
BREEDERS' UPDATE

July 23, 2020



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS
STUD PRESENT **EDITION 88**
OF THE BREEDERS' UPDATE.



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BREEDERS' UPDATE

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EXECUTIVE MANAGER UPDATE

Brad Reid

Stallion Register

A busy month for me personally has culminated in the successful production of the 20/21 Register of Standardbred Stallions for another season.

The Breeders have been responsible for the production of the harness 'holy bible' since the 06/07 season when Christian Cullen and his champion daughter Mainland Banner graced the cover.

For the last 14 seasons the Stallion Register has been the care and duty of Noel Kennard who has overseen the production impeccably and without a hitch.

This year we took back the production of the publication to reduce the associated costs with Noel doing the pedigrees. While you can never be confident of a perfect product in something so data rich, I wouldn't mind betting this is our best effort yet.

The standard of stallion advertisements continues to rise to a level that is befitting of 21 century media.

According to Forbes, digital marketing experts estimate that most Americans are exposed to around 4,000 to 10,000 ads each day. At some point, we start a screening process for what we engage with and start ignoring brands and advertising messages, unless it is something that we have a personal interest in.

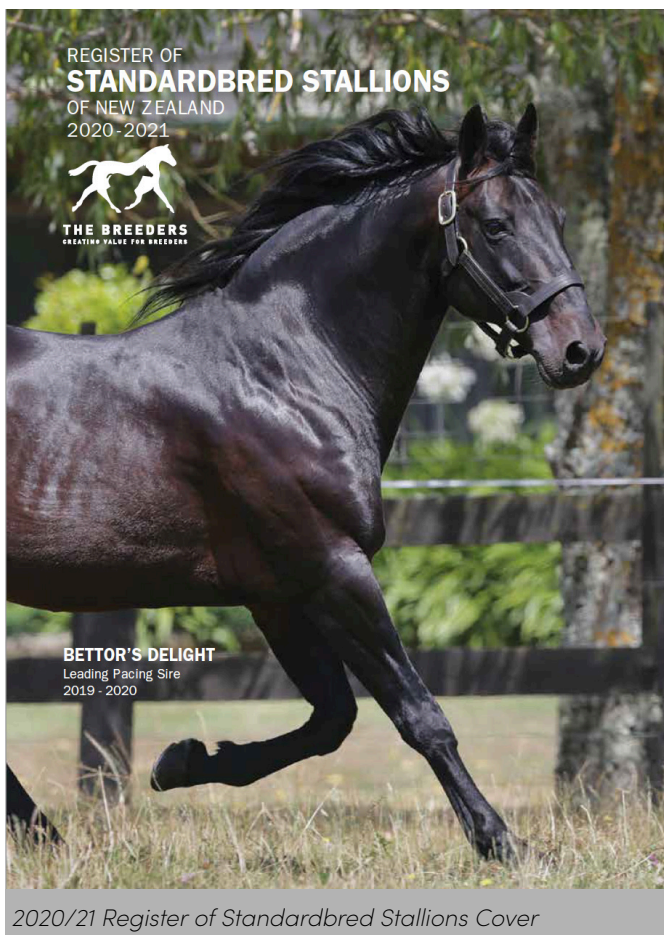
While anyone reading the Stallion Register would fall strongly into the personal interest category, it does not hurt having the sensors highly tuned and drawn further into something that we love. For mine the Stallion Register was going to be one of the barometers for the breeding season. We budgeted for around a 20% reduction in revenue.

Just as our own economic realities have been escalated by the pandemic at hand, the same can be said for a number of stallions no longer available to New Zealand breeders this season.

Losing 18 stallions who advertised last year could of spelt disaster when they represented over 25% of last season's publication.

Some of the stallions to drop out will not come as a surprise and others you have to think what went wrong.

Betterthancheddar has proven to be a great bread and butter stallion and once again is in the top 20 North American 2-Year-Old Money list with a full book of mares. However, here the son of Bettor's Delight is probably the victim of his father's longevity and continued success.



2020/21 Register of Standardbred Stallions Cover

He's Watching is one we could look back on and say what might have been. His oldest crop is his Down Under three-year olds. They have been the biggest movers since lockdown racing resumed with the sire now having 14 individual winners. He heads to Tipperary Equine in New South Wales at a competitive service fee.

Then you have the likes of Auckland Reactor, who you would have to say had his chance behind the Alabar marketing machine, serving in excess of 350 mares in New Zealand in his first two seasons. For some context, that is more than He's Watching got in his five seasons at stud.

While you could not call Auckland Reactor a disaster, the reality is that he was given every opportunity to succeed. Chase Auckland did him extremely proud. He has several well-performed progeny including the likes of Soho Burning Love who is 1:48 paced in the states.

The enigmatic son of Mach Three needed a few more like the two mentioned to demand further support from breeders. He too heads to New South Wales where he will be better suited with state-sponsored breeding programmes and incentives.

Other New Zealand-breds to head to Australia for stud duties are Stunin Cullen & Highview Tommy while Franco Ledger was a late exclusion from the book and Courage Under Fire frozen semen has reached its final straw.

Thankfully, we had 10 new bookings in the Stallion Register with the majority now known or public and a few

which we have announcements for in this edition of the update.

On the pacing side you have the entry of three very exciting North American prospects in Captain Crunch, Stay Hungry and Lather Up.

All were extremely serious racehorses. The three of them will only further enhance the genetics of the New Zealand pacer.

While Captain Crunch has a full book and Lather Up might be the fastest point to point horse anyone has ever seen, I wouldn't be afraid of the Somebeachsome-where son out of a \$2million dollar Dragon Again mare in Stay Hungry.

