
BREEDERS' UPDATE

September 9, 2020



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS
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OF THE BREEDERS' UPDATE.



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BREEDERS' UPDATE

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BAIN MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME

Brad Reid

Bill Bain may have got the harness bug late but has been making hay will the sun shines.

The former award-winning sheep breeder made the move from breeding sheep to breeding horses a little over a decade ago and hasn't looked back.

Having started out in 2006 with the purchase of Presidential Ball mare, Onedin Dancer, Bain has built himself a nice band of broodmares and found success at both the yearling sales and on the track.

After taking horses to the sales and gotten moderate returns, Bain realised that he had to look at buying into more modern families. In 2009 he sorted out five well-bred fillies at the Christchurch sale and headed north with a \$30,000 budget.

"I was looking at buying a filly that was well-bred with a mother that had won races in a good time. I was told not to spend too much so we bought Pembroke's Delight."

She would go on and win the Four Year Old Diamond in 2012 upsetting Bettor Cover Lover at odds of \$30.

While not quite in the same class as Pembroke's Delight just yet, Bain headed to the races last Thursday with a couple of race mares with tempered expectations, but made the trip home a happy man with a win and a placing between them.

Kicking off the day for Bain was Wattlebank Lass in the fifth race on the card.

She won her maiden at her 12th attempt in extremely stylish manner having blasted off the gate to cross the favourite from barrier five.

From there she stacked them up and simply jogged it, ripping home in 57.5 to win going away for trainer driver, Peter Hunter.

"Everybody was saying it was our day today but I was telling them, it's never your day, it's not your day until they cross the line in first," said Bain.

"After four seconds with her it's very good to get a win. Peter made it look quite easy today the way they took the lead and stayed there.

"It's a great thrill anytime you win a race, that's why we are in the game isn't it," he said.

The now race-winning mare was going for a spell regardless of the result having raced extensively since the return to racing.



Bill Bain congratulates his trainer/driver of Wattlebank Lass after returning victorious at Ascot Park last Thursday

The blue-blood daughter of Art Major was bred by Bain's from a mare he acquired when upgrading his broodmare band back in 2016 in Change Time.

The seven win daughter of Christian Cullen was a \$45,000 yearling sales purchase and is a half-sister to New Zealand Cup winner, Changeover, being out of the Vance Hanover mare, Chaangerr.

"We bought her (Change Time) after we sold the corriedale stud. I gave my grandson Ryan a half-share in the mare, and some of her progeny, trying to get him interested in harness racing," said Bain.

That purchase may prove to be an astute one based off reports and feedback of the younger siblings waiting in the wings.

Bain has a Bettor's Delight filly called Wattlebank Star in work with Kirstin Barclay and Tank Ellis who broke in super, with the report card is looking good for her this time in also.

"She's shaping up very well and is a much stronger type than her older sister but she's still gotta go on and do it doesn't she. She's been back in work for about six weeks and we are hoping she will race this season," he said.

Bain also has a two-year-old colt by Bettor's Delight from Change Time called Wattlebank Arnie in work with John Vertseeg.

"He broken-in and having his second prep at the moment in Canterbury and will be coming back home after he's had that prep," he said.

Change Time was given a year off after failing to get into foal to Sweet Lou in December last year. Bain has designs on getting her served by Always B Miki after being impressed with the progeny he has had with matings to other mares he owns.

About the same time as when he purchased Change Time, Bain also purchased a weanling off Vin Devery which is by Bettor's Delight out the 14-win Badland's Hanover mare Western Dream.

An astute purchase as fate would have it, but should anyone be surprised?

Bill is a fourth generation farmer in the Roxburgh district, and prior to retirement farmed five miles south of Roxburgh on a 1500 acre block. He also had a runoff block which backed onto the Old Man Range.

For years he successfully bred corriedales continuing on with the breed that had been started by his late father Arnold.

"It's a New Zealand breed that started in the 1890s. Dad started a stud in the early 1940s. When I left school at the end of 1960 I wanted to get into them a bit more. Dad had sixty ewes. I'd been share farming for the last ten years with the Wilsons in West Melton and we got up to five to six hundred ewes," he said.

Sheep bred by Bain still go to the shows but are now under his breeding partners name of GR and RW Wilson.

Coming back to the equine breed, the weanling purchase is now a five year old mare called Bunters Dream and will one day become a very valuable addition to the broodmare band.

The famed 'Dream' breed developed by Devery was very well esteemed five years ago with the likes Western Dream and her dam Dreamy Atom both being 2YO Fillies of the Year.

It hasn't hurt that other branches have kicked some serious goals in the time since with Chase The Dream and now Amazing Dream only further enhancing the family tree of Bunters Dream.

Bunters Dream headed to the races with little expectations being fresh up since March having gone winless as a four year old in 2019/20.

"She was only going there for a run, instead of putting her in a workout we thought we would put her in a race," he laughed.

"She's only had two workouts the last two weeks. She started from eight and went super I thought for a first up run. I'm hoping you will see the best of her this year."

Bunters Dream did some work and looked the winner 50m out, only to be swamped on the line being beaten by a nose and a nose into third.

Bain has no designs on breeding from the blue blood mare this season and hopes to enjoy a couple of wins out of the mare he named after himself.

"My nick name round here is Bunter," said Bill.

"If you saw him you would know why," exclaimed his wife Pauline.

Although Bain isn't expecting any foals after a wretched year saw all of his mares remain empty, there is plenty of reason for optimism with two yearling colts headed to the sales.

He heads there on the back of a successful sale last season that netted him and his partners \$105,000 from their two Always B Miki consignments.

It never hurts heading to the sales with a mare like Pembroke's Delight whom he breeds in partnership with his wife Pauline and good friend Judy Campbell who raced the filly as well.

