



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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Melbourne/Sydney Race Programming - Take the Blinkers Off!

The clash of major races in Sydney and Melbourne continues to cause much angst, especially in Melbourne.

Be it the Everest clashing with the Caulfield Cup, or the Victoria Derby being on the same day as the Golden Eagle, the clashes are far from ideal. Crowds may be ok in both states, but there is growing evidence that betting turnover, the lifeblood of stakes, is impacted. Our top jockeys cannot be everywhere and, as a result, the racing product suffers. Trainers and owners who may have horses in big races in both states must sacrifice one meeting in favour of another.

Now that Racing NSW has achieved its aim of having a comprehensive Spring Carnival, both Melbourne and Sydney must now find a way whereby their meetings compliment rather than clash with each other. We are past the point where Sydney ignores the past traditions and Melbourne criticises Sydney's aggression.

Perhaps the solution lies in the relationship existing between France and England. While historical foes many times during the centuries, at least they enjoy major race days that do not conflict. Invariably England will race on a Saturday and France on a Sunday. For example, the 2400m English Derby this year was on June 4, while the 2100m Prix du Jockey Club was on the following day. Similarly, the last day of Royal Ascot preceded the Prix de Diane (French Oaks).

With London and Paris being geographically closer than Melbourne and Sydney, all racing participants have the opportunity to be at both, and invariably they are. We're past the stage in Australia where Saturday is the only day when major race meetings have to be held. We've seen the success of AFL moving to both Saturday and Sunday (and other days). Indeed, many of our major sporting events, for example the Australian Grand Prix or the Men's Tennis Final, are held on a Sunday.

As a starter, The Melbourne Racing Club has wished for some years to rejig the Spring Carnival. Now that they are forced to compete with The Everest, it makes good sense to investigate running their Caulfield Cup on the Sunday. Racing, or moreover racing patrons, punters and participants would be the winners.

~ Terry Henderson

OTI RUNNERS AND WINNERS

A busy weekend awaits with a number of runners across the globe, as well as anticipating next week's Melbourne Cup Carnival!

At Flemington on Saturday

Big Story comes back in distance when he contests the 1600m Group 3 Carbine Club Stakes. He didn't quite run out a strong 1800m in Listed grade last time when 2nd, so he may be better suited at a mile at this stage of his career. It's a tough ask from the wide draw but he deserves his place in the field.

At Eagle Farm on Saturday

Barade finds himself in another suitable race when stepping out in the 2212m Benchmark 90. He's in very good form, not seen out of the first four in his last five starts, the last of those a competitive effort in the Listed Queensland Cup. He's given Jack Bruce no reason to think he can't once again be fighting out the finish.

At Rosehill on Saturday

Athabascan will make his Australian debut in the 2000m Listed Rosehill Gold Cup. The wide draw makes life a little trickier but if he can find a forward position without having to work too much, his form at stakes level in France gives us confidence he can be competitive. He has settled in beautifully at Canterbury and can hopefully get his career down under off to a good start.

Hezashocka is another stepping out in the Rosehill Gold Cup. He battled on well for 4th in the G3 Craven Plate last time and should appreciate the rise to 2000m, and handicap conditions. He will be reunited with Jamie Kah which is another positive. It's a tough race but he's capable of being in the finish provided there is some give in the track.

At Turffontein (SA) on Saturday

Under Your Spell returns in the 1400m Fillies & Mares Class A. A hold up with exporting means she's set for another racing campaign, with this run being treated as a prep race for a more suitable Group 2 event in the coming months. She is a very talented filly and it wouldn't shock to see her winning despite an unusual lead into the race.

At Goulburn on Sunday

Baby Rider is another set to make his Australian debut this weekend in the 1400m Goulburn Cup. He's shown good speed in his trials but his French form suggests the 1400m will be a touch sharp for him. If he can handle the quicker tempo and be finding the line well, there are some lovely options over the late spring/early summer period.

