

OWNER'S BULLETIN

MARCH 2010



NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED
RACEHORSE OWNERS
FEDERATION

OUR GOAL

TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMICS, INTEGRITY AND PLEASURE OF THE SPORT OF THOROUGHBRED RACING ON BEHALF OF ALL OWNERS.

PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Neil Oldfield

Welcome members to another edition of the Owners Bulletin. The adoption of the motion to pursue the One Racing Concept was the key topic at the NZTR AGM. This motion requires the endorsement of the Harness and Greyhound codes. We await the outcome of the concept but in the mean time, we have been enjoying a wonderful season of racing.

TAB turnover is ahead of forecast causing the Racing Board to recently announce it will inject an additional \$3.2 million into our code – a welcome relief.

January saw excellent sales results posted by NZ Bloodstock. The work put in by NZB and New Zealand Thoroughbred Marketing, together with the race results of New Zealand Thoroughbreds in the Australian and Asian arenas continue to stimulate these buying benches.

As the newly elected Federation representative on the NZTR board, I would like to take the opportunity to thank John Rennie for the excellent service he has provided the Federation over the last five years. His expertise was evident with the Chairmanship of the finance committee, amongst other portfolios.

As a Federation we would appreciate the development of Associations from areas not currently represented. We have recently been approached by members from Otago and Wellington to seek names to re-establish these Associations. Currently members from these areas are allotted to an Association they feel best represents them.

If you would be interested in supporting the formation of Associations in these areas, or in any other area, please feel free to contact our National Secretary, Jim Keyte.

Good Luck, and Good Racing,

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jim Keyte

Firstly, thank you to everyone who helped with the upgrade of the Federation website www.racehorseowner.co.nz and also to NZTR for their assistance. I am sure you will all agree that it is a vast improvement and we have further upgrading to continue as the site develops.

Following an election between Peter Arnott (Auckland nomination), Neil Oldfield (Manawatu nomination) and John Rennie (Hawkes Bay nomination) the Federation's Director on NZTR is Neil Oldfield. Our thanks go to John Rennie for his two terms as the Federation's Director on NZTR and his support of the Federation throughout that time.

The decision and actioning of centralised Federation invoicing for member subscriptions has gone smoothly. Outstanding subscriptions at the end of March will shortly be followed up via each Association branch.

All Members who wish to be included on NZTR's weekly Media Bulletin which list news releases and upcoming events via email, need to provide me with their email address.

Email to me at: nztr@xtra.co.nz



Federation President, Neil Oldfield celebrated an 'O' birthday recently with Jill and Charles Simpson in Marton. Pictured above are Neil, Charles and Allan Fenwick.

Well done, Neil!

NOTES FROM THE REGIONS

WAIKATO

Greg McCarthy

RACING HALL OF FAME KIOSK

The Racing Hall of Fame presented its exhibition display kiosk to the public for the first time at the Gala Dinner held at Ellerslie racecourse on 5 March 2010. The kiosk contains all the inductee video stories as well as other interesting racing and breeding history and was designed and developed to museum standard by international curator Jenny Cave and designer Gary Collins. One kiosk will be permanently based at Hamilton International Airport which has more than 500,000 passengers each year. The second kiosk will be displayed at chosen events around New Zealand.

RITCHIE'S DERBY DAY

Congratulations to Cambridge based trainer Shaune Ritchie for emulating the feat of his father, in winning the 2010 running of the \$2.2 million Telecom New Zealand Derby at Ellerslie with Military Move. Bred by Windsor Park Stud, Military Move took his career earnings to over \$1.5 million from just eight life-time starts and may prove to be enough to secure another sires premiership for his sire Volksraad. Earlier in the day Shaune's father Frank trained the three year old filly Obsession to win the listed Westbury Classic. Obsession is owned by the Waikato based Oaks Stud and is by their resident sire Bachelor Duke.

HAWKES BAY

John Jenkins

PROMINENT HB OWNER NOTCHES FIRST ON HOME TRACK

Hawke's Bay businessman Graeme Lowe has successfully bred and raced thoroughbreds for three decades but it was not until the Hawke's Bay meeting on January 27 that he managed to record his first success on his home track. Lowe is the breeder and owner of Big Grump Grae, a three-year-old Savabeel gelding who took out a 1600-metre maiden race. It was the horse's first win from four starts. Big Grump Grae is out of Jeligite Jen, a Crested Wave mare that Lowe has bred from since 1994. She is also the dam of Singing Star, who provided Lowe with his biggest success in racing when winning the 2004 Group 2 Waikato Cup (2400m).

