
BREEDERS' UPDATE



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BREEDERS' UPDATE

February 2nd, 2021

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EXECUTIVE MANAGER UPDATE

Brad Reid

Afternoon all,

Was a great start to the week with the Canterbury leg of the on farm yearling tours and inspections kicking off Monday afternoon and wrapping up Tuesday evening.

Fourteen farms were visited across the two days and the yearlings were looking a treat.

While I haven't grown up around horses and haven't a clue what I am looking at for the most part when it comes to confirmation, even the uneducated have little problem in identifying a standout yearling on type.

The buyers are going to be spoilt for choice in this respect.

I really enjoy standing back and watching the horsemen go through their processes of inspecting the yearlings.

Given they have taken time out of their busy schedule to inspect the yearlings, I prefer to stand back and watch, but that is where you can learn a lot.

It was great to see the North Island contingent of Tony Herlihy, Ray Green, Scott Phelan and Josh Dickie make the trip south.

There was also strong representation from the Canterbury horseman and wider community bringing the unofficial headcount to hovering around 60 to 70 people.

I found myself talking to Michael Purdon and picking his brain on what he is looking for, what he has coming through the barn etc.

Michael purchased Major Trojan at the 2018 Yearling Sales for \$25,000 after the yearling has passed in. He subsequently got the Art Major colt up and going and on sold to Perth for big money.

What did he see that others didn't?

He pointed out to me as a yearling Major Trojan he was a little immature in the knee joints but aside from that, the second the cart went on and the young Purdon asked the horse to run some time, he knew he had something special.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree in that respect, does it.

We got talking about his barn and the re-emergence

of talented trotter, One Guz Hall who is due back at the races soon having not started since the Hambletonian last year.

Much to my surprise, he also told me how he would have a stable full of trotters if he could but pointed to the disparity in juvenile stakes and earning ability as the reason why he does not.

Makes sense.

What doesn't make sense is why there is so little being done to incentivise the renaissance in trotting mares being bred with investment and programming.

I get ostracised for going into bat for trotters, yet I have no agenda or self-interest in doing so. I have bred one trotter, yet by chance I own three pacing broodmares.

But as manager of the breeders' mouthpiece, I would be negligent if I did not advocate for the trotting breeders and call out a few anomalies.

I must have been living under a rock last week, but I was made aware of a social media furore regarding the programming of a two-year-old trot and the subsequent change to a non-tote race.

This was despite having the same number of runners as the two-year-old pacers who were able to go ahead as a tote race and for the better stake.

It's not helpful to have a crack without having done your diligence and it would have been easy to ask some questions which had some simple answers.

Similarly given the boutique industry we are in, it wouldn't have been hard for a club official to clarify or publicly explain what I am to discuss next.

Oh Nova Love had yet to be cleared by the Stipes from a mobile which meant only four runners were eligible for a tote race, causing the two-year-old trot to revert back to a non-tote.

This despite the fact Oh Nova Love had trotted away perfectly fine from a mobile at the trials only to gallop on the final bend.

Further complicating matters is that even though the same horse trotted away safely in the non-tote at Addington, because she galloped free of interference at the 800m she is deemed to still not have satisfied the stipes from a mobile.

Due to this anomaly, the trotting juveniles again will race in a non-tote despite having five starters. To the letter of the law these are the rules by which we must adhere too, but is it not worth some discretion?

Nobody is denying the fact that juvenile trotting races can be a lolly scramble. Nor the fact that five runners is not exactly punting paradise.

However how much of the problem lies within an issue of perception?

Perception is more often than not reality, and the perception is that trotters are consistently given the rough end of the stick.

You do not have to be a genius to work out there are clear inequalities between the contrasting gaits.

It is reflected in stake money.

It is reflected at the Harness Jewels, a pinnacle event for our sport where the perceived lack of numbers is the only reason offered as to why the trotting gait doesn't race in its own sex.

Nobody seems to mind dominant fillies and mares winning the pacing version of these events, so why not throw the trotters a bone?

Only five of the 36 winners of pacing Diamonds have paid more than \$3 on the tote. More than 60% of the winners have paid an odds-on quote of less than \$2.

The best horses win these female pacing races, so why doesn't the shoe fit the other foot?

There is not a single trotting mare in the entire sales catalogue that has won a Group One race against its own sex.

The four that have won Group One races are One Over Kenny, Superbowlcheerleader, Quite a Moment and Donegal Bettorgretch.

How many of the current crop of fillies and mares are beating Sundees Son or Majestic Man in Open Class?

Arya has four Group One credits to her name and won all of them against her own sex.

She had to fly to Australia to do it.

You also have one of the major studs taking bookings that equate to almost a quarter of the total trotting mare population not sponsoring a single group trotting race in New Zealand.

Let's quit pretending there isn't a problem here and wake up.

We all need to be a part of the solution and that extends to horseman and owners supporting races when they are programmed.

Granted it's early in the season and racing a horse before it is ready is unwise.

But it was also suggested to me that owners are holding juveniles back until after the yearling sales on the off chance that poor performance prior by a sibling leads to a reduced price at auction.



Is this a sad state of where we have gotten too?

We know this happens with horses eligible for Sires Stakes heats and finals where they are not being nominated for fear of being beaten up by superior opposition and losing export value.

There is no easy fix and we can't force owners and horseman to nominate their horses.

The reality is that the returns verse the costs of racing a horse are so poor that we are becoming over reliant on the export market to generate a return for owners.

Racing your horse can hurt its export value and that in turn is hurting our race fields and ultimately our horse population.

Look at what is now being called the 'mane drain' with our Open Class pacers, particularly in the North.

When you have Clubs and the Sires Stakes looking to promote more fillies and mares trotting opportunities (and also conditioned pacing events) they have to be reciprocated with nominations to warrant further support.

