

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

# OWNERS' BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2019



Photo: www.raceimages.co.nz

**PRESIDENT/  
MEMBERS  
COUNCILLOR'S  
MESSAGE**



**Work in progress is what can be said since RITA commenced in July. To be honest this will be the message for some time and we 'owners' cannot expect to see any real payback or change for some months. To date RITA has issued two statements and will continue to work through the mountain of legislative changes it needs to enact before any real progress is made to benefit the industry as a whole. While we wait for any increase in stakes or decrease in owner costs we 'owners' need to stay confident and have hope in the current administration that they have the industry at "HEART".**

On a more positive note, winter racing is behind us and the first of spring racing has started off in earnest with Melody Belle starting off where she finished last year – and then being crowned NZ Horse Of The Year. Let's not take away the efforts of other thoroughbred winners throughout the year and it's good to recognise that many of our members celebrated success during the 2018-19 racing season.

Form an Owners Federation perspective, we will hold our annual general meeting at Ellerslie Racecourse on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 @ 1:00pm and all members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Though no guest speakers have been confirmed at this time, I'm hopeful that either NZTR or RITA may avail themselves to address our meeting with their wisdom, future direction or outcome for the industry.

I am sorry that I cannot offer you more at this time, as I have been very busy in my day job, but I do wish you success in the coming months.

**Go the ALL BLACKS!**  
Best Regards,  
Bernard Hickey .



**RACING INDUSTRY  
TRANSITION AGENCY**

**RITA RACING REFORM  
PROGRAMME UPDATE #2**

**It's been just sixty days since the establishment of the Racing Industry Transition Agency (RITA) and a timely opportunity to update you on progress against the Reform Programme the Board are advancing on behalf of the Minister for Racing.**

Our strategic focus is set out very clearly in the letter of expectation from the Minister for Racing – we must work to secure the long-term success of the New Zealand racing industry. We must reform the industry into a more sustainable structure, and support them as it goes through this change.

You will know that there are 17 recommendations from the Review of the New Zealand Racing Industry by John Messara that we are working through. Many of these need policy, legislation and comprehensive regulations for the proposed changes to take effect. Much of this work is complex and requires significant focus from RITA Board and management, as well as the Department of Internal Affairs.

As we come into the important period of Spring racing we are encouraged by the progress made to give effect to this ambition.

**BILL ONE**

The first Racing Reform Bill came into effect on July 1 and addresses the industry's need for additional revenue. This included the totalisator (betting) duty paid to the Crown being phased out and the introduction of two new charges on overseas betting operators (offshore charges) to help ensure they contribute to the New Zealand racing and sports codes from which they benefit.

The money available as a consequence of the reduction in Betting Duty is being held by RITA while the final details of its distribution between Harm Minimisation Initiatives, and the Racing Codes and Sports NZ is finalised. From mid 2021, we would expect the returns will be in excess of \$14m, with approximately \$4m available this year. The distribution amounts need to be set by a specific regulation and we will update the industry prior to Christmas on the outcome.

The Offshore Charges will be able to be set and collected following the implementation of regulations. It is expected that this process will be completed and collection commenced from the beginning of the 2020 calendar year.

While overseas betting operators will be required to pay product fees in due course, a number of these have already committed to voluntary charges, most recently Sportsbet. This is in

addition to the arrangement secured with Betfair earlier this year, and discussions with other operators in the Australian market are ongoing.

The first Bill also permits RITA to offer betting on a wider range of sports where an agreement is reached with Sport NZ. We are hopeful of new sports being made available to TAB customers before the end of the year.

**BILL TWO**

Work is now well advanced on preparing the second Bill which we anticipate being introduced into Parliament at the end of this year. This will include provisions designed to give effect to the establishment of TAB NZ in order to maximise revenue and profit for racing and to the transfer to the individual Codes of a range of racing and industry responsibilities previously undertaken by RITA. We have sought feedback from the Codes on this with a view to policy decisions being taken for inclusion in the draft policy papers for the Bill.

Provisions to facilitate discussion between Codes and Clubs in relation to the future of New Zealand's racing venues, as part of the Future Venue Plan work started last year, are expected to be included in the new Bill.

The Messara recommendations in relation to the racing Integrity bodies and animal welfare have been advanced in an independent review undertaken by Malcolm Burgess. His Report has been circulated for consultation with the various views currently being analysed, including from the JCA and RIU who presented to the Board at our last meeting. The decisions on a new Governance structure for integrity bodies will likely be made by the Board at our next meeting on September 25, and could result in specific legislative considerations in the Bill.

Messara also recommended an independent performance and efficiency audit on the NZRB and we expect a final version in mid September. This has been slightly delayed to ensure the scope of the report brief was fully met. Once complete it will be sent to the Minister. In addition, we've had an independent report on the Distribution Model under section 16 of the Act developed and which will be discussed with the Codes within the next few weeks with regulations developed next year.

*continued on next page*

**MEMBERS COUNCIL APPOINTMENT**

Past NZTROF President Neil Oldfield retired from the Members Council as per its rules. He is to be replaced by current President Bernard Hickey



## OUR COVER

Cooga Doon (Makfi - Monachee) ridden by Madan Singh and trained by Fraser Auret at first up win at Wanganui.

He was then an easy winner of the HS Dyke Wanganui Guineas ridden by Lisa Allpress.

Cooga is a place name in the county of Doon in Ireland.

Photo: [www.raceimages.co.nz](http://www.raceimages.co.nz)

SEE PAGE 10

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## EDITORIAL

Neil Miller

We are running late again with this issue as we've been waiting for the Horse Of The Year Awards evening to be held.

Manager of Marketing and Ownership, Leanne Meredith, NZTR was "on the ball" and sent us the good words and pics of this 2019 prestigious event. Thank you, Leanne!

Jenny Cowan's son, Bart, is the new track Manager at Waikato Racing Club. And I suppose, knowing that these people that do this job don't get a lot of love, decided to contact others in the same situation and get their *modus operandi*.

Great idea! But Jenny was shy about nepotism and bias. But I told her not to worry as the stories of good people and members take preference over those sensibilities.

I tried to catch up with a bloke that's a member and also nominee for OWNER OF THE YEAR but we couldn't make it work due to mutual 'comings and goings'. You will keep David!

So that left us shy of a couple of pages. Then my mate David Schneck of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association (KTA) sent me some copy of changes afoot in the USA for you to ponder. The world is changing, and we are not immune. What happens in the USA tends to influence us eventually.

Are you a successful punter? I only know of two guys that 'keep ahead of the game.' But wagering is the lifeblood of racing through creating stakes and playing smart odds can provide thrills when you get a good one home.

Here's a page on killer strategies for trifecta wagering. It's old but still very relevant as it is underpinned by statistics. Essentially, it's about not following the 'herd.'

You've heard the saying, "There's lies, damn lies and then there's statistics!" Well in our increasingly divisive world we have become very sceptical of survey derived statistics. These are often derived from suspect models, leading questions and slanted surveys, leading to downright massaged results. But there is raw data you can almost trust so we've put in another *Bernard's Blog* which gives you a picture of how the whole 2018-2019 Racing Season data panned out.

NZTR's statistician Daniel Smith presents in a personable style, *Weekly Updates* emailed to subscribers, an analysis of the weekly meetings.

I assume the data presented in *Bernard's Blog* is a correlation of all the weeks of the year. But I am sure there is no massage of the data whatsoever.

Let's see if I can find a cartoon now...

Contact me - [neilandjeanette@yahoo.com](mailto:neilandjeanette@yahoo.com)

## RITA UPDATE #2 *continued*

### HARM MINIMISATION

As the Board work through the various recommendations we remain acutely aware of our responsibility to minimise the harm that gambling can lead to for some people. RITA management has reviewed its work in this area and developed a comprehensive strategy to add further weight to activities already underway. This will include utilising technology, improving communications and building stronger partnerships with the sector.

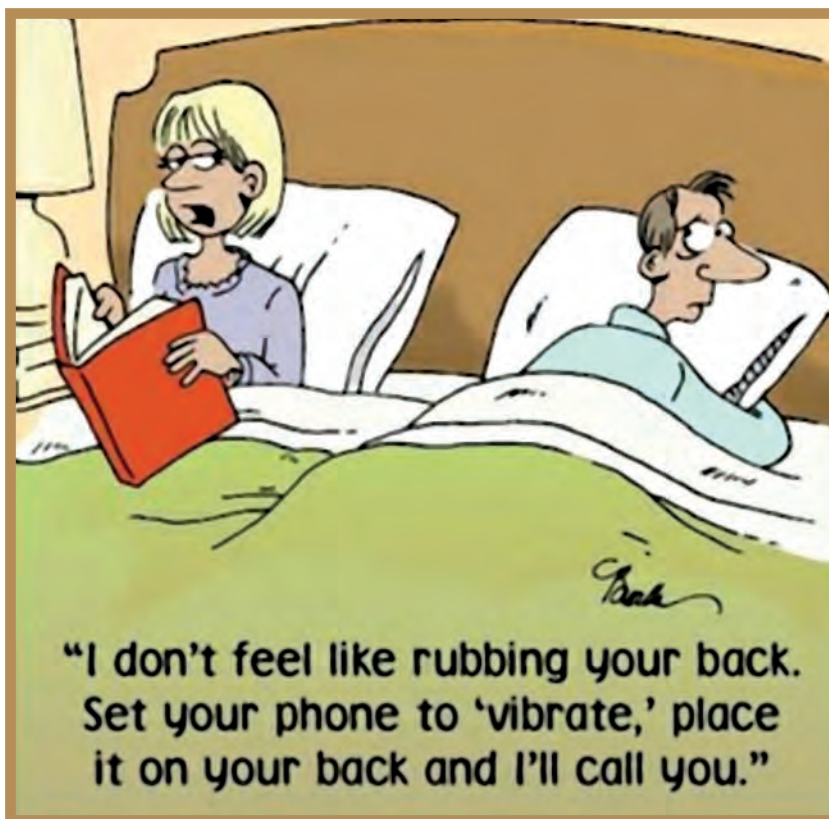
### INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Over the past few weeks we have met with the Boards of the three Codes to update them on the process and our progress. We will also keep the industry up to speed on our progress where we can.

