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# BREEDERS' UPDATE

August 13, 2020



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS  
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OF THE BREEDERS' UPDATE.

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# BREEDERS' UPDATE

August 13, 2020

ANNIE SMOKES THEM AT ASCOT	2
SUNDAY FUNDAY FOR BEATON	7
RACING INDUSTRY ACT A NEW DAWN	10
NORTH AMERICAN LEADING SIRES	11
SIRES STAKES UPDATE	13
BREAKING DOWN HAMBO DAY	18

## ANNIE SMOKES THEM AT ASCOT

**Brad Reid**

Paul Hailes patience was rewarded last Thursday for a lock-down project that came to fruition with his Mach Three pacing mare, Smokin Annie.

The mare he owns and bred out of Glenburn Jewel (Live or Die) was facing employment issues familiar to a lot of New Zealanders prior to the onset of Covid 19.

The Mach Three mare was inclined to hang a bit in her races and besides a couple of third placings, hadn't managed to live up to some of the potential shown by immediate family members.

"Regan Todd's parents leased her for their Any Excuse Syndicate and although she qualified ok and had a couple of placings, to be honest she hadn't really done much on the track," said Hailes.

"Horses had to go out of training more or less on Covid lockdown, but the syndicate sacked her right then.

"She had been back in work for about a month and rather than tip her out completely, I thought I would take her on as a bit of a project over the lock down period," he said.

Having grown up on the family farm, Hailes was more than competent around livestock and horses.

However he had little to no experience in working the latter.

He didn't let that stop him and upon taking advice from the likes of Matty Williamson, Jonny Turner and Caine Macintyre, his greatest training ally came in the form of a time honoured book.

"I found an old copy of the book 'Care and Training of the Trotter and Pacer' written by James Harrison," he said.

The book is still revered by horsemen and women around the world for being a wonderful resource to the training of standardbreds. Although much has changed with the breed, many of the principles and ideas remain as relevant as the day it was written.

"I jogged her up for about eight weeks and had great fun doing it too. I think the lads thought I was a little bit mad when they found out how many miles I had been putting into her around the paddocks," he laughed.

"I could only do so much with her and when restrictions eased. I took her round to Macca Lodge a few times and ended up leaving her with them before long. I must have had her reasonably fit because she was at the workouts 10 days after dropping her off," he quipped.



*Smokin Annie produces an amazing burst to go from five deep the pegs at the top of the straight, to all alone in the finish*

Before Hailes could list his copy of 'Care and Training of the Trotter and Pacer' on various buy and sell websites, Smokin Annie vindicated the time and effort bestowed to her by rewarding connections with a winning workout at the same venue a week later.

"She played in fences a bit as a young horse and was also really small. Tony Stratford had her bowling round as a two-year-old as she showed a bit early but we chucked her in a paddock to give her some time. She is improving and can run a wee bit," said Hailes.

She was luckless in her resumption to racing at Ascot Park when hampered by a tiring runner, finishing seventh on the 9th of July.

She ran on solidly from a hopeless position at workout a week later making up many lengths to run fifth.

Smokin Annie went to the races a week later and carried a bit of support. She was unable to run on from back in the field on a slushy track in a race where you wanted to be on the pegs. Lead, trail and parked filled the placings.

At this point you could be forgiven for getting a little impatient with the mare, but having bred her himself from the breed developed by his late father, Hailes was entitled to keep the faith.

"When dad passed away in 2011 I took over the family farm and the mares he was breeding from.

"They trace back to Ronella who dad leased a long time ago to breed a horse called Newella," said Hailes.

Newella (1963 Newport Chief – Ronella) is the fourth dam of Smokin Annie and represents nearly 60 years of an association with the breed developed by Edward Hailes, Paul's father.

The family has some remarkable tail lines with Newella's half-sister Petronella (1960 Whipster – Ronella) being responsible for the likes of Ryal Robyn and the Robyn breed.

As well we have Vita Gold, the tap root for the likes of Matthew Lee and Atomic Gold who in turn left A G's Whitesocks, Power of Tara and Tara Gold, the dam of Tiger Tara.

On the surface, Newella wasn't as nearly as prolific as her half-sister at stud but similar to the perseverance shown with Smokin Annie, good things take time and eventually the family has begun to fashion its own line of success.

Newella had eight foals for one winner in Hayley's Hero, the third foal from the mare by Majestic Chance.

One of the first horses that Paul can remember from his fathers breed was the seventh foal from Newella, the unraced Alba Counsel colt called Greg's Delight.

"He must have jumped a fence as a foal and hurt himself. Bryce Buchanan took him away and tried to get him going but they couldn't get him to pace properly.

"Bryce had Cedar Lodge Stud at the time and Dad told him he wouldn't mind a foal by the colt he had taken home.

"Bryce got one his Knowing Bret mares called Cedar Lady and put her to the colt which was probably by natural service back then.

"It produced a horse called Glenburn Star who won eight races here before being sold to North America where he went 1:54 which was quite a good time back in those days," he said.

Greg's Delight never made it quite to the dizzy heights of a Bettor's Delight, but he does have the distinction of 50% foals to winners, albeit from two foals.

With so much patience and perseverance it's fitting that it was Newella's final foal that would further develop the breed.

Unraced Knowing Bret mare, Bretella (1982) also produced seven foals, of which four qualified and two were race winners.





*Debnita Rose winning at Rangiora in the hands of Dexter Dunn for the trio of owners: Hailes, Turner & Macintyre*

Although she too lacked a horse of real quality, Bretella left a Stand Together mare called Glenburn Rose that was an immediate hit at stud for Edward Hailes.

Bred to Christian Cullen, her first foal produced the open class pacer Chesterton.

He won seven races in the care of Gil Shirley including a Southern Country Cups final before being sent north to continue his career.

Chesterton looked like being the first horse to lower the colours of Auckland Reactor when trainer/driver Steven Reid led off the front in the Franklin Cup. Chesterton and Reid set about leading them a merry dance and at one stage Chesterton was out by a dozen lengths before eventually being reeled in by the champ.

He finished second in the Group 2 event and although he couldn't hold out Auckland Reactor, he fended off the likes of Baileys Dream, All Tiger and Awesome Ambro in a great staying performance.

It would prove to be his career pinnacle which saw him amass 16 wins and \$130,000 in stakes.

The second foal by Live or Die produced the dam of Smokin Annie in Glenburn Jewel.

The bonnie mare was a five-race winner spending the majority of her career in the care of Maurice Kerr.

She is now one of the five mares Paul has in his brood-mare band and the one that is proving to be the best of his fathers breed at stud.

The third foal of Glenburn Rose was Norham Fella, a son of Live Or Die and who was typical of his sires stock, an honest bread and butter sort of horse who won four and placed six times from 34 starts.

Glenburn Rose had six years of bad luck at stud before finally producing a live foal, also to Live Or Die with resulting colt named Glenburn Flyer. He qualified but lacked the ability to be a racehorse and was given away as a hack.

It is around this time that Pauls father passed away and he took over the reins of both land and livestock which included the mares.

It's been the start of a golden run for Hailes whose only failures from his breeding stock have been two horses who have died.

