



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



IN THIS EDITION

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& WINNERS

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG

With Group 1 races already run in Melbourne and Sydney, spring racing is certainly underway. The Melbourne Cup weights are out and most of the slots in the Everest have now been allocated. There has already been a few 2yo trials.

This year will have a very different feel. Victorian Racing now has to share the period with Sydney. Indeed, one could mount the argument that Spring, with the Everest as the feature, is more significant Carnival than the Autumn carnival. Certainly Sydney's two most valuable races are now run then.

As a result of RVL/VRC veterinary requirements for international horses, the Great Race may have as few as two runners that have passed through the Werribee quarantine system. While some may blame Covid, the reality is that the majority of international trainers believe that the new requirements are unreasonable. They may be right, but those concerned with protecting the industry's image, something had to be done.

The lack of visiting horses provides a wonderful opportunity for the Melbourne Cup to be won by local connections. While most of the horses in the race will have their origins overseas, they are now trained and owned by the locals.

Covid is playing a significant part in Spring this year, be it Melbourne or Sydney. Those impacted the most are the Kiwis. As the situation stands, it is almost impossible for trainers, their staff or owners to come to Australia. Most horses making the trip have been delegated to Australian trainers, a situation far from ideal.

From now until the end of November, the stake money is mouth-watering. There's rarely a week when a million dollar race is not on the cards. Europeans look upon our situation with envy, knowing that many of their mid-level handicappers exported to Australia are earning far more than their top horses.

Our owners at OTI have a great group of horses going into spring. Hopefully, although it's highly unlikely it will be at the track, celebration will be to the fore.

OTI NEWS

A Saturday of stakes runners for OTI.

Tomorrow at Caulfield

AMADE runs in the G3 Naturalism Stakes over 2000m for Phillip Stokes with Ben Allen aboard from barrier 6. Kicking off his exciting spring campaign, we are looking forward to seeing him return.

FUTURE SCORE also starts his campaign in the G3 Naturalism Stakes for Matt Cumani and Dean Yendall from barrier 13. A tough start to his campaign, we are hopeful of a good performance from the horse, knowing there is plenty of improvement to come.

I'M THUNDERSTRUCK is 1st emergency in the G1 Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes over 1400m from a tough outside draw, should he get a run for Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr. Jye McNeil will take the ride on the very talented galloper.

ROMANCER will also take part in the G1 Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes with Michael Dee in the saddle from barrier 8. Trainer Grahame Begg is delighted with the condition of the horse, who off a low weight can make his presence felt.

Tomorrow at Randwick

ATTORNEY runs in the G3 Kingston Town Stakes over 2000m for Matthew Smith from barrier 11. He is expected to run a good race before stepping up to his optimum trip over 2400m next start.

SELINO also lines up in G3 Kingston Town Stakes for Chris Waller with Glen Boss riding from barrier 7. Second-up after returning from a spell, the Sydney Cup winner is expected to be doing his best work late. The race is an important stepping stone on the way to the Melbourne Cup.

YOUNG RASCAL is another lining up in the Kingston Town Stakes for Richard & Michael Freedman with Sam Clipperton riding from barrier 9. The Freedman's believe he is nearly fully fit, is looking well but now needs to show that improvement on race day.

On Sunday in France

FUNAMBULIST runs at Saint Cloud in a 3yo Maiden over 1600m for Andre Fabre with Sophie Tison riding from barrier 4. It will be great to see this talented son of New Bay back at the races after recovering from a serious colic attack. **SCHWANENSEE** is a possible runner in a 1900m Class 3 at Bordeaux le Bouscat for Antoine de Watrigant. The mare has been very consistent of late and is poised to be competitive once again, should she take her place.

WINNERS



SEAWHATYOUTHINK

Geelong
1715m BM64
Trained by Matthew Williams



PANKHURST

Casterton
1400m Maiden
Trained by Matthew Williams



HARBOUR VIEWS

Flemington
1400m Listed The Sofitel
Trained by Matthew Williams

A CONVERSATION WITH DEAN YENDALL

On his childhood

I was born in Carlton in Melbourne in 1973. I had nothing to do with horses at all growing up. My Dad did have a share in a quarter horse with my Uncle back in the day. When I was about 14 I started going to the track with my Uncle who rode the quarter horses and that is when I decided I wanted to ride.

On his early career

It was as it is now, early mornings and hard work. I'd say kids nowadays have it easier than we did though. I was apprentice to Ken Sweeney, he and his brother Phil were real mentors to me. I was really young and very light, horses had a lot of control over me and could occasionally run away with me!

On maintaining the riding weight

I'm lucky that I find it easier to ride at the lower weights and don't have to work so hard at it all, which means I've got more energy in the races which is what trainers want. I play lots of golf, that and riding keep me very fit. I do try and eat healthily though, but that can be tricky when you are on the road a lot.

On the minimum riding weight

I think the minimum weight should be as it was, and as it is in Hong Kong at 50kgs. If it was that I would have no problem with it. Some of the other jockeys might jump up and down and have a sook about it, but that is their problem.