TWO HB OWNED AND TRAINED WINNERS AT WAIROA

This year's two-day Wairoa fixture run on February 18 and 21, saw the Hastings training combination of Guy Lowry and Grant Cullen saddle up two Hawke's Bay-owned winners. Just Call Me Bond delivered a decisive 2½ length victory in a rating 70 1200-metre race on the first day. The four-year-old gelding then backed up on the second day and turned in another honest race for second. Owned by co-trainer Grant Cullen in partnership with Hawke's Bay Racing committeeman Wayne Mudgway; Napier's Larry Dallimore; Wellington-based Jeff Drinkwater and Napier's Luke Shadbolt, Just Call Me Bond cost just \$4,600 at the 2006 Karaka weanling sales.

Strive maintained a perfect record for his Hawke's Bay owner-breeder Ken Browne when successful in the Viv Anson Memorial Gold Cup (1850m) on the second day at Wairoa. "I've now raced three horses at Wairoa and they have all won," a delighted Browne said after Sunday's win. Browne bred Strive and races him with close friend Peter Grieve.

CAMPBELL BAGS FOUR AT LOCAL MEETING

Campbell won the first two races with Hawke's Bay Cat and Keeperthejazz, and then took out the fourth event with La Singa and the day's main race with Royal Jazz. Campbell got special satisfaction out of La Singa's win as he shares in the ownership with Christchurch-based Ron Spotswood, a long time client who raced two of the best horses the stable has produced in Burletta and Avedon.

Sharing in two of Campbell's other victories were the Hastings brothers Ken and Chris Russell, who bred and own Keeperthejazz and Royal Jazz. Hawke's Bay Cat is raced by a 30-member syndicate managed by Sharon White. He credited the Hastings-based stallion China Cat with his first winner when he scored his runaway 3¼ length victory.

NAPIER PAIR BY-MONTHLY AWARD WINNERS

Bernard Hickey and Karl Summers were the recipients of the Hawke's Bay Racehorse Owners by-monthly award for October/November 2009. They co-own the smart sprinter San Bernadino, who came back from an 11-month break to take out the listed \$50,000 Lion Red Plate (1200m) at Rotorua on October 17.

SECRETARY STEPS DOWN AFTER 22 YEARS OF SERVICE

Henry Taylor recently relinquished his position as secretary of the Hawke's Bay Racehorse Owners Association after 22 years of service. Association president Tony Lyndon thanked Henry for the huge number of hours he has dedicated to the association's affairs and wished him well in retirement. Peter Johnson, who has shared in several racehorses in the past, has taken over the role of secretary while Bernard Hickey is a new member on the committee.

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND Fiona Hurst

GIVING BACK

It is well known that it is hard to win races and even harder to win enough stake money to pay for the horse to get there.

Central South Island Owners' Committee decided to do something about this. They set up a Summer Points Series with a total prize pool of \$4,000. It ran over four months, October to January and was well supported by the local owners.

Receiving first place and \$2,500 was Esther Black, Owner and Trainer of the gutsy and consistently performed Tenko. Tenko raced a total of seven times during the series and gained points in six of those starts. Esther who has held her trainers' license for less than a year had a great introduction to racing last March, on the West Coast, where she and husband Tim picked up their first win at their very first race day start. A great achievement as Tenko had been retired from racing 18 months prior and her future was looking very bleak until Esther gave her that first gallop.

Second prize of \$1,000 went down to the wire when on the last day of January. Under Parr, a rating 82 gelding gained a third place in open company at Riccarton to pip the very talented Turf Fire in the series. Under Parr is locally trained by Fiona Hurst and owned by past president Cliff Shortus. No signs of retirement yet for the eight year old gelding that is now in his fourth season of racing.

Early leader for most of the series, Turf Fire deserved her third place and gained \$500 for her local and very supportive owner, Rod Moore. The classy looking mare has had five wins in her career and numerous placings and is trained by local trainer Michael Daly.

Starting April 1st the Winter Points series will run for four months, ending July 31st to coincide with the racing season and our Annual awards evening. Any interested owners wanting to join the series can contact Association President Fiona Hurst on 686 6116.