After some bad luck breeding Glenburn Jewel to Bettor's Delight in 2010, a deal was struck with Woodlands where he was to breed both Glenburn Rose and her daughter Glenburn Jewel to American Ideal.

In 2012 the elder mare Glenburn Rose produced a filly called Novena Rose who won both a workout and her qualifying trial before going to Australia and winning 11 races. Her daughter Glenburn Jewel produced the two-race winning mare Glenburn Joy the same season.

In 2013 Glenburn Rose produced a filly by Mach Three in Debnita Rose and while no superstar, she provided the trio of Hailes, Jonny Turner and brother in law Caine Macintyre with many a thrill at the races.

The four-race winner is now in the breeding partnership of Hailes and Jonny Turner and has produced a filly by Rock N Roll Heaven and is currently in foal to Betting Line.

"I know she only ran third on Cup Day but that was one of the biggest highlights of my involvement in breeding and racing horses.

The four-race winner is now in the breeding partnership of Hailes and Jonny Turner and has produced a filly by Rock N Roll Heaven and is currently in foal to Betting Line.

"I know she only ran third on Cup Day but that was one of the biggest highlights of my involvement in breeding and racing horses. It looks like we will be racing her stock. I suggested the yearling sales to Johnny, but he is pretty keen to race her stock which is fair enough," he said.

2013 also produced the highly talented Somebeach-somewhere colt out of Glenburn Jewel in The Honey Badger who "could have been real smart had he stayed sound". The three race winner picked up two of his wins



at two but was barely ever right after that and injury curtailed what was promising to deliver so much.

2014 brings us back to Smokin Annie. The mare who was looking rather lost, but was beginning to find her feet for the team at Macca Lodge after some lock down paddock work with her breeder.

Last Thursday she found herself in a maiden on her home track at Ascot Park. After a slow beginning from barrier two, she was stone motherless on the bend and racing five back the pegs before unleashing a withering burst up the straight to go away from the field with real ease.

Hailes is hoping it's not a case of one and done and the plan is to push on with the wee dot.

"We don't have any immediate plans to breed from her this season unless she starts racing like crap," said Hailes.

In 2015 a full brother to The Honey Badger was foaled by Glenburn Jewel and was sold at the 2017 Premier Yearling Sales in Christchurch for \$30,000 to Malcolm and Dianne Gillies, clients of Dean Taylor.

"He had an allergic reaction to penicillin after contracting colitis unfortunately and had to be put down."

The 2015 foal from Glenburn Rose (Novena Joy | Rock N Roll Heaven filly) faced a similar fate being found dead in a paddock at Macca Lodge not long before the 2019 Harness Jewels.

Sadly it was to be Glenburn Rose's final foal at the ripe old age of 22 (now 26) but she had more than done her part in furthering the breed for the Hailes family.

Going back to Somebeachsomewhere a third time with Glenburn Jewel produced a colt called Boots Electric who was aptly named given the way he went about selling himself.

"Caine and I owned him together and he qualified back at the end of February at Wyndham pretty smartly going 2:58 which would almost be a record in Southland without knowing.

"He was purchased by Emilio Rosati and I think Anthony Butt was pretty keen to get a hold of him. He's only had three starts but has won his first two and already race timed in 1:54," he said.

The seventh foal from Glenburn Jewel was from the first crop of Captaintreacherous. Given the success the family has had with Somebeachsomewhere and the way Captain T stock hit the ground running, you could be forgiven for wondering why you have not seen the now three year old.

"Castledrum is going to need a bit of time. Unfortunately her next foal by Sweet Lou (Redcastle) is a bit of a worry with a big knee at the moment and it kept him out of the yearling sales," said Hailes.

It was hoped after missing to Sweet Lou last season that Glenburn Jewel would be delivering a foal by the world champion Fear The Dragon who is stood by Hailes father in law at Macca Lodge.

"Unfortunately, she slipped. Luckily the neighbour spotted the issue and gave us a ring or the mare could have retained the placenta which would have been an issue had it not been picked up. We will go back to Fear The Dragon with her this season."

Hailes has expanded his broodmare band and bloodlines by buying into other families with regal breeding of their own.

"In partnership with Macca we bought a Well Said filly out of Imprint from the Weanling Sales for \$8000 a few years ago. She is now four and in foal to Fear The Dragon," he said.

Registered as Bella Cara, the Well Said mare is a half-sister to the Group One winner Opulent and the extremely fast Dibaba. It is a family that is littered with black type with her third dam being the Broodmare of Excellence winner, Smarty Pants.

"State of Mind who I bought off Gavelhouse from the Breckons for \$2500. She is a Bettors Delight granddaughter of Under Cover Lover. I am hoping she will make a broodmare one day and I've got sum mates in with me to try her as a racehorse," said Hailes.

Hailes blames the purchase on going mad over lockdown but if you have the land and resources to acquire stock like her at that sort of money, why not the roll the dice?

She is due at the workouts shortly for trainer Derek Balle and her breeding would suggest she is one to keep an eye on.

One of the few French items in Southland besides French fries are Love You trotters and while there is not an abundance of them, Hailes has now dipped his toes in the trotting market with a share in a well bred squaregiater.

"We also have a share in a Love You mare out of Micro Chip called Abella who is in foal to Majestic Son," he said.

Hailes and his partner Lauren will head north to Christchurch early next year with one yearling being set for the NZB Standardbred Sales.

It will be one of the many from the strong Southern Bred Southern Reared contingent and is a lovely Sweet Lou Colt out of the American Ideal mare Glenburn Joy (second foal of Glenburn Jewel).

The colt called Zamperini will be hoping his close relatives in Smokin Annie and Boots Electric can continue to fly the Glenburn flag as he waits his turn to further the family legacy.



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Trevor Beaton with his sister Diane, Chrissie Dalgety and Graeme Iggo after Invaluable won at Addington last Sunday

## SUNDAY FUNDAY FOR BEATON BREED

Art Major gelding Invaluable picked up his second win at short notice at Addington on Sunday giving his breeder Trevor Beaton (QSM) some much deserved time in the sun once again.

Renowned for being very honest but without a win on the board, the now four-year-old Invaluable has put to bed the thought he is just a professional place getter.

He placed in nine of 16 career starts before the penny dropped in late July. He was able to win his maiden at Addington, and as is so often the case, finding winning form immediately led to a second, victory at Addington last Sunday.

His former trainer Cran Dalgety had recently said, "he is like that radio you bought in 1976" referring to Invaluable's consistency in performance and willingness to work every day.

The recent breeding double came at time when success had been a long time between drinks for Beaton. Trevor has bred and been associated with many good horses in pursuing what has been a lifelong passion.

At the age of 22, Trevor got started in the standardbred industry while still a student at the University of Canterbury.

"In 1973 I had a \$600 car and a \$2500 horse," he laughed.

"That was 43 years ago. I've been breeding and racing horses ever since."

The recent emergence of Invaluable traces back to a decision made to purchase a three-year-old filly in foal in 1995 called Anvil's Joy.

"I had a choice between her and Pleasant Franco at the time," laughed Beaton.

