



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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Asian Racing Conference – The Challenges and Opportunities for Racing

So often large conferences, especially those covering wide ranging topics and nationalities, can end up as talk-fests. Not so with the Asian Racing Conference held in Melbourne a week ago. Despite the underlying friction between Racing NSW and the rest of the country, the conference presented a smorgasbord of excellent presentations that raised important issues for racing's future, not only in Australia but globally.

The two issues raised at the Conference that seem critical to the future of the sport are equine welfare and racing's connection with the younger generations (Gen Zs). Both issues are related to a large extent as more people, especially young people, will not support activities where they are not assured of animal welfare. If racing can assure them that both existing and retired horses are well treated, there's a chance of getting past the first base with the next generation.

To cement racing's relevance, the younger generations also have to see that racing is 'Green'. There is a huge opportunity given the variety of facilities and activities involved with our sport to adopt a green approach and sell that approach to society. Again, unless we adopt such an approach there's little chance of engaging with the Gen Zs.

The gambling landscape and the adoption of new information technologies were key topics at the Conference. Both will impact racing's short and longer term success. On one hand governments, Australia included, are introducing laws to control the plethora of gambling options currently available. On the other hand, the large bookmakers are quick to adopt new technologies that increase the range of ways people can bet, both legally and illegally. Given the importance of revenue from betting for stake money, especially in Australia, the way racing responds will be critical.

The Conference covered many other important topics that the sport must address to stay healthy and relevant to wider society. They include, the mental health of participants, relationships with governments, the media as well as ownership trends. More information on the presentations at the conference can be gained from the Conference's website www.asianracing.org/arc

Conferences like this one rarely solve issues, however this one in particular raised issues that our sport would be wise to take further. It is a credit to its organisers who simply didn't go the easy route and present speakers to say how well racing was doing. Indeed most came away knowing that if racing is to stay relevant throughout society, there's much to be done.

OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

At The Valley on Friday night

Pankhurst will take her place in the 2040m Fillies & Mares Benchmark 70, where she meets a similar field to what she did last start. She had a slightly interrupted passage in the run home on that occasion, so hopefully she is able to build momentum at the right stage this evening. Dean Yendall returns to the saddle, who knows the mare well, having won on her on multiple occasions. She gets her chance here in city grade.

At Sandown on Saturday

Amade will get our day underway in the 2100m Listed Victoria Gold Cup. His return performance was a touch underwhelming, however he was expected to need the run off such a long layoff. Phillip Stokes has tinkered with the 9-year-old's routine in between runs and has decided to take the blinkers off for Saturday. Having galloped well at Pakenham on Tuesday, we are hopeful of an improved effort to keep his campaign on track.

Toregene is all set to make her much anticipated return in the 1400m Group 3 Mannerism Stakes. She appears to have come back in career best shape, having trialled strongly on two occasions. From the outside barrier, she should be able to roll forward and make her own luck up on the speed, which is likely to be an advantage on the Lakeside circuit. A forward showing here would see her head up to Sydney to contest a host of feature mares races.

All eyes will be on **I'm Thunderstruck** as he contests the 1400m Group 1 Futurity on Saturday. He appears to have taken great benefit from his first-up run where his condition looked to give out over the final furlong. His work at Sandown on Tuesday morning was great, suggesting that he is ready to run a big race on Saturday. The services of Jamie Kah will be key here, in what appears a highly tactical affair with just a field of 6. Provided he begins cleanly, he should be able to lob in a nice spot just behind the speed and put himself within striking distance. Fingers crossed he is able to get over the top of them late!

At Newcastle on Saturday

Nettles will make her debut in the 900m 2yo Maiden. She's shown good natural speed at the trials and deserves her chance to race this preparation. With the rail out 11m, the low draw is advantageous at Newcastle. She should settle amongst the first four, with the question being whether she has the strength at this stage of her development to be in the finish. Regardless of the result, she's a nice speedy filly for the future.

