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# BREEDERS' UPDATE

September 25, 2020



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS  
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OF THE BREEDERS' UPDATE.

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# BREEDERS' UPDATE

September 25

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## EXECUTIVE MANAGER UPDATE

**Brad Reid**

Just over a month ago we sent out a survey to 1100 breeding entities in an effort to forecast the breeding season which is now upon us.

We had a fantastic response with over 550 individual responses and have managed to gather a significant data set as a result.

The New Zealand Harness Racing industry has not been immune to the economic uncertainty faced domestically and abroad as a result of the Covid19 pandemic.

With racing shutdown and turnover grinding to a virtual standstill there was reason to be concerned about the future viability of our sport.

There is no denying that we face significant challenges. However, six months on from the temporary closing of the shop doors, there is plenty of reason for renewed optimism.

The New Zealand Racing Board have made significant changes to how they operate as a business and whilst you could argue they were overdue, there is no time like the present.

If you were told in April that our code funding would be the same as it was pre Covid you would have had more queries than a maiden trotter from a stand. But here we are in the 20/21 calendar season racing with the knowledge that stake levels are by and large the same.

Spring racing has seen the turnover on harness betting trending in the right direction with news last week that turnover was exceeding expectations. This is great news and hopefully continues as punters and owners are allowed back on course and the racing calendar brings back our marquee product.

Covid has not affected our access to world class stallions and while there have been changes to the way semen has shipped, it is a small burden to bare comparatively with other industries.

While the results of our survey could be construed to paint a negative overall outlook for the season ahead and beyond, it too bares much reason for optimism as we look to the future.

The fact we had a response rate of over 50% for a digital survey is remarkable.

It shows how engaged breeders are as stakeholders, and if anything the overwhelming desire for our voices and ideas to be heard by the governors of our sport.

The first four questions were primarily aimed to see where we were placed in the number of mares being bred.

The results indicate the continuation of trends such as the decline in the pacing mares and the renaissance in the trotting sector.

I'm not here to champion a decline, but to basically mirror the trends of previous years on the back of a pandemic paints a picture much less stark than the one that was reported last week in a media outlet.

The stats don't lie, and while the proof will be in the pudding come the end of February when the breeding returns are in, the publication of our results should dispel any notion of doom and gloom.

The breeding of racehorses is suffering a global decline.

We are not immune.

However in all dialogue I have had with the studs this season, the signs are positive and bookings are strong across the board!

The 500 open ended answers within the survey give us a deeper understanding of the needs and desires of our customer and how they should shape future strategy and processes to achieve better outcomes.

Many of the issues raised are widely known;

- Stake levels, distributions and returns vs growing costs
- Handicapping challenges
- Industry leadership
- Fillies and mares opportunities
- Open vs Limited Stallion books
- Lack of breeding incentives
- Integrity of the breed and sport
- Lack of recognition to breeders

Industry issues without data are little more than broad assumptions.

The responses are all unanimous in the belief that change is needed. The challenge we now face is how we turn the responses into driving a vehicle for that change to occur.

Generating a response is one thing, but what you do with that response once received is more important.

The point of conducting a survey is to make sure that results are translated into action that benefit stakeholders and the overall growth of our sport.

How when the industry faces many challenges that impact the business decisions of our stakeholders do we best prioritise what our core focus should be? How do we meet the evolving needs of our market?

That is the challenge for my executive moving forward and one I don't have all the answers too at time of writing. The results have raised as many questions as they have answers and we need to do a broader analysis and follow up with many of our respondents.

The survey response in my opinion is that while many of the comments fielded can be perceived as negative, they simply highlight the need for our voice to be heard and at the very least, acknowledged.

I am strong in the belief that as significant stakeholders in the sport, the voices of breeders and the studs are desperately overlooked.

The level of investment by breeders and the contribution we play in providing not only our own in industry but that of the wider economy is significant and yet we have little to no influence in driving business decisions under the current governance structure of harness racing.

The synergy between breeders, owners, license holders and the clubs needs to be vastly improved and there needs to be more opportunity for us to work together.

Many of the comments carry with them decades of commitment to an industry that we all care about. Passion should not be confused with pessimism, nor should it be treated with contempt.

The New Zealand standardbred is one of (if not) the best in world.

Surely that can be leveraged into something that is prosperous if we have the courage to change.

Things can only change in the long term if there are specific strategies targeted at the problem and an appropriate solutions. We, the sport, cannot just hope that things will change when the sport does nothing to make change. There has to be some risk taking!

## ***LEW IN THE DRIVERS SEAT***

Brad Reid

Kumeu breeder and horseman Lew Driver is having a remarkable run at present with horses he has bred or sold.

Lew has had great success in the past purchasing from the sales (including the Ready to Run Sale) and developing horses that go through to Open Class.

Gaelic Skipper needs no introduction and is still rated by Driver as the best horse he had anything to do with.





American Dealer holds out Krug to win the Group One Sires Stakes Final for Two-Year-Old Pacers last Friday night at the Park

In the 2005 and 2006 seasons, Driver amassed \$662,786 in stakes with horses that he owned and trained outright. Those were the days of Presido, The Reckoning, Gretamaro, Fleet Magic and On My Way.

On Friday night his ability to pick one out from the sales was on full display when American Dealer won the Sires Stakes Two-Year-Old final for Ray Green and his North American owners.

Driver selected the colt out from the All Age Sale at Karaka in 2018 and sent him south to the team at White Stables to be prepared on the hallowed pastures of Southland.

“He reminded me a lot of Gaelic Skipper,” said Driver.

“They both were pretty small, were very well endowed, had a beautiful head and walked with a lovely over-step.

“American Dealer had a small clubby foot on the offside front and a white tail but he was out of such a strong family and he impressed me so much I thought I had to have him,” he said.

He was bred by Charles Roberts from the unraced Bettor’s Delight mare Maddison’s Delight.

It is a family Driver has had some experience with having purchased Maddison’s Delight’s half-brother, Amazing Art (Artsplace – Pacing Grace) from the Ready to Run sale as a two-year-old.

This is the family of Pacing Major, All You Need Is Faith, Virgil, Forgotten Highway and last Friday’s race rival Aladdin.

Driver who has a reputation for getting horses to get up and go early purchased the colt with every intention of racing him.

However a trip to Europe was on the horizon in 2019 and with a few too many horses around him, decided he would enter the three yearlings he had in the Sales.

Driver believes his ability to get horses going has hurt him somewhat at the yearling sales with many buyers being sceptical at his reasons for selling.