Frozen semen is less than ideal but he does come with the advantage of having served two full books at Hanover Shoe Farms prior to his availability here. Getting the Hanover Shoe treatment is a huge leg up for any stallion. We have seen that with Captain T and now Betting Line making waves. Breeders here can slingshot on the back of that success if the horse is good enough.

The three Australian entries in the Stud Book this season are not to be sniffed at either.

Ex kiwi champion Tiger Tara gets his opportunity at Alpha Stud. We also have the inclusion of true blue Aussie stars in Poster Boy (Northern Rivers Equine) and The Storm Inside (Alabar Stud).

I won't delve too deeply into the trotting inclusions as there is more info detailed in today's update.

With all the comings and goings we wind up with 58 stallions being advertised, down only 8 from last season. Not bad considering 18 dropped out.

What it means for the Association is that we have come in ahead of our original budget on the back of increased casual advertising in the front half of the book, a great result.

Many thanks to our pedigree compiler Noel Kennard, our designer Graeme Hobbs and my editor Rebecca Mooney who each contribute to ensuring the presentation and integrity of the publication is first class.

The Stallion Register will be lodged with New Zealand post on Monday next week and should be with many of you before the end of July.

The publication is sent free of charge to NZSBA members, 'first name breeders' from the last two breeding seasons and public trainers and some other licence holders.

If you fall outside those parameters and would like to be sent a copy, please contact me by email: brad@thebreederds.co.nz or give me a call on 021683995.



Breeding Season & Sires Register Launch

Canterbury: August 2nd | Launch & Lunch

In conjunction with our three affiliate branches, The Breeders are excited to announce its launch of the new breeding & racing season at race tracks around the country.

Starting on Sunday the 2nd of August, the Canterbury branch will kick things off by sponsoring the entire race card at Addington Raceway as a celebration to the breeding sector.

Starting the day will be presentations from all of the studs represented in the Stallion Register which will also have its formal launch for those in attendance.

Priority will be given to the new(er) stallions available to breeders so that those in attendance can educate themselves for the forthcoming season before taking in the excitement of a full card of races bearing the names of some of our breeding greats. Both of the equine and human variety.

There will be a substantial buffet lunch during the afternoon and the opportunity for those in attendance to win one of four veterinary breeding packages to the value of \$500 along with other prizes.

Canterbury and National Chair, Colin Hair is excited at the prospect of something uniquely different to celebrate the breeding season.

"We wanted to do something a little different to what we have in the past and The Met have been great supporters of the National Body and its members," he said.

"To essentially combine two of our functions into an afternoon at the races will be a great way to celebrate the season ahead. The support so far has been great."

The function will start at 11am with the formal stud presentations before the first race at approximately 12.30pm.

During the afternoon the participating studs will have their representatives available.

The cost of the event is \$25 per head including lunch, vet package prize draw and other prizes.

Please book with at your earliest convenience: Rebecca Mooney 03 347 7212, midfrew@hotmail.com meeting

The two Thursday race meetings will have light finger food available and a cash bar. There will also be spot prizes and draws for a mobile barrier experience.

Auckland: 6th August and Cambridge: 27th August

The North Island Branch is celebrating the new season in style with events taking place at both Alexandra Park (August 6th) and Cambridge Raceway (August 27th).



With the membership base of 130 being heavily split between the Waikato and north of the Bombay Hills, the double celebration makes sense and will make for two fantastic race nights for breeders to get along too.

North Island Breeders Chair Cathie Shaw is revered for her organisation of the Yearling Sales tent. The event between both venues will be the equivalent of Karaka on steroids.

"This is a time to put the lockdown behind us and to embrace the start of the new Racing and Breeding season. Entry is free so feel at ease to bring a friend," said Shaw.

The two Thursday race meetings will have light finger food available and a cash bar. There will also be spot prizes and draws for a mobile barrier experience.

Stud stallion information will be available. Although there won't be presentations at both venues the 20/21 Sires Register and promotional material will be on hand.

An RSVP to Cathie either via email: the-shaws@xtra.co.nz or phone/text to 0274 426 113 to ensure we set enough tables and have enough food available would be great.

Southland: 2nd September

While details are still being worked through for a Southland race day, the appetite is there. We can confirm the following date for their Stallion Seminar at the Ascot Park Hotel.

Save the date for Wednesday the 2nd of September at the Ascot Park Hotel Invercargill starting at 4pm. Numbers for catering will need to be to Gail Paisley by Monday 31st August.

You can contact her by email: gail.alan@outlook.co.nz

New Season Sponsors

With the financial challenges of the National Body outlined in the Anzac Day edition of the Breeders Update, we are extremely pleased and excited to announce our four sponsors for the forthcoming season.

Woodlands Stud NZ Ltd.

Our major sponsor for the 20/21 season is Woodlands Stud NZ Ltd.

The support from Andrew Grierson and the Roberts/Kenny family in seasons gone has been immense in helping this Association achieve its activities and endeavours.

This season that support has gone to another level with the donation of not one, but two Bettors Delight service fees.

This was completely unexpected and something that will allow us to operate and advocate in a much stronger

capacity than previously thought and we are extremely grateful for the support.

Dunstan HorseFeeds

Dave Smith and his team at Dunstan have been a wonderful partner of the NZSBA for the last 12 months and it was extremely encouraging to hear from Dave and his associates recently that the feeling is mutual.

Dunstan has had some great success in the last 12 months in securing market share in the harness racing and breeding community. Any why wouldn't they? Their product is first class and produced fresh here in New Zealand with good old-fashioned Kiwi values.

From the marketing team to the territory managers, everyone at Dunstan seems to be thriving in their roles and are extremely talented at what they do.

We are excited to work again with Dunstan this year as above all they continue to bring exceptional nutritional knowledge and products to our members.

