
BREEDERS' UPDATE

April 3, 2020



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS STUD
PRESENT **EDITION 77** OF THE
BREEDERS' UPDATE.



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UPDATE TO OUR MEMBERS

Brad Reid

Now are now well in to the reality and adaptation of life under a COVID 19 Level 4 lockdown.

Our Executive is considering the role that the Breeders can play in the future, a future in which the world, and harness racing will be very different. We believe there will continue to be a role for a Breeders Assn, but exactly what that looks like and what it focuses on is still being considered.

On Wednesday we received a statement (reprinted in this BU with the RITA COVID-19 response) from HRNZ's Chairman Ken Spicer and CEO Peter Jensen updating us on the HRNZ Board's plan on how we can possibly return to racing from around 1 June.

The equine codes have received confirmation that thoroughbred and standardbred farms can operate as an essential service under the exemption for "the maintenance of animal health and welfare standards." This approval comes with a responsibility and trust for us all to follow official advice on health and safety precautions and restrictions.

I cannot stress this enough and please use your common sense and evaluate any risk situations, making sure we take all precautions to avoid any situation that could endanger our people or put any unnecessary strain on our health system.

I am happy to share a link to NZ Thoroughbred Breeders COVID-19 [website here](#).
[Our new NZSBA website will be launched within the next two weeks where we will have similar information.]

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need help. I have set up office at my home-base and will be attempting to continue to provide our range of services. So far so good.

COVID-19 has compounded the many issues we are facing as an industry. There are plenty of opinions on what our future may look like, but none of us know for sure what it will be. In the meantime, our NZSBA executive are working through the options. We are keen to prioritise support and advocacy for breeders in planning the future of our landscape.

Take care and stay safe,

Brad | Executive Manager

FATHER DAN CUMMINGS OBITUARY

Michael Guerin

It is testament to the sort of man Father Dan Cummings was that after decades of enormous success in harness racing that is rarely the first thing which comes to mind when you think of him.

Father Dan went to see his big boss upstairs on Saturday afternoon, taking his last breath after a battle with cancer that eventually moved to his lungs.

There was little shock in his death, it had been coming for 15 months, since he was diagnosed with the illness and decided to not go down the treatment path.

"He wanted to enjoy what time he had left and he did," said his brother Peter after "Danny" passed away aged 75.

"He made the most of his last year but when he got back from the sales he started to get worse and struggled with his breathing at the end." That Father Dan made the most of his final year is hardly surprising because that was how he lived his life.

He entered the priesthood straight out of school and upon being ordained spent much of his working life in the Dunedin diocese (the church's region).

A priest can affect a lot of lives in that time, especially one as popular as Father Dan and he was also at the centre of one of New Zealand's great tragedies, being the parish priest at Port Chalmers when David Gray shot and killed 13 people in the Aramoana massacre in 1990.

"That was a pretty intense time for Danny, being the parish priest during something that bad," says Peter.

But away from a life of service, Father Dan was Danny to his family.

Danny loved animals, a love he got from his mother Joan who set up Tuapeka Lodge in 1965.



Father Dan Cummings

While that extended to harness racing it was originally focussed on rodeo, where Danny held the New Zealand record for bulldogging, which is when a rodeo rider jumps from a horse on to a steer or calf and wrestles it to the ground.

This would suggest Danny was a bit of a hard bugger.

"He loved the rodeo and was very good at it," says Peter.

But after Mum passed in 1977 Danny (the third of eight children), Peter and sister Julie (Davie) took over the stud with enormous success.

"Danny was the breeding and horse expert, I was the farmer and Julie managed it and sometimes prepared the yearlings," explains Peter.

Tuapeka Lodge generally kept their yearlings to 10, selling almost all the colts and keeping the fillies.

Dan would train some, including one of their flagship horses in Maureen's Dream, but it was mainly the colts who made Tuapeka Lodge the respected nursery that went on to prepare 10 yearling sales toppers.

Many of them traced back to unraced mare turned superstar broodmare Sakuntala.

The family bought her in 1974 and she left 13 winners from 18 foals, including Tuapeka Star who numbered the 1979 Tatlow Stakes at Moonee Valley among her 22 Australian victories and she went on to leave the great Iraklis.

"He was one of our favourites," remembers Peter of the stallion who won the NZ Cup and Miracle Mile and over \$1million.

He was one of two NZ Cup winners from the Tuapeka breed, the other being Monkey King, even though he wasn't bred on the farm he was from a mare who was.

Sakuntala's progeny or their progeny have resulted in over 30 horses to win more than \$100,000.

But good horses alone do not legends make and Father Dan was a harness racing legend.

He was ahead of his time with his website and yearling pics and as a man who commanded respect without trying.

Come sales time he would be sitting on his lawn chair outside the stables of the Tuapeka Lodge draft, a parish priest to an entire industry.

"He could be hard when he needed to be. He was very demanding," laughed Peter.

"He liked things done the right way but we never had a cross word and neither did Julie with him.

"But he loved the horses and really enjoyed his involvement with Southern Bred Southern Reared in recent years."

Tuapeka Lodge will continue, with younger family members keen to help Peter and Julie.

"I think we have a lovely bunch of horses to take to the sales next year," smiles Peter.

And they will have somebody looking over them from above. A legend.

* Father Dan's funeral cannot be planned yet because of the current Covid-19 restrictions.

A great article and a deeper insight into his legacy and life by Bruce Stewart can be found [here](#).

DEVERY INVOLVEMENT IN HARNESS RACING LIKE AN AMAZING DREAM!