On the highs and lows of being a jockey

I've still got the passion for it, but it is a tough gig and very competitive. Everyone is trying to get the good rides. I ride trackwork for a number of trainers including Matt Williams, Mick Price and Matt Cumani. It is important for me to do that to make sure I'm getting the best rides I can get. I'm willing to get out there and do the best I can, I'll definitely do it to get the better rides. I've been lucky not to have any serious injuries. The money is so good, it also means that the top jockeys are going to the smaller race meetings just for one or two rides.



On the issue of deadweight

I think that is a load of bullshit. As long as you are balanced, it just doesn't matter, and I reckon it is just a myth.

On life away from the racetrack

Nothing gets me out of bed at 4am...unless it is golf! It would be my dream job to be a professional golfer. I actually have Mia, my daughter in the mornings, as Christine my wife is usually riding track-work, but when she finishes that she takes over and I normally head to the races. During Covid, Mia has been home schooled which has meant we've spent more time together, which is nice. As a family, we like to keep busy, and Mia loves her riding and her pony. I won't discourage her from being a jockey, but she has got to make her own choices down the track.

On the best jockeys he has ridden against and what is like to ride against Christine in races

I've ridden against many good jockeys over the years and it brings out the best in us. When I'm riding against Christine I am always aware where she is in the race, but it is every man for himself out there. I'm always hoping that if I can't win that she will. We are the first married couple to be in a dead heat after that happened at Mildura a few years ago.

On his popularity with the punters

I guess I'm popular with the punters because I always say it as it is, and I don't have a filter. I just don't give a rats arse! And I try my best every single time.

On his spring

I'm looking forward to it as I should have some nice rides. I thought Harbour Views win at the weekend was very good, and I'm looking forward to riding him in the Sandown Stakes, especially as I know him well from trackwork.

For all sorts of reasons, some horses are more important than others. Greatness on the track isn't the only piece of the puzzle.

For instance, I was watching racing.com the other day and the career of Elvstroem was being showcased, including "Elvis's" tradesmanlike victory in the 2005 Orr Stakes at Caulfield. There was a little colt in that race called Not A Single Doubt. He ran sixth. Elvstroem was a near-champion on the track and Not A Single Doubt a one-time precocious two-year-old; the former went to stud with bells and whistles, the latter with fingers crossed.

Elvstroem was a stud flop and Not A Single Doubt, for reasons that could only be due to "the great uncertainty of racing", became one of the greatest sires of all-time.

Subzero – Melbourne Cup winning racehorse but megastar retiree. His importance as a racehorse was as another name on an illustrious honour role. As a racing ambassador, his importance to horse racing was immeasurable.

You cannot understate the importance of Incentivise. He is an Australian-bred stayer. A very good one. How good, we are about to find out. In a nation of speedsters – including Not A Single Doubt and his hundreds of nippy progeny – Incentivise is a hen's tooth. He is a rare thing.

He is an Australian-bred horse with a European engine. He holds a gallop for many more furlongs than his locally-produced rivals and is probably the only local capable of matching marathon motors with the European Cup raiders starting to trickle into town.

Punters grasped the importance of Incentivise prior to last Saturday's Makybe Diva Stakes at Flemington. Because of Covid no one, not even his new owners, had set eyes on Incentivise. He was a mystery horse.

I can't recall a time when so many punters (all sitting on the edge of couches at home) were so interested in the first glimpse of a horse, which came when he emerged from the Flemington tunnel into the mounting yard.



Who was this ex-Queensland horse who is favourite for the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups? What does he look like?

The answer is he was big and rangy and narrow, nothing like the usually-small and pretty raiders and more like an old-school Aussie or New Zealand stayer. Incentivise has put his Victorian-based sire Shamus Award in the spotlight because Shamus Award is breaking the mould, bucking the trend.

A handful of other Australasian sires have proven they can throw a decent stayer; Shocking, Tavistock, Puissance de Lune, Dundee, Fiorente and the like. But the Shamus Award's have raised the bar. His progeny sprint and really stay. His daughters Media Award and Duais won Oaks races last season.

If Incentivise can win either or both Cups he will prove it is not impossible to breed world class stayers Down Under, as Vow And Declare proved in 2019. Incentivise is also an important horse because he is now part of the comeback story of Peter Moody.

Incentivise's Makybe Diva win was the first Group One for Moody in five years. In between, Moody spent four years in mostly self-imposed exile.

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CELEBRATE AND ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES

It seems that owners are often at one of two extremes with their horses. On one hand, they are celebrating success or on the other, they are having to cope with bad news.

Our fellow partners at OTI are no different. While we have our share of winners and top runs, we also have horses that run below expectations or suffer injury. Those extremes of experience certainly came to the fore in the past few weeks.

HARBOUR VIEWS, a long-time favourite for his owners and many punters, returned to racing in great fashion when winning the 'Listed The Sofitel' at Flemington last Saturday. As the family pet for the four kids of Matt Williams, his trainer, the win provided a reason to celebrate for his owners scattered around the globe.