BetaVet

We are extremely excited to announce our latest partnership with BetaVet Natural Solutions.

Many of you will already heard of them and be using their products. For those of you who do not, BetaVet provides the ultimate in complementary equine healthcare to help maximise performance in competitive sport and racehorses.

BetaVet endeavours to provide optimum results in natural animal healthcare with focus on a total commitment to quality to ensure an efficacious product.

BetaVet uses internationally recognised companies to source and supply its herbal ingredients. These companies have become a benchmark in herbal product quality assurance analytical techniques. They utilise a variety of methods to test all plant material prior to the manufacturing process.

Their products have the seal of approval from Mark and Barry Purdon as well as Arna Donnelly who have all provided testimonials on the BetaVet website.

We look forward to working with Kylie and the team to learn more about their products and inform our members and wider audiences of their many benefits.

Southern Bred Southern Reared

The Southern Bred Southern Reared group should need little introduction.

For a little more formal info and those who have been living in large scale isolation, Southern Bred Southern Reared' was founded in 2001 to help promote Otago/Southland Standardbred yearlings bound for the national yearling sales.



As a group they have achieved amazing success in the promotion of their yearling sale stock through initiatives such as their famous bus tour, and sponsoring the card at Addington Raceway in the week leading up to the sales.

We will be doing some writing and promotion for the group this coming season as part of the sponsorship package and we look forward to bringing you some of the many happenings from our friends in the deep south.

Membership & Breeders Bonus Update

Membership subscriptions have been issued for the 20/21 season and have been put in the post this week.

We have decided it was in the best interests of everyone that we keep the membership fee at \$89.95.

I heard from countless people over lockdown informing us that our membership is too cheap and that we needed to raise the price.

While I appreciated the advice and support as well as the sentiment personally, in the current economic climate it would have been tough to raise the fees on our members.

It is getting extremely harder and harder to provide value to our members outside of the publications and delivering on our business plan of advocating and working in the interests of Standardbred Breeders in New Zealand.

One of the great benefits attributed with our membership in The NZ Metropolitan Trotting Club's Breeder Bonus has been put on hold where it will remain under review until at least the New Year.

Having met with Addington CEO Brian Thompson, it was easy to understand the decision given the lack of clarity around their funding model heading into the new season.

The Met initiative has seen over \$450,000 be distributed back to our members over the last six racing seasons, making them the largest contributor to supporting our members outside of the Harness Racing New Zealand annual grant.

Thompson is aware of the success and popularity of the scheme but in the current climate it is simply not feasible. He did not close the door completely however and stated that in the New Year there may be an opportunity to bring it back in some capacity depending on how the club was faring as a business.

Plenty of our members have benefitted from the scheme over the years.

We would hope that our body of work and what we achieve as an organisation is of greater benefit to breeders as a whole than the financial carrot of the Breeder Bonus.

While we expect to lose a few members as a result, this season we need your support more than ever to ensure the interests and voice of Standardbred Breeders around the country is heard and felt.

We are heavily reliant on your support as a member, our publications our sponsors and HRNZ in a reduced capacity to deliver upon our strategic plan.

We once again look forward to another breeding season and another year of working hard to ensure you as a breeder are well represented in the six core pillars of our Strategic Plan:

- Breeder Recognition
- Communications
- Productivity & Welfare
- Revenue & Sustainability
- Industry Contribution
- Advocacy

A copy of our Strategic Plan and updated Performance Graphic reporting how we performed last year are on our website.

Stallion Limits Discussion

You are probably aware that Harness Racing Australia has recently introduced stallion book limits for the current season.

HRNZ, who are conducting a review of its breeding regulations, has advised us that it has no intention of following a similar course of action this season for a number of reasons.

Firstly, COVID 19 issues, the passing of the new Racing Industry Act, the restructuring of the TAB and getting agreement on dates and funding all are creating significant workload for the sport and HRNZ. These have priority over many other matters, including the breeding regulations.

Secondly, HRNZ has been in a process of consultation over the last four years on a number of breeding related issues including the use frozen semen after the death of a stallion and the use of frozen embryos and frozen eggs. This is still work in progress.

Thirdly, HRNZ had previously indicated that consideration of introducing stallion limits would need further consultation with studs and breeders.

NZ Standardbred Breeders has put together a working committee which has started a project gathering data on the issue. This will feed into future consultations.

Online Breeder Forum

The Executive of the NZSBA is very interested in hosting an online Breeder Forum using the Zoom meeting function to open the floor to discussions about Standardbred breeding in New Zealand as we head into the new season.

A lot of us may have left lock down feeling 'zoomed' out, but the platform opens the doors and boundaries to having a forum without the pressures of travel and other commitments getting in the way.

Rather than have any set topics, it is proposed that we seek interest from members and the wider public to gauge interest in participating in a forum where ideas are not only encouraged, but discussed and brought to the table honestly and openly.

If you would like to participate in a discussion about Standardbred breeding and take the opportunity to have your ideas voiced and heard, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Email: brad@thebreeders.co.nz

Sires Stakes Payments

If you're looking for another barometer as to the appetite of breeders and owners heading into the first racing season post Covid19, look no further than the Sires Stakes Board.

With the dates and stake levels announced to run the races in which money had already been collected for, foal nominations and sustaining payments were pushed out a fortnight from July 1st to July 15th.

Executive Manager Martin Pierson had the following to say;

"If you had of told me in March when we left we would have only been down 50 payments across the board on last year, I would have taken that with both hands," he said.

Interestingly the shortfall seems to have come solely from the sustaining fillies payments with both fillies schemes taking a significant hit, whereas most other areas were either up or fairly close to previous years.