Good progress is being made but to meet the timelines required for the legislative process the momentum must be sustained.

We will provide a further RITA operational update in September.

Dean McKenzie, Chair



# REGIONAL ROUNDUP

## AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND *Mike Gething and Sally Blyth*

Very sincere congratulations to all the owners of Melody Belle. What a mare she is! Everyone involved in her, from Marie Leicester her breeder, her training staff and all involved must be so thrilled. As a spectator I get such a buzz watching top class horses like her perform to their best.

The Fortuna syndicate members are not identified. But I hope some of them are members of the Owner's Federation, though if not they may join us to promote the importance of racehorse ownership in our industry.

Auckland Owners Day at Ellerslie is firmly booked for the Saturday 28 September meeting. We have been moved to the Ellerslie Room on the 5th floor of the Ascot Stand. There are still places available.

The Auckland AGM will be held at 3pm on Sunday 3rd November 2019 in the Lady Fisher Room at Ellerslie. More information to come to Auckland members by email.

Twenty of us are heading to Noumea for a four-day racing extravaganza on 18 October. If you suddenly have the urge to join us there is still the opportunity to do so, but be quick about it!

*Good racing and take care! Mike*

Having spent almost two months across Europe during July and August, I missed much of the winter racing in NZ. En route, I kept up with racing news and results via the [Loveracing.com](http://Loveracing.com) site when I could, but the ability to access the [tab.co.nz](http://tab.co.nz) site and put on a bet was difficult. I was denied access in many countries, although could get into the site from others. It's a first-world problem, I know, but it's pretty agonising when horses you've been following come out and win and you're not able to be on them. Fabulous for the connections of course, but very disappointing as a punter. Sadly, betting on Race 5 at Matamata or Race 7 at Riccarton is not an option for Kiwis in far flung places.

I was pleased to attend Ellerslie on Saturday 7 September for Great Northern Day. The Club had issued an open invitation to walk the jumps track in the morning (and yes, that included the hill) following morning tea in the Tote on Ascot Centre, a new facility for owners and trainers on raceday, as well as a fabulous option for weddings and events. It's great that the old totalisator building has been given a new lease

of life like this. Auckland Owners Association and ARC members Jan and Heather Volz did the walk and thoroughly enjoyed the experience – even though the sun was shining it was very muddy so taking gumboots and a change of trousers was a wise move.

The finish of the Great Northern Hurdles race was a hard-fought battle between the two favourites Bad Boy Brown (Isaac Lupton) and Laekeeper (Shaun Fannin), with the former winning by a neck. The Stipes Report notes that Isaac Lupton was later fined and suspended for careless riding.

The Great Northern Steeplechase was an incredible race to watch – I was high up in the Ascot Stand with a birds-eye view. Wise Men Say (Shaun Fannin) took the lead from the get-go, stretched it out, kept at it, and won by 1¼ length from rank outsider Kings Kite (Bradley Thomas-Rantall, a young jockey from Warnambool). The Stipes Report notes that Shaun copped a fine for excessive whip use.

Jan and Heather, mentioned above, both somehow got the quinella on the Steeplechase (\$609.10) and were rightly euphoric. However, celebration turned to despair a short time later when Heather checked her ticket and saw a banker combination when she was sure she'd done a boxed quinella, which ultimately meant she didn't have the quinella after all. Aghast at how this had happened, there was a flurry of activity to recoup the red betting form she'd used to put the bet on – it showed that her pen mark had gravitated into the next box on the right by a tiny margin. This was enough to turn her box quinella into a banker one that ultimately wasn't the winning ticket she thought it was. Make sure you check your tickets after making a bet, whether by red form or verbally!

Travelling the world is a truly wonderful thing – but so is a day at Ellerslie watching quality racing.

*Sally Blyth*  
[sally@beyondlimits.co.nz](mailto:sally@beyondlimits.co.nz)



Wise Men Say (nearest) and Kokanee Gold fly the Ellerslie water jump

## WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY *Jenny Cowan*

NZ offers opportunity for all to be part of the racing world. But that can include long float trips, no racetracks, no riders and no company. One who has overcome these obstacles and succeeded over other obstacles is Jenene McGrath from Taupo with her horse Kokanee Gold.

They both live on the family farm that has 400 deer, breeding hinds, near Kinloch.

Jenene rides Kokanee Gold on a daily basis at home, with fast work at the Taupo track.

Shelley Houston showed him the jumping ropes initially at the great Cambridge jumping facilities. Then, Ben Ropiha, Aaron Kuru and

Troy Harris gave him the education he needed to be a jumper.

Kokanee Gold is a grandson of the original broodmare Jenene's parents started with, Purple Sherbert. Even at 13 years of age he could well add to his record of 2 flat wins, 1 hurdle, 1 steeple, and a big 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Pakuranga Hunt Cup.

Shamal and It's a Wonder was the quinella in the open steeplechase on July 20 at Te Rapa. A great spectacle and result, except that Jacques Duncan and Ann Wilson are left out of any results, but have a 100% input to any success as in driving, riding, bookwork, cooking,

cleaning, calming, listening and phoning. Fairly common among jumping people.

(Ann and late Ken Browne were the same) and Ann had a win in the Maiden Chase with Raisafuasho that day, ridden by Shaun Fannin.

The Duncans' and Shelley Houston for Kevin Marshall with Lucky Tonight, sent their charges across to Ballarat for the G.N. Steeplechase but devastation set in when Shamal parted company with Buddy Lammass, and Lucky Tonight didn't like the Aussie jumps.

Also, at Te Rapa a late scratching was Andoyas who is raced by their CE O Ken Rutherford and friends. Who'd have imagined, 'their' race the "Become a Member of Waikato R.C." 1600. In their minds it would "Become a Re-member" 1600.



**Alfie Dee Leaps to Victory Grand National Hurdles**

*Photo: Race Images Christchurch www.raceimages.net.nz*

### **HAWKES BAY RACING/OWNERS/BREEDERS AWARDS 2019**

- Chouxmani Investments Ltd 3yo of the year** **Xpression**
- Hawkes Bay Owner of the Year (points)** **Paul & Carol Nelson**
- Hawkes Bay Trainer of the Year (wins)** **John Bary 26 wins**
- Hawkes Bay Trainer of the Year (strike rate)** **Paul & Carol Nelson**
- Hawkes Bay Breeder of the Year (wins)** **Paul & Carol Nelson**
- Group and Listed wins** **Cutadeel, Peso, No Change, No Tip, King Louie, Sea King**
- Hawkes Bay Breeder of the Year (points)** **Paul & Carol Nelson**
- Hawkes Bay Broodmare of the Year** **Nimble Toes, Dam of King Louie**
- Hawkes Bay Owned Horse of the Year** **Xpression**

The Wealleans Bloodstock racing colours, a large red "W" Back & Front on a solid blue jacket were carried to victory by Malambo on 3 August at Te Rapa, making her record 7 wins from 32 starts. An apprentice did the wearing, Shiarna Johnson (a4.5) and Team Rogerson did the training.

At Pukekohe on August 10<sup>th</sup> a very happy band of male owners, about 10 of them, won with Rukuhia (one said all had connections with the suburb Rukuhia). By Tavistock with only 5 starts for his 2 wins he looks promising for trainer Glenn Old and rider Trudy Thornton.

We seem to get a few dead-heats in jumping and at Te Aroha on August 14 Graham Falconer's ever so loyal 10year old El Corby and Jenene McGrath's loyal and loved 13year old

finished together in the Maiden "Chase."

The Zed train keeps going, up and down the country, and Zedcrest won at Te Aroha for Ralph Manning adding to the list of winners for Ashvin Goindasamy. Owned by an army of followers, Armodeo, Bland, Bowers, Harvey, Jenkins, Jessup, Johnson, Madden, Manning, Maxwell, McCarthy, McMullin, Pocock, Webb and last but not least G.R. Edge. Hope most of these are members??

We hope Ralph can get plenty of winners home for member Tony Coombe from Tauranga too.

Ashvin Goindasamy won for Tarissa Mitchell and the Telfer family at Matamata on Taree.

This filly owes Tarissa as she spooked and gave Tarissa her eye damage.