“They opened him up at \$20,000 and not being there put a lot of pressure on me to make a decision over the phone,” said Driver.

American Ideal will go down as one of the all-time greats for his impact as a stallion. He is the sire of \$106 million in stakes in North America and currently sits fourth at the age of 18 years young on the two-year-old sires list.

His record here, given Mark Purdon has never trained any of his stock, is quite remarkable with the likes of The Orange Agent, Besotted, Ideal Scott & Luisanabelle Mid-frew from his earlier crops.

It should come as no surprise that Ray Green ended up with both American Dealer and Copy That (and previously Hard Copy) as he seems the only trainer in New Zealand that rates his stock.

Ray will happily tell anyone who will listen he loves them, and what he loves even more is the fact he can pick them up for a tuppence compared to the likes of Bettor’s Delight and Art Major progeny.

Will that change if Copy That wins the cup? Probably not.

Sold to Lincoln Farms for \$21,000, the American Ideal colt is now a Group One winner and has amassed a little under \$100,000 from just eight starts.

The same night as American Dealer was delivering David Butcher his first Group One winner in five years, Driver’s talents as a breeder were also at the fore.

Luke John was an incredibly impressive winner for Logan Hollis & Shane Robertson in the third race on the card at Alexandra Park.

The son of Mach Three out of broodmare gem Zenard-le; a mare Driver purchased back in 2006 when he was experiencing his best season as a trainer.





*Luke John signals he won't be out of place in tonight's Harness Millions final by winning the third at the Park last Friday night*

"I purchased her as a yearling with a view to bred from her. She was from a hell of a good family and I could win races with her," he said.

"I had just won the Sapling Stakes with The Reckoning, Gretamaro won a Group One Sires Stakes final and Presidio was a good Open Class horse too.

"I have always been a trainer who likes his horses to come early and although she showed glimpses of nice quarters, I gave her the one start and thought she was disappointing. Rather than chase the good two-year old's when I felt I couldn't beat them, I decided not to wait for her but put her in foal."

Driver's partner Robyn McLeish Bond had decided that Bettor's Delight would be the best cross for the mare and coupled with the fact he intended to sell the resulting foal being from such a good family, Driver left his name off the breeding certificate in the hope it would help it come sales time.

The filly named Zenable was on the small side as typical with Bettor's and being the first foal it came as no surprise she was overlooked at Karaka in 2010 at a time when the big flashy thoroughbred type of yearling was all the rage.

"People were buying them by the pound in those days. She went for chicken feed but the guy who bought her on sold her for good money and she did a heck of a job in Australia where she went 1:51 and was for a long time the fastest time progeny of Bettor's Delight in Australasia," he said.

Zenable won 18 races and \$170,000 in stakes and is now standing at stud in New South Wales where she has had the two live foals and already produced a winner of her own.

Zenardle's second foal was again a small horse and this time a colt by Jereme's Jet.

"He was a short distance horse with a lot of speed and he proved that when he went to Australia where he has gone 1:50," said Driver.

He has been a great little earner for Kevin Pizzuto having amassed 25 wins and 47 placings for over \$200,000 in stake money.

The third foal by Mach Three was a colt named Zenmach who showed a lot of the family ability for Driver right from the get go.

"I gave him to Mark Smolenski to break in and he said he was one of the fastest horses he had ever sat behind at that stage as a yearling. Mark took him to the trials and Justin Le Lievre spotted him and asked whether we would sell him," he said.

Purchased by The Central Courage Syndicate for trainers Geoff and Jude Knight, Zenmach looked destined for big things when he rattled off four wins and a placing from only 6 starts.

If my memory serves me correct the horse got crook and went off the boil a touch and the best was never seen him. He was sold to Australia where he has won a further five races which takes the tally of race wins for the first three foals to a remarkable 54!

"Her fourth foal by Rock N Roll Heaven (Balfast) was a nice wee filly but she did have a little hitch which meant we only won three with her in New Zealand. She went to Australia and won another three up there before we sold her to Canada where she has gone 1.52 and won another three in a row," he said.

Driver doesn't retain many horses that don't look like getting to Open Class quickly but the fifth foal from Zenardle is anomaly in that sense.

The six year old son of Mach Three is one of the few left in the colours of Driver as he winds back his training involvement.

"Drum has been a victim of circumstances. I did get offered \$100,000 for him as a two-year-old and before anything could happen he put his leg through a fence and took the meat right down from the offside back leg. He basically took a 9 inch strip out of it and the vet saved who him said it would be touch and go, so that was his juvenile racing finished.



Luke John was his name and having just cleared maidens impressively last Friday night, looks set to carry on the family legacy.

Having spent much of his time as a yearling in the same paddock as Krug and American Dealer at Mark Smolenski's property, Driver is not surprised to see him showing up at the races.

"We basically gave him away but as yearlings the three of them would fly around Marks place and were always racing each other," he said.

The ninth foal from Zenardle is a colt by Bettor's Delight called Aumoe Express. At an advertised fee of \$25,000, Driver has managed to breed to New Zealand's most expensive trotting stallion a second time as the now two-year-old does nothing but trot according to Smolenski who is breaking him in. He does have speed however and should make a race orse.

Driver has the 10th foal from the mare heading to the sales in Christchurch but being by Betterthancheddar he doesn't have huge hopes for finally getting a nice price for one from the mare.

"I'm quietly hoping she doesn't get much attention as on what she has shown in the paddock at home, I would really like to try her myself," he said.

Although he is in the twilight of his career, in a lifetime that could fill a hundred chapters of tales of triumph and disaster both in business and racing and breeding horses, Driver's name continues to show up in big races here in New Zealand.

Like the progeny he is breeding, his story shows no signs of slowing down just yet.

## ***RK FINN A RECIPE OF RASMUSSEN***

Brad Reid

While the resumption of U May Collect was the headline act at Winton a fortnight ago, there was a fair bit of specking for a debutant in the last race by the name of R K Finn.

The Grinfromeartoear gelding had been impressive in an August qualifying trial behind the highly-touted The High Ruler who subsequently won at his first start a fortnight later.

The Craig Ferguson trained pacer won his subsequent workout impressively and after drawing well in his race debut was not missed by the punters.

After opening at a quote of around \$5 he was smashed into \$3 and duly obliged when displaying a great turn of foot up the passing lane having sat in the trail for the entirety of the trip.