One of the areas which was up on last season was foal nominations and given there were around 150 less foals born this crop, it just shows the renewed sense of value the Sires Stakes scheme has given stake monies are likely to decrease for major races across the board this coming season.

Much credit has to also be given to Pierson whose knowledge of the breed and ability to discuss the progeny of breeders in a manner that doesn't reek of a salesman, rather someone with genuine care for the customer and business he is operating is a testament to himself and his board.



THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

Brad Reid

Champion French trotter Bold Eagle is joining Haras des Trotteurs' stallion roster this year.

In a coup for Australasian breeders, this will be the first post-racing career season at stud for the soon to be retired son of the great Ready Cash.

Bold Eagle is not only regarded as one of the best of his generation in Europe, but one of the all-time greats.

Haras Des Trotteurs general manager Louise Toulmin said it was a huge thrill for the Ballarat-based operation to secure Bold Eagle for the upcoming season.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for our industry," she said.

Toulmin said while frozen semen for Bold Eagle would not be available in either Australia or New Zealand until mid to late October, the good news was he had exhibited outstanding fertility to date and there should not be any limit on the number of services available.

This is big news and one that we should be rejoicing.

Breeders I have spoken to who were perhaps going to leave a mare empty are now scampering to find some mares to breed to the Rockstar trotter.

The son of Ready Cash is the third highest stakes winning trotter of all time behind only Varenne and Timoko, the latter whom Bold Eagle has an opportunity to pass in his coronation race next month.

Bold Eagle currently sits at just under five million euro in stakes, the equivalent of \$8,600,000 New Zealand dollars.

Among his enormous credentials as the poster boy for European Trotting is the distinction of being the first standardbred to trot the first 1:50 mile in Europe when he sat parked in the first heat of the Elitloppet at Solvalla in 2017.

The performance that day has to be seen to be believed! It stands as the fastest time ever recorded on a five-eighths mile track in Europe.

Not only did he sit outside the leader after being beaten for speed off the gate, he left his rivals like they were tied to the fence. The beat up job looked like a training run, so much so it seemed like the 30,103 spectators were witnessing a horse from another world.

The run had his driver, Frank Nivard in pretty high spirits declaring "The horse is just so much better than all the others, I am pretty sure that he will be even better in the final," Nivard said after the first heat."

Unfortunately for Nivard and his legion of fans, he wasn't able to add the Elitloppet to his resume failing to back up from his run earlier in the day with the final won by his arch rival Timoko.



Bold Eagle (Ready Cash x Reethi Rah Jet - Love You)

His trainer Pierre Pilarski later rued the handling of the horse on the big day, and with hindsight said the following:

"I'm not sure if Bold Eagle realised he had to compete twice in the same day last year. I think it's our fault for sending him all the wrong signals on the day. He came out on the track five times, did two warm-up heats, had a full shower after his record-breaking qualifier... they were not the right choices. I don't like to hear "Bold Eagle lost the final", above all it's Timoko and Björn Goop who won it. We all focussed on Nuncio and were wrong."

Bold Eagle's 2018 Elitloppet bid proved disastrous. Travel delays may have doomed the trotter's trip before it even began. However, a recall before the race and a long delay on the track saw Bold Eagle come unravelled. His connections could only look on in dismay as Bold Eagle galloped in the first 200 metres and failed to advance to the final.

"In 2018, the plane had been sitting long hours on the tarmac and all the horses of this trip raced badly at Solvalla," Pilarski said. "And then there were these incidents with the autostart. He was not bad because we cannot say that he had a fair chance."

"This day was the worst moment of my career as an owner. Everything that could happen to destabilise our champion did happen," Bernereau said.

"Bold Eagle is a very nice horse, but when he is in competition mode, he is impatient to start and can quickly go up in pressure. That day, he stayed 20 minutes on the track after a false start, which completely destabilised our champion. Now it's the nature of the races and you have to accept it, but that day everything was against Bold Eagle."

Bold Eagle's record in France remains impeccable. The winner of 19 French Group One races his career began in the stable of Jean Dubois, where he won eight of his first 10 starts in 2013 and 2014, including the Group 2 Prix Victor Regis. As Dubois looked to retire, Pilarski, Bernereau, and Encurie Fouquette purchased Bold Eagle.

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Bold Eagle at the famed Solvalla track in Sweden

Bold Eagle joined the ranks of trainer Sébastien Guarato and his new connections quickly discovered the special horse they had purchased. In his third start for Guarato, Bold Eagle captured his first Group 1 in the Criterium des 3 Ans Dec. 7, 2014. In 2015, Bold Eagle added another three Group 1 successes in the Prix de Selection, Grand Prix de l'U.E.T., and the Criterium Continental.

Bold Eagle's career reached new heights in the 2016 Grand Prix d'Amérique. With Franck Nivard in the sulky, Bold Eagle defeated Timoko in the 1,000,000€ French classic and became a household name among harness racing fans worldwide.

"The biggest emotion with Bold Eagle was in his first win in the Grand Prix d'Amérique," Bernereau said.

"The horse was the favourite, we were very stressed, and Sébastien had lost his father four days before the race, which added a lot of emotion to this great victory."

Bold Eagle's Group 1 wins continued to pile up after the 2016 Prix d'Amérique. His resume includes two wins and a second in four Prix d'Amérique appearances, two Grand Prix de France triumphs, and a win in the 2017 Grand Prix de Paris over 4,150 metres that capped a French Trotting Triple Crown.

Bold Eagle silenced his critics in 2019 when winning the Breeders Crown Open Trot with ease at Mohawk in a time of 1:52 despite the pouring rain.

Despite having very little left to prove and having sired a full European book in 2016, his owners continue to race the horse. As it stands he is the winner of 24 Group One races and 46 in total from 74 starts.

