



Breeding Matters

Spring 2020

Carabella

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and 2011 Pacer of the Year
in foal to Sweet Lou



Reddiford Financial





Breeding Matters



Spring 2020

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STAY HUNGRY

p,2,1:50.2; 3,1:47.3 (\$1,303,709)

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Chairman's Report.



Colin Hair
NZSBA Chairman

The Season Ahead

As we look forward to the new breeding season, and consider our breeding decisions it is hard to comprehend all the things we have gone through in the twelve months since we last turned our mind to future breeding decisions.

Twelve months ago there was cautious optimism that better days lay ahead:

- Industry reform was progressing with the changes initiated by the Winston Peters' commissioned Messara Report making its way towards legislation in Parliament.
- There was confidence that increased stake levels could be achieved.
- There had been strong sales at the second yearling sale conducted by NZ Bloodstock.
- There was again a strong selection of stallions to choose from.

A lot has certainly changed in twelve months:

- Covid 19 putting the country in lockdown
- Racing shutdown and restrictions placed on training
- The TAB experiencing serious funding issues

But there are now grounds for again looking forward optimistically:

- Racing has resumed
- The industry reforms have been completed with the passing of the Racing Industry Act 2020.

- The TAB has received financial support from the Government
- Harness's funding whilst being lower than last season is still substantial
- A strong selection of stallions to choose from.

Stallion Limits

The Harness Racing Australia announcement that it was introducing stallion limits for this season raises a number of issues. From my perspective, with the country still in the throes of Covid-19 restrictions, now is not the time to put measures in place that could have a negative impact on breeding decisions.

There are arguments both for and against stallion limits, and when the Breeders last surveyed this issue a few years ago there was support for both arguments. We are currently scoping a project that will not only consider stallion limits, but also has broader objectives of considering ways of ensuring sustainability and to improve the integrity of the breed, ensuring that we can continue to breed horses that can produce performances that delight us all.

NZ Bred Stallions – the next wave!

It is great to see that there will be again be a strong presence of NZ bred stallions available to breeders. In trotting there is Marcoola, a son of the incomparable Sundon, and the 9 Group Ones winner, Speeding Spur standing their first season, plus One Over Da Moon, Royal Aspirations and Waterloo Sunset being available again.

With the pacers there is Buy Kiwi Made, Gold Ace, Lazarus, Locharburn, Raging Bull, Sir Lincoln, Sky Major, Terror to Love, Tiger Tara, Ultimate Machete and Vincent.

Breeding Incentives

It is interesting to read the press release from Victoria announcing a lift in their Vic Bred incentive scheme with the first win bonus now at \$12,000. This is an interesting scheme that is structured to support breeding by Victoria based mares and Australian and NZ bred stallions. Unfortunately in New Zealand, neither the governing body-HRNZ nor the Breeders are in a position to implement such a scheme.

Executive Manager's Update.



Brad Reid
Executive Manager

“And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about.” – Haruki Murakami

It's hard to believe that its almost six months since the pandemic known as Covid19 reared its ugly head on our shores.

Its impact was impossible to predict and the aftermath has presented us with a number of challenges, but also opportunities.

Those who kept up with our own situation over lockdown know that the National Body had its funding from HRNZ withdrawn as a result of the sudden shut down of racing.

We are looking at a 70% cut in funding for the current season. We just have to pull our socks up and make it work.

Times are tough. Things may have been mismanaged historically and mistakes made in our sport that cannot be undone. HRNZ has cut it cloth by around \$600k. I must admit it is more than a little frustrating to hear from clubs demands for dates and funding based on 'entitlement' and very little discussion of overall contribution (positive economic).

I'm not going to comment on individual club funding other than to ask all the administrators around the

country to acknowledge the current climate but also look forward collectively as to what is good for ALL stakeholders.

How do we become more unified in our approach with a focus put firmly on the future?

I have to say it is frustrating to think that given some of the numbers I am about to briefly mention, that significant stakeholders such as breeders and owners seem to yield such little power compared to the clubs of this sport.

Breeders invested over \$12million dollars in service fees last year.

The 1,000 breeding entities contribution to the economy and annual spend is estimated at \$70m with 4,000 people involved as breeders, staff and volunteers. (IER 2018 for Racing Board).

The results from our recent Breeders Survey with over 550 respondents, a massive response, indicate that a lack of leadership and negative industry outlook are influencing more breeding decisions than breeding specific matters such as fees and the current economic climate we find ourselves in.

Think about that for a second.

Covid put the blow torch on professional mismanagement in every industry whether fairly or unfairly and the situation we find ourselves in is a challenging one.

We have an opportunity as an industry to move forward but we cannot do that if we are eternally looking backwards or internally 'eating our own' as they say. It's easy to identify issues but solutions are a hell of a lot more beneficial for all concerned.

The good news for the NZSBA is that we currently find ourselves in a much more positive financial position than previous years, having made a small profit for the 19/20 season and forecasted for the same result again this year.

With no option but to adapt, we put together a revised framework and business model that has allowed for us to continue to work hard for the betterment of all breeders.

We are extremely grateful that the new model was supported by the three affiliate bodies, all in agreement that a strong national body was imperative for the sector.

The decision to forgo their \$22k share of the 2020/21 membership subscriptions, and make a \$20k capital





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input, is a significant short term sacrifice that will ensure we are active in promoting this side of the sport.

However, this is not sustainable. We will require investment from Harness Racing New Zealand in the future if we are to remain a viable and sustainable kindred body.

Breeders paid just shy of \$300,000 in foal registrations last season which is three times greater than the investment back to our sector in a good year!

Race results and our survey data shows that a significant portion of breeders have an ownership interest in our sport. We are a significant stakeholder and our involvement in the sport extends much further than the yearling sales, something a number of participants fail to grasp.

The overwhelming majority of breeders are breeding to race. Fact!!!

We need our leaders to better acknowledge this and put more of the focus on ensuring the lower and middle end of our breeding and racing demographics are seeing some of the funding distributed back to them. Incentives are needed. Properly targeted.

The stats show that these participants are the ones who are being funnelled out of the industry and the challenge is in retaining them. Much easier than bringing new participants through.

Despite the postponement of the highly popular NZ Met Breeder Bonus scheme, we have succeeded in having over 80% of our membership subscriptions renewed before the 1st of September.

This is a fantastic result given the current economic climate and uncertainty it has caused.

The lack of resource does not allow for any shiny new toys or things we can give back as a value add for a membership. And while I would love to be able to give everyone a new calendar or diary or a voucher book of discounts, I believe our body work has been acknowledged by our members both old and new.

At just \$89.95, the subscription is priced very reasonably. I would encourage you to get in touch and discuss becoming a member of the NZSBA if you are one of the 35% of breeders who are not already part of our fabric.

We are also extremely grateful for our sponsors both old and new who have come on board and backed the work we are doing with investment of their own.

Dave Smith and the team at Dunstan Horsefeeds, the Kennys and Andrew Grierson at Woodlands Stud, BetaVet, Reddiford Financial, Southern Bred Southern Reared and Inkwise are the names and we would appreciate if you could show them support as they have for us.

You should all by now have received a copy of the 2020/21 Register of Standardbred Stallions. The production of which was a roaring success and we are proud of what the publication has become and where it continues to go.

It is easy to get caught up in the doom and gloom and not be excited about what is forth coming, and luckily we soon enter daylight saving which is a timely reminder that good times are on the horizon.

The days are longer, the sun shines brighter and soon our mares are off to stud to foal if they haven't already done so.

Despite the onslaught of Covid19, we continue to get access to the best stallions in the world and that is reason alone to be excited.

We are coming off the back of a season where for the first time, New Zealand bred horses were crowned horse of the year in three different countries. A remarkable achievement when you consider we breed no more than 1500 pacing foals a year!

For the first time in two years, I have a foal of my own to look forward too.

Hopefully an American Ideal filly from the old girl Classical.

At 21 she is probably having her last foal and I would dearly love a daughter to preserve the family line.

Her Bettor's Delight daughter Hot Off The Press has a Captaintreachorous colt in this year's yearling sales, and her Rocknroll Hanover filly has recently qualified for Ken Breckon and his Take 10 syndicate.

While she has a long way to go, it is the sort of encouragement we all need to keep the candle burning and ensure the passion we all have is not lost.

Bolt For Brilliance trotted a 1:56 last mile over 2700m which suggests he won't be out of place when he faces his bigger assignments in October and I take great pride in following his progress.

I hope you enjoy this 92 page edition of Breeding Matters. It is our biggest issue we have produced and is chokka full of encouragement and reminders that there is plenty to be positive about.

If 2020 has taught me anything it is that life is short and to get on with it and enjoy yourself.

People rarely succeed unless they enjoy what they are doing and I encourage you to focus on the positive aspects of this great game we call Harness Racing.

Believe it or not, there are plenty if you stay open to them.



Woodlands World Champions Set To Sizzle in Spring.

Garrick Knight

It's hard to know where to start when talking about the high quality stallion roster assembled by Andrew Grierson and Paul and Mary Kenny at South Auckland's famous nursery, Woodlands Stud.

This season they have assembled not only their biggest roster of fresh and chilled semen options but, indisputably, the highest quality one as well.

So large and imposing it is that they've now had to spread the load and are standing rookie stud Lather Up alongside longtime consort American Ideal in Victoria at Northern Rivers Equine.

We could sit here and roll through each of their seven stallions meticulously, poring over their various genetic and racetrack upsides, but the fact is that Woodlands Stud's offerings generally sell themselves.

Grand champion sire Bettor's Delight is about to be named Stallion of the Year for a 10th straight time and despite his service fee being at a dizzying \$25,000, there are no problems fully subscribing him.

He's advancing in years but is relentless in his achievements. The season is barely a month old and he's already put his stamp on things with Krug, Self Assured, Bettor Twist and Need You Now.

American Ideal has been a quiet achiever for over a decade here in New Zealand, but his popularity has continued to surge in Australia, hence his relocation last year.

Any doubts local breeders had about his ability to leave a top horse only need to look at rising superstar Copy That, who could easily start favourite in the New Zealand Cup come November.

When I caught up Grierson for this piece, he was getting ready to go hunting in North Otago, a last bit of respite before the relentless grind of stud season ahead.

The horse he was most excited to talk about was actually What The Hill, their third-year trotting sire that has served books of 82 and 94 to date.

Of course, being a son of the single hottest sire in the world right now is an easy selling point.

"We've got the only fresh semen son of Muscle Hill, to my knowledge anyway, available Down Under," says Grierson.

"And besides who is father is, he was a superstar himself on the track, winning more than a million dollars."

He got plenty of premium mares in his first crop, which are now yearlings and the owner of perhaps New Zealand's most elite band of trotting broodmares was first in line.

"Ask Ken Breckon what he thinks of What The Hill. He tells me he's got eight standout yearlings that he believes will be the centerpiece of his draft for next year's yearling sales."

There's no disputing that trotting breeders are spoilt for choice at present, but with only three frozen serves of Muscle Hill available, What The Hill will once again be in hot demand.

That excites Grierson. And you need to understand that after a full decade of non-stop and constant high-level success, it takes a fair bit to get him excited.

The American yearling sales are just around the corner and one of the most talked about rookie sires in the catalogues is Downbytheseaside, who has just returned for his third season at Woodlands.

"He started in the northern hemisphere six months before here, so we are really excited to see how his yearlings are received in the sale ring.

"We've spoken to many people up there who are well positioned to make judgement calls – and they don't wear rose-tinted glasses – who have told us that he has stamped his foals with his own outstanding looks.

"He was a super race horse and we're quietly confident that he's going to make that transition in to super sire.

"It's common for a sire's numbers to drop away after their debut season because breeders want to wait and see what that first crop does in the ring and on the track.

"But his numbers haven't dropped away at all from season to season and all we are hearing is good reports about his first crop."

With an overabundance of Bettor's Delight mares now in the breeding barn, it made sense for Woodlands to invest in sires deemed a good outcross to them.

Sweet Lou is the most famous example, but Downbytheseaside was reinforcement of that business plan, and for a specific reason.

"We've obviously got a lot of Bettor's Delight mares. Not just us, breeders all over the country.

"And what we noticed at the Harrisburg broodmare sales was Hanover Shoe Farms was picking up all these nice Bettor's Delight mares.

"The theory they subscribed to is that they are going to be a super cross for Somebeachsomewhere and his sons.

"So that was the main driver for us in getting a son of Somebeachsomewhere in Downbytheseaside.

"And of course, that is also why we got Sweet Lou (Yankee Cruiser), because he crossed so well with Bettor's Delight mares."

Sweet Lou is chugging along as a consistent performer in the New Zealand sire ranks, his oldest crop now four-year-olds and numbering just 60.

With slim starting numbers, he was never going to take the world by storm straight off the bat, but he got the best possible advertisement when he produced brilliant filly, and 2YO of the Year, Sweet On Me, amongst his first few starters early last year.

Spirit Of St Louis and the uber-exciting Fabrizio are now his torch-bearers in a crop that has produced 33 winners from those 60 foals.

There's a whole lot more of 'the big white blaze' to come as he leveraged off the early success of that first crop in to subsequent yields of 229 and 213 mares in the last two seasons.

"When you look at the statistics, he's done unbelievably well. His percentages are extremely high. It's perhaps a little deceptive because it can be a numbers game, but we will start to see that is those big crops filter through."

And it would remiss not to touch on the other rookie gracing the barn in Clevedon – New Zealand's own champion trotter, Speeding Spur

It's been a natural progression for him to join the Woodlands roster this season, replacing his dad Pegasus Spur, after a successful American sojourn that netted a Group 1 victory and a track record.

"He's won nine Group 1 races and is the only New Zealand trotting entire ever to win a million dollars,"

"So, he deserves some really good mares and we'll do our best to help him out with that.

"We've built our trotting mare band up to about 25 now and he'll get a fair few of them."

Grierson noted that breeders can go to Speeding Spur and be almost certain to get their mare in foal.

"He's only just started in the breeding shed; we've collected a few times and it's come to him really easily.

"And I'll tell you what – he's got the best quality semen out of any trotting stallion I've ever seen.

"It's in another league. We're talking 20 billion.

"So if breeders are sick and tired of going frozen and not getting in foal, he's a great option for them."

Woodlands, along with the other big studs Down Under, have been confronted with two major hurdles ahead of this breeding season, both unforeseen.

One is the ability for semen to be transported across the Tasman Sea in a timely fashion and the other is the imposition of stallion book restrictions by Harness Racing Australia.





What The Hill foal at Woodlands Stud

Grierson didn't want to go down that road again, decrying the book limitations in Aussie, but summed it up succinctly by calling it "a disgrace" the way it was introduced with no notice.

He made his feelings clear in a recent opinion piece published online and the stud along with a couple of others, are mounting a legal challenge to HRA's move.

"The person it's going to impact this year is the smaller breeder, the very same people that think this is great.

"We don't want to go to a court case, but HRA seem hell-bent on it, so we are standing up for our interests."

The issue of semen transport was any equally pressing issue.

For many years, Australian couple Geoff and Lorraine Barnes have transported chilled semen back and forth across the Tasman, racking up hundreds and hundreds of flights.

The big studs all banded together to pay for the service, which was seen as imperative in getting mares in the other country served on the same day as a collection.

But the Covid-19 pandemic has put a halt to that, 14-day quarantines in both countries meaning the Barnes' are unable to operate.

"There was no clearance coming for them in the foreseeable future," said Grierson.

"So, what we've done, is contracted a company that move blood and human body parts between Australia and New Zealand.

"They are set up and cleared to get a quick turnaround through customs because they're a huge company with an important function."

Alabar, Nevele R and Northern Rivers Equine have banded together to ensure their various fresh-semen stallions can serve in both countries.

It's especially important for Woodlands in the case of Lather Up and American Ideal, who are both being forced to 'max out' at 150 serves in Australia.

Woodlands, along with Paul and Mary Kenny, will put as many as 170 mares in foal this season, which has become of vital importance to New Zealand's ongoing foal crops as numbers have eroded over the past two decades.

Pacing crops especially are really starting to feel the pinch, but Grierson takes pride in the fact that, through the weanling sale especially, any regular joe in the racing industry can afford to buy a young horse by a top sire from a quality maternal family without breaking the bank.

"We all thoroughly enjoy breeding and will continue to do that as a way of supporting the industry that supports us."



Dave Landry Photography

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Yabby Dam Enters Exciting New Phase With Bold Eagle Set To Soar.

Frank Marrion

No matter which way you look at it, Pat Driscoll has made a pretty dramatic impact on trotting Down Under.

From a racing perspective, in a few short years Driscoll has won 19 Group 1 races with 11 different horses and a total of 69 Group races with 24 individual horses.

This from a breeding programme largely based around putting New Zealand-bred mares to European stallions and a private training operation overseen by Anton Golino, an Australian who brought both American and European experience to the table.

Most of those Group wins have been with fillies and mares which have now joined the broodmare band or are heading that way.

Driscoll has had his share of success in New Zealand as well, with the likes of Kincaslough (10 wins, 3rd Dominion) and just lately Pretty Majestic (G3 Northern Trotting Stakes).

Mostly he has been appreciated here for extensively sponsoring races and introducing new events for three-year-old trotting fillies in the North Island, Southland and Waikato Oaks.

From a breeding perspective, Driscoll has imported stallions such as En Solitaire, Used To Me and Volstead to date and frozen semen from a raft of European sires such as Love You and Ready Cash.

He has bought dozens of New Zealand mares and been a prominent supporter of the yearling sales, both as a buyer and vendor.

Quite literally, Driscoll has poured millions of dollars into the local harness racing economy.

He would have set up shop in New Zealand, but for the barriers against overseas investment at the time, and instead established Yabby Dam on 650 acres at Cardigan near Ballarat.

Built from the ground up, the racing side of the operation includes a 1000m track, a 1200m straight track, a 1200m hill track based on what Driscoll had seen in France, a 10 kilometre jogging track, a treadmill, a 50m pool and a barn for 32 horses.

And with the quality of the stock coming through, little wonder that Golino is happy where he has wound up, while his right-hand man at present is former Kiwi Jack MacKinnon.

His father Jamie is now the New Zealand booking agent for the stallions with Christchurch's Justin Le Lievre also a sales rep.

This year marks a new phase in the operation in some respects however.

Louise Toulmin has just started as the new General Manager and now Driscoll expects to make frozen semen available this season to the amazing and just retired Bold Eagle, the son of Ready Cash and a Love You mare who won an astonishing 24 Group 1 races and \$5m (Aus\$8m).

The nine-year-old has been mixing racing and stud duties since he was four and is already well under way as a sire, with a first crop of four-year-olds in Europe and Group 1 winners in France and Sweden.

Not surprisingly, given Love You is booked full in New Zealand and there is no more Ready Cash, the announcement of Bold Eagle's availability was greeted with unabashed enthusiasm by trotting breeders.

"The phone rang off the hook when we released the news although we need to temper that reception with the fact that we don't expect to receive the semen until mid to late October," said Toulmin.

"So we fully understand there will be some mares who will be ready to be served earlier by other sires.

"Still it will be great to get a supply and be set up good and proper for next season.

"He was supposed to be heading back to America this year to defend his Breeders Crown title, but the pandemic put an end to those plans.

"That was a bonus for us though in that he could go into quarantine and be collected for frozen semen destined for Down Under."

Bold Eagle stands for 20,000 Euros in France but his owners agreed to meet the market down here with a stud fee of \$13,500+GST payable on live foal.

Conversely, Father Patrick has gone from \$9000 to \$15,000 and Muscle Hill is now effectively out of reach.

Bold Eagle, whose dam is bred on a Love You-Workaholic (by Speedy Crown) cross, won 46 of 75 races and almost 5 million euros to make him the third highest stake winning trotter ever behind Varenne (6m euro) and the evergreen Timoko (5m euro).

At the height of his career he was nigh on invincible racing against the best older trotters in the world.

In 2017, he won his second straight Prix d'Amerique and went on to also win the Prix de France (2100m) and Prix de Paris (4150m) at Vincennes, becoming the first horse to win France's Triple Crown since Bellino II in 1976.

Plenty of horses have won the Prix d'Amerique-Prix de France double, but the much longer trip of the Prix de Paris makes the Triple Crown exceedingly difficult.

Bold Eagle achieved the feat with a 1.58.2 mile rate for the 4150m from a walk in start, which elevated him to cult status.

He took a record in Europe of 1.50 at the Elitloppet at Solvalla in Sweden, waltzing away from his rivals after sitting parked for the mile trip.

Bold Eagle's astonishing tally of 24 Group 1 wins was capped by the Breeders Crown at Mohawk in Canada last year, where he scored in 1.52 over a slushy track on a cold night.

Only the legendary French mare Une de Mai has won more Group 1s during a lengthy career some 50 years ago.

Ready Cash won 10 Group 1 races including back-to-back Prix d'Ameriques and he is widely regarded as the greatest trotting sire of all time – certainly on a par with Muscle Hill in modern times anyway.

Ready Cash has sired the two best three-year-old trotting colts in America this year from just seven foals there.

Whether Bold Eagle can match the deeds of Ready Cash at stud in Europe remains to be seen – he is at a disadvantage from the start in that he cannot be bred to mares by Ready Cash or Love You.

Indeed, there is perhaps an expectation that Bold Eagle can exceed Ready Cash's feats at stud, but that would be entirely unfair.

Nobody is more excited about his prospects than Toulmin though.



Bold Eagle X Exclusive Jet

As her surname might suggest, Toulmin has links to France, although she is herself a true blue Aussie coming off 12 years as the Sales Manager at APG.

"It is my husband Gary who has the French heritage and I must admit to knowing nothing about horses when we got married," she said.

"But I embraced Gary's love of harness racing and breeding and I'm a passionate participant doing my dream job.

Toulmin got off to a pretty good start when first introduced to horses in the late 80s though.

One of the first horses the Toulmins raced was Handibank, a daughter of Spare Hand that won a Victoria Sires Stakes Final for three-year-old fillies beating Provocative for trainer-driver Vinny Knight.

"She also won the Queensland Oaks that year and one of my first memories of the game was an early trial when she was trained by Gary and his father Ollie.

"She was a two-year-old filly, it was a standing start trial at Bacchus Marsh in January, and she won by 50m after losing 50m at the start.

"She performed so well that day that we had the Pacers Australia's Terry Henderson chasing us back to the stables about buying her."

"Gary is a plumber or drainage contractor by trade, but we have our own farm on the other side of Ballarat and he's hoping to be doing that full-time as an agistment and pre training set up before too long."

What also has Toulmin excited is the first commercial crop of Love You foals coming through as three-year-olds in Australia at present, although they will be racing in two-year-old features in coming months.

There are 50-odd Australian-bred foals in his first crop and they already include the juvenile winners Illawong Moonbeam, Maestro, Sweet On You and Tictok, the latter winning his debut at Ballarat recently by 33m.

Likewise, Love You has been through a relatively quiet patch in New Zealand due to a lack of numbers, or 21 foals aged four, five and six.

Those crops have produced the likes of Paramount King, Amour de Frere (Aus1.56.5, \$106,000), You Really Got Me, The Big Bird and Ultimate Stride, with 15 having qualified and/or raced to date.

His first six crops here totalled 128 foals at an average of 21 a season, which was enough to make Love You the leading trotting sire in New Zealand in 2017, when that season featured Enghien (3yo), Monbet, Habibi Ivy, Bordeaux, Paramount King (2yo), Gentleman Sir, Yagunnakissmeornot, Quevert, Le Reveur and Ronald J.

This was the season after Monbet had swept everything before him.

Imagine what Love You would do if he had 100 plus foals a year like some of his competitors?

But this season, Love You has a crop of 42 foals coming through, and it has already unearthed the likes of the juvenile winners Eurokash, Love In A Port, Summer Lovin and Wanna Play With Me, while Leaf Stride recently won his debut as a three-year-old at Addington.

Love You's next crop is even bigger at 56 foals so he is set to make a very big impression again.

"It's quite frustrating because we have lots of semen from Love You available in Australia, but most of the demand for him is in New Zealand," said Toulmin.

Australia simply doesn't have the commercial trotting breeders like New Zealand does, or the commercial trotting families.

There are people like Jim Connolly, Duncan MacPherson and even Emilio Rosati that are keen on their trotters, but often you will see them buying Love Yous in New Zealand.

"When there was plenty of Love You semen in New Zealand for a couple of seasons, he covered 186 mares, but last season we could only do a handful.

"Since then, some semen has been found in storage that was not known about earlier, so 18 mares have a booking this season."

Conversely, Orlando Vici is a world class sire as evidenced by a first crop in Australia of 11 foals where all of them have raced and 10 have won, including Xebec (NSW Trotters Derby).

The latter was owned by Driscoll when he won the Derby last year for trainer Ben Aubron and driver Jack MacKinnon, upsetting Driscoll's Ready Cash colt All Cashed Up.

Aubron has since leased Xebec and moved to New Zealand, winning with him at Cambridge in June and July from 35m and 30m handicaps.

Yet Orlando Vici, one of the top sires in France, could not attract a mare in New Zealand last season.

Love You's son Quaker Jet is also well respected in Australia with seven winners from his first crop which includes the top filly Im Ready Jet.

She won the Breeders Crown for two-year-old trotting fillies at Melton last year by 20m, while she is a last start winner of the G1 Need For Speed Princess Final at Melton in February, where she won by 24m in a 1.55.6 mile rate, beating Simone de Beauvoir (Love You) and another Quaker Jet filly in Imamaorijet.

Yet he is another one that is a top sire in France as well, yet grossly underrated in New Zealand, attracting just two mares last season.

His sons Arc de Triomphe and Horace Horse are winners and highly regarded by trainers Phil Williamson and Barry Purdon respectively.

