



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



IN THIS EDITION

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Broodmares – Racehorses Foundation

After absorbing the results of the major yearling sales over the past 4 months, focus now turns to breeding stock sales. For the past 30 years, both in Australia and overseas, the trend in prices has been consistently upwards. As prices for weanlings and yearlings have increased, breeders have had confidence and money to be aggressive in acquiring mares. Everything points to higher prices again this year.

Broodmares are the genesis of racing. The conformation, looks, bloodlines and cost of their progeny sets the foundation for what then happens in the sales ring and on the track. As evidenced by what we are witnessing in Japan currently, the quality of the broodmare population can change competitiveness, be it a nation, a state or a stud.

While the market will ultimately decide values, the growing numbers of imported mares and fillies from Europe, the USA and South Africa is certainly helping to underpin the quality of broodmare stocks in Australia. For example, despite being a very small share of the population, eight of the 30 placegetters from The Championship meeting at Randwick on Saturday were out of overseas bred mares. With younger imported mares still to have their progeny feature on race day, this trend will certainly continue.

The increase in broodmare values has not been matched by the same increase in service fees. The proliferation of young stallions entering the market has dampened the ability of the sector to increase fees. The huge emphasis given to speed in Australia has ironically helped dampen speed stallion services fees. With so many speed stallions to choose from, mare owners, except to our superstar stallions, are in a buyers' market.

So with stallion fees being relatively stable, strong demand from the market, cash from recent sales and a better/wider range of bloodlines to choose from, we can expect to see very strong activity by broodmare owners at both Magic Millions and Inglis over the next two months.

OTI RUNNERS AND WINNERS

At Canberra on Friday.

Following a pleasing Australian debut (finishing 2nd), **FUNAMBULIST** looks well suited in the 2000m Class 1 & Maiden Plate. Annabel Neasham may opt to give him an extra week between runs, but should he take his place, he's expected to be very competitive.

At Randwick on Saturday.

ASHIM showed improvement last time out when finishing 3rd at Canterbury Park on wet ground. He may contest the 1400m Midway BM72, a grade of race that he was very competitive in during his first Australian campaign. The 1600m BM72 at Warwick Farm is also an option, but we hope whichever way he heads, he can build off his last-start effort.

INVERELL takes the step back into black-type company as he contests the 2000m Group 3 Frank Packer Plate. He is a stayer Clayton Douglas has always had a great deal of time for and his trackwork/trial form on soft ground has the camp confident he can feature, especially with some luck from the widest alley.

At Caulfield on Saturday.

Another Douglas-trained galloper, **HARMYSIAN** is presented with a nice chance to break through in Australia in the 2400m BM78. He has built through his preparation well and should enjoy getting out to the 2400m journey.

Stable favourite **INVERLOCH** makes his return in the 1400m Group 3 Victoria Handicap. He is sure to take a great deal of improvement from the outing, which will hopefully set him up for another fruitful winter campaign.

At Warracknabeal on Saturday.

ALMSGIVER is very well placed in the 1600m 0-58 Handicap. He has the benefit of a return run under his belt, will enjoy the step out to a mile and hopefully has a class edge. A bold performance is expected.

At Fontainebleau on Saturday.

Talented staying filly **LORNE** is chasing her first victory in the 2200m 3yo Fillies Maiden. She has pleased Mario Baratti since her season return and is once again expected to be very competitive in what looks likely to be a small field.

At Longchamp on Sunday.

TIMOUR is expected to step out in the 2400m Listed Prix Lord Seymour, a race well within his grasp. His return was sound in an unsuitably run race and this event looks an ideal stepping stone towards bigger targets.

At Sandown on Monday.

EAGLEMONT faces a staying contest for the first time this campaign as he steps out in the 2100m BM78. His return win was very impressive, and a repeat of that effort would see him be extremely competitive in this field.

Should Archie decide to run from the wide alley, **VARDANI** will feature in the same race as EAGLEMONT. He has been very consistent this preparation, winning three times, and with luck in running, can make his presence felt once again. The 2100m does look like the right journey for him.

EAGLES CRAG makes his much-anticipated return in the 1600m BM78. Having enjoyed a long break, he'll race as a gelding for the first time, a change that is expected to greatly assist him. We are yet to see this horse's ceiling, but we know a race of this nature is within his wheelhouse first-up.

