



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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The Queen of Racing...and Other Places

It's a reflection of the late Queen's love of racing that Gai Waterhouse, Chris Waller and David Hayes have been invited to join the two thousand mourners at Westminster Abbey next Monday. They will be joined by many of their peers from around the world as well as racing officials and her own equine staff.

To say she was important for racing would be an understatement. In the UK especially, she was critical for the acceptance of the sport. Her death is all the more impacting as few of her descendants seem all that interested in racing. It will be fascinating to see who steps up to try to fill her role.

There's no doubt that Racing was the Queen's escape from the rigors of her royal duties. It was her passion. She truly loved being among her trainers at trackwork or at the races. Quite often, I would see her walking across Warren Hill to watch her horses gallop. Indeed the first time I saw her there, I was with Luca Cumani. Luca said "There's your Queen". I looked across the hill and saw a lady strolling alongside a trainer. Her head was typically wrapped within a scarf. I replied, "I didn't know Gai was in town". I've not made the same mistake again!

The informality the Queen showed around racing people endeared her to all she encountered. With no pomp, she often stayed overnight in a modest house just outside Newmarket in order to see her horses work the following morning.

At Lambourn, another major training area in the UK, the Queen would often sit beside a trainer in his 4-wheel drive as they travelled alongside horses working. Once, when with trainer Richard Hannon, Richard, having trouble getting through to a young Indian rider, asked the Queen, "Ma'am, do you speak Indian?". She replied, "No, why do you ask?". Richard quipped, "This lad can't understand a word I'm saying and considering your lot once owned the place, I thought you might." She burst into laughter.

Her informality extended into the mounting yard (or the 'paddock' in the UK). Seeing her so relaxed among fellow owners and trainers surprised many of our owners over the years. There she was in her favoured environment.

So whether you're a monarchist or a republican, it doesn't really matter. Racing has lost a great lady who espoused all that is good about our sport. Her loss to racing is immeasurable.

— Terry Henderson

OTI RUNNERS AND WINNERS

At Randwick on Saturday

Provided they're racing on a decent surface, **Dick Whittington** will step out in the 1600m Midway Benchmark 72. His best form is over much further but we want to see him finding the line. He looks well and is working to a good standard, so hopefully he can be competitive in this grade.

At Caulfield on Saturday

Daqiansweet Junior will contest the 2000m Group 3 Naturalism Stakes second-up. His return in the Heatherlie was good and he's trained on nicely. The rise in trip is sure to suit and if he can find himself in a more forward position from the mid-draw, we can see a much more competitive showing. Jamie Kah takes the ride again having won the Group 2 Adelaide Cup on his back.

At Flemington on Sunday

Sous Les Nuages continues his campaign in the 2550m Benchmark 70. He is racing in good form of late and looks ready for this distance again. Regardless of the day of the week, it's always hard to win at Flemington, especially when you've drawn the widest alley but the horse is well and deserves his chance.

Should he gain a start, **Inverell** will make his return in the 1420m Benchmark 70. He is a talented individual who is 2/2 first-up over this journey. He will appreciate the open spaces at Flemington and is capable of a forward showing here.

Other potential starters early next week include **Prospettiva**, **Night 'N' Vegas**, **Guido** and **Principessa**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Laurie Larmer - 99 not out!

Our most senior owner, Laurie Larmer (Barade and Harmysian), turned 99 on September 15 – a wonderful achievement for a remarkable man.

His fellow owners and the team at OTI congratulate him.

THUNDERSTRUCK BADGES



It was certainly a memorable weekend for OTI with I'm Thunderstruck's second Group 1 victory taking place in the Makybe Diva Stakes at Flemington.

We are pleased to announce that, as a tangible reminder of his gallant win, OTI has acquired a limited number of souvenir badges.

We appreciate the support and enthusiasm for I'm Thunderstruck and encourage anyone who would like a badge to reach out to alexandra@oti.com.au.