R K Finn had a bit of breeding to live up to with his two full brothers being the winners of 16 races collectively. His breeder and owner, Mike Finlayson was justifiably thrilled with the result.

"I don't know who put the big money on but it wasn't us. Craig said to put the garage on him, not the house!" he said.

"I named the horse after my dad Ron who died 4 years ago. He'd would have had a beer or two in the big race track in the sky when he won. That was his old stomping ground when he was a kid".

"Craig, who owns half the horse, has done a great job and been very patient with Ron. He is a fine young trainer. Ron's gone from qualifying behind a smart one, to winning a workout fairly impressively to winning his first race day start all within a month or so. It's been a great." said Finlayson.

The journey to breeding R K Finn has been an interesting one for the former Wellingtonian who charged head long into breeding horses after moving south to Canterbury in 1997.

At one point Finlayson and his wife Helen had acquired 16 broodmares and were regulars at the Yearling Sales in Christchurch under the Finash Bloodstock banner.

Finlayson always had always had an interest in racing, and so too did his wife Helen in horses, having ridden at competition eventing level.

It was becoming a member of the Met Two Syndicate in 2002, which bought yearlings at the sales that year called Likmesiah and Danger Sign, which sparked what would become a quite considerable interest in breeding as well as racing.

They experienced some good results having bred and sold the Rosati's All Black Stride (Christian Cullen – Brooklyn Dream) for \$75,000 who then went on to win the Group One Bathurst Gold Crown at two and took a mark of 1:49.8 to go with \$390,000 in stakes.

The couple also purchased Touch of Grace, a Walton Hanover mare in foal to Washington VC from Brian West. The foal subsequently turned out to be the very good pacer, Georgetown.

Coming from a science background with a Master's degree in Agronomy, Finlayson delved deep into research at the outset of his breeding career and formed some principles as the foundations for selecting may of his mares.

"I did a lot of reading into pedigree matching to get my head around the basic genetic principles that might apply in horse breeding.

"I was surprised to find that many breeders were just putting the best to the best and hoping for the best. There had to be more to it than that".



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Mike Finlayson with R K Finn and his trainer/driver Craig Ferguson after returning victorious on debut at Ascot Park

“One of the books I read was ‘Inbreeding to Superior Females’ by Rommy Faversham and Leon Rasmussen. They argued that where there is inbreeding to superior female families within five generations (called the ‘Rasmussen Factor’), that is often the most important common element in the pedigrees of superior race horses.

One such example is Eilish Finn, a daughter of Holmes Hanover-Withdrawn and the dam of R K Finn.

Holmes Hanover is from a Tar Heel daughter of Hope Diamond, while Withdrawn is a Falcon Seelster mare from Heirloom Hanover, a Tyler B granddaughter of Hope Diamond.

Eilish Finn is thus a 3x4 Rasmussen Factor to Hope Diamond.

A great example of this here in New Zealand is evidently what Roydon Lodge Stud were able to do by breeding Roydon Gal’s (the mother of Arndon) granddaughters back to Sundon. This produced the likes of Royal Aspirations and the tail lines of New Zealand Oaks winner Vacation Hill to name but a few.

The road to R K Finn started with the purchase of Withdrawn (Falcon Seelster – Heirloom Hanover)

“ I purchased her from a bloke named John Fokerd in foal to Holmes Hanover with the resulting foal being Eilish Finn.

“What attracted me to her was the fact that her embryo was carrying the Rasmussen Factor to Hope Diamond “.

Eilish Finn displayed good ability but never fulfilled her potential winning just the one race from 31 starts to go with several placings. “She could have won 5 or so races but had trouble with her legs. She went 1.57 in a time trial before we started breeding from her, so she wasn’t a mug. Her future was always going to be as a broodmare.” Finlayson said.

While she hasn’t left what you would call a champion, she has done extremely well being bred to Grinfromeartear,

a sire you wouldn’t ever say was in vogue or the realms of commerciality at the yearling sales.

“The Grinfromeartear cross gave the revered 4 x 4 reverse sex cross to Meadow Skipper. Additionally the Falcon Seelster blood carried a daughter of Breath of Spring which is ideally genetically suited to balance her two sons (Storm Damage and Race Time) in Grinfromeartear’s maternal pedigree”.

Although her first foal named Mac The Finn only reached \$25,000 at the Yearling Sales in 2011 being sold to Nigel McGrath, on type Finlayson believed the colt was worth much more and that was justified in the ability he showed once broken in.

“His mother is just a plain old Holmes Hanover mare but she produced a stunner in Mac the Finn. He was on sold to Terry McDonald for \$230,000.”

“He won 10 races and went 1:51 round Menangle which was a pretty good time back then,” he said.

The second foal from Eilish Finn was again by Grinfromeartear and produced a big, strong and upstanding colt called That Guy Finn.

“He was sold for about \$12,000 to John Howe and he ran a track record at Nelson and while he wasn’t in the same class as Mac The Finn, he was a good honest bread and butter horse,” he said.

The third foal produced by Eilish Finn was a colt by Christian Cullen called Makers Mark. He was sold at the sales for \$20,000 and found his way to the barn of Lynn and Andrew Neal where he was good enough to win four races.

The fourth foal was a full brother to Makers Mark by Christian Cullen in Paddy Finn.

He is the only live foal out of the mare to not have won a race. He recently had only his third start as a six-year-old; don’t be surprised to see him pick up a race down south in the near future!



south in the near future!

"Paddy is a beautiful looking horse and a lovely pacer. He was sold at the sales to Rob Lawson for \$20,000 who asked if we wanted him back as he wasn't going to make a two-year-old. We broke him in and got him going but had to choose between him and R K Finn as to which one we raced. We ended up giving him to a young trainer called Jamie Campbell. Paddy will win a race or two. He's in good hands," he said.

In a touch of irony, Paddy Finn had his first start for his owner-trainer in the very same race in which his young brother R K Finn was to debut and win.

"The goal was to quinella the race," he laughed.

R K Finn's impressive debut win hasn't fielded any sizeable offers for the gelding but he is for sale by all accounts if the money is right.

"I'll leave that all up to Craig but he is for sale. In saying that he is a nice horse and we are really enjoying having one at the races and seeing him progress," said Finlayson.

Eilish Finn hasn't had a foal since 2016 having missed in 2017 however she is safely in foal to A Rocknroll Dance which could prove to be her last if leg issues continue to persist. Finlayson is hopeful of producing a filly to breed on from.