Another winner in the area recently has been the R Lam & Haunui Farm Ltd owned El Chico. The five year old Stravinsky gelding gaining two wins since Christmas. Also Timaru owned and bred, Beata, gained her maiden win at Wingatui after some consistent performances for Owners' Tim and Esther Parcell.

AUCKLAND

Ken Cramer Roberts

The Christmas racing was exciting and raiders from other parts took away plenty of the spoils on offer. Congratulations to all the owners who enjoyed success and we hope to see you back in March.

The Yearling sales were up in value but in my opinion there were a few too many passed in, particularly fillies in the Select and Festival sessions. Therefore it may be time to once again review allowances and stakes to incentivise their purchase for the domestic market.

Our last (Auckland) newsletter contained a survey, the results of which indicated respondents had similar views to the committee – that owners need a fair return on their investment. Other points of view included focused on:

- Responders felt that named races such as the City of Auckland Cup and the Auckland Cup were inappropriate, with many feeling they were too similar
- It was endorsed there should be a thoroughbred racing museum
- There was support for the Apprentice school
- Owner entitlements at race meetings could still be improved to incentivise people to make the financial commitment required to be an owner, whether as individuals, partners or syndicates

I recently visited Byerly Park at Karaka. The 130 plus horses in work makes for a hive of activity. More stables are to be built and the facility is fast becoming a training centre of significance.

A report from Ruakaka advises the bore in the middle of the course is keeping the drought at bay and the hundred or so horses trained in the area are enjoying a good strike rate. With changing land use, the population is moving closer to the track. The same applies on a larger scale at Counties where a very significant training establishment is now bedded in.

Looking forward to a good Auckland Cup Carnival. Wishing everyone a great Autumn.

STUD & STABLE TOUR

The Auckland Association has arranged a stud & stable tour of the Waikato area on Sunday March 28th, leaving Eilerslie racecourse at 8.30am. Cost \$45. Members from any Association are welcome to join in on the event. **Enquiries to Ken Cramer Roberts Ph 09-570-5304.**

THE MANAWATU ASSOCIATION SALUTES CONTRIBUTION

Allan Fenwick

Three former long serving members of the Committee, Dave Collins, Charles Pearce and Jim Willson, were recognised with life membership of the Association at the AGM in December. Charles was Secretary of the Association and will continue on as trials organiser. Jim was also President for many years.

Apprenticed to legendary Awapuni trainer Doc Knapp, Dave Collins had winners as a rider both on the flat and over fences. In fact it will be 60 years to the day when this year's Manawatu Steeples is run in June since Dave was successful on Sten in the 1950 event. A get together at Awapuni is planned to celebrate the occasion.

Travelling to New Plymouth, with some stable runners whilst an apprentice had a most satisfactory outcome for Dave. The horses were stabled at the premises of the then New Plymouth based trainer Len Dulieu rather than at the course. Whilst there Dave met Len's daughter Bev and nearly 60 years later they are still happily married.

After sustaining a number of injuries Dave retired from race riding in 1952 but maintained his involvement in racing as Clerk of the Course at Awapuni, Feilding, Bulls and Marton for 22 years. Away from racing Dave worked in the building trade for the Willson family until his retirement.

Foxton's Charles Pearce has been part of the racing scene for over 40 years. Commencing as timekeeper in 1966 Charlie was elected President of the Foxton Racing Club in 1975 and served the Club in that capacity for 3 years. In 1979 he took over as Secretary of the Club and 30 years later still holds that position. Away from racing Charles is a Chartered Accountant and was awarded a QSM in recognition of his contribution to many charitable causes in the community, including hundreds of honorary audits.

Kathy's Crown, the first horse that Charles had a share in was a winner and through 3 further generations of that first horse, Charles has enjoyed raceday success. The 5 times winner Salvatore raced by Charles son Paul is the most recent. Banabar, the son of La Berceuse, winner of 4 races from 7 career starts over the last 9 months for Stephen McKee is also from the same family. Other winners raced by Charles in the early days included Meritor, Minit and Tanayar.

Jim Willson first became involved in racing horses in the 1970's with his good friend Rob Stevenson and enjoyed success with Red Mellay, Battle Treaty and Black Frost. On his own account Jim then raced a number of very useful performers including Infantry, Willfox, Vigarosa, Double Black and King James. All these horses were trained at Awapuni by Eric Temperton, Margaret Bull or Peter & Nikki Hurdle.

