



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



IN THIS EDITION

OTI RUNNERS AND WINNERS

AN INTERVIEW WITH KATHERINE COLEMAN

HISTORY OF BOOKMAKERS

MERCIAN HYMN TO AUSTRALIA

QUIZ

CAULFIELD CUP REFLECTIONS

ROMANCER RETURNS TO NZ

The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe...Still the Greatest Race

The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, generally known as The Arc, is the best thoroughbred race on the planet. Anyone who doubts that should look at the quality of the horses (expressed through international ratings). They'll quickly establish that no race can boast superiority over it.

A list of winners over the years further confirms The Arc's claim. Be they entires from 3 years old and up (as geldings cannot start in it), fillies, or mares, most winners are household names in our sport. The same goes for the trainers and jockeys who win the race. Rarely are they not champions of the sport.

This year's Arc, raced on a heavy track, produced a magical result. In front of a huge Longchamp crowd from all parts of the world, Alpinista, a 5-year-old daughter of Frankel, was given a peach of a ride to beat this year's Jockey Club (French Derby) victor Vadeni and last year's Arc winner Torquator Tasso. She had not been beaten in her 8 starts since April 2021.

While the winning mare's performance was outstanding, most present were delighted that the owner and breeder was Kirsten Rausing. Kirsten, originally from Sweden, has been breeding and racing horses from her Lanwades Stud in Newmarket for decades. A renowned breeding buff, she has been at the forefront of numerous breeding and racing organisations for many years. She is a true contributor to the sport, and success in the Arc was a well-deserved result for her efforts.

The impact of winning, or not winning the Arc is further evidenced by the post race emotion shown by Jean-Claude Rouget, Vadeni, the runner up's trainer. He openly wept following his colt's defeat. Usually regarded as a cool, hard-headed guy, his reaction provides further insight into the importance of this race.

Many in racing believe it is only a matter of time before the Japanese win the race. Their firepower continues to improve each year and their efforts in recent years have been thwarted by heavy tracks, often present for the Arc, but infrequently seen in Japan.

From an Australian perspective, the Arc clashes with our Spring Carnival. With current quarantine requirements it makes it almost impossible to campaign in our feature races and well as the Arc. However, as the racing world becomes more global, it will only be a matter of time when again we send a serious contender to Paris to mix it with the best – as we did with So You Think, Strawberry Road and Balmerino.

- Terry Henderson

OTI RUNNERS AND WINNERS

A much quieter weekend awaits for OTI and our owners, with just the three runners set to contest races in Sydney and Brisbane.

On Saturday at Randwick

In what now shapes as the biggest spring day of racing in Sydney, we're looking forward to seeing **Hezashocka** step out in the 1800m Group 3 Craven Plate. Although he's not very well suited with WFA conditions, the soft conditions are a big positive. If we put a line through his effort in the Turnbull, the gelding is in great form and deserves a crack at the \$750,000 purse.

On Saturday at Eagle Farm

Stuck With You was a bit below his best last time out when ridden positively, but gets his chance to bounce back in the 2218m Benchmark 78. His two runs prior to the Lismore Cup were very good and he's a horse capable of sustaining his form deep into a preparation. Ridden more conservatively, we hope to see him finishing off strongly.

Montabot will make his return in the 1400m Benchmark 70. His past form suggests this race will be far too short for him and can be viewed as another trial in preparation for more suitable targets. He has been surprisingly sharp in his two jumpouts this time in, but the tempo of a 1400m event on firm ground may find us wanting over the concluding stages. Regardless, he's sound and working well, so is hopefully in for a good campaign.

On Wednesday at Geelong

As we look ahead to next week, Geelong Cup Day shapes as an exciting one. Provided track conditions are suitable, it is likely we'll be represented by both **Attorney** and **San Huberto** in the feature as like many others, they look to stake their claim for a spot at Flemington on November 1. We may well also see **Almsgiver**, **Indented Head**, **Notes** and **Sous Les Nuages** on the undercard, which gives us plenty to look forward to.