WINNERS



TIGRAIS

1400m G3 Prix La
Rochette, Longchamp (FR)
Trained by Christopher Head



COPPLESON

1600m Class 1,
Hawkesbury
Trained by Chris Waller



I'M THUNDERSTRUCK

1600m Group 1 Makybe Diva
Stakes, Flemington
Trained by M. Price & M. Kent Jnr



GAMBU

2040m BM68,
Doomben
Trained by Chris Waller

AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS BURKE



Chris Burke is the Australian Managing Director of International Racehorse Transport (IRT).

How did your interest in racehorse transportation develop?

My interest in racing began with me accompanying my Grandmother on regular trips to Flemington with her Best Bets in hand. However, it was my enjoyment of the logistics, (in particular the problem solving involved) that saw me take a job in 1993 with a Sydney based company called Skytraders. Skytraders would charter whole aircraft to move things around the world such as race cars, mining equipment, livestock or even coffee jars. Today they operate the freighter aircraft to Antarctica. So it was really learning about the right aircraft for movements and how best to fit that cargo on the freighter aircraft.

How did you become involved in shipping horses?

During my time at Skytraders we would regularly supply aircraft to IRT which was started by my uncle Quentin Wallace in 1972. In 1996 Quentin asked me to join IRT. They had a very strong horse knowledge on staff and he thought I could add some airline and logistical experience to the team.

What was your original role at IRT? I originally started in flight operations for the movement of horses to and from Asia, working with Jo Ross (who 8 years later would become my wife!). This mainly involved the exporting of horses to markets such as Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand and Korea.

What percentage of IRT movements are thoroughbreds? The percentages change slightly through the years. On average over 65% of the horses moved would be thoroughbreds, with standardbred, endurance arabs and equestrian horses being the majority of the balance.

What are the most challenging horses to ship?

The yearlings are probably the most challenging horses to ship, as they can be a bit flighty in new surroundings which includes the loud noises and flashing lights that occur at airports.



How has the air movement of horses changed in the last decade?

There have not been huge changes in the last decade. When I started in 1996 it was coming to the end of the full charter flights with walk on walk off penning systems. See pics attached. These flights happen 3 to 4 times a year. We began to transition to more regular, smaller flights on scheduled service freighters in palletised airstables (see picture of stand alone stall). This meant we could do smaller shipments more often. Another noticeable change has been the improvement in the safety and quality of the facilities at airports. Rather than being out on the airside next to the planes, a large number of airports now have dedicated indoor locations to load and unload horses. An example of this is our facility in Melbourne - First Point Animal Services (see pic attached of stalls being prepared for loading horses).

What is the most challenging place to ship from?

Probably moving horses from South Africa and South America to Australia. The strict import protocols from these countries to Australia, combined with the lack of direct freighter aircraft services from these countries to Australia makes it a tough proposition. We normally need to move the horses to the EU or the USA to complete a residency period before moving forward to Australia.

What is the secret to keeping horses healthy and happy during air flights and quarantine? Extensive planning and great staff. It's the management's role to implement strong robust logistical plans trying to reduce transit times, stops, etc. Then you need great staff to implement the plans and care for the horses the whole time. It also helps to try and not change things too much for the horses. Sometimes when the owners are stressed about the travel they might try supplements or leg boots/wraps, but if this horse is not used to these things they tend to not settle as well during the flight. We try to keep things as normal as you can for them.

IRT has been the industry leading for decades. Why do you think that is so? I think there are a few key factors:

Customer service - We make our clients' lives easier. Moving a horse around the world is a daunting task and we need to carry our clients through that process. Planning and Staff - The strong planning and staff to care for the horses through the journey helps to have better results. Looking Forward - Always trying to find a new or better way to do things. Always learning and adapting.



MEET YOUR RACING PARTNERS - JAIMES ADKINS



Where did you grow up?

I've grown up in Melbourne in the eastern suburbs. Currently living in Abbotsford.

