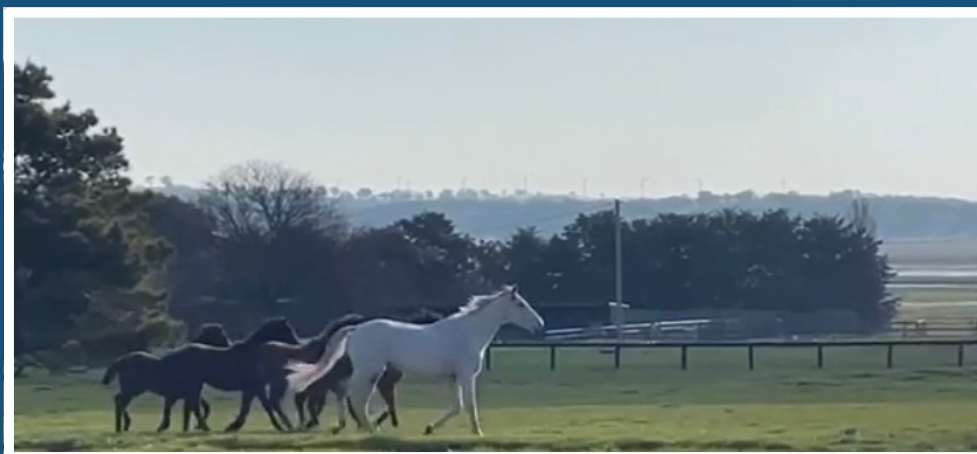


His win in the Group 3 Gordon Stakes at the Glorious Goodwood meeting confirmed his status as a serious contender for the St Leger.

The colt's position as second favourite for the great race is well deserved. However there's a big jump to the favourite for the race, Hurricane Lane, the winner of both the Irish Derby and the Grand Prix de Paris.

That won't stop the Emperor's inimitable trainer Johnny Murtagh calling on all his skills to prepare his horse to win. Nor will it prevent his owners from staying up to the wee small hours of the night in Australia, champagne at the ready, waiting for the race.

## GREY LION ENJOYING RETIREMENT



Recently retired **GREY LION** has been enjoying life looking after the next generation of polo horses in NSW. Henry Bell, brother of Sarah Cumani commented:

"We are lucky to have him at the moment before he goes down to Ballarat. He has taken to his new role, and you can see why everyone loved him wherever he went."

# MATT STEWART

**Racing Journalist Matt Stewart reflects on the unforeseen changes in the jockey ranks in the spring, and what it might mean for others.**



I was talking to former Sydney chief steward Ray Murrihy a few years ago about the size of some of the big racing stables and what would happen if one of them suddenly wasn't there.

Ironically, Darren Weir was removed from the Victorian ranks not long after, leaving a void that was quickly filled.

Murrihy plucked an analogy; if you put your fist into a bucket of water and remove it, the level remained the same. He meant that voids are quickly filled and in the case of big racing stables, horses dispersed.

The removal from the spring riding ranks of Jamie Kah, Ben Melham and Mark Zahra, and to a lesser extent Ethan Brown and Celine Gaudray, has left a void that will quickly be filled. Star power will be replaced by eager opportunists, jockeys who have (almost) the same skill as the superstars but for whatever reasons, don't get the opportunities.

Every Saturday, very good jockeys are relegated to country meeting, squeezed out by the big boys and girls.

Jockeys the ilk of Jason Maskiell, Ben Allen, Jamie Mott, Dylan Dunn, Patrick Moloney and Michael Poy pop up at meetings as far away as Warracknabeal.

Pending appeals hearings from three of the "Mornington Five", who are seeking a reduction to three-month suspensions, these bush artists are likely to be presented with rare opportunities.

Fields in spring are chockers, often with 16-18 runners; in some cases more. The demand for jockeys will be amped up and second tier riders will be asked to step up.

Because of the closed border, the star NSW jockeys will not be in Melbourne to skittle these jockeys for rides. Glen Boss got as far as Howard Springs before he was turned back to Sydney, unable to ride Incentivise and others in Melbourne.



*Brett Prebble after winning the GR1 Memsie Stakes at Caulfield last weekend.*

Brett Prebble had struggled to re-establish himself but he is now on a roll, and will capitalise on this massive drop in superstar rivals. Blaike McDougall, a winning machine on the NSW country scene, is in quarantine in a motel in Wangaratta and will relocate to Melbourne for the spring.

Another jockey, Beau Mertens is clawing his way back and rides light. He will now also have a spring of unexpected opportunity.



# DESERT FUN TO BE TRAINED BY ANDREW NOBLET

*~ Precocious filly out of Listed winner Sunny Desert ~*



Two-yearold filly **DESERT FUN** will be trained by Andrew Noblet in Ballarat. Physically strong with a fluid walk, she is fully educated with the expectation that she will make the racetrack as a two year old.

By Champion US sire Into Mischief, who stands for US\$225,000, this filly is excellent value with a 5% interest priced at \$4,000 + GST, which includes all costs to December 31, 2021 and insurance to July 31, 2022.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

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

## OTI QUIZ

1. Dreamforce is attempting to become the first horse in history to win three Tramways when running in the Group 2 on Saturday. Who trains him?
2. Champion filly Atlantic Jewel was by which stallion?
3. The Haydock Sprint Cup runs tomorrow in England. Over what distance is the race run?

### WHERE IS THIS RACECOURSE?



## OTI OWNER PROFILE - PAUL VAWDREY

Melbourne-born Paul has been interested in racing for about 25 years, and had his first winner in Adelaide in the 90's, thanks to Lets Power.



### Most successful horses you've owned?

Turn Me Loose

### Race you would most like to win?

Caulfield Cup

### When you win that special race, how will you celebrate?

Book out the Stokehouse restaurant in St Kilda

### Favourite provincial racetrack?

Warrnambool

### What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending?

Caulfield Cup Day

### Black Caviar, Winx or Makybe Diva?

Black Caviar

### What International races have you attended and particularly enjoyed?

Hong Kong Cup and Kentucky Derby

### Which International carnivals would you like to attend next?

Royal Ascot

### Who introduced you to OTI/how did you get involved with OTI?

Through a friend, John Murphy

### What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership?

I love the excitement and build up to a race, any race!

### Favourite jockey?

Zac Purton and Kerrin McEvoy

### Favourite Racing memory?

Winning the 2015 Emirates Stakes

### OTI Horse you are most looking forward to seeing run in the Spring?

Barade

## OTI GAZETTE

With the return of spring racing, the OTI Gazette will be returning fortnightly.

We will bring you interviews, articles, opinion pieces, and a bit of fun over the coming weeks.

If there is anything you would like to read about, or anyone you would like interviewed please let us know.

**hermione@oti.com.au**

## QUIZ RESULTS

1. John Thompson
2. Fastnet Rock
3. Six Furlongs - 1200 metres

Where is this racecourse?

India.

Mysore Race Club is situated in the picturesque Chamundi Hills. Racing has taken place since 1891 when in the initial years, racing was restricted to six race days and held under the aegis of Royal Calcutta Turf Club. The season takes place from August to October. The club has hosted the Turf Club Invitational Cup and four Group 1's.