Genetically he combines the best of modern French and American bloodlines and represents an enormous opportunity for our burgeoning breed.

Bold Eagle's sire, Ready Cash was the winner of two Prix D'Amériques himself and is the leading French the last four seasons in a row. Not bad in a country that has 1500 registered stallions.

Ready Cash is the sire of three Prix D'Amérique winners himself including Ready Express and the new superstar of French trotting, Face Time Bourbon who won this years version of the famed race.

Face Time Bourbon is bred on the same cross as Bold Eagle being out of a Love You mare.

Despite being listed in the Sires Register as available to New Zealand in 2014 at a fee of \$9000, nothing was made available due to technical difficulties meeting MPI regulations. Ready Cash's popularity saw the doses that were made available in Australia used by Pat Driscoll in his own mares.

Love You needs no introduction to New Zealand breeders as a breed changing stallion in both hemispheres. The American influences are felt in both the sire and dam sire with Cocktail Jet coming from an American maternal family and like his son Bold Eagle, Ready Cash's grand dam is by the exported 1984 American 2YO Trotter of the Year, Workaholic who himself was a son of Speedy Crown.

The doubling up of Workaholic in the pedigree is probably no fluke.

At stud from his first crop he has hit the ground running with five classics winners including the Group One winner in France, Green Grass.

She was the winner of the Group One Criterium Des Jeunes in 2019.

In Sweden he has produced three classic winners including the dual Group One winner, Aetos Kronos who is out of a Muscles Yankee lined mare.

Although probably not suited to Love You mares in New Zealand, the pedigree of Bold Eagle will no doubt favour a large number of our broodmare population, particularly Sundon line or American sired mares such as the Muscles Yankee lined daughters.

Bold Eagle who is known for his incredible gait and efficiency in his action will only bolster the genetics of our breed for those who look to him as a consort for their mare.

With the likes of Father Patrick and Muscle Hill having been available, the breed Down Under is riding the crest of a wave which is seeing more mares being bred and more natural trotters as a result.

With this sort of genetics available, how long will it be before we see a New Zealand-bred trotter following the same path as Pride of Petite and tackling some of Europe's best?



FOAL MICROCHIPPING UPDATE

HRNZ: Natalie Gameson

From 1 August 2020 all foals will be microchipped, freeze branded and DNA tested, by the HRNZ appointed horse identifier (brander). This will be the only season we are both freeze branding and microchipping. From 1 August 2021 (2021/22 season) all foals will be microchipped and DNA tested only - we will NO longer be freeze branding.

Harness Racing New Zealand is using the LifeChip Microchips which are produced by Destron Fearing in France. This is the same technology that is used by many racing entities including Harness Racing Australia, so the microchips are already been successfully implanted in race horses.

Our horse identifiers are being trained by a veterinary surgeon, on the process of implanting the microchips. The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and the method of inserting the chip is very simple, the area that the microchip is implanted is sterilised and shaved of long hair. The microchip is then placed along the top of the neck, beside the nuchal ligament, half way between the ears and the withers.

The Harness Racing New Zealand Infohorse database will be updated to include the microchip numbers, as will all paperwork. Owners and trainers will be responsible for correctly identifying their horses.

It will be the responsibility of the owner and/or trainer to be able to correctly identify their horse(s). Harness Racing New Zealand is investigating what suitable microchip scanners are available. There are many scanners on the market in a variety of price ranges - Trade Me and Ali-express have scanners for sale, or for a bigger operation the Destron LifeChip scanners may be an option.

Harness Racing New Zealand has trialed with success the ISO FDX-A/B HDX handheld animal chip 134.2khz rfid reader and the Global Pocket Reader Plus, UNIVERSAL MICROCHIP SCANNER, both of which have Bluetooth capabilities at varying prices. If you have any questions about scanners please feel free to contact us.

HRNZ will have our own microchip readers that can operate Bluetooth, WIFI or a USB connector, these will be used by the RIU and any staff members needing to identify horses.

All Harness Racing New Zealand Rules and Regulations have been updated to include the microchipping commencement.

Regards,

Natalie Gameson



MARCOOLA TO NEVELE R STUD

We are thrilled to announce that the New Zealand all-comers trotting record holder, Marcoola, will be joining Nevele R's stallion line-up in 2020.

An outstanding stallion prospect, Marcoola is both the fastest and richest entire son of New Zealand's greatest ever trotting stallion Sundon.

The 2016 New Zealand Three-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year, Marcoola dominated his age group (which included the likes of Temporale, Lemond, High Gait and Wilma's Mate), winning seven consecutive races, including the New Zealand Trotting Derby in which he set a New Zealand record that still stands, the Northern Trotting Derby and the Sires Stakes Trotters Championship.

As he did at three and then throughout his career, Marcoola displayed a scintillating turn of foot and an incredible ability to sustain that high speed over a long distance that few if any other homegrown trotters could match when he was on song.

After equalling the national all-comers record in the 2018 Ashburton Trotters Flying Mile Marcoola went on to smash it twelve months later with a scorching 1:53.8 win in the same race, trotting his last half, untouched, in a staggering 55.7 seconds.

His twelve and a half-length rout over a classy field that day left square-gaiters the likes of the subsequent Inter Dominion Final winner Winterfell and the reigning Trotter of the Year Sundees Sun in his wake and it was by some lengths the biggest winning margin ever recorded in the race's thirty year history.

That 1:53.8 lifetime mark also makes Marcoola the fastest ever trotting stallion on Australasian soil.

Those traits of speed, power and stamina were equally on display in his memorable Group One Dominion Handicap win at Addington Raceway on Show Day in 2018.

Making his move 800 metres out from home in the two-mile race, Marcoola swept past the field like they were standing still and just kept on rolling right to the line for a bullish four length win.