A Group One winning daughter of Bettor's Delight, bred on the golden Christian Cullen cross and hailing from the famed Black Watch family.

It was however his original family that stole the lime-light with Mach Three mare Onedin Royal producing the highest priced Miki of the sales.

The colt was the first and only foal from the unraced full sister to Onedin Mach who paced 1:50.4 in America after winning 10 races in New Zealand.

Alabar and Nevele R snapped up the colt named Onedin Miki for \$65,000 for their syndication group.

"They're very happy with him and he's still in the group at Mark Purdon's which says something in itself, but there's a long way to go for him just yet.

"Onedian Royal dissolved her foal last year and we are just having a bit of trouble with her. I have her in a paddock by herself away from the stud environment to see if we can have a bit more luck this season.

"If I get can get a service to Captain Crunch she will head there, but at this stage I am on the waiting list. It may work, it may not but we just have to try," he said.

Last year's colt out of Pembroke's Delight brought a tidy \$40,000 and like a lot of the Miki's here and in North America appears to be displaying some ability.

"Alistair Black has him and he tells me he is very happy with him at this stage.

Aside from her Art Major filly Flashazz who has paced 1:452.2 in America after winning a race in New Zealand from 10 starts, the former Jewels winner hasn't had a lot of luck at stud.

"The first couple she had were quite small and never really grew out apart from Flashazz," he said.

"She's got a Sweet Lou colt on her now to go to the sales this coming year and he looks very good, very athletic. Donna Williamson will prepare her," he said.

He will head along with an Always B Miki colt out on unraced Bettor's Delight daughter of Fight Fire With Fire in Heart Stealer.

Heart Stealer was bought at the 2013 Australian Classic Yearling Sale for \$95,000. He now shares in the ownership with his wife Pauline and friend Doug Gollan.

"She (Heart Stealer) looked good on the sale day but she never grew from the day we bought her. She could have qualified but we decided to put her in foal."

"The first filly by Sir Lincoln was a really good one and sadly got injured.

"The second one I have with my mate and we've been a bit slack with her. We've been letting her grow out a bit and he said the other day we must get her broken-in," he laughed.

"The Miki colt will head to the sales and be prepared by White Stables at Winton," he said.

He will join a number of the famed Southern Bred Southern Reared yearlings and with the Southland prep and pedigree to burn is sure to be another success story for Bain.

While he has no plans to expand on his breeding endeavours at this stage, Bain is enjoying the moment with wife Pauline and has a summer of racing and selling to look forward too.

"I just wish I started my breeding career 20 years ago," said Bain.

"I started a little late but hopefully I'm on the path to leaving something with good bloodlines that my grandkids can breed from and enjoy one day," he said.





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Mimi E Coco and Zacahry Butcher edge out their stablemate Doc Holiday to win at Alexandra Park last Thursday

PLANT MARES DELIVER AT THE PARK

Brad Reid

It's not uncommon to see breeding doubles on race night.

However last Thursday Scott and Barbara Plant did something quite remarkable given they only breed from three mares.

Their broods Molly Darling, Slangevar and Time To Fly were all represented in the Stonewall Stud colours of their trainers and did not disappoint.

Two individual winners and filling the first four behind Copy That in the main pace of the night from five runners made for quite the strike rate.

Mach Three mare Mime E Coco kicked things off when she saluted the judge to bring up a hattrick of wins on end.

"She's a very big horse and has taken some time to fill out after we put her out as a three-year-old where she was a bit weak early on," said Scott Plant.

She is bred to be good being out of a mare that Plant had plenty do with both as a top juvenile race filly and now a broodmare.

Molly Darling was the winner of 26 races both here in Australia with her crowning achievements in the Southern hemisphere being a Breeders Crown win at two and winning the Group One Nevele R Fillies final at three.

In doing so she lowered the colours of the champion Mainland Banner and ended her 7 race winning streak in the process.

Despite Plant not wanting to sell, a \$200,000 offer proved too big of a carrot for the other owners of Molly Darling. She was sold and headed to North America where she thrived racing the short distances.

"We got an offer from America and the other partners wanted to sell which we did, but I made enquiries to bring her back and breed from her when she finished her career.

"It was quite an expensive exercise but we've got a lot of fun out of it," he said.

Molly Darling has been a more than handy producer leaving five winners from seven foals, including the full sister to Mimi E Coco in No Doctor Needed.

The 16 win son of Mach Three won in excess of \$300,000 and paced 1:50.2 in Australia late in his career having mixed it with the best in New Zealand's Open Class crops.

"He was the best that Molly had left so I'm more than happy to have one on the same bloodlines in Mimi.

"Molly Darling had to be put down 18 months ago and Mimi E Coco is the last foal out of her, so being a filly it's great to have something to go on with when her time comes as a broodmare," he said.

Despite being based in Auckland, the Stonewall team are no strangers to a southern sojourn and you need to look no further than last Sunday where their yearling sale purchase Show Me Heaven was a winner at Addington.

It appears a southern raid could be on the radar for the progressive mare owned by the Plants of whom they race in partnership with Stonewall Stud and good friend Jamie Mackinnon.

"We may bring her down to Addington for some mares races down there if she keeps improving the way that she is. She has a bit of gate speed but she is also quite tough which means she can be driven a few different ways," he said.





Down the Hatch and Benjamin Butcher finish best to win the 10th race at Alexandra Park last Thursday

The four-year-old daughter of Mach Three now has four wins and a placing from only 10 starts and looks the type of mare who will only get better the faster and harder they run.

The second winner for the Plant's came via another daughter of Mach Three in Down The Hatch, a four-year-old out of a mare Plant raced called Slangevar (Camelon – Lucky Chip)

In taking out the 10th race on the card, it was the mares third career win and second on end having scored at Cambridge a week earlier.