When did you first get interested in racing? I realised I had the disease from my first ever bet. \$10 on the French-trained Dunaden in the 2011 Cup as a 9 year old colt. Have been obsessed with racing ever since.

What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending?

First time at the Warrnambool Carnival this year and have already locked in the next 50. Also went to the Royal Ascot Carnival to cheer home Nature Strip this year - that was the experience of a life time. Super Saturday at HQ and Moir Stakes night at The Valley are two meetings that I'll throw in as well - always great.

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

A mate of mine Campbell Wansbrough. He is OTI's Equine Welfare Coordinator. He got myself, Marcus, Gary and Fridge involved in Toregene and we are all very thankful for it. He will be kicking himself though when she bolts in on Oaks Day for not taking a slice for himself.

Race you would most like to win?

The Melbourne Cup Carnival Country Champs Final on Oaks Day.

What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership?

Have only been involved for a short while but there's no better feeling than your horse winning. Makes it even better when you're cheering her home with your mates. I also love the constant excitement about what's to come, even if we do get a bit carried away (some of us have already started plucking out black type mares races for next autumn).

Favourite jockey?

Back J. Kah - head to the bar!

Favourite Racing memory?

Toregene's maiden win at the Bool was a special moment. Also, Incentivise winning the Caulfield Cup. A mate and I took triple figures 4 months out.

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

Toregene aside, looking forward to seeing the emergence of Cadazio as he progresses towards the Derby. Big Thunder fan too!



WARRNAMBOOL	APPROX. DIV	S-TAB	NSW	UTAE
REGENE		5.50	6.40	6.40
		2.40	2.50	2.20

DID YOU KNOW? - HISTORY OF SPRING TARGETS

The **W.S Cox Plate** is a Group 1 weight-for-age race run over a distance of 2040m. It is held at Moonee Valley Racecourse, and will be run on the 22nd of October this year. The inaugural running of the Cox Plate was held on the 28th October 1922, with a purse of one thousand pounds.

The race is named after Australian racing pioneer William Samuel Cox, founder of Moonee Valley Racing Club. William Cox opened his first project, Kensington racetrack, in 1874. It operated until 1882.

This year, OTI has a major Cox Plate contender in **I'm Thunderstruck**. OTI is yet to claim victory in a Cox Plate, but has had several contenders in past years.



I'm Thunderstruck, Makybe Diva Stakes

The **Victoria Derby** is a Group 1 race for three-year-olds, held under set weights and run at Flemington Racecourse. The Derby was originally run at distance of a mile and a half, and in 1972 changed to 2400m as a result of the change to the metric system. A year later in 1973 it changed again to its current distance of 2500m, as the distance from the start to the first turn was too short. In all of its 168 runnings, only one horse has ever won the Victoria Derby more than once. It was Fireworks, with back-to-back wins in 1867 and 1868.

OTI currently has two Derby contenders, being **Cadazio** and **Big Story**, both currently in work with Mick Price and Michael Kent Jnr.

The **Caulfield Cup** is a Group 1 race held over 2400m at Caulfield Racecourse, although during World War II it was held at Flemington Racecourse. The Caulfield Cup is currently run under handicap conditions, but the Melbourne Racing Club have signalled intent to turn it into a weight-for-age race. From 1937 to 1943, Australian Test Cricketer Clem Hill was the handicapper for the Victoria Amateur Turf Club and was responsible for setting the Caulfield Cup weights.

This year, OTI's potential runners in the Caulfield Cup include **Hezashocka**, **San Huberto**, and **Daqiansweet Junior**.



Rising Fast, 2-time Caulfield Cup champion

OTI'S QUARANTINE ARRIVALS

It has been a busy few weeks at the airport, with several of OTI's exciting prospects placing their hooves on Australian soil for the first time.

