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# BREEDERS' UPDATE

April 15, 2020



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS  
STUD PRESENT **EDITION 80** OF  
THE BREEDERS' UPDATE.

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# BREEDERS' UPDATE

April 15, 2020

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## Stallion Numbers: A Season Review!

Brad Reid

### The Winners

#### Bettor's Delight

Coming off nine consecutive leading sires titles, the king is well and truly in command of his throne.

At the age of 21, he has overtaken Dillon Hall for the second most Leading Sire of Pacing titles with nine and will have Vance Hanover's record of 10 in his sights this season.

With a service fee reserved for only a few in the history of New Zealand harness racing, he has earned every cent of it and has served 164 mares this season, up from 142 the year prior.

164 mares represents just under 10% of the total serves of the pacing broodmare population.

It would appear at this stage, the only thing that could knock Bettor's Delight off his throne is himself.

From 80 offerings at the 2020 Yearling Sales, he had two passed in lots and averaged a tick over \$70,000 across both sales.

He sired 64% of the Group Race winners in New Zealand for pacers in 2018/19 and was on track for similar numbers this year.

Amazingly his live foal percentage has never dropped below 70% while at stud in New Zealand which indicates fertility is certainly not an issue for the old boy yet.

#### Always B Miki

In his third season at stud in New Zealand, the equal fastest standardbred of all time did his biggest book yet in serving 168 mares.

This was a massive leap from 94 and 98 mares in his first two seasons.

Such was the significance that it represents the largest spike of any sire to be standing in the flesh in the Southern Hemisphere in their third season at stud.

Breeders are desperately searching for an heir apparent to Bettor's Delight.

He represents reasonable value at \$7000 given his racetrack credentials and breeders must be liking what they are seeing in the paddock.



*We desperately need more of these little guys!*

Across Lexington and Harrisburg, he was third on average behind Captaintreachers and Somebeachsomewhere.

It didn't translate to immediate success in New Zealand with an average of \$24,736 across both sales, but such is the fickle nature of our market that unproven sires are treated as such, regardless of their racing resume.

The most important thing for any sire is numbers on the ground and ending up with stock in the right stables. Always B Miki achieved on both fronts this season.

## Trotting Mares

I've mentioned it elsewhere, but the trotting numbers continue to hold steady and for the fourth year in a row saw a small rise in the number of mares served.

Mares served 643, up marginally from 639.

Ten seasons ago we were breeding 686 trotting mares, only 43 fewer mares and a 6% decline over a decade. Not bad all things considered.

It doesn't hurt that the leading sire of trotters in New Zealand last season, being the NZ Trotter of the Year in Majestic Son, is available at \$5000+ GST.

The average price of a trotting service fee in New Zealand has actually decreased by \$300 to around \$4500 and this is despite the improved genetics on offer.

The only thing that hasn't significantly improved for trotters is the investment in the gait from a racing standpoint.

Still not a single Group One race for fillies or mares making it very hard for the trotting girls in the studbook to earn black type in what is the only global gait of our industry.

What industry ignores investment in a growth area of its business? Ours does.

Another area of concern with the trotters is that 227 mares were served with frozen semen (up from 122 in 2010/11). On Friday we will take a closer look at the live foals this method of service is producing to truly test its limitations on the studbook.

It certainly didn't put people off the next stallion I'm about to discuss.

## Father Patrick

Ged Mooar and Nevele R Stud have come up trumps this year with Father Patrick serving nearly a quarter of the trotting mares with 126.

Despite being available by frozen semen and at the more expensive end of the market at \$9000, market forces do dictate and trotting breeders are growing more accustomed to investing in a good thing when they see one.

On the last official day of the breeding season in the Southern Hemisphere, Father Patrick rewarded everyone who has supported him with a winner from his debut runner La Reina Del Sur.

In March he took that tally to two from two when Have No Fear won the third and final race for two-year-old trotters in the South Island.

Two starts, for two wins. Can't do much better than that and while his crop next season is smaller in numbers, big things lay ahead for Father Patrick and his stock.

## The Sufferer's

### Lazarus

It doesn't matter what way you spin it, our greatest pacer of the last decade has been sold short in his first season at stud.

Through no fault of his own, he will be on the back foot chasing his tail for the rest of his career at stud.

The stud responsible for communicating with breeders have come up short and left the stallion's owners in a compromised position, to say the least when it comes to resurrecting the stallion next season.

Open, honest, two-way communication as shown by Alabar Stud when Art Major was suffering from a few issues with his tubes does not mean the death of a stallion commercially.

If anything it has proven to be otherwise.

Alabar gave breeders a timely response and the opportunity to change tact and to get their mares in foal, and unfortunately, in this case, it proved to be the opposite.



It has a flow-on effect also to the studbooks in both New Zealand and Australia.

How many mares will sit empty at a time when we can absolutely not afford to have any wastage in the breeding sector?

I love the horse and absolutely hope like anything that breeders are able to look past this season and give the champ another go.

I know the owners are keen to make amends and have acknowledged they will attempt to do so to the best of their ability.

It would appear the champ has another strong book in North America and is back firing in all cylinders.

I urge breeders here to not be apathetic and give our best domestic hope since Christian Cullen the chance he deserves.

## Pacing Sires Under \$7000

Not even Woodlands Stud would begrudge me in saying that Bettor's Delight's dominance is such, that the industry is crying out for a new pacing sire to put his hand up as the next big thing.

Captaintreacherous will never stand Down Under and therefore will do very well to dominate in the way Bettor's Delight has done serving 50 mares with frozen semen.

Art Major is 22 years young and although showing some promise, the biggest crops of Sweet Lou are yet to be seen so it is still early doors regarding his ascendancy.

While a few stallions in recent seasons have had decent crops, this hasn't materialised to instant success on the track, particularly in our biggest of races.

Because of the commercial nature of the yearling sales, sires are judged on their ability to leave juvenile speed and winners of feature races as the barometer of success.

