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# BREEDERS' UPDATE

May 22, 2020



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS  
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THE BREEDERS' UPDATE.

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# BREEDERS' UPDATE

MAY 22, 2020

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## CLARK'S ALL AGE SALE DRAFT HIT GROUND RUNNING

**Brad Reid**

Timaru horseman Alan Clark has forged a solid pathway for himself out of educating young trotters and selling them as going racehorses.

He has been responsible for the breaking and educating of many talented trotters behind the scenes, but in the last 15 years has also raced some standouts of his own.

In 2006 he let rip with the talented juvenile, Constar.

She set a New Zealand record as the fastest 2YO trotting filly recorded over 2400m.

There have not been many meet the starter over that distance as a two-year-old, but do not let that detract from the performance.

While the 2400m distance is predominantly run at Winton or Ashburton, no three-year-old filly had ever gone faster over the trip until Jen Jacka in 2015.

While she won six races at two and ran third in the 2006 Group Two Sires Stakes Trotters Champs, later that year Clark purchased a foal from out of a paddock that would take the self-taught horseman on the ride of a lifetime.

The Fiery Ginga contributed to nearly half of Clark's 60 training wins (28) and for several years was the iron horse of the trotting ranks, racing 134 times from two through to eight.

While he never won a Group One, he was not far away and his run on Cup Day in 2013 sitting outside Peak encapsulated everything about him. Tough as nails, and when it looked like he was on the canvas, he would find again for Clark.

Finding one as good has been challenging for Clark but with eight broodmares and plenty of sales purchases since, it has not been for a lack of trying.

"With the number Fiona and I are breeding from, it's important we turn them over with the costs involved - that is why we are offering some in the Mixed Sale," he said.

The road to the Gavelhouse All Age Sale has been a bit like sitting behind The Ginga as a juvenile for Clark who initially purchased three of his current entries from last year's All Age Sale at a time when a Ready To Run Sale was still on the cards.



Lot 133: Muscle Power (Peak - Lady Muscles)



Lot 134: T K Nihalator (Bacardi Lindy - Eyesagrey)

With that concept falling by the wayside, Clark entered them into the Christchurch Mixed Sale which was cancelled due to a lack of numbers.

"I then arranged to have all five of my draft shipped to Auckland at quite an expense," he said, only for Covid19 to rear its head and now see Clark and his stock sell from the comfort of his own living room.

With no official Ready to Run platform available to him, Clark is using the online All Age Sale as an opportunity to present a Ready to Run type offering to the public.

"I find that with taking a horse to the trials, the agents are only after the very good ones. At least with a sale of this capacity, there is a market for every horse and that is what I am offering," he said.

Clark is not shy about working his horses from a young age, but there is a method to the madness, and it is a framework that has afforded Clark a lot of success as a horseman.

"A lot of my horses get a lot of groundwork as weanlings and yearlings, they get a lot of mileage," he said.

"From what I have read, working them when they are young makes their bones denser and ligament attachments stronger. I never have any leg problems with my horses, they never have any bowed tendons or anything like that.

"I've got yearlings that are in the sale that have had a lot of background conditioning and I think it's important to get that education and conditioning into them when they are young so you have something to draw on.

"I've got an 800m track and my bottom bend is quite tight. Initially you have to keep nursing them round the bends until they get their trotting action up and right. But once they are up and running, if they can get round my bottom bend, they can get round any bend in the country," said Clark.

All his offerings can be seen working on the tight 800m track by clicking on the video tab which can be found



above the pedigree of each horse on the auction listing.

"These are all ready-made racehorses and they are all a delight to drive and to handle," he said.

Clark has two two-year-olds in the sale.

The first is a homebred and has a bit of breeding about him.

Lot 133 goes by the name Muscle Power and is a gelded son of Peak out of the Muscles Yankee mare Lady Muscles.

"His dam is a half-sister to The Fiery Ginga and she leaves very good muscled horses. "I don't know whether it is the fillies in the family, or the way it worked out, but she was a very aggressive mare when she didn't get her own way. I decided early on it would be best she was tipped out to be a broodmare.

"The Ginga was a lovely horse and so was his brother Latheronwheel who I educated and sold to clients of Nathan Williamson," said Clark.

"Muscle Power is a nice horse and a very willing horse, he wants to go all the time," said Clark.

Being by the European bred Peak, you would imagine this is a trotter that will get better with age and time.

Looking past the fact he has not won a race in his first 12 starts, he is a horse that is highly experienced and will make a nice purchase for someone.

Just because Clark has his horses at the races early does not mean they are always screwed down.

The Fiery Ginga did not win a race until his 9th start, he then peeled off seven in a row.

Constar did not win until her fifth start before gobbling up six wins in seven starts.

More recent examples of Clark two-year-olds with plenty of experience, that have gone on and done a

decent job, are Imperial Whiz and Regal Assassin, both foals of 2014.

Imperial Whiz could hold the unofficial record for most starts for a two-year-old trotter in a season with 28.

The son of Imperial Count is still going strong picking up two wins at Melton in April to take his career tally to 15 wins and 22 placings from 109 starts with \$131,000 in stakes. Not bad for a horse that took 23 starts to clear maidens.

Regal Assassin had not filled a drum in 10 starts before being purchased late in his two-year-old year where he ran second and picked up a win before being sold again to Australian interests. He would run 2nd in the Group 1 Redwood Classic at his second start.

This could bode well for the new owners of Muscle Power.

The motor is there, the manners are developing, and now it is a case of it all coming together.

