



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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Cup Week With A Difference

As we head into Cup week, there's a distinctly different feel in the air. With only two internationals in the race, local connections are celebrating greater involvement in the Cup. Flemington crowds will be restricted to a small percentage of capacity. Channel 7, featuring the Golden Eagle, will out-rate Channel 10's coverage of Derby Day and at least one horse may start in Sydney that, only a week ago, was banned from a race in Melbourne.

The irony is that none of the above will stop our owners from revelling in successes that may come their way during the week. Such is racing.

On the back of disappointment with Amade, Quick Thinker and Barade in the lead up to Cup week, success at Group 1 level with either Selino or Future Score in the Melbourne Cup, or Chaillot or Romancer in the Cantala will be all the more sweeter. Despite not having Group status, a win by either I'm Thunderstruck or Reve De Vol in the \$7.5m Golden Eagle at Rosehill will pay a few bills and wash away the inevitable disappointments that go with this sport.

While our focus at OTI is firmly set on success for our owners, its an appropriate time to recognise the enormous amount of work that goes into these great carnivals, even more so with the impact of Covid. Both in NSW and Victoria racing clubs have done a wonderful job to not only keep the show on the road, but to facilitate the involvement for as many people as possible in the sport. This extends from assisting owners to be at the races, to the coverage of racing on six television stations on Derby weekend.

So all we need now is for horses to perform at their best, luck in running and safe racing for horse and jockey. If that happens, there's a good chance champagne will flow.

OTI NEWS

The highlight of the Australian racing season is upon us.

Tonight at Cranbourne

SEA CROSSING returns in R4 1600m Class 1 for Archie Alexander with Blaike McDougall in the saddle from barrier 4. We look forward to seeing a forward showing from this son of Sea The Stars, who has been gelded.

Tomorrow at Randwick

MIRANN runs in R5 2000m Rosehill Gold Cup for new trainer John O'Shea with Jean Van Overmeire riding from barrier 8. A recent arrival to Australia, he has impressed his new trainer.

YOUNG RASCAL also runs in the Rosehill Gold Cup for Richard & Michael Freedman with Kathy O'Hara aboard from barrier 11. Wearing a tongue tie, we hope the last run can be ignored and he performs well on a track he seems to prefer.

I'M THUNDERSTRUCK runs in R7 1500m \$7.5m Golden Eagle for Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr with Hugh Bowman riding from barrier 10. The GR1 Toorak Handicap winner is a most exciting starter for connections and will be running for the charity Camp Quality.

REVE DE VOL also runs in the Golden Eagle for Annabel Neasham and Brodie Loy from barrier 7. Another recent arrival to Australia, his main targets will be in the autumn but he certainly shouldn't be forgotten. He is running in support of the charity Riding for the Disabled.

Tomorrow at Flemington

SOUS LES NUAGES runs in R2 2500m GR3 Lexus Hotham Stakes for Matt Cumani and Fred Kersley from barrier 9. He should love the spacious track and is in great shape, though is running out of the handicap.

SPIRIT OF GAYLARD is 4th emergency in the GR1 Victoria Derby but is unlikely to gain a start, so we will likely see him contest a Listed race for 3yo's on Cup Day.

CHAILLOT runs in R8 1600m GR1 Cantala Stakes for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates from barrier 12. The highly talented mare will be aiming to give her trainer his first Group 1 winner.

ROMANCER also lines up in the Cantala Stakes for Grahame Begg and Will Price from barrier 8. One of our most honest campaigners will hopefully give his owners a sight, should he get an economical run.

Tomorrow at Eagle Farm

SOUTHERN ROCK runs in R2 2131m BM80 for Matt Dunn with Michael Cahill riding from barrier 2. Running without blinkers this time, he looks a good winning chance.

In England at Wolverhampton Tomorrow Night

SEIXAS will run in R7 1021m 3YO+ Class 5 for Sir Mark Todd with David Probert riding from barrier 7. The impressive last start winner is well-poised to go back-to-back after continuing to please her trainer.

Sunday at Mortlake

SEAWHATYOUTHINK will contest R6 2000m Mortlake Cup for Matthew Williams with Dean Yendall on board from barrier 5. This looks an ideal race for this progressive son of So You Think, who is very well suited by the rise in distance.