## **HAWKES BAY**

*Tony Lyndon*

**The Paul Nelson/Corrina McDougal Partnership produced Look Out to win his fifth race from 19 starts when winning The Duke of Gloucester Cup at Waverly.**

He's raced by his owner Gary Freeman with Paul and eight Bay residents. Paul's winning run continued when saddling up the winners of the \$50,000 Hawkes Bay Hurdles, No Change and \$50,000 HB Steeples, Perry Mason.

Paul who started training in 1970 has trained over 200 winners, a great feat considering he mainly only train's jumpers. He has won most of the major jumping races in NZ starting with Storm in the 1987 Wellington Steeplechase. Then –

2003	HB Steeples	No Hero
2005	HB Steeples	No Hero
2004	Grand National Hurdles	Just A Swagger
2005	Grand National Hurdles	Just A Swagger
2007	HB Steeples	Just A Swagger
2007	Wanganui Steeples	Just A Swagger
2008	Grand National Steeples	Just A Swagger
2010	HB Hurdles	Ho Down
2019	HB Hurdles	No Change
2019	HB Steeples	Perry Mason
2019	Wellington Hurdles	No Tip

Hastings trainer Lee Somervell has turned Veuve Clicquot's form around since moving to his stable venue. The mare was formerly trained at Awapuni where she had 16 starts. She was bought out of the Gavelhouse auction for \$1,000 by HB Regional councillor Neil Kirton and has now won him \$10,000 from 4 starts, for a win and 2 placings.

Waipukurau owned/trained and bred Dez followed three lack-lustre runs by winning the class 82 \$30,000 over 1600 metres at Otaki carrying top weight of 60kgs. He then travelled south to Riccarton to win the Group 3, \$100,000 Winter Cup, a race he ran third in last year. He has now won seven of his seventeen starts for Simon Wilson and his two friends Sam Lennox and Paul Mitchell.

Elsthorpe farmer, and former All Black, Mick Duncan's trip to Riccarton was rewarded with Alfie Dee winning the \$75,000 Grand National Hurdles. Mick and wife Barbara bred the gelding out of their Victory Dance mare, Isadora. He is trained at Hunterville by Ken Duncan who is no relation.

### **BRETT POLLOCK**

Our world, and Brett's are ravaged by cancer. With sadness we record the loss of our committee member, long-time Hunt member, farming member and racing member. He leaves his wife Narelle and their three daughters. Brett will be missed at our meetings as will his friendship. Also, his sound observations, experienced horsemanship, horse sense, and support in many ways.

Brett loved jumping in all its forms and raced various horses with his Uncle Wally Pollock.

Every one of his pallbearers had the Pollock surname.

**WANGANUI & TARANAKI** *Brian O'Dea*

**Thinking outside the square! The country Fox's thinking outside the square.**

Some four years ago Dean Cunningham, farming at Hunterville, had a racing stable which basically only had winter gallopers. He thought how can I keep my supporters involved throughout the year?

A scheme was hatched to involve shares in the ownership of gallopers, harness horses, greyhounds and racing pigeons. The birds were so slow they probably ended up in a pie and so are no longer participating.

The idea has appealed to 110 people who are now in the "Chase A Fox Racing Syndicate" and over 500 follow it on Facebook.

Members range in age from ninety down to eighteen. Manager of the syndicate is Dean Cunningham, now of Marton and training at the Wanganui racetrack.

Dean trains four to six gallopers and the Syndicate has a small share in two gallopers trained by Jade Zuppich of Stratford.

Scott Dickson trains the harness horses and Matt Roberts of Marton the greyhounds.

The group has things simplified with results based on the calendar year and places down to fifth as there is prize money to this level.

The first year was 2017 and this year to date has seen 130 starts for 16 wins and 68 places. Eight of the wins were greyhounds, five were harness and three were with gallopers. At the recent jumps raceday at Wanganui over twenty members were present-and punting.

Leading Hunterville jumps trainer Ken Duncan, along with wife Jacqueline and mother Jean are also part of the syndicate. On Dean's recent trip to the Grand National meeting a few hiccups occurred. Tell Me More won a steeplechase, then ended up with a leg injury. Tittletattle had to be scratched due to a lack of qualified riders, then a new tyre on the truck blew on the way home meaning a missed ferry crossing and extra expense.

On the positive side – and Dean is a very positive person – more people want to join the syndicate. This demonstration of doing things a bit differently shows as the saying goes, "There's more than one way of plucking a pigeon".

**ED NOTE** *Cooga Doon won the HS Dyke Wanganui Guineas easily. He is owned by Gavin O'Dea. I contacted our columnist Brian O'Dea to ask if they were relatives. Below is the response...*

*"Only a second cousin. However, I did briefly own the horse. NZTR advised me that ownership had been transferred to me. I contacted the breeder who I knew, Paddy Mullin, thanking him for his generosity. He advised me the owner was Gavin O'Dea, so I phoned him and the paperwork was sorted out."*

**MANAWATU/WELLINGTON** *Allan Fenwick*

**As expected, it was the Jumpers who took pride of place for members over the last 2 months. Bad Boy Brown triumphed in the Great Northern Hurdles for Martinborough owners and breeders Liz and John Hancock backing up after going down to Alfie Dee by just a nose in the Grand National Hurdles. The St Reims gelding has now won 9 races in total including 4 wins and 3 seconds from just 8 hurdle starts.**

He is trained by Harvey Wilson who together with wife Anne share in the ownership. Harvey and Anne also won the Grand National Steeples with Its A Wonder, making their first visit to Riccarton most enjoyable. Bad Boy Brown is described by his trainer as a tough horse which may be the reason for the name!!

Hunterville owner and trainer and Marton Jockey Club President, Ken Duncan has always been prepared to back his judgement and once again got it right. This time with Alfie Dee. The winner of his first race day start back in October, 2016 Ken has always rated Alfie Dee a staye r and even ran him in the 2018 Wellington Cup as a one-win horse. At his fourth hurdle start in July he was a good winner at Awapuni then it was straight into the Grand National Hurdles.

Rider Buddy Lammas seized the initiative and took Alfie Dee to a big lead early in the race. Although Bad Boy Brown tried hard to run him down Alfie Dee dug deep to hold on by a nose. The first 2 were over 11 lengths clear of the third-place getter. The Zed gelding was bred by Hawkes Bay member Mick Duncan (no relation) and is raced by Mick and his wife and Ken's family including wife Jacques, mother Jean and good friend Margaret Linklater.

Many of the same team also share in the ownership of Shamal, winner of the 2018 Grand National Steeplechase and this season winner of 3 steeplechases at Te Rapa. Taken to Melbourne by Ken, Shamal unfortunately fell in his only start.

Guy Fox has a lot to live up to being a younger full brother to million-dollar earner Zed Em but he raced well during July and August with a second at Awapuni followed by a win in the Sydenham Hurdles and a third in the Grand National Hurdles. The Zed gelding is raced by his breeders including Wairarapa members Mike and Roz Southey and Bill Shannon and is trained by Kevin Myers.

Kahu Rock was a winner fresh up at Woodville after a spell for trainer and member Roger Allen who shares in the ownership with another member Hamish MacDonald as part of a Syndicate. It was Kahu Rock's second win from only a dozen starts.

Members Mark & Faye Fearon, Raymond Stern and John Roach share in the ownership of the Mike Breslin trained Shelly's Lass who broke maidens at Woodville at just her fourth start.

Sheza Beach Babe likewise took little time to break maidens at Hawkes Bay at her sixth start after some promising runs. The Ocean Park mare is part owned by Jude Simpson and is trained by Fraser Auret.

It wasn't until his 13th start that Fattore Otto won his first race but he had been placed 6 times previously. William Fell (Goodwood Stud) shares in the ownership of Fattore Otto who is trained by Gary Vile. William is also in the ownership of Mehrtens who recently won his 2nd race at Hastings for trainer Suzy Gordon. Mehrtens has a real Goodwood/Fairdale Stud pedigree being out of Burnzees Magic who in turn is a granddaughter of the wonderful racehorse and broodmare Ajasco.

**CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND** *Peter Faulkner*

**Another season has come and gone as I sit watching the rain. Winter is basically done. It was an easy one i might add, apart from the last day of National Carnival at Riccarton.**

Now spring has arrived and we are seeing the arrival of a number of better track horses stepping out at trials and getting ready for Cup Week in November.

Today at the Ashburton trials there were 17 heats, which is more than the norm for down here.

it was good to see the return to the track of the well performed sprinter Don Carlo. the

six year old gelding by Per Incanto. He is a seven time winner from just fifteen starts and had a near career threatening injury. But today he won his trial to announce he is back. I'm sure trainer Michael Daly and owner Rod Moore will be looking forward to when he hits the races again.

One who is not in need of trialling, as I'm sure she has been the busiest in the new season is local horse Bridget Town. The eight year old mare by D'Cash out of Golden Satchel, bred, owned and trained by Thelma Foley and with owner Johnny Walsh, has raced five times since 1 August for five cheques. She narrowly missed on Saturday at Riccarton. She also won at the last meeting in July at her home track of Timaru.

Bridget Town has had five wins and numerous placings and cracked the \$100000 mark of earnings. She is a tough mare who always tries her best and is nominated for Wingatui on Thursday, so all the best to those involved.