Unfortunately for every sire not named Bettor's Delight, Art Major & Captaintreacherous, clients of the All-Stars are not purchasing your stock as yet and therefore reading the stats, your chances are limited of winning a juvenile feature.

This isn't a gripe, look at the results for the last decade. Its mere facts.

Who purchased and trained the only Auckland Reactor to win a Group Race thus far?

The benchmark stable in our industry won 41 of the 59 Group Races in a single season in 2018/19, and while they won Group Races with stock by three sires not named

The benchmark stable in our industry won 41 of the 59

in a single season in 2018/19, and while they won Group Races with stock by three sires not named above, two of them are dead (Falcon Seelster/Cruz Bromac & Courage Under Fire/Turn It Up) and the other was a filly out of Adore Me (Sweet Lou).

Therefore the barometer by which we judge success for any sire is unrealistic. Not only are these stallions doing smaller crops, but they are also getting lesser quality mares and have next to nothing by way of incentives to promote breeding to them.

It can't be left up to the Sires Stakes Board to incentivize these stallions, but is it any surprise of the five new races they have carded since 2015 (Southern & Northern Mares Classic, Sires 7000, and two Uncut Gems) that the All-Stars and Bettor's Delight have only won two of the 31 races run?

## New Zealand Studbook

We can't afford to haemorrhage any more than we are.

The status quo is not working, you only need to go to a website like Harnesslink and type in 'Mares Served New Zealand' to get a litany of articles year on year speaking of the demise of our breeding industry.

As pointed out last week, we are not unique, but we also can't afford to continue with the status quo.

We must look at what is working elsewhere and have the capacity to think beyond the next 12 to 18 months in shaping our future.

The effects of this year's breeding won't be felt for five years, and without any investment into the breeding sector next year and beyond, the problem will be even more glaring.

In 2025 when the economy is likely turning the corner, do we really want to look back and wish we had done more to stimulate breeding in a time of crisis?

The long term needs to be considered and whether that is done through regional focus groups or better two-way communication from the top down, I think it starts with being brave and having the courage to have tough conversations out in the open, and not hide behind the narrative of being hopeful.

We have some highly skilled and competent people who participate in our industry that aren't so much being ignored as they are left feeling disillusioned. It's one thing to say your communication lines are open, it's another to utilise them in a way that leaves every industry participant feeling like they can contribute.

Hope alone won't see us through another decade and neither will a short term focus funding only racing.

How can you maximise future turnover without a horse population to do so?!



## NZ PACING MARES SERVED

Sire	Sire Line	Lifetime to date	19/20	18/19	17/18	16/17	15/16	14/15	13/14
A Rockroll Dance	Rockroll Hanover	725	31	89	233	131	80	161	x
Always B Miki	Always A Virgin	360	168 Aust	94 Aust	98 Aust	x			
American Ideal	Western Ideal	1,332	20 Aust	42	91	108	148	125	141
Art Major	Artsplace	1,663	149 Aust	156 Aust	146 Aust	166 Aust	189 Aust	174 Aust	94 Aust
Artsplace	Abercrombie	262	2 Frzn	-	1 Frzn	-	2 Frzn	5 Frzn	7 Frzn
Auckland Reactor	Mach Three	687	7 Aust	29	76	95	112	156	212
Betterthancheddar	Bettor's Delight	365	31 Aust	34 Aust	42 Aust	29 Aust	57 Aust	70 Aust	102
Betting Line	Bettor's Delight	86	31 Frzn	14 Aust	41 Aust	x			
Bettor Dream	Bettor's Delight	10	5	4	1	x			
Bettor's Creek	Bettor's Delight	37		13	9	4	2	5	4
Bettor's Delight	Cam's Card Shark	3,668	164	142	193	299	289	301	249
Buy Kiwi Made	Presidential Ball	33	12	14	2	2	2	-	1
Captaintreacherous	Somebeachsomewhere	215	52 Frzn	72 Frzn	46 Frzn	45 Frzn	x		
Changeover	In The Pocket	820	-	-	-	23	38	142	142
Courage Under Fire	In The Pocket	1,520	7 Frzn	11	16	1 Aust	-	22 Aust	19 Aust
Downbytheseaside	Somebeachsomewhere	183	94	89	x				
Falcon Seelster	Warm Breeze	2,684	-	3 Frzn	10 Frzn	8 Frzn	23 Frzn	43 Frzn	55 Frzn
Franco Ledger	Falcon Seelster	42	9	11	22	x			
Gold Ace	Bettor's Delight	204	28	35	54	42	45	x	
Grinfromeartoear	Artsplace	636	-	3 Aust	6 Aust	7 Aust	12 Aust	10 Aust	34 Aust
Heston Blue Chip	American Ideal	7	-	-	7	x			
He's Watching	American Ideal	417	48	85	102	81	101	x	
Highview Tommy	Bettor's Delight	119	9 Aust	21	35	15	18	21	x
Johnny Rock	Rockroll Hanover	64	19	15	12	18	x		
Lazarus	Bettor's Delight	76	76 Aust	x					
Locharburn	Christian Cullen	12	12	x					
Luck Be Withyou	American Ideal	1	1 Frzn	x					
Mel Mara	Lis Mara	1	1 Aust	x					
Mach Three	Matt's Scooter	1,932	-	-	4	90	121	130	160
Natives Royal Affair	Native Snow Warrior	15	2	1	1	3	2	3	2
Net Ten EOM	Somebeachsomewhere	129	13	25 Frzn	18 Frzn	17 Frzn	24 Frzn	32 Frzn	x
Panspacificflight	The Panderosa	237	2 Frzn	6 Frzn	11 Frzn	34 Frzn	30 Frzn	23 Frzn	28 Frzn
Pet Rock	Rockroll Hanover	12	-	-	12 Aust	x			
Prodigal Seelster	Camluck	79	3	10	11	15	20	20	x
Racing Hill	Roll With Joe	13	-	-	13	x			
Raging Bull	Christian Cullen	147	36	33	25	31	7	19	32
Rockroll Hanover	Western Ideal	288	25 Frzn	14 Frzn	17 Frzn	13 Frzn	18 Frzn	11 Frzn	47 Frzn
Rock N Roll Heaven	Rockroll Hanover	462	31 Aust	110 Aust	82 Aust	84 Aust	11 Aust	20 Aust	41 Aust
Roll With Joe	Cam's Card Shark	64	-	-	-	26 Aust	-	9 Aust	15 Aust
Shadow Play	The Panderosa	317	-	23	13 Aust	25 Aust	51 Aust	60 Aust	80 Aust
Sir Lincoln	Mach Three	507	4	29	65	125	101	69	114
Sky Major	Art Major	87	43	44	x				
Somebeachsomewhere	Mach Three	466	-	5 Frzn	70 Frzn	76 Frzn	87 Frzn	35 Frzn	88 Frzn
Sportswriter	Artsplace	468	25 Aust	50	93	176	35 Aust	76 Aust	17 Aust
Stunin Cullen	Christian Cullen	141	-	5		23	14	31	68
Sunshine Beach	Somebeachsomewhere	165	26 Aust	26 Aust	36 Aust	20	57	x	
Sweet Lou	Yankee Cruiser	737	214	225	122	90	86	x	
Terror To Love	Western Terror	227	18	30	33	62	84	x	
Vincent	Art Major	258	110 Aust	148 Aust	x				
Washington VC	Presidential Ball	1,952	29	30	38	61	42	75	90
Well Said	Western Hanover	131	1 Frzn	7 Frzn	12 Aust	6 Frzn	11 Frzn	41 Frzn	24 Aust
Western Terror	Western Hanover	251	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
<b>No. of Mares served</b>			1,674	1,797	1,925	2,113	2,108	2,214	2,397
<b>No. of Stallions used</b>			41	40	43	47	49	55	55
<b>Average No. of serves per stallion</b>			40.8	44.9	44.8	45	43	40.3	43.6