Brad Reid

Invercargill electrician Vin Devery has had some wonderful success in harness racing at almost every level imaginable.

You wouldn't know it though, such is his humble manner.

However as a hobby trainer, he is second to only Mark Purdon in all times victories in the Leonard Memorial Stakes for 2 Year Old Fillies with four! Three of which he bred along with his wife Daphne. Not bad for a guy who balanced working the horses with wiring houses full time.

Devery also has five New Zealand Age Group Horse of the Year honours (soon to be six) and countless breeding and ownership credits in some of New Zealand's biggest races.

As great as all of his accomplishments (and those of his brothers) have been (and we will recount plenty of them), they pale in comparison to breeding the second filly to accomplish the Northern Oaks/Derby double since the Kevin Holmes trained Rippers Delight first did the deed in 1975.

To do it with a filly tracing back to your foundation mare would have to be the icing on the cake for any breeder, and how he came about getting there is just as remarkable.

"We were brought up in a racing family having grown up on a farm, Dad had horses originally many years ago and we were brought up with them round the shows," said Devery.

"My brothers Allan, Ray and I formed a syndicate and we leased a mare called Facetious (1970 **Johnny Globe - Fallacy Queen**) from Bangie Booth at Nightcaps, and she was the first official racing interest that I had and would end up being the foundation of which much of the family comes from today."

"We were given the option of breeding the first three foals which we did, and wound up having some early luck," he said.

Facetious was a handy mare by Johnny Globe and was actually trained by Vin's brother Allan Devery.

The mare provided his first official training win in 1974 and three more in which Vin shared in the ownership with his brother.

It wasn't long after that Allan Devery's training career took off with the talented stallion Stampede notching 11 wins in his care, but that is a story for another day.

Facetious came from the much esteemed Berthabell line which David McCarthy details in a preceding article and it was with bloodlines in mind that the brothers leased Facetious to breed from, eventually producing the greatest taproot of an already legendary family.

The first foal was a filly by Nevele Bigshot and although unraced, Ravinalan plays a major role in this tale. More on her soon.

The early success Devery spoke of in reference to the first three foals was with Arveeae, the third foal from Facetious by Lumber Dream. The gelding was a maiden when he won the inaugural running of the Sires Stakes Final, then a Group 3 race worth \$100,000 beating the great Master Mood in the process.

The three Devery brothers shared in the ownership with Allan doing the training.

Following this early success, the brothers branched off on their own separate paths and this is where Vin's story begins to take shape.

"The three of us were discontinuing racing as a partnership so we split up the horses of the mares that we had, and one of the foals I ended up taking was Lumber Lie out of Ravinalan, along with another filly out of the mare called Party Lass who was by Party Ahead."

While Ravinalan wound up being a disappointment at stud, by chance Vin had wound up with a daughter that would deliver on the family lineage.

"I sent Lumber Lie to Denise Swain in Ahsburton who qualified for me.

"Being a typical Lumber Dream she was very highly strung and she had a locked up pelvis problem. We had to retire her because although she would come out of it, she would eventually lock up under pressure," he said.

Vin wound up sending Lumber Lie to Soky's Atom who although having only a third of the foals on the ground compared to Smooth Fella and Lordship, had ascended to second on the sire table behind the all-conquering Vance Hanover by his fourth season at stud in 1992.

The mating would produce the wonderful filly and champion producer, Dreamy Atom.

"I was training her myself down here and she performed very very well as a young horse and we decided to go a bit further afield.

"We lined up against the colts down here and she beat them as a two year old and showed a lot of promise right from day one," he said.

All six of her victories came in the colours of Vin Devery including his first of four in the 1994 Vin Devery (Leonard Memorial) Stakes.



Amazing Dream

The biggest win of her career came at Alexandra Park when she won the Sires Stakes Fillies Championships for 2 & then 3 year old fillies at 5/7 in the betting.

"That was a tremendous thrill for us to take her up there ourselves and beat them.

"Barry had her for her last three starts because Tony Barron was up there and that was where the opportunities lay at the time. She ended up breaking a pastern and we had to retire her as well," he said.

"Winning two year old filly of the year was incredible, we were only new to the game and we were able to produce a filly good enough to win that accolade."

We come back to her but this is where the story for mine just adds another layer.

Lumber Lie's next two foals weren't up too much despite being by top sires in Smooth Fella and New York Motoring, but her fourth foal, a filly by Cameleon was showing some promise.

Devery bred her as a result of having won a service fee to Cameleon when Dreamy Atom won the Leonard Memorial.

Happy Golucky would clear maidens at her third start as a two-year-old by winning the Leonard Memorial herself in 1999, with Vin doing the training again.

"She went to Australia, we sold her on the float home from the Leonard Memorial. She was a natural two year old and a nice filly," he said.

She would win nine and place in 19 more from 47 starts.

Lumber Lie's last foal (eight in total) was the only other race winner and the son of Holmes Hanover, Costalot, would win 8 here before going to America and taking a time of 1:54.

"Tony Herlihy bought him off us and he was a tough horse who went good," he said.

By the time Costalot was bred in 2003, Dreamy Atom had already left four foals.

"The first year she wouldn't conceive at all, but she got in foal to Son of Afella by natural service and I broke in that filly and trained her for two starts before selling her," he said.

That filly was called Happy Dreamer and she would eventually win eight, even lining up in the Leonard Memorial herself where she finished fifth.

"I sold the next foal Dream Royale (Beach Towel) at the sales and she won \$100,000 in Australia and ended up leaving Soho Lennon (\$617,000 & 1:51.0)," he said.