Marcoola also claimed dominant Group race wins in the Cambridge Trotters Flying Mile, by a race record margin of eleven and three-quarter lengths, and the Lyell Creek Stakes, again by a distance, and all up won sixteen races and \$521,321 in stakes.

Superbly bred, he is by the sixteen time champion New Zealand Trotting Sire of the Year Sundon from a maternal family that has produced three Dominion Handicap winners in the first three generations, New Zealand's greatest ever trotter Lyell Creek (56 wins \$2,961,137) and one of the country's best ever three-year-old fillies in the brilliant but ill-fated New Zealand Trotter of the Year, Kahdon (5 wins \$141,984).

Nevele R's General Manager Ged Mooar is delighted to have secured Marcoola.

"When he was in the zone, he was nigh on unbeatable, as you saw in his stunning Dominion Handicap victory."

"A beautifully gaited horse, by Australasia's greatest ever trotting stallion and from one of New Zealand's best trotting families, we believe he's an outstanding prospect and terrific addition to our trotting stallion ranks."

Marcoola stands his debut season at an introductory fee of \$2,500 plus GST for New Zealand breeders.

SOUTHERN FEATURE RACES TO GO AHEAD

It's great news that three key 2019-2020 Southern Group races are to go ahead in the new season.

The Alabar Southern Supremacy Stakes, Nevele R/Macca Lodge Southland Oaks and Diamond Creek Farm Classic for two year olds have been confirmed for the new season although the exact date and venue are still to be confirmed.

"It's a fair old calendar for the two and three year old colts and geldings. And the three year old fillies have the remainder of the Nevele R Fillies Series and the final which will be run on Cup Day," said John Price who's the main driving force behind getting the races back on track.

The Supremacy and Oaks will be Group Three races.

"It is good for the breeders, the owners, and Southland to get them up and going," he said.

The stake level is likely to be \$30,000 for each, but before a final figure can be settled on Price has to have talks with key sponsors regarding their contributions.

"I can't see too much of a problem with them agreeing."



Southland Standardbred Breeders Association, SBSR, New Zealand Bloodstock, Southern Harness, and the National Body of the New Zealand Standardbred Breeders all supported the application to run the feature races.

"There was good genuine support right across the board to run the finals."

The top qualifiers for the Southern Supremacy are: Spirit Of St Louis, Pembroke Playboy, See Ya Write, Minstrel, Yossi, Forsure, Burnham Boy, Tyron's Bit Of Lemon, Carlos Bromac, Willison, Major Meister, Croesus and Longueval.

The leading contenders for the Southland Oaks are: Watch Me Now, Pearl Harbour, Bailey's Dream, Plutonium Lady, American Eyetime, Renegade Rose, Sugar Loaf, Need You Now, Delightful GNP, Princess Jessie, Stylish Memphis, Flossie and Mossdale Lottee.

Price is also advocating that the final of the Southern Belle Speed Series be run on the same day.

ONTARIO BREEDERS WIN MAJOR COURT CASE

A group of 36 Ontario breeders seeking damages for the abrupt cancellation of the former Slots At Racetracks Program (SARP) have won a landmark court judgment over the Province of Ontario (full decision here).

In a decision dated Monday (June 29), Ontario Superior Court Justice Michael Emery ruled in favor of the plaintiffs' motion for a summary judgement against the province for breach of contract.

The breeders have been seeking \$65 million in a case that has taken six years to resolve. Damages for breach of contract will be calculated in a future court proceeding.

There is a 30-day period to appeal the decision.

Jonathan Lisus of Lax O'Sullivan Lisus Gottlieb LLP of Toronto, successfully argued on behalf of the breeders tied to the Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association (SBOA).

Emery's ruling said he accepted the breeders' argument that there was a breach of the valid contract between the breeders and the province that came from a 1998 Letter of Intent (LOI) that was "the crucible that contained the overall terms for SARP, how it would work and the essential benefits it would yield to interested parties."

All other claims against the province – including those launched against the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) specifically – were dismissed.

Lisus told The Toronto Star's Mary Ormsby (full story here), "It's not easy to win against the government in a civil case.

"The breeders were really very brave to take this on."

The breeders did not contest the right of the province or OLG to terminate SARP, Emery wrote, but, instead, successfully argued they were given "insufficient notice of that cancellation because of their rolling investment to breed horses."

SBOA president Walter Parkinson told Ormsby, "It was a very long, drawn out process, but we remained optimistic. I think we have a renewed sense of optimism now, with this judgment, that the long wait was worthwhile."

BROODMARE PADDOCK BECKONS FOR TROTTER

NZB Standardbred

Group Three performer She's Allthe Craze is destined for the broodmare paddock later this year, however, she showed at Addington Raceway on Sunday that her winning days are not over just yet.

The Bruce Negus-trained seven-year-old recorded her seventh career victory when storming home late to take out the Spectators Bar & Bistro Mobile Trot (1980m).

From her wide draw she was taken back to settle at the rear of the field for regular driver Jessica Young-Grant, who sat patiently behind the mare throughout.

She asked She's Allthe Craze to improve three-wide with 400m to go and the daughter of Crazyduly obliged, gathering in her opposition and running away to a 1-1/4 length victory over Bright Glow.

It was the third run in a week for She's Allthe Craze and the victory came as a pleasant surprise for Negus, who also shares in her ownership.

"That was her third race in a week. We really only put her in to make sure that they got a field," he said.

"I thought she was only going there to run a placing, but Kahress was late scratched, and she got a really good run. I was quite pleased in the end the way it turned out.

"She deserves it."

She's Allthe Craze has been in consistent form this preparation and Negus highlighted Young-Grant's great association with the mare as a contributing factor.