Jim maintains his ownership interest through the Fortuna Syndicates where he has celebrated Group I glory with Tell a Tale.

Willson Construction, owned & operated by Jim, was a major building contractor in the Manawatu for many years, and was involved with the upgrade of the Manawatu Members Stand and the grandstand on the old Feilding Racecourse. More recently the company, under the direction of Jim's son Lance, built the new Grandstand and Events Centre at Awapuni.

All three have been real stalwarts of the Association and have contributed countless hours, especially on trial days.

MANAWATU RACING CLUB – PREMIER RACEDAY APRIL 3RD 2010

Darin Balcombe

All owners who have a horse entered for the Manawatu Racing Club April 3rd are entitled to free entry on the day by identifying themselves at the gate as owner with a horse racing. Once in the course all owners should proceed to the Raceday Office situated in the Members Stand, where they will receive a racebook and an owners ribbon identifying which race they have entered and this will allow them in the Members Stand for the day.

After the excitement of your race all owners are invited to the Owners Circle win, lose or draw. There the Club would be delighted to shout you a drink and we will make a small presentation to the winning connections. Note all our Group race presentations will take place in the birdcage.

The popular Fashion Of The Fields will be held this day and there is \$15,000 worth of prizes up for grabs. See www.awapuniracing.co.nz for details

The racing will be of top quality with the Club hosting four black type races on the day. These are:

\$200,000 Group One Central Region Ford Dealers Manawatu Sires Produce Stakes

\$85,000 Group 2 Lawnmaster Awapuni Gold Cup

\$70,000 Group 3 The Oaks Stud Manawatu Classic

\$45,000 Listed Fairedale/Goodwood Studs Flying Handicap

If you wish to make a day of it the Manawatu Racing Club will be selling tables of eight in its outstanding Silks Lounge. You can enjoy the style and first class facilities with uninterrupted views of the race course. Your hospitality package will include Racecourse Admission, Racebook per guest, Superb Hot Buffet luncheon, Complimentary beverages throughout the day, Complimentary tea and coffee and Private tote facilities. You may purchase one ticket or as many required and the cost is \$95 (incl GST) per person.

BIG GROUPS HIT THE BIG TIME

Jo Griffin – NZTR

2009 saw the launch of two variations of large scale ownership in New Zealand. One was the creation of Brent Cooper's "Winners Circle Syndicate", the other was "The Premier Racing Club" run by Jonathan and Jennifer Alve.

The "Winners Circle Syndicate" is the brain child of Auckland Racing Club Board member Brent Cooper. With just over a 100 members the Winners Circle Syndicate is structured around three leased fillies with 90 shares available. Each share has the option to be split between up to three people or alternatively individuals can take up more than one share if they wish.

For \$75 per share, syndicate members get to enjoy three fillies racing. Those fillies are syndicate pin-up girl Masquerade with trainer Stephen McKee, So Regal and an as yet un-named Falkirk filly both with John Sargent. Cheap, fun, and easy to say "yes" to. Perfect.

Brent comes from a marketing and sales back-ground and has been around long enough to know what he wants as an owner and what he'd like to receive by way of communication as a customer. Interestingly, he thinks one of the unexpected benefits for the Winners Circle Syndicate members is the flow of information he provides to the members.

"I communicate approximately fortnightly by email depending on what's happening with the horses, sometimes more if there's information I know they'd like to have. People love being kept informed. Some of the members have raced horses on their own in the past, occasionally they've surprised me by saying they get more feed-back having only a small share in a big syndicate than they previously have when they've been picking up the whole bill!"

All of the syndicate horses are leased and there is no right of purchase on any of the stock. Effectively, this provides the syndicate with the opportunity to race the calibre of stock which studs are keen to hang-on to – well bred, athletic fillies, for no capital out-lay.

It's a formula that's working too. Two-year-old No Excuse Needed filly "Masquerade" leased to the Winners Circle Syndicate by Waikato stud romped in and won the Listed Soliloquy Stakes at Ellerslie on the 26th of September.

"When the Auckland Racing Club Winners Circle syndicate was formed the ultimate aim was to have a horse race at Ellerslie," said Brent. "To have our first horse become a Listed race winner there in only her 4th start was simply unreal, and to see all those ecstatic people up on the dais gave me a total buzz – that's what racing a horse is all about."