"I made the decision to buy her because I was a big Smooth Fella fan and she was out of a well-performed Able Bye Bye mare called Joyable."

Joyable was the winner of 23 races including three Group Two's with her dam Joytime (Young Charles) being the 1985 Australian Broodmare of the Year.

At the stage in which Beaton made his decision, Kate's First was a yearling and Christian Cullen would have been a weanling or foal at foot.

The well-performed Falconbridge (half-sister to Pleasant Franco) was still in utero so it is easy to see why Beaton chose to go for the family with runs on the board.

Beaton put the mare in foal to In The Pocket and Soky's Atom respectively. He sold the subsequent colts to Australia via the yearling sales. Rising Sensation (9 wins) and Sensation Seeker (6 wins) were honest pacers with 20 placings each to go with their race wins.

The next two fillies were unraced but the fourth foal by In The Pocket left a few handy pacers for Beaton's breed. Johnny Bee (16 wins | \$133,953) and Hey Hardy (21 wins | \$83,899) were both timed in 1:55 and showed they were more than capable racehorses.

"The mother of Memorable (Enjoy The Memory) was by Soky's Atom and she could run a bit, but she broke her pedal bone," said Beaton.

"Her first foal was by Mach Three. Maree Price who used to break a few in for me rated this one a 10+ out of ten. She had something wrong with her throat which was incurable according to the vet at the time.

"The next foal was a Live Or Die that was no good, couldn't neither pace nor trot," he said.

"Her third and final foal was Memorable. She was a good-sized mare and she was just honest. She didn't have sharp speed although she did go a 1:55 mile running 4th at Addington one night. However, she was just a one speeder but ran against some good horses."



"I put her to Art Major and got Invaluable," he said.

While Beaton is frank in terms of assessing ability of Invaluable describing him as "just a nice honest horse", he is not complaining about a return to the winner's circle at Addington Raceway.

"It was a big thrill mate and all credit to Blair, he is just a fantastic driver. He broke in ok and was always just a nice horse to have around and he is probably the calmest horse you have ever seen.

"He qualified at two and was placed in '56 at Ashburton one day when he lead, though he is probably better coming from behind. He is just a tradesman. Blair has always driven him brilliantly and he seems to be maturing with age, which is nice.

"Her second foal is Admirable (Rock N Roll Heaven) and he is a really nice horse also.

"He's won a couple of trials but has a little bit to learn come race day. He just hangs a bit and throws his head around. Cran quite likes him and he is quite a nice horse. He is at home at the moment having a well-earned spell," said Beaton.

Memorable has only one more foal by Sweet Lou and the yearling colt is due to head to the breakers shortly.

He is likely to be her last unless Beaton leases the mare out, which is a possibility with Trevor's health not being 100% in recent years.

Beaton has been showing some of the tenacity seen from his great stock in recent years, battling "the bastard" that is cancer with great gusto.

"I think people must think I'm a fraud because I tell people I'm not that good and here I am," he laughed.

Despite having his good and bad days, Beaton continues to fight the good fight. We can only hope his health allows him to further enjoy his great passion.

Beaton had a lot of success breeding and preparing horses for the yearling sales from the 'Samantha' breed and none more so than his fine producer Samantha Style (1987 Talk About Class – Samantha Scott).

Samantha Style was bred by Beaton and was the first winner from five foals out of Scottish Command mare, Samantha Scott.

While Samantha Style only won one race, she showed enough ability to suggest she would leave some nice foals.

"She won first up for Robert Dunn over a mile at Ashburton. She had a lot of ability but went in a tendon after only seven starts and I retired her to stud. Robert Cameron and Kypros Kotzikas had a lot of success purchasing Samantha Style's progeny," said Beaton.



*Invaluable returns to scale at Addington last Sunday*

Samantha Style left four in 1:56 or better which was no mean feat for a pacing broodmare in the late 90's and early naughts.

Lavros Command (Smooth Fella) won four on end before going amiss after only eight starts.

Lavros Style (Soky's Atom) was purchased and sold to Australia where he won his first six races on end and finished with 17 in total.

Stylish Lavros (In The Pocket) was good enough to run in the Sires Stakes final won by Roman Gladiator in 2003 and won four before being exported to America where he took a mark of 1:54.

Impact Style (Ambro Operative) was another nice pacer for Laurence Hanrahan winning four races from six starts at three before being exported to America.

Beaton raced Samantha Style's six live foals himself. Samantha Swift, the daughter of Christian Cullen, won a race and has produced the 11 race winner Samantha Sparkle. The daughter of Bettor's Delight raced exclusively in Australia after being purchased at the sales and qualifying for trainer, Richard Brosnan.

Despite his best efforts and breeding Samantha Style and her daughters to some of the top end stallions, the breed never really kicked on for Beaton as he would have hoped.

"I've got nothing else in work but I always take an interest in the other ones I've bred and sold like the progeny of Christian Seel," he said.

"Harness racing is my great passion outside of work and it sort of kept me on balance, I think. At times you could get lost in the education field, but there is nothing like breeding horses for a dose of reality," he said.

Always the realist, it is great to see one of the good guys get some reward and joy in what are challenging times for racing and Trevor personally.

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# **RACING INDUSTRY ACT: 1 August a new dawn!**

**John Mooney**

Effective 1 August TAB NZ and Racing New Zealand are two of the new entities at the peak of racing following the passage of the Racing Industry Act 2020 implementing the Messara Review of Racing. The other three are the harness, thoroughbred and greyhound codes who been given extensive new functions and powers to manage racing in their industry.

NZ Standardbred breeders (NZSBA) presented a written submission the select committee considering the Bill. The committee received and heard multiple submissions from racing and sporting individuals and groups. The Bill was reported back to the House on 8 June 2020.

The Bill was read a second time on Tuesday 23rd June 2020 with the committee stage and the third reading this week. Further technical amendments are incorporated in the Supplementary Order Paper 516. Two substantive additions were that the Racing Industry Transition Agency (RITA) board will be the TAB NZ board through to end July 2021, unless replaced earlier. And, unless agreed otherwise under the new Act the current Section 16 formula applies to distributions i.e. domestic turnover. [TAB NZ and the codes have agreed funding for this season.]

The Select Committee worked well across the respective parties, with the Minister's support. The Bill as returned to the House:

1. reasserts strongly its roots in the Messara Review; and
2. adopts many of the recommended improvements from the codes and individuals.

Fundamental to the Messara Report was stronger individual code management and control over racing and its outputs. These improvements are illustrated by the removal from the Bill of some of the unnecessary code reporting and compliance obligations, the removal of TAB NZ's right to racing intellectual property, the introduction of Racing New Zealand to coordinate code strengths (more on that later), the appointment of code nominees to the board of TAB NZ and code involvement as partners in the agreements with offshore betting operators for the consumption charges.

The Select Committee and the Minister seem to have gone a long way towards listening to the core submissions made by industry participants.

## **NZSBA Submission**

This is a brief update on the key points that NZSBA made:

1. Support for overall thrust of the Messara Review: in quite a few areas the Messara review recommendations have been strengthened in the Bill: for example race fields and consumption taxes and the creation of Racing NZ to coordinate the codes, a key feature not in the original Bill.