WINNERS



MISTA RAZZLEDAZZLE

1200m BM66, Port Macquarie
Trained by Paul Shailer



KNIGHTLAILA

1600m 3YO Handicap, Gowran Park (IRE)
Trained by Johnny Murtagh

A CONVERSATION WITH JESSICA HARRINGTON

Irish trainer Jessica Harrington is based in County Kildare, and has trained a number of horses for OTI over the years.

On her childhood

I grew up in Co Meath, Ireland and it was a life surrounded by horses. My father played polo and we hunted, three day evented as well as having a few point to pointers. My father was a very good horseman and I learnt a lot from him, along with many others along the way.

On her eventing career

I had a fantastic time three day eventing. I competed until I got married. The highlight was probably competing at Badminton where I came 3rd and 5th on my very good mare Amoy. Through eventing, I learnt how to keep horses fit and strong, and that experience certainly helped me when it came to training racehorses.

On starting to train with a young family

My youngest daughter Kate was three months old and just got on with it, and made it work. I was also very aware that I was a female in a male dominated profession but again, I refused to make a big deal of it and people soon started to forget.

On training jumpers and flat horses

I started out training jumpers, it wasn't a conscious decision to switch to training predominantly flat horses. It just happened. A few people sent me flat horses and I had a bit of luck with them and it grew from there. I still love training jumpers, though they can break my heart with some of the injuries they get. I don't change the way I train, I often send out the jumpers with the two and three year olds in the mornings. The aim is always to get them as fit and as strong as possible.

On starting to train in such a competitive environment

It wasn't something that really bothered me, as my goal was to be better, or as least as good as my competition. Training in such a competitive environment has the advantage that people are always keen to buy horses from us, because the form is so strong. That is a real benefit of the depth in Ireland.



On her career goals

I train 180-200 horses at the moment, and I'd always like to improve the quality of the horse I'm training. I'd like to train more winners, and win races abroad particularly the English Classics. I'd also love to train a Breeder's Cup winner in America and to win further afield in Japan and Australia.

On having a horse in training in Ireland

The prize money is better in Ireland than in the UK and the basic costs are less, which is a real plus for owners.. It is also great fun, from a day at the races or a morning on the gallops seeing your horses exercise. You also know you are always competing with the the best of the best.

On Feathertop

I'm delighted to train the two year old filly Feathertop for OTI. Being by Australia, you wouldn't expect her to be very early but I can see her making her racecourse debut in June or July. She has done very well over the last few months, she has grown and developed into a lovely filly.

On the work / life balance of a racehorse trainer

I do get time to relax, I enjoy gardening, mowing the law, and getting away on holiday. How easy is it? Well I think it is important to make time, and take time out as you can't worry about everything all the time.

MATT STEWART

It may have been the dulling effect of the mud, or that Ollie was an out-of-towner, or that the horse was a despised roughie or perhaps that everyone had been awe-struck by Nash Rawiller.

Regardless, Damien Oliver's monumental achievement at Randwick last Saturday, becoming the most successful Group One winning Australian jockey of all-time, slid a little under the radar.

Channel Seven was right across it but Ollie's Queen Of The Turf victory on \$31 chance Nimalee came across as the story of a race not one of the great stories of Australian racing. In winning the Queen Of The Turf, the king of the turf notched his 127th Group One victory, surpassing the great George Moore.

It's hard to prepare the celebration for a jockey or trainer achieving a major feat because you can never be sure when it might happen. Even great jockeys can have droughts between Group One wins.

I recall a mid-week meeting at Sandown last year when everyone, including an unusually large throng of media, expected Jamie Kah to ride one solitary winner to claim Brett Prebble's record number of wins in a season. Race after race, we waited but Kah left Sandown without a winner and the caravan moved to Caulfield three days later where, thankfully, she nailed it.

Ollie won his 127th Group One at the age of 50. It was expected that Ollie would achieve the magic number this autumn because he was still a powerful big game player, not an occasional opportunist which tends to be the fate of many ageing greats.

Ollie was one of the big players last spring, winning the Caulfield Guineas on Anamoe, the Cantala on Superstorm and the Empire Rose on Colette and has been as uncompromising and competitive at 50 as he was at 20, 30 and 40. Perhaps more so.

You can tell Oliver resents the march of time. He hates being referred to as a veteran and believes he is every bit as sharp and fit – and street smart – as the young kids coming through.