"With the practice and the going to the trials and workouts, he has learnt to step away. I took him to a couple of workouts at Methven against maiden trotters and he stepped away off the unruly and was in front. He also can come off the gate reasonably well.

"He's not up with the top half-dozen or so two-year-olds but will make a nice horse. With a couple months work, you could have him back at the races and being Sires Stakes eligible, you could possibly get him into the two-year-old race rescheduled for early next season," he said.

Lot 134 is T K Nihilator who is a son of Bacardi Lindy out of the unraced Monkey Bones mare Eyesagrey.

Clark purchased this horse as a yearling from the All Age Sale at Karaka last year.

"He was probably nine months behind my young ones which is why he hasn't raced as a two-year-old. He is a nice horse and is very willing, but he is trying to go faster than he is capable of at this stage.

"I'm sort of just holding on to him and getting him to learn how to trot the bends at this stage," said Clark.

The first of the yearlings on offer is a blue-blooded filly that was bred by the Clark's after being given the mother in the twilight of her broodmare career.

"I used to have Paris Metro here and wean the foals and then they get sent off. Some of them I broke in the past including Commander Paris and Musculature Metro.

"They have a Father Patrick up with Michelle Wallis who I believed was the best foal she had left. He just looked like a real athlete which you would expect given how the sire has shown up. I was given the mare after we weaned him," said Clark.



Lot 128: Metro Swish (Wishing Stone - Paris Metro)

Clark bred the mare to Wishing Stone and three weeks after the resulting filly was born, Massive Metro emulated his mother by winning the National Trot on New Year's Eve. I think you call that serendipity?

"She is a really delightful filly with a fantastic gait, if you have a look at the videos at all she sort of flies around the bends and she will definitely make a two-year-old."

"If she had been a bit bigger at yearling sales time she might have got a good price there, but she has grown over the last four or five months where she is a real nice sized yearling now. I have a good reserve on her, and it won't bother me if I get her back," he said.

Another filly in the Clark draft with a pedigree is Sweet Lady Jane. The daughter of Peak is out of a two-win Majestic Son mare whose her third dam was the 1994 Three-Year-Old Trotter of the Year, Inda Bank.

"She is a nice-bodied filly who is like a pet, she will be up over your shoulder and is great in the cart and wants to be there. Anyone could drive her, but she is a filly I think that needs six months in the cart to get her trotting right. Some horses have a sort of natural instant speed as a youngster. She does not quite have that yet and while she may not race as a two-year-old, she will make a nice three-year-old in my opinion," he said.

The last of his yearlings is a son of Pegasus Spur out of a lightly-raced half-sister to former Open Class trotter, Musgrove.

"Take Flight is another one I bought up at the Mixed Sale in Auckland last year. He is a nice boy who is sort of just average size however and needs to grow a bit more. He is nicely gaited and a very willing wee horse. He does not give me the impression he is going to make a two-year-old. He's going to take a wee bit longer to get a bit of size about him and develop into it."

You have to love the refreshing honesty of Clark and he is looking forward to seeing how the sale progresses.

"This online sale has had the greatest exposure of any online sale I have ever come across. The number of people hitting the site has been enormous, particularly for the Wishing Stone filly.

"There is an awareness out there in the industry that has never been generated for any previous online sale, and because of that the prices may be better than we think, particularly for the better bred horses," he said.



# ALL AGE SALE A GOLD-MINE FOR FUTURE STARS

## Brad Reid

While the All Age Sale comes and goes without the same fanfare of the Yearling Sale it proceeds, it doesn't mean it is void of value and the next budding star.

In recent years some serious horses have been sold for very affordable prices.

Whether you are pinhooking for the yearling sales or looking for your next equine superstar, this sale should not be overlooked for the opportunity it presents!

### Jack Mac 2014 Mach Three - Matavutu \$21,000

Breeder: Alabar

23 Starts | 16 Wins | 1 Placing | \$285,973

Jack Mac had five starts for Brent Mangos at two and was good enough to run fourth in the Cardigan Bay Stakes behind Mach Shard in 2017.

He went to West Australia where he was trained by Andrew Lewis and was a revelation winning 16 of his 18 starts.

They included the Group One Pearl Classic as a two-year-old and at three the Group One Golden Slipper and Group Two Pearl Classic.

Devastatingly for the Howlett's, he broke a pedal bone in the running of his last start in 2018 and has been unsighted since.

### Maczaffair 2013 Mach Three - Presidential Affair

\$11,000 | Breeder: Alabar

63 Starts | 21 Wins | 19 Placings | \$507,947

Maczaffair had one start as a two year old in New Zealand where she was beaten a nose by the smart Renske B in a Magness Benrow fillies heat at Timaru when in the care of Greg Payne.

She went to Perth where she raced at the highest level at two, but really came of age as a three-year-old.

She smashed a field of talented fillies to win the Group One WA Oaks and was second to Ultimate Machete as a four-year-old in the Golden Nugget.

She has finished her racing career as the winner of 10 Group and Listed races.

### Billy Badger 2013 Art Major - Lady Antebellum \$11,000

Breeder: Platinum Breeding

52 Starts | 8 Wins | 13 Placings | \$153,020

Billy Badger had a solid New Zealand career and was

an extremely versatile pacer, racing 31 times between his two and three year old seasons.

He came of age at four where he won the Winter Cup and Uncut Gems at Auckland to finish his season.

While he found the Open Class company a bit rich last year, he has already taken a 1:50.0 mark at Dover Downs where he does a lot of his racing now in North America.