1. Direct representation of the racing codes on TAB NZ: achieved. The board will have three code nominated people and four ministerial appointments.
2. Club and code ownership of intellectual property; achieved with Clause 81 assigning ownership to TAB NZ deleted. Clubs and codes will now negotiate with TAB NZ, and potentially others, for the sale of broadcast rights.
3. Distribution of revenues: no specific formula in the Bill such as the former Section 16. It is now largely up to the codes to agree or the minister to decide distributions.
4. Expanded betting to events other than sports and racing: not achieved, this is disappointing that we did not follow Australian states and allow wagering on elections etc.
5. Integrity functions: greater clarity on the separation of functions under a single entity, the new Racing Integrity Board.
6. Rules can be made for breeding and welfare: adopted NZSBA submission with a new clause clarifying that the codes make rules for the breeding and welfare of horses and greyhound. This codifies the Nevele R Stud and Kotzikas Court of Appeal decisions on HRNZ's extensive powers to make rules.
7. Correct name for NZSBA as a recognised industry organisation: accepted.

Overall, the Select Committee adopted many of the suggestions from a wide range of stakeholders.

## ***The Act includes some new provisions:***

1. Racing New Zealand – is created as the coordination body for the three codes with a representative from each plus two people appointed by them collectively
2. Empowering small clubs. A new clause 8(1)(a)(iv) has been added to the functions of the codes requiring them to ensure small clubs (3 or less licences) have adequate representation and involvement in a codes decision-making.
3. Resolution of Disputes, for the first-time certain disputes, including funding, are to be resolved by arbitration.

## **THE CHALLENGE**

The minister and parliament have given racing the tools to set a sustainable future. Massive responsibilities have been given directly to the racing codes and TAB NZ.

It is now up to us to make this legislative framework work for the long term benefit of the sport. We have the tools. We need the best team we can get in governance and executive positions. We need to accept the challenge and move on.

## **THANK YOU**

I have followed NZ politics closely for almost 50 years, especially parliament and the legislative process. I can say that the way the Select Committee, the Minister, the Department of Internal Affairs officials and the RITA team worked together to bring the new Act together was quite unique. NZSBA would like to extend its thanks to the Select Committee, and the minister, the Rt Hon Winston Peters MP, and DIA for a process and engagement that demonstrated a high degree of respect for and serious listening to the diverse voices in the racing industry and sport.

# LEADING MONEY WINNING SIRES: NORTH AMERICA

Following one of the first major stakes weekends in North America and heading into the new breeding season, it is always great to be able to cast your eye at the North American scene and see what is developing.

While there is plenty of water to go under the bridge with plenty of big races still to come, the below lists are sourced from Standardbred Canada and will give you some good insight into who is kicking some early goals.

## TWO YEAR OLD PACERS

SIRE	Starters	Stakes
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	74	\$693,173
CAPTAINREACHEROUS	59	\$540,760
AMERICAN IDEAL	52	\$527,815
WELL SAID	46	\$470,935
BETTING LINE	67	\$465,276
SWEET LOU	40	\$452,940
SHADOW PLAY	35	\$425,775
BETTORS DELIGHT	39	\$416,863
RACING HILL	52	\$402,250
ART MAJOR	37	\$380,501
ALWAYS B MIKI	40	\$376,181
SPORTSWRITER	54	\$365,077
MCARDLE	26	\$305,557
SUNSHINE BEACH	44	\$296,564
ROLL WITH JOE	40	\$276,169
PET ROCK	50	\$237,666
JK ENDOFANERA	43	\$231,640
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	52	\$225,050
BETTERTHANCHEDDAR	39	\$224,360
ROCKIN IMAGE	54	\$165,208

## TWO YEAR OLD TROTTERS

MUSCLE HILL	60	\$1,113,338
CHAPTER SEVEN	53	\$863,690
MUSCLE MASS	48	\$622,003
FATHER PATRICK	53	\$406,814
UNCLE PETER	51	\$380,559
BAR HOPPING	33	\$374,700
CANTAB HALL	44	\$372,487
SWAN FOR ALL	39	\$254,183
KADABRA	28	\$251,454
SOUTHWIND FRANK	16	\$250,961
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	26	\$233,334
CREDIT WINNER	33	\$226,065
MY MVP	12	\$219,626
ARCHANGEL	14	\$190,172
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	19	\$173,788
DONTYOUFORGETIT	26	\$164,067
DONATO HANOVER	25	\$155,153
LOUS LEGACY	19	\$152,681
TRIXTON	27	\$132,648
CREATINE	19	\$118,324

## THREE YEAR OLD PACERS

CAPTAINREACHEROUS	74	\$2,125,360
BETTORS DELIGHT	92	\$1,527,998
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	93	\$1,205,025
SPORTSWRITER	84	\$818,249
SWEET LOU	68	\$752,668
SUNSHINE BEACH	77	\$621,995
AMERICAN IDEAL	78	\$614,417
HES WATCHING	50	\$546,596
ROLL WITH JOE	52	\$536,340
ART MAJOR	70	\$534,126
ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN	28	\$479,227
BIG BAD JOHN	46	\$452,961
PET ROCK	43	\$422,387
ROCKIN IMAGE	68	\$420,697
WESTERN IDEAL	29	\$401,637
SO SURREAL	30	\$399,442
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	67	\$390,316
BIG JIM	45	\$389,713
MACH THREE	57	\$382,336
WELL SAID	55	\$378,266

## THREE YEAR OLD TROTTERS

MUSCLE HILL	54	\$1,909,744
CHAPTER SEVEN	48	\$1,159,597
FATHER PATRICK	49	\$897,790
UNCLE PETER	54	\$765,268
TRIXTON	41	\$706,502
MUSCLE MASS	60	\$650,759
KADABRA	56	\$609,703
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	43	\$563,704
READY CASH	3	\$534,215
SWAN FOR ALL	52	\$446,978
CREDIT WINNER	30	\$398,729
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	20	\$351,345
DONATO HANOVER	50	\$321,679
EXPLOSIVE MATTER	52	\$320,678
E L TITAN	22	\$307,235
SEBASTIAN K S	27	\$289,940
WHEELING N DEALIN	23	\$266,085
CONWAY HALL	30	\$257,973
GUCCIO	29	\$222,805
ARCHANGEL	26	\$215,628

## ALL AGED PACERS

BETTORS DELIGHT	573	\$7,981,785
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	462	\$6,321,882
AMERICAN IDEAL	408	\$4,397,294
MACH THREE	390	\$4,192,020
CAPTAINREACHEROUS	197	\$3,678,972
ART MAJOR	337	\$3,559,100
SPORTSWRITER	367	\$3,099,562
SHADOW PLAY	239	\$2,849,607
WELL SAID	276	\$2,670,560
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	281	\$2,476,562
ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN	191	\$2,390,597
SWEET LOU	167	\$2,190,972
ROCKIN IMAGE	267	\$2,108,289
BIG JIM	156	\$2,004,322
MCARDLE	199	\$1,922,112
DRAGON AGAIN	221	\$1,912,232
PET ROCK	186	\$1,846,521
ROLL WITH JOE	196	\$1,778,608
WESTERN IDEAL	178	\$1,776,886
BETTERTHANCHEDDAR	159	\$1,698,133

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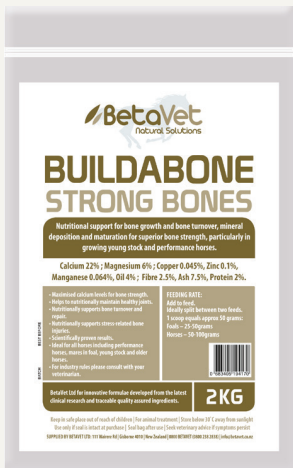
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Mark Purdon trained Spankem wins 2019 Miracle Mile.



