



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



IN THIS EDITION

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Good Times Roll On...

Many of OTI's owners have enjoyed good times over the past few weeks. Hopefully with horses in both the Group 1 Golden Slipper and the All-Star Mile, their luck will continue this weekend.

Winning races like the Stony Creek and Adelaide Cups last weekend is something that the team at OTI strive to do. However, the \$4.5m All-Star Mile or the \$5m Golden Slipper are races outside OTI's historical range, albeit that Aloisia won a Thousand Guineas. This widened distance and age scope is a welcome addition for many owners as it now means that they have all bases covered when it comes to distance, age, gender and geographic activity, be it Australia wide or internationally.

Of course the standout race on the weekend is 'The Slipper'. This race is the genesis of Australia's fixation for young speed horses. Indeed, so many yearlings are sold in the hope that they can win it.

If they own a colt, owners know they will have a youngster worth \$30m plus should it win. Such is the popularity among breeders. For the owners of Lady Laguna, the filly carrying OTI's colours, their day will likely be the peak of their racing experience. Modestly priced when first acquired direct from Spendthrift Farm, this filly was not considered commercial enough to go to a yearling sale. Despite that she showed early athletic qualities. Her trainer, Annabel Neasham, has done a magnificent job to get her ready to be very competitive on Saturday. With stakes performance already achieved, a win will rocket her broodmare value into the seven figures.

South of the border an hour earlier, I'm Thunderstruck, already a winner of over \$5m from his 11 runs, will start one of the favourites in the All-Star Mile. His owners hope that he can add a further \$2.25m to his earnings and in doing so cement his favouritism in the time honoured Doncaster on the 2nd of April.

Still celebrating last Monday's win in the Adelaide Cup, Daqainsweet Junior's owners can now look forward to a visit to Sydney as Phillip Stokes is targeting the Group 1 Sydney Cup as the next challenge for the exciting 4yo.

As most owners know, there are few more exhilarating places to be than on a racetrack when your horses are winning.

OTI NEWS

A big weekend awaits with OTI and our owners represented in the Golden Slipper and All-Star Mile.

On Friday night at The Valley

EAGLEMONT heads to town second-up in the 1600m Benchmark 70 (Race 3 – 7:15pm) following a dominant win on return. The Maher/Eustace stable feels he's improved out of that run and should be very competitive once again. Although he's likely to get further than a mile, his fresh performance gives every indication that he can be successful at metro level over this distance.

On Friday at Toulouse

Consistent mare **SCHWANENSEE** is out to get her campaign back on track in the 2400m Class 3 (Race 8 – 7:05am Saturday ADST). Her form over the mile and a half journey reads well, and with the services of Fabrice Veron, Antoine believes the mare can figure in the finish.

On Saturday at Morphettville

Three-year-old Not A Single Doubt filly **DAUNTLESS** will contest the 1250m Maiden (Race 4 – 2:32pm ADST) after making the move across to Tony & Calvin McEvoy's Angaston training base. The signs since the move have been positive and her work can't be faulted. Those connected hope she can transfer her trackwork standards to raceday

On Saturday at Rosehill

Our talented two-year-old filly **LADY LAGUNA** will seek Group 1 glory in the 1200m Golden Slipper (Race 8 – 4:45pm). Many of her owners will be on course to watch what is a very open race. The market suggests she's an outside chance but her work in a Flemington jumpout win last week has given us confidence she can feature with top-class front running rider Linda Meech aboard.

HASSTOBEGOOD returns to stakes grade in the 1200m Group 3 Birthday Card Stakes (Race 10 – 5:55pm), as a mare who has always looked up to winning at the level. She was very unlucky not to win on return and although better suited over further, is capable of running into the placings.

On Saturday at Flemington

Toorak Handicap & Golden Eagle winner **I'M THUNDERSTRUCK** is out to win another feature race as he takes his place in the 1600m All-Star Mile (Race 6 – 3:40pm). He is sure to enjoy the rise in trip and open spaces of Flemington. Though barrier 1 poses some concerns, we hope Jye McNeil can produce an A-grade ride to keep the star gelding's unbeaten record away from Caulfield intact.

