



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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The Random Romance of Racing

One of the great joys of our sport is its ability to provide a level playing field for all once horses are on the track. Irrespective of stable size, connection's wealth or bloodlines, the sport provides a chance for all to succeed.

In a period where we seem to be seeing dominance in the marketplace by the breeding and training players, one might wonder if over time there will still be an important role for the niche player. The point comes home clearly when the spending power of an organisation like Yulong raises eyebrows around the world. Reported to have spent over \$100m this year alone on broodmares, Mr Zhang's operation is destined to become one of the biggest broodmare owners on the globe.

Over the years, we've seen some big buyers come into the industry to take on the Coolmore, Godolphin and Juddmonte's of the world. With each spending well in the 100's of millions over a relatively short period, people like the Rowsthorn's, Podgornik and the less reputable Patinack Farm believed that size created success. All were great for the marketplace in their time but each found out that size was not the magic key. Mr Zhang's operation, which is also great for the market, could well be different, especially if the mares that he has purchased help promote his stallions with success on the track by their progeny.

In the training ranks in Australia, the past season reminds us of the halcyon days of Tommy Smith, Bart Cummings and Colin Hayes during the latter part of the 1900's. The Maher/Eustace stable (now reported to have over 1,000 horses on the books), Chris Waller and Godolphin have excelled. Very different in the way each operates, but very professional in how they go about their businesses.

Despite the size of the successful breeders and trainers, the smaller and medium players still did very well over the past season. With limited numbers, the New Zealand breeding industry excelled through the year by producing relatively low-cost horses who could perform. Numerous smaller trainers also achieved Group 1 success despite the three dominant trainers winning over 30 Group 1's between them.

This weekend in the English Derby, a good friend of OTI, Dr Des Leadon and his wife Maryann (the breeders of Future Score) will have their home bred colt Arrest start as one of the favourites for the race. An achievement dreamed of by many small breeders, Des and Maryann are living proof that there is room for all in our sport, no matters what the origins of the horse might be.

The success of the niche players in racing brings home a point made 100 years ago by the great Italian breeder, Federico Tesio who said, "good horses will breed good horses, but champions can come from anywhere". The same can apply to their connections.

OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

The autumn has come to a close but there's no shortage of action for our owners.

At Flemington on Saturday

Belthil steps up to metropolitan grade in the 1400m 3yo Handicap. This lightly-raced gelding has built an impressive record to date, resuming in winning style a fortnight ago. He is still quite immature mentally, which gives further credit to what he has been able to do on the track so far. The big Flemington straight should suit his long-stride and he draws a suitable midfield barrier. Hopefully, he can continue on his upward spiral and measure up in Saturday grade.

At Bendigo on Saturday

Dick Whittington will have his second start for Phillip Stokes in the 1600m Elmore Cup. He stuck on solidly in his stable debut after enduring a tough run in transit. He comes up with another wide draw here, so is likely to be ridden conservatively and given his chance to finish off. This race should top him off nicely for a third-up assignment over a more suitable trip.

At Rosehill on Saturday

Cloudland steps back into city company in the 1400m 3&4YO Benchmark 72. His effort last time out was encouraging, fighting out the finish despite a wide run in transit. It's no secret that his manners aren't perfect, but we hope to see him build on his Newcastle run with a competitive effort in what looks like an open race.

At Eagle Farm on Saturday

Lady Laguna may take her place in the Listed Queensland Day Stakes. The wide draw has raised some doubt over whether she'll start, but the filly has given Annabel no reason not to continue what has been a terrific campaign. Should she run, we're sure she'll give her all again.

At Scottsville on Saturday

Under Your Spell may contest the 1200m Group 1 Golden Horse Sprint. Unfortunately, drawing the widest alley in a race to be run over 200m shorter than her ideal journey makes it tough to see her being in the finish. She is however capable of reeling off strong closing sectionals.

At Geelong on Sunday

Ashim will take his place in the 1720m Benchmark 64. He wasn't at his best last time out when going quite quick in front, so hopefully the month between runs has sparked some freshness in his legs. At his best, he is certainly capable of featuring in a race like this but will need to improve on his recent form.

Later in the day, **Notes** will contest the 1518m Benchmark 64. This fellow was quite disappointing in his second-up run but did pull up a touch scratchy. He appears to be moving much better now after receiving some treatment, so fingers crossed he can bounce back on Sunday as he's a better horse than what he's shown in recent times.

At Moe on Sunday

Celebrity's Beau is set to make his stable debut for Gavin Bedggood in the 1628m 0-58 Handicap. Gavin has had great success in rejuvenating these types of horses, so we remain optimistic that this gelding can recapture the form he showed during his early days in New Zealand. The horse has been kept nice and fresh since arriving at Cranbourne and looks very well physically.