"We put her to A Rocknroll Dance to hopefully get a filly because that will be a 4 x 3 reverse sex cross to Albatross, a great engine room for a broodmare. We will also get a foal carrying a double Rasmussen Factor, 5 x 3 to Wendymae Hanover and 4 x 5 to Hope Diamond. Not too many horses carry a double Rasmussen Factor."

## ***Inaugural Harness Million Series Lights up Alexandra Park***

### **NZB STANDARDBRED**

Harness racing fans can expect early fireworks when a star-studded field attempt to make history by winning NZB Standardbred's first ever lucrative Harness Million Race Series event at Alexandra Park on Friday night.

The barrier draws for the inaugural running of the \$200,000 Listed NZB Standardbred Harness Million 2YO Colts & Geldings Final (2200m) are set to see the favourites Krug (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) and It's All About Faith (NZ) (Captaintreachers) in an enthralling battle that will be crucial in deciding the first name initiating the Harness Million legacy. into \$3 and duly obliged when displaying a great turn of foot up the passing lane having sat in the trail for the entirety of the trip.

Krug, who was recently crowned the New Zealand 2YO Pacing Colt Or Gelding of the Year at the NZB Standardbred New Zealand Harness Racing Awards, will start as the hot favourite for the race after securing the prized ace draw in barrier one.

Krug will clash again with American Dealer (NZ) (American Ideal) after running second to him in last week's \$128,000 Group One Garrard's Sires' Stakes Final (1700m) at Alexandra Park.

American Dealer faces a bigger challenge to lead, as he did in his standout victory, after drawing barrier four on the second row this week.

It's All About Faith, who nosed out last week's fourth placegetter B D Joe (NZ) (Roll With Joe), will see a turnaround in circumstances when moving to the front row this week in barrier six.

That gives driver Mark Purdon the option to challenge Krug for the lead in the early stages.

How that early challenge plays out and what kind of run It's All About Faith, Krug, American Dealer and B D Joe can secure after that should decide the race winner.

"The top four are very good horses and it is going to be the run that separates them," Purdon said.

"It's All About Faith is possibly going to be racing outside Krug this week, so he is going to have to be on his game."

Purdon takes confidence in to the NZB Standardbred Harness Million 2YO Colts & Geldings Final after It's All About Faith's strong effort to work around the field and run third in last week's Group One Sires' Stakes Final.

"He did more work than the two that beat him home and he wasn't far from them," Purdon said.

"So, I was pleased with him."

Purdon and Rasmussen start a stellar line up of five horses in Friday night's history making feature.

Aladdin (NZ) (Sweet Lou) looks a big player for the trainers after his eye-catching performance to flash home from last on the home turn to run fifth behind American Dealer last week.

Aladdin will track through B D Joe at the start from barrier two on the second row.

The All Stars stable also start Delightful Dude (NZ) (Bettor's Delight), Bettor Call Me (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) and Nevada (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) in the NZB Standardbred Harness Million 2YO Colts & Geldings Final.

The inaugural event is set down as Race 4 starting at 7.53pm on Friday night at Alexandra Park.



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# 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	67	\$1,878,246
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	83	\$1,544,789
BETTORS DELIGHT	48	\$1,059,197
ALWAYS B MIKI	51	\$1,047,665
BETTING LINE	76	\$1,028,831
AMERICAN IDEAL	60	\$1,022,357
WELL SAID	49	\$917,920
SHADOW PLAY	40	\$894,920
ART MAJOR	42	\$892,291
SWEET LOU	44	\$721,370
SUNSHINE BEACH	51	\$713,333
SPORTSWRITER	69	\$705,267
ROLL WITH JOE	47	\$651,801
MCARDLE	30	\$620,656
RACING HILL	54	\$612,151
JK ENDOFANERA	52	\$595,489
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	58	\$589,668
BETTERTHANCHEDDAR	48	\$459,537
PET ROCK	52	\$427,748
ROCKIN IMAGE	61	\$371,584

## TWO YEAR OLD TROTTERS

MUSCLE HILL	68	\$1,866,410
CHAPTER SEVEN	57	\$1,773,304
MUSCLE MASS	55	\$1,581,765
CANTAB HALL	52	\$1,304,040
FATHER PATRICK	65	\$1,052,546
BAR HOPPING	40	\$936,181
UNCLE PETER	54	\$756,861
DONATO HANOVER	32	\$752,315
SWAN FOR ALL	46	\$650,064
SOUTHWIND FRANK	24	\$648,419
KADABRA	30	\$548,922
MY MVP	13	\$520,459
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	27	\$502,483
CREDIT WINNER	33	\$446,618
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	23	\$428,253
ARCHANGEL	16	\$424,490
LOUS LEGACY	20	\$423,366
DONTYOUFORGETIT	27	\$347,912
TRIXTON	31	\$339,092
SOUTHWIND SPIRIT	7	\$301,975

## THREE YEAR OLD PACERS

CAPTAINREACHEROUS	80	\$3,955,038
BETTORS DELIGHT	95	\$2,904,613
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	98	\$2,245,964
SWEET LOU	70	\$1,619,080
SPORTSWRITER	90	\$1,405,208
ROLL WITH JOE	55	\$1,161,011
ART MAJOR	71	\$1,137,162
HES WATCHING	54	\$1,092,414
AMERICAN IDEAL	79	\$1,031,596
SUNSHINE BEACH	79	\$939,541
ROCKIN IMAGE	70	\$914,719
PET ROCK	44	\$898,706
SO SURREAL	30	\$823,213
WESTERN IDEAL	33	\$800,293
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	68	\$687,276
BIG BAD JOHN	46	\$670,353
WELL SAID	58	\$664,743
ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN	29	\$610,497
ROCKIN AMADEUS	17	\$607,120
MACH THREE	63	\$595,619

## THREE YEAR OLD TROTTERS

MUSCLE HILL	55	\$3,604,692
FATHER PATRICK	52	\$2,026,534
CHAPTER SEVEN	49	\$1,908,515
TRIXTON	43	\$1,521,096
UNCLE PETER	56	\$1,374,247
MUSCLE MASS	62	\$1,173,975
KADABRA	57	\$1,051,867
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	44	\$983,928
READY CASH	4	\$911,345
SWAN FOR ALL	53	\$774,429
DONATO HANOVER	54	\$678,149
CREDIT WINNER	31	\$665,997
EXPLOSIVE MATTER	56	\$642,748
E L TITAN	25	\$564,713
WHEELING N DEALIN	24	\$545,274
ARCHANGEL	26	\$542,819
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	20	\$510,819
CASH HALL	18	\$490,036
SEBASTIAN K S	28	\$489,690
CONWAY HALL	32	\$437,522