**On a sad note to finish, we saw the passing of a great lady, and long time campaigner in the thoroughbred game. Barbara Blackie who trained at Riccarton, "raised her bat" when she recently made it to 100 years old, and was still training.**

**Rest in peace "Mrs B" from the Owners and Trainers Association.**

## KAMADA PARK POINTS SERIES GOES DOWN TO THE WIRE

This year's 2018/2019 Kamada Park Points Series, generously supported by Kevin and Margaret Pratt's Kamada Park, was won by Codecracker, nominated by John Gilbert of Lower Hutt.

The Ken and Bev Kelso trained Nadeem mare was a model of consistency racing 12 times for 1 win and 11 placings. However, she was just half a point ahead of Dolcetta and one point in front of Morweka. Close up was Guy Fox and then the dead heaters Blondlign, Guillada and Sylvester

The competition was organised by the Central Districts Thoroughbred Breeders and the Manawatu Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Association for members of either organisation.

"The result could not have been closer" commented Michael Collinson, MTROA President. "We were unsure about the length of the competition being over the racing season, but we are pleased with the outcome. Sponsorship was critical to enable us to offer the prize money we did so we are indebted to Kevin and Margaret and Kamada Park for their support. Congratulations to all place getters but especially, John Gilbert and Codecracker. Her consistency was the key to their success."

"We would also like to thank all participants for their support" said Breeders President William Fell. "We are also very pleased that we are able to continue with the competition again this season."

Winner	Codecracker nominated by John Gilbert	37 points
Second	Dolcetta nominated by Sylvia Kay	36.5 points
Third	Morweka nominated by John Macmillan and Morweka nominated by Les & Janine Wallace	36 points
Fourth	Guy Fox nominated by Mike & Roz Southey	35 points
Fifth equal	Blondlign nominated by Colin Mowbray Guillada nominated by Ian McSweeney Sylvester nominated by Sylvia Kay	33 points

Prizes: 1st \$3,100; 2nd \$1,000; 3rd \$500; 4th \$250; 5th \$150.

### REMINDER

Remember it is not too late to enter your horse in the 2019/2020 competition, although points only accrue from the date of receipt of your entry. If you have already nominated one or two runners, you may also make further entries up to a total of 3 horses. Entry is free.



PRELIMINARY  
NOTICE

★ NZTR OWNERS  
FEDERATION ★

Annual General Meeting

DATE

SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 2019

time 1.00 PM

VENUE

ELLERSLIE RACECOURSE



THE OWNERS FEDERATION BANK ACCOUNT  
HAS HAD \$65 DEPOSITED ON 19 AUGUST  
WITHOUT ANY IDENTIFICATION.



IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR  
MEMBERS CARD IT COULD BE YOU.



PLEASE CONTACT SECRETARY JIM KEYTE  
EMAIL: NZTROF@XTRA.CO.NZ  
TEL: 0800 696 377

# JUMPS JOCKEY OF THE YEAR

Aaron Kuru with the Perry Mason colours up. Aaron's parents Melody and Trevor Wharepapa were on course to enjoy watching their son ride the winner of the Hawkes' Bay Steeplechase on June 29th.

The large number of syndicate members in the winners enclosure was an example of how much fun you can have – it looked like 100 or so. Always in the big time, it is no small feat to win two Grand Nationals in Australia in the same season on the same horse. The Grand National Hurdle at Sandown on Aug 4th and the Grand National Steeplechase on Aug 26th at Ballarat. (Also its no small feat to reach 100 wins for a jumps jockey). As the NZ Herald said "Aaron Kuru and Tallyho Twinkletoe, cemented as stars in our sport."

Part owner Jo Rathbone is one of our best horsewomen. Other owners are S.P.Harrison, D.McNab and Kevin Myers. Tallyho Twinkletoe won his first steeplechase at Te Aroha on July 7th, ridden by Mat Gillies.

# TRACK MANAGERS

Jenny Cowan

**Our tracks are grass and that doesn't happen overnight. Growing takes time, regenerating takes people, renovating takes machinery, preparation takes study, maintenance takes money, trainers take patience.**

**All decided by the track manager. And as in previous years, decisions are usually made alone.**

## MATAMATA GRAHAM STYLES

Graham Styles has been the Track manager at Matamata for about 20 years. He was previously the Stud Manager at Bloomsbury Stud for 4 years and other studs in the Waikato.

He has a staff of 10 full time and 3 part-time including administration. All are loyal, local and capable.

About 400 horses per day use the track, there's galloping restrictions on the course proper, such as working on the inside grass for slow work, and on the outside for fast work. The training tracks are sand and plough. Zyo's have the privilege of their own grass track.

Trials are programmed, and they have 3 meetings per year arranged around race meetings. They have 14 race meetings per year.

Trials are a very important part of the job and necessary for horses, riders and trainers. Apprentices learn the tricks of their trade here.

Health and Safety issues are an important and developing practice for track managers, and currently much discussion on training for all staff on a racecourse is underway. All managers are constantly keeping up with old and new Safety Acts. And all track staff are also qualified in First Aid courses which are not purely needed for riders in the early hours, but thru-out the day, with machinery or work in all areas.

A Horse ambulance is a new innovation and the Waikato Region are getting their own that will attend all thoroughbred and harness race meetings. As Owners' we hope it is not in much demand.

A lack of industry investment and resources makes it difficult for any developing and upgrading of tracks and training surfaces.

The Australasian Racecourse Managers Conference is being held in Tasmania as we write. Graham and other NZ participants will be there along with about 90 from Australia. These conferences provide valuable networking opportunities with overseas speakers, industry experts and machinery demonstrations. Over previous years, this lack of connection made for difficult decision making by track managers.

## TE AROHA BRETT GREEN

Brett Green, at Te Aroha, had 17 years managing the Paeroa racetrack with the ideal jumping facilities that we could ill-afford to lose. With 80 local horses in training, and about 50 each morning, there are training options of the course proper for all gallops on Tuesdays, plus an inside grass, plough and sand for other needs.

Brett likes his grass to be 6" to 7" in growth, not patchy and therefore repairs quickly.

With casual help from Bill Flower and The Cobra Rugby Club track repair after a jump meeting can be accomplished in 2 days.

His live bamboo fences were raided by caterpillar's which stripped the leaves, colour and effect from the hedging. Two applications of spray solved the issue and back to normal.

We value the lovely jumping viewing and surface provided by those at the Te Aroha track.

It makes more work in placing, removing, repairing and packing, for travelling the hurdles, which are shared between meetings with Rotorua. The two containers are an extra cost to the club.

Brett feels that the Steeplechase course could be utilised more often to give more experience to horses and jockeys – many unfamiliar jockeys could gain from knowing where to place their ride at various jumps and how the track works.

Richard and Simon Yetton (latter rides work) and Julie Archer and Trevor Lingard, all contribute to upkeep at Te Aroha.

Brett rather misses the value of small hooves of sheep and calves for their grazing and track conditioning!

## ELLERSLIE JASON FULFORD

### Starting with Staff

Here in Auckland it is hard to find someone who accepts working outdoors in all conditions. It's a lifestyle more than just a job. We are a 4 man team at the moment but should be a 5 person team. But we have the use of casuals who are available for rail moves and race days. Usually an extra 4 casuals for race days and my wife Lana during the week as extra hands.

### Irrigation use

So many different opinions on how to use irrigation. Dictated by the weather, it is a must but is the most dangerous tool used on racetracks. Used to keep the sting or firmness out of the track then oops it rains leaving the track open to criticism to its performance. Irrigation can be the result of movement or slipping while the use of it is to avoid unsafe racing. Every race track is different and only the track manager with experience of his track knows how much water to use and when to put it on.

With our soil type here at Ellerslie and likely other tracks, the more irrigation put on during summer the more it will effect track performance in spring and winter.

### Race days

The track may not look the best ever on race day. Our target is safety and performance. But for our bigger days like Boxing Day, Karaka Million and Cup Week the track may get a feed of nitrogen and iron to improve the cosmetic look.

### Track Maintenance

The most important work done on Ellerslie is our annual maintenance done in spring. Using

machinery working up to 400mm in depth "deep ripping" – the best results can be jeopardised by a wet spring or summer. After this aggressive work is done the top 150mm is taken care of, with more friendly to use machinery, all year round. "Ground breaker, Verti-drain"

## TE RAPA BART COWAN

Annually Te Rapa racecourse holds 20 race meetings and 6 trials meetings. Ready to Runs are held in October with 2 days of breeze ups.

We have up to 25 permanent horses in work and differing levels of visiting horses do come over to work when needed. We also have very good overnight boxes, sand yards and paddocks that travelling horses use.

We have a permanent ground staff of 4 who are highly experienced and do a great job at preparing all surfaces for race day and training. We do hire in casuals to tap back and fill when we are really busy. Having a good team is vital when our work is so varied in the lead up to an event.

Only being at Te Rapa for a short amount of time has been a learning experience again for me as every track has its own problems and Te Rapa is no different from the rest.

I am currently working on improving root structure and plant health to provide a tighter sward of turf to improve the racing surface.

Preparing a racing surface is the biggest challenge, frustration and sense of achievement all wrapped up in one. There are so many things incorporated in preparation for a race day, but the majority of people only see the end result and don't have information as to what we have been dealing with and working around in the lead up. When you see horses racing well, track racing evenly, jockeys and trainers happy it really does give me a sense of satisfaction.