At Murwillumbah on Sunday

Stuck With You drops back considerably in class when he contests the 2020m Grafton Cup Preview. Because of that, he'll lump a heavy weight on Sunday but is racing in good form and his class should see him be hard to beat.

At Chantilly on Sunday

Tigrais will make her much anticipated return in the 1600m Group 2 Prix de Sandringham. She's been held back due to rain affected tracks but has been in good form at home. This is a quality fillies event, but as a Group 3 winner already who has done well in the off-season, we're expecting her to make her presence felt.

WINNERS



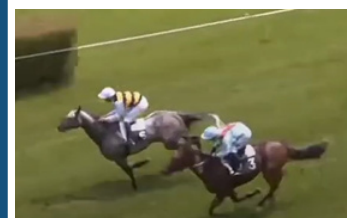
DYERVILLE

1400m BM64, Hamilton
Trained by Matthew Williams



FLASHING STEEL

1550m CG&E BM72, Canterbury
Trained by Annabel Neasham



KLOSTER

1400m Class 4, Niort (France)
Trained by Edouard Monfort

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN HAMMOND

John Hammond - retired two-time Arc winning trainer based in Chantilly, France

Where did your interest in racing begin?

My father moved to Ireland when I was small and I spent much of my holidays there. I was riding from a young age, hunting, show jumping then riding out for a trainer from the age of 15, continuing when I went to University in Dublin. I still have happy memories of going racing in my teens to The Curragh, Leopardstown and the sadly defunct Phoenix Park.

How do you view racing in France compared to racing in Australia?

Similar but different if that makes any sense. It's the same horses, racing mostly on grass. European horses have gone down and won in Australia and Australian horses have come up and won in Europe. Generally the Aus sprinters appear to have the upper hand over short distances and the European stayers seem to be better over a distance. Ultimately it comes down to trying to get the best out of the individual horses and both systems, i.e. jump outs and trials with spelling inbetween preps in Aus and more preparation done at home in Europe seem to work well. The same horse can flourish under both systems but ultimately it comes down to individual horsemanship. Some have it to a greater degree than others.

You retired as a trainer a few years ago now, how did you find the transition and what are the plans for the future?

I much enjoyed training but I never intended doing it forever, I did it for thirty years and had some great times but was ready to stop when I did. I am still very much involved in the industry, partly in management and partly in the commercial side. I like all aspects, the racing, the breeding and the buying and selling. I would like to think that the experience I accrued from training is beneficial to what I am doing now. Having worn the trainers' shoes I understand the underlying currents to a horse's career on the tracks, well I think I do (!).....but we are all continually learning. We are dealing with animals and nature so no two cases are exactly the same which is what makes the sport engrossing and retains our interest. It's a game of three dimensional chess that we play, a mental challenge.

What advice would you give to a young up and coming trainer or person who aspires to have a training career?

Take a deep breath! Employ good staff, be organised, pay attention to detail and believe what your eyes are telling you.



You've had a very successful career, what would be the most memorable experience or win for you?

Yes, I was fortunate to have some really good horses who could compete in the top races but all winners gave you a buzz. It's a difficult thing to quantify or even describe, the thrill of having a winner be it as a trainer or an owner. A seventy five year old widow who had half a tail of a horse with me for a few years once described it aptly; she was a psychoanalyst and in her view it was akin to a mental orgasm! The bigger the race the bigger the buzz I guess, that is partly due to the build up and the dreaming in which one indulges in the preceding weeks. You know that it probably won't happen...but you think that it just might, so when it does the adrenaline rush is massive. I have never done drugs but it's probably something similar.

What would you say was the most challenging and most rewarding part of being a trainer?

The most challenging for me was handling the disappointments.....the injuries, the potential stars who never made it. Obviously it is also very labour intensive so employing a number of people always provides its own challenges particularly as it is 24/7 and you need staff on duty every day of the year. The rewards are the big days when it all comes together but being out on the training tracks in Chantilly on a clear morning watching the horses, as the sun rises then filters through the trees, always gave me pleasure right to the end.

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

Interesting question. I am sure things look very different when you are actually sitting behind the steering wheel driving the car in that there are no doubt plenty of things the person in that position would like to change but can't for various unseen reasons. Hence I would want to have a long and detailed discussion with the person in charge, before trying to do their job!

OTI'S AUTUMN

OTI Racing is pleased to share the results produced by our runners in stakes races this autumn, with five black-type wins recorded. To view the spreadsheet, which includes all likely autumn feature race runners, please visit our website at oti.com.au or click [HERE](#). Below are the results of our stakes runners now that the autumn has come to a conclusion.