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## NZ TROTTING MARES SERVED

Sire	Sire Line	Lifetime to date	19/20	18/19	17/18	16/17	15/16	14/15	13/14
Aldebaran Eagle	Muscle Hill	7	-	7 Aust	x				
Andover Hall	Garland Lobell	132	9 Frzn	5 Frzn	16 Frzn	19 Frzn	50 Frzn	33 Frzn	x
Angus Hall	Garland Lobell	158	-	1 Frzn	6 Frzn	9 Frzn	27 Frzn	34 Frzn	18 Frzn
Barcardi Lindy	SJ's Photo	125	12	9 Frzn	8 Frzn	12 Aust	13 Aust	9 Aust	8 Frzn
Centurion ATM	SJ's Caviar	2	-	2 Frzn	x				
Crazed	Credit Winner	46	-	-	5 Frzn	1 Frzn	11 Frzn	1 Frzn	6 Frzn
Creatine	Andover Hall	119	-	49	70	x			
Dreamcatcher	Love You	1	-	1 Aust	x				
Dream Vacation	Pine Chip	161	-	2 Frzn	3 Frzn	3 Frzn	14 Frzn	15 Frzn	6 Frzn
En Solitaire	Ready Cash	23	23	x					
Father Patrick	Cantab Hall	277	126 Frzn	82 Frzn	25 Frzn	44 Frzn	x		
Helpisontheway	Chapter Seven	1	1 Frzn	x					
Imperial Count	Angus Hall	74	15	24	17	3	-	-	15
Kadabra	Primrose Lane	18	-	1 Frzn	17 Frzn	x			
Love You	Coktail Jet	473	5 Frzn	41 Frzn	90 Frzn	88 Frzn	25 Frzn	5 Frzn	13 Frzn
Lucky Chucky	Windsong's Legacy	47	1 Frzn	2 Frzn	7 Frzn	2 Frzn	5 Frzn	19 Frzn	11 Frzn
Majestic Son	Angus Hall	902	105	89	70	81	109	142	161
Master Glide	Yankee Glide	72	4	3	13	23	19	10	x
Monkey Bones	Andover Hall	265	-	-	2 Frzn	6 Frzn	7 Frzn	66	40
Muscle Hill	Muscles Yankee	164	3 Frzn	-	21 Frzn	35 Frzn	38 Frzn	27 Frzn	28 Frzn
Muscle Mass	Muscles Yankee	193	20 Frzn	19 Frzn	17 Frzn	52 Frzn	-	-	-
One Over Da Moon	Majestic Son	36	12	7	1	14	-	2	x
Orlando Vici	Quadrophenio	33	2 Frzn	5 Frzn	6 Frzn	1 Frzn	1 Frzn	18 Frzn	x
Peak	Ganymede	267	11	32	51	66	67	40	x
Pegasus Spur	SJ's Photo	556	9	19	34	40	42	23	26
Quaker Jet	Love You	57	3 Frzn	6 Frzn	12 Frzn	18 Frzn	18 Frzn	x	
Quite Easy	Andover Hall	39	1 Frzn	-	1 Frzn	1 Frzn	1	2	2
Royal Aspirations	Monarchy	92	36	28	21	7	x		
Royalty For Life	RC Royalty	16	4 Frzn	5 Frzn	-	3	x		
Sebastian K	Korean	37	2 Frzn	6 Frzn	17 Frzn	12 Frzn	x		
Shakennotstirred S	Coktail Jet	43	1	3	2	-	1	3	3
Skyvalley	Muscles Yankee	100	-	5 Aust	-	1 Aust	10 Aust	4 Aust	13 Aust
Southwind Frank	Muscle Hill	24	11 Frzn	13 Frzn	x				
Sundon	Arndon	2,445	4 Frzn	7 Frzn	6 Frzn	8 Frzn	14	13	16
Superfast Stuart	Kadabra	223	46	26	12	26	20	39	54
Tactical Landing	Muscle Hill	14	14 Frzn	x					
The Pres	Andover Hall	319	-	21	28	10	9	13	50
Trixton	Muscle Hill	52	11 Frzn	14 Frzn	11 Frzn	9 Frzn	12 Frzn	x	
Used To Me	Nuage De Lait	21	5 Aust	10 Aust	6 Aust	x			
Village Mystic	Love You	6	-	-	6 Frzn	x			
Volstead	Cantab Hall	37	37 Aust	x					
Waterloo Sunset	Sundon	20	6	4	2	2	2	4	x
What The Hill	Muscle Hill	176	94	82	x				
Wishing Stone	Conway Hall	48	10 Frzn	9 Frzn	20 Frzn	1 Frzn	2 Frzn	6 Frzn	x
No. of Mares served			643	639	627	624	545	581	611
No. of Stallions used			32	36	33	38	30	31	29
Average No. of serves per stallion			20.1	17.7	19	16.4	18.2	18.7	21.1