This year's Cup week promises to be an exciting one with a large number of runners set to step out including Melbourne Cup contender **Daqiansweet Junior**. Other horses to fly the OTI flag across the Flemington Carnival include **Sous Les Nuages**, **Future Score**, **Regal Lion**, and **Green Fly** on Tuesday. Likely OTI runners on Oaks Day are sisters **Lindelago** and **Lady Laguna**, **Toregene**, and **Vardani**, and we've got a strong hand also for Finals Day! With a mix of proven gallopers and exciting debutants, it should be an exhilarating week of racing for all involved.

WINNERS



DYERVILLE

1400m Mdn, Casterton
Trained by M. Williams



CLOUDLAND

1200m Class 3, Gosford
Trained by K. Lees

AN INTERVIEW WITH JAMES FERGUSON

James Ferguson is an English trainer based in Newmarket (UK). He trains the Melbourne Cup favourite, Deauville Legend, as well as OTI's 2yo filly Ragosina.

Were you always going to be involved in racing?

Yes, I think so. As my father was working for Godolphin, we were always exposed to the sport in both Europe and Dubai. I had a love of it and was privileged to see it from the top.

Who has been the biggest influence on your racing career?

Early in my career, I worked with Sir Mark Prescott. He was a huge influence as he allowed me to ride as an amateur jumps rider while working for him. I also enjoyed working with Jessica Harrington in Ireland, and my time in Australia.

Being a former steeplechase jockey, what made you decide to start training?

Basically, I was an amateur rider, and although I'd had 30 wins I knew I was not going to be the Frankie Dettori of jumps racing. It was a natural progression to go into training.

You've had a number of successes in Australia under the Godolphin banner.

Why do you think that is?

Charlie Appleby is a great trainer, and I was privileged to work for him both in Europe and travelling to Australia. He knows how to prepare horses to travel.

Was it hard to start training by yourself in Newmarket?

Yes it's always a challenge but I had some great support, particularly from Chris Waller in Australia. The relationship has produced Francesco Guardi and El Bodegon, who both ran very well last year. Fortunately, my racing stable is going well and we are gradually building up numbers.



What draws you to the Melbourne Cup?

I've always loved the race when visiting Australia. It has an international reputation and given that I have a very good horse for the race in Deauville Legend, I was delighted when my owner said that he wanted to campaign for the race.

What would it mean to win the Melbourne Cup as a young trainer?

Naturally, it would help accelerate my career. However having that win in your CV, (something that many other great trainers have not been able to achieve), would be outstanding.

As an international trainer, what's the process of bringing a horse to the Melbourne Cup like?

It's far more complicated than travelling elsewhere because of the quarantine requirements. However, success in the race would make all of that worthwhile. It is also fortunate that I can travel from Australia to the Breeders' Cup in America on my way home this year.

HISTORY OF BOOKMAKERS PART 2 - BY TIM HOLLAND

As a teenager in the late 1960's I would spend Saturday afternoons at interclub athletics tuned into the racing stations to see whether or not I was still in the running for 3DB's "pick the first 4 winners" competition (I never was!).

By the time I arrived home, the evening Herald had arrived, usually replete with stories about trackside battles between celebrity big punters and rails bookies. The bookies were well known, and the big gamblers invariably were given colourful nicknames to add to the theatre of the betting ring.

One of the best known was Felipe Ysmael, "The Babe" as he was known. A wealthy Filipino crony of President Marcos, Ysmael plunged into horse racing ownership and betting in Australia on a huge scale in 1967. The sports pages were full of his punting exploits, usually involving his own horses, including the very good horse Always There, a VRC Derby winner.



The Babe would battle with many of the rails bookies, but particularly with Bill Waterhouse. One famous encounter was at the time of the 1967 Melbourne Cup. Equal favourites were Red Handed and General Command. Waterhouse was confident about Red Handed winning, but as Ysmael entered the betting ring Waterhouse tried to bluff him by offering a longer price on Red Handed. Waterhouse's chutzpah worked, as Ysmael guessed that Waterhouse must have known something, changed his bet and put \$250,000 on General Command – a very serious amount for a losing bet in 1967, or for any time since!

The Babe's time in the spotlight ended when he was banned from racing over his activities with his horse Follow Me.