The fourth foal was produced by a mating to Badlands Hanover in only his second season at stud and she ticked the boxes from day one.

"She was an outstanding individual as a foal, she was a very tall and leggy filly. Looking at her she was never going to be a two-year-old, but she was.

"Right from day one she showed a hell of a lot of ability and much more than anything I had ever had on the track at home," he said.

Her name was Western Dream and she would put Devery's breed on the map.

She won her first five starts at two, four of which were in the colours of Devery including his third Leonard Memorial Stakes before she was transferred to the stable of Tony Herlihy.

It was decided the rigours of travelling for both horse and human from Invercargill north would become too taxing, so the decision was made to leave the filly in the care of Herlihy at Ardmore.

The move proved to be the right one with the filly proving nigh on unbeatable until the hard juvenile racing took its toll towards the end of her three year old season.

"I had her back for another one of her wins at one time, but Tony had her for most of her good wins," joked Devery.



Honkin Vision

At two she won the Leonard Memorial, Southland Caduceus and Caduceus Classic as well as Two Year Old Filly of the Year for 2005.

At three she won the Ladyship Stakes, Sires Stakes Champs, Nevele R Fillies Final and New Zealand Oaks as well as Three Year Old Filly of the Year for 2006.

"Western Dream probably had more high speed than Dreamy Atom who was more of a staying type of a horse while the other was a sprint type.

"With racing we travelled a lot and met a lot of good people and made a lot of friends out of it and that's a tremendous asset to have.

"Our biggest thrill racing her was probably a disappointment and thrill all in one. We won the first two legs of the triple crown for three year old fillies with the Peter Breckon Memorial and Sires Stakes Fillies final but were then beat in the Northern Oaks by her arch rival Tosti Girl," said Devery.

It was always going to be hard to leave one with the ability of Western Dream but an unraced daughter of Christian Cullen proved to be the next avenue in which this family would explode.

"Dreamy Atom bred consistently but never left anything the quality of Western Dream.

"By this stage I had gotten to the point where I had been in racing for quite a long time and I wanted to focus on breeding and her seventh foal Christian Dreamer was well bred, but quite a highly strung filly.

"I thought my best bet with her being by Christian Cullen was to qualify her, and the same day she got her race

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ticket I took her race shoes off. I had achieved what I wanted too and could now bring her into the broodmare band and have a real go," said Devery.

Four years before Christian Dreamer produced her first foal however, Western Dream left her first one which was also by Christian Cullen.

"Western Cullen very good and was an absolute surprise. I took him to the sales and ended up buying him back again because he didn't make costs at \$37,000. I gelded him, got him up and running and sold him for very good money to people in Perth."

The saying everything you touch turns to gold comes to mind.

Western Cullen won the Yearling Sales Series for two year olds at his third start, was second in the Sires Stakes final at his next and after running third in the Jewels behind Fly Like an Eagle was off to Perth where he won the Group One Golden Slipper>

Western Cullen had a distinguished career but never quite matched his juvenile feats amassing \$447,000 in stakes and 19 race wins.

Outside of Western Cullen, Western Dream hasn't produced anything like herself but don't be surprised to see one of her four daughters produce a champ.

"I'm breeding from a Christian Cullen mare out of her called Follow the Dream and she is a lovely mare, and I actually did the same thing with her as I did with Christian Dreamer," he said.

Vin isn't surprised that it was Christian Dreamer however who would go on to carry the torch of his breed.

"Lumber Dream, Soky's Aom and Christian Cullen is a tremendous line of stallions to be coming from with a maternal family," he said.

Should come as no surprise then when throwing Bettor's Delight into the mix, a New Zealand Two Year Old colt of the year was the result from the first foal! Only Vin Devery could beat a horse like Lazarus to that honour.

"Yeah Chase The Dream we sold at the sales to Jean Feiss and we sold him for \$52,500," he said.

Although Chase The Dream would bow to Lazarus in the Jewels at two, he would win 6 of his 9 starts that season including wins in the Sapling &

Cardigan Bay Stakes as well as the Sires Stakes Final.

At three he would run into the Lazarus juggernaut but ran second to him in two Group Ones and won the Waikato Flying mile at four by a street, amassing \$500,000 in stakes for his career.

Christian Dreamer's third foal by Art Major is considered by Devery as the biggest what if in his breeding career with Dream Major having enormous raps with Barry Purdon before breaking down.

Then came a slender filly by Bettor's Delight called Amazing Dream.

"She was quite a small filly, but developed into a nice yearling while still being on the small side. In the last month she really blossomed and come into her own and looked good come sales day," he said.

Good enough for Jean Feiss to come back to the Devery well and purchase her for \$77,500.

After chasing Sweet On me for much her of her two-year-old season (beat her once in the G1 Cadeuceus) she came back with a gusto at three.

Her run on Cup Day from barrier nine where she beat the aged pacers with a leg in the air was a sign of things to come, and an indication she might be a little bit special.

Four Group Ones later including the Northern Oaks and Derby double, Amazing Dream has without a doubt cemented herself as one of the best fillies in New Zealand history.

"I was delighted for her to come out and win the Derby which was unheard of it, it wasn't like it was a mug field and she was a long long way from them when she started to run the last half. It was tremendous," he said.

Devery has no designs to get the filly he bred back into the broodmare band however.

"She's probably a bit outside my price range," he joked.

Unfortunately Devery lost a full sister to Amazing Dream while foaling and Christian Dreamer has had trouble getting back in foal this season leaving her empty for two years essentially.