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- Conditioning tonic for balanced behaviour



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- Highly digestible natural gut buffer to help protect against constant exposure to stomach acid.
- Conditioning tonic for balanced behaviour.

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## ALL AGED TROTTERS

MUSCLE HILL	186	\$4,366,962
CHAPTER SEVEN	162	\$3,617,147
KADABRA	187	\$2,648,066
MUSCLE MASS	224	\$2,438,965
CANTAB HALL	192	\$1,900,668
FATHER PATRICK	115	\$1,664,915
EXPLOSIVE MATTER	166	\$1,516,741
CREDIT WINNER	145	\$1,508,514
SWAN FOR ALL	164	\$1,503,932
UNCLE PETER	141	\$1,494,807
DONATO HANOVER	158	\$1,386,470
TRIXTON	95	\$1,182,888
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	91	\$1,012,752
MUSCLE MASSIVE	107	\$898,346
CONWAY HALL	115	\$883,937
ANDOVER HALL	109	\$848,154
CRAZED	88	\$833,066
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	73	\$829,484

## ***Dates, venues, and new sponsor for Sires Stakes' three-year-old series***

Australasia's leading breeding operation, Woodlands Stud, has signed with the New Zealand Sires' Stakes Board to be the exclusive sponsor of the prestigious 3YO Colts and Geldings Series.

"We are very excited about our new partnership with the New Zealand Sires Stakes Board in the upcoming season. As always, we remain very focused on supporting the industry that supports us, so we jumped at the opportunity to be involved," said Dr Andrew Grierson, principal of Woodlands Stud.

Dates and venues for the five heats have been decided, with the heats at Addington, Cambridge, Alexandra Park and Ashburton between October 8 – October 26. (see below for details).

The Woodlands Stud Sires' Stakes Final (Group 1) will be held on New Zealand Cup day, Tuesday November 10.

The new sponsorship deal will also see the inclusion of the popular Harness 7000, a race for 3YO pacers whose service fee was \$7,000 or less. This will be held at Addington next February.

Woodlands Stud stallions have sired the winners of eight of the last ten Sires' Stakes Finals including the mighty Lazarus sired by the incomparable Bettor's Delight.

Martin Pierson, of the New Zealand Sires' Stakes Board, said "We are delighted to have Woodlands Stud as our exclusive sponsor for this marquee series for the next three seasons."

In 1992 Dr Charles Roberts and his veterinary partner that dates back to the 1960s.

Dr Andrew Grierson established Woodlands Stud. It was named after the original farm it's sited on in Clevedon that dates back to the 1960s.

In the first years of the operation Woodlands stood stallions on lease with mixed success. In 2006 Charles and Andrew took a new direction, securing sires by purchasing the southern hemisphere rights. Among their many success stories were Bettor's Delight and then in 2007, American Ideal as the stud established itself as the pre-eminent semen base in the southern hemisphere.

"Bettor's Delight in particular has been a game changer in the breeding shed," said Pierson.

Woodlands' mandate is to provide Australasian Breeders with affordable world class stallions, so in addition to these two history-making stallions they are also currently home to Downbytheseaside, What The Hill, Lather Up, Sweet Lou, and Speeding Spur.

The 2020/21 N.Z. Sires Stakes 3YO Colts & Gelding Series will consist of:

Heat 1 : Addington, Thursday, October 8 2020

Heat 2 : Cambridge, Thursday, October 15 2020

Heat 3 : Addington, Friday, October 16 2020

Heat 4 : Alexandra Park, Friday, October 23, 2020

Heat 5 : Ashburton, Monday, October 26, 2020

Group One Final : Addington (NZ Cup day), Tuesday, November 10 2020

Silver : Addington, Friday, November 27 2020

Harness 7000 : Addington, Friday, February 12 2021

*For more information contact:*

*Martin Pierson*

*NZ Sires Stakes Executive*

*Email: martin@nzsiresstakes.co.nz*

*Telephone: 03 964 1186 MOBILE 027 4711 081*

## ***Dunstan Horsefeeds to partner Sires' Stakes Fillies' Series***

Another heavyweight sponsor, Dunstan Horsefeeds, has been confirmed for the upcoming Sires' Stakes Series.

The Hamilton-based company will support the three-year-old fillies, following on from Woodland Stud's recent announcement that it will sponsor the three-year-old colts and geldings.

"Dunstan Horsefeeds has always viewed the Sires' Stakes as a great innovation," says Dunstan Horsefeeds director David Smith.



The arrangement continues a long association with harness racing since the company's inception 35 years ago.

"Dunstan Horsefeeds has always been a proud sponsor and supplier of the New Zealand Standardbred Industry and we are only too happy to increase our involvement with the Sires' Stakes; this is a great opportunity to give back to an industry that is a great supporter of our New Zealand brand," says Smith.

The series will start at Ashburton in November and continue through to the Group One Final at Alexandra Park on New Year's Eve.

*The full schedule is:*

#### **Dunstan Horsefeeds Sires' Stakes**

- Heat 1, Ashburton, Thursday, November 12, 2020
- Heat 2, Auckland, Friday, November 20, 2020
- Heat 3, Addington, Friday, November 27, 2020
- Heat 4, Auckland, Friday, December 4, 2020
- FINAL, Auckland, Thursday, December 31, 2020
- Silver - TBC

*For more information contact:*

*Martin Pierson*

*NZ Sires' Stakes Executive*

*Email: [martin@nzsiresstakes.co.nz](mailto:martin@nzsiresstakes.co.nz)*

## ***Lazarus ready to make amends***

**Jonny Turner**

Lazarus has left behind rave reviews about his first crop of foals in North America after touching down in Australia last week.

After landing in Sydney, the superstar New Zealand bred entered quarantine as he prepares for his second season at stud in Australasia.

The two-time New Zealand Cup winner served 136 mares in his first stud season in North America and the resulting progeny have been given a big tick of approval over the past few months.

"The feedback has been great," part-owner John Curtin said.

"He is leaving really strong, muscular foals that look like real athletes. And they are of a good size – Lazarus might have looked like a smaller horse on the track because of his head carriage but he is 16 hands."

"We have heard from a lot of breeders and they have been raving about his foals."

One of the biggest compliments Lazarus' foals have been given came after they passed muster with leading New Jersey breeding farm Concord Stud.

"Concord Stud are the leading vendors at the Harrisburg sales and they have six Lazarus foals," Curtin said.

"I have spoken to David Meirs about them and they couldn't be happier and they can't wait to take them to the yearling sales."