Cocktail Jet's highly regarded son The Best Madrik is in a very similar boat, getting just one mare last season, when three earlier foals of racing age include promising winning sons in Afterburner and Madrik.

Perceptions around French sires without top performers on New Zealand tracks along with stud fees for frozen semen are the main obstacles for these sorts of stallions, even though the ground work has been laid by Love You.

But at least Bold Eagle is not about to suffer the same sort of fate it seems.





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Yearlings In The Spring.

As we head into Spring there is much excitement with pregnant mares and new arrivals.

However, it is also a critical time for last year's foals as they hit 12 months of age. The way these young horses are managed over the next few months will depend a great deal on their body condition, type and if they are to be targeted at Yearling Sales.

With Spring comes an increase in pasture availability and within these Spring pastures, elevated sugar levels, resulting in increased calorie intake for these young horses. In conjunction with milder climatic conditions, many young growing horses will see rapid gains in body condition. For young horses that have wintered very well it is a time when calorie intake may need to be restricted to avoid excessive weight gain and the potential developmental issues that may arise from that.

The first thing that can be reduced is supplementary feed. However, it is still critical at this age that adequate mineral fortification is being provided. By reducing the feed rate of a full feed to under 2.5kg per day will result in a decrease in calorie contribution but also a significant reduction in daily mineral intake. 'Full Feeds' are formulated to be fed at a minimum of 2.5kg per day at this time. The ideal way to manage these horses while maintaining a balanced ration and reducing daily calorie intake is to move them to a 'semi-concentrate' or "balancer" pellet (in the most extreme cases).

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and the balancer pellet is more concentrated again. Depending on the condition of the young horse and the feed availability going forward will help to determine the most suitable product. Dunstan has two 'semi concentrates' which, when fed at 1.5kg per day in conjunction with forage, will provide the yearling with the necessary nutrients for optimum growth and development. **Dunstan Fibre Balancer** comes in the same form as Dunstan Fibre Grow, so transition to the lower intake feed is easy. Dunstan also has a semi concentrate in a textured meal form in **Dunstan Grass Balancer** which is 'related' to Dunstan Yearling Mix and again results in an easy transition from the full feed to the semi concentrate.

If the step down in calorie intake needs to be more aggressive, the use of a balancer pellet like **Dunstan Multi-Ultra** would be appropriate with a feed rate of only 500g per day. Those with pregnant mares that are using the **Dunstan TriMAREster** can utilise that product if required, again providing a concentrate source of key minerals at the 500g feed rate.

In contrast to young horses that are requiring additional body condition or do not have access to abundant pasture, continuing to use a full feed is necessary, particularly for those individuals targeted at the Yearling Sales. These horses will require different feeding and management strategies.

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Casey Crowned Breeder Of The Year.

Brad Reid

Trevor Casey is no stranger when it comes to success in Harness Racing.

The recently retired Lazarus was pretty handy and easily the best horse Casey has been associated with, but as a breeder Casey has well and truly made his presence felt.

The newly crowned Breeder of the Year for the 19/20 season had a brilliant year with 21 New Zealand breeding wins.

"I feel very privileged and I can honestly say I didn't expect that at all. It's a huge achievement to get an award like that, breeding as you know is a long slow game and to be recognised for what I've done has left me with a massive smile on my face," said Casey shortly after taking home the Breeder of the Year award for 2019/20. "One of the many winners that helped tip the award in Casey's favour was no doubt the success of his enigmatic trotter Winterfell."

For all the success of Winterfell which includes four Group Ones and a 3YO Horse of the Year title for him and his owner Casey, it could easily have never happened for either.

"I actually sold his dam Una Bromac when we were trying to cut back on some mares. She went to the All Age sale and was sold, but I retained the foal that was still on her which turned out to be Winterfell," laughed Casey.

The son of Majestic Son is named after the capital of the 'Kingdom of the North' from the cult series Game Of Thrones.

Fitting then that he is nigh on unbeatable at the home of northern harness racing, Alexandra Park.

His lead up form before heading north didn't show many signs that Winter was coming, but he soon made everyone sit up and take notice in the first heat of the Interdominion series.

Sitting outside NZ FFA winner, Tough Monarch, he saw his challenge off before staving off Marcola and a charging Majestic Man who did no work in the running.

He was an unlucky fourth in the second heat, but really turned the wick on his rivals in the weeks to follow and was a dominant winner of the third heat and final.

"I hadn't won the Interdominion but had run second in it twice with Africa, but to win it was sensational.

"He's a bit of a trick and he's got his flaws, he probably doesn't go as good left handed but I've got the master on and Mark is working him and driving him and hopefully gets the best out of him. What he's done so far has been fantastic," said Casey.

Winterfell had a lot to live up to being a half-brother to a two, three and four year old female trotter of the year in Escapee.

"They were very similar and could fire up too, they are nice and calm to work with but on the track was a different story. That's race horses I suppose, they know what they are out there to do. Both had similar speed but Winterfell probably has that added toughness about him," said Casey.

The winner of the Hambeltonian (G3), NZ Trotting Oaks (G3), NZ Trotting Derby (G1), GN Trotting Derby (G1) & Victoria's Maori Mile (L) and Melton Trotting Cup (G3). Escapee was sensational on her day and is now making a name of her own at stud for Casey.

"Unfortunately she can't have any foals on her own and has to be bred by Embryo Transfer which we will try again this year and see how that goes.

"I have a Muscle Hill daughter of hers called Exit we are breeding from so I have a bit of the family, but the E.T's are expensive as you know," said Casey.

On the pacing side of the breeding coin for Casey, the win tally was significantly bolstered by the explosion of Spirit of St Louis (Sweet Lou) who is out of the Art Major mare, Spirit of Art.

"I had followed the Tabella Beth line for many years and actually tried to buy her with a foal at foot when she was for sale but I couldn't afford her back then.

"I have always followed the line and this filly came up for sale via Kirk Larsen. I purchased her on a deal with Dave Phillips and he has retained a quarter share in her," said Casey.

The daughter of Art Major had one start at two, but then ran into Adore Me as a three year old and despite racing in a number of the classics, was not quite up to the best of them.

She was no slouch however and retired as the winner of six races with six placings from only 26 starts.

"She raced really well and set a NZ record for a filly at Rangiora over 2000m when she was with Mark Purdon, and won the Thames Cup in her last start for Tony Herlihy but unfortunately she broke down," said Casey.

The Tabella Beth line needs no introduction having left the tail lines of the likes of Lazarus, Light and Sound, Star Galleria and Self Assured to name but a few.

The daughters of this line have been incredible producers and it should come as no surprise then that Spirit of Art would leave her mark at stud.

"Her first foal is Dracarys (Bettor's Delight) and she has won 15 races for me," said Casey.

"I kept her and intend to bring her home to breed at some stage," he said.

"I've had offers but she is not for sale. I'm hoping to get a good time and she's gone 1:51, but I think she has a chance to break 1:50 while she is racing over at Menangle."

The second foal brings us to Spirit of St Louis who after winning both starts since resuming from the Covid break, was given a brief let up before resuming late last month in the Maurice Holmes Vase.

Despite an early gallop behind the tapes, Spirit of St Louis showed he is not out of his depth mixing it with the best pacers in the country, running on solidly from last in a fast last half finishing four lengths from the winner, Self Assured.

"He was quite small as a young horse but I struck a deal with Graeme Anderson who took him and syndicated him out to the guys that raced Eamon Maguire. I've retained a 40% share in him. He's got sensational speed and has done a great job so far, and I think if we look after him we will have a lot of fun with him," said Casey.

The third foal from the mare is a now three-year-old in Western Australia with Justin Prentice. El Chema (Bettor's Delight) was a \$65,000 yearling sales purchase in 2019 and is displaying a lot of the family ability also.

"He went over to Perth with Justin and has won a race at two, but was quite a solid horse and had been tipped out to let him develop and grow. He's back in work now and they expect him to measure up as a three year old. He was a very nice horse and I was tempted to keep him but you just can't keep them all," said Casey.

When asked if he had any young pacers coming through that he liked the looks of, Casey didn't hesitate to mention the fourth foal from Spirit of Art.

While this foal was bred by his partner in the mare, Dave Phillips, Casey owns the two year old son of American Ideal and is more than a little excited at the prospect of what he may bring.

"The American Ideal out of Spirit of Art is pretty smart, he looks the goods and I really like him. He's gunna be trained by Ken Barron and he's a really really nice horse," said Casey.

"The mare is currently in foal to Betting Line for Dave and he will retain that foal while I will breed the next three," he said.

Other Casey bred winners this season included;

• **Cheezel** (2014 6 B m Betterthancheddar - Shesachristian) 3 Wins

"I've had a few offers for her but she's the only mare I've got out of Shesachristian and I've retained her and will breed her to Sky major," he said.

• **La Reina Del Sur** (2017 3 B f Father Patrick - Escapee) 1 Win

"She's Kate's favourite and is a lovely filly and we really like her and she should do a really good job."

• **Loissonya** (2014 6 B m Sir Lincoln - Graceandtemika) 1 Win

• **Lone Star Lad** (2014 6 Br g Dream Vacation - Belle Galleon) 1 Win



"Unfortunately Charlie broke down, I had high hopes for him but he's been retired and has found a new home via the HERO programme with harness Racing New Zealand where he will be looked after," he said.

• **Possente Cavallo** (2013 7 B m Badlands Hanover - Pita Pocket) 1 Win

• **Wanna Play With Me** (2017 3 B f Love You - Wanna Play) 1 Win

"She's out of Wanna Play and is a very nice trotter as well and being by Love You will continue to improve, and we are excited about her," he said.

Keeping Casey extremely active on the breeding scene has been the recent addition to the New Zealand pacing stallion ranks in Sky Major.

The only horse to win three Harness Jewels is currently at Wai Eyre Stud with Casey and his partner doing everything they can to give the son of Art Major a fighting chance.

"I did try to put him with one of the studs but they weren't interested, so we struck a deal with Wai Eyre Farm and he's stood out there for the last few years.

"We sent him to America to race and when he was coming to the end of it, we didn't know what to do with him.

"We decided to bring him home and make him available as a sire. He's a son of Art Major and we wanted to give him his opportunities.

"He's the only horse to win three jewels in this country and he won the Chariots of Fire and the Messenger. I thought he deserved his chance to stand at stud," he said.

Knowing that the stallion game is as much about numbers as it is about quality, Casey set about providing Sky Major with an opportunity to serve a number of race winning mares whom he would not have seen if it had been left to the market.

"John Lohmans and I raced Sky Major together and now stand him at stud. John and I leased quite a few mares the first season, the best we could find and bred about 20 foals ourselves.

"They are now yearlings and we have leased them out to trainers around the country to try, about half a dozen have been broken in and all reports have been very good.

"It was well received by everybody and these foals have been fed since they were on their mother and have been well looked after and were in lovely condition. Hopefully whoever has leased them has success with them.

"They are fantastic to handle, good gaited, I don't think any of them have had trouble pacing and have all paced basically straight away. Hopefully its onwards and upwards for him. We have another 15 or so ourselves to foal in the next three months and have another 15 mares to breed to him this year as well as any outside ones," he said.

Casey and Wai Eyre Farm have recognised the fabric of the harness community has been rocked by the pandemic and have priced the stallion this year at the exceptionally low fee of \$500 making him extremely affordable option to all.

"Everybody is struggling with this Covid pandemic and we've put it out there that we have dropped his fee to \$500. We've had a great response to that already and had solid bookings early which is encouraging.

"You don't make a lot of money out of standing stallions, but I'm in this game to support people and we'd certainly like to help them out," he said.

Breeding from upwards of 25 mares this season and previous, Casey struggles to identify a favourite.

"They're all my favourites when they win," he laughed.

"I had a soft spot for one I raced early on called Daenerys Targaryen, nobody could pronounce her name but she was a lovely mare," he said.

Casey became hooked on trotters on the back of the success of his wonderful mare Africa.

Since then they have made up a significant portion of the Casey broodmare band and he has enjoyed watching that side of the breed develop over the years.

"We've got the best stallions in the world available to us and I'm lucky enough to be able to afford to go to these stallions that are head and shoulders above what we've previously had here.

"Sundon was a fantastic stallion but some of the trotting stallions are on another level now a generation or so on," he said.



Trevor Casey and Kate Marriot receive the accolade for 2019/20 Breeder of the Year

While our trotting breed is going from strength to strength, Casey believes it will be a while yet before we see our best capable of taking on the likes of the European horses we now have access too.

"We've taken horses there in the past that have been exceptional horses that haven't measured up. We've got some improvement here yet. It's a hard task to take any horse that far and expect them to compete against the local horses.

"We considered it when I had Stent but it didn't eventuate and I'm quite happy to stay in my own yard really and compete here," he said.

Gael Murray who does all our breeding and she does a fantastic job, and Kate knows every horse on the place. I have to ask her what they are," he laughed

"We do a lot of hands on ourselves and take the mares round to Gaels to get served and use our farm here for the mares. It's a lot of work but we enjoy doing it.

Along with the American Ideal out of Spirit of Art, we have a Sebastian K out of Niamey coming through and we really like him. There is still some frozen semen about and we are going to breed Pocaro to Sebastian K this season," said Casey.

Casey also has plans to support the stallion who brought him his greatest thrills as an owner with Lazarus.

"I went last year but never got any in foal but we will breed another one to him this year.

"He was one in a million and if you look at all the stallions in the stud book, how many of them won 15 Group One races?

"He was a fantastic horse and I'm sure he will leave fantastic foals," he said.



NZTBA & NZSBA Joint Bloodstock Taxation Policy.



New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Inc. (NZTBA) and N.Z. Standardbred Breeders' Inc. (NZSBA) have agreed this joint policy statement on the principles to bring stability to the treatment of bloodstock for taxation and GST purposes.

We ask the New Zealand political parties involved in the 2020 General Election to endorse this statement.

ISSUES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Investment in the ownership and breeding of racehorses is not only critical to the success of the New Zealand racing industry, it also has a pronounced impact on economic activity and tax receipts in our regional communities.

The current administration of the Income Tax and Goods and Services Tax Acts by the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) is producing inconsistent and illogical outcomes, and subsequently creating significant barriers to investment in the bloodstock sector.

This paper sets out the nature of these issues alongside proposed solutions. This paper seeks no special privileges for the equine industry - it simply sets out to put genuine breeding/racing investments on equal footing with any other businesses.

EQUINE BREEDING INDUSTRY

NZTBA and NZSBA represents and advocates for New Zealand breeders of thoroughbred and standardbred horses. The associations have a combined Membership base of over 2000 breeding entities.

CURRENT TAXATION ISSUES

There are two key issues the industry is currently facing: Income Tax issues; and GST issues.

Income Tax Issues

Currently, investors who are purchasing a share in bloodstock with an intention of breeding for profit are having problems claiming a write-down for their share of the cost of the bloodstock. These problems are arising for new or early stage investors. While welcomed by the industry, the recent stud-founding bloodstock policy has only partially addressed the problem (for example, the investment threshold is set too high for thoroughbreds).

Under recent IRD interpretation proposals, similar problems will also arise for established breeders, for investors through multiple syndicates/partnerships, and even where the established breeder or one of the syndicates or partnerships is accepted by IRD as carrying on an existing breeding business.

GST Issues

Inland Revenue is now on audit pursuing a variety of technical GST issues and appears to suggest that input credit claims for bloodstock acquired through for-profit breeding syndicates/partnerships should be made at the syndicate/partnership level. Many GST input claims have been made historically by investors at their individual level. This also raises increased GST risks for established breeders.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The proposals in this paper have been developed by industry taxation experts and are based on the following five key principles or objectives:

- Returning to the certainty for the racing and breeding industry on income tax and GST that existed for over 40 years;
- Removing the arbitrary distinctions that have been legislated and introduced operationally by IRD in the last decade;
- Adopting well-established, applied and tested legislative tax principles for all businesses in the country, including an intention to make a profit.
- Being easy to administer; and
- Including arrangements for the IRD to monitor and audit returns, and report on the revenue implications.

For the avoidance of doubt, these changes do not propose that not-for-profit or hobby investments would qualify for income tax written-downs or GST input credits in relation to bloodstock cost.

POLICY DETAIL

Legislative amendments of the type suggested below would resolve these issues. They would remove the arbitrary distinctions that have been drawn and produce clear and logical outcomes that Inland Revenue will need to respect on audit. The legislation should ensure that genuine breeding/racing investments with the intention of making a profit are treated fairly and in a similar manner as other businesses.

PROPOSED INCOME TAX SOLUTION

We propose as policy a simple amendment to section EC 39 of the Income Tax Act that goes back to first principles. The amendment would clarify that;

- A breeding business would commence and a deduction would be available when a person acquires bloodstock/share in bloodstock with the intention of making a profit from breeding the bloodstock in the future (i.e. issues as to the precise timing of commencing a breeding business would be eliminated and such a business would not have to be pre-existing before purchase). Profit-making intention is the standard tax test for distinguishing between businesses and hobbies. It is a well-understood concept supported by a substantial body of case law.
- The profit-making intention test would be determined either:
 - at the investor level, or
 - at the entity level (irrespective of synd/p'ship).
- Investor level elections, in lieu of entity level, would protect existing breeders. Coordination between

the syndicate/partnership and investors would be required and must ensure there would be no "double-dipping" of deductions.

The current Stallion and Broodmare deductions would remain.

The current stud-founding bloodstock provisions would be repealed.

PROPOSED GST SOLUTION:

We suggest amending the GST Act so that:

- In relation to breeding/racing, the taxable activity/hobby test would be determined either:
 - at the investor level; or
 - at the entity level (irrespective of synd/p'ship).
- This amendment would eliminate the significant compliance cost that Inland Revenue seem likely to create with its new GST audit approach. Similar to the proposed income tax solution, coordination between the syndicate/partnership and investors would be required and will ensure there would be no "double-dipping" of input credits.
- Individual investors who make the election to have the taxable activity/hobby test determined at their level and satisfy the requirements to claim an input tax credit for their proportionate share of the bloodstock can make the claim on their own GST return (and will be required to account for output tax on their proportionate share when the bloodstock is sold).
- Investors/syndicates who claim GST input credits would be required to make the election in their GST returns.
- The existing GST test of whether an activity is a taxable activity or a hobby (which is substantially aligned with the proposed new income tax test of profit-making intention) would be retained.

The GST legislation to be amended to ensure that bloodstock breeding is not treated as a "financial service".

CONCLUSION

We believe these simple changes will resolve many issues currently facing the sector, and help restore the certainty for the racing and breeding industry on income tax and GST that existed for over 40 years.

Justine Slater
NZTBA

Brad Reid
NZSBA

RACING Direct contribution to the NZ economy and has
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\$380 million

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HRNZ Awards Recap.

Dave Di Somma

Ultimate Sniper has been crowned as New Zealand Harness Racing's Horse of the Year, but only just.

At the NZB Standardbred Harness Racing Awards in Christchurch last night Ultimate Sniper won the ultimate award by a whisker. Votes for the awards were made by 22 members of the media, the final tally had Ultimate Sniper at 11, Amazing Dream 10 and Winterfell 1.

The All Stars-trained son of Bettor's Delight was all-conquering at the Inter Dominions at Alexandra Park, taking out all three heats before winning the final as a \$1.30 favourite. All up for the season Ultimate Sniper won six races from 10 starts and \$349,100.

In the Pacer of the Year category Ultimate Sniper sneaked past Amazing Dream 12 votes to 10.

Amazing Dream had earlier won the 3YO Pacing Filly of the Year during a season that netted eight wins from nine starts, including the 2020 Northern Derby, beating Copy That and One Change. She was the first filly to win the Northern Derby since Ripper's Delight in 1975.

Amazing Dream's highly successful Australian owner Jean Feiss won Owner of the Year. A prolific and astute buyer, she also owns current New Zealand Cup favourite Self Assured and other Group One winners including Smooth Deal and a number of promising age-group performers. She did not make the awards night because of COVID-related travel restrictions.

While Krug was a shoo-in for the 2YO Pacing Colt or Gelding of the Year, the 3YO Pacing Colt or Gelding of the Year was a dead heat between One Change and Copy That, tied at 11 votes each.

Copy That won seven from 12 for the season and beat One Change in the Vero Flying Stakes at Addington, only for One Change (3 wins in 9 starts) to turn the tables in the Sires' Stakes Final at Addington on New Zealand Cup Day.

Winterfell was another big winner for the All Stars (Mark Purdon – Natalie Rasmussen) team. Like Ultimate Sniper, Winterfell beat Australasia's best in the Inter Dominion Trotting Grand Final. His five wins (\$188,005 for the season) saw him voted 5YO Trotting Entire or Gelding of the year, heading off Dominion Handicap winner Habibi Inta. He was then crowned New Zealand Trotter of the year. Winterfell's high profile breeder Trevor Casey was also voted Breeder of the Year.



Phil & Glenys Kennard along with co-owner Phil Creighton collect the 2019/20 Horse of the Year award for Ultimate Sniper

Of the other trotting awards it was father versus son in the 3YO Trotting Colt or Gelding category. And the voters couldn't separate Ultimate Stride trained by Phil Williamson and Cracker Hill trained by his son Brad. They got 11 votes each.

Ultimate Stride won five from five for the season (three of them in Australia) while Cracker Hill won six from eight, including the Hambletonian Three-Year-Old classic at Ashburton.

Acknowledged for her contribution to "Life After Racing" was Melissa Whyte. Associated with a number of "Native" horses that have gone to the races, Melissa has also been heavily involved with horses after their careers have finished.

When it comes to breeding horses Grant Crabbe has produced a once-in-a-lifetime mare, Shartin. By Tintin in America out of one-win mare Bagdarin, Shartin was sold to Australia in 2016 before being on-sold to the USA where she became a phenomenon.

In 2018 she won a million dollars and was runner-up in the USA Horse of the Year awards, before winning the ultimate prize the next year, following a 2019 when she won 15 from 19. Among her highlights was her win at the Meadowlands in 1:46.4, the fastest ever mile by a mare in the sport's history.

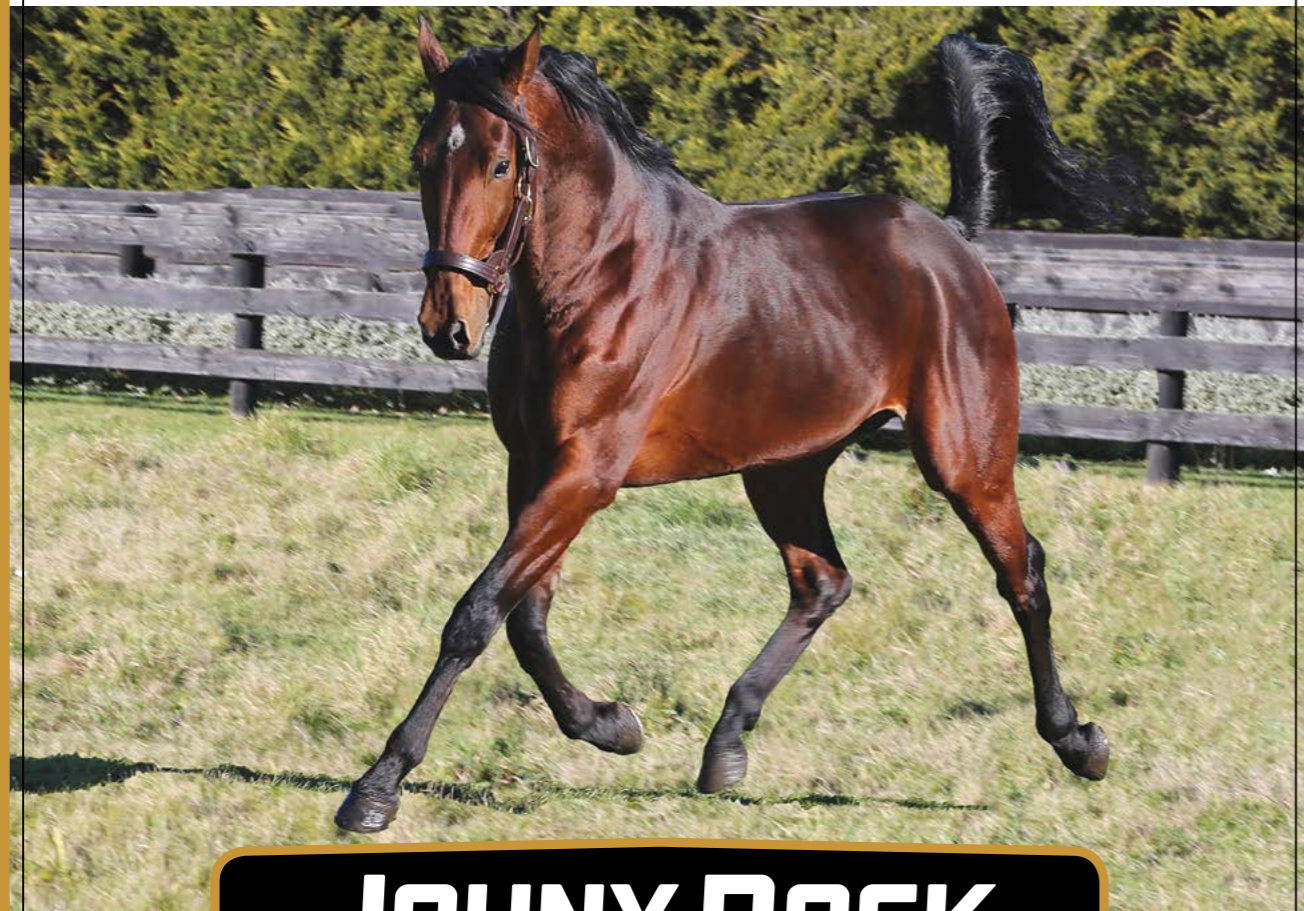
Shartin N, as she's now known, was the first pacing mare to win the Dan Patch award for Horse of the Year, and also the first horse bred outside North America to do so.