It really is a catch 22 in that sense and one that keeps me awake trying to find the answers.

THE CURIOUS CASE OF EXECUTIVE BANNER AND HIS FROZEN PASSPORT

Brad Reid

They say every dark cloud has a silver lining, and for Dennis and Dianne Moore and their two-year-old colt Executive Banner that could not be truer.

The son of Rock N Roll Heaven out of the 2017 Broodmare of Excellence winner Corporate Banner was an impressive winner of the first juvenile race of the calendar in Canterbury when winning last Friday at Addington.

The blueblood went to the wire the winner after race leader Cantfindabettorman galloped in the run home when looking every inch the winner.

Take nothing away from Executive Banner however, as he had to do the most work in the running. The Ross Houghton trained, and driven colt had a look for the lead from his wide draw before sliding back to last, before coming back out and around them to sit parked.

He displayed his full talent in the run home and never looked like throwing in the towel despite having endured the toughest run in the race.

The irony is that for the horse and breeder, the road to the winner's circle has been anything less than smooth sailing.

Where do we start?

You need to wind the clock back to 2017 where after five years of failing to get Corporate Banner in foal, the decision was made to send the super producer north to Equibreed, an equine reproduction facility based on the outskirts of Cambridge.

Lee Morris is a world-renowned vet who specialises in equine reproduction, with her company operating at the forefront of cutting-edge technology.

Equibreed is not the cheapest place to get your mare in foal, but the one thing money can't buy is time and having well-bred but problematic broodmares failing to get in foal is costly in itself.

"Corporate Banner went for five years without having a foal, she would conceive but fail to carry the pregnancy through the winter," said Moore.

"We tried the ET process. At the time I thought Equibreed was the obvious one, they were as good as anyone in New Zealand when it comes to fertility and getting mares in foal.

"She had done a very good job at stud and was worth the expense in my opinion. It was a very expensive process, there is no question about that, but I think that in hindsight it was worth the attempt," he said.

Moore was keen to breed his champion producer to one of the more commercial stallions, but with an older mare and both Bettor's Delight & Art Major well into their 20's, a decision was made to patronise one of the up-and-coming stallions.

"I spoke to Lee who recommended that I put an older mare to a younger stallion. It wasn't what I would have traditionally done but she persuaded me it was the best way to go.

"Not a lot of young stallions are proven, and I looked around at what was available.

"Rock N Roll Heaven was a very well-bred and well-performed horse who was starting to show up at the time so we decided to give him a crack," said Moore.

"We got an embryo from Corporate Banner and then the suggestion was made that we take another one and put it on ice. It wasn't something that we had considered doing but it was no more expensive than shipping the mare back and doing another ET the following year, so that was what we did," he said.

At the time the Moore's decided to freeze an embryo of Corporate Banner in 2017, the procedure was not banned under the Breeding Regulations in place with Harness



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Always B Miki – Sara Holley *Bay Colt*

LOT 218



Sweet Lou – Tessa Rocks *Black Filly*

LOT 240



Betting Line – The Vicars Daughter *Bay Filly*

LOT 247



Sweet Lou – Alta Shangri La *Brown Colt*

LOT 278



He's Watching – Eleanor Roosevelt *Brown Colt*

LOT 334



Rock N Roll Heaven – Macy Delight *Bay Colt*

LOT 407



He's Watching – Never Been Bettor *Bay Colt*

LOT 425



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Racing New Zealand. ETs were specifically allowed, and the regulations were silent on freezing embryos.

Without delving too deeply into the politics of it all, the 2019 World Trotting Conference issued five recommendations to member countries and their representatives in attendance at the breeding panel discussion.

These included.

1. *The use of semen from a dead stallion or one that has been gelded is forbidden and not to exceed the end of the breeding season following his death or date of gelding. No foal may be registered for an insemination performed beyond this time limit.*
2. *That member countries limit the number of services annually per stallion by either a number of services or a percentage of the registrations in the studbook, regardless of method. No foal may be registered from an insemination performed beyond this limit, and a financial sanction shall be applied (to the Stallion Owner).*
3. *That member countries prohibit the registration of foals born as a result of frozen embryo (ovum) transfer or sex sorting techniques.*

While none of the proposals were binding to the World Trotting Conference member countries, the narrative was that there was a need for a more unified response to some of the breeding issues and topics at hand and few would argue with that.

What transpired however was that some of the member countries who just happened to be our two biggest export markets adopted some of the proposals almost overnight.

This left the New Zealand industry scrambling to align its breeding regulations or risk the prospect of horses or progeny bred outside the parameters such as those of Frozen Embryos failing to be registered in Australia or North America.

So you can see that there are and have been a number of administrative challenges for the Moore's to utilise the advances in technology to produce foals from their problem mare.

Through no fault of their own, the Moore's had incurred a significant expense to produce a frozen embryo foal that suddenly had its passport confiscated.

To rub salt into the wound, six weeks out from the 2020 Yearling Sale which Executive Banner was set to be offered, Moore was told he was to withdraw the colt on the basis it was not eligible to be registered outside of New Zealand.

"It was devastating news because he was a lovely colt and as nice a looking colt as you could get.

"He was three-quarters of the way through his sales preparation when I got a phone call out pf the blue saying he would not be eligible for sale on the basis he couldn't be registered outside of New Zealand in what

was an international sale.

While disappointed, Moore was realistic in understanding the reasons in which why he couldn't be sold and with no export value, soon realised his only option was to try the blue blood himself.

"I initially offered the horse to Robert Dunn and he recommended I send the colt to Ross Houghton. He wouldn't pace at all to begin with which is not unusual but in every other respect he broke in nice and was easy to work with.