WINNERS



SOUS LES NUAGES

2400m BM82, Morphettville

Trained by M. Cumani



TOREGENE

1400m BM64, Cranbourne

Trained by M. Williams



PRINCIPESSA

1200m Mdn, Kembla Grange

Trained by J. Pride

AN INTERVIEW WITH KATHERINE COLEMAN

Katherine Coleman is the assistant trainer at Moody Racing. She has worked for top stables including Robert Smerdon, Chris Waller, and Peter Moody. OTI is delighted to have recently placed Celebrity's Beau (NZ) with the Moody stable.

How did you decide that you wanted to be involved in racing?

My Dad is a great lover of racing and had a couple of (very slow!) horses before I was born. When I was 16 he became involved in another horse and that really sparked my interest in the industry and the more I learned the more hooked I became!

What influence did working for Chris Waller have on you?

Working for Chris was an amazing experience that allowed me to see how important communication and organisation is when operating on such a large scale. Despite having multiple stables across different states, Chris's team is still so efficient due to the systems that they have in place.

What are some of the best horses you've worked with?

I have been lucky enough to work with a number of top class horses including Nature Strip, Winx, Verry Elleegant, and Incentivise. However one of my all time favourite horses to work with was Tom Melbourne! He had so much character and would make me laugh every single day with his weird antics around the stables.

What does a typical day look like for you?

My alarm goes off at 2.45am each morning, then it's time for a quick coffee before heading to the stables. Once there, I check to see how all the horses have eaten overnight before we get the first lot ready to head to the track. I then ride between 5-7 horses before going back into the stables and doing any treatments the horses require. We normally finish the morning in the stables around 9.30-10am and then it's inside to do some office work before either heading off to the races for the day or back for the afternoon stable shift. It's a busy schedule but I love it!



If you were in charge of racing for a day, what's the first thing you'd change?

I would love to see all the states working together to make Australian racing as strong as it could possibly be, instead of competing against each other!

What, in your opinion, could be done to address the staff shortages in racing?

Later start times! I believe this would make the industry more appealing for new employees and could eliminate the need for a split shift which is a real deal breaker for a lot of people looking at working in the industry.

Where do you see the Moody Racing stable in 5 years?

Hopefully thriving and successful whilst still retaining our 'boutique' status, having a smaller number of horses in work allows both Pete and I to be very hands on with the horses, which we love. One of Pete's requirements was to win a Group 1 in his own name again, which we were lucky enough to do last year with Incentivise.

What are your initial thoughts on Celebrity's Beau, given his arrival at your stables?

Beau is a beautiful kind horse with a lovely temperament! He has settled into our routine really well and I am excited to see how he progresses over the coming weeks.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION - HISTORY OF BOOKMAKERS



With the Spring Carnival in full swing, my mind has turned to racing days long gone and the different dynamic on the track today compared to past eras. Walking onto a racecourse these days has a different feel to what it was like when Bart Cummings was beginning his collection of Melbourne Cups, and that's not just in terms of the fashions that were adorning the patrons.



These days online betting is king, with gamblers transfixed on their mobile phones as their interface with wagering. Back in the day the theatre of the contests between “leviathan punters” and big on-course bookmakers added a fascinating element to race days at the track. The expression “colourful racing identity” was a term that connoted a wide range of persons and behaviours, and allowed the user of the term to convey the flavour of “interesting” personalities while trying to stay on the right side of the laws of libel.

Until the early 1960's only the oncourse tote and oncourse bookies were legally allowed to accept bets, although there was a huge industry of illegal SP bookies operating in pubs and back lanes across the country. Hard to believe now, but there were no phones on racetracks, the reason being to prevent SP bookies being informed as to betting odds – a fruitless exercise one would think as the profit motive would always find a way for info to get out.

These days we hear of the odds of horses “being crunched” as big bets come in online, particularly late in betting. Back in the day there would be rows of oncourse bookmakers, and punters would be watching the odds boards of the bookies looking for leads in the form of plunges on a particular runner.