MELBOURNE CUP

OTI will be doubly represented in the race that stops the nation on Tuesday.

Sydney Cup winner **SELINO** will be ridden by Michael Dee for Chris Waller and connections. He is guaranteed to stay the distance, with this race being his target since his Sydney Cup victory in April.

Matt Cumani trained **FUTURE SCORE** is also in the Cup field after coming through his Moonee Valley Gold Cup run well. He will be ridden by Dean Yendall, who knows the horse well.

The final field and barrier draw will take place tomorrow night following the conclusion of the Derby Day card.

MATT STEWART

Are we making thin “good horse” ranks thinner by putting on way too many races at this time of year?

Much has been said about the worrying lack of depth among our WFA ranks and State Of Rest, a good-average-improving Irish horse rammed the point home by winning the Cox Plate.

There are reasons for this lack of depth.

We breed sprinters because they are easy to sell and syndicate. Fast stallions get hundreds of mares, even if the stallion market is flooded with them.

We retire colts before they can mature and prove they can stretch beyond the sprints and we sell dozens and dozens of nice prospects to Hong Kong.

We're not just short on good middle distance and staying horses, we are short, full stop.

Every division lacks depth.

Last Saturday's Waterford Crystal Mile and Moonee Valley Cup had long tails, as did the ludicrously-rich Bondi and Invitational at Randwick.

In the short and medium term, you can't do much about the horses we breed. You can sell a yearling with a rich sprint pedigree for \$2 million. High-priced yearlings have a horrendous record of delivering on the track but buyers keep buying them and sellers keep selling them.

While that cycle continues, we will continue to breed the sorts of horses that do not parlay into deep, strong race fields.

What we can do – maybe – is reduce the exposure. Sydney now runs 10 races every metro Saturday. Melbourne has nine but at carnival time that can stretch to 10.



Last week, Moonee Valley ran 18 races in 24 hours. The more races there were, the thinner the participants appeared.

If Racing NSW can ever be dragged to the negotiating table, Racing Australia would like to make some progress with its Pattern Review.

Ultimately, RA wants the states to agree on a Pattern where each respects each other's territory. The more Peter V'landys assaults the Melbourne spring carnival with new pop ups with big purses, the thinner thin races become.

Last Saturday's \$2 million Invitation and \$1 million Bondi attracted poor fields. The Invitation had one or two familiar fillies and mares but also a horde of no-names. Few outside Sydney had heard of any of the Bondi runners.

The Manikato was to have been the showpiece of the first night of the Moonee Valley festival but because V'landys won't shift the Everest, run six days earlier, the Manikato was woeful. Not one Everest horse ran at the Valley.

The Manikato support program was also wafer-thin, as was the endless Cox Plate program the next day, and the Cox Plate itself.

Too many races, not enough proper horses. You can cover the cracks by corralling the horses into less races.

You can trim the fat by dumping races that are not carnival-worthy. Run eight races instead of 10. If the Pattern Review ever occurs, let alone leads to reform and a new-look calendar of races, let's hope it comes with an acceptance that less is more.

A CONVERSATION WITH GRAHAME BEGG

On when he decided he wanted to train

I was very young when I decided I wanted to follow my Father into training. At the age of 12 I started helping around his stables on weekends, and when I was 16 on my school holidays I had my first interstate trip away with horses to the Brisbane Winter Carnival. My earliest memories of going to the races with Dad was at Randwick where he trained the AJC Derby winner Divide And Rule, ridden by the great Darby McCarthy. In those days the AJC Derby was run during the Sydney Spring Carnival. Divide And Rule turned out to be an outstanding racehorse.

On the experiences he gained before training himself

I spent time overseas at the age of 18 at Newmarket where I worked for William Huntington. The greatest education I got was when I was travelling foreman for my father at all of the major carnivals in Australia, as I got to watch all of the great trainers like Bart, Colin, George Hanlon, Lee Freedman just to name a few.

I'd spend five to six months on the road from one side of the country to the other seeing all the best horses in all the best races. I learnt everything from my father, he had a great affinity with fillies and mares and I would like to think that some of that has rubbed off on me, and one of the most important aspects in training I feel is patience.