"She never really wanted to be a racehorse until this season, she's always had a bit of ability but is just lazy and has to be driven up.

"The penny seems to have dropped the last couple of months and we may consider down the line that she heads south with Mimi E Coco but will see how we go," he said.

Down The Hatch's mother, Slanegvar was purchased by Plant on a bit of a whim having had some success with the immediate family.

"I owned a quarter share in her half-brother Mister Williams (11 wins - \$133,000) and Hayden Cullen who worked for Brent at the time had Slangevar on a lease deal.

"She won one race for him at Cambridge where she won by five lengths at her first start. He mentioned he had a few offers for her and I told him I would buy her. I ended up paying \$50,000 for her and she never won another race," he laughed.

"I ended up with my first broodmare but she's been phenomenal for me, everything that she has seems to be good."

Slangevar is the producer of 46 race wins from seven foals of racing age.

Her first foal First home was by Bettor's Delight and he won nine and a tick under \$100,000.

Her second foal by Badlands Hanover was a filly named Cheers Kathy and she would win two in New Zealand and a further 14 in Australia. Unfortunately, she died before getting her turn at stud.

The third foal was the Changeover gelding Prince of Pops who Plant said to have high speed but not a lot of toughness. He was, however, good enough to win 10 in New Zealand including two Jewels appearances and a third in a Kumeu Cup before heading offshore and being timed in 1:51.6 in America.

The fourth foal was a colt by American Ideal and he was hacked after showing no ability but that was merely an anomaly with a colt by the same sire producing Triple Eight as the next foal.

The winner of 11 and over \$200,000 in stakes was flying last season where he made the step up to Open Class with ease having finished his previous year with a placing in the Uncut Gems behind U May Collect.

He won his first two races and was third in the Kaikoura Cup behind Classie Brigade and subsequent NZ Cup winner, Cruz Bromac.

He ran second to ultimate Sniper in the Junior FFA on Cup Day and was third in the Auckland Cup after finishing eighth in the Interdominion Final having drawn the car park.

He was third in the Flying mile at Cambridge and was luckless in Australia where he was forced to sit parked outside the leader for the majority of the journey.

He could have chosen to sulk but instead showed his mettle coming home and winning the G3 Founders Cup, second in the G2 City of Sails and second again in the G2 Four and Five Year Old Champs behind Another Masterpiece.

Since resuming in August he has been beaten into 3rd, 5th and 4th by the extremely talented Copy That and although on the surface the runs have been a little disappointing, the son of American Ideal will be getting fitter with each start.

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"Triple Eight has been a little bit disappointing I guess because of what he did last season. When he came back in this time, Steve thought he was the best he had ever been.

"Last week he ran 2:37 and sat parked for the last lap and you can't expect much more than that when you get into that sort of class.

"After Cup week the season prior we left him in the South Island and he spent 6 weeks on the water walker which I think had him a lot fitter earlier and I think he has just taken his time to get him to that stage this time in," said Plant.

In the same race, last Thursday were two more Plant bred and owned runners in Check In and Dance Time.

The half-siblings out of Group One-winning mare Time To Fly were a very good second and third respectively behind Copy That.

Plant owned a 50% stake in their mother after a chance deal with Robert Dunn.

In the hopes of retaining Molly Darling, Plant had phoned Robert Dunn asking whether Ian Dobson might be interested in buying a half share in her to see her stay in New Zealand.

Although that deal never came to fruition, Dunn called Plant back with an offer of getting involved in the ownership of Time To Fly.

"She was a tough mare and she won her first few on the grass and kept progressing through the grades and made a great replacement for Molly.

"It was a great thrill winning the Group One NZ Premiere Mares race at Addington. I don't know who was more excited between us and Dexter being his first Group One winner as a junior," he said.

Time To Fly has been bred in a 50% breeding partnership with Stonewall Stud and has produced the eight foals, six of which are racing age for three winners.

The first foal named Happy To Go was a Bettor's Delight filly who went to Australia a 13 start maiden but managed to win seven races for the Turnbull's.

Check In (Mach Three) and Dance Time (Rock N Roll Heaven) have now won 10 races each with the latter picking up five races in Australia after campaigns racing with the McCarthy's in New South Wales.

"We've had plenty of offers for them but I've held on to them and kept them going to help the fields at Auckland.

"I'm on the board at the ATC and we want to try and have decent fields, particularly in the main races where we are prone to four and five horse fields. It's good for turnover and I'm more than happy for them to all go round together every week," said Plant.

Time To Fly has three young fillies coming through to keep an eye on but with enough numbers of their own, the Plant's have gifted the mare and the trio of girls to the team at Stonewall Stud.



Molly Darling with No Doctor Needed as a foal

"We've had two good colts out of the mare but the others haven't been all that crash hot.

"At the beginning of the season, Steve took over breeding from her along with the last three foals. It gets to the stage where you can't keep breeding and breeding, particularly when your retired and don't have your own property but I'm quite happy breeding from the three I have.

"I'm quite happy breeding from the two for the moment. Molly Fever (Rock N Roll Heaven – Molly Darling) who was looking really good until she broke a bone in her leg about two or three weeks before she was due to race and also Slangevar," he said.

"He's obviously got a big operation out there and is in the process of finishing off a big barn with a lot of boxes which he has built himself.

"You have to say he is fully committed and you only have to look at the horses he is syndicating. When you have the numbers and are prepared to spend the money you have a better shot at getting the results," he said.

For Plant, the association with Harness Racing began at a young age and like many, involved an early wager which many of us never forget.

"I think I had my first bet when I was eight years old and I cried because it came nowhere.

"My uncles and grandfather had a couple of pacers so there was a connection there. Mum and Dad were always punters and in fact, dad is still going at 91, he still has a bet all the time.