"Were not at the ET stage yet, but we've put her aside and Brendan Bell the vet thinks she will be fine for next season, it's just the trauma and the damage done at the time meant she wouldn't get back in foal this season," he said.

Fingers crossed for better luck this year.

With all the success tracing back to Facetious I had to ask whether there was a favourite filly from the family.

Devery didn't hesitate to answer Western Dream given he had trained her himself and bred and owned her with his wife Daphne.

Lost in all of this due to not being from the Facetious tail lines is the fact Vin went to the sales with his good mate and former Southland rugby representative Allan Blackler to purchase a well bred filly.

The partners settled on Natal Franco and bought her for \$26,000 at the 2006 NZ Premier Yearling Sale in Christchurch.

She too won a Leonard Memorial in his care as a trainer and all told the daughter of Badlands Hanover won \$117,000 and is doing a good job at stud with the likes of Christian Who and Princess Arts winning 12 races between them.

The month has had its ups and downs however with the recent death of one of Devery's former stars Honkin Vision.

Vin Devery knew the thirty three year old wouldn't make it through another winter and had to make the decision to have the horse put down.

The 33 year old son of 'Honkin Andy' has been laid to rest at his owner Vin Devery's farm just north of Invercargill.

"His health was deteriorating. Normally he'd pick himself up in the summer enough to do okay in the winter but I felt he wasn't going to this time."

Vin bred the pacer after his brother, Allan Devery, sold him the horse's dam Frosty Vision with a positive test to Honkin Andy for \$7,000.

Honkin Vision was the first two year old to win \$250,000 in one season, and that was in 1988-89.

"That was a huge amount in those days"

Overall he won 16 races from 43 starts, and stakes of \$510,395 and was two and three year old of the year, trained much of his career by his brother Allan and Henry Skinner.

His spirits likely lifted however by the recent qualifying of a full brother to Amazing Dream, two year old colt, Special Dream who is trained by Kirk Larsen.

He might have a lot to live up too but given the incredible success of Vin & Daphne's breed thus far you would not be surprised in the slightest if the pacer went on with the job.

AMAZING DREAM THE FRENCH CONNECTION

David McCarthy

The Amazing Dream story goes back a long way -all the way back to an Akaroa trotting enthusiast named Etienne X Le Lievre one of our most successful breeders of all time.

A son of a French pioneer in the district, Etienne was to make an indelible impression on early trotting breeding even if Akaroa seemed an unlikely source of it

In fact, standardbred horses were very popular around the many bays on the Peninsula, most of them with tracks rather than roads, where road horses with stamina and speed were carefully nurtured. Some leading stallions, such as Victor and the American -bred Ha Ha, stood at stud around the "Bays" in the 19th century. And as the long-promised railway never got past Little River the most notable sporting record on the Peninsula was the fastest horse trip from Little River to Akaroa -around 35km, much of it among steepish hills. At the end of a long day in Christchurch you wanted to get home as quickly as you could.



Etienne Le Lievre (right) with the New Zealand cup won by Peter Bingen alongside Jack Kennerley the lessee and trainer-driver who raced Peter Bingen on lease from Mr Le Lievre

Etienne Le Lievre chased and guarded that record well but competition was keen. The annual Oinako Cup meeting (three laps around a makeshift Akaroa track) was highly competitive. It led Etienne to greater things. He was an expert horseman who broke and handled his own youngsters until well over 80 years of age and bred an impressive list of stars and superstars. The beautiful Le Lievre homestead of Oinako was often used also for hosting official events in the district.

Etienne joined forces with the Halswell-domiciled, ill-fated American, Robert McMillan, who established the then famous Santa Rosa stud close by the present Halswell Hotel. Le Lievre owned most of the stallions including Harold Dillon, the leading sire for several successive years, and Great Audubon who sired a NZ Cup winner, Great Hope. But the best of them was another Bingen offspring, Nelson Bingen.

The partners visited America on a number of occasions and just before WW1 returned with a mare Berthabell (spelling appeared to vary at times) a four year old with a foal at foot and in foal to The Harvester, the star trotting sire of the US at that time. Nelson Bingen, then a two-year-old was brought out about the same time.

The foal was injured during the trip out and never raced though later became a good broodmare who left 9 fillies from her 11 foals. It is through her Amazing Dream traces. The Harvester foal died.

Berthabell became the best-known broodmare in New Zealand for a decade as a result of a tremendous run of success and the sheer durability of her breed that still entitles her to legendary status as much as modern greats such as Scuse Me.

Apart from 1914, 1918 and 1927 she left a foal every year from 1913 until 1932 when 24 years old. Twins died in 1915 and, rather remarkably, she was trained and raced in 1917 so was not put in foal that year. She was so fertile that her last foal, Sea Gypsy, left the NZ Cup winner, Our Roger raced by Le Lievre's son in law, Bill Newton

Etienne Le Lievre held strong theories on breeding and he bred Berthabell, who was by the legendary Peter the Great and no cheapie, almost exclusively to Nelson Bingen in spite of more fashionable stallions being available. He championed the Bingen breed even while they had been spectacularly successful in America for a time before going dramatically out of fashion

after a "whispering campaign" against them for not being genuine. New Zealand was the line's last hurrah.

Le Lievre was proven right. To Nelson Bingen Berthabell left the two greatest pacers of the 1920's.

Great Bingen (2nd foal in New Zealand) was the stakes winning record holder until the 1940's as a result of a long list of champion performances in the 20's when he was the idol of Addington racing crowds off long marks for Roydon Lodge and Dan Glanville.