### Partyon 2013 Bettor's Delight - Beach Parade \$20,000

Breeder: Woodlands Stud

31 Starts | 17 wins | 6 Placings | \$658,478

Ken Breckon got himself a gem when he secured the daughter of Bettor's Delight at the All Age Sale in Auckland.

She snuck in the back door to Jewels winning her maiden in the final weekend of qualifying, and went on to win the two-year-old diamond at her second start.

She would win her first 10 races in a row which include the Group 1 Breeders Crown Final, NSW Oaks & Northern Oaks.

All told she won five Group Ones and now joins the Breckon broodmare paddock as one of the best race mares produced in the last decade.

### Majestouso 2015 Majestic Son - Rosemaryz Luck \$6000

Breeder: Alabar

24 Starts | 11 Wins | 6 Placings | \$127,790

You would be a little bit unlucky (excuse the pun) if you purchased one from the Howz Lucky family and it didn't start at two.

The grand dam of Majestouso has been a superb producer for the Tims from Matamata and had her first eight foals race as juveniles with all but one starting in the two-year-old Ruby at the Jewels!

Majestouso was the second foal from Rosemaryz Luck and while he raced at two, he came of age at three winning the Group Two Holmfield and the Group One Victoria Trotting Derby.

He was beaten a head and a short half head in the Breeders Crown Final but his season was good enough to see him crowned Australian three year old trotter of the year.

### Copy That 2016 American Ideal - Lively Nights 7,500

Breeder: Woodlands Stud

18 Starts | 8 Wins | 5 Placings | \$179,534

The son of American Ideal was purchased by the astute eye of Deborah Green, wife of the Lincoln Farms resident trainer, Ray Green.

by racing at two but took a while to come to it, winning his sixth and seventh start late in the season to suggest bigger things lay ahead.





*Partyon winning the Great Northern Oaks*

His run in the Sires Stakes Final was easily the best of any runner being beaten a lip by One Change, and was just as stiff in the Northern Derby being beaten by Amazing Dream after being held up when looking to improve.

He's been robbed of more riches by Covid19 and would have started favourite for every three year old race in the country but his progressive nature suggests he will be a force with whatever lies ahead in the four year old and open class ranks.

**U May Collect 2013 Gotta Go Collect - Ides Of May**  
**\$5200 | Breeder: Alabar**  
 8 Starts | 7 Wins | 1 Placing | \$70, 920

The most exciting prospect to come out of Southland since Dark Horse (in my slightly biased opinion) added a huge layer of excitement to the Open Class ranks last season before injury curtailed his shot at the New Zealand Cup.

He won his first six starts by a combined 33 lengths before getting up by the barest of margins in his toughest test to date.

He beat Classie Brigade and Triple Eight in the 2019 Uncut Gems which would suggest he has the ability to make a real splash if he returns in one piece this year.

**Isaiah 2010 Art Major - EJ Becks \$18000**  
**Breeder: Alabar**  
 38 Starts | 13 Wins | 5 Placing | \$589, 667

Isaiah was an exceptional juvenile who had the misfortune of running into one of the stringest crops of two-year-olds in recent memory.

Sky Major, Maxim, Tiger Tara & Messini to name a few.

He wasn't afraid of the big money purses and was able to claim both the two and three year old Sales Series finals for his owners among his nine Group & Listed victories with plenty of placings in Group Ones behind some serious horses.

He was beaten a head by Locharburn in an epic derby clash and was always in the thick of it in the classics.



*Other notables include;*

**Golden State 2014 Big Jim(USA) - Presidential Affair**  
**\$9000 Breeder: Alabar**  
 43 Starts | 13 Wins | 8 Placings | \$166,677

**Ideal Liner 2014 5 B g(exp) American Ideal - Aqualiner**  
**\$8500 | Breeder: Woodlands Stud**  
 26 Starts | 13 Wins | 7 Placings | \$160,502

**Serengeti 2013 Art Major - Gotta Go Hype \$18,000**  
**Breeder: Sue Martin**  
 125 Starts | 16 Wins | 36 Placings | \$150,040

**American Empress 2013 American Ideal - Star Empress**  
**\$8500 | Breeder: Woodlands Stud**  
 68 Starts | 8 Wins | 19 Placings | \$169,957

**Better Be Donna 2014 Betterthancheddar - Hip Pocket**  
**\$2700 | Breeder: Alabar**  
 47 Starts | 16 Wins | 15 Placings | \$177,750

## **POSITIVE TEST RESULT FOR THE DISEASE THEILERIA EQUI**

**Brad Reid**

Wednesday there was a lot of publicity about a suspect positive test result for the disease Theileria equi returned as part of standard export certification testing of a thoroughbred mare prior to shipment from New Zealand. Further blood tests have been taken from the mare, and the stud where she lived. Results of those tests are expected today.

Theileria equi is a blood disease that causes anaemia and is spread from animal to animal by ticks. The ticks that are known to transmit the disease are a species not present in New Zealand. It is not infectious between horses.

The horse in question was imported to New Zealand from the EU early last year for breeding. No signs of disease in the animal have been reported in its time in quarantine before export or here.

The horse met MPI's importing requirements in that it had received a negative test for Theileria equi within 30 days of shipment. Before shipment, horses are quarantined and treated to remove any ticks that may be present. They are also further inspected and quarantined on arrival.

Some countries, including Australia, that import horses from New Zealand require certification that New Zealand is free of Theileria equi. This suspect test result has meant that MPI cannot currently provide that assurance

of country-freedom status.