"I think I had my first syndicate horse in 1990 so I have had shares in horses for 30 years."

If a week in racing is a lifetime, the Plant's have had their fair share of fun and given their bloodlines and friendship and association with the team at Stonewall, I'd say they are in for a fair bit more just yet.

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
CAPTAINREACHEROUS	64	\$1,454,291
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	80	\$1,306,053
BETTORS DELIGHT	47	\$875,034
AMERICAN IDEAL	60	\$857,881
SHADOW PLAY	39	\$854,450
WELL SAID	47	\$835,893
ALWAYS B MIKI	49	\$827,955
BETTING LINE	75	\$807,477
ART MAJOR	40	\$621,358
SWEET LOU	42	\$605,066
SUNSHINE BEACH	49	\$597,383
SPORTSWRITER	67	\$587,961
MCARDLE	29	\$573,123
RACING HILL	53	\$561,615
JK ENDOFANERA	52	\$514,309
ROLL WITH JOE	47	\$480,833
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	56	\$441,623
BETTERTHANCHEDDAR	46	\$400,168
PET ROCK	51	\$375,918
ROCKIN IMAGE	61	\$289,284

TWO YEAR OLD TROTTERS

MUSCLE HILL	67	\$1,441,993
MUSCLE MASS	55	\$1,271,647
CHAPTER SEVEN	57	\$1,255,004
FATHER PATRICK	60	\$961,876
BAR HOPPING	38	\$850,516
CANTAB HALL	51	\$730,105
UNCLE PETER	52	\$599,449
SOUTHWIND FRANK	23	\$581,599
SWAN FOR ALL	44	\$549,299
DONATO HANOVER	31	\$506,386
MY MVP	13	\$459,302
CREDIT WINNER	33	\$412,088
KADABRA	30	\$403,094
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	27	\$392,874
ARCHANGEL	16	\$311,448
SOUTHWIND SPIRIT	7	\$296,968
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	23	\$295,668
GOOGOO GAAGAA	4	\$281,713
DONTYOUFORGETIT	27	\$280,824
TRIXTON	30	\$279,872

THREE YEAR OLD PACERS

CAPTAINREACHEROUS	79	\$3,321,516
BETTORS DELIGHT	94	\$2,536,488
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	95	\$2,003,390
SWEET LOU	70	\$1,394,265
SPORTSWRITER	87	\$1,229,324
HES WATCHING	53	\$978,168
ART MAJOR	71	\$908,714
ROLL WITH JOE	55	\$876,235
AMERICAN IDEAL	78	\$856,690
SUNSHINE BEACH	78	\$854,942
PET ROCK	44	\$827,299
ROCKIN IMAGE	69	\$812,635
WESTERN IDEAL	33	\$734,311
SO SURREAL	30	\$721,025
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	68	\$602,186
BIG BAD JOHN	46	\$596,003
ROCKIN AMADEUS	17	\$573,857
WELL SAID	58	\$570,151
MACH THREE	60	\$538,063
ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN	29	\$533,353

THREE YEAR OLD TROTTERS

MUSCLE HILL	54	\$2,826,505
FATHER PATRICK	50	\$1,702,119
CHAPTER SEVEN	49	\$1,533,851
UNCLE PETER	55	\$1,172,622
MUSCLE MASS	61	\$1,017,038
READY CASH	3	\$904,215
TRIXTON	43	\$883,957
KADABRA	57	\$863,000
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	44	\$769,183
SWAN FOR ALL	53	\$647,991
DONATO HANOVER	52	\$586,565
EXPLOSIVE MATTER	56	\$550,215
CREDIT WINNER	31	\$500,326
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	20	\$473,365
E L TITAN	24	\$467,929
WHEELING N DEALIN	24	\$462,667
CASH HALL	18	\$443,778
SEBASTIAN K S	28	\$438,304
CONWAY HALL	32	\$378,506
ARCHANGEL	26	\$369,059

ALL AGED PACERS

BETTORS DELIGHT	590	\$10,647,220
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	472	\$8,962,045
CAPTAINREACHEROUS	209	\$6,049,924
AMERICAN IDEAL	422	\$5,655,061
MACH THREE	404	\$5,397,243
ART MAJOR	346	\$4,659,700
SPORTSWRITER	385	\$4,110,942
SHADOW PLAY	248	\$3,754,160
WELL SAID	282	\$3,628,596
SWEET LOU	171	\$3,458,961
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	288	\$3,264,453
ROCKIN IMAGE	277	\$2,986,102
ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN	195	\$2,843,839
PET ROCK	191	\$2,702,666
ROLL WITH JOE	208	\$2,581,443
MCARDLE	206	\$2,554,724
WESTERN IDEAL	190	\$2,504,073
BIG JIM	162	\$2,416,457
DRAGON AGAIN	227	\$2,378,559
SUNSHINE BEACH	184	\$2,202,410



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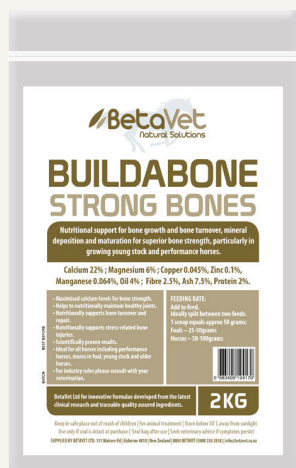
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MUSCLE HILL	194	\$5,818,532
CHAPTER SEVEN	169	\$4,916,073
MUSCLE MASS	235	\$3,801,319
KADABRA	190	\$3,345,367
FATHER PATRICK	123	\$3,072,785
CANTAB HALL	201	\$2,712,904
DONATO HANOVER	168	\$2,289,163
UNCLE PETER	143	\$2,203,174
SWAN FOR ALL	171	\$2,129,562
EXPLOSIVE MATTER	174	\$2,042,875
CREDIT WINNER	148	\$1,963,443
TRIXTON	102	\$1,587,950
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	96	\$1,372,356
CASH HALL	69	\$1,256,355
MUSCLE MASSIVE	111	\$1,181,408
ANDOVER HALL	110	\$1,169,772
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	74	\$1,167,921
CONWAY HALL	118	\$1,167,204

NZSBA BROODMARE LISTINGS ON WEBSITE

The NZSBA has developed a section of its website to make available free listings of mares that breeders do not intend to breed for the upcoming season.