The frustration is that we are not in control of our own workplace, obviously the weather plays the biggest part to a successful race day but there are also so many other factors that need to be considered. Previous race meetings, upcoming race meetings, rail positions, track ratings, renovation programmes, budgets, staff management.

The other factor is that we are not the end user, it is jockeys and trainers that are feeling how it is riding and looking at the horses when they return from racing. I like to speak with jockeys and trainers to see what is happening on the day to try and improve the track in the future. All of which add up to making the day successful or just hard work.

If we get it right generally, we don't hear much feedback but get it wrong and we do hear about it. The one thing I try to do is provide a surface that I think will race as fairly as possible based on my experience.

We have so many individual stakeholders who sometimes are wanting different conditions that suit different horses. But track managers rely on previous experience and industry standards to provide consistent surfaces from track to track.





# STUD CHAT WITH SAM

SEPTEMBER 2019

**Time Test's** first NZ foals have arrived and I couldn't be happier: they've all got Dad's deep rich colouring, and his athleticism! **Call the office on 06 377 5098 to book in to view, we'd love to show them to you.**

At home and abroad, the **Dubawi** phenomenon continues to raise **Time Test's** profile with local breeders. In the northern hemisphere, 14 length **Group 1 winner Ghaiyyath** recently gave the phenomenon his **41st Group 1 winner**, while that same day he sired his **173rd stakes winner**.

In New Zealand **Dubawi's** son **Makfi** sired the Wanganui Guineas winner **Cooga Doon** who looks the real deal, while another son, **Night of Thunder**, now has four stakes performers and is up to 2nd on the UK first season sires list. **Dubawi** is cementing his legacy as a sire of sires.

**Per Incanto** also continues to soar and if his new season results, especially in Australia, are a guide then you're about to see him at yet another new level. As part of a recent

winning treble in Australia, **PI** had a seven length Shadwell-bred and owned winner from a **Redoute's Choice** mare and a Team Hawkes trained winner in **Peak**, a \$150k Magic Million buy last year. For good measure **Per Incanto** had a 3YO filly win in Perth the very next day.

On a sadder note I want to acknowledge the passing late last month of the Chairman of the National Stud in England, the Duke of Roxburghe. As I negotiated with the Duke the deal to bring Time Test down under, I quickly came to understand how much faith he had in the horse as a galloper and as a potential stallion. Tim Lane, National Stud Manager, said in the last conversation he had with the Duke his words were "Just promise you'll make a success of Time Test."

From all of us here at LA, and we also know on behalf of Tim and the National Stud team, we'll be doing our utmost to make sure that happens.

# BERNARD'S BLOG

9 AUGUST 2019

Bernard Saundry

**THIS WEEK'S BLOG IS ALL ABOUT NUMBERS AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL TRAINERS, JOCKEYS, STABLE HANDS, TRACK RIDERS AND BREEDERS FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE SPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT WE ALL ENJOY.**

Looking back at Thoroughbred Racing's key performance indicators over the past season there are plenty of positives, starting with prizemoney. An additional 50 races (2,582 in total) being run over the 2018-19 season saw funded prizemoney of \$56.38m ahead of both budget and the previous year.

Our runner numbers were also well over budget and up on last year with 4,812 individual starters and while our average field size was 10.49. this was still above last year. Those individual starters managed to amass a total of 27,098 starts, up on both budget and the 2017-18 season. Starters from our 18 major training tracks came in at 80%, also up on last year. These numbers reinforce our approach to the NZTR Venue Plan – that directionally supports hosting a larger share of race meetings where the horses are located.

The thoroughbred code's share of the domestic wagering market came in at 54.12% up from 51.92%, with turnover up 0.71%.

The team at NZTR in conjunction with regional programming committees continue to focus on initiatives to decrease the number of races with fewer than eight starters. Our best financial result for betting which funds prizemoney and clubs is to aim for average field sizes of 12 horses. We did have 412 races with fewer than eight starters in 2018/19 an improvement on last year's 421.

Overall the figures were pleasing in what has been a challenging environment, but we have still a long way to go to build the confidence we need to attract new investment.

The closing month of last season was also a positive one for our digital platform, at a time which is traditionally a quiet one for the industry. The total users of our site were up 18% on the same time last year and we have now crossed the 70,000 total user mark as we march towards that magic

100,000 milestone. Our new users are also up 27% which is another positive sign.

To end on another positive note, it is great to see the wonderful promotion the Counties Racing Club is conducting as part of its race day on Saturday which will see some lucky racegoer walk away with a 10% share in a racehorse. The promotion is open to anyone on course who places a \$50 bet on the day. Well done to the club, Mark Chitty and the Chitty family from Haunui Stud, and trainer Nigel Tiley for this initiative, I'm sure the new owner will have an exciting time ahead!

### ED NOTE

*The winner was Vi Mildon, mother of Counties Track manger, Bryce Mildon.*

*Vi grew up with racing in her blood after following her late father, Jim Mouat who was a keen trainer.*

*Vi raced multiple winner, Danzapride from 2000-2005 and enjoyed much success.*

*Vi currently has two horses in training with Peter Lock including Premier winner Honneur Noir.*



# STAR MARE **MELODY BELLE** DOMINATES HORSE OF THE YEAR VOTING

## GLAMOUR GALLOPER MELODY BELLE HAS ADDED THE NEW ZEALAND HORSE OF THE YEAR TITLE TO HER GROWING LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS.

The Matamata mare was an almost unanimous choice for Horse of the Year, which was announced at the New Zealand Thoroughbred Horse of the Year Awards, in Auckland on Sunday night.

Of the 61 votes cast for Horse of the Year, Melody Belle received 59, with one apiece for stablemate Te Akau Shark and Bostonian, who was a dual Group I winner in Australia.

Melody Belle was also named Champion Sprinter-Miler for the 2018-19 season and was narrowly beaten by Danzdanzdance in the middle-distance category.

Yourdeel, a stablemate of Melody Belle, was named Champion Two-Year-Old, with Madison County (three-year-old), Gory Days (stayer) and Jackfrost (Jumper) taking the other horse categories.

Opie Bosson, who won six Group I races, headed off premiership winner Lisa Allpress by four votes in a tight battle for Champion Jockey. It was a fifth win for Bosson and came 21 years after his first.

Champion trainer Murray Baker, who had trained the previous five Horse of the Year winners, received the prestigious Contribution to Racing award. Baker has had a long and successful career and has won more Group I races in Australia than any other New Zealand trainer.

Baker and his training partner Andrew Forsman have won almost 600 races over the past five seasons and set new benchmarks in terms of wins, stake earnings and black-type wins. They have won 105 back type races over that period, including 78 Group races, with 23 at Group I level. The stable's stake earnings for the period have topped \$25 million.

Melody Belle broke the recent pattern by earning the Horse of the Year title without leaving the country. The previous eight Horse of the Year winners had underlined their credentials by recording at least one Group I victory in Australia during the season.

However, Melody Belle presented an irresistible case with a near faultless four-year-old campaign, which produced six Group wins from eight starts, ranging in distance from 1200m to 2000m.

She was a dominant force at weight-for-age level, with six wins from six weight-for-age outings, including a record five Group I wins. The Group race structure has been operating in New Zealand since the 1977-78 season

and Melody Belle is the first horse to win five Group I races in a single New Zealand season. She won the first two legs of the Hawke's Bay Triple Crown in the spring and maintained her form in the latter half of the season, capping her campaign by beating the Zabeel Classic winner Danzdanzdance in the 2000m Bonecrusher Stakes, which was Melody Belle's first race past 1600m.

No other New Zealand-trained horse won more than two Group I races in the 2018-19 season and only Bostonian, who recorded his sprint double in Brisbane, was able to record a Group I win in Australia.

Melody Belle has already made a mark in the new season, with a stunning win in the Group I Tazino Trophy at Hastings on August 31 and looks to be a real chance of becoming the first horse to win the Hastings Triple Crown.

The Commands mare, who was bred by veteran breeder Marie Leicester, is trained by Jamie Richards and raced by the Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate, which is managed by syndicator John Galvin. The syndicate has 37 shareholders.

Melody Belle was a \$57,500 yearling buy and her second Tazino win took her career earnings to \$1.75 million.

Danzdanzdance shaded Melody Belle by two votes in the middle-distance category. In addition to winning the Zabeel Classic and being runner-up in the Bonecrusher Stakes,



Murray Baker with Sam Spratt, Samantha Collett, Jasmine Fawcett, Rowena Smyth and others



Mason Stevens and Aaron Kuru

Danzdanzdance was placed in the Group I Ranvet Stakes in Sydney and the Livamol Classic at Hastings She was also a Group I winner at 1600m, in the Captain Cook Stakes.

Yourdeel, a dual Group I winner, comfortably headed off stablemate Probabeel for the two-year-old title, a trophy won by Melody Belle in 2017.

Madison County, another dual Group I winner and runner-up in the Australian Derby, gained all but one of the votes cast in the three-year-old category and Auckland Cup winner Glory Days, who is a potential Melbourne Cup contender this spring, was an almost unanimous choice for Champion Stayer.