Lazarus headed back Down Under after serving 112 mares at Deo Volente Farms in New Jersey in the recently completing Northern Hemisphere breeding season. The Bettor's Delight stallion will soon be out to make amends for a less than ideal first season at stud in Australasia.

The exact cause of Lazarus' low conceptions rates in the 2019–20 breeding season has never been pinpointed despite extensive testing, Curtin said. But, given the stallion produced strong in-foal rates directly after returning to North America, which suggests the issue has been resolved.

To ensure the same problems do not arise again, facilities – including air conditioning – have been set up at Yirribee Stud to attempt to mirror the kind of conditions Lazarus lives in in North America," Curtin said.

"Breeders can send their mares to him with confidence they will get in foal."

"Despite exhaustive testing by the best vets in the southern hemisphere there was no definitive answer as to what caused the problem."

"The vets however were confident the problem would resolve, which has been proven to be correct with Lazarus finishing the 2020 northern hemisphere season with a conception rate of 85%. Every possible measure has been taken to mirror the conditions Lazarus has become accustomed to in the US."

The strong reports about his first crop of foals in New Jersey have added to the good interest in Lazarus ahead of the upcoming Australasian breeding season.

"There has been a lot of interest in him this year and his bookings are ahead of where they were at the same time last season."

"Returning breeders can get him for \$6000 which is probably the greatest deal you will ever see, considering he stands for US\$10,000 in New Jersey where there are no discounts."

Breeders who send their mares to Lazarus will be put in a novel position when their foals hit the ground. By then Lazarus will have 2yr-olds that will have hit the tracks in North America.

"When these foals are born he will have 2yr-olds racing in North America. That has never happened before for a Down Under bred stallion. So that is going to be pretty exciting for people who breed to him this year."

Lazarus stands at Yirribee Stud in New South Wales and is available to breeders throughout Australasia for a fee of \$8000 including GST in both countries.



# FATHER DAN LEGACY LIVES ON

Jonny Turner

All Stars filly Avana added another chapter to the massive legacy left by the late Tuapeka Lodge breeder Father Dan Cummings when she won at Ascot Park on Thursday.

The Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen trained filly became yet another black-type performer for the Tuapeka Lodge Racing syndicate when she scored in a 1-57.1 mile rate in race 3.

Cummings, who died in March, and his keen eye for a talented standardbred were behind the selecting of Avana, who was knocked down to Purdon and Rasmussen's All Stars stable at NZB Standardbred's 2019 yearling sale.

After being snapped up for what now looks a bargain price of \$16,000, the filly's ownership was split between the Tuapeka Lodge syndicate, which Cummings formed with his brother, Peter, and sister Julie Davies, and Braeden and Caroline Whitelock. It is not just Cummings' keen eye for a smart standardbred that should get credit following Avana's win.

When the filly paced professionally throughout her debut for driver Tim Williams it put the breaking in and horsemanship skills of the man known throughout New Zealand harness racing circles simply as 'Father Dan' on display once again.

"It would be a pretty special win for the owners," Williams said.

"Father Dan and Braeden and Caroline were long-time friends and they decided to pick this filly out at the sales. And they didn't pay that much for her either.

"Father Dan did the early work with her and he actually gave her a workout before she came up to Mark and Natalie's."

Avana found herself back in the deep south as part of a four-horse team the All Stars barn sent to Ascot Park on Thursday.

With two horses in each of two races, it was mission complete when Rock Legend followed up Avana's win by taking out race 3.

"They came down here to split them up from some of our other horses and also because the trip away does them a lot of good," Williams said.

"Some of them would have ended up in the race that we have eight horses in at Addington. So, Mark decided to send these ones down here."

The influence of the late Father Dan Cummings and his family on yesterday's meeting did not end with Ivana.

When Tom Martin powered to an impressive victory in race 9 its credited the late Cummings and his brother and sister with a breeding victory.

The trio bred the towering Mach Three pacer from Life Sign mare, Raindowne, and sold him to trainer Graham Court at the 2018 national yearling sales in Christchurch.

## FAST WINGER KEEPS KICKING GOALS

Stu Bailey

25-year-old Wingspread mare Fast Winger could well be regarded as harness racing's most unsung hero. She certainly deserves a lot more credit for what she has achieved over the years for Oamaru owner-breeders Ray and Maureen Beale.

At Addington last Sunday her eleventh foal to race, Fast Ace, was successful for Coaster Howe in a maiden, continuing a stunning run of winners that now spans almost two decades.

Fast Ace, her last foal, capped the winning run, with only one of 12 live foals failing to make it to the track, and win, a remarkable achievement.

Fast Winger left her first foal in 2003, Move Heaven Andearth, who won three from 27 for Sean McCaffrey before being retired to stud.

The Christian Cullen mare has already left three smart winners in Earthbound (9 wins), Michelangelo (4 wins) and Saying Grace (5 wins).

Fast Winger's second foal was Armbr Winger (7 wins) then a smart sort in Almost A Christian who won four from eight for Mark Purdon and placed third in the Alabar Classic at Auckland in his last start behind Stunin Cullen and Gotta Go Collect, and died soon after.

Fastroundtown, Valour Under Fire (both 4 wins), Still Laughin (7 wins), then Mach Winger, Fast Official, Dont Pass i'm Fast, Bettathanfast, and now Fast Ace extend a grand run for the not-so-high profile broodmare who has achieved like a queen.

She was last sent to the stallion in 2017 but missed to Fast Ace's sire Gold Ace.



# WHAT'S YOUR SECRET? -OR IS IT BEYOND WORDS ?

David McCarthy | C/O All Stars Website

All Stars took two likely types to the races on Friday in What's Your Secret and Beyond Words, both from that prolific base of Studholme Park and its driving force Brian West. They subsequently quinnellad the race!

One WHAT'S YOUR SECRET is from a mare who was a star for All Stars in her racing days, winning 10 races as a three year old to G1 level in a relatively short career for West.

The other is a granddaughter of another high performing Studholme Park matron who measured up to the best three year old fillies of her time for trainer Christine McDonald. It is probably typical of the West breeding success that he took over the breeding of that mare, Fear Me, after several prominent names had had a go and then s produced her best race filly, Quote Me, now the dam of Beyond Words.

Both trialled well recently before preparing for their first start and are well placed to exit maiden status quickly. That will be good news for her owners as she is now four and making her debut. She has had three public outings and has looked more than competent in all of them. Whats Your Secret has just turned three so is at some disadvantage there.

Still her dam, Secret Potion, was an outstanding race filly hitting her straps as a December three year old winning a Sires Stakes heat at Auckland with Nicole Molander in the cart but in the final everything turned to custard. From the one-one Secret Potion, a stout stayer, was sent to the front which gave stablemate and favourite Lancome (also raced by Studholme Park) a trail for the last round, opening up the race for those further back at the same time.

Secret Potion still appeared to be travelling strongly at the turn when she broke also taking Lancome out of the race. All Stars Meredith Maguire, last with 1400m to go but taking advantages of other moves, won the race strongly.

Secret Potion beat a G1 style field (De Lovely 2nd) after resuming and then turned the tables at 7/1 in the Great Northern Oaks.