"Ross recommended that I take him home and put him on the jogger with the hobbles on without pushing him. I did that for three or four weeks and one day he just started pacing and he's never looked back since. The horse has gone on with it and is a really nice pacer now," he said.

Talk about making the best of a bad situation. Another irony in the whole process is who Dennis has found himself enjoying the Executive Banner experience with.

"I couldn't afford to race him on my own and when things started to get a little more serious with him, Ross offered putting together a syndicate to race him which was great," he said.

"I had some fellas from the Prebbleton Cricket Club come round and help me with some hay as part of their fundraising activity. We were sitting down at the end of the day when I showed them the colt who was over the fence and explained how he was only eligible to race in New Zealand.

"One of them said they would be interested and that the fact he couldn't be sold overseas didn't worry him. He had had a horse with a syndicate wound up being sold due to an offer they couldn't refuse but his interest wasn't in selling horses.

"I didn't know the connection but as it would eventuate, he has wound up being in the syndicate, completely unbeknown to me. It was a great coincidence," he said.

The connections of Executive Banner headed to Addington last Friday night without high expectations.

Punters followed suit and let the blueblood drift to four of five in the betting.

The colt had some strong trial and workout form in which he had won two of his four public appearances and finished second in the other two.

"I watched him at the trials, and he was all over the place and has a lot to learn. We weren't expecting a forward showing as he is still not a racehorse yet, but I think it would be fair to say he has a decent motor.

"It's a big thrill for me. I don't breed a lot only breeding somewhere between two and four a year. And while I have bred a lot of six figure earners, I have never owned any of them.



"Furthermore, I have never raced a two-year-old so for me to race and get a winner in the first race of the season at headquarters was a great thrill and really meant a lot," said Moore.

Moore was left not only with the distinction of having bred the first Canterbury juvenile winner of the season, but possibly the first race winner born by frozen embryo anywhere in the world to have won a race.

I say possibly because that is the problem with the application of the breeding regulations.

We are totally reliant on the integrity and ethical bounds of practicing veterinarians and or technicians and had Dennis Moore and Lee Morris not been honest and forthcoming, this colt could easily have fetched big money and be racing overseas.

I'm not saying it has happened, just pointing out the challenges in applying and administering such rules.

Moore also has a foal on the ground by Art Major out of Corporate Banner and he will head to the sales next year as the final foal of Corporate Banner.

Moore and his wife Dianne have three yearlings whose futures are a little more certain in that they will be offered at the 2021 Yearling Sale in Christchurch under their Banner Bloodstock name.

Where they wind up is in the lap of the gods however Moore is confident in his draft after bringing them in a little later than he would have in the past.

"In previous years I would say to Dianne six weeks out from the sale that they are ready to go to auction now sort of thing, but I have this lot peaking at just the right time," he said.

The first of the offering is Lot 204, a Sweet Lou colt out of Regal Banner (Caprock).

She has produced 12 foals for 7 winners including the dual Group One place getter, Mach Banner.

"He's as nice and racey a colt you would ever want to see," exclaimed Moore.

"Beautiful size, beautifully put together, beautiful confirmation, very athletic and just a wonderful colt.

"He is probably going to be a cheap horse for someone but there is plenty of depth to the family that isn't reflected in the catalogue, but he will be a nice horse for someone," he said.

Lot 264 is an Art Major colt out of an unraced half-sister to Flaming Flutter in When You're Hot (McArdle).

Two of her four race winners at stud have won Group Three races in Australia and the wider maternal family is on fire also with the third dam of this colt being the 2019

Pacing Broodmare of Excellence winner, Twice As Good.

"He's another lovely colt and I had an agent in here who would know as well as anyone say the same thing. A lot of Art Major's aren't the best walkers, they don't stand great, but the gentleman did say this was as nice of an Art Major as you will see on type. He's very well proportioned and looks the type that will go early," he said.

Last but not least is Lot 428, a Captaintreacherous filly (first foal) out of a Bettor's Delight half-sister to Group One winners Mainland & Titan Banner.

The dam, Nikita Banner, was unraced but has the backing of maternal prowess with Corporate Banner being the 2017 Broodmare of Excellence winner, and her daughters having bred on also with Mainland Banner having left Group One winner Rocker Band.

Moore sees some similarities between the New Zealand Cup winner he bred and this filly.

"You are going to think this is sales talk but she is very reminiscent of her close relative Mainland Banner. Same colour, lovely nature and a nice big scopey filly. She is very well behaved and lovely to work with and she looks the part, I think she will sell well," he said.

Being by a boom stallion out of a champion maternal family, it would be hard to argue with him.



Lot 264: Art Major x When You're Hot colt



Lot 428: Captaintreacherous x Nikita Banner filly



SHARD FARM AND THEIR PERFECT TEN

Brad Reid

Just last year leading into the sales “The Smiths of Shard Farm,” in Mark & Debbie Smith, were quoted as saying that the pinnacle in their sales career was the \$200,000 sale of Mach Shard in 2016.

Fair enough too. After all it allowed them to travel to Europe and follow their daughter who at the time was competing in Rotterdam with the New Zealand U19 Rowing Team.

Fast forward 12 months and it would be fair to say the ceiling by which a standardbred sale is measured was shattered, with \$280,000 paid for a yearling filly from Pemberton Shard.

In the end the Smith’s averaged \$96,000 from eight yearling offerings.

It is a stupid question, but you have to ask, did they ever dream of a result like that?

“No, and it will probably be a long time before we ever do something like that again,” said Debbie.

“Especially when we thought we would be happy if we sold that filly for \$80,000, and to think she reached \$280,000. It’s still feels like a dream today,” she said.

Moet Shard was purchased by the McClintock family from Cheviot, with grandad Graham buying the well-related filly as a gift for his granddaughters with a view to a future of breeding from the daughter of Bet-tor’s Delight x Pemberton Shard.