Madison County is prepared at Cambridge by Murray Baker and his training partner Andrew Forsman, who were named Trainers of the Year for the third successive year and the fourth time in the last five years.

Wellington owner Lib Petagna, who races under the JML Bloodstock banner, was voted Owner of



Ryan Elliot and Caley Myers

the Year for the fourth successive year. Petagna had 14 winners or stakes-placed horses, from 26 runners, including two Group I winners and three group placegetters.

He had a 50 percent share in New Zealand Derby winner Crown Prosecutor and raced NZ Breeders' Stakes winner Nicoletta on his own.

The deeds of champion Hong Kong galloper Beauty Generation were reflected in the two major breeding awards. Nearco Stud, which bred Beauty Generation, was Breeder of the Year and Beauty Generation's dam, Stylish Bel, was Broodmare of the Year.

Beauty Generation, a son of Road To Rock, was unbeaten in eight starts in Hong Kong in the 2018-19 season and is third-equal in the 2019 world thoroughbred rankings.

Nearco Stud, which is owned by South Island businessman Greg Tomlinson, was also represented by the Group II winner Belle du Nord and the Group III winner Miss Federer.

## 2019 NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Twenty-five awards were presented at the 2019 New Zealand Thoroughbred Horse of the Year Awards Dinner in Auckland on Sunday night.

**Horse of the Year:** Melody Belle (59 votes)  
Also: Bostonian (1), Te Akau Shark (1).

**NZTR Award for Outstanding Contribution to Racing:** Murray Bake

**Champion Two-Year-Old:** Yourdeel (55).  
Other finalists: Probabeel (9), Aotea Lad, Aretha.

**Champion Three-Year-Old – sponsored by FastTrack Insurance:** Madison County (58).

Other finalists: Media Sensation (1), Crown Prosecutor, Sentimental Miss, Surely Sacred.

**Champion Sprinter-Miler (up to 1600m) – sponsored by Majestic Horse Floats:** Melody Belle (55).

Other finalists: Bostonian (8), Enzo's Lad, Shadows Cast, Te Akau Shark.

**Champion Middle-Distance Horse (1601m-2200m):** Danzdanzdance (32).

Other finalists: Melody Belle (30), Savvy Coup (2), On The Rocks.

**Champion Stayer (2201m+):** Glory Days (62).  
Other finalists: Rondinella (1), Five To Midnight.

**Champion Jumper:** Jackfrost (51).

Other finalists: Shamal (6), Gagarin (2), Perry Mason (2), Chocolate Fish (1).

**Trainer of the Year – sponsored by Dunstan:** Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (50).

Other finalists: Jamie Richards (12).

**Jockey of the Year:** Opie Bosson (29).

Other finalists: Lisa Allpress (25), Matthew Cameron (4), Johnathan Parkes (1).

**Jumps Jockey of the Year:** Aaron Kuru (58).

Other finalists: Buddy Lammas (4), Shaun Phelan.

**Owner of the Year – sponsored by TAB:** JML Bloodstock (24).

Other finalists: China Horse Club Racing (12), Archer Equine Investments (8), Brendan and Jo Lindsay Partnership (8), Sir Peter Vela (3), NZ Thoroughbred Holdings (1), Raffles Dancers (1), Kevin Hickman, Kamada Racing and Bloodstock, Kelvin Tyler.

**New Zealand Strapper of the Year – sponsored by Chris Waller Racing:** Brittany Moore (employed by Pitman Racing).

**NZTR Award for Contribution to Media, Digital & Content:** Isola Racing Stables

Other finalists: Boys Get Paid, Des Coppins, Mark Nowell, Aidan Rodley, Paul Vettise.

**Breeder of the Year:** Nearco Stud (Breeder of Beauty Generation, Belle du Nord and Miss Federer).

Other finalists: Archer Equine, Garry Chittick and Waikato Stud and partners, WJ Gleeson and WJ Bloodstock, Don Goodwin.

**Eight Carat Broodmare of the Year – sponsored by Arion Pedigrees:** Stylish Bel (dam of Beauty Generation).

Other finalists: Meleka Belle, Red Delicious.

**Trainers' Premiership:** Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman.

**Jockeys' Premiership:** Lisa Allpress.

**Apprentice Jockeys' Premiership:** Ryan Elliot.

**Owners' Premiership:** Sir Peter Vela.

**Newcomer to Training – sponsored by gavelhouse.com:** Jamie Richards.

**Grosvenor Award** (stallion earnings in NZ): Savabeel.

**Dewar Stallion Trophy:** (stallion earnings in New Zealand and Australia): Savabeel.

**Centaine Award:** (stallion earnings worldwide): Savabeel.

**New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year:** Imelda Mary and Queen Of Diamonds.

# KILLER STRATEGIES FOR BETTING THE TRIFECTA

BY MARK MERRICK

This article is adapted from a feature by Barry Meadow in his Racing Monthly Newsletter.

## QUESTION 1: Can you predict the 1-2-3 finishing order?

## QUESTION 2: Can you overcome the huge tote take (say around 20 per cent)?

**There are many problems associated with betting the trifecta. Punters probably don't realise the task they are taking on when they tackle this bet.**

Most punters only concern themselves with the first question without considering the second. They bet the trifecta because it's there, and they'll try anything to cash a ticket with little thought as to what the likely payout will be.

There's a simple rule from the professional exotics bettors on this matter. It's this: bet only when you perceive some value in the race.

If your analysis of a race brings you back to the four ruling favourites, then there's no value to be found. If your conclusions are the same as the public's, why bother to bet?

It's the old story. If you don't have an edge then it's no bet, and this applies not only to win bets but to trifectas as well. Long-term, you need to take into account what sort of return you are looking at with your bet.

What do you have to do in order to put yourself into a potentially profitable situation, not just on one race but over a whole series of bets annually? Barry Meadow, who we know is a tremendously successful punter, says the following: "Among the worst plays you can make, and among the most common, is boxing the top three favourites.

"Jim Cramer of Handicapper's Data Warehouse surveyed 146,617 trifecta races (the largest ever undertaken) and determined that had you boxed the top three favourites you would have collected 10.5 per cent of the time and had a horrendous Return On Investment (ROI) of just 0.63c.

"This loss of 37 cents per dollar far exceeds the tote take."

Meadow is quick to point out, though, that going nutsy in the other direction is likely to provide a worse result. In the 69,936 races of nine runners or more, boxing the 7th/8th/9th in the market yielded exactly 44 winning bets for a return of 0.33 cents per dollar.

Meadow adds: "The essential problems when studying trifectas are that no matter what combination you're looking at, it's going to have a low hit rate; even the combination of favourite 1st, second favourite 2nd and third choice 3rd hits less than 3 per cent of the time.

"Looking solely at the 2,323 races where the favourite won, the second choice was 2nd and the fifth choice was 3rd, the payoffs yielded from a low \$8.00 to a high of \$13,359.80. The standard deviation is so huge that a study of 10,000 trifecta results is just about useless."

Meadow, of course, is referring to US trifecta payouts but I think we can pretty much assume that much the same stats would turn up in Australia.

"Structuring a ticket is crucial to success in the trifecta," says Meadow. "Simply playing the obvious horses or using everybody with everybody and hoping for a bomb, won't do it. You'll have to key, but just as an exacta with the favourite over the second choice pleases nobody, a trifecta with the obvious horses won't get you the money.

"Generally, you'll need to get rid of the favourite or the second choice to have a shot at a decent payoff. Jim Cramer's large survey found that trifectas that included the favourite were bad bets."

Meadow says: "On average, the favourite will be on two-thirds of all tickets bought while the second choice will be on half the tickets. If they both come in, chances are good you won't be getting much of an edge. With at least one of them out, though, which happens most of the time, you'll at least be playing against the crowd's picks."

### DO NOT USE THE FAVOURITE IN THE 3<sup>RD</sup> POSITION

While the public's top choice wins about 33 per cent of the time, it runs 3rd only about 14 per cent of the time. For sure, says Meadow, getting the favourite home 3rd will kill what would otherwise be a decent trifecta payoff.

"Forget that 14 per cent chance for a bad payoff and use the money to include some marginal horses who can help you, or keep the cash in your pocket," says Meadow.

Meadow, and other experts and professionals, insist you need to key (banker) at least one horse in a trifecta bet. If you can't, skip the race.

Meadow explains: "Whatever you do, you will normally be much better off banking a runner instead of boxing and wheeling everything. This might mean one horse to win, or one horse for 1st/2nd, or two horses for 1st and so on.

"I have at times banked longshots to run 3rd rather than using them in all three slots; for 2nd, I'll play them in exactas and for 1st, I'll bet them to win, maximising the slot where they land."

### SOME HORSES ARE MORE LIKELY TO FINISH 2<sup>ND</sup> OR 3<sup>RD</sup> THAN WIN.

It is precisely the possibility, says Meadow, that some no-chance plodder will skulk his way into 3rd spot that makes the trifecta such an exciting bet. He adds: "For the two-hole, you can use horses you don't think can win, and you can use horses you don't think can reach the exacta in the third spot. You don't have to eliminate non-win contenders from the other spots, particularly from the 3rd spot.