Again taken to the front half way thru the race giving Meredith Maguire the trail and De Lovely 3 back she seemed a sitting duck at the 500m but gathered steam around the corner and kicked away to beat the other two fillies on their merits. She then tried for the Oaks-Derby double, the latter being won by Russley Rascal and after returning south proved too strong in the Nevele R final, Nicole again in the cart, sealing her class.

Again she didn't have it easy ranging up at the 800m to be parked giving Meredith Maguire cover and Lancome handy and again she found another gear in the straight holding on for a stable trifecta, Lancome again being unlucky.

Secret Potion posted two Harness Jewels placings but in her later career was probably overshadowed by multiple Jewels performer Lancome, clocking 1.56 behind that mare in her final outing in the Harness Jewels at 4.

She has yet to leave a "ball breaker" at stud but you would look to the fillies in this family which has a long tradition of producing top ones, and her first three foals were colts.

Her own dam Putting On the Glitz (unraced) left some useful sorts though given good opportunities. She was by the outcross (Big Towner-Best of All cross) Walton Hanover and her dam, Awfully Nice (Nero's BB) left a 1.50 (US) miler in Silver Lining Pocket.

A Walton Hanover mare to Bettor's Delight left the NZ Cup winner Arden Rooney.

Brian, through his Yonkers Partnership, had bred the high class pacer Defoe from Awfully Nice's dam, Dream Bel, a close relation to well performed Sir Avon. He was also the breeder of Bit of a Legend and played a key role in the breeding of Lazarus so recent times have been good to him.

This family, which if you go back far enough descended from an Arab mare who lived in Greenpark =not far from where Whats Your Secret was raised at Coes Ford 140 years later-, has left some terrific brood and race mares over the years starting with the NZ Cup winner of 1915 Country Belle. Male and female, trotters or pacers the family of the little Arab mare has been a tremendous one.

Whats Your Secret also looks ready to advance the broodmare standing of Courage Under Fire which, in all honesty, has been somewhat underwhelming so far -considering the talented race trackers he has left and the fact that his fellow In the Pocket star, the more fashionably bred Christian Cullen, was a goldmine as a broodmare sire.

You would have to go into great analysis to quantify things like opportunity (fillies left in New Zealand and bred from here for example) and fashion; but Courage Under Fire does not feature prominently on broodmare sire lists (Arms of An Angel one of the best) and his mare's matings with Bettor's Delight have yet to set the world on fire much less compare to Cullen.

But then you don't have a mare with the race record of Secret Potion going to him every day either. As every reeder gets to learn through experience "they can come from anywhere".

BEYOND WORDS on the other hand has the increasingly fashionable cross of Art Major and Bettor's Delight as noted in filly pedigrees like Princess Tiffany and she won't be long making her mark.

Studholme bred their first foal from her Sires Stakes final placed Fear Me several years after she went to stud and Quote Me was easily her most successful offspring winning six. What is more Fear Me was by Soky's Atom a West favourite and close up still (3rd generation) in so many leading pedigrees.

This is a very good family most often associated with Hororata farmer Eric Mee who began the "Me" association which has long outlasted him. While he sold the best performer of his owner era with the family- the Mike De Filippi-trained Take Care to the US (for huge money then)-Eric had a long association with the breed that only ended with his passing.

He started with Roistar bred by Ernie Johnson, also an influential small breeder of Prince Charming fame, and bred from her Believe Me the ancestress of Beyond Words and Quick Feet-the latter, Take Care's dam, ( and also of Rapid Man) to Fallacy and Johnny Globe respectively.

Take Care was the only filly of her dam and had a few foals on her return to New Zealand where she was not a great success.

Nanoose,from Believe Me,showed high promise and her three win career is not a good reflection of her ability as she suffered a wind affliction. She left Talk About Me as her first foal the winner of 10 and a top performer. Fear Me was her 5th foal followed by two that died and then the highly talented Pocket Me winner of nearly \$300,000 here.

The next foal, Estabella (sister to Fear Me) was useful and left the stakes filly Delight Me and also Bella Me the granddam of the fastest of the family so far in Eclipse Me (1.48.4) who equalled the then world record for mares with her time (1000m trackwhile defeating the 2019 Breeders Crown champion, Caviart Ally. It makes her one of the fastest Kiwi mares of all time.

Eclipse Me, a fair performer in Auckland in her time year was the Pocono Downs Mare of the Year last season. The ability of the family to produce top race fillies and mares, sometimes from unexpected sources has already proven itself to Brian West and indeed to All Stars- and will be proving itself for a long time to come

## ***Hat trick for Shartin N in Lady Liberty***

Shartin N made it three in a row in the Lady Liberty for harness racing pacing mares, winning Saturday's (Aug. 8) \$177,100 edition by one length over Major Occasion A in 1:48.2 at The Meadowlands. Stonebridge Soul finished third.

Major Occasion A led the field to the opening quarter in :26.2, but driver Tim Tetrick already had Shartin N in gear and on her way to the front. Shartin N took the lead and

reached the half in :54.3 and three-quarters in 1:22. She fought off a challenge from Warrawee Ubeaut on the final turn and went on to her fourth win in five starts this season and the 45th of her career.

"You just get to a point with 45 wins that you go out and you think you're going to win again, but it just doesn't always happen," co-owner Jo Ann Looney-King said. "It's just a thrill every single time. She's just a thrill."

Shartin N, the 2019 Horse of the Year, has won \$2.33 million lifetime and 38 of 48 starts since arriving from New Zealand. She is owned by Richard Poillucci, Looney-King, and Tim Tetrick LLC. The 7-year-old mare is a daughter of Tintin In America out of Bagdarin.

"If it wasn't for Rich Poillucci, I would not be standing here and she would not be out there today," Looney-King said. "He picked her out, he bought her and brought her here; it's all Rich Poillucci."

## ***Jack Potts – A star at stud born 100 years ago***

David Di Somma

The dominance of Bettor's Delight up to and including 2020 has evoked memories of another super sire born exactly one hundred years ago.

In the season just gone by Bettor's Delight's progeny were a league above any other, and when he is crowned champion sire at next month's Harness Racing awards it will be his ninth New Zealand premiership in a row.

The first sire to do nine straight was a horse that sounds more like a driver or trainer – Jack Potts. Born exactly one hundred years ago Jack Potts was the leading sire from 1937/8 to 1945/6 after a mixed racing career.

Foaled in 1920 the American-bred two-year-old was imported to this country by Alex Anderson of Christchurch. Plagued by leg injuries he won nine races including being placed twice in the New Zealand Cup. In the 1927 Auckland Cup he was narrowly beaten by dual New Zealand Cup winner Ahuriri.

As a sire he not only topped the list for nine years straight but was in the top three for 13 seasons. During the depression he stood at just seven pounds and many breeders were so hard up that they would pay the fee off a pound at a time as they could afford it.

Altogether he sired 271 individual winners (1212 races) and his daughters produced over 320 winners.

His list of winners include some impressive names, among them Inter-dominion champion Emulous (1948) and two-time New Zealand Cup winner Lucky Jack (1937 and 1939).