Grant Crabbe was presented with an award celebrating Shartin's Special Contribution to racing.

NZB Standardbred Harness Racing NZ Awards Results - 2019/20 Season

2YO Trotting Filly of the Year	Time Up The Hill
2YO Pacing Filly of the Year	Shes No Lady
2YO Trotting Colt or Gelding of the Year	Eurokash
2YO Pacing Colt or Gelding of the Year	Krug
3YO Trotting Filly of the Year	Vacation Hill
3YO Pacing Filly of the Year	Amazing Dream
3YO Trotting Colt or Gelding of the Year	Ultimate Stride & Cracker Hill
3YO Pacing Colt or Gelding of the Year	One Change & Copy That
4YO Trotting Mare of the Year	Overzealous
4YO Pacing Mare of the Year	Belle Of Montana
4YO Trotting Entire or Gelding of the Year	Oscar Bonavena
4YO Pacing Entire or Gelding of the Year	Ultimate Sniper
5YO & Older Trotting Mare of the Year	Pretty Majestic
5YO & Older Pacing Mare of the Year	Bettor's Heart
5YO & Older Trotting Entire or Gelding of the Year	Winterfell
5YO & Older Pacing Entire or Gelding of the Year	Cruz Bromac
Trotting Broodmare of the Year	Una Bromac
Pacing Broodmare of the Year	Christian Dreamer
Breeder of the Year	Trevor Casey
Trotting Stallion of the Year	Majestic Son
Pacing Stallion of the Year	Bettor's Delight
Owner of the Year	Jean Feiss
Leading Junior Driver - UDR	Zev Meredith
Leading Junior Driver	John Morrison
Leading Driver	Blair Orange
Leading Trainer	Robert Dunn
Trotter of the Year	Winterfell
Pacer of the Year	Ultimate Sniper
Special Contribution to Harness Racing	Shartin
Horse of the Year	Ultimate Sniper
Best Moment of the Season	Ricky May's return to racing
Outstanding Contribution to Life After Racing	Melissa Whyte





JOHNNY ROCK

p2,1:51.2; p,1:48f \$428,614 Rocknroll Hanover - Soggy Britches - Allamerican Ingot

- A **STUNNING** individual. **FAULTLESS** conformation and a gait to match
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- We welcome you to come & inspect **JOHNNY ROCK** phone first to arrange a suitable time.

THREE 2YO QUALIFIERS FROM HIS FIRST CROP OF 16 LIVE FOALS

Standing at Pinelea Farm

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Service Fee: \$2,000 + gst

Pinelea Pair Making Mark At Stud.

Garrick Knight

Pinelea Farm's Graham Court has known for a fair while that Stephs Boy is 'the real deal'.

So, it was no surprise to him when the impressive physical specimen got the better of highly-regarded favourite Shan Noble at Addington recently.

"He's a very good horse with a big future," said Court.

But his importance to the stable goes well beyond being a nice horse to take to the races.

Court is banking on the horse to be the launch pad for Pinelea stallion Johny Rock's stud career.

And while Stephs Boy is expected to make it to the Derbies and Jewels later in the season, the real story here is his Johny Rock.

This was his first winner as a sire and could not have come at a more important time with stud season just kicking off.

The Courts – Graham and son Paul – and some good clients, including Noel Kennard, Ken Breckon, Tom Kilkelly, Paul Renwick, Terry McDonald and Peter O'Rourke, imported Johny Rock from North America in 2013.

"Paul was living in Canada back then and had seen him race early on.

"He really liked him and we put together a syndicate to buy him, the idea being to bring back here to race and then stand as a stallion.

"Things started off well; just after we secured him, he went out and paced 1.48, which was a fifth of a second outside the world record for a three-year-old at the time."

He would tackle the famed Little Brown Jug as his American swansong but failed in his heat and didn't make the final.

If we're being kind, his Down Under career was rather inauspicious, just three wins from 21 starts and all in Australia.

"He just didn't adjust to our racing unfortunately," says Court.



Stephs Boy

"Hindsight is a wonderful thing and maybe we should have given him three or four months off to adjust to changing hemispheres."

So it was off to stand at Court's Pinelea Farm stud alongside Terror To Love and it's fair to say most involved will have had a bit of a headache by then.

Predictably, he struggled to attract mares – just 18 in the first season and 12, 15 and 19 in the subsequent three seasons.

"And most of them were our own mares," Court noted.

He'll face an uphill battle but a horse like Stephs Boy, from a crop of just 16 foals, could well turn around his fortunes.

Two were sold to Chinese buyers due to their impressive looks as unbroken yearlings, leaving just 14.

Of them, four have already qualified and another three have been to the workouts.

But don't be fooled in to thinking Stephs Boy is a fluke – there's another one at home that could be just as good.



Terror To Love foal

"He's called No Time Like Now. We qualified him before Christmas then put him aside but he's back in work now and looking the goods."

"His dam is actually a half-sister to Terror To Love."

"And just the other day we qualified a really nice filly called Reel it In. So we expect him to really start making a name for himself as a stallion this season."

Addington commentator Matt Cross has twice referenced Stephs Boy's quite amazing physical characteristics, something Court says he inherited from his sire.

"He's just like his father, who is a magnificent looking stallion. And he's left his stamp on his foals."

With such a paucity of numbers on the ground, it was imperative that first crop looked the part and can run.

"No problems there," says Court.

"Many of them are very upstanding, 'film star' types like himself. And they have great conformation."

Johny Rock's stablemate, Terror To Love, also continues to kick goals from limited opportunities.

His first crop of live foals numbered 60, and Court sold four to his good Chinese clients before they had even been tried to it's really only 56 that can be statistically considered.

He's already had 32 of them qualify while another two are workout winners and soon to join that list.

Southland star Love On The Rocks is winning them in a row while others like Yoha, Total Diva, Under Wraps, Terry and Ifyousayso are kicking goals both here and in Australia.

There is an expectation that this season is really going to be the one where 'Terror' solidifies his position as a reputable stallion worthy of decent mares.

His ability to leave a good amount of good horses from small crops has already compelled many breeders to book their mares to 'Terror' this season.

"The bookings started trickling in over winter and we've had plenty more in the past month," said Court.

There were also a number of Australian enquiries for his semen but, due to the stringent regulations for semen transport and the huge costs, Court isn't shipping it this season.

Terror To Love's second crop has already produced phenomenal qualifier El Casanova, who was sold to Perth interests for a large six-figure sum after qualifying back in June.

"He's got a really nice group of horses coming on, both in our stable and around the country."

"In just the past few weeks there's been another half a dozen qualify and a few more having their first workouts."

He'll always be regarded as one of our greatest ever racehorses – three New Zealand Cups on end including that unforgettable performance to win his third in 2013 are testament to that.

And his fans will be pleased to know he is relishing retirement.

"He's taken to being a stallion like a duck to water. Just a real gentleman and pleasure to do anything with."

"He has a great life here at the stud and is really thriving."



TERROR TO LOVE

- Sire of 13 NZ bred winners (5 in 2.00) including the impressive filly **Terror Maria** (1.54.6)
- 47.5% of his first crop (now 3YO's) have qualified including the exciting two-year-old **El Casanova** (Sold for six figure sum)
- **Versatile:** 12 of his 13 winners are from different broodmare sires
- Sits 6th and 7th behind the top shuttle horses for 3YO foals to winners and starters (percentage)

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Alabar Update.

The new breeding season is underway.

Usually, this wouldn't be a statement of any great significance.

However, given what we've all been through in recent months with lockdowns, travel restrictions and flight cancellations, that the breeding season is underway with relative normality is a very nice feeling.

All advertised stallions will again be available to New Zealand breeders – including those standing in Australia.

To achieve this goal, Alabar, Nevele R and Woodlands have worked in together to arrive at a schedule for the distribution of the semen.

Breeders can book to the Australian based stallions in the confidence that fresh semen will still be available throughout New Zealand – virtually as normal.

ALWAYS B MIKI – HE HAS THE WORLD AT HIS FEET

In what has been a testing few months, the real highlights for Alabar have been the rise and rise of Always B Miki and Vincent.

As an absolute champion racehorse, US Horse of the Year and the fastest horse of all time, Always B Miki has had a lot of expectations put on him as a sire.

The breeders of Australia and New Zealand have shown him tremendous support in terms of both quantity and quality.

These breeders have been anxiously waiting to see the first two-year-olds by the superstar hit the racetracks of North America.

His record with these first two-year-olds is outstanding.

He already has 11 sub-1:55 winners with the highlights being:

Southwind Gendry (out of a mare by Cam's Card Shark) – one of the leading two-year-olds in North America with a best time of 1:51.2 and earnings of \$217,144 to date incl victory in the \$253,000 PASS Ch'ship.

Perfect Sting (out of a mare by Bettor's Delight) – an unbeaten star and the fastest two-year-old in North America with a 1:49.2 best time to date.

Grace Hill (f) (out of a mare by Western Terror) – a quality filly which won a \$105,0967 division of the PASS and was a close second in the \$253,000 PASS Ch'ship.

She has a best time of 1:51 to date.

Always A Miki (out of a mare by Somebeachsomewhere) – a 1:51.1 winner with earnings of \$111,342 to date.

JK Alwaysbalady (f) (out of a mare by Art Major) – a smart filly which already has a scored 1:52.1 victory in just three starts to date.

HORSEMEN LOVE THE MIKIS

Richard "Nifty" Norman is one trainer who cannot speak highly enough of the Always B Miki two-year-olds.

Nifty is a Kiwi ex-pat who has been one of the leading trainers in North America for many years. He has trained well over 1000 winners for earnings approaching \$40 million.

In the words of Nifty Norman:

"Our Always B Miki two year-old, Grace Hill is a super filly. Just plain to look at but she has a high cruising speed and can just go all day. She's got a big future.

"I had a couple of Miki's through the winter and they were good types and good gaited but they were a bit sluggish and weren't looking anything special. I wasn't sure what we had.

"But they just got better and better the further we went.

"And when we went to the qualifiers they just jumped up. It was just like turning on a switch. Man they were impressive ... and it's just gone from there.

"I think this is a sign of a really good sire. They keep stepping up.

"The other trainers I've spoken to have had similar experiences. Everyone is very high on the Mikis. There's a lot of talk about them."

"I think he's going to be a great, great sire."

In the words of Dexter Dunn:

"I've been driving Grace Hill, the Always B Miki filly for Nifty Norman. She's a beautiful filly with a lovely long stride on her.

"When you're driving her you don't feel like you're going much but you're really moving along. She has high speed and just does it so easy.

"She has a great attitude. All the Mikis I've driven have great attitudes.

"They're all very relaxed horses. They're a bit like the Bettor's Delights in that they don't show a lot in training but you get to the racetrack and they're feeling sharp.

"The trainers up here really like them. He's doing the job and they look like they're only going to get better."

The first Always B Mikis in the Southern Hemisphere will race as two-year-olds in the 2020/21 season. The training reports are extremely encouraging – and off the back of what is happening in North America, there's every chance that exciting times are ahead.

FIRST VINCENT FOALS STAR AT SALES

The first crop foals of Vincent were the stars of the Auckland Weanling Sale held on Gavelhouse in May.

What an impression they made.

They were tremendous types, well-muscled with strong hindquarters and, most impressively, fluent, purposeful walkers.

The weanling videos showcased how well the Vincents walked – they almost didn't need a caption with each one having the same look about them.

Everyone who watched the videos had the same comments.

And they sold accordingly.

A 100% clearance and a \$14,333 average – second on average only to his sire Art Major across all stallions.

We were thrilled to see Jean Feiss buy two Vincent weanlings. Jean, whose husband Bill raced Vincent, has always said she'd love to buy some of Vincent's progeny. True to her word she purchased two fillies – \$19,000 for one from a full-sister to Monkey King and \$26,000 for a close relation of Bettor Cover Lover. Both fillies have remained in New Zealand and will surely end up at All Stars.

Importantly, all the Vincent weanlings have gone to good homes and will end up with prominent trainers. They'll get every opportunity.

The sale was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Vincent foals. That they sold so well and will go to such great trainers is the icing on the cake.

ART MAJOR RIDING HIGH

Art Major has enjoyed one of the most successful siring careers in the history of harness racing.

Whichever way you measure it – fertility, yearling sale prices, numbers of winners, classic winners, big money winners, overall money won or longevity – Art Major has been a colossus.

His incredible longevity at the top echelon of the industry is highlighted by the recent deeds of his freakish son, the equine highlight reel, Ride High.

He could possibly be the most talented horse Art Major has ever sired.

Sub 53 second last halves, huge margins of victory and breaking the track record at Bendigo by 2.7 seconds with a 1:49 twenty metre win after sitting parked

certainly indicates he has raw ability second to none.

As a broodmare sire Art Major is also further enhancing his legacy.

The glamour pacer in North America and winner of this year's Meadowlands Pace and North America Cup, Tall Dark Stranger is out of one of his daughters.

Art Major is his usual hale, healthy and fertile self as a now twenty-one year old. He has enjoyed staying in Australia and not shuttling over the last couple of years.

But breeders should remember that any season could be his last commercial one. His book is full in Australia but New Zealand breeders still have the opportunity to book this season.

MAJESTIC SON TO SPONSOR DOMINION HCP

Majestic Son has had a wonderful siring career in New Zealand and he has been extremely well supported by New Zealand breeders.

This support has not gone unnoticed by Majestic Son's very loyal band of North American owners.

To their great credit they have decided to give back to the New Zealand industry by sponsoring the 2020 running of the Dominion Handicap.

In an interview with Addington Raceway, spokesman for the Canadian ownership group, Dave McDonald said...

"We are extremely proud of everything Majestic Son has achieved both on and off the race track. His record Down Under where he has been leading stallion multiple times reflects the standing Australasian breeders hold him in.

"The sponsorship is a chance for Majestic Son's ownership group to contribute back to trotting in New Zealand at a difficult time. It's our opportunity to thank everyone for their great support of the horse.

"We all know the current Covid-19 situation around the world, so we feel supporting this race is a way of us investing back in the industry when many involved are doing it tough.

"We are acutely aware of the stature of the Dominion as the premier trotting event in New Zealand and that increased our desire to be involved. Since we joined with Alabar it has taken Majestic Son to a new level. Their professionalism and ability to promote the stallion has been world class."

There's also every chance of a fairy-tale result.

Majestic Son could well sire the winner of his own race. His representatives are likely to include Inter Dominion champion Winterfell, Rowe Cup winner Sundees Son and the current Dominion favourite Majestic Man.

2020

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*STANDING AT NEVELE R

Pictured - Art Major

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MOC & POC Strike Gold With Imported Mare.

Jonny Turner

Star North American Always B Miki colt Perfect Sting has been giving Southland breeders Mark and Pauline O'Connor fond memories of a trip to America they took more than a decade ago.

Unbeaten in three starts and with a 1.49.4 mile to his name, Perfect Sting has been tearing up the tracks of Kentucky and became the first two-year-old to break 1.50 in North America this year.

That is music to the ears of the scores of New Zealand breeders who have supported the freshman sire, including the O'Connors.

Having a three-quarter blood sister to Perfect Sting in their front paddock means the southern breeders have a little more interest than most.

"It is nice to see that colt four from four and running some pretty smart times," Mark O'Connor said.

"I have had a look at his replay runs, he doesn't look like he has excessive gate speed."

"He seems to stay out of the early rush and take a position two or three deep and come around them at some point and then just take care of them from there."

The O'Connors' close relation to the American flyer is a two-year-old filly by Always B Miki from Wantapieceofme, a Rocknroll Hanover half-sister to Perfect Sting's dam, Shebestingin.

Shebestgin is the famed former champion racehorse that held the fastest female of all time title until Shartin lowered her 1.47.0 record last year.

Little did the O'Connors know when they embarked on an epic tour of North America in 2008, with fellow southern breeders Brent and Sheree McIntyre and John and Judy Stiven, that they would be introduced to the man that would go on to breed their blueblood broodmare.

"The mare is bred by a guy called Stephen Dey III, who is a vet in New Jersey."

"John Stiven and Brent McIntyre and I actually met him when we went to the states a few years ago."

In a startling coincidence, O'Connor and Stiven were the two buyers to show interest in the Dey-bred Wantapieceofme when she came on the market as a broodmare proposition in New Zealand.

After a phone call between the two friends it was resolved that O'Connor would press on and buy the American import and Stiven would look at other options he had in front of him.

Wantapieceofme came to this country as a racing proposition and a syndicate was formed through Go Harness syndications before she was put in to work.

The Rocknroll Hanover mare won one workout for trainer Nigel McGrath and was unplaced in three other public appearances before she was retired to stud without a race start.

Her first two foals were bred by Wally Power's Pembroke Park in partnership with Noel Kennard.

Her first foal, by Bettor's Delight in Betterpiece, was bought at the national yearling sales for \$40,000 by Justin Prentice.

The gelding has won two of twelve starts in Western Australia.

Wantapieceofme's second foal, by American Ideal, was knocked down to Lincoln Farms a year later for \$85,000.

The 3yr-old, named Apieceoflou has placed once in six starts for Ray Green.

Bidders could have bagged the O'Connors' three-quarter blood sister to Perfect Sting if they had dug a little deeper in to their pockets at this year's NZB Standardbred sale.

And if it was not for a late rethink from her breeders.

"At the start of the day we started with a \$24,000 reserve," O'Connor said.

"She handled the sale process really well – the boxing, the running in and out of the sale area – there was something about her we really liked."

"So, I pushed the reserve up to \$29,000 knowing that the half-brother had gone for \$85,000 the year before and Ray Green quite liked him at that stage."

"She would have sold for \$24,000, but the next bid was \$26,000, which was ours so we took her home."

The filly, named Hey Miki Denario, has impressed in two preparations since returning from the sales.

"Brent McIntyre broke her in when she came home from the sale and he has also gave her a second prep in the June-July period."

"He liked her when he broke her in, he said he had broken in in three Always B Mikis at that stage and liked them all."

Those who missed out on Hey Miki Denario can bid on the next foal from Wantapieceofme next year.

The O'Connors plan to offer her Art Major yearling filly at NZB Standardbred's February sale.

Wantapieceofme did not get in foal last season, when served late by both Sweet Lou and Always B Miki.

Her last service date of the first of February this year would have produced another three-quarter blood relation to Perfect Sting, which undoubtedly would have been born to North American time.

The O'Connors are still awaiting the arrival of two Always B Miki foals despite that miss.

Goodtogo Denario, the dam of Kayteeoh Denario (5 NZ & Aus wins) and Nota Bene Denario (5 NZ wins) is in foal to the speedster turned sire.

Another Presidential Ball mare, Shezaball, the dam of Rockaball (5 NZ & Aus wins) and Ronnie Pickering (1 NZ win) is in foal to Always B Miki.

The couple also have Mantis Denario in foal to Sweet Lou in her second career pregnancy.

The Invercargill breeders have clearly been fans of Always B Miki from the start of his Down Under siring career.

Like many breeders, they were captivated by the horse's brilliance on the track.

"After we had handled this one (Hey Miki Denario) through her yearling sales prep, we just liked the cooperation and the intelligence from the animal."

"And I have been following what they have been doing in the States a bit, too."

"He was obviously a super racehorse and you just hope that x-factor passes through to the progeny."

"It is a bit like Somebeachsomewhere, he was just an unreal racehorse and passed that trait on to his stock."



Perfect Sting

The O'Connors also plan to take another yearling to next year's sale alongside their close relation to Perfect Sting.

A Sweet Lou filly from three-win Bettor's Delight mare Southern Delight will also be nominated for NZB Standardbred's February sale.

The breeders will keep two more of their yearlings, including a Captainteacherous filly out of Shezaball.

The couple have also decided to keep the thirteenth and final foal from Averil's Atom, a Well Said colt.

Averil's Atom has recently undergone the most unique of breeding barn retirements.

With several of her progeny to continue breeding from, the O'Connors took the 22-year-old Soky's Atom mare from their broodmare band and put her in Pauline's riding school.

The grand producer is now a hobby horse for a keen young Invercargill horse rider.

And the placid mare has been getting rave reviews for her work under saddle.

"Pauline runs a riding school that gives kids, from very young to a bit older, the basics of horse riding," O'Connor said.

"She has fourteen ponies – I call them the United Nations ponies – of all different shapes and sizes including retired standardbreds."

"The girl that is riding Averil's Atom is in her early years at high school, she is around 12, and she has been raving about what a good riding horse she is."



Essential Adaptogenic Herbs For Performance.

Performance horses in any arena from racing to pleasure riders in dressage or show jumping all have to deal with significant stress. The stress of high impact training and also the stress of the race or event day impacts a horse's ability to perform at the highest level, week in and week out. Stress can impact horses in a number of ways both physically and psychologically. From simple digestive upsets to gastric ulceration through to joint and bone damage the injuries will impact the horses ability to perform.

Understanding the full impact of short and long term stress can be mitigated by using key botanical ingredients, adaptogens, that have known actions on the bodies stress response and also specific nutrients to support areas which come under duress during stress.

Adaptogenic herbs were first noted by Russian scientists in the 1950's who were looking for an alternative to the expensive Panax Ginseng. They developed the term – adaptogen – a substance which can affect a non-specific increase in the resistance of an organism to noxious influences – think stress.

Adaptogens have 3 common features:

- An adaptogen is protective. It should raise an individual's resistance to physical, chemical, or biological stresses.
- An adaptogen boosts recovery. It has the power to normalize the physiological functioning of organisms suffering from various physical problems.
- Although powerful, an adaptogen must be harmless (non-toxic) to the individual ingesting it, disturbing natural bodily functions as little as possible.¹

The herbal formulation – **Prepare** – contains adaptogenic herbs which help counter stress and support energy. They have been shown to assist with improved endurance, work capacity and quite importantly calm energy. Additionally they have been shown to support healthy glucose, carbohydrate, fat and protein metabolism for optimal energy production plus faster recovery from exercise and tissue repair following injury. Essentially they help the body to utilise the nutrients from their diet in a highly efficient way.

Of significant importance they also support healthy liver and immune function which improves resistance to and recovery from illness. An interesting fact is that many high-performance athletes suffer from reduced or compromised immunity and are often far more susceptible to infections. They also support cardiovascular function and oxygen transport mechanisms, help maintain healthy blood flow. Antioxidant activity helps protect against oxidative damage of exercise. Calming for anxiety, nervousness or aggression. Useful as a tonic for mares. Improves attitude and enjoyment of work. A general wellbeing tonic.

Two other areas which are significantly affected by training and competition are the joints and digestive systems of racehorses. Maintaining key nutrient levels is vital in all racehorses to support normal bone and cartilage health.

Buildabone is made from red marine algae complex which is from sustainably harvested fossilised algae. The algae absorbs minerals (74) from the sea during its life cycle. The minerals from plant sources are very bioavailable. The powdered marine algae is an excellent source of easily absorbed calcium and magnesium along with other key nutrients for bone support – boron, manganese, silica and zinc .

The resultant powder is used to maximise calcium levels with additional minerals for bone strength. The blend also nutritionally supports bone growth, turnover and repair, supports stress-related bone injuries and recovery from bone surgery.

Red Marine algae powder is also used as a gastric buffer in **Buildagut**. Used daily with feed **Buildagut** improves appetite, gut and intestinal health. Encourages healthy gut flora to flourish. Supports the beneficial micro-organism population of the cecum and colon by minimizing the acidity of the hindgut. A highly digestible natural gut buffer to help protect against constant exposure to stomach acid. It also contains a prebiotic (FOS) fructooligosaccharide for optimal gut flora.



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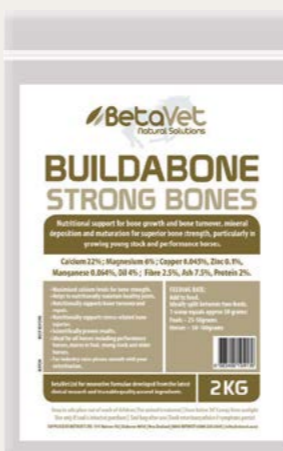
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Captain Crunch And Marcoola New Kids On The Block At Nevele R Stud.

- To compliment the emerging talents of Always B Miki, Creatine, Father Patrick and Vincent.

Frank Marrion

Nevele R Stud has been through a relatively quiet period during the past decade, or since the days when Falcon Seelster's siring career was winding down.

A Rocknroll Dance did some big books for a while, as has Father Patrick via frozen semen in recent seasons, but the times in the 90s when the likes of Falcon Seelster, Holmes Hanover, Live Or Die and Soky's Atom were covering a significant percentage of the pacing broodmares in the country are but a distant memory now.

For many years, the Prebbleton farm was accounting for around one third of the broodmare population in New Zealand, plus big numbers in Australia as well.

Nevele R could be said to be making a bit of a comeback however, in many respects due to joining forces with Alabar, and this year is looking like the start of a new era with a lot of potential on the horizon.

The exciting Captain Crunch has arrived at the stud along with Creatine after missing last season due to an injury, while Marcoola is also embarking on a new career.

Always B Miki and Vincent, like Captain Crunch and the now Australian based A Rocknroll Dance, owned or imported with Alabar, have two-year-old and yearling crops coming on stream respectively.

Ultimate Machete is also owned in partnership and is standing his second season at Alabar in Auckland, while another son of Bettor's Delight in Gold Ace completes the line up of sires resident at Prebbleton.

Leading trotting sire Father Patrick will again do a big book and Nevele R also has frozen semen available to the established trotting sires Andover Hall and Muscle Mass.

Captain Crunch has been rushed by breeders, which was not surprising given his pedigree, performance and price.