The Ministry's market access specialists are working with Australian authorities to explore alternative assurance options to allow exports to continue.

Biosecurity New Zealand is carrying out a full investigation to confirm this is an isolated case and will test other horses from the farm involved, who are cooperating fully to ensure this situation is resolved as quickly as possible.

MPI is aware this situation may cause some concern to those in the equine sector and work is underway to resolve things as quickly as possible to ensure ongoing horse exports are not interrupted.

The prospect of a future ban on exports to Australia for 3 years is a stark prospect and one that would have enormous ramifications for New Zealand equine industries.

At this stage while the case is still developing, we will keep you updated as soon as the relevant information becomes available.

## ***Trans-Tasman horse exports suspended - but for how long?***

Michael Guerin

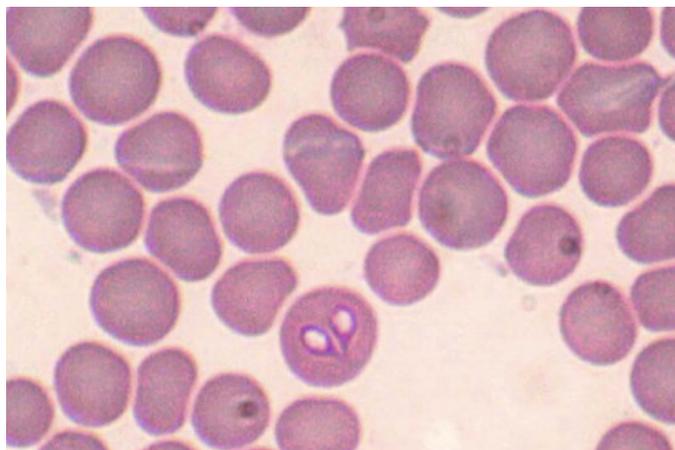
Veterinary experts are confident the latest setback to the New Zealand racing industry will be temporary.

The export of New Zealand racehorses to Australia has been suspended just weeks after returning post-lockdown after a thoroughbred broodmare tested positive for the disease piroplasmosis.

Equine Piroplasmosis is a disease which can cause fevers, anemia and swelling in horses and is usually transmitted by ticks or in very rare cases by contaminated medical equipment like needles being used on different horses. The disease is rarely fatal.

The mare who tested positive for the disease was imported from Europe last year and tested negative for piroplasmosis before she arrived and has shown no symptoms of the disease since she has been in New Zealand.

It was only detected when she had another blood test as required before she was to be flown to Australia to be mated. Because New Zealand does not have the ticks that typically spread the disease it is thought to be very low risk that the mare has transferred it to another horse but because New Zealand cannot be certified as now being free of piroplasmosis Australia has suspended flights of New Zealand horses to Australia.



*THEILERIA EQUI*

Any long term ban on horses crossing the Tasman for both racing and breeding purposes would be a disaster but that seems extremely unlikely.

But until the Ministry of Primary Industries here has investigated the positive and reported back to Australian authorities the flights will remain grounded.

"At this stage it is really a trade issue more than a health issue that MPI are trying to get to the bottom of," Dr Ivan Bridge, chairman of the New Zealand Equine Health Association said.

"Australia requires us to have no piroplasmosis in the country for at least three years.

"MPI can't sign off on that at present.

"We have not had any clinical piroplasmosis in New Zealand and we don't believe that the tick that we have in New Zealand is capable of transmitting it."

"So what might look like a problem now because we can't fly horses right at the moment might be a 2 out of 10 problem next week and not an issue heading forward.

"Basically horses get tested for this and a range of other diseases before they fly anyway, which is how this mare was diagnosed. So we can't and won't be sending any horses to Australia or anywhere else with any issues because it would show up in those tests.

"But that is if it even spread from this one mare which would seem extremely unlikely."

With no major racing carnivals on in Australia at the moment and the breeding season still months from starting it would be surprising if a short-term ban had any great detrimental effect on the racing industry which has been hit hard by racing being shutdown for over two months.

Horse racing in New Zealand return, albeit closed to the public, next Friday for harness racing with thoroughbred racing due back on July 3.

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"You want their legs to be good, well conformed because that is something that may not change as much as they develop as something like them growing taller or filling out.

"You want the legs correct, or as much as they can be, not too turned out or facing in.

"Whereas their physical maturity isn't as important because some horses develop at different rates. So that is what I have been looking at mostly this week, the legs."

The sale went live on Gavelhouse at 5pm yesterday (Wednesday) and NZBS James Jennings says the first step for potential buyers is to register.

"Gavelhouse is really easy to use and the vendors have done a great job with their videos and photos of the horses," says Jennings.

"You can view the whole catalogue on the site at any time and it cost nothing to register. Once people have done that they can bid or not bid but it gives them a chance to potentially snare a real bargain.

"And of course we will be using Gavelhouse in its regular format for sales of broodmares, young horses and going horses all the time going forward.

"So my advice to people would be register, go have a look at the site and enjoy it, and if those people can use it to find a horse they want, then even better.

"But it is really is a tool for the whole industry, buyers and sellers." The sale runs for a week, with the countdown to final bids starting next Wednesday afternoon.

## **ENCOURAGING START TO THE SALES**

**Michael Guerin**

The early numbers are very encouraging for New Zealand's largest ever online standardbred sale.

And New Zealand Bloodstock Standardbred representative Cam Bray says that is not just from the early bids on the May mixed sale online now at Gavelhouse.

