



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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Eurolink - The Next Step in Global Racing

It is almost 20 years since OTI first imported tried horses from Europe. In that time, we have seen the development of a new source of racing stock, especially for our middle-distance and staying races. The entry of these horses into Australia has raised the quality of our longer races to the point where Australian-bred stock usually make up less than half of most race fields for races 2000m and beyond.

With the popularity of such stock rising as a result of demand both from Australians and the Middle-East, prices have increased significantly over the past few years. With Australian breeders lacking the appetite to breed such staying types, there is little doubt that the prices paid for tried horses will continue to increase.

It is with the above background that OTI announced this week the formation of Eurolink, an initiative that seeks to acquire European middle-distance and staying types for the Australian market more cost effectively. Moreover, as a result of more formal links between trainers in both hemispheres, the relocation of these horses into Australian racing will be more seamless than has been the case in the past.

Under the Eurolink banner, a yearling is placed with a European trainer who is already linked to an Australian trainer. The European trainer will prepare the horse to the end of its 3yo career. Should the horse be of suitable quality, it will then be transferred to the Australian partner. A key component of this relationship is that the European trainer will continue to attract a 'royalty' for the horse's race wins in Australia, even though the horse has moved from the trainer's stable.

While arrangements between European and Australian trainers are not new, as evidenced by Chris Waller's success with El Bodegon and Francesco Guardi during the Spring Carnival, Eurolink takes the process further by formally linking the European trainer's income to the success of the horse in Australia. With such a process, trainers, who otherwise might lose a horse at a critical stage of its career, will be encouraged to take a long-term view.

In the first draft, four yearlings have been placed. Tim Donworth in Chantilly has been linked with the Price/Kent stable and a Le Havre colt, Harry Eustace in Newmarket with Annabel Neasham and a Muhaarar colt, Tom Ward in Lambourne with the O'Shea stable and a Night of Thunder colt and George Boughey in Newmarket with Anthony & Sam Freedman and a Sea The Moon filly.

As the globe continues to shrink as people and horses freely move between jurisdictions, the Eurolink initiative is seen as an important step in improving both the cost and quality for future middle-distance racehorses for the Australian market.

AN INTERVIEW WITH JACK BRUCE

How did you initially get involved in the industry?

It was my family that really got me into racing. My father worked in trotting stables as a kid, and always had a strong interest in the sport. He used to take me to the races and was a hobby owner and breeder in New Zealand, and still is. He's now a financial consultant. I took a job at Windsor Park Stud when I was a teenager, and I really enjoyed stud farming in New Zealand. I made a lot of good friends and those relationships have stood me in good stead and encouraged me to pursue a career in the thoroughbred industry.

You've worked for top trainers and stables like Bjorn Baker, Chris Waller, and Maher & Eustace. How much influence did they have on your own training, and in what ways?

All those three trainers you've mentioned have had a huge influence on me, not only in terms of my training philosophies but how I conduct myself, how I run my business, and how I approach the racing industry from a client perspective and a horse perspective.

Bjorn Baker was my first job in Sydney racing, he guided me in terms of what it takes to be a trainer - work ethic, attention to detail, never missing a beat, always working hard. I had a great run with him and he's still a very close friend and a mentor to me.

Chris Waller is essentially the southern hemisphere's leading trainer, and I spent a year with him at Rosehill, which opened my eyes to his methods of training. His attention to detail is second to none, he never misses anything with any horse.

Ciaron Maher is a very good horse person and I think you see that in his ability to assess a horse and bring out the best in a horse. He treats every horse as an individual, and that is probably the biggest thing I took from him.



Have you ever worked in racing overseas?

I completed the Godolphin Flying Start Program, and as part of that I spent time with Mike De Kock in England and in Dubai, so that was a great experience for me. He's the master of the treadmill, I learnt a lot about treadmill training from him.

Can you tell us about your experience with the Godolphin flying start program?

I'm a huge beneficiary of the charity that is Godolphin Flying Start and it's taken me from rural New Zealand to training in metropolitan Brisbane. I built long standing relationships on that course, for example my bloodstock agent is Jim Clark who is an alumni of the course. I'm still in touch with all of my classmates and I look to them for advice.

It's a fantastic program that builds you a strong network and teaches you that the thoroughbred industry is a people industry. I'm eternally grateful for that opportunity and I'm certainly a lot wiser for having completed that course.

Con't.

AN INTERVIEW WITH JACK BRUCE

Why did you choose to set up your training base in QLD?