"He was booked full within 24 hours in Australia and we had to start forming a waiting list after two weeks here," said Nevele R's manager Ged Moaar.

"The response was quite overwhelming – I certainly haven't seen anything like it before."

Captain Crunch's sire Captaintreacherous has been a sensation at stud with his initial crops and with a limited supply of frozen semen available here, he was booked full long ago.

He stands for \$30,000 at Hanover in America and was booked full this year.

Captain Crunch is the fastest and richest son of Captaintreacherous and is being introduced at \$6500.

He was the U.S. 2YO Pacer of the Year when he won the Breeders Crown and took a record of 2, 1.49.1 in 2018, while last year he won over a million dollars and took out the North America Cup in a race record 1.47.2.

A half-brother to Stakes winners Moonliteonthebeach (1.50.4f), Sweet Beach (1.50f) and Sweetest Emotion, Captain Crunch is from a three-quarter sister to world champion Sweet Lou (1.47f, \$3.5m) and also a half-sister to Bettor Sweet (1.47.2, \$2.8m).

Captaintreacherous was the leading sire of two and three-year-olds in North America last year with his first two crops, while from a first crop of 22 foals in New Zealand, he has already produced It's All About Faith and other two-year-old winners in Captain Nemo, Chablis, Hot And Treacherous and Platinum Stride.

Emilio Rosati bought a colt by Captaintreacherous for \$250,000 at Karaka this year, while other colts by him sold for \$175,000 and \$105,000 in Christchurch.

Like Captaintreacherous, Captain Crunch is a big horse at 16.1 hands and is an ideal match for all those Bettor's Delight and Art Major mares out there.

Marcoola is also heading for a good book on debut, which is hardly surprising given he is a son of the freak trotting sire Sundon and is great value at \$2500.

He won the New Zealand and Northern Trotting Derby double during a sequence of seven straight wins at three, and remarkably, his dam, grandam (Amaretto Sun) and great grandam (Lyell Creek) all produced the winners of the Dominion Handicap, or trotting's New Zealand Cup.

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MARCOOLA

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Marcoola will be at a slight disadvantage in that he cannot be bred to Sundon mares like his competitors over the years, but then again Sundon has been pushed back in the pedigrees of most mares nowadays.

A mare by say Love You from a Sundon mare will be fine for Marcoola as the cross results in a 2x4 reverse sex to Sundon.

Trotting sires in the flesh and standing at relatively cheap stud fees are rather thin on the ground these days, with Royal Aspirations another example and showing encouraging signs.

The same could be said of Creatine, the son of Andover Hall who covered books of 70 and 49 mares in his first two seasons here at \$4000.

The winner of a Breeders Crown and the Kentucky Futurity along with a heat of the Hambletonian at three, Creatine was also a top performer at four and five when he won another Breeders Crown and Group 1 races in Europe, earning over \$2m in his career.

Creatine's dam is line-bred 2x3 to Valley Victory while having three further crosses to Speedy Crown within four generations.

He only has 40 foals in his first crop of two-year-olds in America this year but already 26 have been starters and they include the colts Creative Venture (1.57.1) and Take All Comers (1.58.3) and the fillies Alpine (1.56.8f) and Sip Of Sunshine (1.57.3).

He has a crop of two-year-olds coming on stream here this season, or next year.

So too does Always B Miki after a first season at stud in America which has resulted in a current crop of two-year-olds there.

It's going to be a funny year for stats and getting a line on some stallions, but Always B Miki has been making a very good impression with juveniles headed by the colts Perfect Sting (1.49.2), Always A Miki (1.51.1) and Southwind Gendry (1.51.2) and the fillies Grace Hill (1.51) and JK Alwaysbalady (1.52.1).

The unbeaten Perfect Sting is from a mare by Bettor's Delight and became the first sub-1.50 juvenile in North America this season at The Red Mile in late August.

Always B Miki covered books in the 90s in his first two seasons at stud here, but jumped to 168 in his third last season.

"He's closed in Australia as things stand at the moment and will do another big book here," said Moorar.

Vincent's first crop are yearlings and after making a big impression as weanlings at the Mixed Sale earlier this year, he can be expected to be to the fore at the sales next year.

"I'm not sure I've seen a better or more uniform bunch of foals by a sire than Vincent's first crop," said Moorar.

"Vincent is really stamping his foals and things are looking really positive for him."

An impressive type by Art Major from a multiple Group 1 winning filly in Kept For Pleasure, Vincent has been accorded every chance at stud with books of 148 and 110 mares in New Zealand and not much is about to change this season.

Again he is a great option for mares by Bettor's Delight and also great value at \$4500.

Like Captaintreacherous, Father Patrick is the latest fashion amongst the trotting sires, having gone to a stud fee of \$30,000 at Diamond Creek Farm in Pennsylvania this year.

He also had his first two crops racing in America last year and they won around \$6m, with his two-year-olds earnings \$3.4m to place second only to Muscle Hill.

Father Patrick's first crop numbered only 47 foals due to him racing on as a four-year-old in 2015, but they included the sensational Greenshoe (3, 1.49.4), who stood to a full book at Hanover this year at \$25,000.

Father Patrick's yearlings averaged over \$100,000 in America last year and included a record breaking colt at \$1.1m, while a colt by him sold for \$65,000 at this year's trotting sale in Christchurch.

Last season from a crop of 28 two-year-olds here, Father Patrick was represented by winners in the colt Have No Fear and filly La Reina Del Sur.

The son of Cantab Hall has a first crop of 10 foals in Australia with six already starters and two filly winners.

Andover Hall and Muscle Mass are well established trotting sires with the latter shuttling for one season here where he produced a crop of 53 foals now aged seven.

That crop has resulted in an amazing 47 starters and 37 winners and included Arnold, Bonnie Highlander, Chevron Express, Custodian, Heavyweight Hero, Massive Metro and Muscles Galore.

But it is the new kids on the block, Captain Crunch and Marcoola, along with the emerging talents of Always B Miki, Creatine, Father Patrick and Vincent, who will be very much the focus at Nevele R this season.



Dave Sanders

Classic racing has been the foundation stone of the racing breeding industry ever since the first St Leger Stakes was run at Cantley Common near Doncaster on the 24 September 1776.

That was the first of the English thoroughbred classics, four years later, on the Downs of Epsom, the first Derby was run, and the breeding industry has used these time honoured races as the criterion by which all the best breeding stock are evaluated.

What has English thoroughbred racing got to do with trotting breeding, I hear you ask, and that is easily answered. Those thoroughbreds, and the Norfolk Trotters, bred an hour's trot north of Newmarket, the home of the National Stud of England.

This was the vast British Military breeding centre, where horses formed an integral part, both as rides for the top brass on the battlefield and the cavalry, but also road transport to get the officers and staff to and from the theatre of war as quickly as possible.

When Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, won the Battle of Waterloo, it was astride the famous Copenhagen, a steeplechaser whose grandsire Eclipse sired 4 Derby winners, and whose dam was by John Bull, the Derby winner of 1792.

The genetic traits that also spurred the trotting breed to greater and greater feats of speed and endurance, were first identified on these rolling hills, as the very best colts and fillies of their day ran under the colours of their owners.

The first classic winner was Allabadulia whose great-grandsire, Flying Childers also features on the male line of Hambletonian 10, the standardbred's foundational sire, as does the aforementioned Eclipse.

Hambletonian's dam was by Bellfounder, the fastest ever Norfolk trotter, who was sold to America for a significant fee in 1882, and whose dam was by a thoroughbred, who was also out of a mare by Eclipse.

Four years after the first St Leger, the first Derby was run on Epsom Downs, and that winner was Diomed, who was also exported to America in 1799 at the age of 22, but lived until he was 30 becoming a leading sire there, and without whom there would be no

breed changing standardbred sires Noble Victory (trotting) or Tar Heel (pacing), let alone some of the foundation mares like Midnight and Sally Russell. In Europe, the most important stallion in Europe at the moment, Cocktail Jet, is also a descendant of Diomed

So the classics started shaping the breed from the onset, most of the great stallions ran with distinction in these great races which expanded to an elite series of group races, what is known as the pattern and its black type system and its successful formula has been adopted by every major horse breeding nation in the world.

Indeed the French system closely follows the traditional approach of the English classics, barring entry to these races to those who cannot pass on their superior genetics, ie geldings. Indeed in France, you cannot enter the studbook without some black type, a placing in one of the "black type" group races.

In the thoroughbred world, the classics are usually run at three years old, and over a range of three distances, mile (1600m), a mile and a half (2400m) and a mile and three-quarters (2600m), and all major countries, England, Ireland and France in particular have classics which have identified the vast majority of the breed's greatest stallions.

While there is no aged racing at 4 in the thoroughbred world, there is a race which brings the very best of the world to one spot every year, and that is the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, another classic which has produced time and again, the top stallions and mares in the world.

In the European trotting world, these breed identifying races are run at 3, 4 and 5 (reflecting the longer maturing process of the breed) but also over middle distances, as opposed to the US, where racing is almost all over the sprint distances. And there too, in France, is a classic race that brings the very best of the world to its shores, the Prix d'Amerique.

The two leading trotting countries are France and Sweden, although Norway, through some aggressive buying and astute breeding is fast gaining if not ground, then an enhanced reputation for horses of the highest order.

In France, the classic races consist of the three age Criteriums, 3, 4 and 5, and to a lesser extent the Criterium de Jeunes and Criterium Continental (which is open to allcomers), plus two intergenerational handicap races, the Prix de l'Etoile and the Prix de Selection. To complicate matters there are also classic races held under saddle which are of equal stature to French breeders due to the lucrative monte racing scheduled.

In Sweden, the classic races are the Trav Derby and Derby Støet for 4YOs and the Trav Kriterium and Trav-Oaks for 3YOs. There are also other group ones such as Breeders Crowns and the King Gustav's Cup (4YOs) and the E3 series for 3YOs.

And the very best in Europe then go on and compete in the UET championships at 4 and 5, with the jewel in the crown being raced at 4, the Grand Prix de L'UET otherwise known as the European Derby, which has Maharajah, Bold Eagle and Ready Express as recent victors and all among the top young stallions in Europe.

Incidentally the European Championship for 5YOs is turning out to be a terrific guide to good stallions having recently produced Ready Express, Bold Eagle, Joke Face and Yield Boko – all of which are in the top 20 sires in Sweden while Un Mec d'Heripre is in the top 15 in France, a terrific result for a young sire.

Because of the Pandemic, European's age group races were postponed until this month, and several of the major French and Swedish classics have just been run, and an examination of the main participants will shed some light on the breeding trends in these two trotting powerhouses.

The French 4 and 5YO Criteriums were held on the last weekend of August, the former being rescheduled from its usual early May fixture, which has taken place every year, bar the 1993 victory of Buvetier d'Aunou.

As befitting a true classic, it is a race adorned with some of the true greats of the French studbook, including a few names that may be familiar to New Zealand breeders, such as Orlando

Vici and two time Elitloppet winner Timoko, plus Buvetier d'Aunou (grandsire of Peak) and Extreme Dream (damsire of Ready Cash).

This year the Criterium des 4 Ans was won by Go On Boy, a son of Password – a son of Goetmals Wood, a fraternal brother of Extreme Dream. Password, the winner of France's most prestigious 2YO race, the Prix Emmanuel Magouty, had his career shortened by injury as a 3YO, though his generation's 4YO Criterium was won by another son of Goetmals Wood in Prodigious. Both have been very successful at stud.

Go On Boy set the pace and outstayed Ready Cash daughter Gunilla d'Atout and the favourite Gu d'Heripre (Cocktail Jet), in a time of 3.27.0 for the 2850m trip.

Earlier in the day, French superstar Face Time Bourbon once again demolished his generational rivals in the Criterium des 5 Ans.

The son of Ready Cash and Love You mare Vita Bourbon, cruised away to victory, easing down to still record the second fastest time ever for the 3000m, 3.36.3, or a 1.56 mile rate.

It was Face Time Bourbon's second classic win of the year, after taking the Prix de Selection at the end of February, for the second time, shrugging off the 25m penalty for 5 and 6YOs, to become the first horse to repeat since Mon Tourbillon in 1983-84 and only the third in history.

Face Time Bourbon has also won the Criterium des 3 Ans, the Criterium Continental (for 4YOs) and both the European 3YO Championship and the European Derby (Grand Prix de l'UET). He did not race in the Criterium de Jeunes, the Criterium des 4 Ans or the Prix de l'Etoile which is run this weekend. If he wins that, it will be his 11th Group one victory in 12 attempts.

Back to the Criterium des 5 Ans, Ready Cash cemented his claim to being France's greatest modern sire, by siring the trifecta, with Felciano and Flamme du Goutier filling the minor placings.

Ready Cash, who galloped in his attempt in this race had no less than five runners in the race, and this





Facetime Bourbon

was his second winner. His progeny has also won two Criterium des 4 Ans and two Criterium des Jeunes, three Criterium Continentals, and an incredible four Criterium des 3 Ans.

The Criterium des Jeunes is the first of the Criteriums, and took place on February 16, before the Pandemic took full grip on Europe.

It was won by the Royal Dream filly, Havana d'Aurcy, who has as impressive a pedigree as one could hope for, her sire being a Prix d'Amerique winning son of Love You out of a dual classic winning Ready Cash mare Avila, who won this race in 2013 and then took the Prix de l'Etoile later that same year.

Havana d'Aur beat home Hooker Berry and Heartbreaker One, who were both colts by two Ready Cash sons, Booster Winner and Alto de Viette, respectively.

Incidentally a colt bred on the Royal Dream-Ready Cash cross, Hohneck, showed great stamina to chase down a tearaway leader and win the latest Group race for this generation on the undercard of the aforementioned Criteriums, and will be a very interesting addition to the stallion ranks next season.

The Criterium des 3 Ans, as usual is scheduled for mid December, as is the Criterium Continental.

In Sweden, the two biggest classics, the TravDerby and the DerbyStoet, were run last weekend.

The 4 million SEK TravDerby, was won by Robert Bergh's Hail Mary, a son of Googoo Gaga, from the favourite Don Fanucci Zet (Hard Livin), with Aetos Kronos (Bold Eagle) running third.

Interestingly, both the first two home had pacing bloodlines, the first through his sire Googoo Gaga (Cam's Rocket), while the second runner was out of the pacing bred mare Kissed By The West, by Western Terror from a Jenna's Beach Boy mare.

Googoo Gaga was also the second US Bred sire with pacing bloodlines in the past 20 years to sire the TravDerby winner, following Zoot Suit, who was by Nevele Pride from a Green Tree Adios mare.

The winner, Hail Mary, has some serious maternal genetics, being out of a Victory Dream half-sister to Moni Maker, whose grandson Ready For Moni is one of the top colts in the US, this year – and is by French super sire Ready Cash.

The 2 million SEK Derby Stoet (4YO mares) went to Diana Zet, a daughter of Hard Livin out of Daniel Reden's champion barn. Milady Grace (Ready Cash) was second and Alaska Kronos (Trixtion) third.

Diana Zet is by Hard Livin (SJ'S Caviar) out of the beautifully Italian-bred Windsong's Legacy mare Marsia LB, whose third dam is Armbro Megan, a sister to Armbro Invasion.

The Trav Kriterium and the Trav Oaks are to be held later this month.

The leading contenders include the E3 Langa (distance) (Swedish Group I) winner Global Badman, who is maternally inbred to Chatty Hanover, by former European 5YO champion Yield Boko (a son of Viking Kronos) from Karalta Bye Bye, by Windsong's Legacy.

The E3 Korta (Sprint) Final Open class winner Hennessy AM (Muscle Hill from an Infinitif mare), and the placegetters Despot Power (Ready Express from a Lindy Lane mare), Furies Rain (Muscle Hill), Vegan Face (EL Titan from a Dream Vacation mare) and Global Bookmaker (Broadway Hall from Cantab Hall mare).

The top fillies include the winner of the E3 Korta fillies final last month Globalizer (by Bold Eagle from a Self Made Woman by Self Possessed) and M T Perette (The Bank from a Varenne mare), Hilarious AM (Cantab Hall from Varenne Mare).

The influence of the European classic racing scene can be seen in the fact that no less than half of the top 20 in Sweden have come from this programme, despite Sweden having access to all the best US stallions.

STALLIONS

The top stallion currently in Sweden is former Prix d'Amerique winner Maharajah, followed by Muscle Hill, while French super sire Ready Cash is at number three.

Former Criterium Continental winner Love You is still high up at 6, with Zola Boko, the winner of the 2009 European 3YO Championship at 7. Orlando Vici, the winner of two Criteriums is at 10.

Elitloppet and TravDerby winner From Above (a son of Zoot Suit) is at 13, while Bold Eagle has made a very good start to his international career with his entry at 16 (of more than 200 sires) with only a couple of crops racing, and is ranked 7 among sires of 3YOs in Sweden.

TravDerby winners Raja Mirchi (17) and the ill-fated Joke Face (18) are also in the top 20 ahead of the likes of Muscle Mass, Cantab Hall, Credit Winner, Trixtion, Andover Hall, Donato Hanover, Kadabra, Yankee Glide, Muscle Massive and Crazed – all top twenty US sires and all available in Sweden.

An honourable mention should go to Prix d'Amerique winner Ready Express, whose first crop has him third on the Swedish 3YO sires table.

In France Ready Cash is once again the runaway leader of the sires table, with earnings of €4.66M ahead of Prodigious (€2.60M), Love You (€2.34M), Royal Dream (€2.172M), Niky (€2.10M), Cocktail Jet (€1.93M), Ganymede (€1.68M), Timoko (€1.63M), Village Mystic (€1.62M), Jag de Bellouet (€1.59M) and Orlando Vici (€1.56M).

Cocktail Jet line stallions contribute 4 out of the top 10 and 7 out of the top 20, through Love You and his sons (Royal Dream, Village Mystic and Quaker Jet) and Uniclove and Look de Star.

Second placed Prodigious, his sire Goetmals Wood and his paternal sibling Saxo de Vandiel make up another three of the top 20 – all sirelines that although US in origin, are from lines long since extinct across the pond.

But change is on its way with the new season crop being dominated by Ready Cash and his sons – mostly on the back of Cocktail Jet and Goetmals Wood line mares – with the top four being Brillantissime, Bird Parker, Ready Cash and Charly Du Noyer with Bold Eagle at 10.

Love You sons are also to the fore with Booster Winner joining Royal Dream in the top 10, with Village Mystic and Love You also in the top 20.

And what links all of these stallions. None other than a new line of thoroughbred blood, with its famed X-factor big heart gene, so called since it is carried on the X gene, the maternal line.

French stud Haras de Rouge Terres experimented with the breeding of two thoroughbred mares to trotting stallions, with sensational results.

The first, just after World War II ended, produced the mare Dladys who then produced two stallion sons, Jamin (the winner of the first Yonkers International Trot) and Querido, while her daughter Ninia is also the dam of two stallion sons, Caprior and Tabriz.

Both Jamin and Caprior are on the damlines of Goetmals Wood and Extreme Dream and therefore on the damline of Ready Cash.

Caprior is also on the damlines of a host of stallions including Love You, Buvetier d'Aunou, Defi d'Aunou, Kaisy Dream and many others.

It is also no coincidence that Prodigious, Royal Dream, and rising sires Un Mec d'Heripre and Brillantissime are out of mares by Buvetier d'Aunou.

And of course Face Time Bourbon AND Bold Eagle are by Ready Cash – out of Love You mares – a match made in heaven.

The second mare was bred in the 1960s and produced the maternal line of the rising star sire Village Mystic, the winner of the Prix de Selection, and second in the Criterium Continental, and a classic winning sire in his own right.

It cannot be a coincidence that these bloodlines are being boosted by the doubling up of these genes, and with recent results in the US, where Ready Cash has made a huge splash this year, it looks set to continue.



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2020 NZ Pacing Broodmare Of Year Christian Dreamer.

Peter Craig

The latest season saw a continuation of excellence in the pacing broodmare ranks which were acknowledged at the annual NZB Standardbred Harness Racing Awards evening held at Spectators Bar and Bistro, Addington Raceway on Monday 14 September 2020.

Christian Dreamer was named Pacing Broodmare of the Year primarily as a result of the efforts of her Bettor's Delight filly Amazing Dream's stellar three year old season and to a lesser extent, Lets Chase The Dream's continued winning progress, currently in North America. The intervention of COVID 19 racing restrictions possibly put pay to Amazing Dream's opportunities and aspirations for claiming the Pacer of Year Award but even so she was a principal contender.

CHRISTIAN DREAMER (2007f Christian Cullen/Dreamy Atom; Kate by Highland Chief, U301) : unraced seventh foal, qualified 2:09.9; seven foals/one died, four raced, all winners plus qualifier, all sub two minutes, one in sub 1:50. All foals bred by Vin and Daphne Devery.

DOB	FOAL/WINS BY LOCATION	NZ	AU	NA	G/T	MR	\$
2012	Lets Chase The Dream (c Bettor's Delight)	10	5	9	24	1:49.9	587,701
2014	Catch the Dream (g Mach Three)	2	0	0	2	1:59.8	20,345
2015	Dream Major (f Art Major)	1	0	0	1	1:59.7	8,120
2016	Amazing Dream (f Bettor's Delight)	11	1	0	12	1:53.3	634,949
Total foals :		24	6	9	39		\$1.250m+

** Conversion: \$A1=\$US1=\$NZ1

Invercargill electrician and hobby trainer Vin Devery has a record second only to Mark Purdon (seven) with four victories in the 2yo fillies Leonard Memorial (Cheviot), three of whom he bred with wife Daphne – Dreamy Atom, Happy Golucky, Western Dream, Natal Franco (breeders Spreydon Lodge). Added to this are a number of NZ Age Group Horse of the Year Awards including – 2f : Dreamy Atom; 2c&g : (Lets) Chase the Dream; 2f/3f : Western Dream; 2yo Pacer of Year and 2c&g/3c&g : Honkin Vision; latest being Amazing Dream 3yo filly 2020; plus numerous breeding and ownership credits. Recently deceased Honkin Vision was a notable achiever for the Deverys.

Pacing Broodmare of Year, Christian Dreamer was the seventh foal bred by the Deverys from Dreamy Atom. Well-bred but highly strung, unraced after qualifying as an early four year old, she is the dam of six live foals with all four that have raced being winners plus a further qualifier. The Deverys obviously saw Christian Dreamer's value as a broodmare rather than a racehorse.

Christian Dreamers foals to date are:

(Lets) Chase the Dream, her first foal from a maternal family with a line-up of sires prior to Bettor's Delight consisting of Christian Cullen, Soky's Atom and Lumber Dream, produced a NZ Two Year colt/gelding of the Year in 2015. Sold to Jean Feiss for \$53,500, he was the winner of six of nine starts at two (Sapling Stakes; Group Ones Cardigan Bay/Sires Stakes) although beaten into third by Lazarus in the Jewels. At three, a further three wins resulted (Sires Stakes heat, Waikato Guineas, WA Derby prelude – second Final) plus seconds to Lazarus in Sires Stakes and Yearling Sales Finals and GN Derby.

Back from Australia following WA Derby and after finishing ninth in the Jewels to Heaven Rocks, he started his four year old career with a win on Show Day during the 2016 NZ Cup carnival. A third in the Methven Green Mile (grass) preceded his final NZ win in the Group Two Cambridge 4/5yo Futurity. A brief Australian trip consisting of four starts for two wins at Menangle including the Group Two Brian Hancock Cup preceded a final NZ campaign of three starts concluding with a second in the Rangiora Classic.

Off to Australia permanently after that as a five year old, Lets Chase The Dream tallied another two Western Australian wins before being exported to North America in September 2018. At this stage, he had recorded fifteen Australasian victories with best mile rates of 1:53.2NZ and 1:49.9AUS (Menangle).

In North America, Lets Chase The Dream has posted nine victories (two in 2020) in the past two years with a best mile of 1:50.1US that brings his total to twenty four wins world-wide for stakes close to \$600,000.



Vin and Daphne Devery collect the 2019/20 Pacing Broodmare of the Year award for Christian Dreamer

Catch the Dream, winner of two races from twelve starts, both as a four year old at Alexandra Park (1:59.8) and Manawatu Raceway for trainer Brent Mangos.

Drum Major, winner of first of only two starts as a three year old at Alexandra Park for trainer Barry Purdon who had big expectations of him before he broke down.

Amazing Dream, as the full sister to (Lets) Chase The Dream it was hardly surprising that Jean Feiss should return to make another astute purchase (\$77,500) from the Devery line-up at the 2018 Christchurch sales. Again handed to the Purdon/Rasmussen All Stars stables, Amazing Dream spent much of her two year of season playing second fiddle to 2yo Filly of the Year in Adore Me's first foal Sweet On Me. Her eight starts however yielded three wins (Group One Caduceus Club Fillies, Yearling Sales series [1:54.9, 1980m], NZSS heat) with a second placing in the Sires Stakes Fillies final and third in the Delightful Lady Classic.

Amazing Dream's NZ three year old career (eight wins from nine starts) commenced with a first up victory at Addington followed by an NZSS heat win while she really signalled her presence with a third

consecutive victory from the outside barrier of nine on NZ Cup Day at Addington against older horses in a 1:56.4MR for 1980m. Further victories followed in four Group One events - Caduceus Club Ladyship Stakes, NZSS 3yo Fillies Final, GN Oaks/Derby double with the Yearling Sales series thrown in for good measure. Amazing Dream became just the second filly to achieve the Great Northern Oaks/Derby double since the Kevin Holmes trained and driven Rippers Delight did so in 1975.