While we would love to see you breed as many as possible, we understand that personal circumstances are unique and the costs associated with breeding will see some tough decisions being made.

Whether you are prepared to give the mare away, make a lease arrangement or see her sold, we would like to see every MARE get a chance at stud this season and there will be breeders out there looking to put mares in foal.

If you would like to have a BROODMARE added to the website, please come back to me with the following information and we will list her for free;

- Mare Name
- Age
- Description of breeding history and current condition ie empty, in foal
- Location
- Terms: Free/Lease/Sale

If possible, please include a photo and as much information about your mare as possible.

To view the current listings we have on our website, copy paste this link into your browser;

<https://thebreeders.co.nz/for-sale-lease/>



FINAL DAY TO BID IN STANDARD BRED AUCTION

Gavelhouse Standardbred

Bidding in the 12 Lots in the latest gavelhouse.com Standardbred auction is set to close tonight from 7pm.

The auction includes youngstock, racehorses and empty and in-foal broodmares with four Lots on the market as of this morning.

Bidding is set to close, starting with Lot 1, from 7pm tonight, Wednesday 9 September.

Following are some bidding tips to help you navigate the process.

Lot 1 will close from 7pm. If a bid is placed in the final 30 seconds, another 30 seconds is added onto the auction and to all subsequent Lots.

This will keep happening until there are no further bids placed.

If you are outbid, you must type in the next bid amount, the site does not automatically update the bid amount for you.

There is no benefit in letting auctions run down to the last second before bidding as the auction will just keep auto-extending until no further bids are placed. This practice increases your chances of missing out on horse.

gavelhouse.com cannot identify loss of online connection, a slow internet connection or browser issues at the user's end.

Even a slight loss of internet connection that may not be noticeable can interrupt the user's browser in following the sale in real-time therefore setting up an auto-bid is the best way to ensure your bids are placed.

Google Chrome or Safari are the recommended internet browsers.

gavelhouse.com staff are able to assist in actively supporting both buyers and vendors during the sale, if you need a hand with registration or bidding, we are available on phone +64 9 296 4436 or email info@gavelhouse.com during our online auction to help.

<https://standardbred.gavelhouse.com/catalogue/18/gavelhouse-com-standardbred-9-september-2020-auction>

Graduates Launch into Million Dollar Spring

NZB Standardbred

Brilliant wins from star three-year-olds Krug (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) and It's All About Faith (NZ) (Captaintreacherous) sent the anticipation ahead of their clash in the inaugural running of NZB Standardbred's Harness Million Sale Race Series to a new level over the weekend.

Krug fired first with a tough win on Thursday 3 September in scintillating time at Alexandra Park in heat two of the Garrard's Sires Stakes Series (1700m).

The Nathan Purdon and Chrissie Dalgety trained pacer worked hard from barrier 12, before finding the front at the 500m and fighting strongly in the straight to hold out fellow NZB Standardbred Yearling Sales graduate American Dealer (NZ) (American Ideal).

Purdon admitted after the win he thought drawing wide on the second row could have been enough to see Krug taste defeat for just the third time in his career.

"It was pretty impressive - I didn't really expect him to win tonight," the trainer told HRNZ.

"Starting from the outside of the backline over a shorter trip and to overcome an obstacle like that was a pretty good effort."

Krug, a son of Bettor's Delight from two time Group Two-winning mare Champagne Princess (NZ) (Soky's Atom), stopped the clock in 2.00.9 and produced a slick 1-54.4 mile-rate for the 1700m event.

The Ray Green trained American Dealer showed he would be a threat to Krug in the \$200,000 Listed NZB Standardbred Harness Million for 2YO Colts & Geldings (2200m) at Alexandra Park on 25 September when getting within a head of the winner in an exciting finish.

The runner-up's stablemate Captain Nemo (NZ) (Captaintreacherous) held third ahead of another Harness Million aspirant in Hot And Treacherous (NZ) (Captaintreacherous).

Though they finished out of the placings, the next trio of Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen trained pacers hit the line impressively to show they could figure in the series final.

Stag Party (NZ) (Bettor's Delight), Nevada (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) and Aladdin (NZ) (Sweet Lou) each ran on strongly with eye-catching finishes in the quickly run affair.

Thursday's night's Garrard's Sires Stakes Series (1700m) heat was always going to be a strong reference for the \$200,000 Listed NZB Standardbred Harness Million for 2YO Colts & Geldings (2200m), with 11 of its 12 runners



Nathan Purdon with NZB Graduate and star 2YO, Krug

graduates of the NZB Standardbred National Yearling Sales.

On the Alexandra Park undercard, B D Joe (NZ) (Roll With Joe) also boosted his Harness Million stocks with a maiden victory over 2200m.

It's All About Faith maintained his position as the number one challenger to Krug with a powerful win for trainers Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen at Addington on Friday 4 September.

The three-year-old beat a field of more experienced and race hardened opposition over 1980m in style when producing a smart winning time of 2.22.2 and mile rate of 1.55.5.

Purdon, who drove the sire Captaintreacherous and Group One-winning mare Veste (NZ) (Christian Cullen), said the race was just what his colt needed ahead of the Harness Million final at Alexandra Park later this month.