The fact that this was McClintock’s first foray not only to a yearling sale, but the first standardbred the family has ever owned, certainly raised some eyebrows.

If the saying ‘start as you mean to finish’ means anything to Mr McClintock, the New Zealand record price for a yearling may well be the first of many significant purchases. Our vendors will certainly hope so anyway!

For the Smiths, they knew from an early stage that the filly was a stunner on type.

This was backed up by a hive of pre-sale interest on the SBSR tour and at the sale yards.

“Somebody came up to us while walking to the ring and said could you tell me what the reserve is please,” she explained.

“We had been buoyed by the fact that she had been out of her box for longer than she had been in it and it led us to make the decision of putting a \$100,000 reserve.



Lot 314 Sweet Lou x Crackabeach colt

The beauty of a good sale for vendors is the flow on effect to the breeding sector with so much of what is recouped on sales day being reinvested back into the industry.

“It all gets reinvested either through service fees or purchasing new bloodstock,” she said.

“We have a full-blooded sister to Aladdin in our paddock from a broodmare we purchased after the sale,” she said.

While Smith is realistic about the prospect of this year’s draft, you can sense that she is no less excited about the prospect of taking a Shard draft north to Christchurch. Something her and husband Mark have done for 20 years while juggling full-time work commitments.

“We all had a really good day last year, so did our outside clients and a lot of the Southern Bred Southern Reared group. We sold our horses for really good money. There has to be good things come out of the odd sale, for example this year with our own draft, we are looking at a different type of horse.

“They are for the most part by the well-priced stallions but as a result we have had a lot of different faces through the gate already. Buyers obviously feel being by some of those stallions that they may be more in their price range and can afford them. We are excited to see who they go home with,” she said.

With both Mark and Debbie working full-time, things get a little hectic at this time of year but that is where good staff and good eye go a long way.

“Monday to Friday I feed up from three o’clock onwards and I check them all, supervise the shoeing, all the straightening out of the colts but the day-to-day grooming/walking is done by my staff who have been with me for three years. I trust what they do, and I trust their judgement on things.

“I was just complimenting the ladies on how well they have handled them this year. They are all happy, beautifully mannered and they are looking exceptional,” she said.



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mare is in foal. Commercial breeders are well aware of the importance of the diet and nutrition of the yearling.

Smith takes great pride in ensuring her yearlings never miss a feed and this is a philosophy that dates back to the first yearling they ever prepared twenty years ago when their first yearling was presented by then first season sire Live Or Die. He was small and nuggety and sold for \$10,000.

"The first to have a look at him was Mark Purdon. Mark said at the time "He certainly hasn't missed a feed," said Debbie.

"I was told last year my draft was too pretty (Fat) on the Southland tour but were spot on for the sales. That's all I need to hear and tells me I'm doing my job.

"We have learnt a lot about feeding and how the horses travel over the years. For a start we have learnt that we have to have the yearlings up to 20kgs heavier for their trip north to Christchurch where they naturally tighten up," she said.

Heading north on the float this year is a draft of ten yearlings. All well-bred, well-nurtured and well-handled yearlings and stamped with the SBSR logo for good measure.

"Last year we took eight to the sales. We originally had twelve this year, but with withdrawals ten is a good number for us. The breakdown of the ten yearlings is seven colts and three fillies so that's quite good as far as dealing with them goes," she said.

THE DRAFT

Lot 226 is Cyren Shard, a daughter of Vincent out of a McArdle half-sister to seven winners including Mighty Cullen, Likmesiah and Mister Presley.

The dam Shards of Myross was a race winner herself and has produced three live foals, the first of which called Himself (Sportswriter) has had the one start in the Sapling Stakes (5th) won by Krug.

"She is built like a colt, like a proverbial outhouse," she laughed.

"She is as big and strong as a yearling filly I have ever seen. The highlight of her day is food and that is reflected in her build. She's straight, correct and strong and pretty strong minded too by the look of things and were hoping she will sell well being a daughter of Vincent," she said.

Lot 277 is Dalton Shard, a son of Always B Miki out of the unraced Cullen mare, All Time Glory making him a half to four other winners.

"He is class that horse, he's a gorgeous looking horse out of a pretty good family we have built up over the years. Rock N Shard is his half-sister by Rocknroll Hanover who has gone to the States and paced 1:50.8.

There is a real art to preparing yearlings for the sales.

If it was easy, we would all be doing it.

The reality is anything but. Having to peak 10 budding equine athletes for their grand final in Christchurch sounds simple but given the harsh nature of an auction, there really are no second chances for getting things wrong.

Smith has two decades of experience to draw upon and is always looking at areas to improve and modifying her systems and approach to preparation.

"There is a real art in it," she said.

"Twice a week I look at the horses, they are stripped of covers and assessed to make sure everything with their feed is on track. Daily they are checked for bumps and lumps and all things like that and that none have anything wrong.

"All the fillies will run together but every colt is individually paddocked. They don't spend a lot of time in their stable unless it is wet because the young horses need room to run around and stretch their legs.

"It helps when it comes to assessments and soundness and things like that, we don't seem to have any soundness issues," she said.

"They can get up to three cover changes a day.

"Every horse has a sheet, a water proof heavy cover and I've had their 300 denier covers on for up to three weeks this prep because the weather has been so bad and then they get their shower covers on at night if it's warm.

"You can put them in their stables but long periods in stables has some issues when it comes to their soundness with their ligaments and things like that. Running them outside allows them to settle, be natural colts and develop normally.

There are a lot of cliches when it comes to feeding horses, for example that they all cost the same once the



This colt is straight and correct and just a pleasure to do anything with. The Miki's are lovely to deal with, lovely horses. He's got everything going for him," she said.

