



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



IN THIS EDITION

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The Art of Tendon Rehabilitation

Perhaps the most frustrating injury a thoroughbred can suffer is a tendon injury. Call it a strain, a tear, or a hole, they are the curse of Australian racing. Although not immune, Europe does not seem to suffer as significantly.

Blamed on our turning tracks in Australia and the need to often accelerate quickly, injuries often don't manifest their presence until a small bump appears at the back of the shin bone (between the fetlock and the knee). Frequently, at least initially, the horse is not sore until the area is squeezed. However once identified, there is no choice but to stop, diagnose in detail, then decide on a course of action.

In the USA and to a lesser degree in Europe, most tendon injuries, especially holes or tears, mean the end of a horse's racing career. The time, risk, and money to get the horse back to the races was, and indeed still is, not seen as warranted. However in Australia, thanks to the excellent work of some rehabilitation specialists and vets, the curse has not meant retirement or simply putting the horse in a paddock for 12 months in the hope that the tendon will recover naturally.

Last weekend Selino won the Group 2 Brisbane Cup. After winning the Sydney Cup in 2021, he suffered a torn tendon when in training for a Sydney Cup defense in early 2022. Immediately sent to OTI's rehab guru, Matthew Williams in Warrnambool, the injury was assessed by Dr Andrew Cust. A program was then implemented to work the horse progressively over the next 24 weeks until, following a short spell, he was put into full training with Matt before being moved back to Chris Waller.

In addition to the skills of Williams, Dr Cust and then Chris Waller, the elements of success are the use of the treadmill for all the horse's rehab work, water walker workouts, the progressive measurement of the rate of recovery and the spell at the end of the program. The use of the treadmill ensures that all work is done on a well-regulated, consistent surface.

The success with Selino is the second time in three months that a Group 2 winner has saluted following the tendon rehabilitation program. In March, Cepheus under the control of Matt Dunn, won the Group 2 Ajax Stakes at Rosehiill. In essence, he followed the same plan as Selino.

A few years ago, Gailo Chop moved to Australia following a tendon injury suffered in France. On this occasion Lee Evison, based in Gippsland, applied his skills to have Gailo return to racing with Darren Weir. He went on to win two Group 1's before a second tendon injury forced him into a second rehabilitation. This time under the Williams/Cust method, he was able to finish second in a Group 1 before he retired happy, healthy and sound.

Given the success of processes developed by the various rehab teams in Australia, it's not surprising that they are now being "exported" to trainers and vets in Europe and the USA. While stables still shudder at the thought of a tendon injury to their top horses, the rehab processes give hope that all is not lost when they do occur.

OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

The winter action continues for OTI owners this weekend with much of our attention turning to Randwick on Saturday.

At Randwick on Saturday.

Step Aside may take his place in the 1300m 3yo BM72 but the wide draw puts a start in doubt. He's racing in great form and doesn't look out of place in Saturday grade, having notched up a well-deserved city win last time out. He's shown good versatility but given there are a number of suitable options coming up, he could be scratched for a more favourable set up.

Intuitu will make his Australian debut in the 1600m 3&4yo BM72. He has shown plenty of ability in his short career to date, so it will be exciting to see what he can do on Australian shores. Saturday's race looks a nice starting point for this French import, who will be better suited over 2000m and beyond.

Comme Bella Fille contests the 1800m F&M BM78, in what looks an important run for this mare. She hasn't quite been at her best this preparation, but has found herself settling a long way back in her races. Hopefully, from the low draw, Amy McLucas can put her into a more forward position and give her every chance to recapture her best form.