"He pleased me - he ran it out right to the line in a good time, a good mile rate, so I'm quite happy."

Purdon and Rasmussen have three more contenders for the NZB Standardbred Harness Million for 2YO Colts & Geldings (2200m), who did not step out this weekend.

Rock Legend (NZ) (Roll With Joe), Pace N Pride (NZ) and Shan Noble (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) have all shown they are on track for the \$200,000 Listed event by producing excellent form for the All Stars Stable this season.

At Addington on Sunday 6 September, Show Me Heaven (NZ) (Somebeachsomewhere) burst into reckoning for the \$150,000 Listed NZB Standardbred Harness Million for 2YO Fillies (1980m) at Addington on Friday 2 October.

The Steve and Amanda Telfer-trained filly led throughout to record a smart maiden win over 1980m.

Fellow Harness Million aspirant Shanika (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) was third.

Two of favourites for the 2YO Fillies final, Avana (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) and La Rosa (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) showed they were in good form leading in to next month's race with third and fourth placings respectively in heat two of the Magness Benrow NZ Sires' Stakes Series Series for 3YO Fillies (1980m) at Addington on Friday 4 September.



BETTOR TWIST TOUGH LIKE MUM

Jonny Turner

Covid19 and a brilliant Sires Stakes heat effort at Addington on Friday night have classy filly Bettor Twist in line to follow in her mum's footsteps.

The Bettor's Delight daughter of former classy race mare Twist And Twirl unleashed powerful sectionals to leave her rivals in her wake in heat two of last season's re-scheduled Sires Stakes Championship for 2yr-old fillies.

Driver Tim Williams took no chances with Bettor Twist, surging her to the lead with a lap to go to put a desperately unlucky prior run behind her, as well as turn the tables on her stablemate Darling Me.

Though his charge never looked like getting beaten, she is not the complete racehorse yet which meant the kept the reinsman on his toes in the run to the line.

"She was really good," Williams said.

"She is pretty casual yet still so it is hard to say nothing was going to get past."

"But once something got next to her she really dug her toes in."

"She has only had four starts, she is still very much a baby, but she is getting better."

Bettor Twist added to the already impressive record of her dam, Twist And Twirl, with her maiden win in Friday night's 1980m heat.

The Breckon Farms owned mare looks in for another big season following her triumphs last term through her Miracle Mile and Hunter Cup winning son, King Of Swing.

Though the Covid19 lockdown is partially responsible, Bettor Twist is following in her dam's footsteps by firing up as an early 3yr-old, rather than as an early running 2yr-old.

"Twist And Twirl was a little bit the same, she took a while to get the hang of it, then she went whoosh," Breckon Farms principal Ken Breckon said.

"It is an incredibly tough family - the Impish family - the harder they go, the better."

"She was an exceptional mare and she probably didn't get the accolades she deserved, but she has gone on and has left good horses, which is great."

With the pedigree of a future star broodmare, Bettor Twist was never a chance of being in Breckon Farms' annual yearling sales draft.

Instead, the filly was consigned to race by the latest in a string of successful Breckon Farm syndicate ventures - the Breckon Farms-Take Ten Syndicate.

"She was a bit goofy when she was young, it has taken her a while to come to it," Breckon said.

"She was just sort of a funny little young filly."

"It took her a while to get there, but she is like her mother, she is just so tough."

Bettor Twist has the chance to follow in her dam's footsteps, in a roundabout way, following her win on Friday night.

Twist And Twirl won the Sires Stakes Championship as a 3yr-old filly and her daughter could also win a championship at 3yrs-old/

Bettor Twist will contest what was to be last season's 2yr-old fillies championship as a 3yr-old filly at Alexandra Park on October 30.

She will get another shot at following in her mother's footsteps when the Sires Stakes calendar gets back to its normal rhythm when this season's 3yr-old fillies championship is held at Alexandra Park on December 31.

AUSSIE CHANGES CALENDAR

The Australian harness racing season is to undergo a significant change.

Harness Racing Australia (HRA) has announced that it will extend its current season to the end of the year, and from then on the season will run from January 1 - December 31. On its website HRA says :

"Changing the season permanently to a calendar year is intended to bring about a number of important commercial, marketing and welfare benefits across the industry.

Most noticeably from the outset will be some major changes to the Feature Race Calendar, with the traditionally condensed season-end juvenile features able to be staggered throughout the year, with the space for States and Clubs to build momentum for promotion, wagering, visiting horses and interest in the sport."

The decision was made by the HRA executive and clearly was not done without considerable debate. It was approved by two thirds of the executive.

The breeding season remains unchanged and will start on September 1 each year.

Harness Racing New Zealand meanwhile says it has no plans to change at this stage, with all three racing codes and TAB NZ aligned with a 31 July year end.



LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE FOR ANOTHER PARTY

David McCarthy | C/O All Stars Website

Stag Party was on the Sires Stakes trail last week in Auckland and quite apart from the owner, Jean Feiss, there will be others hoping that this once lesser-known branch of a famous family soon has an excuse for another party.

Among them will be the syndicate of familiar names from the Purdon/Dalgety stable who will race Republican Party after going to \$210,000 to buy him at the Yearling Sales that was otherwise lacklustre for his immediate family.

That's because his dam, Democrat Party (American Ideal), was a terrific and courageous performer for owners John and Katrina Price who brought this branch of the family back to Southland probably 60 years after it left. Ian Dobson had been involved along the way from what was an established Auckland tribe thanks to Pearl Baker.

Republican Party is his dam's first colt foal and Stag Party is the first colt from Democrat Party's sister Surprise Party. He was also a 6 figure yearling.