Peter Bingen (third foal), leased out to race by Etienne, won two New Zealand Cups (quinella in one with Great Bingen) and the first Royal Cup event at Addington. Great Parrish won the Northern Derby and the Auckland Cup. Worthy Bingen (first foal here) was a champion trotter and later sired the wonder mare Worthy Queen who, but for a Christchurch nor wester, would have trotted a two minute mile away back in the 1930's-before any pacer had done so. She was driven by Jack Shaw who later developed Vodka from the Bell Bingen breed, the first New Zealand-trained horse to win in the United States. Etienne would have loved that.

At one two day meeting in the Waikato in 1939, four sons of Berthabell each sired winners, surely a unique feat.

But there was a catch. Berthabell's fillies were all disappointing on the racetrack. Ok to outstanding at stud and with early speed but not raceday propositions. Of Bell Bingen's 9 filly foals, none registered a time of any description

Amazing Dream, the only filly from Christian Dreamer registered to date, is therefore an exception to the general rule about Berthabell- line racing fillies - though not of course the only one.



Amazing Dream, the filly who beat the best colts - a rare feat in modern racing

Still, of the 11 mares in her direct descent from Berthabell, seven never made the races. Another, Fallacy Queen, a good broodmare, raced 40 times without a win.

The line had been nurtured in later years by Etienne Le Lievre's grandson, Lance, and by another descendant Jack X Ferguson, whose Jayex, also a descendant of Berthabell, won the Champion Stakes at Ashburton for Jack Smolenski. Another relative, the outstanding trotting mare Au Fait (Dominion Handicap) was raced by one time Akaroa publican (the Bruce) Jack McKay, whose wife was a Le Lievre. Lance Le Lievre and Jack Ferguson had both ridden winners of the Oinako Cup

Jayex sired Jay Marie among others, who won a Golden Slipper at Waimate for Smolenski before being sold to the US. His dam, Eblouir had been a smart performer for Stuart Le Lievre, whose son, Justin, is still prominent in the harness world.

However, in recent times Amazing Dream's branch, starting essentially with Lumber Line (qualified but unraced) with Lumber Dream, Sokys Atom and Christian Cullen to help, have gone to another level for Southland connections, the Devery family. This admittedly has coincided with the rise in age group racing for fillies who were previously

up against it racing constantly against males and many were unraced or retired quickly to stud for that reason.

Dreamy Atom won the Tall Tree Stakes (Leonard Memorial; now Nevele R) at two, and two Sires Stakes finals. Her daughter Western Dream, who won 6 of 7 at two, took out the the NZ Oaks and Nevele R Final double for the Tony Herlihy stable for Vin and Daphne Devery. She won over \$300,000 in all.

Her granddam, one of the unraced Berthabell brigade and by stud disappointment Nevele Bigshot, was named Ravinalan after three Devery brothers -of a family of 15, by coincidence matching some of the very large Le Lievre families - Ray, Vin and Alan. They also had some success with Ravinalan's dam Facetious who won 4 from 75.

So Amazing Dream and her close relations represent by far the most successful filly performers from the famed Berthabell breed in modern times.

There is of course more to it than that. For one thing she is bred on the same Bettor's Delight-Christian Cullen-Soky's Atom cross as the mighty Lazarus while her full brother, Chase the Dream, also purchased by Jean Feiss, was the leading two year old of his year over Lazarus himself.

Golden crosses everywhere. But the French cross of Etienne Le Lievre and the American standardbred was surely the most unusual.

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1 April 2020

STATEMENT FROM HRNZ CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

What does a Return to Racing look like?

Harness Racing New Zealand is working in collaboration with RITA and the other codes to enable a return to racing as soon as is practically possible. The first stage of this process is to design a racing ecosystem that reflects the likelihood that it will be some time before the Government brings New Zealand back to Alert Level One. In practice this means:

- Animal welfare, along with the safety of industry people and the wider public, must continue to be paramount.
- Racing on a public-excluded basis, as we were before going into the lockdown.
- Racing will be conducted on a regional basis; this will see licensees unable to move between regions.
- Harness racing will be limited to five to six venues for a minimum of three months to allow the strict enforcement of the necessary protocols under Alert Levels Two and Three.
- HRNZ is consulting with clubs/regions on regional racing/venues and will advise the industry on the shape of this once those decisions are finalised.
- At this early stage, HRNZ has a target of returning to racing at the end of May or early in June, but we stress there are a number variables that will affect this, the most obvious issues being when New Zealand moves out of Alert Level Four and what is deemed allowable by the Government under Alert Level Three.
- Racing cannot resume until there is a sufficient pool of fit horses to enable this.

Once we return to racing, the initial focus will be to provide weekly racing opportunities for the majority of the horse population. The draft plan is focussed on the period from June to September with further planning required to redesign the 2020/21 season.

The HRNZ board has confirmed that any feature/group races that were due to be held from March 24th through to the end of the 2019/20 season will now not be run and nor will they be rescheduled. As previously advised, this includes the IRT Harness Jewels. The exception to this is those races administered by the New Zealand Sires Stakes Board; we continue to work with the NZSSB on options for the rescheduling to the next season the races/series that they administer. This was a very difficult decision to make, however it is important that we give trainers and owners some certainty as they make plans for their horses.

There will be a need to reshape racing across all codes as we develop a clearer picture of what the full impact of COVID-19 will have on the TAB and subsequently funding to the codes. In light of this, HRNZ is vigorously reviewing all costs within the business, including employee/contractor payments.