The sale which would usually be held at Karaka migrated to online because of the Covid-19 restrictions and early bidding has been very strong.

"Really, really promising," says Bray.

"Obviously it is a week-long sale so bidding runs until next Wednesday, which is when things start to get very serious.

"But we already have horses with bids of \$27,000, \$17,500 \$12,000 and quite a few in that \$5000 range.

"That is a great start considering we have so long to go."

# **All Age Sale open for bidding on gavelhouse.com**

**Michael Guerin**

When it comes to buying weanlings for respected sales veterinarian Ivan Bridge says it is all in the legs.

For the first time in New Zealand standardbred sales history the entire May All Age sale run by New Zealand Bloodstock Standardbred went online yesterday on their Gavelhouse platform, basically a Trade Me for potentially elite future racehorses.

The May sale is usually held at Karaka but with the Covid-19 restrictions it has migrated to online and the star attractions will be the weanlings, with huge drafts from both Alabar and Woodlands.

While the sale has already produced horses like millionaire Hard Copy, dual Derby winner Line Up and Southland superstar U May Collect it is even more attractive this year as the weanlings sold are eligible for the Harness Million series and can be pinhooked not only for yearling sales here but in Australia.

Inspection days at Alabar and three separate Woodlands properties on Tuesday saw plenty of trainers casting their eyes over the youngsters, some with the phones out Facetiming potential buyers from the South Island or Australia.

There is no doubt weanlings look greatly different from yearlings, mere babies as compared to teenagers.

So what does an expert look for when buying a weanling as opposed to the more finished product of a yearling?

"The legs are crucial," says Bridge, the popular South Auckland vet used by so many sales buyers.



The sale is predominantly of weanlings and the top bid today (Friday) stands at \$27,000 for a weanling filly by Downbytheseaside out of Revere Me, an unraced sister to Have Faith In Me and Adore Me, therefore a rare chance to buy a filly from perhaps Australasian harness racing's hottest family of the last decade.

Lot 75 from the Alabar draft is the brother to Alta Maestro sitting at \$17,500 and certain to fetch far closer to six figures by Wednesday's bidding cut off.

Bray says while the strength of early bids is more than encouraging he is just as excited by the new registrations to the Gavelhouse standardbred site.

"We had 131 new registrations in the week to last Monday and about two thirds of those were from Australia," says Bray.

"That puts us well over 1000 registered potential buyers and of course they might come back for other sales. So this sale is already strong but with real benefits for future sellers on the site."

Bray said there had been strong interest from potential pin-hookers looking to buy stock at a time of uncertainty and re-offer them at the yearling sales next February.

"I think there has actually been more pin-hooking interest on Gavelhouse than there would have been had it been under the usual sales format."

## VINCENT LEAVING HIS STAMP

### Alabar Stud

Few horses have impressed Mark Purdon as much as Vincent did.

The son of Art Major won 16 of his 19 starts including victories in the NZ Derby, NSW Derby and Auckland Cup. Vincent was regarded as the next harness racing's next superstar.

He retired to stud at Alabar as the fastest ever three-year-old in the Southern Hemisphere – and has served magnificent books of mares.

His first foals are now weanlings and a selection of these are selling in NZB Standardbred's gavelhouse.com sale this month.

A stunning individual himself, Vincent is certainly leaving his impressive physique in his foals.

Alabar have nine weanlings by Vincent in their gavelhouse.com consignment – and they are an absolute credit to their sire. These weanlings are uniformly attractive, muscular types and are all great walkers. They are:

**Lot 3 (Kim Maguire)** – an eye-catching three-quarter sister to Eamon Maguire, the winner of the NZ Jewels 4yo Emerald and NZ Messenger Ch'ship

**Lot 21 (Nga Mihi Nui)** – a precocious looking first colt from a race-winning mare closely related to a number of stakes performers incl Roman Gladiator (NSW Derby)

**Lot 39 (Russian Rocket)** – a lovely moving half-sister to 4 in 2:00 incl the good mare Dynamite Denn Nee (\$292,529)

**Lot 44 (Sheza Monkee)** – a filly that looks and carries herself like a colt. A half-sister to 2 in 2:00 and out of a full-sister to the great Monkey King (2 NZ Cups)

**Lot 62 (Twist N Shout)** – a strong filly who's out of a \$100,000 winner and is a half-sister to a \$100,000 winner (Harry Hoo)

**Lot 78 (Alta Serena)** – a quality filly out of a mare that won multiple Gr1's and over \$500,000. A half-sister to Hughie Green (\$259,671)

**Lot 80 (Anika Lindenny)** – a strong filly from a race-winning Christian Cullen mare. The family of Nostra Villa (Aust 2yo Filly of the Year)

**Lot 103 (Delightful Lover)** – a well-muscled half-sister to the promising Love The Blues (1:58.9). The family of Better Cover Lover (6 time Gr1 winner)

**Lot 121 (Honey To The Bee)** – a sharp colt from a half-sister to Cincinnati Kid (\$490,557) and to the dam of The Orange Agent (3 time NZ Filly/Mare of the Year)

"We're really thrilled with the Vincent foals.

"In doing the photos and videos it was just so obvious what attractive, well-muscled types they are and that they are such lovely fluent walkers. Some horses just have more quality about them – and they do." Graeme Henley, Alabar NZ

A view of the photos and videos of the Vincents on gavelhouse.com is an absolute must.

The full Alabar consignment is now online on gavelhouse.com. Bidding starts on 20 May and closes 27 May.