"She has been really well driven by Jessica for quite some time," Negus said. "She looks after her and she runs on



She's All The Craze

really well.

"She has to be driven a little bit quietly otherwise she runs out of puff and she isn't that strong.

"But when she gets the luck, like she did today, she is good enough."

Negus has been pleased with the way his mare has performed throughout her career, but admitted she may have visited the winner's circle for the last time.

"She has done a terrific job and she is so honest, she trots all the way," he said.

"One of her wins was a penalty free junior drivers race at Palmerston North, so we have travelled her a bit, she has been to Auckland and finished second in a Group Three race.

"She has got a bit better as she has gotten older but there won't be many races left in her I wouldn't think because when she gets to that next path up it is just a bit tough for her."

Negus is now looking forward to breeding from the daughter of Group One winner Kylie Ree and is weighing up between two stallions at the moment.

"She will be going to stud this coming season regardless of what happens," Negus said. "She will go to either Marcoola or Majestic Son.

"With Marcoola it would be just to get a bit of Sundon in the family as there is none in there at the moment."





Rock Legend pictured right

FIRST ROLL WITH JOE AT ALL STARS

David McCarthy

So there you go. All Stars has seemingly at times a stable full of pacers by Bettor's Delight and then maybe along comes a new brush to sweep clean?

Not really. The subject of this week's breeding angle is by Roll With Joe.

A brother to Bettor's Delight. OK then.

The youngsters name is Rock Legend and he is making good progress along with several others in the All Stars barn. And looking at his credentials there seems no reason why this (very) close relation to Bit of a Legend and London Legend won't write his own story in the months to come.

He is the first son of the Australian-based Roll With Joe to shape up at All Stars. Roll with Joe hails from New York's Blue Chip Farm where Bettor's Delight, American Ideal and Sunshine Beach also stand.

While Cam's Card Shark dominates the promos of horses like Bettor's Delight and Roll With Joe it might well be their damsire, Armbro Emerson an Adios line horse through Abercrombie (who else?) who lifted the filly performance in this family by a considerable margin.

His daughter Classic Wish, dam of these two pacing champions and others nearly as good, ran a mile in 1.52 (TT) and won over \$US400,000 primarily in Sires Stakes events, Her immediate line might have gasped at that number.

The granddam of Roll With Joe and BD was by Albatross but she was inaptly named as Best of the Best having battled to a 2.04 mile as a four year old and won the princely sum of \$US1400. The next dam, Arlene Dares, gave Classic Wish a double cross of Adios through Meadow Gene but finally ran 2.00 as a 4 year old and won \$17,000.



Armbro Emerson had an earlier connection with New Zealand his granddam being Dotties Pick, a champion racemare who won over \$US250,000 in the 1950's including \$100,000 in one season then a record. She was one of the last mares to beat the males under free for all conditions at the top level in America.

Two of her foals, Armbro Hurricane and Eagle Armbro came to New Zealand the latter the hope of the Raceway Stud in Mid-Canterbury a brave co-operative enterprise. whose hopes he effectively dashed. Armbro Hurricane stood a better chance at Roydon Lodge and left stars like Cyclone Lad, Double Cove, Hurrania, Philippa Frost and Lancia the last three outstanding mares in the tradition of Dotties Pick. Both stallions could be counted as disappointing as broodmare sires considering their heritage.

Roll With Joe has not had the impact yet of his full brother but he is a decade younger being foaled in 2008. Stallions who have brothers have been up against it statistically down through the years but it is only a statistic reflecting the odds against any stallion becoming a top sire.

Rock Legend's dam A Legend, a minor winner but a winner nonetheless, is by Safely Kept the damsire also of Vincent, Smolda (how are we going so far?) Caribbean Blaster, Mach Denario and John of Arc. For good measure the odd trotter has appeared notably Cyclone Bolt a dual Harness Jewels winner, one for All Stars. A Legend's breeder Brian West gave Safely Kept several chances at stud.

Rock Legend is almost purely American bred. His dam was from a Soky's Atom mare from an American mare Shebatross who was by the fabulous Niatross. His influence unhappily did not extend much past one generation but as a racehorse he was unforgettable. Shebatross was imported by the Wellington-based Devon Bloodstock (Stanley Williams) an outfit that cut dash in the boom times being also associated with Gina Rosa. Devon also bred the American mare's most influential daughter, Soky's Legend.

One thing certain in today's breeding world -beside Bettor's Delight -is how you love to see Soky's Atom in the third line of any pedigree he fills the place in so many elite ones.

Soky's Legend left London Legend (first foal) a brilliant yet durable performer but her best was her 7th Bit of a Legend, a three quarter brother in blood to Rock Legend (Bettor's Delight-Soky's Legend)

Bit of a Legend was probably the best three year old of his year in New Zealand but he was outgunned by two brilliant drives by Mark Purdon behind Border Control who outwitted even Dexter Dunn taking the NZ Derby and then the Harness Jewels in a time record that still stands. The best drive won both races rather than the best horse. It is doubtful if Mark could do that to Dex these days!

That Bit of a Legend returned to headline making form at Yonkers would not have surprised his Kiwi fans. He went through a bad patch but he was a monster of a performer. The astute Brian West, also associated with the breeding of Lazarus, has been in the mix breeding from Soky's Legend from the start and later on his own account. She missed for three seasons since 2016 and was served by Vincent this season which is an interesting cross. Hopefully there will be a result.

The Shebatross tribe goes back to La Byrd Abbe, the dam of the great but controversial pacer, Nero whose actual ability was never in doubt. In his time he was considered probably the best two year old America had ever seen.