OTI WINNERS



DAQIANSWEET JUNIOR

3200m G2 Adelaide Cup,
Morphettville
Trained by Phillip Stokes



VARDANI

2100m Stony Creek Cup, Stony Creek
Trained by Archie Alexander



WICKLOW LASS

1100m 2yoF Maiden, Bendigo
Trained by Tom Dabernig



I AM READY

1100m BM58, Ararat
Trained by Lloyd Kennewell

A CONVERSATION WITH JAMES EUSTACE

James and Gay Eustace are parents to two trainers in Harry Eustace and David Eustace. We spoke to James about his training career and more.

On family ties to horse racing

I grew up in Kent, England and my father was in the army and my mother was a Doctor, so I was certainly not steeped in racing, but I did ride and hunt and later rode in point to point races. That is where my interest in the sport started. Gay, my wife and mother of Harry and David on the other hand is steeped in the industry. Her father, mother and brother trained, and her grandfather and great uncle, Dick and Lewis Rees rode the Aintree Grand National winners in consecutive years in 1921/22.

On his training career

I gained experience working in California in 1985/86, which was at the time the place to be and a booming industry, rather like Australia is now. After a little more experience in England I set up training in Newmarket, at Park Lodge Stables and trained for 31 years. It wasn't always easy but we had successes including Royal Ascot winners, as well as training international campaigner War Artist who won Group races in Germany, France and Dubai as well as being 2nd in the Golden Jubilee at Royal Ascot, and 3rd in the Group 1 July Cup.

On what he loved about training

Newmarket Heath in the early morning in spring and summer watching horses canter and gallop is a wonderful sight, and one never gets tired of that. Planning the race programme for a better class of horse was always enjoyable, and for me personally I took more pleasure from that, than the planning of a gamble.

On having both sons train

Gay and I are both immensely proud of both our sons. We like to think we have bred a dynasty! What could be better than having a son training in the Northern Hemisphere and a son training in the Southern Hemisphere?! From an early age they rode, starting with their pony Misterman who they would ride on the heath alongside the string, before at the age of 13 starting to ride racehorses. Their holidays were spent getting up early, riding, mucking out and generally being part of the yard. It was a great learning experience for them, and I believe their fantastic work ethic comes from that. We've lost track of the number of Group 1's that David has trained in partnership with Ciaron, and we are also very proud of the start of Harry's training career where he has trained a number of winners, and where it is financially tougher going. Training racehorse is a great pleasure, but it is a way of life for all 365 days of a year.



Harry, James, Gay and David Eustace

On Australian racing

We follow racing very closely, and I think Gay knows the Australian form and programme book better than I do! The prize money and general interest in the sport is something we all envy in the UK. That statistic of 1 in 200 or so owning a racehorse in Australia is phenomenal and I've no idea what it is in the UK but it is probably more like 1 in 200,000.

On the international horses at Park Lodge

For a number of years, we have had some horses in transit from their trainers in the Northern Hemisphere to their new trainers down under. We tend to follow their progress, and I'd say Sir Dragonet was probably the best horse we have had. We all felt a real sense of involvement since his win in the Cox Plate was only a short while after being at Park Lodge and in the care of Harry. Winning a Cox Plate with him was a fantastic achievement by David and Ciaron, and frankly I thought it was a massive task but the saying "If you don't try, you don't know" applies.

On the difference in training styles

From what I observe, a key difference is the varied locations that trainers can utilise in Australia. Being able to use the beach, farm, racetracks and other training centres really allows you to tailor the training to the horse far more. Horses are spelled more in Australia, but that is changing in England, as I noticed Harry managed the training of an old sprinter last season very well by turning him out and keeping him fresh and interested. There are very good trainers all over the world, but often their methods are dictated by the facilities and options they have.

On retirement

I'd call it more semi - retirement! When in Newmarket, I am still riding the hack out three lots a morning on the heath, and around to discuss horses with Harry, but I am relieved not to have the stress of making all the decisions. Gay and I are also hoping to spend more time in Australia going forward and have had a wonderful start to our trip when seeing Hitotsu win the Australian Guineas for David and Ciaron. We are calling this year our gap year, and will be here 10 weeks before returning to Newmarket once the flat season is in full swing.