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## Group One Bloodlines on offer at All Age Sale

### NZB Standardbred

The New Zealand Bloodstock 2020 All-Age Sale, set to be conducted on the digital platform gavelhouse.com this May, is brimming with plenty of Group One-winning relations who have ample credentials to follow in the footsteps of their families.

Buyers have the opportunity to invest in a wide range of bloodstock with proven bloodlines and residual value, including siblings to Group One winners and progeny from Group One-winning dams.

Lot 5 is a half-sister to Group One-winning Eamon Maguire (NZ) (Art Major), a weanling filly by first season sire Vincent out of Kim Maguire from the draft of Alabar (NZ). Consigned by Woodlands Stud, Lot 13 is a weanling filly by Sweet Lou out of Love A Gamble, who is a half-sister to Group One winner Let it Ride (NZ) (Rock N Roll Heaven).

Woodlands' Downbytheseaside filly (Lot 35) is out of unraced mare Revere Me, who is a full-sister to Group One winners Have Faith In Me (NZ) and Adore Me (NZ).

On account of Alabar (NZ), Lot 78 is by Vincent out of dual Group One-winning mare Alta Serena (NZ) (Art Major), also making the weanling filly a three-quarter-sister to Group Three winner Hughie Green (NZ) (Art Major).

Group One winner Massive Metro (NZ) (Muscle Mass) has a half-sister on offer in Lot 128, a yearling filly by Wish-ing Stone out of Paris Metro consigned by Alan Clark.

Alabar (NZ) broodmare Peace Seeker (Lot 138) is a CR Commando mare out of Della's Speed, making her a half-sister to multiple Group One winner and New Zealand Trotter of the Year, Speeding Spur (NZ) (Pegasus Spur).

Breckon Farms' Art Major broodmare Reachforhetill (Lot 139) out of Giveitawhirlgirl is a half-sister to dual Group One winner Twist And Twirl (NZ) (Artsplace) and is closely related to 2020 Group One Miracle Mile winner King of Swing (NZ) (Rocknroll Hanover).

Sassy Tart (Lot 140), a Bettor's Delight broodmare out of Kelly Maguire is a full-sister to Group One winner Burnaholeinmypocket (NZ) (Bettor's Delight). On account of Breckon Farms, the mare is in foal to Sweet Lou.

Adding further appeal to the bloodstock that will be on offer, all weanlings offered at the All Age Sale to be held on gavelhouse.com are eligible to be nominated for the NZB Standardbred Harness Million Sales Race Series.

For more information, contact Cam Bray (Cam.Bray@nzb.co.nz or call +64 21 737 199) or Haylie Martin (Haylie@Gavelhouse.com or call +64 22 637 8127).

## Sweet Maddison is Oaks bound

The Charles Roberts bred filly, Sweet Maddison is developing into a strong contender for the \$150,000 WA Oaks on May 1.

Prepared by Michael Brennan, Sweet Maddison (\$2.80) notched her fifth win in a row and the sixth in a ten-start career when Michael Grantham drove her to a strong victory over Fifty Five Reborn and Advance Your Dream in the Mondo Doro Smallgoods Pace over 2130m at Gloucester Park on Thursday night.

She began speedily from the No. 6 barrier and forged to the front after 220m, with a smart lead time of 36.5sec. The final quarters were covered in 27.7sec. and 28.9sec. and she rated 1.571. Sweet Maddison is by American sire Sweet Lou and is related to former good WA performers Pazam and Our Amazing Art.

[To watch the video replay of Sweet Maddison's victory click here.](#)

## Sales Shake Up in Oz

Things are about to change dramatically in Australia's harness racing yearling sales landscape.

Just as New Zealand Bloodstock "shook-up" the NZ harness sales in mid-2018, Nutrien Equine has announced plans to do the same in Australia.

Until now, it has effectively been a monopoly at the top end of the Aussie market for Australian Gold. But growing speculation turned into reality this week with an open letter to the Australian harness industry from Nutrien Equine.

The letter revealed plans for an inaugural "super sale" at Inglis' Oaklands Junction in Melbourne from April 8-11, next year.

"Our plan is to only hold one sale next year, with the timing of the sale planned to fit buyer feedback, with many buyers keen to see the previous year's horses race before buying again," the open letter said.

"We aim to work closely with all of you in the industry to help deliver a sales event that will capture the interest of all involved in the sport of Harness Racing."

Insiders say the Nutrien Equine model also includes a \$1.5 million slot pacing race, along the lines of The Everest in thoroughbred racing. It will be partially funded by Nutrien and for graduates of their sales only. The inaugural sale will be for both pacers and trotters.

Major players already understood to have committed to the new sale include: Alabar Bloodstock, Yabby Dams and Benstud Standardbreds.





Alan and Julia Rose greet Canstar after she was successful at the Wakaiouiti Meeting in February

## Rose brought to tears by family double

**Brad Reid**

The old saying that change can be as good as a holiday rang true when Regan Todd took two well-bred half-sisters and produced them to win first up in his colours.

The great benefactor in all of this were long time industry participants Alan Rose and John Howe.