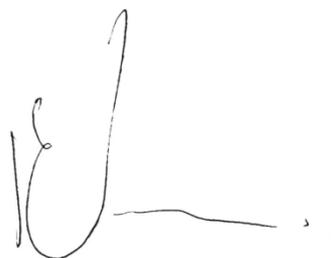
If you have not already done so, please ensure you are applying for the Government wage support for yourself and your staff – information available at the WINZ website or ctrl click on this link - [Work and Income](#). A reminder that you and your staff can continue to access support from the Salvation Army Racing Chaplains (by phone). There is also support available by calling or texting 1737 free anytime, 24/7 where you can speak to a trained counsellor.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all of those involved in harness racing who have been so understanding and supportive of each other through these unprecedented times. Things are moving quickly and we recognise that it is imperative that we communicate as clearly as we can as the situation evolves.

The HRNZ team continues to be available to anyone who has questions or suggestions.



Ken Spicer, Chair, HRNZ



Peter Jensen, CEO, HRNZ

RITA COVID-19 UPDATE

Our industry has responded swiftly to the impact of COVID-19 and in particular, the restrictions that have been in place over the past week.

I know from speaking with many of you that you've had to move quickly to adapt to the situation, by moving animals, cancelling race meetings, changing your operations and so much more.

But the overwhelming message I've heard is that the measures in place provide us with the best opportunity to return to normal – even if it's clearly that it will be a 'new normal'.

Like you, our initial focus was to support a coordinated response across racing to keep people safe and racing running, even if it was behind closed doors.

Clearly we now have no NZ racing and limited sport and won't have for at least a month, so RITA's

focus has now moved to maximising the product we have available for punters, reducing costs and preparing our business and our industry for a return to racing.

BOARD UPDATE

The RITA Board met yesterday and discussed the performance of the business on the back of COVID-19, the steps being taken to mitigate the impact and consider what the TAB and the industry may look like when racing is back up and running.

Despite a better than expected weekend for the TAB (off the back of some quality racing in Australia), unsurprisingly our turnover remains significantly down on the same period last year.

Last week, turnover on racing and sport was down 55% and revenue down 51%, against forecast.

The Gross Betting Revenue (GBR) for the week was \$3.7m, and while this was better than we had anticipated, had

we lost Australian racing we would have been left with about \$600k GBR.

Clearly we want to see Australian racing continuing for as long as possible, but we are also planning for what many see as the inevitable cancellation of racing across the Tasman.

We're down about 75% of available product, which obviously impacts the bets we can sell, and when we can't sell any bets we can't make any money and in fact with the fixed costs of the business (rent, insurance etc.) continuing, we are losing money.

That's the dilemma we have and that's why we are focusing so hard on reducing costs; not only for the next 3 months but for the period beyond that - the 'new normal'. That is where the collective focus of the industry must be to ensure our long term survival and future growth.

I've spoken previously of the steps the TAB has taken to cut costs and we continue to maintain this focus. The Board and executive management team have taken pay cuts and a significant number of the organisation's staff are voluntarily taking leave, while in some cases we've had to ask staff with high leave balances to use them.

But all these initiatives will only go part-way to closing the gap that we and all other international bookmakers are facing. The Board is steadfastly focused on ensuring the TAB is set up to weather this storm and come out of it with long-term sustainability in mind and continuing to support the 17,000+ Kiwis who depend on it for a livelihood.

We are having active conversations with our banks, the Government and the Codes and are reassured by the support our industry has, and by the progress being made, to keep the wheels of commerce turning.

LOOKING FORWARD

We know this crisis will have a lasting impact on the TAB and the industry. We know a return to 'business as usual' is simply not possible. We know that NZ and the world will be very different when we get on top of the virus and we have begun planning what this means for the TAB, as we know the codes have too.

As you may know, RITA suspended consultation on the 2020/21 draft racing calendar last week and this week, in conjunction with the Codes, we have started working on developing a revised calendar to take account of the impact of COVID-19.

This calendar will have the overriding objectives of minimising costs and maximising revenue, underpinned by a continued focus on animal welfare.

We're at an early stage in finalising a revised calendar and no decisions have yet been made. But we expect the reality is we'll be racing at fewer venues to achieve the desired outcomes.

This will require difficult and at times, unpopular decisions, but the alternative is stark.

The industry will be consulted on a draft as soon as it is ready to share, albeit, clearly our timeframe for consultation on any changes will be much shorter than usual.

CHALLENGING TIMES

The Board also wanted to pass on our thoughts and best wishes to all industry participants and staff of the TAB, the Codes, JCA, RIU and racing industry organisations who are facing stress and hardship as a consequence of this crisis.

Please continue to keep safe and well during this period. We'll continue to keep you updated on any important developments.

Sincerely,
Dean McKenzie
Executive Chair
Racing Industry Transition Agency

SHORT SNIPPETS

All Aged Sale Canceled

With the government's announcement that the country is to go into lock-down due to the COVID-19 virus, NZB Standardbred has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 All Age Sale, scheduled to be held at Karaka on Monday 4 May.

"With the recent developments that affect the entire country it is clear that we cannot operate public auctions at this time" commented Director and Operations Manager, James Jennings.

"It is important to provide clarity for vendors and buyers during this period of uncertainty, with the intention of

having a viable alternative to sell weanlings and other stock within the usual trading period on our subsidiary online auction platform gavelhouse.com.

“Making the call now will allow a timeframe for adaption to the platform and for promotion of the online sale.”

At this stage, gavelhouse.com will go ahead with their upcoming auctions, however there will be some factors to bear in mind as the COVID-19 situation is progressing rapidly.

The next online auction for gavelhouse.com Standardbred will be 27 May with entries due by 20 May.