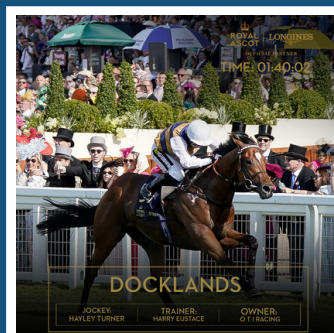
Baby Rider & Longvillers will get their campaigns underway in the 1400m Listed Civic Stakes. The Group performed-duo have trialled nicely in the lead up to Saturday, and appear in great shape physically. They both make their returns after overcoming setbacks, so will no doubt benefit from Saturday's event. They look genuine spring contenders, so we hope some form is found over the next 4-6 weeks before the focus shifts.

At Morphettville on Saturday.

Dyerville will look to continue his winning form in the 1500m 4yo+ BM68. He steps up to Saturday grade here but he won with authority last start and will get his preferred conditions again on Saturday with a good senior on board. Provided he continues to handle his racing well, he looks a horse who connections will have plenty of fun with over the winter months.

At Werribee on Sunday.

Dick Whittington is in the 2231m BM64 but given the meeting will probably be held on heavy ground, he'll likely be saved for another day. With two encouraging enough runs under his belt, he's expected to be very competitive wherever he steps out next.

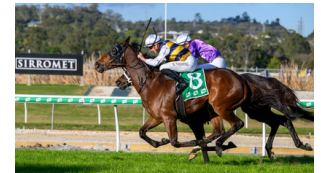


DOCKLANDS
1600m Britannia Stakes, Royal Ascot
Trained by Harry Eustace

WINNERS



FLASHING STEEL
1550m BM72, Canterbury Park
Trained by Annabel Neasham



REGAL LION
2150m Listed Ipswich Cup, Ipswich
Trained by Annabel Neasham



ELDERBERRY
1100m 2yoF Maiden, Moe
Trained by Anthony & Sam Freedman



STEP ASIDE
1300m BM72, Warwick Farm
Trained by Chris Waller



VINA SENA
2100m Class 4, Limoges (FR)
Trained by Edouard Monfort



SELINO
3200m G2 Brisbane Cup, Eagle Farm
Trained by Chris Waller



FLASHING STEEL
1550m BM72, Canterbury Park
Trained by Annabel Neasham

AN INTERVIEW WITH REECE GOODWIN

Reece Goodwin - exciting young trainer based at Pakenham

Where did your interest in racing begin?

Horses were in my blood from the moment I was born, My parents were running Brackley Park for the Freedman's and the first horse I patted was Doriemus, and the first I sat on was Schillaci. I got my trackwork license the day I turned 14 and never looked back.

What steps did you take to get to your current position?

I had always dreamed of being an apprentice jockey but was too big so took out a picnic license where I enjoyed a great few years winning a riders premiership and rode over 125 winners. My focus then turned to training so I spread my wings and learnt from Brett Cavanough and Michael Kent before heading to Singapore to learn from Lee Freedman.

Who has been the biggest mentor or influence on your career so far?

Without doubt my father Barry, who is also a horse trainer. He is a terrific horseman and taught me a lot of what I do now which is keeping horses happy, healthy and sound. He's now come to Pakenham and is working for me. He's a great sounding board for advice.

You've only started training last year, what would be the most memorable experience or race win for you so far?

I'd have to say even though I wasn't able to be there my first city winner with Never Again on a Saturday at Sandown. I was taking horses to the country meeting and Dad saddled him up for me. We paid \$19,000 for him as an 8yo and he's won us over \$200,000 and taken us on a great ride.

As a young trainer, what are some of your long-term and short-term goals for your stable and owners?

I don't want to get any bigger than what I am, currently we have 20 boxes at Pakenham and that enables me to ride all my horses across a week and not miss those small things the bigger stables may have, which is our advantage. The goal is to grow the quality of stock we have, we bought four yearlings this year and as our network grows would like to buy some better performed tried and trial horses which in turn will result in more prizemoney and winners.



As a retired jockey, what skills do you bring into your role now from your time in the saddle and what advantages/disadvantages do you think it has?