## ALL AGED PACERS

BETTORS DELIGHT	596	\$11,956,931
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	480	\$9,879,502
CAPTAINREACHEROUS	213	\$7,263,329
AMERICAN IDEAL	426	\$6,336,878
MACH THREE	411	\$5,854,311
ART MAJOR	351	\$5,515,938
SPORTSWRITER	391	\$4,618,307
SHADOW PLAY	252	\$4,050,117
WELL SAID	285	\$4,013,276
SWEET LOU	173	\$3,889,670
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	290	\$3,676,752
ROCKIN IMAGE	279	\$3,296,229
ROLL WITH JOE	208	\$3,167,878
ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN	197	\$3,152,954
PET ROCK	194	\$2,943,985
MCARDLE	207	\$2,784,364
WESTERN IDEAL	190	\$2,731,470
BIG JIM	164	\$2,697,167
DRAGON AGAIN	228	\$2,628,448
SUNSHINE BEACH	188	\$2,446,677



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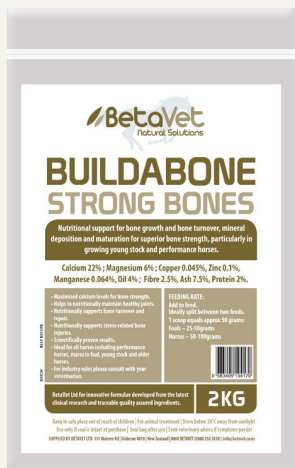


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**BRECKON FARM:** "We have used a variety of products from the BetaVet range and are really pleased with the results produced. Every product that we have used has done exactly what it claims to do. BetaVet products are very palatable, even for the fussiest of eaters. Kylie is always on the end of the phone, or happy to pop in, to give us advice or guidance on their products."



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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	196	\$7,102,233
CHAPTER SEVEN	170	\$5,892,164
MUSCLE MASS	236	\$4,430,953
KADABRA	191	\$3,827,983
FATHER PATRICK	131	\$3,523,890
CANTAB HALL	204	\$3,486,648
DONATO HANOVER	172	\$2,732,402
UNCLE PETER	146	\$2,598,247
SWAN FOR ALL	173	\$2,428,446
TRIXTON	103	\$2,357,014
EXPLOSIVE MATTER	176	\$2,274,942
CREDIT WINNER	149	\$2,251,528
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	96	\$1,726,810
ARCHANGEL	75	\$1,481,467
CASH HALL	70	\$1,410,590
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	75	\$1,331,293
ANDOVER HALL	112	\$1,329,143
MUSCLE MASSIVE	113	\$1,313,738

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## 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/>



## Southland Harness Awards

### Southern Harness

The Awards committee are excited to partner with Southern Harness through their Facebook page to deliver to you the winners 2020 Harness Awards.

You can follow the event at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/Southern-HarnessRacing-373340796086991> from Saturday 26th September at 6pm.

Please find below a list of nominees for the Southland Harness Awards to be held on Saturday night by way of the Southland Harness Racing facebook page

**HORSE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES:** Vintage Cheddar, Robyns Playboy, Pembroke Playboy, See Ya Write, Santino Franco

**BROODMARE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES:** Holmezy, Delcola, Arden's Darlin, Their Excuse

**ACHIEVEMENT OF THE YEAR** - Shard Farm (Breeding and Sales), Ellie Barron (Junior driver, teal appeal, Ricky May incident), Nathan Williamson (leading trainer, driver)

**CONTRIBUTION TO HARNESS RACING:** Dave McDonald

## NZERF Spring Equine Bulletin

### NZ EQUINE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The New Zealand Equine Research Foundation have released their Spring Equine Bulletin.

You can read it by clicking the link below;

<https://infohorse.hrnz.co.nz/dochr/marketing/NZERF-Spring-2020-Bulletin.pdf>

This is an interactive PDF so you can click on the page numbers in the contents list and it will take you to that page.

Happy reading.

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# World Record for Party Girl Hill in Jugette

Ken Weingartner, for the USTA

Minutes after watching Party Girl Hill win Wednesday's Jugette for 3-year-old female pacers at the Delaware County Fairgrounds with a performance that included a world record in her elimination and a 3-1/2 length score in the final, breeder/owner Tom Hill summed up his thoughts about the filly in simple terms.

"She just proved what I've been telling everybody, that she's the best horse I've ever owned," Hill said from his home in Lancashire in the United Kingdom. "As we would say in England, she's a Rolls Royce with hair."

Party Girl Hill, driven by Dexter Dunn and trained by Chris Ryder, won the \$142,635 Jugette final in 1:50.3, with stablemate New Year finishing second and Peaky Sneaky third. Earlier in the day, she won her elimination in 1:49.3, the first sub-1:50 mile by a female pacer on a half-mile track in harness racing history.

Unraced at age 2, Party Girl Hill improved to 11-for-11 in her career with her two victories in the Jugette and pushed her lifetime bankroll to \$577,270.

"I don't know how good she is," Hill said. "I don't know where the bottom is, I really don't."

"She can leave, she can come from behind, she can sit parked; it doesn't make any difference. That's when you've got a great one, when they can win from anywhere. She's just a very special filly. She's a gift from God, that's what she is. I've had a lot of good horses, but I've had nothing like her. I've been blessed."

Party Girl Hill's win gave owner Hill his second Jugette trophy. He won his first in 2010 with Western Silk. It also came four days after Hill celebrated his 70th birthday.

"It's near enough for a birthday present," Hill said with a laugh.

Party Girl Hill opened her march to the Jugette crown by beating Lyons Sentinel, last year's Dan Patch Award divisional champ, by three-quarters of a length in 1:49.3 in the second of the event's two eliminations.

The time eclipsed the previous world record for a 3-year-old pacing filly on a half-mile track, 1:50.1, shared by Warrawee Ubeaut and Call Me Queen Be. It also lowered the all-time mark for any female pacer, 1:50, shared by Godiva Seelster and Tequila Monday.

She's just an amazing animal," Dunn said. "There seems to be no bottom to her, she does her work so easily. It's truly a real pleasure to be lucky enough to sit behind her. I have to thank Tom Hill for that, for trusting me with the drive.

"She's exciting. She's gone both heats today without the



Dexter Dunn and connections of Party Girl Hill with the Jugette

plugs being pulled or really being asked. She just does an amazing job."