Queensland is a jurisdiction that is only continuing to grow and flourish. Racing in Australia has never been stronger and it's only going to get stronger. Queensland is naturally going to follow that same path, so by getting to Queensland and establishing myself as a trainer I'm hoping I'll be able to take advantage of that.

You've had a very successful start to your training career, why do you think that is?

It's as simple as - you can't train horses on your own. Not only do I have a good support network working in the stables with me, but outside of that too. My former employers are a big part of that too.

Another major part of that is the ownership base I have created and had opportunities from in a short space of time. My main focus is keeping the systems and processes in place, and so long as that attention to detail is in place in my stable, I feel like the winners will take care of themselves.

How did you determine that you were ready to set up your own stables?

There's never a good time to set up your own racing stable, it's something that you've just got to commit to. It's been in the back of my mind for many years, but I felt now was as good of a time as any and I've had a lot of support from my former employers and they've given me a lot of advice and help.

Do you ever see yourself opening a stable in Sydney or Melbourne?

Well that would be the dream. It is certainly something I would aspire to in the future. For now I'm happy operating in the jurisdiction I am. As with anything when you're training, the main focus is to take each horse that you get, give your owners an enjoyable experience and a good time, and if I can take care of that then the rest will take care of itself.

OTI'S EQUINE WELFARE SPONSORSHIP

The OTI Equine Welfare fund was a proud sponsor of the first Maiden Teams Challenge at the Thoroughbred Sport Horse Association National Titles at Stonewall Equestrian, which ran from the 18th to the 20th of November. As a sponsor of the event it was wonderful to have Mr Satchmo involved, one of OTI's own ex gallopers, who has been thriving in his life after racing. Held in Mangrove Mountain (NSW), the pleasant day provided a lovely backdrop for the occasion.



As part of the event, there was a Racing Teams Competition in Showjumping as well as an individual Australian title. The 2022 titles for the 6 Bar and Puissance awarded a lucrative winning purse of \$20,000. TSHA indicated that more events such as polo, arena eventing, campdrafting, and all-rounding will be added to the program in 2023.

The event continues to be a great way to showcase the diversity of the thoroughbred which incorporates dressage, showjumping, and show horse. We are very pleased with our successful relationship with TSHA and look forward to future events hosted by the association.

OTI RUNNERS

As the spring draws to a close, we're still faced with a busy weekend of runners including a number at black-type level.

At Canterbury Park on Friday night

Flashing Steel will get our weekend underway in the 1250m Maiden. He finds a hot race first-up for new connections but is a galloper who Annabel has always felt was city class. The low draw looks a positive as it's important he switches off early over this journey on resumption. He's trialled up well in the lead up.

At Caulfield on Saturday

San Huberto may take his place in the 3200m Listed Sandown Cup, a race that does appear to be lacking some depth. Many of the runners, San Huberto included, have been racing a shade below their best in recent times. Some changes have been made in preparation for this event, which is run over a journey that he's shown a real liking for.

Toregene takes the leap into Stakes class when she tackles the 1600m Group 3 Summoned Stakes. She's four from five and on an upward spiral, taking out the Melbourne Cup Carnival Country Final on Oaks Day last time out. There is confidence she can keep raising the bar. Dean Yendall will need to be at his best from the wide draw, as she can be a tricky mare to ride.

At Gold Coast on Saturday

Montabot will take his place in the 1700m Benchmark 80, a logical target. He is a horse who appears to be thriving in Murwillumbah and heads into this sound and well.

Tekapo may make his return in the 1400m Maiden having been given ample time to mature. The widest alley makes things hard, and this is expected to be well short of his best. We'd like to see him running through the line well as he progresses out to more suitable journeys.

At Rosehill on Saturday

Longvillers is considered a leading chance in the 2000m Listed ATC Cup courtesy of his strong showing in the Five Diamonds. Unfortunately, the widest draw does make things tricky and poses the question of whether he should be saved for the \$2m The Ingham in two weeks.

Regal Lion's form looks quite mixed on paper but the ATC Cup does look a very suitable target. Though we're yet to be absolutely sure of his preferred distance, we do know that he wants good ground and racing room, two things he's likely to get in this race.

At Turffontein (SAF) on Saturday

Under Your Spell will contest the 1600m Group 2 Ipi Tombe Challenge, a target race this preparation. She has the benefit of a return run under her belt where she was found wanting late but should be suited back out to a mile.