At the end of her NZ campaign as a result of the COVID 19 racing lockdown which deprived her of contesting further Group One age group races such as NZ Derby, Nevele R Fillies, NZ Oaks and Harness Jewels, Amazing Dream's record stood at eighteen starts for eleven wins (six Addington, five Alexandra Park; five Group Ones), \$625,085, 1:54.9, 1980m at two.

At the time of the HRNZ Awards for which she was named Three Year Old Filly of the Year, Amazing Dream was in the midst of an Australian campaign in Queensland. Second in her first race in late August after a 4½ month break between starts, she won her next Albion Park start in a career best 1:53.3MR (1660m).



Amazing Dream

Amazing Dream is readying to contest the Queensland Oaks before returning to NZ for a tilt at the rescheduled Nevele R Fillies final on NZ Cup Day 2020.

Established two NZ records at 1980mM 2:21.4 (2yo fillies) and 2700mM 3:16.2 (3yo fillies/mares) which together with her other achievements rate her as one of the best ever pacing fillies in NZ history.

Special Dream (2017 Bettor's Delight gelding), unraced qualifier in 2:01.7 in February 2020 for Kirk Larsen and Dream Breaker, unraced two year Art Major colt. Christian Dreamer lost a full sister to Amazing Dream while foaling and has had trouble getting back into foal thus leaving her empty for the past two years.

Christian Dreamer is a member of the North American family of Kate by Highland Chief (U301) with its NZ connection commencing when Etienne Le Lievre imported Berthabell in 1914. Berthabell's female progeny included six daughters all of whom bred on leaving large families. Many of Berthabell's male progeny were successful on the track and in the breeding barn. They included dual NZ Cup winner Peter Bingen (also NZFFA), NZ FFA winner Great Bingen, Auckland Cup/GN Derby winner Great

Parrish - all leading sires and GN Derby winner Great Peter.

From Berthabell's daughter Bell Bingen, the female tail line progressed through her unraced daughter Belita, unraced daughter Neferiti and her winning daughter Egyptian Queen who left Fallacy Queen to Christian Dreamer's fourth dam Facetious (four wins, 2:08.1, Winton Hcp). It was in the mid-nineteen seventies that the Deverys entered the breeding picture with NZ's latest Pacing Broodmare of the Year providing a Southland connection over the past five decades.

The Devery brothers Allan (trainer), Ray and Vin formed a syndicate to lease the handy Johnny Globe mare Facetious from Bangie Booth of Nightcaps, Vin's first official racing interest and foundation mare. Facetious third foal was inaugural Sires Stakes Final winner Arveeae by Lumber Dream while other foals included Facsimile (Taranaki Breeders Stakes) and unraced Ravinalan.

Third dam **Ravinalan** left three winners and while somewhat disappointing at stud she did leave the Devery's Christian Dreamer's grand dam Lumber Lie who qualified for Denice Swain at Ashburton in April 1990. Unraced, Lumber Lie was the dam of eight



foals, four of some significance, the first being Soky's Atom filly Dreamy Atom (refer below).

Lumber Lie's fourth foal was (My) Happy Golucky (Cameleon), the second Devery winner of the Leonard Memorial (Rangiora grass track) won as a maiden at her third start, going onto win a further eight races in Australia (2:00.1AUS, \$49,313). Unraced Electrify (Holmes Hanover) left Truer Memorial winner Lochinver (1:52.2, \$302,448), grand dam of Tanaka Eagle (1:54.7, \$261,411) and Islay 1:52.4US. Lumber Lie's final foal and third winner was Holmes Hanover gelding Costalot, winner of eight in NZ (Hawera/Kumeu Country Cups) and 1:54.3US in North America.

Christian Dreamer's dam **Dreamy Atom**, Lumber Lie's first foal by Soky's Atom was a wonderful filly pacer and broodmare. The winner of six from twenty one starts (1:59.2, \$108,810) for trainer Vin Devery including the first of four Leonard Memorial winners for him. This victory was after winning her first two career 2yo starts in Southland and a fourth in the Kindergarten Stakes. Her fourth two year victory in the NZSS - 2f final at Addington on Anzac Day 1994 was recorded in her final season's start. Named and awarded 1994 2yo Filly Pacer of the Year.

At three Dreamy Atom's two victories were at Invercargill and in the Sire Stakes three year old fillies final at Alexandra Park. Retired after a brief four year old stint with Barry Purdon in Auckland, she set about making her mark in the broodmare barn.

Aside from Christian Dreamer, among Dreamy Atom's twelve foals there are another six significant foals - these being :

Western Dream (Badlands Hanover filly) - winner of thirteen in NZ/one AUS, 1:56.3NZ, 2:00.2AUS, \$332,895. As a two year old she won her first five starts, four for Vin Devery including NZSS - 2f heat, Leonard Memorial (third for Devery's), Caduceus Club Southland with Devery training before Tony Herlihy handled her for three starts as trainer for two successes including Group One Caduceus Club Classic. Named and awarded 2yo Filly Pacer of the Year honours at season's end.

A further seven wins at three in NZ, the first three in consecutive starts, NZSS - 3f heat, Ladyship Stakes and NZSS - 3f Final were followed by a fifth in GN Oaks (Tosti Girl). Vin Devery trained her for the first win before she was sent north to Tony Herlihy to prepare and drive. Success in two Nevele R Fillies heats at Cambridge preceded dual Group One victories at Addington in the NZ Oaks and Nevele

R Fillies Final. NZ stake earnings at three totalled \$228,379 before Western Dream travelled to Australia for the Breeders Crown. A heat winner at Kilmore, was followed by fourth in her semi-final and seventh in the final. Western Dream was awarded 3yo Filly Pacer of the year honours. After a few starts at four without success she was retired to the breeding barn.

Western Dream was to produce seven foals for the Deverys, the last three of which were by embryo transfer. With five to race for the perfect five winners record, Western Dream's main claim to breeding fame rests with her first foal, the Christian Cullen gelding "Western Cullen". After being a buy back at the sales for the Deverys, he was gelded and sold to Perth owners P & T Poli. Western Cullen had five starts in NZ for Mark Purdon and Grant Payne for two victories in NZSS - 2 heat and Yearling Sales final plus placed second in NZSS - 2 final and thirds in Welcome Stakes and Harness Jewels (Fly Like An Eagle).

On arrival in Western Australia, Western Cullen went onto record a further seventeen victories including first start win in the two year old Group One Golden Slipper, one of nine wins at Gloucester Park. His distinguished career included a fourth in the WA Derby and sixth in Golden Nugget, amassing \$447,536 in stakes and a best mile rating of 1:55.6 (1684m, Pinjarra at three).

Happy Dreamer (Son of Afella filly) - eight NA wins, 1:57.0US, \$96,916

Dream Royale (Beach Towel filly) - winner in NZ, fourteen Queensland wins (1:56.3; Queensland Ladyship, Queen Of Hearts mares races) and seven in North America (1:53.3, \$145,068); dam of three winners in Australia including Soho Lennon, seventeen AUS (thirteen Gloucester Park, WA Nights of Thunder)/twenty five NA wins, 1:51.0US, \$617,837

Dreamy Lover (Artiscape filly) - non winning pacer, dam of Western Delight, three NZ wins, 1:51.1US, \$81,294

Exotic Stride (Badlands Hanover filly) - winner in Australia, 2:05.3; dam of two winners including Real Stride, fifteen NSW wins, 1:51.3, \$158,480

Tisadream (Bettor's Delight gelding) - her second last foal conceived when Dreamy Atom had entered her twenties, is Dreamy Atom's fastest progeny with a 1:50.0 credit at 5/8ths Plainridge racecourse, USA. Winner of thirteen in Western Australia (1:54.6AUS) and seven in North America (\$173,966)



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2020 NZ Trotting Broodmare Of Year

Una Bromac.

Peter Craig

The latest season saw a continuation of excellence in the trotting broodmare ranks which were acknowledged at the annual NZB Standardbred Harness Racing Awards evening held at Spectators Bar and Bistro, Addington Raceway on Monday 14 September 2020.

Una Bromac was named Trotting Broodmare of the Year as a result of the efforts of her Majestic Son gelded son Winterfell, the reigning Interdominion trotting champion. Una Bromac is pacing bred but she herself was an open class trotter with a distinct leaning to leaving foals of the trotting persuasion, albeit from trotting sires.

UNA BROMAC (1999f Live or Die/Universal Kim; member of NZ and Australasia's leading family, Pride of Lincoln, CF N1) : T2:05.2, \$85,222, NZ Challenge (now Lyell Creek) Stakes; eight foals/one died, six raced, four winners, all sub two minutes. Bred by Glomach Holdings; all progeny bred by Trevor Casey with exception of Caligula (Norwegian Wood Ltd) and Galway Girl (Stephen Bell, Donna Williamson, now owners of Una Bromac).

DOB	FOAL/WINS BY LOCATION	NZ	AU	G/T	MR	\$
2007	Harley (g Sundon)	0	-	0	T2:11.2q	4,001
2008	Escapee (f Sundon)	9	2	11	T1:57.4	263,115
2011	Sansa Stark (f Angus Hall)	0	-	0	T2:12.4q	86
2013	Needle (f Muscle Mass)	3	13	16	T1:57.4	122,481
2014	Winterfell (g Majestic Son)	13	-	7	T1:58.1	424,610
2015	Caligula (g Majestic Son)	-	11	4	T1:54.4	86,093
	Total foals :	25	26	51		\$900k+

** Conversion: \$A1=\$NZ1

Una Bromac an eight win open class trotter also placed on fifteen occasions in her seventy starts spread over four seasons (three to six years old). Beginning her career with Bruce Negus of Courage Under Fire fame (in partnership with Craig Parsons and Todd Woodward), Una Bromac won her very first 3yo start by a half head at the Wairio Trotting Club's meeting on 21 December 2002 (Central Southland Raceway, Winton). Placings at three included a third in NZ Trotting Oaks and fourth in NZ Trotting Derby driven by Mark Purdon. Ownership at this stage Trevor Casey, Bruce Negus, BS and Dr MR Marlow.



Trevor Casey receives the 2019/20 Trotting Broodmare of the Year Award

Trevor Casey, the Lone Star restaurant operator and well known owner/part owner of many fine pacing (Lazarus, One Change, Funatthebeach, Waikiki Beach) and trotting horses (Stent, Missandei, Luby Lou, Daenerys Targaryen) among more recent winners. His first major success came nearly three decades ago with one win pacing filly Michelle Soky, winner of the National Bloodstock International Classic Series Fillies Final at her first start on opening night of the 1991 Auckland Interdominions.

April 2004 Una Bromac scored her second win at Forbury Park for the Negus/Parsons team and again at Forbury in early June. Her two four year old victories came in a busy season of twenty four starts. At five, following her transfer to the Takanini (now Morrsville) stable of Leanne Edwards** and into the ownership of Trevor Casey alone, she placed second in the Great Northern Breeders Stakes prior to recording two victories at Alexandra Park, the first in June 2005 producing her best mile rate of T2:05.2 (2700m stand).

Two of Una Bromac's final three victories came early in her six year old career again at Alexandra Park (August /September 2005). Following these wins and a solid spell of northern form, Una Bromac raced in intermediate trotting grade without success at the 2005 NZ Cup meeting in Christchurch. Back to Alexandra Park just prior to Christmas, again in the hands of Nicole Thorn (now Molander) her driver

in all five Auckland wins, she had her eighth and final victory in the Gp 2 Challenge Stakes (now Lyell Creek Stakes). Sixth in the National Trot, fifth in City of Sails FFA and unplaced efforts in the Rowe Cup, GN Breeders Stakes and Greenlane Cup (final start) rounded out her career; T2:05.2, \$85,222 (70 : 8 - 10 - 5).

** trainer Leanne Edwards recorded five of her one hundred and eight training successes over the past thirty seven seasons with Una Bromac. Other notable training feats include her first winner Grattan Royal (pacer, won six, her first six training victories); Kylie Lee (six win trotter) and her daughter Yasmin Lee (four win NZ trotter; T1:56.2US, \$106,951); Mountain Women (five of six trotting wins for Edwards, \$84,288, second Green Lane Cup) and very good trotter Frugal Echo. He was the winner of fourteen in NZ including an ID heat at Auckland (T2:03.3, three Alexandra Park, two Addington), ten of which for Edwards after winning first four for trainers Peter Cowan [3] and Peter Jones [1], two wins in six Australian starts (T2:04.8; Cranbourne Trotters Cup) and qualifying time in North America of T2:01.3US, \$199,501. Frugal Echo was a perennial second place getter in major races such as City of Sails FFA, Rowe Cup, Ashburton Trotters Mile, NZ Trotting FFA, NZ Cup Day Trot (Christchurch Casino Trot), Dominion Hcp in NZ and Bill Collins Mile, Australian Grand Prix and Dullard Cup in Australia.

Una Bromac's dam **Universal Kim**, was a one race pacing winner at Blenheim in a 2:01.0MR. The dam of fourteen foals, four to race for four winners with Una Bromac being her first foal. Other winners included Ulrica Bromac, fourteen wins (one NZ, four AUS and nine in North America - 1:49.3US at Meadowlands on 11 May 2007, \$250,339); Violet Bromac, one win, 2:01.6NZ and final live foal Kylie Bromac, five QLD (one Albion Park), 1:55.6AUS. Ula Bromac was unraced but time trialled in 1:58.5. Apart from Una Bromac the only other filly foal produced by Universal Kim (nine in total) to be bred from has been second foal Ursula Bromac who was unraced. She left nine foals, four to race, all winners including Ushaka Bromac T1:59.3, \$144,985, leading trotter in Western Australia and Put Your Lights On, Mount Gambier Derby.

Unraced Grand dam **Kim Bromac** left Universal Kim as above while her third dam was Kenton Hanover, the winner of the first of three pacing starts for Gary Hillier. Una Bromac's female tail line continues back to Pride Of Lincoln through Bachelors Advice (descendants include Menin Gate, Allwoods Chief), Petulus (extensive family including Golden Oriole, Beefy T and latterly Havtime), NZ Oaks winner Perpetua (family of AK Cup winner Bolton Byrd), Wracks Advice, NZ Cup heat winner Free Advice (family of NZ Cup winner Invicta, successful sire brothers Horsepower - GN Derby and Pacing Power - NZ Derby, Thelma Globe AK Cup, dual Derby winner Rip Van Winkle), Intaglio, Cameos and classic producing mare Thelma. Una Bromac is twelve removes from foundation mare Pride Of Lincoln.

Una Bromac's male progeny include :

Harley, first foal of Una Bromac, non-winner, placed on three occasions from twenty five starts over four seasons for Philippa Wakelin and Stephen Noble

Winterfell, current star trotter for breeder/owner Trevor Casey, Winterfell is the winner of thirteen from thirty starts, five of them in the latest season (13 : 5 - 2 - 2, \$188,005, second highest stake earning trotter of 2019/20 (Habibi Inta \$199,938). Last seasons victories included Auckland Interdominion Trotters Grand Final (two Gp 3 heats) and National Trot, both at Group One level plus a handicap trot at Addington. He was placed second in the 4/5yo Trotting Championship and third in the Cambridge Flying Stakes.

Winterfell was previously the winner of eight at three and three at four for trainers Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen. Of his thirteen victories, six each have been at Addington and Alexandra Park. Earlier season's major victories include GN Trotting Derby, Jewels Ruby - 3T and NZSS - 3T (prelude and final) with seconds in NZ Trotting Derby, Summer Trotting FFA, Jewels Ruby - 4T and third in 4/5yo Trotting Championship.

Winterfell attained his best mile time of T1:58.1 when winning his opening Interdominion heat at Alexandra Park over 2200mM in late November





Winterfell

2019. In his third round heat win at the Auckland ID's, Winterfell established a NZ record for 2700m T3:20.5/ T1:59.5MR. Already named NZ three year old colt and gelding Trotter of Year as well as 3yo stake earning trotter of year two seasons ago, Winterfell recently added 2020 Trotter of the Year to his awards collection.

Caligula, eleven win trotter in Australia that was purchased as a yearling at the 2017 NZ Premier Yearling Sales by David White (\$17,500) before export to Australia. In his thirty two starts, ten of eleven NSW victories at Menangle, best of T1:54.4 an Australian trotters gelding mile record (one of four times of T1:56.0 or better; T1:56.0 at three), winner of Foundation Series – 3T while his other win was at Bathurst in the 2019 3yo Gold Coronet. He placed fourth in NSW Trotters Derby. Four of his victories have been achieved in the latest Australian season from thirteen starts (13 : 4 – 1 – 3, \$31,260, T1:54.4).

Una Bromac's fillies include :

Escapee (My Escapee in Australia), nine NZ wins (winner at two; eight at three; four at Addington, two Alexandra Park) and ten placings from thirty five starts, T1:59.5 (placed T1:54.6), two NZ Group Ones GN/NZ Trotting Derbies, two Group Threes NZ Trotting Oaks and Hambletonian. Seconds in Jewels Ruby – 2T/4T, NZ Trotting FFA, Lyell Creek Stakes and Cambridge Trotters Flying Mile.

Escapee established NZ records over distances of 2200m stand at Forbury Park (2yo T2:56.9, 2011) and 2700m mobile at Alexandra Park (3yo T3:26.5, 2013 remains NZ trotting fillies/mares record).

Awarded NZ two/three Trotting Filly of Year and four year old Trotting Mare of Year titles. Her two Australian wins from four starts included Bendigo Maori Mile (Gp2) and Melton Trotters Cup (Gp3), T1:57.4. Escapee retired with combined Australasian earnings of \$263,115. To date, she has left four foals for breeder Trevor Casey, winner La Reina Del Sur (T2:08.8), placed non-winner Alcatraz and fillies by Muscle Hill (Exit, being bred from) and Father Patrick (yearling).



Escapee, (NZ 2700m 3yo trotters record; drew twelve in twelve horse field i.e. outside second line)

Sansa Stark, a solitary unplaced start as a three year old from Colin and Julie De Filippi's stable. To date has left one foal, a Windsong Espoir filly for owner Richard Woolford

Needle, three wins in NZ (T2:05.6) when trained by Colin and Julie De Filippi (one at Addington) for breeder/owner Trevor Casey with significant third placings in Ashburton 3yo Hambletonian and NZSS 3yo Trot prelude. Thirteen QLD wins with twelve at Albion Park (nine in first ten Australian starts), Jim McNeill Memorial Trot (Gp3), QLD February Trotters Cup and placed third in DJA Memorial (Gp2). Best time of T1:57.4 (1660m) at Albion Park with earnings of \$122,481

Galway Girl, unraced Majestic Son three year old filly and Una Bromac was served by What The Hill in January 2020.



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Wai Eyre Farm Looking To The Future.

Jess Smith

It would be fair to say that every breeder in harness racing has started off with a dream of some description.

Be that to breed a winner of the New Zealand Cup, an Oaks or a Derby, or even just your local Country Cup.

Wai Eyre Stud Farm itself started off Mike Brown's harness racing dream in 1968, and is now helping that possibility become more accessible to breeders, thanks to some forward thinking by the team at Wai Eyre and the owners of its resident stallions.

The Racing Recovery Special stud fees recently announced by Wai Eyre Farm on social media have been met with extremely positive feedback, with pacing stallions Sky Major and Buy Kiwi Made to stand for just \$500 plus GST, trotting stallion Master Glide for \$1250 plus GST and One Over Da Moon offering an up to 40 percent discount on his \$2,500 plus GST fee.

This is being well received, and bookings are rolling in for the stallions. The farm charges have remained the same to help breeders as well in these tough times. Wai Eyre also offer clients a prompt payment discount off all charges, which means breeders can greatly reduce their breeding costs by simply paying their accounts on time to get the discount.

Farm Manager, Darryl Brown, said the move was a bid to help breeders in such testing economic times.

"I talked to Trevor Casey (co-owner of Sky Major) and Lex and Heather Williams (owners of One Over Da Moon), and Trevor mentioned that years ago they did this with Vance Hanover, they brought his stud fee down to \$500," Darryl explained.

"Trevor said he felt people are really going to battle going forward in racing, so if we drop Sky Major's fee it gives anyone a chance to go to a stallion that is well enough bred, and equal to other stallions who are currently standing for three, four or even five thousand dollars."

"He said why not give everyone a chance? It will help the stallion and help breeders also."

"He also thought maybe some people might think it would be the wrong thing to do, but in his own business he's finding things hard in the current climate and felt that probably everyone else would be too. So that was the reason behind the Racing Recovery Special."

Darryl explained that Sky Major had been previously well supported, and being in his third year at stud the former three-time Harness Jewels winner could now face some challenges, as most stallions did at this stage of their stud career.

"That was another reason to look at offering him at a competitive price. It's a chance to lower the fee and really give breeders, and the horse, a decent crack," he said.

"He's left some really nice foals, and a lot of them have been broken in recently and they are looking really good."

Being able to work with stallion owners who are opened minded and willing to look outside the square was a big bonus for a stud farm, Darryl said.

"To be able to pick up the phone and talk to owners who are just down the road, or not too far away, where you can talk about the plan going forward and be able to talk with them about the situation and a plan going forward was a huge advantage," he noted.

Sky Major is the first and only horse to ever win three Harness Jewels races, and being a son of Art Major out of an In The Pocket mare, the former two-year-old pacer of the year and former Chariots of Fire winner boasts an impressive resume with 15 wins in New Zealand and Australia and also three wins in North America.

Buy Kiwi Made hit headlines around Australasia when his first foal, from just four sired at that stage, Sociable, won the Queensland Oaks. The half brother to Kiwi Ingenuity, Buy Kiwi Made is by Presidential Ball and offers a family tree of talent and a strike rate and a great opportunity for those with mares who have proven family crosses with Presidential Ball himself.

A superb racehorse on the track, One Over Da Moon has also had an outstanding start to his stallion career. The son of trotting queen, One Over Kenny, his first two foals have both been success stories on the track, with One Apollo collecting seven wins including the New Zealand Sales Series 2yo Final and last season's Group 3, 4 and 5YO Trotting Championship, and Da Moon's Mission winning 2 and placing in 3 of just 10 careers starts to date.

Master Glide also offers trotting breeders the unique opportunity to access both a proven sire and dam line in his family tree. An unraced full brother to Hambletonian Oaks winner, Passionate Glide, Master

Glide is the only son of Yankee Glide available in the southern hemisphere, himself the sire of Hambletonian winner Glidemaster, while the maternal side boasts names such as Muscle Mass and Muscle Massive.

The Wai Eyre team see the Racing Recovery Special as not only a great opportunity for current breeders, but for those who have always wanted to breed a horse before, but could not afford a large stud fee along with the other costs involved in breeding a foal.

With the ability now to lease mares or purchase them affordably via auctions such as Gavelhouse, it is the perfect time for those who were contemplating breeding a horse previously, now to do so.

"We've got an awesome team at the farm that will help walk first time breeders through the process," Darryl explained.

Signs at this early time were looking positive, with the Racing Recovery Special sparking interest and reigniting the flame for some breeders who had previously stepped away from breeding.

"We've had a lot of support already this early in the breeding season. With Lisa Clark and Nicole Thomas running the equine side of the farm, now that I've turned more of a focus to the cattle and shingle operations, we have noticed how hugely customer focused our service has become. They're making a really good job of it."

"The client communication from Lisa has been fantastic, and Nicole is an excellent stud manager, we're finding that our customers are feeling like they really matter and they're not just a number."

"They're extremely approachable and dedicated to our customers and it's great to see a lot of breeders who have not bred a horse for a long time returning because they have spoken to our team and found that we can offer exactly what their mare requires, even those with issues or needing special services via our vet team, led by Andrew Bailey of Rangiora Vet Centre."

Wai Eyre's proud equine and farming history can be traced back to Darryl's father, Mike Brown, being involved with Clydesdales on his father's farm, in Ohoka.

When Mike and his wife Peta purchased land north of the Waimakariri River to fatten cattle and grow crops in 1968, Mike was soon able to realise his own lifelong dream to own a racehorse. Cashing in his life insurance

policy to purchase a filly he named Wai Eyre (derived from the names of the two rivers near the farm, the Waimakariri and Eyre rivers), who won four races for him and is now an integral part of his broodmare bloodline, being the third dam of 12 win pacer, Johnny Eyre.

In 1985 Darryl joined his father in partnership, and the pair have seen the farm develop into a respected multi purpose property, and develop their services from beef and deer to incorporate equine agistment and breeding services. Including the implementation in 1992 of becoming a semen transport base for the North Island with National Bloodstock, and standing the incomparable Christian Cullen on farm.

The farm has been continually developed since those early years to provide purpose built facilities for the horses, including mare breeding facilities, stallion paddocks and collection facilities. The property is nearly all deer fenced with electric out-riggers, providing safe fencing for the horses. Fenced laneways provide easy movement of stock around the farm. Good shelter has been established on the farm providing shelter from prevailing winds and shade.

Careful farm practices provide quality pasture that stock and horses thrive on. With over 100 paddocks, the horses and cattle are rotated around paddocks to ensure that they are always provided with quality grass. Hay and balage is made on the farm, or purchased in if needed, for feeding out to stock in winter or in dry summers to ensure stock is fully fed all year around. Extensive irrigation systems provide grass in even the driest of summers.

Now with 1000 cattle farmed on the property, and a shingle operation providing crusher dust for local tracks and arenas, Darryl has turned his attention to making Wai Eyre a more sustainable farm, looking ahead to the future of farming, focusing on regeneration and variation of pasture.

"I'm looking further down the track in terms of farm regeneration, farming compliance and also making it a more environmentally friendly type of farming. Including looking at different species that are suitable for horses and feeding," he explained.

For now though, the Wai Eyre team are set for an exciting breeding and foaling season ahead, with the first foals due on the ground very soon.

And the exciting prospect of helping to deliver the next dream result for the harness racing industry.



Two's In Training.