The 31-year-old Dunn, who arrived in the U.S. in the summer of 2018 at the behest of fellow New Zealand native Ryder after a standout career Down Under, added the Jugette to his growing list of Grand Circuit victories. He won a total of six races Wednesday at Delaware.

"I had a lucky day," said Dunn, who was the U.S. Harness Writers Association's 2019 Driver of the Year. "I got to drive really nice horses and they were all on top of their game today. This girl really topped the day off well."

"This is a special moment for my lifetime because the Ryders have been family friends with the Dunns for 50-odd years. Chris and (his wife) Nicola have done so much to get me over here and support me. It's a day I'll never forget."

Dunn's only concern following the eliminations was Party Girl Hill racing in the final off a world-record performance.

"As soon as we stepped on the track, those worries went away because she had her ears pricked and she was happy as anything being out there," Dunn said.

In the final, Dunn let New Year (who won the first of the event's two eliminations, also with Dunn in the sulky) and Lyons Sentinel battle in the first turn before launching Party Girl Hill to the lead. Party Girl Hill, the 1-9 favorite, was on top at the quarter and never looked back.

"Many thanks to Tom Hill for giving me such an amazing horse," Ryder said. "Many thanks to Dexter, he's done a tremendous job driving her."

When reminded in the winner's circle by track announcer Roger Huston about Hill's birthday, Ryder quipped, "That's great. Happy birthday. Anything else I can do for you Tom?"

Back in Lancashire, Hill said winning was enough. While some speculated about how Party Girl Hill might have fared if she took on the boys in Thursday's Little Brown Jug, both Ryder and Hill downplayed the idea.

"I don't want to hurt the filly," Hill said. "I don't want to do something and regret it. If she raced the colts and got beat, I know it's no disgrace, but I don't want to do that."

She's only had 11 races. She's only a novice."

A novice assembling one heck of a resume. One that Hill thinks should get noticed at the end of the season if her current form holds.

"She should have a shot at being Horse of the Year," Hill said. "She's never been beat and she's raced on every size track. She's never been beat and never looked like getting beat. What more could she do? She is the only one out there that's undefeated. I think she should have a good push to be Horse of the Year. Not for me, but for her. She deserves it."

### Party Girl Hill sets world record in elimination

Trainer Chris Ryder and driver Dexter Dunn swept the two \$47,545 Jugette eliminations on Wednesday, with 1-9 favorite Party Girl Hill winning the second in a world-record 1:49.3 after stablemate New Year won the first in 1:52.

Joining those two horses in the \$142,635 Jugette final were Peaky Sneaky, Blazin Grace, and Keystone Eureka from the first elimination and Lyons Sentinel, Perfect Storm, and Lady Lou from the second.

Party Girl Hill was third through the first half of her elimination before launching a methodical attack on leader Lyons Sentinel. The two battled around the last turn and Party Girl Hill drew clear by three-quarters of a length as they neared the wire. The time of 1:49.3 eclipsed the previous world record for a 3-year-old pacing filly on a half-mile track, 1:50.1, shared by Warrawee Ubeaut and Call Me Queen Be.

New Year, sent off as the 4-5 favorite, won the first elimination in 1:52. Peaky Sneaky finished second, followed by Blazin Grace and Keystone Eureka. Secret third and Avana fourth.

## Little Brown Jug odds n ends through the years

1. Dr. Ken Seeber won the 1989 Cane and Messenger with two different colts, but neither was in the Jug that year. Cane: Dancing Master \$2.60 (Sandman Hanover was second as the 1-5 entry went 1-2). Messenger: Sandman Hanover \$8.60 (Dancing Master not in it). He 1-2 in the Cane, won the Messenger with his only entrant but was not in the Jug.

2. Tall Dark Stranger in 2020 joins the list of top colts NOT Jug bound that includes: Somebeachsomewhere (2008), Cam Fella (1982), Jennas Beach Boy (1995) and Captain-treacherous (2013).

3. Not once in the 1940s and 1960s did the Jug-winning driver also drive another sophomore in the Jug that same day. The year 1957 was the only time in the first 25 editions that it happened at all. John Simpson, Sr. won it with Horse of the Year Torpid, but also handled Nyland Hanover (6th) that same day.



It became commonplace after that for winning drivers to have multiple Jug horses.

4. From 1982-1988 Bill O'Donnell had 19 Jug drives, eight wins, three seconds, a couple of thirds and no missed checks, winning back-to-back finals with Nihilator and Barberry Spur in 1985 and 1986.

5. The 1992-1999 Meadowlands Pace winners seemed to take it on the chin come Jug time.

1992 — Carlsbad Cam was not in the Jug.

1993 — Presidential Ball was third after being second in the Cane and Messenger.

1994 — Cams Card Shark was scratched that day and never did race again, but was an easy choice for HOY.

1995 — Davids Pass was not in it.

1996 — Hot Lead was not in it.

1997 — Dream Away was last as the even money favorite.

1998 — Day In A Life was third from post 8 totally dismissed in the wagering at 55-1.

1999 — The Panderosa was last in his heat and did not make it to the final.

6. Phantom Lady in 1954 was 1-6-2 for Frank Ervin. She took her shot at becoming the first filly to win it. Adios Harry ended up being victorious, but, consider that just three days before the Jug, Phantom Lady won the Filly Breeders Stake!!

7. The 1946 Jug went for \$35,358.25, which was the all time biggest pot for sophomore pacers to that point in history.

8. Little Brown Jug debuts:

- Brian Sears was fifth with 2-1 favorite in 2001 with Pine Valley.

- Dave Miller in 1992 with Ruff Hewn was second and third and did not make the Fake Left-Western Hanover-Crouch-Gamma Ray race-off.

- John Campbell debuted in the 1981 Jug that was marred by multiple interference. His Ambro Wolf did not finish, but Campbell did win it the next year with Merger, a horse Campbell owned, in part.

- Bill O'Donnell was first and fourth in the final with Temujin in 1982.

- Mike Lachance got it going in a hurry winning his first two Jugs ever — the only driver to do so back to back. B J Scoot and Goalie Jeff each won both.

- The Waples three: Keith debuted in 1969 with Penn National (third and sixth); Ronny got going with Coal Harbor (second and third in 1982) and Randy was scratched in 1998 with Memphis Flash and then raced Elmos Blaze (7th in 2000).