This family has travelled around New Zealand over the years. This branch of it has a slightly reduced recent sales profile because of the number of fillies its members leave. When successful professional breeders are usually retaining fillies for future business sales product can suffer in the interim.

On the other hand, why wouldn't you? Democrat Party, who was from a Soky's Atom mare -a boost to any modern maternal pedigree-, is a granddaughter of former Broodmare of the Year Bee Gee's Dream whose offspring like Another Party (\$900,000; Hunter Cup; Fremantle Cup), Party Party (\$200,000; Caduceus Classic winner and dam of G1 colt Hoss Cartwright -she was easily the fastest daughter of her moderate sire Mister Hanover II); plus Champagne Party (\$160,000; the Soky's Atom one) set the tracks alight in their day.

Democrat Party won a Sires Stakes after coming back from a cannon bone break; Champagne Party her dam, won the Premier Mares Championship (and 2nd in the Standardbred Breeders, trained by AGH and driven by Mark) and her dam was also grand-dam of Harness Jewels winner Cowgirls n Indians. You would be keeping the fillies, right?

A long time ago this family was started in Chertsey by an outstanding trotting mare in pioneer Ashburton racing called Polly, said to be by a thoroughbred sire but with that famous Ashburton trotting blood somewhere around. She was owned throughout by William Hood a stalwart for the sport in those times. She ran off ridiculous marks at local carnival meetings because she was a star road trotter.

Her foal Imperial Polly (Prince Imperial), raced and trained by George Hood who ran the Southbrook Hotel, was a high-class racemare and ran in three New Zealand Cups. Mated with the winner of two of them -Wildwood Junior- she produced Our Nurse and on George Hood's estate dispersal, she, in turn, went south (Tapanui) to dual-gaited owner Winifred MacKenzie, the first female owner of a New Zealand Cup winner at Riccarton when Palantua set an Australasian record.

Mrs Mackenzie bred and raced from this family and owned one of Our Nurse's foals, Sure, when she won the NZ Trotting Gold Cup. The southern enthusiast laid the foundation for this branch of the Polly family with her breeding decisions.

Other branches produced the first male 2-minute pacer in New Zealand, Gold Bar, and another NZ Cup winner and mile record holder, Lord Module. There were dozens of Polly's racing in the early days but only one was special.

Sure went out of fashion but a close descendant was Tom Pepper, a top pacer in his day.

Our Nurse would probably have been a Broodmare of the Year in her time for beside Sure she left two notable race or broodmares Night Nurse and Sister Polly.

Night Nurse, by the oddly coloured Wellington Direct, left as her first foal Smiler, the dam of the erratic but brilliant Frown, most famous for being eliminated from a New Zealand Cup field purely because of his barrier manners- something trainer Stewart Sutherland never forgave Addington for- and also granddam of Steven Stock.

Her 3rd foal, General Sandy, beat Johnny Globe and a field of stars on their merits in the 1954 NZ Pacing Championship for Cecil Devine after being transferred from the south stable of Stan Kirby. It was no surprise to Don Nyhan who recalled in later years he had observed General Sandy's work "over the fence" from the nearby Devine property and how brilliant it was. General Sandy died from a heart attack at the peak of his career.

The sensational juvenile Testing Times, as well as the NZ Derby winner Naval Officer, came from this branch of the family.

Sister Polly left the champion trotter Recruit (Rowe Cups; Dominion) for the Rooney family and Milford Girl dam of Vanderford. Maurice Holmes trained the first and usually drove the second. Recruit was a hard horse to train but just brilliant on his day.

This family was usually sent to the best sires of this era which retained its aura and resulted in the high-class racemare Super Nurse. Her daughter, Nurse Brigade, found her way to Pearl Baker in Auckland in the mid-1960s.

Pearl bred widely from her "Parisian" tribe and many had their moments but the most influential was Parisian Dream. Trained earlier by Kevin Holmes and Colin Butler

and later by Roy and Barry Purdon for Mrs Baker she won 6 of 30 and excelled at staying distances winning at Hawera over 3200m.

For the Cardigan Bay Breeding Co she left Bee Gee's Dream but the Staying Alive Syndicate, a who's who of Auckland female racing personalities including owner Suzanne Herlihy raced and bred from her.

For them, Mark drove her (for Roy and Barry) to a winning debut in a \$50,000 two-year-old race in 1990. She only had 6 more starts before producing one track star after another. Clearly, Butler BG had added some electricity to essentially a staying tribe. The results spoke for themselves.

So while it is still a case of raising glasses for those associated with this tribe we await a real party maker from the current crops. It will happen. Fingers crossed it happens again soon.

One thing is for sure. The Polly family has proven to be a kettle always on the boil.

AUSTRALIAN BREEDING RULES UPDATE

Michael Guerin

Some of the giants of the Australasian breeding industry have engaged legal representation to fight Australia's new limit on the number of mares a stallion can serve a season.

And Harness Racing New Zealand chairman Ken Spicer says his organisation are following developments with interest even though there are no immediate plans to mandate restrictions on stallion's books here.

HRA stunned many in the industry with a recent rule change for this breeding season that no stallion could cover more than 150 mares per season.

After blowback from major studs and some breeders the number was then changed to 150 mares plus 20 free returns.

Going on last breeding season's numbers the restrictions would only affect four stallions, two of them being the Woodlands Stud pair of Sweet Lou and American Ideal while Alabar superstar Art Major would also be affected.

But it has enormous potential effects on future stallion acquirement and oddly for the owners of smaller broodmare bands.

The major NZ studs Woodlands and Nevele R have joined with Alabar, Northern Rivers Equine and Tipperary and have now engaged a Melbourne-based law firm as they

believe not only were they properly consulted but the restrictions are a restraint of trade.

"There are a lot of elements of this we are uncomfortable with," says Woodlands Stud principal Andrew Grierson.