Elation is a word not often used to describe the feeling on a racetrack, but Rose admits to having no embarrassment in saying that the tears were flowing in the birdcage.

"I had a friend ring me up that I haven't heard from since school days and he said, to win one race in a day is marvellous. But to win two races in a day is champion," said Rose.

The two were victorious on the first day of the Wakaiouiti meeting in February and their wins were special for many reasons.

None more than the fact that Canstar (4yo Bettor's Delight) and Duastar (3yo Art Major) were both bred from a mare that Rose and his racing partner John Howe had some success with on the track.

The pair are the first and second foals from Starlet Lavra, a five-win Jereme's Jet mare who is out of the In The Pocket mare, Florentine Star.

Regular readers may be thinking, 'this Star breed rings a bell'?

Florentine Star is a full sister to Star Command, mother of West Australian Derby winner, Patronus Star.

"Starlet Lavra was a tremendous race mare and she comes out of the Queen's Treasure maternal line, which is full of good horses through its various branches," he quipped.

Last week we heard about the good Open Class horses like Starship and Anvil Star which are close relatives of Canstar and Duastar.

But various taproots tracing back to Queens Treasure (1930) include offspring such as Holmes DG and 1984 NZ Cup winner Camelot amongst a litany of good open class and juvenile horses.

Rose's involvement in Harness Racing began at the same time a young Canterbury lad was making his way in the training ranks.

"We had raced a lot of horses with Terry Chmiel and were with him when he went out on his own originally," said Rose.

"We hadn't had a lot of luck but he was on the lookout for a nice one.

"Mark Jones had said to Terry that he would want to have a look at a horse that was owned 50/50 by Tim Butt and Kypros Kotzikas.

"She was a two-year-old and the funny story about her is that I was at the Motukarara trials and there was a heat being run for emerging two-year-olds.



"Well bugger me, Starlet Lavra was one of the horses in that heat. I didn't ever think that I would be owning one of them," he said.

Starlet Lavra had shown early promise, but it was her residual value as a broodmare that ultimately saw her sold as Rose and his partner were keen on the breeding side after some unsuccessful attempts a few years prior.

"Anthony Butt said to me she was from a good family, so I went to Danny Boyle at Nevele R Stud who helped me research the family.

"We printed off nearly seven pages of black-type performers from Classic Families, he couldn't believe all of the families that were coming up and I couldn't believe my eyes," he said.

Although Starlet Lavra had the speed to make a two-year-old, Chmiel advised his clients against pushing on and instead the camp opted for the patient route.

"She could have won a race as a two-year-old but we thought being a big filly we would give her time, so I took her home and looked after her and waited until her three-year-old season," he said.

Rose and Howe didn't have to wait long for their patience to be rewarded with Starlet Lavra who won her race debut at Addington comfortably in the hands of Glenys Chmiel.

After some mixed performances being thrust up in grade at a time when fillies and mares opportunities were scarce, it would be six months before she recaptured her best form.

After stringing a couple of placings together in the Winter of 2013, she found her way to the winner's circle on a balmy Thursday night at Forbury Park.

She lined up on Cup Day the followings season as the winner of five races from 16 starts, having won her fourth and fifth races in succession.

Her fourth win was very impressive, looping the field five wide and coming from last on the turn which with the lack of camber on the Rangiora track is no mean feat.

She set a track record that day for mares over 2000m from a stand, stopping the clock in 2:31.1. That record still stands today. Just as it looked like Starlet Lavra was fulfilling her early promise, the wheels fell off through no fault of her own.

"We lined up on Cup Day thinking there was only one horse to beat and that was Arden Rooney, but as he could earlier in his career, he galloped off the mobile arm and was out of the race.

"We were sitting midfield with cover thinking we were a big show, but when Terry hooked her out to sprint, she was going backwards and he didn't know what the hell had happened.

"Blair had driven her at the Cup Trials and had come back and said to me jokingly that he should drive this horse because she was too good for Terry. She was no Adore Me but she beat her in a trial as a three-year-old," he said.

"What it turned out was that somewhere along the line she had been injected and they had hit a nerve in her neck. It was inhibiting her breathing subsequently and we thought that rather than operate, we would breed from her.

"If we got one as good as her we would be happy, and if we got something better we would have something really good," said Rose.

Starlet Lavra was on the bigger side for most mares and it was with her size in mind that Rose and Howe sent her to Bettor's Delight, thinking the Sire's penchant for throwing the odd smaller foal would be the equilibrium needed for a recipe of success.

Mother nature likes to make a fool of us as breeders and as it turned out, the mating would produce a filly who was rather large.

"Canstar was a big scopey horse like her mother, Dan Cummings had told me that that side of the breed were big horses, and we had gone to Bettor's thinking we would get a smaller foal," said Rose.

Like any decent breeder, Rose took a glass half full approach

"She was a big horse, but so was Brent Mangos' good filly Bettor Cover Lover."

Canstar took a little time to find her feet as a racehorse despite having a bit of breeding on her side. The daughter of Bettor's Delight was well travelled racing at 10 different venues before securing her first win at her 11th start.

Rose was quick to point out she had no favours with barrier draws for much of her early career, but running 5th in an Alabar Fillies Heat behind Wainui Creek showed she was no slouch.

"The draws came out and we had drawn five and we were over the moon. I rang my partner to tell him and we were sort of jumping around because Wainui creek had drawn 8.

"Half an hour later they re-drew the fields and we had drawn 8 and Wainui Creek had moved into the pole," he laughed.

By now the racing partnership of Rose and Howe had a second foal from Starlet Lavra and despite being cut from a different cloth physically, the Art Major filly was showing some of the family traits of early speed.

"Duastar looks like a typical Art Major, they are totally different horses to look at but she too could have been a





*Alan Rose & Korbyn Newman greet Robbie Close and Duastar after clearing maidens in February*

two-year-old," said Rose.

The virtue of patience was once again applied to see the now three-year-old presented at the races on the back of some good trial form, having won a Workout at Methven leading to her debut at Rangiora.