As a sire of broodmares Jack Potts was even more successful. Among the major winners his daughters produced were Tactician, the first two-minute racehorse outside North America who won 20 races including an Inter-Dominion in 1955. There was also 18-race winner Van Dieman, the winner of the 1951 New Zealand Cup for Cecil Devine. 1953 Auckland Cup winner Thelma Globe was another stand out with 17 victories and a world record over 1 ¼ miles (2000 metres).

In all the direct offspring of Jack Potts won more than 1200 races. He died in 1948 aged 28.

Another champion sire U Scott took over from Jack Potts and equalled the nine premierships but they were between 1946/7 and 1961/2, not consecutively. Other top stallions at the time were Dillon Hall, Hal Tryax and Light Brigade.

The great Vance Hanover was the champion sire for 10 years in a row, between 1987/8-1996/7. He was unraced (because of a cracked sesamoid) and the first son of world champion pacer and sire Albatross to be made available to New Zealand breeders. His progeny had 2106 wins from 1983 to 2001.

In contrast stock from the now 23-year-old Bettor's Delight have produced nearly 3500 wins from more than 1200 NZ-bred winners in this country since 2007, including five of the last six New Zealand Cup winners (The Fixer, Lazarus, Adore Me, Arden Rooney) and other stars like Tiger Tara, Have Faith In Me and Chicago Bull.

Just like U Scott took over from Jack Potts, Bettor's Delight took over from Christian Cullen. Many millionaires have been produced by the Bettor's delight production line, with the prospect of many many more in the future.

## ***Breaking down Hambo Day***

by Brett Sturman

The Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks generally run to form, and this year was no exception.

Nearly all other major races through the stakes-laden card had somewhat predictable results, as well, with one notable exception, though the action certainly wasn't lacking.

Early in the card a pair of 1-9 shots were featured. Reflect With Me was able to survive and get up late by a neck over stablemate Lady Lou in the Shady Daisy, but Manhego didn't share that same fate in the John Steele Memorial. Seemingly having it her own way on the front, Manhego couldn't fend off an attack from When Dovescry that came at about the 3/8th's and had to settle for third when Plunge Blue Chip passed her also from the inside. There was no show betting in the small field, but there was somewhat bridge jumper place prices with When Dovescry paying \$11.20 to win and a not much less \$8.60 to place, while Plunge Blue Chip paid \$16.40 for second.

The price on When Dovescry was no doubt inflated by the overpowering mile that Manhego was coming off at Plainridge. It's always easy to say in retrospect, but her win was no surprise on paper. Making her third start of the year, she faced males in both the Hambletonian Maturity in a race won by Gimpanzee, and then just missed against an iron-tough veteran in JL Cruze. And if there were any doubters as to the talent of When Dovescry, hopefully this race put an end to that. Formerly trained throughout her career by Rene Allard, she made her third start for new trainer Brett Pelling and showed that her success, including a win on this same day last year in the Hambletonian Oaks, should be attributed to nothing other than her own talent.

While Manhego didn't fire her best following her win the Spirit of Massachusetts Trot, neither did the runner-up from that race, Atlanta. But who did fire a big one on Saturday that exited that same race was Lindy The Great.

Set off at 28-1 in the John Cashman Memorial Trot, Lindy The Great came first-over to put away Atlanta and lead into the final stages of the race. An upset looked within reach, but Gimpanzee was able to be one of the few horses to close from off the pace on the day and got up by less than a length for the team of Sears and Melander. One of the horses that I liked in the race and touted here in Friday's column (full story here) was Guardian Angel As. After leading early and then yielding to Atlanta for the pocket, Guardian Angel As was locked in behind that leader with nowhere to go for half the stretch and once he found room with apparent trot, promptly broke. It seems when you need it, the inside never opens up on these mile tracks, but when you have the leader it seems like the inside opens up about five paths at the top of the stretch. As for Gimpanzee, he's now run his unbeaten record this year to 5-for-5 and is in the midst of building a very impressive seasonal resume. For the winning drivers Sears, he went over \$200 million in career earnings with that win.

And speaking of Sears who arguably remains the best big money driver, sometimes things go to plan and sometimes they don't. In the Sam McKee memorial, nothing went right about DancinLou as the slight 2-1 favorite. In that race, after a brief tuck into 4th early, Sears attempted a quarter-move after an opening pane of :25.3 that became pretty apparent wasn't going to happen. Bettor's Wish was having none of it as he parked out Dancin Lou past a half mile of :52.1 and did it rightfully so, as he managed to last all the way in 1:47.3 as the third choice in the wagering for Dexter Dunn and trainer Chris Ryder.

In the very next race though, Sears produced one of the highest paying horses ever on Hambletonian Day when his drive Zenith Stride paid \$177. A Muscle Hill colt trained by Mark Harder, the 85-1 chance won the \$319,000 Peter Haughton Memorial and in pretty comfortable fashion in the end. When horses of odds that high win, you can look at the program 10 more times and still won't get how a win was possible. But in this case, there's actually a clear case that could have been made. Now it's easy to look at it in retrospect and I unfortunately didn't have it either, but there was always talent here.



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Tall Dark Stranger winning the Cane Pace for Three Year Olds



Ramona Hill outlasts the colts in the Hambletonian Trot

In debate of how useful qualifiers can be in handicapping, this should serve as a prime example that there is sometimes value. Over a month ago on July 3, Zenith Stride trotted a qualifier in 1:55.3. As if that time wasn't impressive in itself, the colt he ran second to and was only two lengths behind was Captain Corey, the unbeaten PASS star and arguably the best 2-year-old trotter in the sport right now. Zenith Stride's biggest issue then was simply being able to stay on stride, but with a flat mile it wasn't unfathomable to think that he could have been in the mix.

Conversely, there were no surprises with the 2-year-old filly trotters in the Jim Doherty Memorial. In that race, Darlene Hanover took all the money off her 7-2 morning line, was made the even-money favorite over morning line choice Altar and won dominantly as part of a career day for driver Andrew McCarthy.

The signature races on the card, the Hambletonian and the Oaks, couldn't have gone any more to script. In the Oaks, Sorella was rightfully made the favorite over Hypnotic Am and won the race with her tactical advantage

. Hypnotic Am was left with too much work to do after starting from post 12 in the second tier but was able to just hold off a hard-closing Panem, who rallied from the inside. It was a similar story in the Hambletonian, as the top three choices in the wagering ran 1-2-3. Hambletonian heroine Ramona Hill was hammered down to 2-5, and credit to McCarthy for making a decisive quarter-move which then forced Ready For Moni to have to come first-over. Back Of The Neck had every chance, but couldn't quicken off cover and had to settle for third.

Tall Dark Stranger continued with another odds-on win as he avenged his defeat from the prior week to the wrath of Captain Kirk. Responding to first time Lasix after bleeding last week, he looked as dominant as ever in posting a new career best time of 1:47.1.

Concluding the stakes on the day was Shartin N who once again asserted herself and delivered as another heavy favorite in the Lady Liberty. In winning the race for the third time in 1:48.2 and paying \$2.80, she made a group of talented mares look ordinary.

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