As we head into the new season we caught up with a number of trainers around the country to find out how their early two-year-olds were progressing and asked them to identify one or two that they liked. Here's what they had to say;

Brad Reid

GAVIN SMITH

Unnamed | colt by Sweet Lou x Styxler (Christian Cullen)

Styx is a good gaited strong Sweet Lou that has had a couple extra preps as we got him as a weanling. He has good speed & takes nothing seriously, he's the class clown.

Unnamed | filly by Vincent x Scarlett Banner (Bettor's Delight)

Scarlett Banner wasn't the best first time mum & didn't have great milk so this filly is a bit weak still but starting to catch up. She has a good attitude towards work & wants to get on with the job.

Unnamed | filly by Vincent x Allison Stokke (Bettor's Delight)

This filly is a nice wee pacer & a nuggety strong early type so a good sign if that's what Vincent will leave. She's very laid back about life like her mother was.

BOB BUTT

Major Christian | colt by Art Major x Christian Creek (Christian Cullen)

I don't have a great bunch of two-year-olds at the moment but this guy is the stand out and being a half to Wainui Creek he has the breeding too. He is really well gaited and has a fair bit of speed which should put him in good stead for the future.

RAY GREEN

Toe The Line | colt by Betting Line x Arden Caviar (Rocknroll Hanover)

We paid \$20,000 for him at the Yearling Sales in Christchurch. He's a good pacer and is showing a lot of ability actually. He's tipped out at the moment but he's heading towards being an early type who we were pointing towards the Young Guns series. He's not a big horse but he's a nice pacer that feels speedy and has run a quarter in 30 pulling a big heavy cart which is very promising this early on.

Louie LeBeau | colt by American Ideal x Unlikely Lady (Artsplace)

He's another American Ideal that we have essentially stolen from the sales. He gives you the great feel of a lovely pacer and his attitude is great and I like him a lot. He's one of my favourite horses at the

moment. He's a fine boned colt but he's gunna be a rangey type of horse and he could grow quite tall but he's good gaited and a great pacer, as most of the American ideals are.

REGAN TODD

Street Hawk | Bettor's Delight – Rackateers Girl (Falcon Seelster)

"I purchased him the Yearling Sales in Auckland for \$45,000 for a syndicate involving Phil & Glenys Kennard. He's a nice wee colt and I'm hoping to have him up and going early and potentially at the trials around Cup Week.

Sweet Spirit | Sweet Lou – Major Spirit (Art Major)

"She's the best of the fillies we have so far, we bought her in Auckland out of the Woodlands Draft for \$52,500. She's on the path to hopefully qualifying early and like the colt, see if they are going to measure up with the good ones.

MARK JONES

Hiranya | colt by Bettor's Delight x Holme Fire (Courage Under Fire)

He's just your typical Bettor's Delight colt. Laid back and a natural early going horse with a great gait and seems like he will make the grade.

Kowhai Sunset | colt by Creatine x Kowhai Sunrise (Sundon)

This is the first Creatine I have ever had and the reports on them seem to be quite good. He's a half to Kowhai Sundown whose won three and is a lovely horse with a great way of going and I wouldn't be surprised to see him at the races early.

JACK HARRINGTON

Miss Yo | filly by Peak x Toomuch To Do (Revenue)

This filly is just a straight out natural trotter that finds every bit of work we put in front of her easy. Obviously now has a bit to live up to given the exploits of her sister Hey Yo and brother Bolt For Brilliance but the early signs are very encouraging.

BRENT MACINTYRE

Valentina | filly by Somebeachsomewhere x Asajah (Christian Cullen)

We have a lovely filly that is a full sister to the 11 win mare (Queen) Shenandoah. She's out in the paddock

at the moment and will be coming in for another prep shortly. She's a real natural and we really like her and would be the pick of our bunch. She's a lot better natured than her sister who could be a bit toey, but she is laid back and gives you a great feel. A long way to go though!

Tom Bagrie

Dannemora | Betting Line x Gracy Lady (Christian Cullen)

I have a Betting Line that I really like out of a half-sister to Kabet and Spring Campaign. She's a real professional that I'm hoping to make a two-year old.

Unnamed | Rock N Roll Heaven x Valiant Heart (Soky's Atom)

Dads got a really nice Rock N Roll Heaven half-brother to Bettor's Heart who will need a bit of time but seems to have a bit of class. Big free going type who gets over the ground really well.

Bruce Hutton

Signal Hill | Muscle Hill x Peace Seeker (CR Commando)

He's out of a half-sister to Speeding Spur and although he hasn't done a lot yet, he gives you the feeling of a very classy trotter. I syndicated him to a bunch of guys from North America and while he doesn't have a yearling sales physique, he has the manners and style to suggest he will go early.

Unnamed | Love You x Luminosity (Muscle Hill)

His mother finally won her maiden this month and while she didn't beat a lot, she did it in a way that suggests she will win more races. The colt hasn't learned to properly trot yet, but Greg Hope has told me not to worry about that.

He runs to the gate to be worked and plays with the lead when he's being jogged up. I'm excited about him.

Trent Yesberg

Warhol | colt by Art Major x Alta Camilla (In The Pocket)

He was an \$80,000 yearling sales purchase from the draft I prepared for last year's yearling sales. He's the ultimate professional, gait attitude and type all rolled into one. He's not a big horse but when he does he feels effortless. I let him roll in his last work before a spell and went a mile in 2.14 1/4 in 29 with ease.

Alan Clark

Night Watch | filly by Imperial Count x Dark Ops (CR Commando)

This filly is in a qualifier tomorrow (15th Sep) at Oamaru and consistently works 5 seconds under over 2000 or 2400 metres and has run me a half in under a minute on my 800m track at home. Watch this space!

Brad Williamson

Unnamed | colt by Bacardi Lindy x Rugged Cross (Sundon)

This filly is showing more ability than the two Muscle Hill yearlings I purchased at the sales at this stage. She's a half-sister to Rugged Peak out of the Janet's Pride family and is well gaited, and feels like the ability is there. Just needs to keep improving.

Ben Hope

We have a Sweet Lou colt out of Shards Fantasy (Pacific Rocket) called Celtic Sprit and a Love You out of Superbowlcheerleader (Sundon) called Bowlm Out. Both were purchased from the yearling sales in Christchurch and have shown a bit of promise and look like they will both make nice race horses.

We also have a Muscle Hill out of Classic Ambro (Ambro Invasion) called Instant Classic that goes around nice as well. He was a \$90,000 yearling sales purchase for Ian Dobson out of the Breckon Farms draft and is a half to Sertorius and a full brother to I See Fire.

Mitchell Kerr

Bubba Scrub | colt by He's Watching x Hip Pocket (In the Pocket)

A very natural two-year-old who has a lot of potential. Unfortunately has had a few hock chips removed, so that will stop him being an early type but hopefully not from being a race horse. Has a big future if we can keep him right, that's for sure.

A Classical Act | colt by Betting Line x A Christian Act (Christian Cullen)

This colt is a half-brother to the Group Two winner, A Bettor Act. He has all the ability and a great all round package. Unfortunately is very cheeky and has a few tricks so is likely to lose his man hood in the short term! Nice horse for the future and another one from the dam that is showing a lot of ability.



Stonewall Stud: A Growing Empire In Harness Racing.

Jess Smith

When it comes to getting new owners hooked on harness racing, the Stonewall Stud team could not have dreamed of a better start to a racing ownership experience.

Currently with nine winners and sixteen placings to their name for the season, trainers Steve and Amanda Telfer have already given their syndicate members multiple thrills, and are sitting in third equal position on the national trainers premiership.

Syndication had previously been a part of the Stonewall ownership model with its fillies, but it was a move to purchasing at the yearling sales that saw the promotion side flourish.

"We started the syndication as we were looking to expand our ownership base, we have been syndicating our own fillies for many years now and found that it is hard to get new owners to take on large shares," explains Jill Stockman, co-owner of Stonewall Stud.

"So what we have found is that we will go and buy yearlings from the sales, and syndicate them from there. Last year we probably didn't get the advertising thing quite right, so this year we were really on the ball and had the ads in the newspaper by early March, from that we got an immediate response."

Jill found that once the myth around the affordability of ownership was dispelled with the syndication model, it made it easier to get new owners to the game onboard.

"Syndication has made it affordable for everyone, and we have had new owners come onboard when they knew it was easy to get involved. They've really enjoyed the experience. The people that got involved last year were happy and came back on board again this year. It's great to see."

To be able to share the winning experience with others and make new friends has been an even greater success in Jill's eyes.

"We have a group that go to the races at Auckland every week, and they have made some great friendships."

"We are just rapt we were able to get some wins for our new syndicate members, they are over the moon. It's a shame they can't be on course as much at the moment with Covid, but I got an email from a lady in Tauranga after Show Me Heaven won last weekend at Addington, and she was just elated."

With Cyamach the most successful yearling sales purchase, earning over \$500,000 for the team, Stonewall Stud will be hoping they have found another like him in their recent purchases.

Now with a new barn currently being built on the farm, and the size of the training operation growing, Stonewall Stud have opted to have their mares foal off farm.

The Stud retains a majority share in their fillies when racing, and have been able to breed from some mares with outstanding track records, including mares they have bred themselves.

Stonewall Stud were also the breeders of Dancinonmoonlight, who they sold as a two-year-old and went on to earn over \$400,000.

Bettor B Amazed was bred by Stonewall Stud, and amassed an outstanding total of 18 wins in just 50 career starts.

The daughter of Bettor's Delight was a winner of the Group Two Premier Mares Championship as a five year old, and has had a yearling filly by Art Major, and also recently foaled a filly by the same sire.

13 race winner, Step Up, has been racing in Australia and will retire to the broodmare paddock this spring.

"Step Up was raced with one of our big syndicates and we have left her in Australia to be served by Captaintreacherous, and then she will come home," Jill said. "We are extremely excited to send her to a stallion like him, given the amazing job she has done for us and the syndicate on the track."

Among other mares due this season include Rocknroll Princess (in foal to Art Major), Charioteer (in foal to A Rocknroll Dance), Jubilee Princess (in foal to Always B Miki) and Rhythmic Rose (in foal to Downbytheseaside).

And when it comes to the important task of matching mares with the right stud, that's left up to Jill's expert judgement.

"I pretty much do all of the stallion selection. I will work out who I think we should be going to, and then the team will have a meeting to talk it over."

"I like to have a look at the pedigrees and do a bit of research, I really enjoy that aspect of breeding."

"There are certain crosses I like to see. History is a great tool when it comes to showing us what works and what doesn't. I like to follow a lot of what is happening in North America and that helps with making up my mind."

And for Jill, there has been one stallion of particular interest to her in the upcoming breeding season, despite her usual selection criteria.

"We don't often go to first season stallions, but we have supported some in recent seasons. And this year we are breeding seven to Captain Crunch. We are really excited to be able to get our mares into him at a reasonable price."

"This year I have elected not to breed to stallions based in Australia, just because of the uncertainty with the delivery of semen at this stage with what is going on with Covid. I was very happy to see he will be standing in New Zealand."

Jill's attention may be on the North American harness racing scene when it comes to breeding, but the team have had other reasons to tune in of late too.

"We watch quite a bit of the racing in North America at Woodbine and the Meadowlands, and since we sold Ivana Flybye up to Canada we have formed a great relationship with her new owner, Mike Tanev, which has actually resulted in him buying in to her half-brother by Downbytheseaside," Jill said.

"It's awesome to make friends all over the world through harness racing, and we even have syndicate members in America, Canada and all over Australia. It's just so cool to have people involved with a common passion for the sport."



Stonewall Stud Yearling Sale purchase, Show Me Heaven winning at Addington this month

So where is this breeding and racing journey headed for Jill and the Stonewall Stud team?

"My goal as a breeder would definitely be to breed Group One winners. That's the dream anyway, and hopefully one day we'll be able to do that and share the excitement with all of our owners."

"But the best part about being involved in the breeding industry is to see a horse win a race, no matter where it is. To be involved in the stallion selection, the breeding, and raising a foal right up to becoming a racehorse is such a wonderful journey, it really is so rewarding."

Of course, with the highs and lows of harness racing and being involved as a breeder, Jill knows exactly how hard it is to label one horse above another.

But she appreciates the sentimental highs when they arrive.

"I don't really have a favourite win as such, but any time that Parker wins it is always special, he was a foal that we had to get a foster mare for. That makes it all worthwhile right there."



Lazarus Ready To Make Amends.

Jonny Turner

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

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

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

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

"He is leaving really strong, muscular foals that look like real athletes."

"And they are of a good size – Lazarus might have looked like a smaller horse on the track because of his head carriage but he is 16 hands."

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

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

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

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

Lazarus headed back Down Under after serving 136 mares at Deo Volente Farms in New Jersey in the recently completing Northern Hemisphere breeding season.

The Bettor's Delight stallion will soon be out to make amends for a less than ideal first season at stud in Australasia.

The exact cause of Lazarus' low conceptions rates in the 2019-20 breeding season has never been pinpointed despite extensive testing, Curtin said.

But, given the stallion produced strong in-foal rates directly after returning to North America, suggests the issue has been resolved.

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

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

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

"The vets however were confident the problem would resolve, which has been proven to be correct with Lazarus finishing the 2020 northern hemisphere season with a conception rate of 85%."

"Every possible measure has been taken to mirror the conditions Lazarus has become accustomed to in the US."

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

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

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

Breeders who send their mares to Lazarus will be put in a novel position when their foals hit the ground.

By then Lazarus will have 2yr-olds that will have hit the tracks in North America.

"When these foals are born he will have 2yr-olds racing in North America."

"That has never happened before for a Down Under bred stallion."

"So that is going to be pretty exciting for people who breed to him this year."

Lazarus stands at Yirribee Stud in New South Wales and is available to breeders throughout Australasia for a fee of \$8000 including GST in both countries. Breeders that sent mares to the sire last year can access a fee of \$6000 including GST.

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Service Fee \$8,000 incl. gst



2019/20 NZ Trotting Stallion Of The Year.

Brad Reid

All Ages: First in Stakes Won & Winners

Won	\$1,574,280
Starters	135
Foals	487
Winners	74
Starts	1156
Wins	125
Placings	221

Majestic Son took out his third New Zealand Trotting Stallion of the Year award on the back of some strong Open Class results.

In the past it has been the dominance of his juveniles that have seen Majestic Son get a jump on his opposition.

Despite Sundees Son having won three Group Ones at four and New Zealand Trotter of the Year, one of the few knocks on Majestic Son was that his progeny had failed to go on a do a job beyond their two and three year old seasons.

This season saw a lot of talented Majestic Son progeny making the leap to Open Class and making a name for themselves, putting to bed any speculation about the great sire he has become.

Group Racing Winners

- **Oscar Bonavena:** Canterbury Park Trotting Cup (G3), Trotters Flying Mile (G2), Cambridge Trotters Flying Stakes (G3)
- **Sundees Son:** Ordeal Trotting Cup (G3)
- **Winterfell:** Interdominion Trotting Heat 2 & 6 (G3), Interdominion Trotting Final (G1), National Trot (G1)
- **Majestic Man:** Interdominion Trotting Heat 5 (G3)
- **Pretty Majestic:** Northern Trotting Breeders Stakes (G3)

Group Racing Placegetters

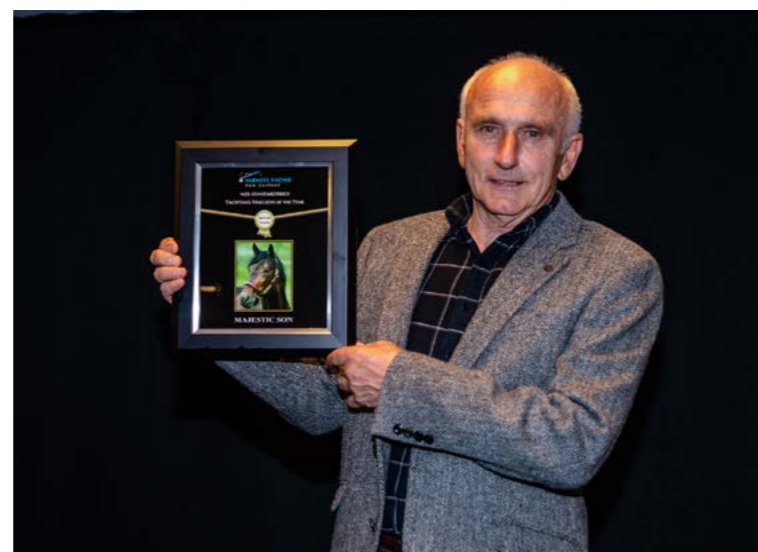
- **Valloria:** 2nd D G Jones Trotting Cup (G3), 3rd Canterbury Park Trotting Cup (G3)
- **Majestic Man:** 3rd Interdominion Trotting Heat 2 & 6 (G3), 2nd Interdominion Trotting Final (G1), 2nd National Trot (G1)

- **Oscar Bonavena:** 3rd National Trot (G1)
- **Winterfell:** 3rd Cambridge Trotters Flying Stakes (G3), 2nd 4 & 5YO Championship (G3)
- **One Majic Kenny:** 2nd Hambletonian (G3)
- **Pretty Majestic:** 2nd Greenlane Cup (G3)
- **Chevron Action:** 2nd NZ Trotting Oaks (G2)

Even with a number of the feature trotting races cancelled due to Covid and the shortening of the season, he managed to increase his number of wins by four from the previous season and was only \$200,000 shy of his 2018/19 stake money earned.

The Breeders Crown winning son of Angus Hall has taken advantage of the numbers he has received thanks to being one of the few fresh options available.

Coupling his fresh semen with his affordable pricing and high fertility has seen Majestic Son serve some fantastic books and having served 105 in 2020, he will feature in conversations for leading Trotting Stallion for many years to come.



Ivan Behrnes receives the Trotting Stallion of the Year Award for Majestic Son

2019/20 NZ Pacing Stallion Of The Year.

Brad Reid

All Ages: First in Stakes Won & Winners

Won	\$5,569,954
Starters	330
Foals	2256
Winners	189
Starts	2649
Wins	344
Placings	598

Bettor's Delight has now won a record breaking 10th Pacing Stallion of the Year accolade and if the below results are anything to go by, the champion son of Cam's Card Shark is far from done yet.

In being crowned this year's winner, he has overtaken the great Vance Hanover (9) for most wins of this prestigious award.

You simply run out of superlatives when looking for words to describe Bettor's Delight. He has well and truly earned his moniker 'The King'.

Further to his results below, he was the leading money winning sire for two & three year olds as well as the All Age pacers.

You have to go back to the 2104 season to find the last time in which this wasn't the case!

- **Classie Brigade:** Maurice Holmes Vase (G2), Kaikoura Cup (G2)
- **Spankem:** Hannon Memorial (G3), Flying Stakes (G2), Canterbury Classic (G2)
- **One Change:** Sires Stakes Final (G1), 3YO Yearling Sales Open (L)
- **Ultimate Sniper:** Living Springs FFA (G3), ID Pacing Heat 2,4 & 6 (G3), ID Pacing Final (G1)
- **Wainui Creek:** Sires Stakes Mares Classic (L), NZ Breeders Stakes (G1)
- **Belle Of Montana:** Northern Mares Classic (G3), Queen of Hearts (G1)
- **Another Masterpiece:** ID Consolation (F), Summer Cup (G3), Superstars Championship (G2)
- **Amazing Dream:** Northern Derby (G1), Northern

Oaks (G1), Peter Breckon Memorial (G1), Sires Stakes Fillies Final (G1), Yearling Sales Fillies Final (L)

- **Self Assured:** Auckland Cup (G1)
- **Dadndave:** Invercargill Cup (G3)
- **Princess Tiffany:** Premiere Mares Championship (G2)
- **Krug:** Sapling Stakes (G3), Cardigan Bay Stakes (G1)
- **Henry Hubert:** Northern Southland Cup (G3)
- **First Class:** Kindergarten Stakes (G3)

Furthermore, Bettor's Delight sired eight group Race quinellas, three of which were at group One Level. They were the Auckland Cup, Peter Breckon Memorial and NZ breeders Stakes. He also sired nine Group Race trifectas in the 2019/20 season, three of which were at Group One Level being the Queen of Hearts, Northern Oaks and Sires Stakes Fillies final.

Results like those in the female classics will only further enhance the legacy of the great stallion as more of his high class daughters head off to stud.

He now sets his sights on becoming one of only two stallions to be leading sire and leading broodmare sire in the same year.



Andrew Grierson and Stacey White receive the record breaking 10th award for Bettor's Delight



Sires' Stakes Update.

Harness Racing's Seven-Figure Spring

What's being hailed as "The Million Dollar Spring" has been confirmed for Auckland and Christchurch.

Stakes for eighteen races have been announced for the country's best two and three-year old pacers and trotters.

The New Zealand Bloodstock Harness Million for two-year-old colts and geldings is the table-topper with a stake of \$200,000 at Alexandra Park on September 25. The Garrard's NZ 2YO Sires Stakes Final will be held the previous Friday for \$140,000.

The fillies will be chasing \$150,000 in the two-year-old NZB Standardbred Harness Million at Addington on Friday October 2, while the \$120,000 Magness Benrow Group One Sires Stakes Fillies Championship will be held at Alexandra Park on October 30.

The races were re-scheduled after the COVID-19 pandemic brought racing to a halt in March and forced some feature age-group races to be postponed.

On New Zealand Cup day (November 10) the Group One Nevele R Series Final will be decided with a stake of \$100,000.

The richest race for the trotters will be the \$85,000 PGG Wrightson 3YO final at Alexandra Park on October 9 while the Haras des Trotteurs Sires Stakes Championship for the two-year-olds is scheduled for Friday October 16 at Addington.

In all stake money will top \$1.13m.

"It's taken a lot of hard work to get where we are and it's going to be a hugely exciting time," says New Zealand Bloodstock Standardbred Advisor Bruce Barlass.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In 1992 Dr Charles Roberts and his veterinary partner Dr Andrew Grierson established Woodlands Stud. It was named after the original farm it's sited on in Clevedon that dates back to the 1960s.

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

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

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

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

Heat 1 : Addington, Thursday, October 8 2020
Heat 2 : Cambridge, Thursday, October 15 2020
Heat 3 : Addington, Friday, October 16 2020
Heat 4 : Alexandra Park, Friday, October 23, 2020
Heat 5 : Ashburton, Monday, October 26, 2020
Group One Final : Addington (NZ Cup day), Tuesday, November 10 2020

Silver : Addington, Friday, November 27 2020
Harness 7000 : Addington, Friday, February 12 2021

The Board also wishes to thank their loyal stable of sponsors for their support and is looking forward to continuing these partnerships in our future races.

"Fully supporting each other through these challenging times will provide better outcomes for us all as the Industry looks to rebound from the effects of COVID-19" concluded Martin Pierson, Sires Stakes Executive.



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Empire Stallions: New Boys Delivering In North America.

Jonny Turner

The emergence of Betting Line's two-year-olds in North America has Empire Stallions hopeful it has a second pin up sire in their ranks this breeding season.

There are few prizes for guessing who the first one is – the most sought after pacing stallion in the world in Captaintreacherous.

He needs no introduction after leading every two and three-year-old pacing category going in North America and with his progeny being the hottest of commodities at this year's yearling sales in New Zealand.

His incredible momentum has translated in to the superstar stallion not only being booked out in Australasia for this season, but also being in the rare and possibly never before seen position of filling up his book for next spring.

"He was booked out very early and we are still getting enquiries," Empire Stallions general manager David James said.

"But, there is next year and we have started on expressions of interest for next season already, which is incredible."

There were just 94 live Captaintreacherous foals in New Zealand leading in to the upcoming breeding season.

There will be around 60 mares served here this season with a split of around 50-50 split with Australia of the limit of 120 mares the sire's owners have limited him to Down Under.

Empire Stallions hope to be in the similar position with Betting Line next year as they are with Captain Treacherous right now, minus those restrictions.

James thinks Betting Line could be, with the platform the son of Bettor's Delight has laid following the progress of the very first of his progeny that have hit the crop in North America.

"Keeping in mind that 140 is the maximum number any stallion can breed in the United States, Betting Line had 119 foals – those are his first crop of two-year-olds that are currently racing."

"In less than two months he had 90 starters, he was second amongst all stallions, one had 91 and that was Somebeachsomewhere."

"He is in a terrific position, for a first crop to have 90 starters from just 119 foals is just sensational."

"It does shows you how great gaited they are, how sound they are and how they can get around any size track."

"And they are racing and competing mainly in the state of Pennsylvania in the sires stakes, which is the home of Captaintreacherous and Somebeachsomewhere and on and on."

"So, he is a very competitive horse and the people love them."

"They are easy to break in and get going, so I am looking forward to seeing what they can do here."

Like Captaintreacherous, Betting Line has a relatively small number of 41 foals on the ground in New Zealand ahead of the upcoming breeding season.

His numbers are set to grow with the sire's results from North America and his strong sales results in New Zealand earlier this year encouraging breeders to support him.

"Betting Line is getting close to being full – he is not full at the moment – but he is getting close," James said.

"I think you are going to be shocked with what Betting Line is going to do here this year, he is going to set the racing world alight."

James has suggested there is a real positive for Betting Line's supporters from a practical standpoint heading in to the breeding season.

The general manager believes the stallion can offer some form of certainty in what is set to be a tricky COVID 19 climate.

"Frozen semen has been more widely accepted everywhere of late and it has been very, very successful."

"For example, Betting Line had an 86.7% success rate [in Australasia] with frozen semen last year."

"I think in this day and age frozen semen is going to be a bit of an advantage."

"I think we are going to find that shipping fresh chilled semen this season, with COVID19 and all the restrictions on state lines and country borders and that type of thing – it is going to be somewhat difficult."