9. June Weller was 10th and ninth in 1972 in the Jug, but remains today the only female driver to compete in the Jug.

10. 252-1 shot Savvy Almahurst (Dave Rankin) finished third in the 1983 Jug final, right behind 61-1 shot Skirt Lifter and favorite Ralph Hanover, who won it. Too bad show wagering was barred from this one. And 252-1

was not the longest shot in this field. Salute Hanover was 8th at 305-1.

11. John Campbell was second in three straight Jugs (1985, 1986, 1987):

1985 – Pershing Square to Nihilator  
1986 – Amity Chef to Barberry Spur  
1987 – Redskin to Jaguar Spur

12. Cam Fella wasn't in the 1982 Jug. He was ineligible, though he did win the Cane and Messenger via the supplemental route. Pat Crowe waited a year until his debut in 1983 with a pair of horses – Elarfus and Ludell Hanover. Both were fourth and did not advance.

13. HOYs that failed in the Jug. In 2000, Gallo Blue Chip finished second to Astreos in the Jug but was an easy choice for HOY. In 2005, Rocknroll Hanover was the no-doubt HOY, but was second and third in the P Forty Seven year.

14. In 1999, Luc Ouellette won at Delaware, OH with Jet Laag for Linda Toscano in a world record half-mile track effort in 1:49. He also won paying double digits twice in the Jug heats –\$10.00 Royalflush Hanover (last in the four-horse race-off) and \$10.60 Mystical Shark. (third in four-horse race-off with Jack Moiseyev driving).

15. Clint Galbraith had only one Jug drive prior to 1980 when he won with Niatross and it was 14 years earlier in 1966 with Niagara Byrd (7th and 8th).

16. Del Cameron is the only driver to win a Jug heat each of the first two years:

1948 – Royal Chief (1-6-3-3 on the day)  
1947 – 1-1 winner with Forbes Chief

17. Just six of the last 38 HOYs also won the Jug:

1985 – Nihilator  
1990 – Beach Towel  
1991 – Precious Bunny  
2003 – No Pan Intended  
2010 – Rock N Roll Heaven  
2015 – Wiggle It Jiggleit

## **TOWN ECHO -FROM A LONG PAST**

The emergence of Town Echo as a contender for up-coming filly features after her placing at Addington for All Stars stable shines a light on one of the most unusual family histories in standardbred racing.

In the years before World War 2 it was one of the most famous tribes in the country as classic and Inter Dominion winners and a stream of horses of high ability rode the scene.

Then, when a number of daughters of the top mares in the tribe failed to breed on it went into temporary eclipse.

Back in the day a dual gaited mare called Brown Owl changed hands in Southland for 800gns as a youngster in the days when the best yearlings couldn't bring that much. She left a mare by a disappointing stallion who wasn't all she might have been on the track.

But the mare, Rosehaven, then started leaving classic winners like the later famous broodmare Black Watch (by Scottish Command) and who won the Juvenile Championship; and Spare Parts, a feature race winner.

Black Watch became a sensational broodmare. Her first two foals were Tay Bridge and Remarkable and the third, Aberfeldy, left Reba Lord, Jayvee (gddam of Jay's Debut); champion, ill-fated filly Megaera; Tosti, gddam of Arden Rooney etc etc etc. We could be here all day talking about the Black Watch family of Sandy Yarnley and Ken Breckon.

She is the third dam of Town Echo who is bred on the same Art Major-Bettor's Delight cross as Princess Tiffany.

Town Echo barely met the sales average at \$30,000 but to be fair she was a first foal of a moderate performer who was nevertheless a half sister to Lauraella. Sales lots are full of black type these days and competition keen.

The Black Watch tribe might have been overshadowed by the Scuse Me family in recent years in the north but it is never far away from the limelight. Which is in marked contrast to the family beginnings.

A Canterbury breeder managed to pass off to Winton farmer, James Duffy a "flat footed" (media description) mare called Regina, by the first standardbred import stallion Berlin from a thoroughbred mare for \$50. Regina was actually quite a smart racehorse but her stud reputation soon hung by a thread.

After leaving one filly foal she never had another-Duffy, who farmed on a large scale at Winton and raced and rode trotters, eventually gave her away as a hack.

But that one foal, Regina Belle, was a cracker. She left Logan Chief, so good he won 12 thousand pounds in his long career -great money in the '20's- and one of her several productive foals, Regina De Oro left Native Chief who should have been our first two minute pacer. Regina De Oro was by the first stallion to come to NZ who had run better than two minutes for a mile, Copa De Oro.

Unhappily, and reportedly a nasty surprise for his Southland buyers, he was 19 on arrival and only left a handful of foals. They made their mark.

Native Chief had his brilliance-he ran 800m in 59.2 in training one morning at Addington-unqualified gob stopping stuff then= and crowds would gather to watch him work. But he was mad as a meataxe.

On his day the NZ Derby winner could beat any horse in Australasia. But he could drive people to distraction. One day he was responsible for five successive false starts in a match race at Addington watched by thousands.

He won, beating superstar Great Bingen and the crowd booed him!

A number in the family were similar even if Duffy seemed to manage them well enough in saddle races. Erratic racing highlighted the tribe though once tamed as Logan Chief was they were exceptionally durable racehorses.

Duffy and later his son, Martin, continued breeding from the family for some years.

Duffy was also a hard case. When Native Chief's manners became almost unmanageable his lessee and trainer, the great Jack Kennerley, wanted to run him against time certain he would go two minutes-this fully 10 years before Lawn Derby did that in 1938.

Duffy called it off. Unhappy with the way his horse was going and its p stunned by the demonstration against his horse following the match race he ended the lease and then took it off Kennerley just before the trial was due. Native Chief held the mile record here for several years but never reached his potential.

On another occasion Duffy was fined 20 pounds (huge then) for reaching down and grabbing the reins of a rival in a tight finish at a local meeting riding Regina Bell which a local scribe reckoned was "the worst interference I have seen in 35 years"

Grand Mogul appeared just after the "Chiefs" from this family and went on to win an Inter Dominion final and won big races in Perth until he was 15. He was a star on both sides of the Tasman A Dillon Hall colt from the family (Smile Again) topped the first yearling sale and Miss Julia Cuff had successive three year old stars in Southern Chief (she bought the dam in foal for 100 pounds from Martin Duffy) and Walter Moore both of whom had won the Timaru Nursery Stakes, then the major juvenile event in the south.

