



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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TO WHIP OR NOT TO WHIP...

One of the key components for the acceptance of racing into the future will be horse welfare. Despite the excellent care that horses obtain from our industry participants, a growing percentage of the public think otherwise. No more is this true than with the younger generations.

Realists know that the use of the whip in racing is at the heart of the sport's public perception. Despite what we in the industry think, whip use is our Achilles' heel. As an RSPCA commentator said recently, "Whip a horse in a paddock and you'll be arrested. Whip it in a race and you're fine. It doesn't make sense." It's with this growing view, racing administrators are making changes that modify the whip's use. The question is, are they making changes quickly enough?

Last week, the British Horseracing Authority released a report that changed whip rules in the UK. In essence, it recommended three significant changes. Namely, a change in the way a whip can be used (banning forehand whip use), a reduction in the maximum times a whip can be used, and the potential disqualification of a horse from overuse of the whip. Whilst welcome, the changes will do little to placate people like the commentator.

To control a thoroughbred in a race, a jockey must carry a whip. However, a whip used as a form of encouragement for a horse to run faster is optional. Here lies racing's challenge; With current social trends (and it must be said, the growing influence of the Greens in Australia), it is likely that whips for encouragement of horses will be banned within 10-15 years. Local racing jurisdictions have a real opportunity during that period to progressively eliminate whip use before a ban is imposed upon them. In being on the front foot, they would also eliminate one of the key issues that stops future generations embracing our sport.

Forward-thinking racing administrators should be vigorously planning for the day when the whips that jockeys are carrying are called 'crops'.

OTI RUNNERS AND WINNERS

A quiet weekend of runners, with most of our action likely to take place in Queensland.

At Doomben on Saturday

BARADE is looking to make it back-to-back wins if he steps out in the 2200m Benchmark 90. It was terrific to see him return to the winners stall just over a week, running through the line in a manner that suggests the rise in trip will suit. A heavy surface however would likely see him saved for another day.

STUCK WITH YOU's two runs back don't appear all that flattering on paper as he looks to get his campaign on track in the 1600m Benchmark 75. He'll be ridden to find the line but we can't expect too much until he's out to 2000m. He took a while to find his feet last preparation but once at peak fitness, we know he's a city class stayer.

At Randwick on Saturday

ATTORNEY is an unlikely starter in the 1500m Listed Winter Challenge. The very heavy track will likely be dodged in favour of the Premier's Cup Prelude in a fortnight's time. His return in the South Grafton Cup was quite encouraging, so we look forward to the campaign ahead.

At Lingfield (UK) on Saturday

SPERANZOSO has proved frustrating for Ed Walker as he struggles to settle in his work at home. He will likely take his place in the 1401m Class 6 from a wide draw, where he'll be dropped out the back to hopefully switch off and find the line. There is ability there but the horse needs to give himself a chance to showcase it!

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Queensland trainer Jack Bruce who scored his first ever metropolitan win with **BARADE** at Doomben last Wednesday. He's now had three winners from his first 10 runners.

Hopefully many more to come!

WINNERS



BARADE

2030m BM85, Doomben
Trained by Jack Bruce



CADAZIO

1400m Maiden, Geelong
Trained by Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr.



RAFFISH

2400m Maiden, Geelong
Trained by Archie Alexander



HEZASHOCKA

2000m Handicap, Flemington
Trained by Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr.



PETRUCHIO

2000m BM70, Mildura
Trained by Archie Alexander

AN INTERVIEW WITH SHAYNE DRISCOLL

Where did you grow up? I was born, and grew up, in the small country Victorian town of Robinvale. It's on the Murray River, situated between Mildura and Swan Hill. I stayed there until I left for University in Bendigo. Since then, I've also lived in Griffith (NSW) and Mildura, prior to making my way to Melbourne to work for OTI.

Have you always been involved in racing, or did your interest develop over time? I haven't always been involved in racing, but my interest in racing started at a young age. From around the age of 11, I was my Mum's go-to for a Melbourne Cup tip. Kensei beat Empire Rose for us at good odds in '87 and the year after we were against Empire Rose again when he nosed out Natsqui. I was hooked. Any spare time was spent combining the form guides and marking down the horses I'd bet on, and checking the results of the day prior to see how much money I would have made.