For further information contact Cam Bray at NZB Standardbred (cam.bray@nzb.co.nz, 021 737 199) or Graeme Henley at Alabar NZ (graeme@alabar.co.nz, 0274 870 901).

## TROTTERS FEATURE STRONGLY FOR ALABAR

Alabar has 57 weanlings in their annual consignment up for sale this year – and one noticeable feature is the increasingly strong representation of trotters.



days and this was later to be proven correct with the advent of the scan.

"Charles always use to down play his intelligence and say there are a lot more intelligent people then me around, but to give you an idea of how clever he was, he was the pioneer of palpating mares and crushing twins," said Grierson.

"Everyone rubbished this claim and said he was making it up saying you couldn't feel if a mare was pregnant at only 20 days!

"The answer to that is some people can and some people can't, and Charlie quite clearly could and others who could recognised this and said he was right on the money.

"Of course when scanners came out it did a lot of this work for you, but Charlie's work and records had been done and kept well in advance of this," said Grierson.

In the late 70's, before bottles of prostaglandin were available, he pioneered the uterine irrigation of kerosene to bring mares into season.

Because of the flammable nature of the liquid, it drew the ire of those who did not understand its many applications and uses in not only cleaning up animals, but humans also.

"Back in the early days before 'Prostaglandin' was in place you couldn't get a mare or a cow to come into season when you wanted too.

"Charles had observed talking to different dairy farmers over the years that they use the technique of running a bit of kerosene over the vagina of cows and that would stimulate them to come into season.

"We know now that there is a couple of reflexes associated with the genital tract where if you irrigate the genital tract of a horse or a cow, that can stimulate them to come into season naturally.

"Charlie was playing around with that and that was initially what the kerosene was for. What he noticed was that when he went to irrigate them to come in to season, a lot of them had faeces and crud in their uterus' which was holding them back from breeding.

"What he also saw was that some of those mares seemed to clean up after the process. He then found a lot of mares that would not get into foal or into season properly, started to get into foal once flushed out with kerosene," said Grierson.

On Charles's insistence Professor Twink Allen agreed to do a controlled study at Equine Fertility Centre, Newmarket, UK, where it was confirmed some mares with a Grade III uterine biopsy improved with the

procedure.

Charles would perform a party trick that would stun many of the liquid's doubters into silence.

He had found out from the leading eye specialist at the time, Dr Calvin Ring, that kerosene was the "go to" flush for human eyes to counter some industrial solvents.

"When people would say that is horrible for a mare, Charlie would ask them if they had any kerosene lying around," said Grierson.

"Charles would then pour some into his eye and say, 'see, I told you it was fine', he laughed.

The flushing of mares with Kerosene is still used today.

On a slightly less serious note, Grierson also fondly remembers one of the nicknames Charlie picked up among the local farriers and how it came to stick.

"One of his nicknames back in the day was they use to call him 'chainsaw' Charlie.

"Horses back in the day would go from racing on steels during the week, and then if they were racing on the weekend would then have to be plated in aluminium's.

"Farriers would be in there day plating them and at night taking them off.

"If there was ever a horse with a fester in its foot, Charlie believed you needed to get in there and cut a decent V in it to get decent drainage.

"Much of the chagrin of the local farriers many of them were lamenting the fact of having to shoe a horse after Charlie had treated a stone bruise, and that's how he got that nickname," laughed Grierson.

Roberts, who was inducted into the Hall Of Fame, was a regular winner at the annual Harness Racing Awards and in 2013 won five trophies including Owner and Breeder of the Year, as well as awards for his champion stallion Bettor's Delight and broodmare Scuse Me and top filly Adore Me.

He raced top liners like Miracle Mile winner Christen Me, Adore Me, Dream About Me and Sweet On Me, sharing in the success in later years with daughter Mary and her husband Paul Kenny.

He is the only breeder to be awarded Breeder of the Year in both the Harness and Thoroughbred codes.

However it is his work as a vet that he wanted to be remembered for the most.





## **LAZARUS PRESS RELEASE**

It is beyond doubt that one of New Zealand's greatest harness racing exports is the standardbred stallion, Lazarus. His strength, stamina and speed – and sheer willingness to win – was equal to the best of the best of "All Blacks" forwards.

During his Southern Hemisphere racing career, he entertained the crowds, broke the hearts of his competitors and endeared himself to not only racing tragics – but any sporting enthusiast who recognised a true champion.

The handsome black stallion simply oozed class!

His outstanding record and credentials were recognised in North America and he was subsequently purchased by Taylor Made Stallions to race in the United States and Canada – and then to undertake a career as a sire, post racing.

Lazarus undertook his first North American season as a sire at Deo Volente Farms, New Jersey in 2019. The translation of the Latin "Deo Volente" to the English equivalent is "God Willing". The Heavens must have been smiling on Lazarus as he received an outstanding book of mares and returned a fertility rate close to eighty per cent.

Australia's premier harness racing club – Club Menangle – subsequently purchased the Southern Hemisphere breeding rights to Lazarus. Club Menangle is located in the heart of the birthplace of Australian merino breeding, the Macarthur region of New South Wales.

Club Menangle and Yirribee Pacing Stud, Wagga Wagga NSW entered into a partnership to stand Lazarus at Wagga Wagga, the gateway to one of Australia's premier agricultural regions, the historic Riverina.