The filly failed to fire a shot and after some questions from the stipes, was found to be suffering from the effects of a virus.

Back to the drawing board they went. After a couple of nice trials and workouts, she went even worse at Methven. Interestingly the stipes left her alone this time?!

Looking for answers it was decided a different approach might be good for the Rose and Howe owned duo, and the pair were sent to Woodend and placed in the care of Regan Todd.

Duastar must have shown a bit on the beach because despite having run 10th at her first two starts, she opened a warm third favourite in the third race at Wakaioiti.

Robbie Close had her in the running line for most of the trip and when presented, showed some real dash to reel in the favourite Krystal Delight, who had led everywhere but the finish.

"The funny thing was they were horses who we didn't think had much of a sprint, but for whatever reason Regan didn't agree with our assessment and so it's proven," said Rose.

Canstar completed a wonderful day for Rose when she won the eighth race on the card.

Todd insists that he never worked any oracles so to speak and that the pair were nice horses and probably just down on their luck a bit.

"I didn't have to do anything too drastic mate, wee Duastar had always shown promise early on for Terry but got crook a couple of times and Canstar was in the same boat, she seems nice enough and I would like to think they will be better for it next time in," said Todd.

Both horses have franked their form and gone on with it.

Canstar bolted in at her next start at Addington after being no better than midfield and showing great zip to win going away before running second in an extremely deep fillies and mares race in her final start for the season.

The younger sister Duastar has proven no slouch either running fourth in a strong Nevele R Fillies heat behind Stylish Memphis and then being beaten a nose by the seven-win Doctor Tim at Waimate.

Both suggest they will make Rose proud next season and he has a He's Watching yearling and Vincent weanling out of Starlet Lavra waiting in the wings.

Both are colts and the yearling is showing some promise with Regan Todd.

"The He's Watching colt is a big rangy horse like his mum and I haven't been out to see the Vincent colt for a while but he was a nice foal like a lot of the Vincent's," he said.

It's always great to see the nice guys having a bit of luck and for a student of the game like Rose, his passion for breeding is now beginning to reap its rewards.

"I go over all the test matings and to finally have what you think come true, you feel validated," said Rose.



# Amour Angus inducted into Canadian Hall of Fame

by Paul Delean

In a week of predominantly grim news, 87-year-old Pierre Levesque got a welcome pick-me-up at his home south of Montreal in Quebec's Eastern Townships.

Amour Angus, the most celebrated horse ever produced by his now-defunct standardbred breeding operation Angus Farm, soon would be joining him in the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame, elected as part of the class of 2020.

"I'm proud, naturally. It showed what we were capable of here in Quebec," said Levesque, inducted himself in 2008 for his pivotal role in the sport during its heyday in the province from the 1960s to the 1990s.

Bred and foaled at the farm he once owned in Bedford, QC, Amour Angus was an ordinary racehorse transformed into an extraordinary broodmare when matched with stallion Garland Lobell, producing an all-star roster of trotting siblings that included filly Emilie Cas El (Canada's Horse of the Year in 1994 and dam of 2014 Hambletonian champion Trixton) and stakes-winning colts Conway Hall, Angus Hall and Andover Hall, all of whom became successful and impactful sires. Angus Hall also is in the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Amour Angus, who died in 2009 at age 22 after fracturing a hind leg, has been in the U.S. Hall of Fame since 2008. Despite her distinctly Canadian roots, it took another decade for similar recognition to be bestowed in her native land.

Levesque, who'll be 88 on April 17, has no hard feelings.

He's not even regretful for selling Amour Angus, in foal, for \$50,000 (U.S.) to Walnut Hall Farm of Lexington, KY in 1995, just as her legend was beginning to form.

"It wasn't the money, it was how I viewed the future. When I saw the casinos come into Quebec (in 1993), it was obvious who the government favored. We had a viable industry, with great horsemen and 2,000 broodmares, but my dad used to tell me, 'You can't fight city hall,' and I could see the trouble coming. They didn't want competition. It was not going to work. And the horsemen were indeed left impoverished."

At one time, Angus Farm had as many as five stallions and 80 broodmares.

Magna Force, the sire of Amour Angus, wasn't one of the big names. Levesque stood the former Billy Haughton trainee under a lease arrangement and decided to try him with one of his mares, Kenwood Scamper, a \$20,000

(U.S.) yearling purchase in Harrisburg who'd been injured in a fall before making it to the races.

The resulting filly, born in 1987, had some talent and actually won a Quebec Sires Stake at the former Blue Bonnets racetrack for Levesque as a 2-year-old. But an injury limited her effectiveness and she was retired after her 3-year-old season with \$21,355 in career earnings and five wins in 16 starts.

Bred to stallion Garland Lobell, a future Hall-of-Famer then based in Quebec as well, Amour Angus produced a filly that would sell at auction and race for trainer Dustin Jones under the name Emilie Cas El and go undefeated in 13 starts at 2, earning Canadian Horse of the Year honors.

"Dustin used to be buy quite a lot from me. He'd told me he wasn't really interested in trotters that year, but he ended up getting her. It helps when they go to good trainers," Levesque said.

Alan Leavitt of Walnut Hall Farm called Levesque the next year, asking whether Amour Angus might be available.

"The morning he called, my mother had just died. I said it wasn't a good day. He said he understood and would get back to me in a month. And he did," Levesque said.

Leavitt has described Amour Angus as "perfectly proportioned" but he purchased her sight unseen, Levesque said.

The foal beside her wasn't part of the initial deal, but Leavitt persevered and the colt was included by the time the truck arrived to take her to her new Kentucky home. The baby — her fourth — would be renamed Conway Hall. The foal Amour Angus was carrying turned out to be Angus Hall. Andover Hall, her seventh foal, came along three years later.

In all, Amour Angus produced 14 offspring. Eleven raced, earning more than \$3.5 million in total, and they in turn produced trotting titans such as Peaceful Way, Majestic Son, Donato Hanover, Windsong's Legacy and Pampered Princess.'