### ELIMINATE HORSES WHO WILL BE OVERBET AND THOSE THAT ARE TOO SLOW

Punters should always be looking to cut costs when backing trifectas. This means patience and skill when doing your form analysis. To cut costs you will need to get rid of certain horses. Barry Meadow reckons it's always best to eliminate the favourite or the second favourite. He rarely plays the bet unless he can do this.

It's also good, he advises, to toss out slow horses; that is, no matter how the race pans out, they don't figure to get within six lengths of the top-rated horse. Occasionally, these "slugs" will fall in at 40/1 but for the most part you are better off concentrating on horses with a legitimate chance and not simply using any runner with legs.

### BE FLEXIBLE IN YOUR TRIFECTA STRATEGIES

Costs can escalate rapidly in the trifecta. Bankering one horse with seven others to run 2nd and 3rd will cost \$42 for \$1 units (1x7x6). If you wanted to chase higher multiples, one horse as banker with 10 others will set you back \$90 (1x10x9).

My personal preference is ALWAYS to use a banker to win. And the banker needs to be a runner that will not start the favourite, or even the second favourite, though often this cannot be avoided if betting moves take a morning line 8/1 chance into 3/1 etc.

If I think I cannot secure 2nd and 3rd within seven other runners, I'll give the race away as a betting proposition. I think \$42 is enough to bet on a trifecta, particularly taking a long term approach.

The more you bet, the more you need to win over 12 months. If you can keep your stake down to a modest sum and still hit good divvies then that's the way to go.

Think very carefully about the number of races you bet. Remember that you always want to chuck out the favourite. That's your starting point, your #1 strategy, because you are seeking value returns.

Often, it's difficult to think of the favourite not running a placing, but many times they don't, and it's in these instances that your strategy is in a position to pay off big.

The trifecta is a tough challenge. Even in small fields it can be hard to strike a trifecta that's worth taking. When you do bet, ensure you have SENSIBLE value on your side, not just a wild pitch at value by throwing in useless longshots. Your banker has to possess a potent winning chance. It must be at good odds, at least 4/1 in the morning market. You must be sure the favourite can be risked.

This strategy will enable you to hit some really BIG returns which then will enable you to have the chance to make long-term gains on the trifecta. It takes time and common sense to play the strategy, but it can be very rewarding.



## JOCKEY CLUB TO CONSIDER LIMITING STALLION BOOK SIZE TO 140 MARES

### PAULICK REPORT

**Citing concerns over narrowing of gene pool, The Jockey Club is considering putting a limit on the number of mares a stallion may breed to in a given year**

The Jockey Club board of stewards, concerned with the narrowing of the diversity of the Thoroughbred gene pool, announced its consideration of a rule to limit the annual breeding of individual stallions starting with the 2021 breeding season.

The Jockey Club, established in 1894, is the keeper of the American Stud Book and maintains the Principal Rules and Requirements of the American Studbook in order to ensure the welfare of the Thoroughbred breed.

As has been widely reported, the size of the North American foal crop has diminished significantly, from 37,499 in 2007 to the 20,500 estimated for 2020.

In 2007, 37 stallions reported in excess of 140 mares bred each from a total of 3,865 stallions. By 2010, that number had declined to 24. Since then, the number has nearly doubled to 43 stallions reporting 140 or more mares bred from a population of stallions that now stands at less than one-half that of 2007.

On the mare side, in 2007, 5,894 mares (9.5% of the total) were bred by stallions that covered more than 140 mares. By 2019, 7,415 mares (27% of the total) were covered by stallions with books of more than 140, a threefold increase.

The combination of these changes has resulted in a substantial increase in the percentage of foals produced by a discreet segment of stallions – signaling a worrisome concentration of the gene pool.

The board of stewards of The Jockey Club is considering a cap of 140 mares bred per individual stallion per calendar year in North America, phased-in, as follows:

- Stallions entering stud service for the first time in 2020 would be exempt from the 140 limit through the 2023 season
- Stallions that entered stud service in 2019 would be exempt through the 2022 season
- Stallions that entered stud service in 2018 would be exempt through the 2021 season
- Stallions that entered service in 2017 or prior would be subject to the 140 cap as of January 1, 2021

The stewards will continue to study the decreasing diversity of the Thoroughbred gene pool and its cause and potential effects over the course of time. As more data and analyses become available, the stewards may revise The Jockey Club's approach to protecting the breed's health and welfare.

**The Jockey Club solicits and welcomes comments on the proposed rule from breeders, owners, and others with interests in the Thoroughbred breed and the industry. Contact The Jockey Club at [jockeyclub.com](http://jockeyclub.com)**

## WHIP RULE CHANGES TO SEND SHOCK WAVES TO RACING WORLD WIDE

### PAULICK REPORT

**In a landmark move that will send shock waves to EVERY horse racing jurisdiction on earth, The Jockey Club of the United States has been recommended to ban the use of whips – altogether.**

And in a separate move, Woodbine in Canada will adopt a restriction in whip use for the purposes of urging down the home straight, starting in three weeks, also.

America has slipped off its perch as the leading racing nation on the planet, but is still a powerful voice given how large it is. And this new move to ban the use of whips down the home straight, unless absolutely needed to prevent an accident, will begin a change that will affect every other racing territory should it be implemented across the country.

There are howls of disdain coming from all corners of the racing spectrum in the United states, but a VERY large number of supporters too who recognise change in this area is not only inevitable, but NEEDED if racing is to survive the scrutiny of the general public.

If accepted, the phasing in period would start immediately.

Here is EXACTLY what the Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Safety Committee released while Australia slept on Wednesday night.

"The Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) Model Rules Committee amends, and all regulatory authorities immediately adopt, ARCI Rule 010-035, Article (E)(7) to eliminate the use of the riding crop for encouragement and include new penalty guidelines for breach of the rule. The riding crop shall be used only to avoid dangerous situations to horse and rider. Progressive penalty guidelines incorporate stewards' review, fines, and suspensions for repeat offenders. Regulatory authorities should provide suitable time to educate stakeholders.

## THAT'S ALL! WHOA

**B. Wayne Hughes becomes the latest industry leader to join the Water Hay Oats Alliance (WHOA) in support of the Horseracing Integrity Act (HR1754/S1820). Passage of the bill would create a uniform standard for drug rules and testing through a national program overseen by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), a private, non-governmental entity.**

"I wholeheartedly support the effort," said Hughes. "The need for this legislation is urgent, and the future of horse racing hangs in the balance of its enactment. We are on the edge of the cliff."

Hughes and the other 1,800 members of the alliance believe the appointment of an independent anti-doping agency can resolve the problem of widespread drug use in American racing and put U.S. racing jurisdictions in step with international standards.

Hughes was introduced to racing by his father at the tracks in southern California. In 2004, Wayne turned his life-long love for horses and racing into a business, when he purchased the iconic *Spendthrift Farm*, a 1,200-acre Thoroughbred nursery and stud farm in Lexington, Ky.

The historic farm, which was home to Triple Crown winners Seattle Slew and Affirmed, originally was purchased by Leslie Combs II in 1937. Today, under Hughes leadership, Spendthrift is the home of 26 stallions and a broodmare band of 90. In addition to the central Kentucky property, Hughes owns and operates Spendthrift Australia.

Among Hughes' biggest stable stars is Beholder, three-time Breeders' Cup winner and three-time champion.

# HORSE ID FOR DUMMIES



We bought into a 3 fillies syndicate sight unseen that reside in Manawatu. On a first trip down to see them I took quite a few photos. Two of these fillies are greys and look similar in colour and differ not a lot in conformation. Upon returning and putting the pics into the Mac I thought I had lost the pics of one filly. I had 2 pics of fillies branded on the off 23/6 and I thought \*%! I missed one.

But careful checking revealed a Dalghar and a Reliable Man. Some education needed and more care!

NM

## BRANDS

The New Zealand Stud Book (managed by NZTR) holds the breeding and racing information of registered New Zealand Thoroughbreds.

Thoroughbred foals are eligible for registration only after they have been branded, micro-chipped, parentage verified and an official identification certificate has been completed by a vet. Micro-chipping was introduced in 2004; horses born before that were only required to be branded.

**If you only have the horses brands but don't know it's race name** you will need download and fill out the 'Request for Identification of a Thoroughbred' form. There is an administration fee of \$25.00 (Inc. GST) per form. Once you have completed the form send it to New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (address below) and if the horse is identified, their details will be sent to you.

**NZTR, PO Box 38386, Wellington Mail Centre, New Zealand  
OR email: studbook@nzracing.co.nz**

**If you know your horse's Race name** – you can search for it in the online studbook.

**If you only know the Dams name** – you can search for a dam's progeny at [www.nzracing.co.nz/Breeding/Studbook](http://www.nzracing.co.nz/Breeding/Studbook).

You can find your horse from the results based on age, colour and sex or if you click into the horses shown you will see the brands.

**If you only know the Sires name** – Thoroughbred stallions typically have a lot of offspring so in most cases the best option is to fill out the 'Request to Identify a Thoroughbred' form. However if you have the time you can search for the stallion and all of his progeny at [www.nzracing.co.nz/Breeding/Studbook](http://www.nzracing.co.nz/Breeding/Studbook).

Once you have located the stallion click into his page and then go to the tab 'Stallion Produce' from there you can narrow down your search by year.