Irish-bred gelding **Tip Of The Spear** arrived in preparation for his new career under the tutelage of Annabel Neasham. He comes to Australia with two wins under his belt from four career starts. From the same flight as Tip Of The Spear, OTI also welcomes a filly by highly successful stallion Kingman. She is out of Galileo mare Foreign Legionary, and her bloodline makes her a very exciting prospect for both breeding and racing.



Tip Of The Spear (IRE)



Baby Rider (FR)

Another exciting arrival to step foot on Australian shores for the first time is 4yo stallion **Baby Rider**. Baby Rider joins us from France, and has commenced work with Bjorn Baker at his Warwick Farm (NSW) training base. The son of Gleneagles already has a G2 win to his name, and has pleased those who have worked with him thus far due to his impressive physique and demonstrated ability overseas.

INTRODUCING FLASHING STEEL

- G3 performed 3yo with Annabel Neasham-



OTI Racing is very pleased to introduce a new gelding by the name of Flashing Steel. A lightly raced 3yo who was 3rd at Group 3 level, Flashing Steel looks to bring a great deal of potential.

Flashing Steel is currently trained by Annabel Neasham and, in 7 starts to date, has a Group 3 placing to his name. He will remain under the tuition of Annabel after teaming up on a 50/50 basis. She's best known for her feats with Group 1 starts Zaaki and Mo'unga, as well as our very own Lady Laguna.

The gelding was originally purchased for \$1m at the Magic Millions 2021 Gold Coast Yearling Sale, which makes him eligible for the lucrative Magic Millions Race Series. With over \$14 million offered in rewards, it is the world's richest sales restricted race series.

Not A Single Doubt, the sire of Flashing Steel, is a highly successful stallion who concluded his stud career with a service fee of \$110,000. A large number of Group 1 winners have been produced by Not A Single Doubt, with notable progeny including Miracles of Life, Extreme Choice, Scales of Justice and Shout The Bar. His dam, Medaglia Valore, is by top stallion Medaglia d'Oro and is herself a winner over 1200m.

Flashing Steel looks to be an ideal prospect for those wanting a city-class runner.

Click [**HERE**](#) to view more.

Should you wish to seek more information, please contact [**shayne@oti.com.au**](mailto:shayne@oti.com.au) or [**gus@oti.com.au**](mailto:gus@oti.com.au).

OTI QUIZ

1. Which South Australian track has a famous "dogleg" home turn?
2. In which year did Makybe Diva win her first Melbourne Cup?
3. Which Victorian track hosts a race for long time maiden gallopers called the Drought Breaker?
4. Who holds the track record for Flemington's Straight Six (1200m) at 1:07:16?
5. Cox Plate winner Pinker Pinker was beaten on debut at which defunct track?



NAME THE RACECOURSE

Hint: 23 September

FOAL WATCH - NATURAL BLUES X LOPE DE VEGA

OTI is delighted to share the progress of our new filly, born 30th of August 2022. She is by Irish Stallion Lope De Vega and out of OTI's very own broodmare Natural Blues, daughter of New Approach from the family of Galileo.

The filly currently resides at Yarraman Park Stud, based in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales. You can click [**HERE**](#) to watch a video of the foal alongside her dam.



Natural Blues alongside her foal

MRC COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Melbourne Racing Club's committee elections are currently in progress. Many of us in the industry are very concerned about the future of Sandown Racecourse.

If you share that concern, we suggest that you vote for Nick Hassett, Shynyn Puddy and Alisson Saville. Each of these candidates have policies that include the retention of Sandown Racecourse.



Sandown Racecourse

Sandown and Flemington are generally considered by trainers to be our best racing surfaces. With no option to replace Sandown on the table, it is imperative that it be retained.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Mount Gambier
2. 2003
3. Swan Hill
4. Iglesia
5. Geelong Synthetic

NAME THE RACECOURSE: Coleraine

The Coleraine Cup will be held on the 23 September, 2022



Harbour Views wins at Swan Hill