Lot 314 is a son of Sweet Lou out of an unraced Somebeachsomewhere daughter of the stakes performed Impish in Crackabeach.

This colt is a result of the Smith's having purchased the dam empty at the All Age Sale in Karaka back in 2018. It was an astute purchase by the Shard Farm team with the second dam of Crackabeach, Smarty Pants, winning the Broodmare of Excellence award later that year.

Since then, close relative King of Swing has won a Miracle Mile and Hunter Cup to go with his WA Derby and Breeders Crown glory and Bettor Twist has jumped out of the ground as a Group One winner as well.

"He is the first foal from the mare and is beautifully put together. He is a really good size for a first foal, he isn't small.

"I was standing there watching him the other night and he is such a beautifully presented horse and carries a bit of presence about him. I'm not sure if he will go early but he will certainly go as a three-year-old. He's a nice, well conformed and good-looking horse that fella," she said.

Lot 330 is a son of Rock N Roll Heaven out of a race winning Mach Three mare in Dolce Denario.

The astute buyers and breeders will know that this is the same cross that the champion filly Shez All Rock is bred on. It doesn't hurt being closely related to another Group One winning son of Rock N Roll Heaven in Let it Ride.

"A buyer came and looked at him last night and as far as Rock N Roll Heavens can go, I couldn't have asked for a better natured horse," she said.

"Straight as a dye, very well put together and he looks like the one out of them all that will definitely be a two-year-old. He is smaller, compact and very, very strong," she said.

Lot 338 is a daughter of Art Major out of a race winning Cullen mare in Lady Gaga. She herself is a half-sister to the three-time Group One winner, Sly Flyin.

That also makes this filly a close relative of the champion juvenile Smiling Shard and the smart Group One winner, Mach Shard.

"She certainly has the two-year-old look about her and her full-brother Major Shard won the Sires Stakes Silver for Mark and Natalie back in 2017 as well as running third in the Welcome Stakes behind Spankem as a three-year-old.

"She is also closely related to last year's sales topper Moet Shard and is a really nice filly. Perfectly correct and has everything in the right spot with her too," she said



Lot 200: American Ideal x Queen Of The Crop

Rounding out Shard Farm's own draft of yearlings is **Lot 220**, a son of A Rocknroll Dance out of the Changeover mare Shards Echo.

While unraced, she has plenty of breeding about her being a full sister to the seven-win mare Linton Shard and half to Mach, Smiling and Pemberton Shard.

"Rocky looks like he is going to be the one you may have to wait on out of the lot of them.

"He is long-legged and probably sitting on 15.3 hands now as a yearling. He is very nice natured and a great big striding horse. I just think you might have to wait a bit before you would see him on the racetrack," she said.

With his family tree painting a very strong picture, he should be well worth the wait if there is one given his dam is already the producer of the stakes performed Soho Whisper (Art Major) from her first of three foals.

Over the years the Smith have not only prepped their own yearlings, they've also taken in outside horses.

Long-time Southland breeder Russell Morton has provided them with colts most of the past fifteen years and this year is no different.

"People like Russell are just part of the family and will always do his. He just gives us the horses to prepare and he in turn gives us a hand around the farm and does the garden and things like that," she said.

Lot 200 is on account of Russell and is a son of American Ideal and is a full-brother to the recent Alistair Black trained winner on debut, King Of Trumps.

"This fellow is big, strong and a little bit unruly at the moment. We are still working on his behaviour which is improving all the time.

"He's got all the goods and has never wanted for anything, he's a real eater and is a real out and in your face type of colt. A lovely horse who I am sure Ray will love," she laughed referring to chair of the American Ideal fan club, Ray Green.

Lot 344 is an Art Major colt out of an unraced full sister to



Western Cullen in Follow The Dream on account of Vin & Daphne Devery.

The second dam is three-time Group One winner in Western Dream and the third dam is the 2020 Pacing Broodmare of Excellence winner in Dreamy Atom.

This family is running hotter than the embers in a hangi for the Devery family with Amazing Dream being a close relative, so too Chase The Dream.

"He is a typical Art Major, he looks like a wee two-year-old ready to race. He is very intelligent because if you ask him to do something and he doesn't want to do it, he actually does begrudgingly behave himself.

"But he is very quick to learn, he is correct and everything is going in the right direction for that horse who has two-year-old all over him," she said.

The colt's half-brother by Bettor's Delight was snapped up from last year's sales by none other than Jean Feiss for \$90,000 while the Somebeachsomewhere half-brother was unbeaten from three public appearances for Michael House but is since unsighted.

Lot 370 is a daughter of Bettor's Delight and first foal from the American Ideal mare Ideal Legs. She is on account of Malcolm & Sandra Little who raced the lightly tried dam with Tank Ellis before injury curtailed her career on the track. This filly's second dam was the stakes performer Lynne Flacon (Falcon Seelster) who was good enough to win five and has produced five winners of her own.

"She's a precious wee filly and the girls at home absolutely love her, she is gorgeous.

"She's never done a thing wrong in her life. She is a first foal and is straight, well put together and beautifully natured. A typical Bettor's, always wants to please you and is never difficult," said Smith.

Lot 396 is the last of the Shard Farm outsiders with a cracking Sweet Lou colt on account of Mike Turner. He is a half to five winners being out of the race winning Holmes Hanover mare, Letatalk and is extremely well-related with second dam Seamoons and third dam Maureens Dream.

"He is a good horse who is related to a lot of winners who have ended up in West Australia. We have put two of the foals from the mare through the sales before and got good money for them.

"He is a lovely horse and a bit of a trier, but once you remind him of the rules he is fine. He is straight, correct and a real go-getter and a forward horse. You let him out and he knows he's going places," she said.