Levesque remembers telling his accountant at the time of the sale, "we've just sold the best broodmare in Canada." In hindsight, he could have said one the best anywhere, ever.





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# Feeding Advice from Dunstan!

## Dunstan Horse Feeds

An opportunity, to push the reset button on the equine digestive tract.

For many of us, all things equine – whether they be from the vast array of equestrian codes or from the racing codes, have all essentially ended abruptly. Many of last week's feeding decisions were made in a hurried fashion to ensure our horses wouldn't go without during the current Level 4 Covid-19 lockdown. Farm stores experienced panic buying much like the supermarket shopping behaviour of much of the country (many of us are trying to buy yeast and flour).

The good news is that most of our feed stores and feed companies have stepped up and continue to offer a service around the choices of feeds we have at hand, and they have been quick to adapt to the new style of purchasing. As we embrace these changes, it is important we don't make drastic changes to the equine diet but implement any diet variance over many days.

Two weeks into the lockdown, with the panic purchasing behind us, there is perhaps the opportunity to review how and what we are feeding. Many of our performance horses are fed within a system that is at odds with their digestive physiology and their natural foraging behaviours. We know that in the wild they can graze up to/around 18 hours a day. Their stomach continuously secretes stomach acid (we only secrete as we eat). The chewing of fibre grazed over many hours of the day produce all important saliva which adds in buffering the continuous acid secretion.

We also know many of our performance feeds are high in starch, which in some instances the amount and frequency these are fed can cause digestive upsets and pre-dispose the horse to gastric ulcers. It is important to remember though some of the equestrian pursuits do require a higher level of starch derived energy to meet the workload. However, we often find that addressing the fibre level can increase digestive efficiency to allow for a reduction in the amount of high starch/supplementary feed required. Fibre levels can be increased by the offering of quality hays, ensiled chaffs like Fiber Fresh and Equifibre® and Super Fibres such as Dunstan BetaBeet & Sugarbeet. All these fibre sources will have a positive effect on the digestive system.

Currently the grazing situation is quite different in different parts of NZ – some areas have horses and ponies turned out onto good growing pasture, and these animals, if in good condition may possibly only need the addition of a balancer pellet such as Multi Ultra and maybe some hay when it is colder.

However, in other parts of NZ, there is still only minimal grass growth and the soil is still very dry. These horses and ponies may need additional hay to increase fibre levels and possibly a hard feed/s, depending on their condition.

If you are able during the lockdown period, take the opportunity to spend time weighing the hay and supplementary feed offered. It will give you a better insight into whether you are providing sufficient fibre in their diet – and what amount of hard feed you are offering them. It is worth noting, hay is typically 85% DM, ensiled fibre approximately 45-50%DM and grass can range in DM depending on how lush and green it is (approx. 12-15%DM) – or brown and dried off it is (20-30%DM in summer).

It is well documented that horses require at a bare minimum 1% (ideally 1.5%), of their body weight in Dry Matter per day in fibre sources (pasture, hay, conserved forage, or beet). As an example, that is 5Kg of DM for a 500Kg horse.

For those horses with reduced workloads, but still in need additional calories for maintenance of body condition (or to increase body condition for winter), choose lower energy, more conditioning feeds. No single feed is going to be the panacea, as all equines are different and respond differently to the various feed options. Some of the Dunstan options could be, Dunstan Breed and Grow, Dunstan Coolfeed, Dunstan Maxim Low GI, Dunstan Old Horse® or Dunstan All Four Feet for those pre-disposed to laminitis. Dunstan Resolve™ could also be used as it's a semi concentrate which requires a smaller amount of feed to provide sufficient vitamins and minerals. Dunstan Muscle n' Shine, Dunstan Extruded Rice or Dunstan Trifecta Oil offer additional calories for those equines needing extra conditioning. As always, the golden rule is to introduce a new feed source slowly and give it time to work.

You can find a new 'feed finder' on the Dunstan website or contact one of our knowledgeable team to assist you. <https://buff.ly/2QIZVly>

So, if during the next few weeks your horse has access to a higher fibre diet and/or a slower pace of life it might just be a chance for the gut to become healthier and more efficient – pushing the reset button. A good thing to aim for as we come out of the lockdown, both for health and performance.

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Robyn Hirst  
Forage Specialist  
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# GEORGIAS BETTOR - A TEMPTATION TOO GREAT TO PASS

David McCarthy

Ticking the right boxes is the key to successful yearling purchases and ace selector, Jean Feiss, must have found it easier than usual in selecting Georgias Bettor as a target in February. Even if she had to produce another \$200,000 bid to back her judgement

Some of the incentives for Jean to be a big bidder on the Bettor's Delight colt were, given her history at the sales, a no brainer.

Georgias Bettor paraded in outstanding fashion—always the clincher— but had caught the eye of many a bidder long before then. Especially Jean's.

He is from a Christian Cullen mare the same cross as Self Assured. Tick.

He is also bred on the same cross as a close relation, Spanish Armada, winner of over \$700,000 for Jean and 14 of just 19 starts before being sold for a stud career (Jean and Bill Feiss no longer breed their own) for a very healthy sum. Tick.

The colt is the 4th live foal from his dam but the first by Bettor's Delight. Big tick right there.

A half-brother from Georgia Brooke by Art Major, Georgia's Baron, has won 2 from 8 in his first prep. Tick.

Ok, Bettor's Delight is almost an encyclopedia of modern racing success. But he is all over this family through close relations to Jean's colt in Cheer The Lady— hot property on and off the track— Galleon's Warrior, Spanish Armada—the list goes on. Another tick.

Then, just when you might conclude, yeah but this is a family dominated in recent times by fillies, Jean can point to Supreme Dominator a brother to Spanish Armada who was placed in both the Derby's in New Zealand in his year. and a competitor in both the Hondo Grattan and the Bonanza in Australia this summer. Tick.