With approximately 50 buoyant syndicate members oncourse to witness the win and storm the dais in celebration it was a moment to savour for all. Brent went on to say "Ellerslie have been hugely supportive of the concept and have definitely helped with hosting such a large group of enthusiasts. I know on the day each and every one of those syndicate members oncourse felt as proud and as much a part of the whole ownership experience as any other winning owner that day."

What Jonathan and Brent agree emphatically on is that their models will undoubtedly encourage people into smaller syndicates of perhaps 20 shares where they own a larger slice of a horse. From little acorns grow.

THE NEXT BEST THING TO OWNING A RACEHORSE?

Premier Racing Club is a new player in the racing industry, offering the opportunity to take part in the ownership of a stable of racehorses at a very low cost. Run by existing owners Jennifer and Jonathan Alve the Club has been created to provide an affordable racehorse ownership experience.

The Club races horses for the enjoyment and benefit of its Members and is dedicated to providing a genuine ownership experience without the cost and risk usually associated with the sport. Key to this is the one off annual membership fee of \$299 which is the only cost that members are asked to pay. This gives membership to the Club for a full 12 months and includes regular news and updates via the Club Website, photos, video and more.

A big part of the ownership experience is being able to see Club horses race. In the six months since the Club was formed our first horse Premier Lady (2yo filly Eltawaasul x Blowfish Baby) has raced 7 times, placing second in the Listed Welcome Stakes and fourth in the Group Two Wakefield Challenge Stakes. Over 100 Club Members have attended races in both the North and South Island and we have also had several stable visits to see Premier Lady in her home environment.

Recently the Club has welcomed a second horse to the Stable, Premier Diva (3yo filly Jungle Pocket x Winged Heart) trained by Kevin Gray in the Manawatu. She will be heading to the races in March and will provide further racing opportunities for Club Members to enjoy.

The Club intends to have horses racing in all areas of New Zealand and as membership increases the Club Stable will grow. With over 175 members to date based all over the country the Club is also turning shared ownership into a real social experience. Many existing owners have joined to expand their interest in this great sport and we are also pleased to be introducing many first time owners to the unrivalled excitement of seeing their horse race.

More information about the Club can be found at www.premierracingclub.co.nz or you can contact Jennifer and Jonathan on 04 232 9853.



PROFILE

TWO HORSES – TWO WINS IN THREE DAYS

Auckland committeeman and delegate to NZTROF Neil Miller had a big week with two recent wins at Ellerslie. The first on Wednesday 17 February when Star of Kings (Kings Chapel-Nimue) won a rating 70 1600m. Then on Saturday 20 February Boundless, (Van Nistelrooy-Nothing Less) saluted the judge after a comeback win in the open 1600m.

Neil reports, "Star of Kings is the second horse interest I have. Trevor McKee showed me him as a yearling and said he was the sort of a horse that I should join him in buying a share (nice sales patter). The New Zealand Oaks was pending and I said to TJ that if they could run a place with Boundless, my first horse interest, I would buy a decent share in the boy."

Well you have to put your money where your mouth is and I did. I gave my wife Jeanette half of my share as she writes out the cheques. I wanted to involve her in the fun and (incriminate her) in the costs. Sok as we call him is a very big boy who is just starting to look more coordinated. He is a very enthusiastic racer.

"With Boundless the season started off as a nightmare with successive refusals to be mounted and struggles to get her to go out on the track. On four or five occasions we stood at the rails with our hearts in our mouths. Dreams of the Kelt and the MacKinnon melted away. But a back problem was found and treated. Then came wins in the Alison Stakes and the Counties Cup. A close second followed in the Avondale Cup, then a spell after a leg knock. So she missed a bunch of good races again but now she is back and got a sneaky win, in a semi-fit state, on her home track."

"There is a saying in racing "that you never know how long you will have them" Ownership has brought us some extreme highs and we have had lows. We have been to Sydney and even the Melbourne Cup to watch her race with varied luck. She has had three injuries and been through quarantine twice. But in time she comes back and wins if she can."

"The ownership has been life changing for me. It has taken us places and added a whole new facet to our lives. I feel strangely blessed as the horses ability has been shaped by others. I will try to put back into racing if I can"



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