For the most part, the buyers will get their first look at the Shard Farm draft on Tuesday at the first stop for day two of the Southern Bred Southern Reared yearling tour. The tour starts on Monday afternoon and concludes on Tuesday evening with over 70 yearlings to be paraded over the two days.

ALABAR TO OFFER SELECT ALWAYS B MIKI YEARLINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Michael Guerin

Graeme Henley had a hunch last year that he is pretty certain he got right.

But he hopes the proof comes on the first day of the National Yearling Sale at Karaka on Sunday week.

As the boss of Alabar New Zealand, Henley has seen more yearling sales than most who will be walking the grounds next week but these days Alabar don't have a huge draft of their own yearlings at Karaka.

"It is just the way it has worked out, we sell the majority of our young ones at the weanling sale in May," he explains.

"With the way the farm is set up and our staffing levels it makes sense and the weanling sale has been good to us, especially last May."

But last year Henley decided to retain five of the stud's colts for next week's yearling sale and he is thrilled he did.

"We kept four colts by Always B Miki and one by Vincent," says Henley.

"I was confident Always B Miki would do a job with his first season two-year-olds in North America and they went amazingly well.

"He was their best sire of two-year-olds and there were only three horses in the voting for two-year-old of the year and they were all by him.

"So he has turned out to be a sire already better than we could have hoped for and that is why we kept these colts.

"I think most people who head to the sales would realise that and clearly it has been reflected in his book as he served 200 mares in New Zealand and his limit in Australia.

"So he is doing the job and they should sell well."

The four colts have the blood on the other side of their families to help them too. One (Lot 9) is out of the smart mare Princess Arts, the next (Lot 54) is out of group one winner Yankee Dream, who is also already a successful broodmare.



On account of Phillippa Hanley:

Two fillies that you **HAVE** to inspect!

Lot 212

American Rocker
American Ideal
x Sabellian Bay Filly

Lot 212 is a daughter of champion sire American Ideal. She is out of a stakes performed Art Major mare in Sabellian who was **Group 1** placed and the dam of the talented pacer, Slick Joe (4 wins) and the lightly raced but very promising Angus (2 places). 2nd dam is the lightly raced daughter of Christian Cullen in Sabine, a full sister to dual **Group 1** winner Roman Gladiator. She herself is the dam of 3 winners including stakes winning race mare, Apassionato.



Her preparer Steven Boyd thinks there is a lot to like about this girl who has a large frame, great confirmation and is beautifully mannered.



Lot 358

What A Minx
Art Major
x Hannah Sue Bay Filly

A beautifully bred daughter of siring superstar, Art Major out of an unraced Bettor's Delight daughter of three time **Group 1** winner, O'Baby. You will be a long time looking for a weakness in this girls pedigree with champion broodmare sires featuring in the maternal pedigree. Bettor's Delight, Cullen and Artsplace. What A Minx's dam Hannah Sue was unraced but showed huge potential as a young horse. This is her first foal and a great opportunity to get into a special family.

Her preparer Steven Boyd says she is a precocious looking filly who is nice and compact, and has a great temperament.

Both fillies have been nurtured and raised on a grain free diet as well as Hanley Formula, NZ's original amino acid concentrate assisting with the balanced growth of weanlings and yearlings

Contact: Stephen Boyd
for inspections on 027 481 5045

Henley and Alabar also retained a Vincent colt (Lot 58) from the hugely successful Alta family as he wanted to support the sale with the first yearlings of Vincent.

“They are good looking horses and there are only a few at Karaka but quite a few more in the Christchurch session.

“They sold really well at the weanling sales and trainers like Mark Purdon have told me they are interested in them so I think he will get his chance as he has already had such good books.”

Henley said with a smaller catalogue and so many high-class broodmares retained in the north he knows next week’s Karaka sale will be strong.

“We have some big operations up here with some wonderful mares so there looks to be real depth at the Sale.”

The parade day for the Auckland session of the National Yearling Sale takes place next Saturday 13 February from 1.00pm (NZT) with the Auckland Sale of Pacers & Trotters the following day from 12PM (NZT).

ONLINE BIDDING REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR NATIONAL YEARLING SALE

Michael Guerin

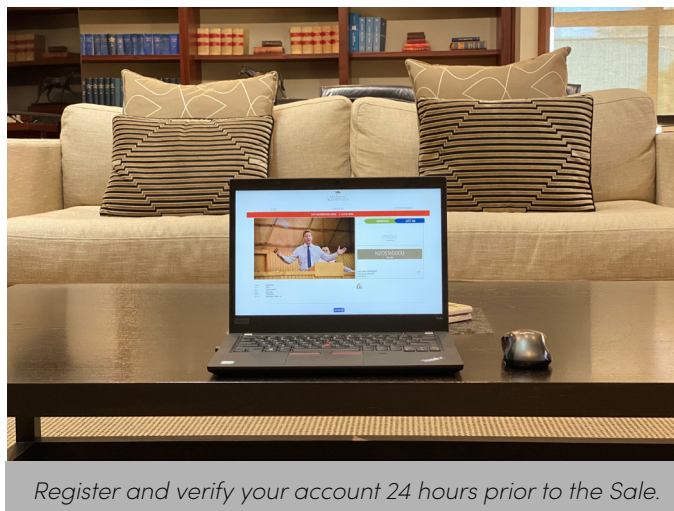
Online bidding registrations for NZB Standardbred’s 2021 National Yearling Sale held at Auckland and Christchurch are now open.

Despite international border closures, buyers using the online bidding platform can bid with confidence based on the results achieved at parent company, New Zealand Bloodstock’s, extremely successful 2020 Ready to Run Sale and Karaka 2021 National Yearling Sales Series.

The strong network implemented at the Karaka Sales Centre and Canterbury Agricultural Park will mean that buyers logged in from around the world will not miss out on their chance to secure some of the best yearlings offered in the Southern Hemisphere.