I think it's a major advantage, it means I don't have to rely on others feedback and can first-hand feel myself how they are feeling and compare their trackwork to other horses in my stable. I have capable people working for me on the ground so I feel my time is best spent on the horses backs.

What is the most satisfying and most challenging part of your job?

I take great satisfaction at turning a horses form around. With that comes it's challenges but as a young stable we haven't had the luxury to be training well bred yearlings or imports, so most of my horses come with some sort of issue or are just limited in ability. To be able to unlock that key to get them winning is a great feeling.

You've had a bit of media presence lately, how important do you think Social Media is for trainers nowadays and what role does it play in your business?

For us younger trainers I think this side of things comes naturally to us as we've grown up with it. Our phones live in our pockets so sharing a horse's progress and journey has never been easier. Social media has allowed us to grow our database and technology like Prism makes reporting to our owners seamless.

Given the opportunity, what would be the first thing you'd change in the racing or breeding industry in Australia?

Personally, I've always been envious of NSW and the prizemoney each Saturday in the Highway and Midway Handicaps given where our stable sits in our infancy. So naturally I was delighted to hear about a 10th race every Saturday in Melbourne for aspiring trainers like myself for \$80,000. Buying tried horses like we do, this provides a huge opportunity for our stable.

ROYAL ASCOT



Docklands wins the Britannia Stakes at Royal Ascot

The anticipation and wait paid off last night at Royal Ascot, where Docklands left a great impression with his win in the Britannia Stakes over 1600m. Not only a thrill for his connections, but for the team at OTI who celebrated a first ever success at the famous event.

In a field of 29 horses, Docklands ran up on the outside rail and showed a great turn of foot, beating the other "Aussie" in Gai Waterhouse's new acquisition New Endeavour. Post race celebrations were held in the carpark with a big picnic, where Harry Eustace and brother Dave handed out the Champagne.

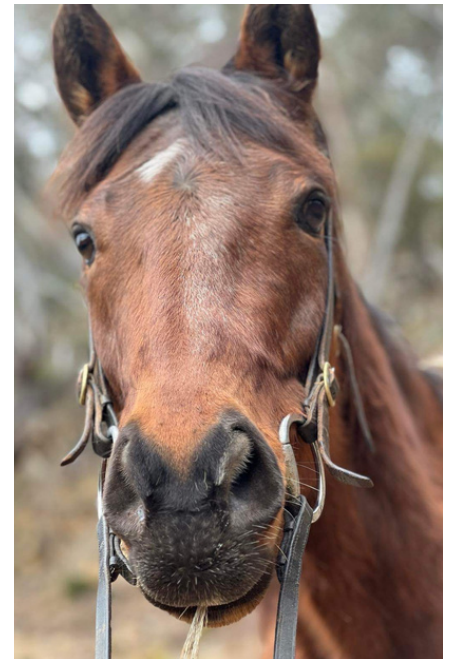
Congratulations to all involved, a most exciting horse with a bright future!



WELFARE UPDATE

My Swashbuckler is making every kids dream come true as he turns up for after school pick ups! So great to see how relaxed and calm he is after being quite a quirky racehorse on the track.

"He is THE BEST! I use him to lead the trail ride most weekends - through the rivers and over mountains. We call him Mr Trustworthy and I sometimes use him when I pick up the kids from school on their ponies. It's always a big highlight!"



INTRODUCING CHIROGRAPHY

Performance, Pedigree and Physique



Chirography is a 2yo filly by Wrote out of Go Teena, making her a sister to 'The Creator'. OTI purchased The Creator, also by Wrote, earlier this year on the back of two wins from two starts in January. He is a horse, in the care of Mick Price and Michael Kent Jnr, that has impressed and is thought to be **stakes level**.

Wrote (a son of High Chaparral) is best known for his Group 3 winners Best Seller and Wrote To Arataki, the latter a mare trained by **Matt Williams** that he believes has similar physical characteristics to Chirography. With numerous Group 1 performed middle-distance/staying types in the dam side of his family, confidence in the filly is further enhanced.