Oliver genuinely believes he is as good now as he has always been, hence he has not given a great deal of thought to the "r" word. He's thought a little bit about retirement and would be keen to do some media work when the time comes but he is focused on the next day, the next riding challenge.

When it was pointed out to him last Saturday that he'd surpassed George Moore, Ollie seemed surprised. It was clearly not front of mind as he wandered into battle for the umpteenth time.

Speaking on RSN this week, Oliver said: "I still love competing at the highest level. Records aren't something that drive me. If they are, you're not doing it for the right reasons. If you're doing well and got the right mindset, you will be well rewarded anyway."

Competitiveness, steely nerves, are qualities that can be learned but are mostly ingrained, in the DNA. Damien Oliver was born to fight. But he also had an older brother, Jason. With older brothers, you either sink or swim.

"Like a lot of older brothers, they push the younger one to verge of insanity," he said.

"I had a good standard set from an early age, lot of hard task masters in those early years from my brother, to my step father, to the Freedman's."

Hard work has become the rhythm of Oliver's career. He is undoubtedly financially comfortable but he has not for one second removed his foot from the throat of his rivals. He rides most days.

"It does become a bit of a lifestyle. You know what gets the best out of you. I've done it for 40-odd years now. I know what I have to do," he said.

"If I step away from those things, I feel like I'm not getting the best out of myself and that's probably what has kept me at such a high level for so long."

OTI PURCHASE SNITZEL COLT AT INGLIS EASTER

With the assistance of respected bloodstock consultant Hubie De Burgh, OTI Racing has acquired 50% of a Snitzel colt out of the champion South African mare, Carry On Alice. The colt was bred at Arrowfield Stud and was purchased for \$400,000 at this year's Inglis Easter Yearling Sale.

The colt will be trained by the Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr stable who upon inspection were impressed with his strong, sprinter's physique. While OTI Racing are known for their established, staying type thoroughbreds, the colt's pedigree and physique make him an exciting and unique acquisition.

The colt is by the champion sire Snitzel who has sired 15 stakes winners this season, including Wild Ruler, In The Congo, and Yearning. Snitzel's progeny also include multiple group one winners Redzel, Shamus Award, and Trapeze Artist who themselves are also prominent sires.

The dam, Carry On Alice, is a multiple group one winning sprinter exported from South Africa. In recent years, South African bloodlines have proven to be successful in Australia with In The Congo (out of South African mare Via Africa) winning the Group 1 Golden Rose. In The Congo himself is also by Snitzel.



Snitzel colt out of Carry On Alice

OTI Racing has acquired 50% of the colt, shared with his South African connections and Arrowfield Stud who retained an interest. Arrowfield's Bloodstock Manager Jon Freyer was impressed with the yearling, commenting that "this is a strong, well-muscled colt, cast in the same mould as his sire".

We are thrilled to have acquired a yearling that diversifies the profile of thoroughbreds raced by OTI. He is an exciting prospect who we look forward to racing.

OTI QUIZ

1. What is the name of the racetrack who held their Cup meeting last weekend, which is referred to as the "Melbourne Cup of the Outback"?
2. Which OTI horse came 4th in the G1 Sydney Cup at Randwick last Saturday?
3. This year's biggest purchase at the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale was a colt who sold for \$3,000,000. Who was the sire?

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Amade

CARDIATIC WITH MATT DUNN

~ Well related 2yo colt ~



This colt became known to us through our connection with his half-brother, Holstein, who is also trained by Matt Dunn at Warwick Farm. Much like Holstein, who both OTI and Dunn believe has Group potential (dual city winner), this colt is expected to continue to develop into his three-year-old year and beyond.

Now into his third preparation with Dunn, **CARDIATIC** is progressing nicely towards a trial in the next 6-8 weeks. The colt is by Thronum, a Group 2 winning son of Champion sire Snitzel, whose yearlings made up to \$200,000 in 2021. Being out of Affairoftheheart, it also makes him a half-brother to the Group 1 NZ Derby winner Rocket Spade.

With all associated training costs included to June 30, 2022, as well as insurance cover in place to July 31, 2022, a 5% interest in **CARDIATIC** is priced at \$4,937.50 + GST.

[Click here](#) for enquiry form.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Birdsville
2. Future Score
3. Zoustar

NAME THE RACECOURSE

Belmont.
AMADE won the Belmont Gold Cup for Alessandro Botti before transferring to Australia.

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