Buyers are encouraged to visit standardbred.bidonline.nzbc.co.nz to register and verify their accounts 24 hours prior to the Sale, which begins at 12PM (NZT) on Sunday 14 February at Karaka.

Follow the step-by-step guide to NZB Standardbred’s online bidding platform [here](#).



Register and verify your account 24 hours prior to the Sale.

View the full video tutorial demonstrating how to use the online bidding platform [here](#).

Should you require any assistance with NZB Standardbred’s online bidding platform, contact support@nzb.co.nz or call +64 9 298 0055.

Phone bidding is another welcomed option for buyers, for enquiries contact Bloodstock Representative Cam Bray on +64 21 737 199 or email Cam.Bray@nzb.co.nz.

For those wishing to catch all the sale day action, NZB Standardbred’s National Yearling Sale will be broadcast live on Freeview channel 200, as well as live streamed on nzbstandardbred.co.nz and NZB Standardbred’s facebook page.

Presenters Michael Guerin and Greg O’Connor will also bring key highlights and interviews throughout the four days of selling.

All New Zealand-based buyers, trainers and agents are welcome to attend the physical sales in person at Auckland and Christchurch. Registration can be completed as usual on sale days at the Sale Day office, or online [here](#).

NZB Standardbred agents and New Zealand-based trainers are also available to complete inspections on behalf of international buyers at the on-farm parades and on site at Karaka and Christchurch, with the last leg of the parade schedule in Southland available to view [here](#).

2021 National Standardbred Yearling Sale Calendar

- *Auckland Parade at Karaka: Saturday 13 February 2021, 1PM (NZT)*
- *Auckland Sale of Pacers & Trotters: Sunday 14 February 2021, 12PM (NZT)*
- *Christchurch Parade & Sale of Trotters: Monday 15 February 2021, 1PM (NZT)*
- *Christchurch Sale of Pacers: Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 February 2021, 1PM (NZT)*

All broadcast live on Freeview channel 200, on nzbstandardbred.co.nz and NZB Standardbred’s facebook page.



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6.30pm – 6.55pm

White Stables

41 Winton Substation Road, Winton

7.00pm – 7.20pm

Michelle Caig Breeding

110 Price Road, Winton

7.25pm – 9.00pm

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Tuesday 9 February

7.30am – 9.45am

Shard Farm

131 Myross Road, Invercargill

11am – 12.20pm

Macca Lodge / Braeview

56 Main Wendonside Road, Riversdale

1.35pm – 2.45pm

Arden Lodge

117 Boundary Road, Tapanui

4.45pm – 5.15pm

G & A Mee / White Robe Lodge

285 Gladstone Road, Wingatui

Enquiries to Mark Smith Ph 027 436 8114

For catering purposes, please RSVP to katrina.price@xtra.co.nz or 021 369 097

UNsung HEROINE

Harnesslink Media

Being a direct descendant of one of an exclusive harness racing group of broodmare centurions, who have produced the winners of over 100 races, is surely a feat in itself.

Unsung heroine Chaangerr (Vance Hanover / Nell's Pride) achieved this rare feat some time ago and ranks fifth on the all-time list of New Zealand centurion broodmares. In fact, she has produced 11 individual winners, who between them have won an incredible 129 races. What is just as amazing is that her progeny have amassed stake earnings of over \$3.25 million; the highest of any of the mares above her on the centurion list. For good measure, she is also the granddam of the winners of over \$1.3 million in stakes.

The two fillies out of Chaangerr retained by the breeders Rob Carr and Don Kirkbride for breeding, have been Changedown (Falcon Seelster / Chaangerr), who in her first eight foals has only produced one colt, with that colt being One Change and now Super Change (Mach Three / Chaangerr) who has produced their second colt at her first attempt.

Lot 36 in the NZ National Standardbred Yearling Sale, at Karaka on 14 February, in the Breckon Farms draft is the first foal from the modest winner Super Change, who is the last foal of her dam, a winning racemare of some repute herself, having won six races including the NI Breeders Stakes and was the 1995 NZ 4YO Pacing Mare of the Year.

This yearling colt is very closely related to one of New Zealand's best pacers of the modern era in 9-time Group 1 winner Chokin (a full-brother to Chaangerr), whose wins included the NZ Trotting Cup, NZ Free-For-All, two Auckland Cups, two Miracle Miles, Victoria Cup, 2YO Young Guns Final, NZ 2YO Championship, 2YO & 3YO NZ Sires Stakes Finals and who is one of two millionaire pacers close up in this pedigree.

The other is Changeover, a six-time Group 1 winner, whose wins included the NZ Trotting Cup in a world record time of 3:56.4, 3YO NZ Sires Stakes Final, Great Northern Derby, NZ Derby, Taylor Mile, Len Smith Mile, 3YO (Listed) & 4YO Harness Jewels – to be the first dual Jewels winner, 3YO Australasian Breeders Crown Final and is now a successful sire. Change Stride is a 1:50 winner in North America and is Chaangerr's second winningest progeny, while Change Gear has 22 wins.

Another close relative is the juvenile star of the last two seasons, One Change, being 2019 NZ 2YO Pacing Colt or Gelding of the Year and joint 2020 NZ 3YO Pacing Colt or Gelding of the Year and in the process winning three Group 1 races in the 2YO Harness Jewels and 2YO & 3YO NZ Sires Stakes Finals.

Chaangerr is also the third dam of NZ Messenger Cham-



pionship and 4YO Harness Jewels winner Eamon McGuire, so in just two generations of this pedigree there are three individual Harness Jewels winners and another close relative in Fly Like An Eagle was a winner of the 2YO Harness Jewels of his year.