MATT STEWART

For all of the merging similarities between Australian and UK racing – mostly that both now breed for speed – there is one horse that symbolises the great difference.

Her name is Honeysuckle.

In Europe, Honeysuckle is every bit as revered as Frankel, just as Arkle and Red Rum are as cherished as Brigadier Gerard and Dancing Brave.

On the scoreboard, Honeysuckle has now put her nose in front of Frankel; the great flat champion won 14-straight and at Cheltenham on Tuesday, Honeysuckle stretched to 15 on the trot in hurdle races.

Her victory against the sceptics in the Champion Hurdle, with Rachael Blackmore completing the picture, became instant folklore. A huge crowd of jumps enthusiasts - a minority to general society but a large and staunch group just the same - roared the great mare to victory.



The Racing Post had run dozens of Cheltenham stories in the days and weeks leading in to the festival. No flat festival, not even Royal Ascot, receives so much ink.

There is no Honeysuckle equivalent down here. In the UK and Ireland, the jumps season is every bit as big as the flat, probably bigger. Nothing compares to the scale of the four days of Cheltenham. Punchestown is beyond compare in Ireland.

Stamina and courage were the most revered elements of UK racing; always above speed. The gap has closed. We now breed into the same stallion pools with similar enough mindset.

The Mile has become the UK measuring stick when once it was a longer test, like The Derby.

Here, only mercurial jumpers gain attention. Red Rum would have taken a back page from Frankel any day of the week (had they not been 40 years apart). We've never had a jumping Winx.



That said, Gold Medals is a deadliest legend, whether you love the jumps or barely watch, in a few weeks' time the 12-year-old will contest the Grand Annual Steeplechase for the fifth time. He has won it twice. Last year he and another household steeplechaser, Zed Em, staged an epic duel in the great race, with Gold Medals a narrow winner.

It was the race of the year; even the non-jumps types agreed.

They're building a statue for Gold Medals at the Warrnambool racetrack; not bad for an Australian jumper.

The same week as the Poms huddled together in their thick coats at Cheltenham, Australian racing celebrates all that is sharp and fast.

It's ironic that so many Golden Slippers are run on slow and heavy tracks. Horses are purpose-bred for this race. In theory the most expensive of these purpose-bred youngsters would be most likely to show the talent to win it but it never works that way for starters and wet tracks throw pedigrees and theories out the window.

The wet track Slipper winners have come from anywhere, any price bracket.

Wet track pedigrees are probably not sexy but they have been a good formula for the Slipper.

Gary Portelli has two cheapies in Saturday's race, Sejardan and Fireburn. Neither is glamorous but each is a duck.

At least a wet Slipper requires not just speed but also some guts and stamina. Almost Honeysuckle territory.

TIM HOLLAND ON THE ADELAIDE CUP

All roads led to Morphettville Racecourse on Labour Day Monday, with big queues at the gates entertained by the chanting of the biggest anti-racing demonstration I've seen.

The red cap team of Daqiansweet Junior was very well represented with a large contingent, including Bryan Martin and his team; for the red caps Neil McKissock (pictured with Terry Henderson and Philip Stokes) set a high sartorial standard and was clearly the sharpest dressed guy spotted on course, topped off with the OTI tie. The white cap team of Future Score had a smaller but just as committed group present.

Terry Henderson was his energetic self, leading an entourage through the crowds and various checkpoints. Terry was Moses-like for the way he opened up pathways through the throng, creating a slipstream for the OTI team following in his wake.

As the time for the big race approached the talk turned to whether or not DJ or Future would get the 2 miles; whether Future was "overs" in the betting; and whether Jamie Kah had used up her winning form for the day with 3 wins already, or whether she was on a roll. The answers to the first two were "yes" and "yes", and yes Jamie was on a roll, ending the day with 5 wins.



Team DJ were up and about in the mounting yard, and in the interests of research for the OTI Gazette some of the placegetters found themselves in the Winners' Room. The trophy for the time-honoured Adelaide Cup is impressive, and its size allowed for a fair bit of showboating around the Members' Dining Room, with lots of selfie action.

It was a great day for everyone – and that's without any reporting on the after-party!