"Frozen semen is already at the farms waiting for the mares to come to be served."

"As opposed to the farms having to call for it when they are ready."

All of the sires Empire Stallions will offer in New Zealand and Australia will exclusively be available via frozen semen this year.

They include a new addition to the line up in Stay Hungry.

A stablemate of Captaintreacherous and Betting Line at Hanover Shoe Farms in Pennsylvania, the son of Somebeachsomewhere seemed a good fit for Empire.

"With the passing of Somebeachsomewhere, a year ago this past January, I was looking for another stallion to stand here," James said.

"Stand Hungry was a horse that I really did like on the racetrack."

"He could race from behind, he could race in front, he just appealed to me."

"He is just a beautiful 15.3½ hands, he wore almost no equipment racing – he never wore any boots – I just loved everything about him."

Stay Hungry brings a standout pedigree Down Under and comes from a strong maternal line.

A two-year-old horse of the year and Breeder's Crown winner, the Somebeachsomewhere sire is from \$US2.3million earner, two-year-old filly of the year and aged mare of the year, My Little Dragon.

"Her pedigree matches up very well with most pedigrees in Australia and New Zealand," James said.

"It is the family of Delinquent Account, the dam of Artiscape, who was a pacing mare of the year herself."

"Arterra, the dam of Western Terror is in that family as well."

"It is a family that really does appeal to breeders once they have a good look at it."

Stay Hungry has just produced his first live foals in North America and the reports on them are positive.

"His first two seasons at Hanover Farms he bred 140 mares – the maximum," James said.

"He has one crop that foaled this year and they are lovely foals."

"I have had 20 people that have them tell me they just love them."

"They're big shouldered and athletic looking, a nice girth to them, they are very impressed with them."

"They have just been weaned, in the last 30 days or so, so we will watch them between now and the end of the year."

The late siring great Rocknroll Hanover is again available to New Zealand breeders through Empire Stallions this season.

Last season's deeds of his Hunter Cup and Miracle Mile winning son have sparked interest as the super sire's short but incredible stud journey nears an end.

"New Zealand is the only place in the world where there is any Rocknroll Hanover semen left."

"He is booking well."

"It won't be a large, large book, but it will be a very nice book."

"Of course with King Of Swing being one of the very best horses racing in Australia that is leading his lustre."

Empire Stallions will offer Four Starzzz Shark, Heston Blue Chip and Well Said exclusively in Australia this season.



Poster Boy 1.49.1 \$803,310

John Coffey

He is the Poster Boy of Harness Racing in Australia... and he is the ONLY horse to ever defeat the new star Ride High.

RACE RECORD - are there many horses in Australia in this modern era to match the win to start ratio of **Poster Boy's** - yes Ride High's is impeccable and Lazarus's at 77% (in Australia and New Zealand) was pretty impressive as well.

Just to recall - 30 starts, 22wins, five seconds and thirds in the 2019 Miracle Mile and 2018 Breeders Crown Final.

His only unplaced race start was his first - in the Group Two Sapling Stakes at Menangle in February 2017. That day was a brutal introduction to racing as the winner Divine State shattered the Australian record for a 2 year old when he sizzled the Menangle circuit in 1.51.6.

Following this race Poster Boy competed at the highest level as a 2, 3 and 4 year old contesting another nine Group One events, winning five of them.

Opinion is divided between his owners Bill and Anne Anderson as to which were the best of those victories.

"My favourite was the Chariots of Fire," said Bill. "He competed against the best 4 year olds in Australasia. He made a searching run from second last at the 400 to win in his fastest time of 1.49.1."

Anne's decision involved the same track (Menangle) but a different race - the NSW Derby.

"Poster Boy was locked in a zip fastener pocket at the 300. Pulled to the outside he flew with a wing on every foot to win the Derby. He's gone from no hope to a Group One winner in 26.3 seconds."

WHAT DOES CHRIS ALFORD ADMIRE ABOUT POSTER BOY

Chris drove Poster Boy in all but four of his lifetime starts and he does agree that The Chariots, The NSW Derby and the Victorian 4 Year Old Bonanza were all outstanding victories but he saved his highest praise for the win in a Semi Final of the 3 Year Old Breeders Crown at Bendigo in August 2018. Poster Boy tramped three wide for the last 1,000 metres of that race to defeat the equal favourite Ignatius... And set a Track Record to go with the inspirational victory.

We recently spoke to Chris about his thoughts and impressions of Poster Boy.

What were your first impressions about driving Poster Boy as a 2 year old? "He felt really good to drive from day one, in fact he was pretty much perfect which said a lot about his manners and attitude."

Did he develop and get stronger as a 3 year old and then a 4 year old? "He was always such a perfect horse to drive with his fluent gait and speed. That run at Bendigo in a Semi of the Breeders Crown as a 3 year old left me in awe at his desire to win and his stamina. He was just like driving a Rolls Royce."

Was he best on the front end or coming from behind? "Speed was his best weapon but it didn't matter when you used it. He was so versatile out of the gate. The best racehorses can handle whatever you want to do with them and Poster Boy was certainly like that."

Best Wins? "The NSW Derby and then the Chariots as a 4 year old were both special as he gave me such a great feeling with his acceleration coming from behind at Menangle. He can sprint so fast, but then sometimes can knock off once he has passed everyone. The 4 year old Bonanza at Melton when he beat Spankem was also great especially as he was first up for 5 months. However that win at Bendigo just blew me away."

If you describe him in just one word - what would that be? "Perfect."

POSTER BOY and CAPTAINREACHEROUS

Both Poster Boy and Captaintreacheros are sired by the mighty Somebeachsomewhere and both are from Artsplace mares.

The similarity doesn't end there as their race records are comparable as well, albeit that Captaintreacheros had much more prizemoney to race for in North America.

POSTER BOY - 30 starts, 22 wins, 5 seconds, 2 thirds.
CAPTAINREACHEROUS - 33 starts, 23 wins, 5 seconds, 2 thirds.

By comparison Captaintreacheros finished 11 of his 23 wins in sub 27 seconds - mostly on mile tracks.

In those 22 wins, Poster Boy on seven occasions ran his closing quarter in sub 27 seconds - mostly on 1,000 meter tracks.

Poster Boy's Book in Australia is filling nicely with Breeders in every State supporting him.

Bookings from New Zealand can be made by phoning the Northern Rivers Office - (61) 3 5852 2845 or emailing admin@nrequine.com.au
Or Contacting John Coffey (61) 429 278 279 or Dr Kath McIntosh (61) 427 497 429.

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Vale Ollie Haines.

Comments by HRNZ, Cambridge Media and Brad Reid.

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 late last month.

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.”

Another to work closely with Haines in his role as CEO of Harness Racing New Zealand was Edward Renell.

“Ollie was Treasurer when I started at HRNZ and was involved in the panel that appointed me to my role so in a lot of ways he has a lot to answer for!

“He was a passionate harness racing person who contributed hugely to the industry in many capacities – breeder, owner, administrator and volunteer. While at times he could be prickly, that covered a generous nature and if you ever needed help Ollie would be the first to roll up his sleeves and do so.

“It was a privilege to keep in contact with Ollie over the years as a friend and he will be sadly missed,” said Renell.

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.

Bred by Ollie and Irene Haines, Just An Excuse was born in 1998, he was the sixth foal out of My Excuse, a mare the husband and wife had raced out of John and David Butcher’s stable.

“She was a bloody nutter,” the late Haines said. “I don’t know how the Butchers ever got her to the races.

“I can still remember watching them try to get the cart on her one day at Cambridge and I had to walk away, I couldn’t watch.”

Despite her temperament, the daughter of Smooth Fella managed to win her first race and place on a further two occasions before retiring to the breeding barn.

“I bred six mares to stallions at Nevele R Stud that year,” said Haines.

“Live or Die was their new stallion and I sent two to him and got two colts, one was Just An Excuse and we lost the other one.”

The irony of breeding two sons by Live or Die, only to have one live and the other die isn’t lost on Haines, in fact it’s the beginning of a series of events that make the story of Just An Excuse even more remarkable.

“It was the same year that I had a brain haemorrhage,” he said. “I’d resigned from the (HRNZ) Executive and I’d also taken six horses to the sales and only came home with \$16,000.

“I thought this is an idiots’ game and I decided to get out of it. I had a big clearance sale and sold almost everything.

“Just an Excuse was a weanling then and all of the trainers came out and saw him, but they didn’t like him because he had a club foot.

“The silly part about it was I never told him he had a club foot, so he didn’t know.”

Strangely enough that wasn’t the only time Haines tried but failed to sell the horse that went on to win over \$1million in stakes money.

“I’d sent a few horses over to Alex Justice in Sydney that we’d gone fifty-fifty in so I rung him up about Just An Excuse after he had qualified but he said had too many but he would ask his mate down the road if he was interested,” Haines said.

“His mate asked how much I wanted for him and I said \$35,000, he came back and said he didn’t want him because he didn’t qualify fast enough and he didn’t like this, that and the other. So, I said that’s alright Alex and I kept him and put him out for a while.

“Anyway, after he’d won his first four races, I put them all on a video tape and sent them over to Alex and said take it up to your mate who said he wasn’t fast enough.”

Such was Haines’ personality, he’s wasn’t shy in coming forward and he’s certainly not above taking pleasure in a stroke of serendipity.

Lordie, as he was affectionately known, did his early education with Brent Donnelly in Cambridge and he was trained throughout his career by Robert Mitchell and driven by his son Todd.

When his racing career was cut short in 2006, his undesirable feet having eventually got the better of him, Just An Excuse had won 17 and placed in 15 of 39 starts, five at Group One level – the 2003 and 2004 Cups, the 2004 New Zealand Free For All, 2003 Taylor Mile and NZ Messenger Championship. He had also raced in successfully in Australia, taking out the 2004 Ballarat Cup.

Tragically, Just An Excuse had a paddock injury early in his retirement, he broke his leg and as a result he had to be put down.

He’s buried at Mitchell senior’s Raglan property, from which he was trained throughout his career.

“I think Robert buried him at the back of the house there, but I haven’t had the guts to go out and see him. I’ve been out there but I didn’t want to go,” Haines said and you can sense he’s still emotional over the loss.

Ollie spent the latter part of his life dedicating his time to caring for his beloved wife, Irene who has dementia.

He still found time for regular trips down south to Macca Lodge where he had forged a great friendship with Brent & Sheree Macintyre and many of the Southland locals.

Brent recalls fondly the first time he received a call from Haines, not long after the purchase of what is now known as Macca Lodge.

“I got a phone call from Ollie for the first time about the same time we moved in. He had mares down here living on the place with Charlie and Owen Crooks back when it was Jackka Lodge.

“I was on the phone to him for 20 minutes and he was offering his ‘good advice’, typical Ollie,” laughed Macintyre.

“He started coming down to visit once or twice a year which turned into him and Irene coming down to stay for a week or so. We got to know them both well.

“He use to like to bring his gear with him and find something to do. I just use to let him range free and do what he liked. Once day there I got a big tune up because he had checked all the oil in the vehicles and one was just about out of oil.

“The old story after that was whenever Ollie was coming down south, we made sure to check all the vehicles for any issues so we didn’t have to get a bit of ear ache,” he laughed.

Going south became quite the tonic for Haines when his wife Irene went into care, not that any alcohol was involved, for him anyway.

“Ollie was quite a good sober driver. He would come to Waikari Pub with us a quite a bit and we did the drinking and he did the talking! He always fitted in and he enjoyed coming down to this part of the world and catching up with the people he met,” said Macintyre.

Rest in peace Ollie, you were a great man with a big heart and bred a once in a lifetime horse and leave a legacy that will not be forgotten.



Showcasing The Standardbred.

Hayley Clarke

Julie Defilippi is a prominent name in the Standardbred industry when it comes to the breed both on and off the track.

Julie and husband Colin are well respected for the work they do with their racehorses but it's the work that Julie does behind the scenes for Standardbreds and their life after racing that many people don't realise.

Julie is the New Zealand Standardbred Breeders Association Ambassador for Standardbred Showing which involves a lot of her time and commitment. She attends RAS (Royal Agricultural Society) meetings and conferences and has to contact all RAS shows who run a Standardbred section to ensure they are running a correct set of classes if they wish to be a HOY (Horse of the Year) qualifier. Julie also handles requests for performance cards to keep track of each individual horse's results which she then has to check, prepare and send out to people who are showing their Standardbreds at a high level. She also maintains the New Zealand Standardbred Showing website and has now begun to oversee the new, exciting Livamol series entries.

The website holds up to date, key information for Standardbred show competitors and is a one stop shop for all the latest show updates with a full calendar for the upcoming season and information about upcoming series, ring etiquette, rules and schedules.

After another promising and exciting show season, Julie's highlight has been seeing the numbers grow in the show ring, especially at A & P level.

"I was impressed by the support of the Standardbred ring at A & P level by competitors and by the shows, especially those new shows who have been willing to run the section and give the breed a platform to showcase itself. It is pleasing to see all the work put in come to fruition."

Although there is plenty of uncertainty in New Zealand at the moment, Julie is looking forward to the upcoming season and is hoping that the Standardbred rings will gain plenty of support once again. Although the Canterbury A & P show has been cancelled, the equestrian section of the show will still

be run, allowing competitors who have been working towards the big day to still be able to compete.

"Just to actually be able to get out and compete would be great, especially after an abrupt ending to last season and the ongoing uncertainty of shows this season due to COVID-19.

"I would hope there will still be good support in the ring for the Canterbury A & P Show after the show itself has been cancelled. Due to being less shows available this season at the A & P level, I would expect competitors to make the most of what is available this season. I feel numbers have been good for many years. Show entries can always have fluctuations due to many various reasons.

The Standardbred Showing movement has been alive and well supported for many, many years throughout New Zealand, slightly longer in Canterbury where it kicked off well over 25 years ago. With more promotion of life after racing and classes at HOY, the breed is just getting more coverage."

Julie believes that the breed has gained more respect in the show ring over the years because of a better standard of horse with the breed being more refined and also competitors having better knowledge of RAS showing standards and of course the training of the horse that is required.

This is reflected by the standard of horse attending HOY each year. Showing at this level involves a lot of hard work and dedication and is also an expense that should be budgeted and planned for well in advance. You also need to qualify to attend HOY so this should be considered at the beginning of the show season.

"You must be prepared to put the time and effort in as most competitors will know. There is also a large financial outlay, not in just travelling to HOY but in showing in general. I would encourage anyone wanting to compete at HOY to make a plan well in advance. This gives you time to start saving for the trip, working out what shows to compete at in the lead up and so on."

Something new to the Standardbred scene is a series called the Livamol Standardbred Series. It is based

off the success of the Thoroughbred series which runs throughout New Zealand. This year it is being trialled at four shows in the North Island and four shows in the South Island with the final being held at HOY.

Judging consists of 80% conformation and 20% paces and manners. The series is to show suitability of the breed as a riding horse in a life after racing.

Competitors are being encouraged to sign up now with the first show being the Northern (Rangiora) A & P show in late October.

"If the support is there in the future it would be great to extend the series into more shows like the Thoroughbred series. I honestly have no idea how many people will enter their horses but fingers crossed we will see it greatly supported."

Whilst the ambassador work keeps Julie very busy she also has her own small team of show horses who will be out and about again this coming season.

Eagles Nest (Inhand) and Nucleus VC (Inhand & Ridden) will both be out after a very successful show season last season.

Eagles Nest took out HOY in 2020, handled by son-in-law Brad Hamilton, which was a huge highlight for Julie last season.

As well as her own show team she is also part of the support crew for her granddaughter Tayla who is in the early stages of her showing career.

Show day can often involve juggling the two Standardbred's in inhand and/or ridden as well as Tayla's ridden classes. It's a real family affair with all hands on deck.

"A huge delight is watching our granddaughter Tayla building confidence and doing well in her lead rein section."

After years of commitment to the cause, in 2019 at the annual Harness Racing Awards Julie was deservedly recognised for all of her time and effort that she puts in to Standardbred Life after Racing.

Julie was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Life after Racing award.



Brad Hamilton & Eagles Nest |
2020 In Hand Champion Standardbred of the Year

"I was very humbled to get the award, but it's a lovely acknowledgement of a lot of time and effort that has gone into sorting out and setting up a framework nationally for the Standardbred Showing ring (breed performance cards, a nationwide set of classes etc, keeping in touch with all A & P's to keep our section running every year and so on) since the breed became affiliated with RAS."

The work that Julie does to promote the showing sector of Life after Racing for retired Standardbreds is making a huge difference for both horse and owner right around the country. There are many options for retired Standardbreds and with the introduction of new series such as the Livamol Series, it is an exciting time to own a Standardbred once it has finished its racing career.

Of course Julie wouldn't be able to do this all on her own and there are a lot of enthusiastic supporters and promoters for the breed to ensure the horses are given plenty of opportunity to excel in a life after racing.

It is an exciting time to be involved in the Standardbred showing scene and hopefully with plenty of support the opportunities will keep getting bigger and better.



A Conversation With George Segal Of Brittany Farms.

Murray Brown

Integrity, loyalty, wise, fair, generous, brilliant, thankful, liberal, in all senses of the word.

Those are just a few of the words I might use to describe my friend George Segal.

He was born and raised in New York City and recalls periodically going to Roosevelt and Yonkers, but those visits really didn't contribute to the strong place harness racing was to have in his life.

After graduating from Baruch College at CCNY in New York City, he attended the Business School at the University of Michigan.

After Michigan, he found himself in the meat business and residing in Framingham, MA. He recalls reading an article in the Sunday New York Times about the Mercantile Exchange in Chicago. At the bottom of the story there was a phone number. The next day he called the number and expressed his interest in learning the business.

He was granted an interview for that Wednesday. That same day he was offered a job as an analyst at twice the salary he was making.

After a quick discussion with his wife Joan, he accepted the offer. They moved to Chicago.

Two things he remembers being told from the interview: 1. You will never find a more interesting business (that was before becoming involved in the horse business, of course) and 2. There is no limit to the amount of money that can be made.

George began working on the floor of the Mercantile Exchange in Chicago. Two of his friends and associates on the floor, Don Stevens and Brian Monieson, were doing the same, but they were also moonlighting in harness racing.

Don was working in the publicity department at Sportsman's Park.

Brian published a tout sheet that was sold at the Chicago racetracks Sportsman's Park, Washington Park and Maywood Park.

Don convinced George that Harness racing, in addition to being a great sport was a lot of fun. He told George that he had the perfect trainer for him. His name was Gene Riegler.

Thus began a lifetime association. The first yearling that Gene purchased for George was a Bret Hanover colt named Quick Glancer. He wasn't a star, but he paid his way. George recalls him winning a stakes race at Greenville OH, Gene's hometown.

It wasn't until a few years later, 1980 to be exact, at the first Kentucky Standardbred Horse Sale, that George purchased the horse that changed his status from some involvement in the business, to being in it big time. Her name was Three Diamonds. He bought her for \$100,000.

Those who saw her race would undoubtedly agree that if she wasn't the very best of her generation, she was darn close.

If as I did, you watched her, you would undoubtedly think that she ranks among the greatest race fillies to ever look through a bridle.

As great as she was on the track — and she was awesome — her legacy as a broodmare is even greater. Life Sign, Bettor's Wish, American Ideal and American Jewel are just four of the great champions that descend directly from her. As great as her legacy is, it would likely be far greater if she had not passed at a young age.

Riegler selected her and just about every great champion that George was involved with throughout Riegler's association with him.

From that point on, George Segal was on his way to becoming the most influential breeder of his generation, certainly on a pro rata basis and in any conversation as the greatest breeder in the sport's history.

What about that?

"I'll leave it up to others to assess the achievements of Brittany Farms," George said.

Speaking of Gene Riegler, George says, "He was the greatest yearling selector that I and probably



George Segal with Marvin Katz

anybody else has ever known. Most trainers have a prototype of the kind of yearling they like, Gene was different. He'd pick the ones that he liked with an assortment of traits. There was no predicting which ones he'd pick and he didn't need to look at one for long. But he was right a whole lot more than he was wrong.

"I remember in 1988 when the first crop of Nihilators came out. We went to Lexington with the intent of buying at least one and maybe more of them. Gene looked at every single one and wouldn't pass on any. Instead he liked a Troublemaker colt out of Cartier in the Dunroven Farm consignment. That horse was Odds Against who even though he was in the same crop of Artsplace, Precious Bunny and Die Laughing ended up making \$1,403,938 for us.

"In 1990, as was our custom we went to Hanover to get a sneak preview of their yearlings prior to the Lexington sales. As was always the case, the Hanover yearlings had just come in from the fields and were in the process of becoming civilized. Nevertheless, Gene said he didn't need them spruced up and looking good. He could look through the lack of shine and civility. When we left the Farms, Gene said to me, 'I don't care what you buy or how much you spend at Lexington, but be sure to keep enough money to buy that little No Nukes colt at Hanover.' I said to him, 'Isn't he too small and what about that capped hock that he has?' 'Don't worry about that. He'll be alright. Just buy him.' That colt was Western Hanover."

There are some who would say that you are the greatest breeder of your generation, certainly on a pro rata basis and you certainly should be among the greatest ever. Let's talk about some of the horses that you've bred and raised.

"Before we do that I think we should speak about the real genesis of Brittany Farms. The breeding operation all began through the purchase of Bill Shehan's Clermont Farm and his broodmare band of 35 mares. Prior to that, I had hired Art Zubrod and his wife Leah in 1981 to be my farm managers. We had leased some space at the famous thoroughbred farm Hamburg Place owned by Preston Madden. The piece we leased with Art and Leah residing in a mobile home was called Clear Creek. In 1985, we made the Shehan purchase. Prior to that, almost all of my mares were pacers. Bill's mares consisted of 25 trotters and 10 pacers."

Artsplace – "His dam Miss Elvira showed a lot of speed as a 2-year-old. She won her first two races effortlessly and then unfortunately bowed a tendon. I owned her with my good friend Brian Monieson. Her first foal wasn't the best individual and became an overnight racehorse. Her next foal was Artsplace who was really good looking, but wasn't a perfect specimen. Most importantly, he passed the Gene Riegler acceptance test. Throughout his first winter, he trained fair at best. He never showed any sparks of potential greatness. In late Spring I remember receiving a call from Alan Riegler, Gene's son, saying, 'You know what George? That Abercrombie colt might be alright.' The rest is history. His performance in the Breeders Crown setting a world record at Pompano would have to rank, to anybody who saw it, as one of the greatest performances ever. He was very good, but not great at 3. We brought him back at 4 and gave him to Bob McIntosh. He went through the year undefeated and was voted Horse of the Year. As a sire, he has been nothing short of fantastic."





Frank "The Elder" Antonacci (left) and George Segal are partners in The Red Mile Racetrack with Joe Thomson

Life Sign – “Here was a horse that had it all. He was impeccably bred, being by Abercrombie, out of the great Three Diamonds, a great individual, an amazing racehorse at both two and three. His victory in the Little Brown Jug was a race for the ages. Yet, although, not a failure as a sire, given all his credentials, one might classify him as disappointing. Such are the vagaries involved in breeding horses.”

Father Patrick – “We bought his dam Gala Dream for \$100,000. She exhibited very little ability and a poor attitude in training. But she had pedigree. Everything else is a plus, but pedigree is a necessity to me. She had a few foals before Father Patrick, Pastor Stephen, being the best. Jimmy Takter bought Father Patrick for \$100,000 as a yearling. I thought that he might bring more, perhaps a whole lot more. I and Marvin Katz asked Jimmy if we could get in as partners. We ended up buying 20 per cent each. Jimmy divided the remaining 601 per cent between himself and some of his owners. It’s still early in the game, but it appears at this time he might be a great stallion – possibly a game changer.”

Self Possessed – “He, as do many of our horses, traces to the group of mares that I first bought from Bill Shehan. He was by Victory Dream, a horse who in my opinion would have become a great sire if not for fertility problems. Ronnie Gurfein trained Victory Dream and was, naturally enough, interested in buying at least one from his first crop. He fell in love with Self Possessed the first time he saw him. He bought him for a group that included David Scharf, Deena Frost and one or two of his other clients. I asked if I could get in for part of him and Ronnie acquiesced. He was the first Hambletonian winner that we bred. When he was at his best, he was just tremendous. As a sire, he started off well, but there was no great consistency to his success. As a sire, one would classify him as being disappointing, but he sired one horse who was destined for greatness both on the racetrack and in the breeding shed. That horse is of course Cantab Hall who at an advanced age is still producing top trotters including the aforementioned Father Patrick.”

We could go on forever in mentioning the horses that Brittany Farms and George Segal played a part in producing. They include, but are not limited to: **Western Ideal, American Ideal, Artiscape, Art Major, He’s Watching, Mr Muscleman, Bettor’s Wish, Glidemaster, Six Pack, Continentalvictory, Manchego, Lifetime Pursuit, Lookout Victory, Marita’s Victory, Artspeak, Vintage Master, American Jewel, Mr Feelgood, Reflect With Me, Sportsmaster**, plus two very exciting 2-year-olds this year in **Perfect Sting** and **Making Waves**. They include three Hambletonian winners, five Hambletonian Oaks winners and multiple winners of just about every major stakes race in North America.

George, there are also many top horses that you didn’t breed yourself, but either bought as a yearling, while they were racing or at the conclusion of their racing career. They include:

Captaintreacherous – “This is another horse that had it all and did it all. I give all credit for him to Tony Alagna who trained him and Myron Bell who was determined to buy him. All of the members of my buying team (which we will get to later) agreed that he was ‘the one.’ He indeed was on the racetrack and is now making a huge impact in the breeding shed. If he isn’t the greatest living pacing stallion, I don’t know who you would put up against him.”