At Doomben on Saturday

Scarlet Tufty will take his place on the back up in the 2200m Benchmark 78. He boxed on well in a higher grade last Saturday and should now be at his top. He's likely to find a more forgiving surface at Doomben which is a major plus, so we hope to see him fighting out the finish under a positive ride.

Head Legislator presents third up in the 1350m Class 3. His two runs back have been okay and it was also felt he would need them courtesy of his long layoff. He's a horse who has shown good ability and we're now at the stage of his campaign where he should start to show us that. He'll need a little bit of luck from the draw but if they roll along at a good gallop, we'd hope to see him closing off strongly.

Cepheus was terrific on return and is presented with a nice opportunity in the 1350m Open Handicap. He would not want the ground to be any softer than it currently is, but our only other query is that often these stayers can be a touch flat second up off such a big performance and long layoff. Having said that, he's continued to train on well at home. With natural improvement and a chance to sit closer in running, he can certainly make his presence felt in the finish.

Stuck With You, also in the 1350m Open Handicap, will need the outing. He'll be much better suited once we get some racing under his belt as he's a gross horse who needs to be at the 2000m journey in this grade. He's once again prepped up well so hopefully can add to his winning tally of 8 this time in.

WELCOME XAVIER



OTI Racing is delighted to announce that a fantastic new addition has been made to our team.

Previously Racing Manager for Alexander Rae Racing, Xavier Siebel joins us with a wealth of experience. He will be a valuable addition to our sales, marketing and client department and we are very pleased to have him on board.

WINNER



DARCI'S DEBUT

1100m 0-58 HCP, Bendigo
Trained by S.Wilde

AN INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT WELLWOOD

Robert Wellwood is co-trainer at Kingsclere Stables (NZ) alongside Roger James. OTI Racing's NZ Derby contender Mark Twain is in fantastic care under the tutelage of James & Wellwood.

Where are you from and what is your earliest racing memory?

I'm originally from Hawkes Bay, from the North Island of New Zealand. Mum and Dad always said when we drove through Cambridge, which is the horse capital of New Zealand, they always knew it was home for me.

What steps did you take to reach your current position?

I left school after sixth form and went straight to do a yearling prep for Windsor Park Stud, then I moved back to Hawkes Bay where Lime Country Thoroughbreds was based at the time and did a couple of years there. I got to do a little bit of everything from the yearling side of things, to breaking, and right through to the sales. I then decided to get a formal education at University and did a Bachelor of Business, at which time I did all sorts of things. From there I met Roger and went to work for him for a year. Fortunately things have worked out after a year of working for him when he asked me to go into partnership with him.

You hold a Bachelor of Business from the University of Waikato. How do you utilise this in your training operation?

I studied a Business Management Degree majoring in Finance, so probably all that's done is make me realise how hard it is to make any money out of a training business. In all seriousness, it's been a good tool to be able to sit back and look at the business as a whole and try and find places where we can improve but training racehorses is a very interesting business because a lot of things are done that perhaps a normal CEO would think were crazy, and a waste of time or money, but a lot of the time the decisions around training are about the horse and trying to get the best results rather than just a straight business decision.

What are the key issues you would like to see to improve NZ racing?

Probably the biggest issue in NZ racing that I'd love to see improve is the prizemoney, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Auckland Racing Club are coming together and I think in the very near future when Ellerslie is back and running we will be racing for pretty decent money. There's some exciting things to come but we need to keep the ball rolling and hope that Racing NZ can follow suit and make our domestic racing sustainable. It's great to have a strategy right across the ditch if we have horses good enough to compete in the big races there.



What makes NZ bred horses so special?

I think what makes NZ bred horses so good is our breeders and our stud farms. Anyone who's been across to New Zealand and seen where these horses are born and raised probably thinks it's fairly self explanatory why the horses are so good. They're grown on natural pasture in a lovely big country and they're bred to be hearty, very sound horses and we're proud of the way that they punch above their weight in the Southern Hemisphere.