"Firstly the lack of consultation. HRA says they spoke to a lot of major farms but our stallions are responsible for 15 per cent of the Australian mares served last year and we weren't spoken to directly."

The studs point out that not only does the decision affect studs which have already spent money on world class stallions working on projected returns under the old system, it works against smaller breeders.

"This is going to make it harder for the smaller breeders to get into the best stallions," says Grierson.

"The breeder with 20 mares is obviously going to have more pull with the studs than the breeder with one or two so those small breeders could be denied the chance to go to the commercial stallion they want."

HRA's decision comes in part over concerns around the shrinking gene pool diversity for harness racing breeders, with the elite stallions able to serve enormous books because of artificial insemination whereas thoroughbred stallions have to serve naturally.

Grierson says the studs are willing to talk about the future of breeding but as the major stake holders in that side of the industry they have to be listened to.

"This could enormously impact future decisions on studs in Australasia securing world class stallions.

"We have seen rules like this brought in in thoroughbred racing in New York which will start for horses born this year.

"That is a lot fairer because that means right from the yearling sales people who buy these colts will be able to factor the future rules into their valuations, which can go on to be part of decisions they make about their futures.

"But a lot of the studs have already made those decisions, those valuations about stallion's worth and now that could potentially be changed by one ruling."

HRNZ discussed the HRA decision and whether it would possibly be implemented in New Zealand but have decided for this year as least to leave stallion books to be drive by market forces.

"We don't see the need to change now but of course that could change in the future, like most rules," says HRNZ chairman Ken Spicer.

"So we are interested to see how this all shakes out in Australia and what, if it does become a legal battle, what any subsequent ruling is."





Ollie & Irene Haines collect the 2004 New Zealand Trotting Cup in it's centenary year after Just An Excuse claimed his first of two

VALE OLLIE HAINES

HRNZ

Forever linked with two-time New Zealand Cup winner Just An Excuse, Ollie Haines is being remembered as a passionate advocate of harness racing, after his death this week.

He was an "administrator, owner and breeder who was extremely passionate about the industry and doing the best thing for it," says Harness Racing New Zealand Racing and Marketing Manager Darrin Williams.

At Cambridge he was a steward, committee member, vice president and then president for three years and was also part of the Harness Racing New Zealand executive on and off for a decade.

"He was always the first to go round all the staff and say "hello" to everyone individually. And his gesture to often shout the staff a morning tea of savouries was always well received," says Williams.

"He always lobbied on behalf of owners right around the country especially when it came to stakes levels and he had a great understanding of the financial aspects of the industry."

Self employed since he was 21, among Haines' interests were a milk run and a forklift business. At 41 he retired, leaving Upper Hutt to retire to Cambridge where he focused on breeding and racing horses.



After first meeting in the 1990s it was a decade later that Haines and Raglan-based trainer Robert Mitchell joined forces.

"He was very astute, quite tough in some respects and quite soft in others," says Mitchell.

He says Haines was a regular visitor to his stables – "he'd come to the farm or the beach, he really enjoyed it"

Just an Excuse – bred by Ollie and his wife Irene – won back to back New Zealand Cups. Not only was Mitchell the winning trainer but son Todd Mitchell won two of his three New Zealand Cups with the horse (the other was Gracious Knight in 2002).

Mitchell senior says the first win in 2003 was marked in style, with the Haines family, the Mitchells and a collection of friends heading out for dinner.

"We wondered home about 3.30 in the morning" laughs Mitchell, "it was a celebration".

In all Just an Excuse won 17 from 39 and over a million dollars.

Smooth Performer was another stand-out for Haines with eight wins in 14 starts including the New Zealand Oaks and Nevele R Fillies final.

Ollie Haines was 81.

"Our condolences go out to all the Haines family," says Williams, "harness racing has lost a great advocate."



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First foals in the World by Volstead

The first foal of the American-bred Swedish Group 1 winner Volstead has been born at Haras des Trotteurs harness racing stud, Cardigan, near Ballarat in Victoria.

It is a lovely filly out of the NSW Country Trotters Oaks winner and multiple Group placegetter Duchess Ella Tr 1:57.2 (\$126,934), a daughter of the Balance Image horse Earl.

Volstead (Tr 1;51.5), a \$716,000 winning son of the great Cantab Hall, is standing his second season at Haras des Trotteurs this year.

Haras des Trotteurs had the privilege of launching his stud career on Australia soil last season.

He left 56 mares in foal in Australia and 27 in New Zealand in his first season.

We are delighted to see his first foals – his first anywhere in the world – from that crop now on the ground says Haras des Trotteurs Owner Pat Driscoll. Volstead returns as a shuttle stallion after his first stint at stud in the United States.

Being on the ground in Australia means Volstead is the only son of Cantab Hall with chilled semen available to breeders in Australia and New Zealand.

Volstead was a top class performer on the track in Europe, with a career-best 1:51.5 in a racing career of 23 wins, and having him in Victoria provides breeders with a rare opportunity to add the influence of Cantab Hall to their bloodlines.



Volstead - Duchess Ella filly

The United States-bred Cantab Hall (1:54, \$US1.44m) was a star on the track from the outset, being voted the USTA trotter of the year as a 2yo.

He was then an immediate success at stud, being the leading sire of 2yo trotters with his first crop in the US.

Cantab Hall has gone on since to at one stage being the leading money-winning trotting sire for three consecutive years (2012-13-14), and again in 2016 and 2017.

As well as producing numerous outstanding performers, the Hall of Famer has also developed into a sire of sires.

Father Patrick is his richest earning foal, having tallied up \$US2.56m in stakes in an illustrious career, and is now a leading sire in the US.

Volstead stood his first northern hemisphere season at Dublin Valley Farm in Ohio this year.

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