Valley Victory – “Although I didn’t breed or own him as a racehorse, he is the only trotter to this point, that I’ve owned that I would describe as a breed changer. All credit for his acquisition belongs to others – from Bill Weaver who bred him, to Pat Waldo who picked him out as a yearling for his owner Arlene Traub, to Steve Elliott who trained him, Bill O’Donnell who drove him and most importantly as it relates to me to Tony Pedone who convinced me that he was a great horse who was destined to become a great sire. Apparently, a tentative deal had been made to sell him to European interests. Tony, with his unique power of persuasion, managed to convince Arlene Traub to change her mind and sell him to us. As great a changer of the breed as Valley Victory was, there is no telling how great an influence he would have been if he had good fertility.”

Cantab Hall – “He was in Self Possessed’s first crop. Ronnie Gurfein, Myron Bell and myself went to Walnut Hall Limited to look at their yearlings. Alan Leavitt had two sensational trotting colts that year. They were Cantab Hall and Cash Hall. They

were both as perfect as yearlings could be. I knew that they would each bring a lot of money. I limited Ronnie to buying just one. It was a tough decision but ultimately Ronnie thought that Cantab trotted a little better in the field. Cash Hall turned out to be a world champion as well, but Cantab was the one. He swept just about everything as a 2-year-old and became one of the few 2-year-olds ever to be voted as Trotter of the Year. He is now generally acknowledged as being one of the world’s greatest trotting sires.”

Western Hanover – “We spoke about him above and how I came to buy him. He was a very good, but in my opinion not a great racehorse. Although he was voted both 2- and 3-year-old pacing colt of the year. I remember meeting you and Paul E Spears at the Union Square Cafe in NYC at lunch where we consummated the deal to have him stand at Hanover. All of us would be lying if we said that we expected him to become the great sire for the ages that he became. We put together a syndicate and offered shares in him to every prominent breeder in North America. Only Allamerican Standardbreds bought a single share. None of the others were interested in buying a share or even breeding to him. He came to his success mostly by being bred to mom and pop mares. Certainly, Hanover bred many mares to him and I bred some. Within a very short time, he became recognized as one of the greatest pacing sires ever in harness racing history.”

Walner – “He was as talented a colt as I’ve ever seen. Unfortunately, his racing career was negated by a soft tissue injury which prevented him from going on. When my good friend Frankie Antonacci was putting a deal together to stand him, I was all in. His oldest foals are yearlings. From all that I’ve heard, they are sensational. We shall see.”

George, you use the term “team” a lot. You are known as a person who gives credit to others and has no reluctance to hear other people’s points of view. Can you speak on that?

“I’ve never believed that I have all the answers. There are various people who excel in various areas in this life of ours.”

“There are numerous people who have contributed to any success that I’ve been fortunate enough to have. These include, but are not necessarily limited to, Art and Leah Zubrod, Myron Bell, the Riegler family, Bob McIntosh, Ronnie Gurfein, Jimmy Takter,



Stallions Australasia 2020-21 line-up...

Tony Alagna, Linda Toscano, Blair Burgess, Trevor Richie, Perry Soderberg, Bill Shehan, Joe Holloway, Brian Monieson, Don Stevens and undoubtedly some that I've neglected to include.

"For all that I know, I don't stand at or near the top in anything. But I am always willing to listen. In terms of teams, I have three main ones with regard to my career in harness racing.

"My yearling selectors – These consist of, but are not necessarily limited to Tony Alagna, Myron Bell, Trevor Richie, Perry Soderberg, Art Zubrod and the various trainers that I use or for whom I anticipate giving the horses. I then rely on myself to make the final decision and the price point to which we will go. When Gene was alive he would cut the list to those who were physically acceptable. Today, it's a somewhat more involved process.

"The racehorse division – Here it's mostly Myron and myself, with, of course, input from the trainers in whose stables these horses are entrusted.

"The breeding end – Here it's mostly myself with significant input from Art and Myron. If I have partners on the mares, of course their input is considered."

What are your views on the business in general?

"It's constantly evolving. Just a few decades ago, most felt that we had bred ourselves into a box with Speedy Crown and Super Bowl. Then along came Valley Victory to change things. Through him came Muscles Yankee and the super sire Muscle Hill. Today we have more variance with trotters that I've seen in all my years in the sport. Chapter Seven came along. Now, because of him, we have Walner. Tactical Landing is another trotter of great promise. We are to a limited degree doing what the Europeans have been doing for a long time. We are breeding American mares to the best French stallions such as Ready Cash, Love You and Cocktail Jet and now from out of the woods comes Googoo Gaagaa. We probably now have more diversity and choice among trotters than we do with pacers. The breed somehow always seems to find a way to take care of itself.

"I am concerned with the long life expectancies of our sport in places like New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. My gut tells me for the immediate future we are well situated in Ohio, Indiana, Ontario and now Kentucky where together with the Antonaccis

and Joe Thomson, we own The Red Mile. It's important not only to the history of the sport, but it remains the very best piece of dirt upon which to educate and bring along a young horse.

"Like just about most everyone else I'm concerned about all the infighting and lack of cooperation prevalent in the sport."

What's the best decision you've ever made in the sport?

"Without a doubt it was the decision to purchase Bill Shehan's Clermont farm and all his broodmares. That became Brittany Farms and led to most of the success we've enjoyed in both the breeding arena and on the racetrack. Coming second was the decision to rescue The Red Mile together with my two wonderful partners, the Antonacci family and Joe Thomson. It was a purchase that as of now has not yielded a financial profit. But it is one that allowed perhaps the greatest racing tradition in North America to continue and flourish."

What's the worst one?

"Allowing Mr Muscleman sell for the absurd price of \$2,000. That comes with an asterisk though. He was sold shortly following 9/11 and very few people were in a frame of mind to purchase horses."

What does the future hold for George Segal?

"In terms of the short term, I just passed my 82nd birthday. I'm in good health and I hope to keep it that way. I won't be going to any sales this year. I will desperately miss not being at Lexington. I expect to be there next year, when hopefully we have COVID-19 contained.

"I expect to keep racing and keep breeding although on a far smaller scale. Brittany Farms once had 150 mares. Now we are down to 30 that are wholly owned, plus several that are owned in partnership.

"In terms of the future beyond myself, none of my family have any interest in horses. Once I'm gone there won't be an entity called Brittany Farms, at least not one involving any of my family."

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Curtain Falls On Washington VC's Stellar Stud Career.

Frank Marrion

Keith Norman has decided to call time on the stud career of Washington VC.

Nothing has actually changed much with the now 25-year-old son of Presidential Ball, but after 20 seasons of stud work, Norman has reached a point where he wants to do something different himself.

"He's had a bad back for the last four years and I haven't been advertising him in that time in order to keep his numbers down, but I think he has now earned his retirement," said Norman.

"He did pretty well last season actually, getting 22 of 29 mares in foal.

"But I want to try my hand at racing and selling a few horses instead and I have four yearlings by him which will keep me occupied for a while.

"I'll be breeding my own mares (to other sires) but I won't be doing any outside mares.

"If I did that would mean I would be doing another season of foaling mares next year.

"Getting mares in foal is relatively easy, but foaling them is the hard part.

"I'd like to spend my spring and summer months focused on training horses instead of all the stud work."

Washington VC was owned by a syndicate of Southland breeders and Canterbury's Brian West.

Norman can recall asking New Jersey's Bruce Kennedy, the agent for many of Nevele R's stallions in those earlier years, to keep a lookout for a stallion for him.

"I wanted a smallish horse rather than a big one and he had to have won a big race.

"I must have been offered 50 stallions, but Washington VC was the only one that ticked all the boxes for me."

Washington VC had been injured and was spelling as a three-year-old when Norman acquired him.

A black horse standing 15.1 hands, Washington VC was a good two-year-old and had come back at three to win the Adios, winning eight of his 30 races and \$561,000 in all.

He got good support from the start and covered well over 100 mares in eight of his first nine seasons at stud, doing 195 and 186 in two of those years.

But Washington VC's fertility was a bit of an issue and after 10 seasons of doing transported semen, Norman had had enough and made him an on farm stallion only.

"He was never the most fertile horse and it was hard work in those days getting to the airport with semen by 7.30am.

"Some off farms mares could be served four times and still come up empty and that wasn't very fair on those people, plus all that was costing us time and money."

Washington VC continued to receive solid support from mainly Southland breeders, largely because his progeny were so popular with Australian buyers.

"You couldn't take one by him to the trials or even the workouts without someone ringing up asking if they were for sale."

Invariably those calls were coming from Perth.

Washington VC's crowning glory was (Im) Themightyquinn, a winner of 58 races from 111 starts and over \$4.5m in stakes.

Most of his racing was done at Gloucester Park where he swept through the Inter Dominions unbeaten in 2012.

Either side of that season he won the Inter Dominion in Auckland following the disqualification of Smoken Up and at Menangle for a three-peat, while he also won two Auckland Cups, three WA Pacing Cups and three Fremantle Cups amongst 14 Group 1 wins.

It was Norman himself who bred Washington VC's other top WA son (Im) Victorious, who won 22 of 33 races and \$752,000, including the WA Derby, Golden Nugget and Fremantle Cup, before venturing



Washington VC

to Menangle for the Inter Dominion won by (Im) Themightyquinn.

He suffered a sliced tendon in a racing accident there and did not race again however.

"Victorious was on the way up when Themightyquinn was coming to the end of it and he would have won millions as well."

Then there was the top filly Foreal, the dam of Field Marshal, along with the likes of the West-bred Report For Duty, Dasher VC, Hokonui Ben and Georgetown, all winners of over \$600,000.

Other fine performers sired by Washington VC included It's Ella, Letspendanitetogetha, Glencoe VC and Vice Chairman, the latter also bred by Norman.

"He won seven races for me in one season from Peter Bagrie's stable and still holds the mile record at Addington at 1.51.9."

That night was a very rare mile at Addington when Dexter Dunn drove Vice Chairman to beat Tiger Tara, Johnny Rock and Saveapatriol.

Mostly Washington VC was renowned for consistently producing a lot of really nice, genuine horses which earned him the respect and admiration of horsemen.

He goes into retirement having covered a total of 1952 mares for around 1160 foals, while recently going past 400 winners, with one of the latest good ones being the Norman-bred Eureka.

Keith Norman has done very little training over the years and has won just the one race with Holmes Dean in 2006 since the 70s, when as a junior driver he often handled the rugged open class pacer Majestic Charger for brother Les Norman.

Keith drove him to win a FFA over a mile at Addington in 1976 when he downed Steven Stock and Kintara.

But it seems Norman is now going to be enjoying training winners in his twilight years rather than just breeding and producing a lot of them.



The Growing Legend Of A Tall Dark Stranger.

Four days after a history-making triumph in the \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup that required military-style logistics, the pacer's delighted connections can't help but gush about the colt's intestinal fortitude.

Dave Briggs

Pedigree, conformation and athleticism. Even a novice could see Tall Dark Stranger was overly blessed in all of those critical areas as a baby.

It explains his legion of well-heeled admirers when he was a yearling prospect.

It explains why a group of owners predominantly looking for fillies to bolster broodmare bands suddenly found themselves gaga over a pacing colt.

It explains that colt's \$330,000 price tag at the 2018 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

What no one knew then — and what no one ever knows for sure when horses are babies — is if TDS had, as Yannick Gingras might say, the “je ne sais quoi” necessary to go to war with the continent's best.

Not to diminish his other tremendous qualities, but two years on, having the heart of a warrior, that intangible “it” factor and the grit of hockey grinder, is likely Stranger's best characteristic.

Time and again his opponents have been in position to put him away in the stretch and time and again he has responded, none better than in the final of the Meadowlands Pace (replay here) which deserves to be on the shortlist of the greatest races of all time along with Wiggle It Jigglet's Jug, Art Official's upset of Somebeachsomewhere in the Meadowlands Pace, Itz Fritz v. Cam Fella and Life Sign's Jug.

On Saturday (Aug. 29) in the \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup final at Woodbine Mohawk Park, Tattoo Artist pulled the pocket at the top of the lane and threatened to go right on past Tall Dark Stranger, only to be rebuffed on the way to a two-length, 1:48.2 victory.

Certainly the NA Cup win lacked the drama of the M.Pace slugfest with Papi Rob Hanover, but on Aug. 22 in Stranger's NA Cup elim, the son of Bettors Delight out of Precocious Beauty was nearly nicked at the wire by Capt Midnight when there was an equipment malfunction and the former's earplugs failed to pop. That TDS fought back in virtual silence,

proved the colt's natural-born tenacity, yet again.

“He's a real fighter and he's got grit,” said his part-owner Judy Chaffee of Caviart Farms. “You can't tell about heart until they start racing. When you see it, it's just incredible and he has it in spades. I've never seen a colt dig in like he does and he just fights with everything he's got. It's beautiful. We're so fond of him.”

Part-owner Howard Taylor said what he loves most about Tall Dark Stranger is, “his guts. He refuses to lose.”

“He has no ‘off’ and I've never seen him give up,” said part-owner Michelle Crawford of Crawford Farms. “I don't know how to describe how much tenacity and how much fire in the belly he has.”

They're all biased, of course, as is their other partner Marvin Katz, but the videos don't lie. Neither does the colt's trainer, Nancy Takter, who would prefer a nice, easy butt-kicking to all this angina-inducing stretch drama.

“He frustrates the crap out of me when he does that,” Takter said. “I'm, like, ‘What are you doing?’ because deep down inside I know he's going to win, but it's like, ‘Why can't you just do it easily? I don't know what his deal is, but I would be really happy if he just won every race by at least two lengths. It's easier on me.”

“I don't know if it's laziness or that he's just a diva. He does just enough. ‘I'm just going to do what I need to do.’ It's the same when I train him at home... I don't really feel like anytime that I train him that I'm, like, ‘Wow, he's so good today’ because I always have to ask him to do his work. Then, if I ask him too much, he'll go a quarter in :26 in a 2:30 mile. It's a fine line, because he switches gears so quick that you could be going a mile in 2:30 and all of a sudden you're going a quarter in 30 seconds and you don't even feel the difference. Your stopwatch is your best friend when you're out on the track training him.”

Takter is quick to note that Tall Dark Stranger has never been race-timed slower than 1:48.4 this year in

his seven starts — six of which are wins — in which he has earned \$879,131 of his career total of \$1,596,645. His lifetime record is 14-1-0 in 16 starts.

Yet, Katz prefers another way to measure the colt's greatness. The owner likes to point to history and on that score Tall Dark Stranger is peerless.

Stranger is the only horse in history to win the Metro Pace and Breeders Crown at 2 and the Meadowlands Pace and Pepsi North America Cup at 3. A few horses — Rocknroll Hanover, Presidential Ball, Captaintreacherous, Somebeachsomewhere, Mach Three — have won three of those races, but not all four.

“When you can do something that just hasn't been done before, I think that's extraordinary. That's an extreme level that's so unusual. It's compelling to sort of focus on that,” Katz said.

“I'm a great follower of history. You'll recall, Ariana G, when she was a 3-year-old, there was a lot of debate about whether we would put her in the Hambletonian or not, but the fact that All The Time had won the Oaks the previous year and (myself and Al Libfeld) would be the breeders of back-to-back Oaks winners, two full sisters, and the fact that it had never been done before in the history of that, was a big part of our decision.”

It also partly explains why the connections and driver Gingras went to incredible lengths to win the NA Cup.

MILITARY-LIKE LOGISTICS

In the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic, racing U.S.-based Tall Dark Stranger in Canada, on the other side of a closed border, was what Katz calls a “two-month ordeal to work out the logistics.”

The operation went into effect on Hambletonian Day (Aug. 8) when Takter sent assistant trainer Josert Fonseca across the border to serve a two-week quarantine. Then Takter found a farm as close to the Canadian border as possible to keep her horses that were heading for Woodbine Mohawk Park. She found the perfect place in Alden, NY, complete with a five-eighths mile track.

Since Takter wasn't going to be making the trip to Ontario, she said she, “needed to keep the horses on (the U.S.) side of the border so I would at least have as much control and be able to train them prior to them racing.

“I've just basically done a circle — Lexington, Buffalo, New Jersey. Lexington, Buffalo, New Jersey, around and around. I was able to go there and train in between the elimination and the final — I went up there on Wednesday — just to know that I had everything in order that way.”

Doyle Transport delivered the horses back and forth across the border, with Fonseca receiving them in Ontario and arranging for locals to paddock them.

As for Gingras, his ordeal with crossing the border and receiving an exemption from quarantining was well reported (full story here). All the planning paid off with the driver winning his first North America Cup, a victory that reduced the Quebec-born reinsman to tears in the winner's circle.

“Yannick really wanted to be here to drive the horse and he said publicly that's why he came. There were other races, of course, once he was here, but that was the underlying factor to drive Tall Dark Stranger in the NA Cup,” Katz said. “It was more than the purse that was part of the emotional make-up of it. (TDS) was just creating history and Yannick was keenly aware of that. The value of the horse, there were so many different factors. This was a hugely important race and thankfully it played out.”

Three days later, Howard Taylor said the dominant emotion that is still resonating with him is relief.

“With all the hype going on, the pressure started actually to get to me and I was just more relieved than happy when he won, Not that I ever doubted him,” Taylor said.

Of the owners, only Katz was able to be at Woodbine Mohawk Park in person due to capacity limits and border restrictions.

“We had been unable to go to his prior races,” Katz said. “We weren't there for the Meadowlands Pace or the Cane Pace and my partners got to enjoy that, so





Tall Dark Stranger 2019 Metro final

that's fair that I got the NA Cup," Katz said, laughing. "I got the home-court advantage on that one. Believe me, not being able to attend the Meadowlands Pace and Hambletonian Day was tough. Those were tough misses."

He said NA Cup was surreal.

"Mohawk was not deserted, but it was very much less populated than it would normally be for an event like that," Katz said. "There's always an electricity and an atmosphere that's created when there's an event like NA Cup night and that's certainly part of it, but the emotions of just watching the race and the anticipation prior to the race and the race itself, the adrenaline surge that follows, that was all the same."

SOCIAL DISTANCING HEARTBREAK

Judy Chaffee said not being able to be at Woodbine Mohawk Park with her husband, Buck, to see Tall Dark Stranger triumph was heartbreaking.

"We would have loved to have been there and we definitely planned to come whether we had a horse racing or not, because we love it up there. We love coming to Canada this time of year, so it was heartbreaking that we couldn't do it, but it was very exciting," she said.

"We had our kids (at home) here with us, some of them. We've got seven children and all of them were watching, either at their houses or our daughter and her family was here with us. Buck hooked up the computer to the TV screen so we were able to all watch it together on that. When he won we threw our hands in the air and screamed and hugged. That was all wonderful."

Michelle Crawford said she and Al ordered in Mexican food and invited their farm manager, Heather Marshall and her husband, Chad, the farm's operations manager, over to watch the race.

"It's so much fun when you can watch the races with people that really love it like we do. We have friends that will come over, and even our kids, we can have 15 people watching with us and I'll have to 'shush' them all when our race goes on, 'Guys, stop talking! Are you kidding?'" Michelle said laughing.

Afterward, it took a day to process, especially since this is the continuation of an incredible couple of months for Crawford Farms, which bred and owns a piece of Hambletonian-winning filly Ramona Hill, owns a piece of Hambletonian Oaks winner Sorella and has won the Meadowlands Pace, Cane Pace and NA Cup with Tall Dark Stranger. The Crawfords also bred and own a 2-year-old trotting filly named Destined To Dance that is undefeated in the New York Sires Stakes.

"Al said, 'Don't get used to this because this will never happen again. There will never be another year like this. You can't possibly get that lucky. It just will never happen again,'" Michelle said.

"I think what's happened this year, it's a little bit of a numb feeling and it doesn't register... We'll have a bottle of wine the next day or next night and we'll celebrate and watch all the replays and we'll watch our races a couple of times. It's just so much fun, it's kind of like a date night. I cannot wait to hit the couch, get the TV, get the wine and watch it all over again and relive it. I think my heart beats so fast in the moment and there's just too much going on," Michelle said.

Takter raced at The Meadows on Saturday afternoon and was heading for Lexington afterward when she stopped in Columbus, OH. She watched some races at Scioto Downs and then went to her close friend Stacy Miller's house to watch the NA Cup with Miller and her husband, driver Brett Miller.

"I definitely had some good friends with me, so that was fun," Takter said. "At least there was someone there, because I was pacing around the kitchen. I was, like, 'I can't sit down, I've got to stand up.'"

"I think it's actually less nerve-wracking at the track because there at least you know what's going on. You know the horse got on the track, you know the equipment is on right, you've been able to talk to the driver, you know what the track conditions are like... When you're at home, I'm at the mercy of what they are telling me on the TV and maybe a text here and there from Josert, but he had his hands full, too. He had three horses racing and he had three people catch-paddock that don't know the horses, so he had to stay on top of everything. So, he didn't have time to call me every three seconds. It was definitely different and definitely nerve-wracking."

TWO FOR TAKTER AND CAVIART

A year ago, Takter and Scott Zeron were the toast of Mohawk after Captain Crunch won the NA Cup. It was not only the first NA Cup for both of them, it was the first, as well, for the Chaffees and Caviart Farms.

"I never thought that we would ever have a colt in the race, let alone win it, and now there have been two, so that's really quite remarkable and we're just kind of stunned and thrilled. It's just a wonderful experience," Judy said. "We always just kind of thought of ourselves as 'filly people.' We went to the sale and bought fillies. I think Captain Crunch was the first colt that we ever bought. We got him in partnership, so it's really new



Tall Dark Stranger 2020 North America Cup

for us, other than the horses that we breed or sell."

As for Tall Dark Stranger, a little karma led the Chaffees to him.

"We went to the sale and studied the sale catalogue and picked out the list of fillies, just like always," Judy said. "We like to race them and then have them for broodmares and there was only one colt that I picked out and it was Tall Dark Stranger. When Nancy called in the afternoon to talk about fillies, I was trying to go through my notes and I mentioned that I had fallen in love with this colt. She said, 'Which one?' and I said that it was Hip 60 and she said, 'How much of him did you want?' We never gave any thought to buying him at all, but when she said that I thought that Buck would be fine with it, so we took a piece of him. That was kind of how it happened, rather unexpectedly, but he's the one colt that I had picked out from the sale."

"The breeding was there on paper and his video, but when we saw him, he was powerful, he was beautiful. I turned to Buck and said, 'Is there such thing as a horse being too perfect?' He just looked regal and had an air about him. The funny thing is, from that moment we bought him at the sale, I never doubted that he would be good. I didn't know how good, but I knew that he would be one of the top colts because he just looked the part."

That one colt, bred by James Avritt, Sr. of Kentucky and sold out of the Hunterton consignment, was also the pick of the litter for Takter and her father, Jimmy, who, in turn, convinced Katz to buy in.

"My priority remains trotters and trotting fillies, in particular. The focus really was, at that sale, trotting fillies. We'll look at pacing fillies because (we own) Captaintreacherous, but they become sidebars. I was looking at the trotting fillies and Jimmy called me over and Tall Dark Stranger was out there and he was



looking at him. Jimmy said to me, 'This is the best colt on these grounds, you've got to have him.' I said, 'I'm in.' That was the whole conversation. That was the entire conversation."

The Crawfords were just as easy to convince.

"Nancy called and said, 'My dad said his number one colt in the sale is Tall Dark Stranger. We need to put a partnership together.' We were, like, 'Yep, all in,'" Michelle said.

Jimmy, who never won the North America Cup in his Hall of Fame career, now has a daughter who has won it back-to-back at the age of just 39.

"Now the problem is going to be to win three in row," said Nancy, who currently sports an off-the-charts UTRS of .497.

Don't think she's not going to try her damndest.

"Nancy plans the program and she does a phenomenal job," Judy said. "We are so happy with her. She's so talented, she's smart, she's organized and plans everything out. She's flexible when we need to change our schedule. I think she's quite a perfectionist and has all the patience in the world. I just think she's a combination of everything you would want in a trainer. It's really quite remarkable for someone so young, but I guess growing up with her dad being a top trainer, she learned all of the elements of the job."

As for Tall Dark Stranger, Judy Chaffee is just as effusive in her praise.

"I can't say enough good about him... He's amazing and we're very pleased with him," she said. "He's a superstar. He's the perfect combination of beautiful gait, speed, power, strength, intelligence and his super competitiveness and grit."

BETTING LINE

BETTOR'S DELIGHT- HEATHER'S WESTERN-WESTERN HANOVER

p,2, 1:51.8; 3, 1:47.4 (\$2,238,518)

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119 FOALS — 91 STARTERS

38 WINNERS — 33 IN 2:00

2YO EARNINGS \$761,115 (TO 10/9/20)

AN IMPRESSIVE 19 IN 1:55 OR FASTER

ABUCKABETT HANOVER — p,2,1:51.2

BETTOR NOT TALK — p,2,1:51.2

RIFLEMAN — p,2,1:51.2

DEAN B HANOVER — p,2,1:52.1

FULSOME — p,2,1:52.1

WINNER IS COMING — p,2,1:51.3

BET NINETEEN — p,2,1:52.3

DARBY HANOVER (M) — p,2,1:52.4

TWIN B EDGE — p,2,1:52.4

CAVIART LOTUS — p,2,1:53.1

LINEDRIVE HANOVER — p,2,1:53.2

SOUTHWIND XENA (M) — p,2,1:53.3

ANDRES HANOVER — p,2,1:54

EXTRILLA HANOVER (M) — p,2,1:54

LET 'ER BUCK (M) — p,2,1:54

MANHOLMES — p,2,1:54.2

BATTERUP HANOVER — p,2,1:54.3

NATCHEZ BELLE (M) — p,2,1:54.3

AMAZING BET — p,2,1:55

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