Feb 11,'23	Sandown	G1	C.F. Orr Stakes	I'm Thunderstruck	1400m	WFA	\$750,000	4th
Feb 18,'23	Pukekohe Park (NZ)	G2	Avondale Guineas	Full Of Sincerity	2100m	3yo SW	NZ\$140,000	4th
Feb 25,'23	Sandown	G1	Futurity Stakes	I'm Thunderstruck	1400m	WFA	\$750,000	3rd
Feb 25,'23	Sandown	G3	Mannerism Stakes	Toregene	1400m	4yo&Up M SWP	\$200,000	2nd
Feb 25,'23	Sandown	Listed	Victoria Gold Cup	Amade	2100m	Open Qlty	\$175,000	3rd
Mar 4,'23	Te Rapa (NZ)	G1	New Zealand Derby	Full Of Sincerity	2400m	3yo SW	NZ\$1,000,000	3rd
Mar 4,'23	Te Rapa (NZ)	G1	New Zealand Derby	Mark Twain	2400m	3yo SW	NZ\$1,000,000	4th
Mar 4,'23	Turffontein (ZAF)	G2	Hawaii Stakes	Under Your Spell	1400m	Open SWP	R400,000	1st
Mar 11,'23	Rosehill	G2	Ajax Stakes	Cepheus	1500m	3yo&Up Qlty	\$250,000	1st
Mar 13,'23	Canberra	Listed	Canberra Cup	Athabaskan	2000m	Open Qlty	\$200,000	3rd
Mar 13,'23	Morphettville	G2	Adelaide Cup	Amade	3200m	Open Hcp	\$302,500	3rd
Mar 18,'23	Rosehill	G3	N E Manion Quality Cup	Timour	2400m	3yo&Up Qlty	\$200,000	1st
Mar 18,'23	The Valley	G3	Typhoon Tracy Stakes	Lady Laguna	1200m	3yoF SWP	\$200,000	3rd
Mar 25,'23	Rosehill	G2	Tulloch Stakes	Full Of Sincerity	2000m	3yo C&G SW	\$250,000	4th
Apr 1,'23	Randwick	G3	PJ Bell Stakes	Lady Laguna	1200m	3yoF SWP	\$200,000	3rd
Apr 1,'23	Turffontein (ZAF)	G1	Horse Chestnut Stakes	Under Your Spell	1600m	WFA	R1,000,000	4th
Apr 8,'23	Randwick	G1	Queen Elizabeth Stakes	Hezashocka	2000m	3yo&Up WFA	\$4,000,000	4th
Apr 8,'23	Randwick	G2	Arrowfield Sprint	Lady Laguna	1200m	3yo SW	\$1,000,000	3rd
Apr 15,'23	Sandown	Listed	Galilee Series Final	Bengal Boy	2400m	3yo SWP	\$200,000	1st
Apr 15,'23	Turffontein (ZAF)	G1	HSH Princess Charlene Empress Club Stakes	Under Your Spell	1600m	F&M SWP	R1,250,000	4th
Apr 22,'23	Doomben	Listed	Mick Dittman Plate	Lady Laguna	1110m	3yo SW	\$125,000	1st
Apr 22,'23	Doomben	Listed	Tails Quality	Cepheus	1600m	3yo&Up Qlty	\$125,000	2nd
Apr 22,'23	Mornington	Listed	Mornington Cup	Hezashocka	2400m	Open Hcp	\$300,000	2nd
May 6,'23	Sunshine Coast	G3	Gold Coast Guineas	Lady Laguna	1200m	3yo SW	\$200,000	2nd
May 13,'23	Doomben	G3	Chairman's Handicap	Cepheus	2000m	3yo&Up Qlty	\$200,000	3rd

TRIAL WATCH

Altruist returned for his second preparation with Mick Price and Michael Kent Jnr in excellent style, winning his first trial by half a length at Cranbourne on May 22, and his second trial by 1.5 lengths only a week later.

Watch his second trial [here](#).

The son of Snitzel was purchased at the Inglis Easter Sale in 2022 with a contingent of South African and local based partners. He finished 4th in the Listed Blue Diamond Preview at his only career race to, subsequently pulling up shin sore the day following.

He will now head back to the races with a likely kick off point coming on June 10 at Sandown, a 1000m 2yo Handicap. We're excited to see what the future holds!



Pictured: Altruist when purchased in 2022

INTRODUCING MORE DREAM

(Almanzor x More Than Famous)



We joined one of France's most well-known owners, Gerard Augustin-Normand to acquire a colt by Almanzor at the Arqana Breeze Up's. An athletic type with a long stride and good attitude, there is much to look forward to.

Click [here](#) to view his breeze.