How did you decide you wanted to be a part of the racing industry? As a country boy growing up, I'd always dreamed, in the future, of having a property that held a few broodmares and selling the yearlings. It was to be my side hustle from my job. When the decision was made to look for a way to start to work towards that dream, luck was on my side and my future side hustle became a part of my real job.

Do you have a favourite horse? Throughout Uni, my favorite horse was a horse named Toil, trained by Jim Houlahan. I used to drive to various Country Cups to watch him race. Nowadays, like many, I'm Thunderstruck has captured my imagination. I truly believe that he can be our first Cox Plate winner. And of course Tom Melbourne, who gave us such a rollercoaster of a ride as owners. His final victory on Australia Day, after so many placings, will be long remembered.

How did you get involved with OTI, and how long have you been there? It's a story of 'right time, right place'. I was keen to become involved in horse breeding, having become a bit stale in my current situation in Country Victoria. Simon O'Donnell, who I'd idolised as a young, sports-orientated boy, came up in a Google Search as an owner of OTI Racing in partnership with Terry. I had enough front to email OTI and ask for assistance or ideas on how to make my way into the industry, outlining my previous working history and skills. Fortunately, I received a response suggesting that I come down for a chat as my skill set and work history to that point, including a couple of low level management roles, may well be suitable for OTI.

That was over 18 years ago. OTI then was more of a hobby for Simon and Terry, and so different to how we run now. Websites and mobile phones were still relatively new, and our communication consisted of manual emails sent through outlook, and in some cases I had to fax owners their updates. The racing experience for clients is so much greater now.



As General Manager of OTI, what is the most rewarding part of your job? The ability to share race wins with clients/co-owners is the most rewarding part of the job. Even though I may not be financially invested in the horse, I feel as though I am emotionally invested in each of them, so sharing the thrill of a win and the post-race banter and discussion that follows remains a significantly rewarding part of my job. I have the clients/co-owners to thank for sharing that with me.

What do like you do in your time away from work? I've a young family, so much of my time away from work is spent with my wife, Jacqui and three kids Nate (8), Harry (6) and Alice (4). The social lives of the kids have certainly improved post-COVID.

I don't play enough golf for my liking and enjoy watching the AFL when I can, as a Hawthorn supporter.

Have you had any mentors throughout your career?

For the past 18 years, in Terry, I feel as though I have worked for/with one of the great business minds available and I feel very fortunate to have done so. Terry is such a clear thinker, so knowledgeable and is fully across all aspects of business and racing. He has opinions, and the courage of his convictions to back those opinions.

18 years ago I came to OTI thinking I knew a fair bit about business management from my education and previous employment. I look back now and realise how little I knew then, how much I have learned and how much I still have to learn.

What do you think the future holds for your career?

I'd like to think my future career and the future of OTI go hand in hand to a point. I continue to have the drive to find great horses for great clients, and to work with a great team at OTI. There are plenty of races I still want to win as an owner/manager and that will continue to drive me.

MEET YOUR RACING PARTNER - TIM BLACK

Where did you grow up?

On a cold and wet dairy farm on the outskirts of Mt Gambier in SA.

When did you first get interested in racing?

Originally my mother, Rosemary, held a trainers' licence when I was in my teens. We co-owned some less than glamorous gallopers, and I followed them around the countryside while they followed other horses.

Race you would most like to win?

I do love the jumping caper after spending many years living in the UK, so the Grand Annual or any of the Classics for me. That being said, I wouldn't turn down a Cox Plate either.

What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending?

There aren't many you don't enjoy. Outside of the Spring, Darwin and the 'Bool are not to be missed. Any multi-day country carnival the locals get behind is a great experience.

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

I actually approached OTI to purchase a share in **TIGRE ROYALE**. It was an incredibly welcoming experience.



What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership?

The comradery with friends, the highs and the lows can be equally rewarding, but overall the horses are what make the sport.

Favourite jockey?

Dean Yendall certainly brings an element to the sport I enjoy, sorely missed at the moment, but Alana Kelly I can see doing amazing things in the future.

Favourite racing memory?

I recently co-owned Polzeath, trained by Moira Murdoch, and was lucky enough to make the day trip to Auckland in time to watch him win the 2020 Group 2 Avondale Cup at 60/1 and still was able to make the 5pm return flight. The flight attendants didn't seem to be as excited as me on that flight, but they did help me celebrate.