**Sometimes, when you've identified your thoroughbred horse, you'll want more detailed pedigree and race record information. At this point www.arion.co.nz can help you.** Register as a Member (for fee-payable services) or a Guest (for free services only); then visit the Services Page for the menu of services available from Arion's website. Free services include 4 x 4 pedigrees and last five starts. Other services, e.g. catalogue-style pedigrees and full race records, are available at reasonable fees.

## HOW TO READ A THOROUGHBRED'S BRANDS

Thoroughbred foals are eligible for registration only after they have been branded, micro-chipped, parentage verified and an official identification certificate has been completed by a vet. Micro-chipping was introduced in 2004; horses born before that were only required to be branded.

### The brands comprise:

- **On the near shoulder**, a registered cipher brand (a letter or combination of letters, or symbol). Examples are Cambridge Stud's S inside a C and The Oaks' acorn brand.
- **On the off shoulder**, two numerical brands, one beneath the other. The bottom number is the last digit of the year in which the foal was born. The top number indicates the individual horse registered by the cipher brand owner in that particular year. So, for instance, a horse carrying the numerical brands 28 over 5 was Horse No. 28 branded by the cipher brand owner in the year 1995 or 2005. It's usually not too difficult (with the help of a vet if necessary), to determine if a horse was born in 1995 or 2005. (Abridged from NZTB site)

# CAN ANYONE BEAT J-MAC IN SYDNEY IN 2019-20

Mitch Cohen – August 2019

The Sydney jockey ranks are as competitive as ever but the bookies are confident reigning champ James McDonald will be taking home back-to-back premierships on the eve of the new season.

McDonald will head into the 2019-20 on Saturday as the \$1.70 elect to win consecutive titles after officially securing his third premiership earlier this week.

McDonald finished last season with 104 winners, 27 clear of next best Tommy Berry, and he is expected to continue his reign for the next 12 months.

However, the New Zealand bred hoop is set to have no shortage of challengers with three past Sydney champions set to start the new season the jockeys' room.

Four-time premiership winner Hugh Bowman is back from a freshen up and is the \$4.50 second elect to take back the crown he last won in 2016-17.

Former champ Nash Rawiller, who won three premierships in four seasons from 2009 to 13, is at \$8 in his first season back in Sydney following a 15-month ban.

Last season's runner-up Tommy Berry and 2017-18 champion Brenton Avdulla are \$11 while Kerrin McEvoy and Tim Clark are at \$15.

Reigning apprentice of the year Robbie Dolan is a \$26 chance as the Irishman looks to put his claim to good use.

Jason Collett is \$51 while Josh Parr, Sam Clipperton and Rachel King are all \$101.

## THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES

# NEW MEMBERS

We wish to extend a very warm welcome to the new members who have joined the Owners' Federation from July to August 2019. We really appreciate your membership support and look forward to a long and enjoyable association with you.

### AUCKLAND

Cliff Matson ..... Pukekohe  
Katrina Dansted ..... Pukekohe  
R S Grocott ..... Auckland  
Barry Gerard ..... Karaka

### BAY OF PLENTY

Carol Franklin ..... Ohope Beach

### HAWKES BAY

Mark & Judy Nelson ..... Napier

### WAIKATO

Mrs P Hayward ..... Cambridge

### WANGANUI/TARANAKI

Paul D Fleming ..... New Plymouth

### CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Allan & Marie Tyler ..... Invercargill



## CONGRATULATIONS TO FEDERATION MEMBERS ON THEIR RECENT WINS!

We continue to track winning horses owned by Owner's Federation members. As we only have visibility of owner's named in the race book, we know we will have missed members involved in winning syndicates and may have inadvertently missed others. We apologise to any member we have missed and extend our congratulations to all members who have recently experienced the thrill of winning.

R G Allen	Carterton	KAHU ROCK
T W Archer	Whangarei	ANNIE'S SONG
Ascot Bloodstock	New Plymouth	GRINNER
P Bardell	Wanganui	MAUNA KEA
Betalert Ltd	North Shore City	WOODEN EDGE
P E Bonner	New Plymouth	HARD TO BE HUMBLE
B W Brown	Tauranga	AERO DE PARIS
Mrs A Browne	Cambridge	RAISAFUASHO
D F J Burns	Waiuku	TWIN SPINNER
Mrs R A Carter	Karaka	STYLISH SUGGESTION
Ms L B Crockford	Tauranga	VON TRAPP
Ms C Crosby	Waiau Pa	BAE CORP
D F & Mrs T A Cunningham	Marton	INFOXICATED
Miss A P Currey	Timaru	SULU SEA
G L Currie	Whangarei	ANJAMEME
K Dansted	Pukekohe	LORD SIBFORD, SHE'S A LADY
L G Dobbs	Geraldine	ROTHACKER
Mrs J D Douglas	Hamilton	JUST TREASURE
A J & Mrs D I Dravitzki	Inglewood	JAYPERNO
JRJI Drinkwater	Lower Hutt	ON POINT
F T & Mrs F I Drummond	Te Awamutu	EL DISPARO
Ken Duncan	Hunternville	INFOXICATED, SHAMAL, TELL ME MORE, ALFIE DEE
A J & Mrs P J J Ebbett	Waipukurau	PINCANTO
M & Mrs F L Fearon	Palmerston North	SHELLY'S LASS
Ms K Funnell	Wellington	SULIMAN
Miss C E Galbraith	Meadowbank	RIODINI
A R Galbraith QC	Auckland	RIODINI
P G Gillespie	Mt Maunganui	ART DECO, WAFER
Go Racing	Herne Bay	ROCK ISLAND LINE
W P Fell, Goodwood Stud	Palmerston North	FATTORE OTTO, MEHRTENS
J A Graham	Invercargill	NOMEN LUDI
B J Guerin	Hastings	LOOK OUT
L H Gurney	Kumeu	ROC CHA
M J & Mrs S Hardy	Lower Hutt	BOUNDTOBEHONORED
Hauunui Bloodstock	Papakura	HAVANA HEAT
A D Hayward	Cambridge	BATTLE TIME
Mrs J C Hewitt	Wanganui	MAUNA KEA
K J Hickman ONZM	Christchurch	LOUBOUTIN, RED CHOIS
G & A Hill Trust	Hawera	MISS LIZZIE, CHEEKY AZZ, TAVIS COURT
Mrs S L Kay	Manakau	SYLVESTER
B Kendall	Karaka	STYLISH SUGGESTION
P J & Mrs A S Kennedy	Christchurch	MONTERRAT, JOHNNIE REDMOND
W J Kerr	Timaru	SULU SEA

W G Kingsford	Matamata	IT'S A KINDA MAGIC
D W Lake	Ashburton	OTTAVIO
B J Leach	Te Puke	SUPREME HEIGHTS, ELLIOT POWER
C A Leishman	Ellerslie	OUR WONDERLAND
M J Lewis	Meadowbank	RIODINI
H A MacDonald	Palmerston North	KAHU ROCK
D H MacNab	Whanganui	TALLYHO TWINKLETOE
R J Marris	St Andrews	LINCOLN ZEPHYR
Miss C A Marshall	Cambridge	LILY D'OR
Cliff Matson	Pukekohe	LORD SIBFORD, KAILANI SUNSET, SHE'S A LADY
C McIlroy	Waiau Pa	BAE CORP
R B McLaren Ltd	Parnell	GORGEOUS GEISHA
B F McLeod	Christchurch	VASILIKI
G B & Mrs D Mellow	Opunake	SHELLY'S LASS
D C Morison	Havelock North	PINCANTO
D E Nakhle	Takanini	WAY ABOVE
M Nelson	Napier	LOOK OUT
P S & Mrs C Nelson	Hastings	NO CHANGE, NO TIP
B G & Mrs D G Neville-White	Auckland	ABACUS
I J Nichol	Outram	LONDONDERRY AIR
B K O'Dea	Wanganui	MAUNA KEA
W R O'Hearn	Matamata	VALANTE
B Ovenden	New Plymouth	FINE AND DANDEE
D Paykel	Takapuna	MEDALZA
Rainbow Lodge Stud	Levin	FLYINGFLYNN
J A Roache	Marton	SHELLY'S LASS
Ms C J & L M Robinson	Christchurch	VASILIKI
G A Rogerson MNZM	Hamilton	OUR WONDERLAND, SAIGNON, OTTAVIO, ROC CHA, MALAMBO
D W J Sexton	Hamilton	WOODEN EDGE
D W Shannon	Masterton	GUY FOX
Ms J C Simpson	Paraparaumu Beach	SHEZA BEACH BABE
M J & R D Southey	Masterton	GUY FOX
R J Stern	Palmerston North	SHELLY'S LASS
W J Stewart	Wanganui	VELOCE, NOD
The Franz Josef Trust	Lower Hutt	MAUNA KEA
Mrs C Tims	Hamilton	ALVINS DREAM
A K & Mrs M E Tyler	Invercargill	ADEQUACY, TIMES TIME, IT'S PANDEMONIUM,
Sir Peter Vela	Hamilton	RED BEACH, SLEEPING BEAUTY
J G Walsh	Pleasant Point	BRIDGET TOWN
J R Wheeler MNZM	New Plymouth	ABACUS
R M & Mrs J M Williamson	Twizel	LONDONDERRY AIR
S J E Wilson	Waipukurau	DEZ



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