Already named More Dream, he is out of the More Than Ready mare More Than Famous. More Dream already has a Listed-placed sibling in Famous Wolf and will indeed carry the dreams of many in his future racing career.

We have already tasted success in partnership with Tigris for Christopher Head, who will now train More Dream from his Chantilly base. Head is a young trainer on the rise in France, taking out the G1 French 1000 Guineas two and a half weeks ago.

For more information about the colt, please contact us at [**oti@oti.com.au**](mailto:oti@oti.com.au).

QUIZ

1. Who was Annabel Neasham's first Group 1 winner?
2. Which sire is Docklands by?
3. What did the successful racemare 'Forbidden Love' sell for at the Magic Millions Broodmare Sale?
 - A. \$3.6m
 - B. \$3.9m
 - C. \$4.1m

NAME THE RACEHORSE

Hint: G2 Chairman's Hcp winner



TOM MELBOURNE - FAN FAVOURITE

A horse that certainly needs no introduction, Tom Melbourne, the all time fan favourite is still talked about today for incredible efforts of running second.

Originally passed in at the Yearling Sales in the UK in 2012, Tom went on to win his debut by 4.8 lengths over the 2100m distance at Dundalk Stadium.

After his successful first start, OTI and owners brought him over to Australia and he joined the stable of Lee & Anthony Freedman. Even though he didn't win his first start down under, he scored second up at Sale and finished his first campaign with an impressive win at Sandown over 2100m.

He returned a winner in his first start back at Flemington with jockey Glen Boss on board. Next up in the Albury Cup, a race that might have given the first sign of things to come, he started to wander in the straight but was able to notch up a commanding win.

He finished his first Australian racing season with four wins from seven starts.

Returning in the spring, he placed in four stakes races without winning success. After changing trainers to Chris Waller, the gelding went on to place in the Group 1 Epsom Handicap at Randwick, the Group 1 Cantala Stakes at Flemington and the Group 1 Railway Stakes in Perth. To be fair to Tom, on many occasions, he was desperately unlucky in running!



Australia Day 2019 was a day many will remember, as Tom Melbourne finally broke his long run of placings by winning the Listed Carrington Stakes at Randwick with Blake Shinn in the saddle. Race caller Darren Flindell talked about giving Shinn an Order of Australia for being able to get him over the line first after 1044 days. Between his winning races, he placed second eleven times and third twice.

He added a further three second placings at Group 3 and Listed level, finishing his career with six wins and eighteen minor placings from 51 career starts and total earnings of \$1,415,548.



Since, Tom has retired to Living Legends, a Thoroughbred Farm who looks after retired champions. He continues to be a favourite with all the staff at the farm, visitors and fans on race day when he visits Flemington Racecourse.

Keep an eye out for him at Flemington or make sure to visit him at Living Legends!

Part of the above is an excerpt of a VRC article and can be read in full [here](#).

SNIPPETS

Everest Prizemoney to AUD\$20m

The Everest, known as the richest race in Australia's racing calendar, has received another massive prizemoney boost in the last week, making it the second richest race in the world behind the Saudi Cup. Last year's race held a prizemoney pool of \$15million. Well known industry participants such as Yulong, Inglis, Racing NSW, Coolmore, Aquis and Chris Waller all hold a slot for the upcoming 2023 Everest on October 15, and will no doubt have already started to do their groundwork on who they may be selecting to feature.

2022 winner Giga Kick, trained by Clayton Douglas, has already been confirmed to defend his title and third place-getter Mazu will also take another chance at the race.

Epsom Derby Festival

We look over to the UK, where the annual Epsom Derby Festival takes place this weekend. The Epsom Derby Carnival is a favourite of many and the Derby itself was first run in 1780 and is Britain's richest flat race. Last year's winner was Desert Crown and he was trained by Sir Michael Stoute.

The Derby festival is held over two weeks, with all the action kicking off on Friday, also called the 'Ladies Day'. The first day features the Group 1 Betfred Oaks as well as the Group 1 Coronation Cup, which will be the first one run under King Charles III.

Saturday's race card will feature the Group 1 Betfred Derby, two Group 3 races and will be completed with four Stakes races.



Pictured: I'm Thunderstruck

I'm Thunderstruck laid to rest

I'm Thunderstruck has been laid to rest at Michael Kent Jnr and partner Ali Berwick's farm earlier last week.

"We are in the process of building a nice garden and memorial with a plaque for him," said Kent Jnr, who trained the star in partnership with Mick Price.

We look forward to raising a glass in his honour later this year!

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Mo'unga
2. Massaath
3. C - \$4.1 Million to Yulong Investments

NAME THE RACEHORSE - Gallic Chieftain



Pictured: Gallic Chieftain wins the G2 Chairmans