Lot 36, aptly named Changealot, is truly a knight in shining armour. He is by leading sire Art Major, who is the sire of a Miracle Mile winner in Field Marshal and is an eight-time Harness Jewels winning sire, including being the sire of the only 3-time Harness Jewels winner Sky Major.

So, Changealot has a pedigree fit for a king and has certainly got everything going for him, in his quest to continue the family destiny.

A LOOK AT SOME 2020-2021 NOTES FROM THE N.A BREEDING WORLD

Bob Heyden | Harness Racing Update

American Ideal. From the same year as Rocknoll Hanover (foals of 2002) and the first sub-1:48 sophomore ever, American Ideal is still going strong. His progeny have earned \$140,636,345 to start 2021.

His two richest are from the same crop:
#1 American Jewel \$1,840,565 (2009 foal)
#2 Heston Blue Chip \$1,781,884 (2009)
#3 Sunshine Blue Chip \$1,633,398 (2010)

Archangel. Four of his top five money winners are, indeed, "Angels":

#1 Guardian Angel \$1,442,353
#2 Top Flight Angel \$941,250
#4 ICanflylikeanangel \$412,592
#5 Teddys Little Angel \$289,982

Andover Hall. His first crop was one for the ages and he's still going at it at age 22.

The following are all from his first crop foaled in 2007:

- Donato Hanover – 3YOCT of the Year and the Hambletonian winner.
- Pampered Princess – 3YOFT of the Year and second choice in the Hambletonian behind Donato.
- Adrian Chip – Hambletonian runner-up.
- Danae – Hambletonian Oaks winner.

Bold Eagle earned \$5,701,478 lifetime and is available via frozen semen only.

Cattlewash retired with the same 1:46.4 sophomore mark his dad recorded (Somebeachsomewhere in

2008). Cattlewash is now standing at Walnridge NJ.

Dancin Yankee is in the stallion ranks, you don't see many with a bio that includes nine straight \$100,000 seasons plus a \$2 million career (\$2,003,907). Standing his second season at Cool Winds in Lima, OH.

Muscle Hill produced more than half of the trotting yearlings that sold for \$100,000 or more in 2020 (36 of 71). Overall, Muscle Hill sold 71 for \$9.002 million for an average of \$126,789.

Thirteen of the 14 highest-priced Walner offspring sold at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

Top yearling buyers

Andy and Julie Miller led all buyers of yearlings with \$2,990,000 spent. Rounding out the top five were Nancy Takter, Marcus Melander, Tony Alagna and Ron Burke.

Fewer sold

There were fewer yearlings sold in 2020 than in nine of the past 10 years. In 2017, 3,324 yearlings were sold. In 2020, the number sold was 3,335, which was 11 per cent fewer yearlings than were sold in 2019.

Stallion battle

The year 2020 produced a nice battle for the top spot among stallions. Somebeachsomewhere edged out Bettors Delight \$16,065,109 to \$16,027,848.

Marc Fontaine sighting

Or, at least a text. Now 55, Fontaine was 20 when he trained the undefeated 1986 HOY Forrest Skipper for his father, Lucien Fontaine. How is Marc doing?

"I am in Coral Springs and Loosh is right down the road. Surviving the crazy times we are in. I am flying a Turbo Prop. I take PGA golfers to and from tournaments. I am home a lot these days, but I still teach people how to fly. I do miss the business and follow it on social media. But I really do miss the golden old days in the backstretch."

Who needs to race at 2?

Who needs a 2-year-old season? Party Girl Hill, Pine Chip, Won The West sure didn't and Wiggle It Jiggle It had just one try in 2014. Same with Hot Lead in 1995. Sometimes a lone win at 2 is no indication either. Precious Bunny's 1-for-14 slate in 1990 sure didn't give us any hint as to 1991's record money-season which added 20 more wins and a Horse of the Year title.

And finally...

This is the stat of the day. The last time the Hambletonian had the top three drivers and trainers all born in the U.S. was in 1980 when Billy Haughton, Tommy Haughton and Del Miller finished 1-2-3 with Burgomeister, Final Score and Devil Hanover. Not once in the entire Meadowlands Hambletonian era has this happened.



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HRNZ AT THE SALES

Harness Racing New Zealand will have a beefed up presence at February's yearling sales, at both Karaka and Christchurch.

There are 430 lots – including 39 siblings to Group One winners – that will go under the hammer on February 13 and 14 at Karaka, and from February 15-17 at Canterbury Agricultural Park.

"It's a massive week for the industry," says Harness Racing New Zealand Chief Executive Gary Woodham, "even though the Australians won't be there in person they will be bidding on-line and as always there'll be a who's who of New Zealand racing there, with all the top breeders, trainers and owners."

"As an owner myself it's always a week I really look forward to, and there has been a lot of chat everywhere I go about the sales both at Karaka and in Christchurch."

Woodham, along with HRNZ General Manager Racing, Catherine McDonald, will be at both sales to meet key players in the industry and answer any queries people have.

"We are very keen to be accessible to people," says McDonald, "and what better place to meet people who are so heavily invested in the game."

HRNZ will be in the marquees run by the North Island Standardbred Breeders' Association and the Canterbury Standardbred Breeders' Association which will be set up just outside the sales rings at both venues.

"They are a sanctuary really," says NZ Standardbred Breeders' Association Executive Brad Reid, "a place for buyers to catch their breath."

Information about ownership, breeding and pedigree will all be readily available and TVs will be set up so that everyone can keep up with the latest happenings in the sales ring.

"In the past we've had a couple of hundred of people through there every day so they are popular," says Reid.



SEE YOU AT THE SALES

HRNZ will be at the North Island and South Island Yearling Sales as part of 'The Breeders' tents.

Stop in for some refreshments and have a chat to some of the team.

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