Eight hours later at Doncaster in the UK, **OTTOMAN EMPEROR** appeared in the world's oldest Classic, the St Leger Stakes. After winning his past four races, hopes were high that he would run well. Not only did that not happen, but he returned home to Johnny Murtagh's stables in Ireland with an injury that will keep him out of racing for 12 months.

A night later at Longchamp in France, owners again stayed up to watch **TIMOUR** have his first race in OTI colours. This time it was the Group 2 Prix Niel. Off a slow tempo, **TIMOUR** started a sprint between two horses, only to have the gap closed. It was a super run, but unfortunately, despite the post inquiry, placings were not changed and the horse was confirmed as third.

Each week the team at OTI can roll out similar stories that serve to emphasise the ups and downs of being a horse owner. The experienced owners know that, on balance, the winning experiences outweigh the disappointments. They also know that the way trainers and organisations like OTI handle the bad news can have an enormous impact on the way that news is received and accepted. It is imperative that it be conveyed in a timely and accurate fashion. Wherever possible, tactics to address the issues, be they performance or injury based, should be concise.



So celebrate long and hard when success flows. It will help sustain those times when the news is not so welcoming. And when that bad news comes and you are comfortable that actions are being taken to turn fortunes around, it pays, as one long time racing philosopher once said, "to turn the page".

Terry Henderson

MATT STEWART CONTINUED

Moody returned to training as a prolific winner of Group One races; bar any of the "big four." He's never won a Caulfield Cup, Cox Plate, Melbourne Cup or Golden Slipper.

Moody had claimed he'd never been too bothered by the handful of big trophies missing from his cabinet, that his CV looked pretty solid without them. But he's desperate to win one even if he doesn't seem to care. Moody said last week that he'd love to win the Caulfield Cup because Caulfield had been his home track for over a decade and it held great memories. The Cox Plate hasn't been ruled out in between the Cups.

Moody was lucky in that the new connections of the former Toowoomba horse had many options in their choice of big-time trainers. Brae Sokolski and Ozzie Kheir have dozens of horses with dozens of trainers. Moody's Queensland connection with Incentivise's trainer Steve Tregear sealed it.

Expectation often leads to ruination in horse racing. It rarely works when the cart is put before the horse and the expectation with Incentivise is what old-timers would have called "the early crow." One ratings guru said this week that Incentivise only had to run to his rating to be unbeatable in the Caulfield Cup. Incentivise is the most important horse in the country. He will either be more important in eight weeks' time or a brief headline.

NIGHT 'N' VEGAS TO PHILLIP STOKES

~ Quality Bred 4yo Mare with Proven Racing Form ~



Lightly raced to date, **NIGHT 'N' VEGAS** displayed a dominate performance when winning her last start in New Zealand.

Identified by our NZ-agent Phill Cataldo, she will now transfer to trainer Phillip Stokes in Pakenham where she will be targeting city class races, before hopefully being aimed at valuable black type.

The mare is a half-sister to stakes winners Mr Melek and Daniel, and is from the first crop of Contributor, who has already produced Group 1 winner Lion's Roar. He is also the sire of OTI owned Almsgiver, who has a promising future ahead.

Night 'N' Vegas is certainly a mare with potential on the track, and as a future broodmare.

For more information - oti@oti.com.au

OTI QUIZ

1. Which jockey rode his first stakes winner aboard Jamaea in the G2 Furious Stakes earlier this month?
2. Who won the St Leger Stakes, the last British Classic of the season last weekend?
3. What weight has Incentivise been given in both the Caulfield and Melbourne Cup?

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - built by Veliyüddin Efendi, an 18th-century superior authority of Islam in the Ottoman Empire.

FROM RACEHORSE TO TRAIL-RIDING HORSE – THE JOURNEY OF MY SWASHBUCKLER



Following his retirement from racing earlier this year, My Swashbuckler was rehomed to Chesleigh Homestead, a wilderness retreat situated in NSW's Central-West region, well-known for its picturesque trail rides through rolling hills and trickling creeks.

Despite a lifetime of experience with horses, Sasha and the team at Chesleigh have never been faced with the challenge of re-training a thoroughbred for trail-riding purposes. The high energy and alertness associated with a thoroughbred differentiates them from the calmer breeds that Chesleigh has typically taken on as trail-riding horses. The extended lockdown across NSW has provided Sasha with the necessary time to re-train 'Rainbow' for his new role.

"Rainbow is winding down nicely and I have been taking him out on a few trail rides. He is quite sensible and bold and although he still has the racing impulse, he is very soft and manageable. He is always trying his best to please." Sasha said.

"He is a beautiful animal and is loving his new bush home amongst the gum trees. We are so happy to have him here."

Click [here](#) for more information on OTI's Equine Welfare Program.

OTI QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Brock Ryan
2. Hurricane Lane
3. 55.5kg

NAME THE RACECOURSE

Veliefendi, Istanbul.

The country's oldest and biggest race course founded in 1912/1913.

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