Nero started off as a standard rags to riches story. His trainer Jim Crane had been a knockabout horseman for many years who finally decided to take the plunge on his own account. He rounded up two friends who didn't know a hoof from a harpoon and raised enough cash to spec a yearling for a whole \$US20,000. Cue Nero for whom \$US2.5m was refused while he was still racing. Crane modestly said he had got in early at the sale "before the big boys arrived" and got what he wanted. He later bought La Byrd Abbe.

Crane's down to earth attitude born of many disappointments and the wild enthusiasm of his new chum partners took the story all the way to Sports Illustrated and the Wall St Journal as the champion two and three year old of the early 1970's. That was the elite media company then.

But, according to some, Nero had a dark side. Not as dark as the desperate criminal who injected him with a massive dose of tranquiliser in his stall leading up to the Fox Stake. Crane walked him through the night and saved him but he took a long time to recover.

Then there was his eyesight. Too good, the experts reckoned. He saw more than other horses and reacted accordingly. Nero jumping shadows when sighting imaginary threats became the major talking point of his track career. Yet it was claimed he never galloped in hobbles. Later Crane fitted him with special tinted goggles (think Hands Down who had a similar tendency) to help with the problem.

All this led breeders to think Nero was highly strung. Just the opposite. He would lay down resting in his stall most of the day. Sometimes they put his food down beside him so he wouldn't have to get up to eat. He'd go to sleep quicker than a bear in winter given the chance. His other trick was when in front and thinking he had the race won he would poke his tongue out of the side of his mouth as if taunting his rivals. Probably was.

But late in his career he suffered from corns the pain of which can distract the most placid of colts. He still went to Lana Lobell Farms for a record syndication. Nero never really made it as a stallion, at least at the highest level -but he was not a failure. Two of his sons, Neros BB and Clever Innocence, made an impact in this country. So this is a family which has had class for a long time. Rock Legend is a good chance to extend a story of success.



GAVELHOUSE.COM STANDBRED AUCTIONS NOW FORTNIGHTLY

NZB STANDBRED

After entering the digital auction-sphere for Standardbreds just under a year ago, gavelhouse.com is upping the ante by increasing the frequency of their popular mixed stock auctions to fortnightly.

gavelhouse.com's General Manager Haylie Martin believes the change will benefit all.

"The fortnightly auctions have been incredibly successful on our thoroughbred site and at a time in the industry where every dollar counts more than ever, this gives owners the opportunity to trade out of horses faster," Martin said.

"This will also spread the workload for transporters and staff more evenly over the months while building momentum with buyers tuning in more often."

In its short time online, gavelhouse.com Standardbred has made a big impression on the industry, becoming a valuable addition to the trading landscape both domestically and internationally.

Recently the site played host to parent company NZB Standardbred's 2020 All Age Sale, which saw 138 lots sell for a turnover of \$1,042,310 and the clearance rate topping 97%.

The highest price fetched for on the site to date is \$52,500 for Alta Debonair (pictured above), an Art Major colt sold by Alabar NZ.

For enquiries contact representative Cam Bray by calling +64 21 737 199 or emailing cam.bray@nzb.co.nz.



Luckyanova is hoping for a win Thursday to gain points

CLIMACTIC CONCLUSION TO DUNSTAN HORSE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Dunstan Horsefeeds

Cambridge Raceway's meeting on Thursday will prove to be a nail-biting experience for a few owners and trainers.

The night will finalise the winner of the 2020 Dunstan Horsefeeds Cambridge Horse of the Year competition and there remain nine horses in contention for top honours.

Competition leader Lovely Bundy is the only horse of the nine contenders who will not be lining up on Thursday and Cambridge Raceway chief executive Dave Branch is excited about the large number of horses still in contention.

"It is fantastic that the Dunstan Horsefeeds Horse of the Year competition has come down to the wire," Branch said.

"With the unique points structure there remain a number of horses that could still take out the competition on the final night of racing at Cambridge Raceway this season."

The horse with the most points after Thursday's meeting will earn their owners \$4,000, while the trainer will receive \$3,000 in product prizes.

The trainers of the second and third-placed horses in the competition will receive a \$2,000 and \$1,000 product prize respectively. "Dunstan have been a great backer of Cambridge Raceway and I would like to thank them for their continued support and putting up such a great prize," Branch said.



While Lovely Bundy hasn't raced since January 26, she still holds a two point lead over local trotter Lukyanova and trainer-driver Kyle Marshall is hopeful she can perform up to expectations in the Melanie, 60, What!?! Handicap Trot (2200m).

"It is a great competition and hopefully she can perform well on Thursday," Marshall said. "Thanks to Dunstan for sponsoring it."

It will be the third run this preparation for Lukyanova and Marshall is pleased with the way she has been progressing, placing over 2700m at Cambridge Raceway last start after an unplaced first-up run.

"Fitness has played a part in her first couple of runs," Marshall said. "She trialled well on Saturday and she seems a lot fitter this week."

Marshall is confident of a good showing from the mare on Thursday where she will start from behind the 15m mark.

"It's (the draw) not bad over 2200m if she steps away well," he said. "If she gets handy and gets a good run she will be right in the finish."

"She is best driven with a sit, so hopefully we get a good run."

Lukyanova will have her work cut out for her though, with the field containing a number of major threats, including Gr.2 NSW Trotting Derby (2400m) winner Xebec.

The Benjamin Aubron-owned and trained gelding beat Lukyanova home last start and he too is in with a chance of taking out the Cambridge Horse Of The Year title, jointly with Lovely Bundy, if he is victorious from his 35m handicap.

Other competition contenders racing on Thursday night include Our Spitfire (Race 8), American Me (Race 9), J Bee (Race 5), Still Eyre (Race 8), Texas Tiger (Race 9), and Presidential Jewel (Race 8). – Cambridge Raceway



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