For more information or to enter your stock in the gavelhouse.com online auction, [visit here](#).

Woodlands Message

Due to the recent Covid-19 restrictions **NZB Standardbred** has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 All Age Sale, scheduled to be held at Karaka on Monday 4 May.

Woodlands Stud had a strong draft to offer at this sale so we are understandably disappointed, however we back the decision 100%.

This means that in time we will still be looking to sell these horses through other avenues. Below is a link to the list of horses for anyone interested – there may be some slight changes to this in the coming weeks.

All Aged Draft [list here](#).

Keep an eye out for updates and if you would like any information on any of these horses in the meantime please contact Stacey White on 021 595 492 or stacey@woodlandsstud.co.nz

Colic Message From Rangiora Vets

Over the weekend and the last couple of days we have seen an increase in the number of colic calls. Some of these may be due to small changes to your horses routine because of the coronavirus situation. It may be something as simple as switching from grass to hay, or increasing the amount you are feeding due to not being able to regularly visit.

What we have also seen is some very high faecal egg counts in some of these horses.

We know that right now things may be completely out of your control but here are a few things that might help reduce the risk of colic:

- Make any changes in feed gradual
- Worming your horse: At this time of year there may be a build up from your horse grazing down to low pasture cover levels over summer resulting in an accumulation in parasite burden for your horse. Be sure you are dosing to the correct weight – under-dosing will mean the active ingredients in the wormer do not reach a concentration that will kill the parasites, and those left behind are likely to develop resistance.
- If someone else is looking after your horse for you make sure they know what is normal behaviour for them.

If you think your horse has colic please phone the clinic 03 313 7438 to get advice or organise a visit by a vet. We are an essential service and staffed to attend to emergencies, like colic, over this time.

Take care,
Rangiora Vet Centre Equine Team

Tickle Me Pink Retired

Trotting star “Tickle Me Pink” has run her last race, her future now will be as a broodmare.

The four-year-old bay mare pulled up with muscle soreness after a lacklustre ninth on February 21 at Cambridge with subsequent investigations finding “multiple hotspots”.

Breeders Breckon Farms said the decision just made sense.

“Extended rest could have seen her race again but given the depth of her CV and the battles she’d already overcome it was decided it was in the mare’s best interest to retire her.”

In 2018 “Tickle” nearly died after suffering from travel sickness during a trip to Australia.

She made a triumphant and emotional return to the track, winning the Group 2 Sires Stakes Championships.

Champion reinsman Tony Herlihy trained and drove her in all 16 starts, winning nine of them, including the Group 1 3YO Harness Jewels. She won \$160,174 in stakes.

She also set a New Zealand record of 2.07.2 over 1700 metres at Cambridge.

Critical to the horse’s success was Chanelle Lawson.

Chanelle said, "I feel so grateful to have been part of her story. She was a pleasure to do anything with and it won't be the same without her around.

She took me on the ride of a lifetime and for that reason will forever be my "One In A Million".

"Tickle" will now join her mother Luby Ann and full sister Luby Lou in the broodmare band at Breckon Farms base at Ohaupo.

Alta Christiano Passes

The death of the New Zealand bred harness racing stallion Alta Christiano was an immense blow to the Australian breeding industry.

Alta Christiano died as the result of a colic attack at Tipperary Equine stud, Young (NSW) last weekend.

The top pacer and sire had just completed his busiest ever season, covering in excess of 160 mares.

"We had already received advanced bookings for 40 mares for next season," Tipperary Equine studmaster Luke Primmer said.

In a career interrupted by injury, Alta Christian won 13 of his 18 starts and \$309,163 in stakes.

He won four races at two years, including the NZ Kindergarten Stakes and NZ Yearling Sales Graduate at Addington.

Among his three wins as a three-year-old were the \$200,000 WA Derby and the Western Gateway in a track record 1:55.4 for 2130 metres.

Alta Christiano won six of his seven starts at four including The Johnson, a Listed race.

From his first crop he produced the talented Im Sir Blake, winner of the Northern Region Championship in Victoria and Mildura Guineas, the WA Country Derby winner Fake News and While They Pray (11 wins).

Alta Christiano's second crop now racing as three-year-olds includes the Battle of Bunbury winner Al Guerrero and Will The Wizard (Queensland Breeders Classic 2YO), while among his current batch of two-year-olds is the Western Crown winner Mighty Ronaldo.

FEEDING DURING LOCKDOWN

Dunstan Horsefeeds

The past week has turned our lives upside down in one way or another. The same thing has occurred for many horses around the country that were in full work, preparing to race, or racing and now find themselves out for a spell.

For horses that have had an abrupt end to training it is important to reduce their feed intake in response to their reduction in calorie expenditure. In most racehorse diets this will involve moving them to a lower energy feed. However, if there is plenty of higher energy race mix left in the feed room this can be used at a reduced intake to avoid wastage.

The most suitable feeding regime to transition these spelling racehorses to will depend on their 'type' and what pasture and forage sources are available to them.

Pasture and hay/haylage should form the basis of the ration. Therefore it is important to ensure they are receiving their minimum requirement of forage which is 1% of their body weight in hay/chaff or pasture daily on a dry matter basis. If pasture is limited and hay and haylage scarce the additional forage can be added to the hard feed to supplement these levels and meet fibre requirements, to ensure optimum digestive health.

The products from Fibre Fresh and Equifibre provide a great choice of ensiled feeds that will contribute valuable fibre, quality proteins and are dust free.