After an extremely promising start to his Southern Hemisphere siring career, returns from services became varied, with hits and misses throughout the season. Shortly prior to his return to North America and following exhaustive investigation by veterinarians at Charles Sturt University, Goulburn Valley Equine, Sydney University and the University of Newcastle a subfertility issue was identified which appears to have been related to scrotal damage somewhere in his travels to Australia. Following his return to Deo Valente Farms for the 2020 North America breeding season, his semen production was returning to normal – as the veterinarians predicted. Early returns suggest an "in-foal" rate in the high eighties, in North America.

Club Menangle and Yirribee Stud are excited by the early North American fertility rates and look forward to his return to the Southern Hemisphere in the Spring of 2020.

Since shuttling back to North America, the world has been turned upside down by the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the lives of many and the serious economic damage being wrought across the globe.

As an industry driven partner, Club Menangle recognises that broodmare owners will face serious financial challenges, post the outbreak of Covid-19. The Club has determined that it will support broodmare owners by providing a post Covid-19 bonus and implement a new Southern Hemisphere fee structure for Lazarus.

Recognising the impact Covid-19 will have on economic activity and the use of scarce capital resources, the Club will play its part in harness racing's recovery by reducing Lazarus' service fee to \$8,000, including GST.

The revised Covid-19 service fee structure will also provide an additional bonus to broodmare owners who booked to Lazarus in 2019. This fee will apply to each booking made to Lazarus in 2019, whether semen was ordered or otherwise.

The additional bonus available to those who booked to Lazarus in 2019 recognises the commitment broodmare owners made to one of the Southern Hemisphere's greatest standardbred champions, last year. Some of whom chose to try on a number of occasions.

The bonus will provide a further reduction to \$6,000.

Club Menangle intends to contact broodmare owners in Australia and New Zealand who made bookings to Lazarus last year to offer the reduced Covid-19 service fee.

Club Menangle looks forward to the return of Lazarus this spring.





## ***Addington Trials Review***

Click the above link for a review of last Thursdays trials at Addington Raceway!

## ***Additional Addington meeting gets green light, if required***

In the event excessive entries are received for the NZ Metropolitan TC's racing resumption meeting on Friday 29 May, the club sought and gained the approval of HRNZ and RITA to stage an additional meeting on Thursday 28 May (noon start) to accommodate a possible overflow of available horses stemming from the Covid-19 break.

Both the NZ Metropolitan TC and HRNZ are mindful of the desire for industry participants to get back racing and the need for NZ harness racing to generate revenue for its stakeholders.

Nominations will close, as advertised, on Monday 25 May at 1.00pm, however the club encourages trainers to Nominate as early as possible, either online via My HRNZ (preferable) or with Racing Manager, Brian Rabbitt.

Following the close of Nominations on Monday a decision will be made regarding the viability of the proposed additional meeting. The outcome of that decision will then be communicated to the industry.

RITA, RIU and other key service-providing organisations are prepared for the prospect of the additional meeting, next Thursday.

Should the proposed additional meeting be required it is likely to necessitate changes to advertised Programme Conditions for some races, to ensure balance within the meetings and an appropriate spread of races and horses. Any programme changes made will be communicated by the club to affected parties as soon as possible.

If it is determined that the additional meeting is not required, up to 12 races may be run at the meeting on May 29.



## ***SHEZ ALL ROCK HAS FIRST FOAL***

By Dave Di Somma - Harness News Desk

A sensational filly on the track, Shez All Rock is a Mum, for the first time.

Owned by high profile expatriate Kiwi Chris Ryder in New Jersey, Shez All Rock has had a colt to boom sire Bettor's Delight. The colt was born on April 27 and the photos of him were taken at 10 days old.

Ryder bought Shez All Rock after she won the New South Wales Oaks. In 11 starts she had 10 wins and a second, also taking out the Victoria and New Zealand Oaks and the three year old Diamond at the 2018 Harness Jewels. Her total winnings were just shy of \$450,000.

"I brought her over here to the U.S. to race but she had a continuing knee problem and I did not race her," said Ryder.

Initially the filly was trained by Mark Pitt in Tasmania before successfully linking up with Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen at the All Stars Stable in Christchurch.

Ryder is hopeful that he has "an excellent broodmare".

He already has plans to breed her to the 2019 three-year-old colt of the year Bettor's Wish, who Ryder co-owns and trained.

## ***TAB UPDATE***

Michael Guerin

The TAB is not planning to shut its retail stores even though it plans to phase out betting operators on track.

The days of handing over your cash on track to a betting operator and getting a ticket in return are almost certainly gone at all but the biggest meetings as the racing industry undergoes dramatic changes and enormous cost cutting.

Codes and clubs have been told the TAB proposes to remove manned betting terminals from racetracks and replace them with electronic betting terminals, which still produce a paper ticket but work similar, and require similar effort, to a cashflow machine at your bank.

The proposal would see no betting staff and less cash being used on track, which the TAB say will also cut down on security costs, the transporting of manned machines to meetings and of course staff.

Some racetrack punters, particularly more hardened or regular punters, bet via apps and websites on their phones and will be unphased or won't even notice the change because in reality the migration away from betting operators started long ago.

But for many once a year racegoers or those who are less tech savvy, no betting operator assisted punting will be a major change.

The proposal is part of the TAB's (known as the Racing Industry Transition Agency) change plan in a week where it was granted \$72.5million by the Government to re-start the industry and pay debts.

But if it is adopted there will still be a provision for the TAB to bring back betting operators or find another similar solution for racing's biggest carnival days, where once a year punters may struggle with electronic betting.

If that doesn't mean hands on betting operators it could mean EBTs having human assistants to help punters place bets.

As radical as the loss of betting operators from racetracks sound it won't be an issue in coming months when race meetings won't have crowds.