(Quirky footnote: in looking up records for the Adelaide Cup what caught my eye was that the 1885 renewal was run at Flemington. Strange, and about 100 years before Victoria nicked the Grand Prix from Adelaide.)

Tim Holland, part-owner of Future Score

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead to next week, we are excited to see last-start debut winner **WICKLOW LASS** step out in the Listed St Albans Stakes for Tom Dabernig at The Valley next Friday. Though she is a filly who will be better at three, she should get her chance to gain some all-important black-type.

REGAL LION will make the trip across to Sydney this weekend as he prepares to run in the Group 2 Tulloch Stakes at Rosehill before backing up into the Group 1 Australian Derby. This is a formula Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman have enjoyed a great deal of success with, including with our very own **QUICK THINKER**.



Regal Lion heading to the gates in the G1 New Zealand Derby

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN VIVY AIR

~ Lovely yearling filly by Hellbent ~



For some time now, we have been looking to place a quality filly in the hands of Ballarat trainer Archie Alexander. Vivy Air, a sweet moving yearling filly by emerging sire Hellbent, was seen as the perfect candidate to continue our successful association with the stable.

The filly is out of the Fastnet Rock mare Head Over Heels, which makes her a half-sister to five winners including two time Group 2 winning colt New Predator.

Given what we know about Vivy Air's breeding and physical development to date, she shapes as an ideal racing prospect, with the potential for a broodmare career to follow.

With all associated training costs and insurance cover included to July 31, 2022, a 5% interest in Vivy Air is priced at \$6,800 + GST.

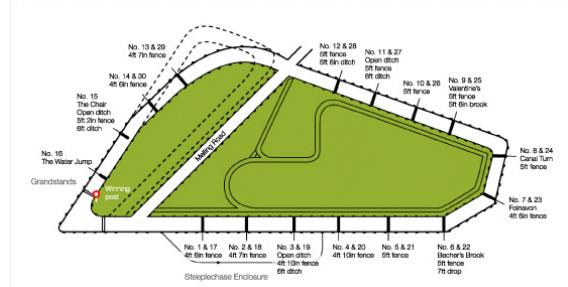
[WATCH VIDEO](#)

For more information on the shares available, email oti@oti.com.au.

OTI QUIZ

1. How many horses in the Golden Slipper field are unbeaten, and who are they?
2. When was the first running of the All-Star Mile and who won it?
3. Which OTI trainer trained the first two home in the 2021 running of the Cheltenham Gold Cup?

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Red Rum

OTI OWNER PROFILE - LOUISE GILLESPIE

Where did you grow up?

On Sydney's Northern Beaches.

When did you first get interested in racing?

When we went to the Cowra Picnic Races many years ago.

Who was your first winner and where?

Our first Victorian winner was Campeao at Cranbourne in March 2012. Our first Sydney winner was Lunayir who won the Pro-Ride Handicap at Warwick Farm on 9th March 2013.

Most successful horses you've owned?

Lady Laguna and Lunayir.

Race you would most like to win?

Any win is great, but the 2022 Golden Slipper would be fabulous.

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

With spontaneous excitement!

What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending?

Love the Country meetings at Wagga Wagga, Griffith and Hay.

Black Caviar, Winx or Makybe Diva?

Black Caviar.

What International races have you attended and particularly enjoyed?

We haven't but would love to go to Ascot or Chantilly.



Louise and Jeff Hogg

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

We met Shayne Driscoll in Griffith and invested in our first horse Campeao in 2011, who had quite a few placings and wins.

What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership?

The involvement in following the horses progress and development, and watching our own horse run, as well as the camaraderie with other owners.

Favourite jockey? I haven't met Linda Meech but I am thinking it might be her if LL does well on Saturday.

Favourite racing memory? Lunayir's win at Warwick Farm from the back of the field was pretty special. Lady Laguna's races have also been memorable, particularly her second win at Rosehill.

OTI horse you are most looking forward to seeing run in 2022 - Guessing that is Lady Laguna?! You would be correct!!!

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1.Two - Coolangatta and Best of Bordeaux
- 2.2019 - Mystic Journey
- 3.Henry de Bromhead

NAME THE RACECOURSE

Aintree.

The only horse ever to win the Grand National three times was Red Rum, trained by Donald "Ginger" McCain.