At Warrnambool on Sunday

Almsgiver will be looking to make it back-to-back wins when he steps out in the 2000m Benchmark 64 at his home track. His win second-up over 1850m had plenty of merit and he's taken good improvement from that again.

Dyerville is scheduled to contest the 1400m Benchmark 64 and much like Almsgiver, will be out to deliver Matty some home track success. He's currently 2nd emergency but should he gain a start, can be very competitive for Dean Yendall from the soft draw.

At Newcastle on Sunday

Sound of Cannons had little chance in The Beauford given the way the race was run and now drops back significantly in grade for the 2340m Benchmark 64. If he can get the early part of his race right, his class will take him a very long way. The Listed Christmas Cup in a fortnight is an ideal target.

WINNERS



ALMSGIVER

1850m BM58, Kyneton
Trained by M. Williams



GREEN FLY

1400m BM84, Ballarat
Trained by A. & S. Freedman

INTRODUCING TARZINO X WONDERLAND '20

- Oaks type by Tarzino, headed to Annabel Neasham -



OTI Racing is pleased to introduce a Tarzino filly we acquired from the New Zealand Ready to Run Sale last week. She is a lovely, scopey Oaks-style of filly who covers the ground in good style. Our keenness to acquire her was based on a combination of her exceptional vet report, pedigree, and physicality. A very leggy filly standing at 16.1hh, she completed her breeze up in a pleasing 10.74 seconds.

Her sire, Tarzino, is shaping up to be one of New Zealand's most exciting stallions. His first crop of 3yo's include G1 SA Derby winner Jungle Magnate and G1 Queensland Oaks winner Gypsy Goddess. Among his progeny is OTI Racing's Cadazio, a 2.5L winner on debut. Her dam is the Encosta de Lago mare Wonderland, who was a winner out to 2200m, and has already produced a four-time winner in Our Wonderland (out to 2100m).

The filly will be trained by Annabel Neasham, with whom OTI has enjoyed a very successful relationship with. An astute trainer, Annabel Neasham has produced 7 G1 winners since beginning her solo career in the 2021-2022 season.

We look forward to racing this exciting filly. For more information, please contact **shayne@oti.com.au** or **gus@oti.com.au**. You can also view footage of the filly **[HERE](#)**.

QUIZ

1. Which OTI horse shares a name with an English Folklore character with an accompanying cat?
2. Who won the 2015 Mackinnon Stakes?
3. How much was Black Caviar sold for as a yearling?



NAME THE RACEHORSE

Hint: South Australian

OTI SPONSORS JERICHO CUP

With the Jericho Cup returning to the 'Bool on Sunday for the 5th edition of the race, OTI Racing is proud to be a named supporter of Jericho Cup Day. The fifth race on the card, the Jericho Cup Consolation, is sponsored by OTI Racing. A few team members will be in attendance on the day alongside RSN's Matt Stewart.

The track has had a much needed refurbishment and, by all accounts, is in fantastic order for the upcoming card. The meeting is quickly becoming one of the fastest-growing race days on the country calendar, with a unique concept behind the race. The Jericho Cup is the brainchild of Bill Gibbins and is restricted to Australian and New Zealand bred horses. Held just over 100 years after the ANZACs involvement in World War I, the race over three miles (4,600m) replicates that of the great horse race amongst soldiers in Palestine. Originally run by the Australian Light Horsemen as a means of distracting the enemy soldiers, the race is rich with interesting facets of history.

Sponsored by OTI, the \$40,000 Jericho Cup Consolation will be raced over a distance of 4065m. It is put in place for horses that have accepted for the Jericho Cup but do not make the final field. The Jericho Cup Consolation currently has a field of 11 runners and is set to be an exciting race to be a part of.



PICTURED: Bill Gibbins pictured with Jericho Cup memorabilia. Photo: Michael Chambers

Each year the meeting honours a different light horseman who fought in WW1 and this year we remember Albert 'Tibby' Cotter who was also an Australian fast bowler. Dennis Lillee, retired Australian cricketer, will be presenting the Jericho Cup to the winning connections.

OTI Racing has two runners on the day in Almsgiver and Dyerville, in R4 and R9 respectively. Both are highly consistent Matt Williams-trained gallopers who, should they bring their best, are certainly capable of winning.

OTI is delighted to be a part of the day and is looking forward to the Jericho Cup growing in numbers each year it is run.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Dick Whittington
2. Gailo Chop
3. \$210,000AUD

NAME THE RACEHORSE: Gytrash



PICTURED: Gailo Chop