Quite a lot of the success of this family in recent years can be traced to the "Galleon" name developed by Gary Allen's with David Kennedy and Trevor Casey among those bringing added value. Gary was a fan of the sire Albert Albert and several of the various "Galleon" mares patronised him during his relatively short career down under.

One of them was Galleon's Cheer the dam of Cheer the Lady and Georgia Brooke. Cheer the Lady joined Spanish Armada at the Taffy Stud in Winton from where their progeny sell like hot cakes.

Albert Albert did not earn a great deal of respect when he came to Australia as an older horse. At one stage he had moved to California and is said to have been the first American-based stallion to have chilled fresh semen to Australia and New Zealand but that proved a challenge.

Albert Albert, a \$US42,000 yearling, had equalled Nihilator's two year old world record (1.52.8) winning the Fox Stake but at 3 raced in the shadow of Camtastic, winning heats of the Jug and the Adios but not featuring in the finals. He was not helped as a sire perhaps by the fact that his best racing son in the States, Pacific Rocket, had his share of knockers on the track and at stud in both hemispheres.

That should not be said of Albert Albert here. He only arrived in 1999 as a shuttle and was retired from all stud duty in 2005.

He left only 115 foals here and 58 were winners. A lot of hyped stallions wouldn't mind a percentage like that. At least three of them here won over \$150,000 and the most unusual result was with Bachelorette His mares left the iron horse Albert Contador, trained by All Stars here, and several others including U May Collect.

Bachelorette the winner of 10 races here and \$187,000 was out of a mare by B G's Bunny, a brother to Albert Albert's dam, Lismore. More inbreeding than now popular – but it worked. Oddly enough Cardigan Bay further back in the family, was also very closely bred by modern standards.

This is not the only unusual thing about this tribe.

That goes right back to the beginning, officially traced to a mare of unknown breeding called Trilby by a galloper called King's Quail the only name on the pedigree sheet.

He was a good one too winning the Auckland, Wellington and Geraldine Cups as well as the Easter Handicap at Ellerslie and a rich feature in Dunedin. The unknown part of her breeding is not helped by the number of Trilby's running around in both codes over the years.

One was disqualified after winning a trot at Matamata way back when because she had previously raced at an unregistered meeting and might have been "our" one. Or likely not.

The trouble is we can't be quite sure.

Trilby had a son called Captain Tracey, a good performer who stood at stud in the Clutha region. There, however, Trilby was advertised to be actually by the leading trotting horse Berlin Abdallah, from a mare called Cottage Girl who was an Otago racing hotshot in her time. In those far off days a pedigree like that left an unknown mother and a galloper father for dead.

The Stud Book might have had a dollar each way. While the digital version states the King Quail connection it only lists Captain Tracey and a filly, to whom a



good Cecil Devine-trained pacer Inky Boy traced, as Trilby's foals. Her most influential foal, Gold Patch, is not listed. Yet look up Gold Patch and she is shown to be in fact out of Trilby. There is no mention of a Trilby from Cottage Girl.

Either the Stud Book was confused; some digital records are incomplete (not uncommon) or Captain Tracey's owner had a vivid imagination-most likely the latter (such liberties with the truth were not rare in the days before Stud Books) but with some doubt still.

In any case it took a long time for this now famous family to hit the headlines.

Gold Patch, able but unruly in harness, was by a lightly patronised but influential Canterbury-bred stallion George M Patchen, whose son, Eccentric, won the first NZ Free for All in 1914 and who figures in the pedigree of False Step as well as the Allaksam, Manaroa etc from limited numbers of racers in the road horse era.

As an old mare (21) for Andrew Jopp who really was the major influence in the breeding of Cardigan Bay, Gold Patch left a filly called Helen's Bay, who was also troublesome and slow maturing but as a trotter (as were most of the family at that stage) developed good form very late in her career.

Jopp then bred her to Quite Sure, a leading trotting stallion, to get Pleasure Bay, reputedly able but injured and unraced, and bred her in turn to the dual gaited Josedale Dictator (Dictation) to get Colwyn Bay.

The latter had a brief but spectacular racing career before foaling Cardigan Bay after an ailing Jopp presented her to the Todd brothers who had trained her. It was Jopp's matings that had really laid the foundation for putting some ginger into a rather average tribe and Hal Tryax was the Todd's icing on the cake when the mighty Cardigan Bay appeared.

Colwyn Bay also produced Swan Bay etc and then one of her daughters left Young Cardigan. Good things still took time with the family. Dame Cardigan, another daughter left 10 named foals of mixed performance before the 11th, Decision Time, won a Messenger.

But that wasn't all. Pleasure Bay, bred to top stallions by subsequent owners Harold Kay, Roydon Lodge - and the Georgia Brooke line by Wayne Francis- also left Snow Jane the dam of Inter Dominion trotting champion Snow Globe; Snowline the granddam of Hands Down; Baylight the dam of NZ Cup winner Globe Bay; a star trotter in Australia called Bay Johnny; and Ski Girl the dam of top Aussie pacer Apre Ski.

So after half a century of "who?" the Trilby family were the toast of the trotting world.

Georgias Bettor comes through Baylight whose daughter No Regrets was a smart if busy two year old for John Noble and Wayne Francis and retired early. Her unraced daughter Not Again Franco is the granddam of Georgia Brooke.

Baylight, in keeping with the family tradition, did not race until she was five when she ran 6th in a division race at Rangiora. Her best son, Globe Bay, was the beaten favourite on debut in an age group at three; won a maiden by 7 lengths, then lost all form before Jack Carmichael coaxed him back to his best which included a NZ Cup win. It was in the Francis breeding era that Baylight left No Regrets (3 from 24).

All in all Jean Feiss, such an astute judge of type and pedigree she has had more success than most -maybe anyone- with \$200,000 yearling buys, had a lot of incentive to go big on this one.

And if there did happen to be more than one Trilby involved-well if Georgias Bettor turns out like many of the rest of the family who cares? After all, all families, human and equine, have their little secrets.

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