What have you learnt working with Roger James?

It's probably hard to pinpoint one thing I've learnt from Roger. It's our fifth season working together and sixth year since I've worked for him. Over that period I've learnt lots and probably a lot of the little things that you don't think about are the really important ones but one of the major things is the way that he runs his business and treats his clients. I think that's why he's got integrity in the racing game and a lot of owners have stuck true with him because he's honest and integral in the way that he trains the horses.

You have some exciting horses this season. If you could win one race, what would it be?

It'd be great to win the NZ Derby this year. Since I've been in partnership with Roger we've had 4 horses run in the top 4, but haven't been able to knock one off. Roger's trained 5 Derby winners on his own and I said to him "you must teach me in partnership how to win a Derby winner". So that would be a great thing to do alongside Roger and I think we've got two really good chances in the race so that would be super special.

AFTERCARE ON THE AGENDA

In the lead up to the Asian Racing Conference, the International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses was held in Melbourne last week. The forum brought together delegates from across the globe, with valuable discussion taking place on the topic of thoroughbred aftercare and programs post-racing.

During the forum, an insightful panel discussion was held between welfare managers from 5 different racing jurisdictions, including; Hong Kong, UAE, Japan, Victoria & New South Wales.

With the urban landscape of Hong Kong limiting post-racing opportunities, it was intriguing to hear the solutions that have been formed. Similar to OTI's Welfare Program, a fund has been developed in Hong Kong to support the rehoming and care of retired horses. Upon importing a horse to Hong Kong, owners must pay a set fee of HK\$100,000 (approx \$18,300), which then goes into a fund where it is held until the end of the horse's career. Should the owner choose to export the horse and re-home it outside of Hong Kong, the fee is then refunded to assist with the owner's costs. Alternatively, if the owner does not export the horse, the HKJC will use these funds to pay for the rehoming.

The UAE encompasses a very unique racing model - with the absence of gambling revenue, the sport is completely funded by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. This funding extends to assisting retired horses in their lives post-racing. A rehoming centre named the Dar Al Khail ('House of the Horse') has been recently established, a significant development in assisting with the re-training and subsequent rehoming of retired racehorses in the UAE.

Despite their geographical proximity, welfare programs in Victoria and NSW differ largely. Victoria's program principally lies upon their 50+ accredited re-trainers, who are advertised in their online 'OTT community'. From here, owners can place their horse on the platform, giving re-trainers a chance to claim the horse. Thoroughbreds who are not claimed by a re-trainer within a suitable time period can be entered into Racing Victoria's RESET Program, which aims to protect those horses who have not been initially successful in finding a home.

On the other side of the border, NSW's approach is based upon their 5 dedicated re-training properties, where thoroughbreds can be relinquished to at the end of their racing careers. Staff are employed on these properties to help with the early re-training of the horses, before they are ready to be moved on to permanent homes.



The efforts being placed into ensuring the life-long welfare of racehorses are most encouraging, however a focus on traceability still remains largely absent. Without national registers, there is no way of showing that thoroughbreds are being properly cared for post-racing, and importantly that they are not ending up in the wrong hands. Administrators must now look to prioritize establishing tracking registers to ensure traceability.

- Campbell Wansbrough, OTI Equine Welfare Manager

SPRING CARNIVAL SHUFFLE



ABOVE: Toregene wins the Melbourne Cup Carnival Country Final, Flemington, Oaks Day 2022

The Spring Carnival will look a bit different this year with some major race changes made:

- A shift of the Schweppes Thousand Guineas at Caulfield to Saturday, 18 November, supplemented by a new Country Cups Final and the relocated G1 Neds Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes
- A shift of the G1 Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes to Ladbrokes Cox Plate Day, with the Moonee Valley Gold Cup moving to the previous evening

The above changes will push back the major country Cups by a week or more. As expected, there has been no change to the programming of the Cox Plate, for now!