OTI horse you are most looking forward to seeing run in 2022?

Chicago Bear.

RARITY AT NEWBURY - ITZASHOCKA!

Last Saturday, OTI Racing took note of a very rare occurrence at Newbury Races in the UK.

In the last event on the card, no runners were declared.

The novice contest for fillies aged 3 and older attracted 13 entries on Monday, none of which turned up to battle for the \$11,300 on offer!

*Pictured: **QUEST FOR PEACE** wins at Newbury Races*



NARAAJO - ATHLETIC COLT FROM SUCCESSFUL FAMILY



TOM MELBOURNE

ARAAJA

OTI Racing is delighted to be racing a chestnut colt by the name of Naraajo - an athletic rising 2yo placed with Phillip Stokes at Pakenham.

For OTI Racing especially, Naraajo is an exciting prospect with an air of sentimentality about him. Memories of success for OTI are rich throughout his bloodline, including his dam Araaja who raced for OTI with Chris Waller. Her half-brother is a familiar name as well, being the cult hero affectionately known as Tom Melbourne.

Australian racing fans don't have to dig too deep into the memory archive when they hear of his sire - Merchant Navy - the 2018 Diamond Jubilee Stakes winner who provided much pride for the nation with his Ascot victory. Similarly, Melbourne Cup winner Fiorente is also a close member of the family.

But sentimentality is not Naraajo's most redeeming feature. In fact, far from it. His athletic proportions and lively temperament have received praise from all who have worked with him, including his trainer Phillip Stokes. OTI have enjoyed much success with Phillip Stokes in recent years, through the likes of Adelaide Cup winner Daqiansweet Junior and stakes-class Amade.

We are pleased with the progression of Naraajo and are hopeful that his career will prove successful and enjoyable for all those involved.

OTI QUIZ

1. The following terms are anagrams for the names of which OTI horses?

- a. *WINTERISH DRONE*
- b. *NAUSEOUS LEGS*
- c. *GREEN TOE*

2. Who is the dam of OTI G1 winner **I'M THUNDERSTRUCK?**

3. Who won the 2018 Diamond Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot?



NAME THE RACECOURSE

HINT: Oldest track in the Southern Hemisphere

TOP RATERS REACH AUSTRALIAN SHORES

OTI Racing is thrilled to welcome 3 highly rated horses to Australian shores - all of whom have arrived from France boasting ratings of over 100.

Timour (Rating: 101)

4yo son of Gleneagles **TIMOUR**, initially purchased by OTI in August 2021, joins Chris Waller's Sydney stable with demonstrated ability at Group level. For those who braved the early hours of the morning to watch Royal Ascot, you may recognise him from his gallant effort over the 4350m marathon. He is well placed to commence a spring preparation, designed to assist acclimatisation towards the autumn. The Sydney Cup will be his first major target, which will be a most exciting campaign.



Baby Rider (Rating: 108)

Loneliness will not prove an issue for impressive stallion **BABY RIDER**, another son of Gleneagles set to join the OTI Sydney stable. He arrives arrogantly with a G2 win under his belt, in which race future OTI stablemate Timour came third.

BABY RIDER was purchased in partnership with Bjorn Baker and will either target the \$750,000 Rosehill Gold Cup or the \$2 million G2 Villiers Stakes in his first preparation, pending Bjorn Baker's assessment.



Green Fly (Rating: 101)

3yo Son of Frankel **GREEN FLY** is set to arrive in smug fashion, with two previous wins and proven ability at G3 level. He will be trained at Mornington by astute team Anthony & Sam Freedman. There is a number of ways he could reach his ultimate goal of contesting the rich Autumn Carnival - whether it be an acclimatisation prep or a late spring preparation. Either way, we are excited to see Green Fly commence his Australian career and hope that a bright future awaits him.



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The anagrams are:

- a. RIDER IN THE SNOW
- b. SOUS LES NUAGES
- c. TOREGENE

2. Primadonna Girl

3. Merchant Navy

NAME THE RACECOURSE: Champ De Mars

Champ De Mars (Mauritius) is the oldest racetrack in the Southern Hemisphere, opened June 25, 1812. It is the second oldest in the world.



ABOVE: **RIDER IN THE SNOW**

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