Another big punter who shone brightly for a period in this era was Eddie "The Fireman" Birchley. He was a Queensland fire brigade employee who had apparently invested well. He graduated from Brisbane betting rings to Melbourne and Sydney with regular 6 figure bets.

The Fireman seemed to take no notice of the adage "odds on, look on!", and had many big bets heavily in the red. Apparently his view of things was that betting at 5/1 on was fine if he thought the true odds were 100/1 on.

Nattily dressed, the Fireman was said to have had extra pockets sewn into his suits for the cash business he conducted on course.

While many of these sharp-dressed high rollers shone brightly for limited periods, Perce Galea was a big punter with longevity. With organised crime links, Galea was a big owner and well known for owning star colt Eskimo Prince; he was a high profile "colourful" figure in the media.

Amazingly, Galea won the huge Opera House Lottery not once but twice. Another titan punter, "Melbourne Mick" Bartley, also won this lottery. All these years down the track this seems an extraordinary coincidence and makes one wonder how the lightning of such good fortune could strike so regularly in the same place.

As these big players left the scene a young Kerry Packer picked up the baton of leviathan punters and took it into the 21st century. But that's another story!

*Many thanks to **Tim Holland** for submitting part 2 to last edition's article. A very welcome addition. Please email any contributions to **alexandra@oti.com.au**.*

PICTURED: 1967 Melbourne Cup Winner Red Handed.

MEET YOUR RACING PARTNERS - TIM PORTER

When did you first get interested in racing?

My first interest in horses was through a group of mates I played football with at Buninyong Football Club in 1993. I have been involved ever since.

What is the race you would most like to win?

I would love to win the Ballarat Cup, only because I was on the committee for 11 years.

What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending?

I am certainly in love with Flemington, I am a Chairman's member and love the opportunity to entertain both my friends and clients.

What is your favourite racing memory?

I have won 7 Group 1's, but I think Explosive Jack's Derby win in Sydney was big.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Mt Clear, a suburb of Ballarat.

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

I was lucky enough to get invited into OTI and cannot speak highly enough of Terry and the way they operate.

Who is your favourite jockey?

Johnny Allen.

What do you enjoy most about racehorse ownership?

I enjoy the friendship that comes from sharing a horse and getting to meet great people in the industry.

Which OTI Horse are you most looking forward to seeing run in the Spring?

I'm Thunderstuck.

OTI'S MELBOURNE CUP HISTORY

As we inch closer and closer to the starting of the 2022 Melbourne Cup, it seems fitting that we reflect on the significance of the great race for both OTI and the wider racing industry. Inaugurated over 160 years ago, the cultural significance of the Cup is arguably demonstrated by the long-standing tradition of Melbourne reserving a public holiday for the "race that stops the nation".

It is no wonder that many racing connections continue to spend their lives seeking victory in the Cup. A phenomenal experience to even have a runner in the Cup, OTI Racing has been able to provide this experience to owners and connections on numerous occasions.

The 2008 Melbourne Cup in particular was a gripping edition, with the Luca Cumani-trained Bauer flying the yellow and navy silks for OTI. In an extraordinary flash down the outside, Bauer's notoriously small nose was pipped at the post by the Bart Cummings-trained Viewed. Even the great trainer Cummings himself speculated that "[he] thought it might have been a dead heat, it was that close."



Pictured: VIEWED pips BAUER at the post in the 2008 Melbourne Cup

Other notable Melbourne Cup runners to fly the OTI silks include Sydney Cup winner Selino, Grey Lion and Hugs Dancer. This year's Melbourne Cup contender Daqiansweet Junior sits safely inside the order of entry at number 20. The final field will be announced after the last race at Flemington on Saturday, with the barrier draw held immediately after.

We are hopeful for a soft draw and a run that can cement Daqiansweet Junior's place in OTI History.

INTRODUCING SETOSA

~ 2yo daughter of Capitalist – sire of G1 winner Captivant ~



OTI Racing presents a thrilling opportunity to be involved in Setosa, a 2yo daughter of G1 producing sire Capitalist out of the mare Vandaluscious. She is a very athletic type that is showing enough precocity to give us confidence that we will see her race in the autumn of her two-year-old year.