INTRODUCING WROTE x PAULETTE '21

- *Half-sister to Daqiansweet Junior* -



Daqiansweet Junior is a horse that needs no introduction. With him being a G2 Adelaide Cup winner, 3rd placegetter in the G1 Sydney Cup, and exceptionally satisfactory Melbourne Cup runner, OTI has sought to emulate the success of Daqiansweet Junior through his half-sister, a daughter of Paulette by Wrote.

Paulette is an attractive grey mare who hails from a strong black-type family. She is by the G1 damsire Keeper and is closely related to four-time G2 winner Veloce Bella. She has produced several winners in NZ, one of which being Daqiansweet Junior. This filly's father Wrote, son of High Chaparral, stands at Highview Stud and was a G1 winner himself in Ireland. It is worth noting that he is also the sire of OTI's exciting recent stable addition, the undefeated Creator.

The filly joins us from NZ, where OTI has sourced a number of successful horses in the likes of I'm Thunderstruck, Hezashocka, and Daqiansweet Junior. Our NZ agent Phill Cataldo is a most experienced and excellent judge of horses who has been instrumental in the sourcing of these runners.

We are hopeful that this filly can emulate the successes of her family and add her name to the long list of OTI's NZ successes.

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

QUIZ

1. Which young international trained two Melbourne Cup winners in Rekindling (2017) and Twilight Payment (2020)?
2. Which G1 race did OTI's Selino win in 2021?
3. Who is the sire of The Inferno?



NAME THE RACEHORSE

Hint: 2nd to Harbour Views

MEET YOUR RACING PARTNERS - BEN BARNETT

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Dunmoochin, about an hour and a bit outside of Melbourne. Dunmoochin is known for its bohemian roots and was made famous by the painter Clifton Pugh. Pugh built a series of residences and used these to establish a vibrant and highly regarded artistic community. We had a small hobby farm, which included cows, sheep, chickens and at times horses.

When did you first get interested in racing?

My interest in racing grew when I became a VRC member. I enjoyed the spectacle of race days and the challenge of form analysis.

What is the race you would most like to win?

As with any horse owner, I would love to have a runner in the Melbourne Cup. Just to make it to barriers would be an amazing experience. Other than that, I'd love to win the race the following day: The Kyneton Cup. I have a particular fondness for this Cup as a country racing event in the middle of the Spring Racing Carnival.

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

When I decided that I'd like to get into horse ownership, I conducted a lot of research. And all inquiries led me back to OTI. I was struck by OTI's success, its professionalism at every level of the organisation, and having a level of ownership that was affordable but also meaningful.

What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership?

I really enjoy the journey associated with horse ownership. Making it to race day and winning the odd one is thrilling, but it is only the end product of many hours of work and dedication.



Who is your favourite jockey?

The racing industry is underpinned by those who toil away without a lot of fanfare. Two standouts are Alana Kelly and Neil Farley. Alana is a no-nonsense jockey who continues to develop. She's now getting good rides and has evolved into a tactically astute jockey. Likewise, Neil is an outstanding jockey, even if doesn't get the number of rides he should – though Victorian racing is competitive!

Which horse excites you the most?

I'm excited about horses by Shocking. Shocking had very good success racing at Flemington, including winning the Melbourne Cup. He has performed well as a stallion, most notably with I'm Thunderstruck. Two of the horses I have ownership in with OTI are by Shocking: Inverell and Mark Twain. Both have a small number of wins, and will likely go on to win better races. Of course, one knock on Shocking is that he never won the Kyneton Cup!

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Joseph O'Brien
2. The Sydney Cup
3. Holy Roman Emperor (sire of Sous Les Nuages)

NAME THE RACEHORSE: Cherry Tortoni.

Cherry Tortoni came 2nd behind Harbour Views in the 2021 Listed The Sofitel.



PICTURED: Selino wins the G1 Sydney Cup