However as mentioned several daughters of most of these mares did not really breed on, just as Regina hadn't. But enough survived to revive the line. The "Seafield" breed, once so familiar to racegoers, is another branch and another line produced NZ Cup winner Trusty Scot. Then the Black Watch line totally rejuvenated the breed

So while topping sales and producing outstanding horses as the Black Watch family has done is a new peak it is not a new one for the Regina tribe. Connections will be hoping Town Echo is just another chapter in a century old successful story.

## **PERFECT STING REMAINS PERFECT**

Perfect Sting remains undefeated after winning the \$250,000 Kentucky Sires Stakes Final for two year old pacing colts and geldings at the Red Mile today.

After settling fourth, the son of Always B Miki made a move to the front during the 26.6 second quarter.

He was challenged at the top of the home straight, but he responded to win going away by two and a half lengths.

Perfect Sting is now a perfect six for six and has earnings of \$194,400.

His time today was 1:49.8 – his second sub 1:50 mile of the season.

Perfect Sting is the third foal of the fast Bettors Delight mare Shebestingin 1:47.

Interestingly there is a New Zealand connection with Mark and Pauline O'Connor owning Wantapieeofme, a half sister to Shebestingin.

Always B Miki is the current leading first season sire in the US. While his book is full in Australia he is still available in New Zealand at a fee of \$7,000 plus GST.

## **COVID 19 HARNESS RACING UPDATE**

Owners will be allowed back at Alexandra Park for Friday night's Spring Cup meeting.

With Auckland reverting to Covid Alert Level 2 owners with horses racing will be allowed back at the track for the first time in over a month but are being asked to register, via a link sent to them in an email.

While gatherings can be no more than 100 people the Auckland Trotting Club can have more than that on track as they will be accommodating owners in the Lyell Creek bar and restaurant area while the Alex Sports Bar is a separate area so can also host 100 people.

And so too can the two restaurants on track, which remain open to the public but with separate access points to the owner's areas and with no access to the front of the track or any area with industry participants.

For the rest of the country the move to Alert Level One means there will be no restrictions at racecourses. Previously under Alert Levels only owners and essential workers were allowed.

This week's harness meetings are at Winton (Thursday), Auckland and Addington (Friday) and Banks Peninsula (Sunday).





## **LAZARUS BREEDING – SEASON 2020/21**

### **OPEN LETTER TO BREEDERS FROM CLUB MENANGLE**

Club Menangle wishes to update the harness racing industry on recent developments with the stallion, Lazarus.

Last season Lazarus encountered a subfertility issue into the season which was difficult to assess and resulted in disappointment for some breeders.

In 2020/21 Club Menangle instituted a range of measures to monitor the condition of Lazarus during transportation from North America, while in quarantine and after release from quarantine in Australia. Post release from quarantine, Club Menangle arranged for Lazarus to be transferred to Goulburn Valley Equine Hospital under the supervision of Dr Angus McKinnon.

On 3 August 2020, while in quarantine, Lazarus developed a temperature. As part of the management strategy implemented by Club Menangle, Lazarus was treated immediately by a consulting veterinarian.

In accordance with the management plan, Lazarus was transferred to Goulburn Valley Equine Hospital on release from quarantine, for further observation and management.

Dr McKinnon has advised Club Menangle it appears the spike in temperature has affected the morphology of the stallion's semen. The motility of his semen has not been affected.

Dr McKinnon has advised Club Menangle that in events such as when a stallion suffers from a fever, the semen already formed is not impacted. However, the semen being formed will be affected. Recent semen tests reveal this has occurred and will take time to resolve.

On the evening of 16 September 2020, Club Menangle representatives held a Zoom Conference with Dr McKinnon, Dr Charles Scoggin (Rood and Riddle Veterinary Hospital, Kentucky) and Yirribee Principal, Rod Woodhouse to discuss the clinical data. Dr Scoggin provided semen analysis to the North American owners of Lazarus, post his Southern Hemisphere season.

While it is impossible to identify a particular reason for the spike in temperature, there is a likelihood that Lazarus is not a good traveller. This would be consistent with the difficulties experienced last year.

It was the view of Dr McKinnon and Dr Scoggin that the current morphology of the stallion's semen would not be conducive to optimum results.

While it appears that optimum results are unlikely to be achieved until the stallion's semen returns to normal, Club Menangle wishes to keep faith with breeders who wish to breed now and will therefore continue to ship semen on request with the understanding that the chance of a positive outcome may be impacted until such time as there is a return to normal morphology.

Lazarus will move from Goulburn Valley Equine to Yirribee Stud on Friday 18 September 2020.

***Please contact Yirribee Pacing Stud for booking related matters on 02 6933 1217  
or email studmaster@yirribee.com.au***



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- **Low GI status** assists to minimise negative effect of insulin on joint and cartilage development
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# NZ Cup winner returns

ADAM HAMILTON

REIGNING NZ Cup champion Cruz Bromac launches a campaign aimed at defending his crown when he tackles a strong Minuteman free-for-all (2240m) at Melton tomorrow (Saturday) night.

It's his first run since being sidelined with a fetlock injury after the Auckland Cup last New Year's Eve.

Managing owner Danny Zavitsanos is thrilled to have him back at the track and expects a bold showing despite a back row draw (gate 10) and quality opposition, headed by Lochinvar Art (gate 11) and Zennart (seven).

"Amanda (Grieve) and Dean (Braun) think he's at least as well, if not better, than the same time last year, which is great to hear," he said.

"We're sure he'll run well this week and then it's into the Victoria Cup two weeks later.

"All going well in these two runs and I told Mark (Purdon) he'll be back to over to him to get ready for the (NZ Cup) again."

Zavitsanos, who "lit-up" Addington with his post-race celebrations last year, said Cruz Bromac was booked to return.

"He's booked with IRT for the 12th or 14th (of October), so we just need to be happy with his next two runs and he'll head back over. It's just a shame we won't be able to go with him because it's such a special day," he said.



*Cruz Bromac winning last years New Zealand Cup*

Champion driver Chris Alford is aboard Cruz Bromac for his return, which is a vote of confidence given he'd been approached to drive Craig Cross' Zennart and one of their many runners in the Victoria Cup.

Kerryn Manning has picked-up the Zennart drive.

Lochinvar Art, who smashed the clock when a monstrous second to Hurricane Harley, has been backed from \$1.80 into \$1.60 to atone tomorrow night.

Zennart has firmed from \$4.80 into \$4.60 second elect, while Cruz Bromac is next (\$4.60 out to \$5).

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