POOR DOERS

The hardkeepers that are being turned out may do very well on a high fibre, low starch feed with some additional fat. Many of these horses are more highly strung and it is therefore advisable to avoid high grain rations that provide them with 'energy' that exacerbates fence walking and unsettled 'busy' activity.

Products like Dunstan Breed and Grow/Fibre Grow is ideal - high in fibre, low starch, and a fully balanced feed. Dunstan Breed and Grow/Fibre Grow contain a live yeast culture to aid digestion and these feeds are well recognised for their ability to condition a horse while avoiding highly strung behaviour. The addition of some vegetable oil (Dunstan Trifecta Oil) to the ration will further boost calorie contribution from a 'calorie dense, cool energy' source.



SPELLERS

For Spellers that are not so 'high maintenance' there are some textured feed options available that have a more traditional grain inclusion (excluding Oats) such as Dunstan Spelling Mix and Dunstan Feed-Up. Both these lightly molassed textured feeds provide the majority of their grain in an extruded form, therefore enhancing its digestibility for both better feed utilisation and improved digestive health.

For the younger speller Dunstan Feed-Up is a great choice. Formulated for the younger horse, it has a higher protein level and is slightly more calorie-dense taking into account the energy demands of both growth and conditioning.

Dunstan Spelling Mix is ideal for the older racehorse. It is fully balanced with calories coming from fibres, fats and cereal grains.

GOOD DOERS

For horses that will be turned out with abundant pasture and will not struggle to maintain condition a semi-concentrate would be an ideal feed supplement. This type of product provides a full profile of nutrients in a lower intake of feed compared to a traditional full feed. Within the Dunstan range Dunstan Fibre Balancer or Dunstan Grass Balancer are semi-concentrates.

When fed at approximately 1.5kg daily they provide a full profile of vitamins and minerals, without the higher feed rates of a full feed required to achieve the same nutrient contribution.

GOLD PLATED FILLY COLLECTS BRACELET

Jeff Scott

On a week where harness racing entered lockdown for at least a month, Kentukiana Lodge senior trainer, Cran Dalgety, and wife Chrissie, made the most of a huge opportunity winning the \$100,000 Bathurst Gold Bracelet with star filly Dr Susan.

Where NZ competitors had no opportunity for earning, the Dalgetys, and junior training partner Nathan Purdon pocketed the Group One bonus their last earn for months given the precarious situation the world finds itself in with the global pandemic.

Australian victories his year for Dr Susan in the Group One Victorian Oaks, the Group One Bathurst Gold Bracelet, and the Group Two Raith Memorial, couldn't have been more timely for Team Dalgety, who are handling their most challenging financial year due to unusual external circumstances.

Cran had no option to base himself in NSW last week to prepare the filly for Bathurst and returned to Auckland on



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Gold Result. Gold-plated filly Dr Susan and driver Anthony Butt easily win the Group One Bathurst Gold Bracelet on Mach 28, 2020. (HRSW photo).

Sunday, where he has to undergo a two-week self isolation period from his family.

Dr Susan, despite thriving in Australia, has ended her 3YO racing, with the \$100,600 Queensland Oaks in July now abandoned.

The only downside of Susan's Bracelet victory as a dominating \$1.15 favourite for her army of supporters and the Dalgetys was a repeat of a slight tangle behind the gate in the score-up for driver Anthony Butt, resulting in another stewards warning regarding her mobile barrier manners.

Quickly putting that issue aside, Dr Susan was all business as usual once the barrier arms folded, leading throughout over the 2260m to win in a 1:56.3 rate.

The slick daughter of champion sire Bettor's Delight and 2013 NZ Oaks runner-up Safedra (1:56.3), herself a daughter of 2001 Australian Breeders Crown an NSW Oaks winner Sparks A Flyin (1:52), quickened over her last 800m in 56s and her final 400m in 27.8s to hold second favourite, Vinvenzina.

Dr Susan, bred and raced by Chrissie Dalgety, already has a 1:52.1 mile mark herself from her Raith Memorial success, and just continues to compliment a huge contribution grand-dam Sparks A Flyin made maternally to the pedigree page of the family.

All of her progeny continued to flourish as they aged like a good wine, headed by the evergreen

\$1 million earner Bettor's Fire (1:50.2, 59 wins, who is still winning at 12 in North America, after a former stellar Australasian career.

Sparks A Flyin 921 wins & \$627,218), also previously trained by Cran Dalgety for former long-time stable owners, Jim and Susan Wakefield, has been joined in the USA by half-brother (My) Alpha Rock (1:49.5, Aust.

The big Rock N Roll Heaven gelding has had a similar strong start to his career at Kentuckiana Lodge, winning eight of 29 starts for \$59,589. advanced his record with another nine wins in Australia for the Shane and Lauren Tritton stable, taking his earnings to \$A240,614.

He won his first four straight at Menangle, and became a multiple Group Australian winner with Menangle wins in the Group 3 Australian Pacing MO in 1:50.6, Vic Frost Cup in 1:50.9, Club Menangle FFA and King Of Arthur FFA (1:50.3).

Safedra, who numbered a Group 2 win in a Southland Oaks, won 10 of 48 starts for \$135,577.

Grand-dam Sparks A Flyin (Sands A Flyin-Belle Glade), who died five years, also left Diomedes (1:57.5, 12 wins & \$87,994), Emyrean (1:56.2, 10 wins from 28 starts for \$121,302) and Victoria Derby Heat winner in Art Union (1:55.6, 17 wins & \$210,120), the latter still a NZ mobile 2600m 2YO record-holder at 3:15.9.

**NZSBA THANKS ITS PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED
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