Chirography arrived in Australia last week and has settled in well at Matt Williams' Warrnambool property. Click [**HERE**](#) to see the filly after her arrival, including Matt Williams' first impression.

After a short break she will be commencing her **spring preparation**. Given she is fully educated and considered ready to race, a spring preparation would be centred on establishing her credentials for a race like the **Thousand Guineas** in October.

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

QUIZ

NAME THE RACEHORSE

Hint: recent winner

1. What year did Choisir win the King's Stand Stakes?
2. Which race did Black Caviar win at Royal Ascot?
3. How big was the field for the Britannia Stakes at Royal Ascot on Thursday (pre scratchings)?



FEATURED OWNER - DWAYNE BRITTAIN

Where did you grow up?

Collie, a small country town in WA.

How did you first get involved in racehorse ownership?

Several generations of racing/trotting participants inclusive of SP bookmaker, trotting trainer and ownership so I had little choice. My first horse won 11 races so there was no looking back from there.



How did you initially get involved with OTI?

I promised my 3 daughters I would buy them a share in a racehorse for their weddings. I thought OTI was the right syndicator to do this - proven track record, ethical and great communicators. Only one wedding so far and Mista Razzledazzle was the horse (2 wins).

What is the race you would most like to win?

Cox Plate - it is the race meeting I most enjoy attending.

What are some of your favourite racing memories?

Toregene's win last year on Oaks Day was by far the greatest day I have had on a racetrack. Her debut win over the Warrnambool Carnival also set up a great few days down there. Damien Oliver's win on Media Puzzle in the Melbourne Cup still gives me goosebumps when I watch it.

Does your family get involved?

My wife and three daughters all enjoy following our horses. Our middle daughter Erin was a stablehand for many years.

Which horse excites you the most and why?

Of the horses we own it must be Toregene.

If you were in charge of the racing industry for one day, what would you change?

Our handy/good horses are forced to retire too soon. It would be great to have a racing programme that allows the bottom end of group horses to race on for a few years. I remember as a kid we had races called welters which accommodated this. Good colts have 10 starts before retirement, good geldings are sold to Hong Kong hence getting good horses to have 30-50 starts is becoming more unusual.



Pictured: Toregene wins the Country Series Final at Flemington

SNIPPETS

Flashing Steel - King of BOBS Bonuses

Three year-old Not a Single doubt gelding Flashing Steel notched his fourth consecutive win at Canterbury on Wednesday and has won more BOBS bonuses than any other horse this season. Flashing Steel has won five BOBS bonuses for each of his five wins amassing prizemoney in excess of \$200,000 and while he may take a while to recoup his lofty yearling sale price, he's become a very honest racehorse and you can't ask more than that.

excerpt of the breednet.com article by Tara Madgwick



Pictured: Flashing Steel returning to the mounting yard

Cranbourne Training Center keeps expanding with a new Equine Hospital

Cranbourne Turf Club has announced the addition of a new world-class Equine Clinic and Hospital. An investment of \$4.6 million, which will not only support trainers on course at Cranbourne, but surrounding areas like Mornington, Pakenham and the wider Gippsland area. The clinic will be placed close to the current trial stalls and works are expected to start as soon as possible.

The Cranbourne training center will also have a second poly track to compliment the four spacious grass tracks that are already established.



Quick Thinker on parade at Open Day

Motree Thoroughbreds in Tasmania hold their annual Stallion Parade and Open Day in the upcoming week, featuring their 2023 stallion roster including OTI horse Quick Thinker as well as Yulong Prince & Turffontein.

A great an opportunity to see the horses up close and personal whilst viewing the farm.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 2003
2. Diamond Jubilee Stakes in 2012
3. Field of 30 plus 3 reserves

NAME THE RACEHORSE - Regal Lion



Pictured: Regal Lion wins the 2023 Ipswich Cup