On the break from training, and moving states

I took 18 months away from training and as you can imagine doing this from a very young age I was physically tired and needed to get off the merry go round for a bit and to freshen up. I trained for 25 years in Sydney and now I have been in Victoria for five years. I don't think there is any difference in the way you need to train in both states as when I was based in Sydney I had a lot of success in the Melbourne carnivals. The main thing coming to Victoria is knowing what horses are going to be suited to what tracks as they are all unique in some way.



On leaving Caulfield and the use of Pinecliff

I will be sad to leave Caulfield but you can't change that and I will look forward to Cranbourne. We will have a brand new stable complex but it will certainly have its challenges going into a new environment with a lot of horses and also getting used to the different training tracks and facilities. Once we are settled in and get into a good routine it will all work out well. We use Pinecliff for the older horses but I do swap them around to keep them stimulated.

On the proudest moment of his career so far

The thing I love the most about training is selecting a horse as a yearling and cultivating them into being a successful racehorse. The proudest moments would be a tie between All Silent winning the Group 1 Patinack Farm Classic at Flemington, now known as the Darley Classic, and coming back to training winning the Group 1 Blue Diamond Stakes with Written By, who my father bred and I bought as well as training his sire Written Tycoon. In fact I also trained his dam Yau Chin for my Father.

On training through the pandemic

During COVID we have been fortunate enough to keep racing. Luckily we personally haven't had any scares. Originally when COVID first hit staff were very concerned about their jobs and if we would still keep going so that was a stressful time, and it certainly hasn't been the same at the races without the owners and atmosphere of crowds. We feel sorry for the owners not being able to see their horses race and celebrate together when we have a big win, but hopefully we can get back to that very soon.

DEAKIN - AUSTRALIA COLT TO JOSEPH O'BRIEN



Melbourne Cup and Cox Plate winning trainer Joseph O'Brien is training **DEAKIN**, a stunning Australia colt out of the Dubawi mare Dealbata.

Standing at 16 hands, and with a long balanced stride, he is forward enough for his trainer to believe he will be making his debut in the mid to latter stages of his two-year-old career, with the three-year-old Classics being on his agenda.

Australia, the Epsom Derby winner has sired multiple Group 1 winners including Order of Australia, Broome and Galileo Chrome, while the colt's dam Dealbata was herself a stakes winner. This is her fourth foal, and her two year old filly by Shalaa is in training with Andre Fabre.

For more information: oti@oti.com.au

OTI QUIZ

NAME THE RACEHORSE, THE RACE AND THE YEAR



1. What race did Extreme Warrior win last start?
2. Who won the inaugural The Invitation at Randwick last Saturday?
3. What was the prize for winning the first Melbourne Cup in 1861?

EQUINE WELFARE PROGRAM



The OTI Equine Welfare Program has been running for two years now, and to date has rehomed 40 horses, irrespective of their ability.

OTI alumni include Tom Melbourne, who is enjoying life at Living Legends in Victoria. As well as Tom, three-time Group 1 winner Gailo Chop is now a show horse, and 2020 Queensland Cup hero Grey Lion has quickly adapted to life as a nanny for polo horses. They are thriving in their post-racing careers.

In 2019 OTI's Equine Welfare Program was founded under the guidance of Campbell Wansbrough. The program incorporates a tracking system to follow the whereabouts of every horse leaving OTI's care, whether by sale or retirement. The program also includes the pledge of a \$2,000 welfare assistance fund to facilitate the rehoming of any horses no longer wanted, or unable to be cared for, by their new owners.

In addition, all thoroughbreds in the Equine Welfare Program are also registered under Racing Victoria's Full Circle Program, with OTI listed as an emergency contact should further assistance or a safety net be required for any horse. Fortunately no calls to OTI have been made.

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

OTI QUIZ ANSWERS

NAME THE RACEHORSE, THE RACE AND THE YEAR

Bauer, Melbourne Cup in 2008

1. Group 3 Blue Sapphire Stakes
2. Icebath
3. 710 gold sovereigns and a hand beaten gold watch

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