Setosa is a beautifully bred filly, with her sire Capitalist producing a number of exceptional winners in recent times. He has produced 20 stakes performers from two crops, with notable winners including Captivant, Marine One, and Profiteer. Her dam, Vandaluscious, is a winner herself at 1600m and a half-sister to Listed winner Warpath. Vandaluscious is also related to five-time winning mare Limerock - dam of the G3 Blue Diamond Preview winner Limestone. Setosa was bred by Spendthrift Farm, making her VOBIS qualified and therefore eligible for additional prizemoney in over 840 races.

Setosa herself has a good overall physique, character, and manners. She has impressed all those who have worked with her thus far, with her educator Ben Farrell describing her as, “a tough filly that moves beautifully. She’ll win races, for sure.” You can view her parade footage [**HERE**](#).

She will be trained at Phillip Stokes’ Pakenham stable, a trainer who OTI have enjoyed a successful relationship with through a number of horses including Adelaide Cup winner Daqiansweet Junior. Phillip Stokes is amongst the top 5 in the Victorian Trainer Premiership.

For more information, please contact [**oti@oti.com.au**](mailto:oti@oti.com.au).

QUIZ

1. Which popular Australian biscuit is named after the 1958 Kentucky Derby (USA) winner?
2. 2000 G1 Golden Slipper winner Belle Du Jour was part-owned by which former Prime Minister?
3. Who trained OTI’s Aesop (IRE) prior to his arrival on Australian shores?

NAME THE RACEHORSE

Hint: The Horse from Heaven



OTI'S INTERNATIONAL DEBUTANTS

Over the next few weeks, a number of new arrivals from Europe will make their first appearance on Australian soil. They will add to past imports who have gone on to win the best races in Australia for OTI owners.

At Rosehill this Saturday, Athabasca, fresh from quarantine, will have his first run in Australia in the Rosehill Gold Cup. Previously trained by Andre Fabre in Chantilly, the colt is now under the control of John O'Shea. This listed-placed 4yo is expected to reach WFA class once he has settled into his new environment.

Another French import, 5yo son of Gleneagles, Baby Rider will line up in the Goulburn Cup on Sunday. Now under the control of Bjorn Baker, he has been in Australia for two months. He too is expected to reach the better races and will be aimed at feature events in the autumn.

In Melbourne, Green Fly is scheduled to make his Australian debut at Flemington on Cup Day in a 1400m Handicap. The son of Frankel, now under the control of Anthony and Sam Freedman, has thrived since his arrival. Previously trained in France by Jean Claude Rouget, he was placed in 5 of his 8 starts, including 2 wins before his purchase.



PICTURED: Athabasca at Saint Cloud (FR)



PICTURED: Longvillers at Chantilly (FR)

The stunning looking horse Longvillers, a son of Le Havre, will contest his first race start in Australia in the Five Diamonds at Randwick on Saturday week. Partly owned by major French owner Gerard Augustin-Normand, Chris Waller has been overseeing his work in quarantine.

From Johnny Murtagh's stable in Ireland, Chicago Bear has now been with Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young for a couple of months. The winner of 2 of his last 3 races in Ireland, he could step out in the 1600m Benchmark 90 at Flemington on Saturday week. This son of Siyouni is an exciting proposition for his new owners.

Following his excellent run at Royal Ascot, Timour, who raced in France with Andre Fabre will commence his career with Chris Waller early in the New Year. With the aim of being ready to fire for the Sydney Cup, he is well worth watching as he settles into Australia racing.

It's an exciting time for the owners of all these horses as they seek to make their mark in their new country.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The Tim Tam
2. Bob Hawke
3. Jessie Harrington

NAME THE RACEHORSE: Saintly

Saintly was dubbed 'The horse from heaven' due to his name and his relationship with Christian jockey Darren Beadman.



Pictured: Aesop wins at Cork (IRE), April 3rd 2021