On the other side of the ledger, well organised plunges would send a buzz around the course. A big punter would aim to make the biggest killing on a good thing that they had identified through stable information by having a number of commission agents hit a number of bookies at the same time, so that the bookies would not have time to adjust the odds.

In the next edition I will provide some stories about some of the individual big punters that would create news in this different era.

*Thanks very much to **Tim Holland** for submitting this edition's article. A fascinating read! Should you have anything you'd like to share, please feel free to contact alexandra@oti.com.au.*

MERCIAN HYMN ON HIS WAY TO AUSTRALIA

- A new tune for a proven gelding -



An exciting arrival set to place his hooves on Australian soil is OTI's 4yo gelding Mercian Hymn. Mercian Hymn is by Siyouni, France's top stallion. He is out of Galileo's daughter Astronomy Domine, who also produced the high-class mare Platonic.

With two wins already under his belt, he has proven himself to be a capable stayer over a mile and a half (2400m). His wins at Wolverhampton and Kempton Park were by 2.25 and 5 lengths respectively.

With the knowledge that he has much potential as a middle-distance/staying type, we have made the decision to send him to Australia in the hope that a new environment will help him to mature and focus on the job at hand.

Mercian Hymn is to be trained by Maddie Raymond from her Warrnambool base. Maddie has had success with a number of imports in recent times, with Wentwood (GB) being one of them. Often a combination of the beach environment and new training methods are the key to keeping horses such as this stimulated and happy.

OTI looks forward to his arrival and hope that he will demonstrate his best potential in Australia.

For more information please contact oti@oti.com.au.

QUIZ

1. Who won the 2015 Caulfield Cup?
2. Which Country Cup did OTI's Vardani win in 2022?
3. Who was Chris Waller's first G1 winner?
4. Which OTI horse shares a name with an animated car?
5. Gunsynd won the Cox Plate in which year?

NAME THE YEARLING

Hint: 9 Group 1s



CAULFIELD CUP REFLECTIONS

On this weekend 8 years ago, OTI Racing's luck defied astronomical odds to have not one - but two - live chances in the esteemed Caulfield Cup.

In the week previous, OTI had only the \$201 chance Renew, and had resigned to the fact that a lot of luck would be needed to be in the finish. Anyone in racing knows how extremely volatile the sport can be, and with a dramatic week of scratchings OTI ended up with second and third favourites at the 11th hour.

Brambles and Lidari, both trained by Peter Moody, earned their spot with the scratchings of My Ambivalent and Dandino. In an exciting field brimming with the world's top stayers, both horses finished 4th and 6th respectively (as well as Renew running a serviceable 16th) which secured their place in the estimable Melbourne Cup.

Few racing connections can claim to have seen their horse start as a live chance in the Caulfield Cup, and each time the race rolls around it serves as a great reminder of the excitement of the 2014 edition.



Pictured: (left to right) Lucia Valentina, Brambles, and Lidari



Pictured: Brambles wins the 2012 Queensland Derby (courtesy of Steve Hart)

ROMANCER RETURNS TO NEW ZEALAND



OTI Racing is delighted to see that Romancer arrived safely in New Zealand last week. He has commenced his well-deserved retirement with his co-owner Katie, who was gifted a share in him for her 21st birthday. Originally hailing from New Zealand, Romancer returns to his home country where he will live out his days. We look forward to following his journey in retirement. Coincidentally, yesterday (October 13th) marked the 6-year anniversary of Romancer's Ruakaka win, his last victory before reaching Australian shores.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Mongolian Khan
2. The 2022 Stony Creek Cup
3. Triple Honour, in the 2008 Doncaster
4. Guido
5. 1972

NAME THE YEARLING:

Nature Strip



*Pictured: **Guido** wins at Bendigo*

OTI Management Pty. Ltd.
204/425 Docklands Drive | Docklands | VIC | 3008 | Australia
+61 (0) 3 9670 0255
alexandra@oti.com.au