And the crowds are so small for most mid-week meetings (known as industry days) the expense of betting operators may be hard to justify.

One of the other proposed changes will be the total shut down the TAB's telephone betting service, which has been on the way out for years.

But just because TAB operators are set to disappear at almost all race meetings, doesn't mean your local TAB agency is going to close.

"No, there will still be TAB agencies and a retail network in the future and some of those are reopening this week," says RITA (TAB) executive chair Dean McKenzie.

"Four out of something like 80 retail outlets are going to close but there isn't going to be a wholesale closure of them."

The move away from having betting operators on track is going to be unpopular initially, and with some for quite a while, but McKenzie says he and his board

have little option but to look at all areas in which costs can be cut.

"Everybody in racing wants change, well change means change. We can't just change the things that will be popular because then nothing will get done," he said.

McKenzie promised more, potentially more radical, changes lie ahead.



## ***Peter Jensen to retire for health reasons***

Statement from Ken Spicer, Chair, Harness Racing New Zealand

It is with regret that the board has accepted the resignation of our CEO, Peter Jensen, for health reasons.

Peter has guided HRNZ through a period of great change, including the present proposal concerning the number of venues at which our sport will be held in the new season.

While disappointed to receive Peter's resignation, the board is fully supportive of his decision to focus on his own personal health and wellbeing.

Peter Jensen said that this was both an extremely difficult, yet easy, decision to make. "I have underlying health issues and realise these have got to the point where I cannot give 100% to HRNZ, at a time when it requires 150%. I know the timing is far from ideal, but I also understand that I am not able to give the organisation the energy and guidance that it requires at this time, hence my decision to retire and concentrate on my health."

Ken Spicer said that in the interim, the board will help cover the various roles of the CEO and will look to start the recruitment process shortly with a view to making an appointment in the new season.

Peter leaves HRNZ on May 22.



# FEEDING ADVICE FROM DUNSTAN

Robyn Hirst BSc M.Agri.Sci (Equine Studies)

Become an expert on managing your horses pasture and sugar levels, particularly during frosts, with the help of our Forage Specialist, Robyn Hirst.

Pasture and sugar levels – managing risk – especially during frosts. Understanding how grass grows, and the effects of climatic changes on the fluctuating levels of sugars, is very important for owners of horses and ponies that are pre-disposed to laminitis and conditions which are exacerbated by consuming grass which has increased sugar levels.

*The key points of how grass grows are below – (from the laminitis website).*

- Green plants create sugar through the process of photosynthesis. carbon dioxide + water + sunlight = sugar + oxygen
- Plants use the sugar for growth and reproduction - this process is called respiration. Glucose + oxygen = carbon dioxide + water + energy for growth/respiration
- When sugar production from photosynthesis is greater than the sugar required for growth/reproduction, the excess sugar is stored as fructan or starch (carbohydrates) for later use.
- Plants respire all the time, in darkness and in light, but only photosynthesize in light.
- Increased light leads to increased photosynthesis (up to a point).
- No light/darkness: respiration rate is higher than photosynthesis (there is no photosynthesis without light).
- Dim light: photosynthesis at same rate of respiration.
- Bright light: photosynthesis rate is higher than rate of respiration.

Under normal circumstances, when the temperature is above 5°C, grass undergoes sugar accumulation during the day, (higher on sunny days). The sugar levels will be highest at the end of a sunny day.

These accumulated sugars are then used up overnight as the grass grows and sugar levels are lowest by 5am. This is one reason why it is better to turn your horse out at night onto pasture and then stable or yard during the day as the grass is accumulating sugar faster than it can use it for growth during the daytime.

There are however some exceptions to this, and these are, when the grass is struggling to grow during drier seasons, and the temperature is too low for the grass to grow (frosty conditions). These environmental conditions result in heightened sugar levels, as they are stored in the plant ready for when the grass can grow.



**OF KEY IMPORTANCE** at this time of year when we are getting frosts, is that grass hardly grows (respires) when temperatures are below 5°C. Therefore, the levels of sugars build up in the plant, concentrating the amount available to your horse or pony as he grazes.

## The Solution:

The risk of elevated sugars will remain if there is cold frosty weather with bright sunny days, and especially where the temperature does not rise above 5°C. Only once the temperature rises consistently above 5°C it will be sufficient for the plant to respire (grow and use up stored sugars), and on cloudy days will the sugar levels be lower (and safer) to graze.

If you are removing your horse from pasture over a risk period (or to reduce the effect of exposure to sugar levels in grass for shorter periods during a day), you could opt to replace some of your horses fibre (pasture requirement) with hay that has been soaked (to reduce sugar levels), or provide larger amounts of ensiled fibre in their diet, such as Fiber Protect®, FiberEzy, Equifibre Lucerne Pro, Equifibre Meadow Pro or by adding the 'super fibre' Dunstan Betabeet to their diet. Soaking of hay is less reliable way to remove a consistent amount of sugar.

## TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

Prevent or limit access to grass during and after sunny frosty weather until the weather changes to milder nights and overcast days. Feed fibre sources with sugar and starch levels below 10% instead.

It is not the frost itself that is the risk, it is the weather conditions that cause the frost, so do not allow horses to graze once the frost has melted with the sun - wait until the grass has been able to respire and use up some of its sugar.





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# Unprecedented times for legendary horseman

By Josh Smith - Harness News Desk

Legendary trainer Charlie Hunter has seen plenty of major world events during his lifetime, but he said none quite compare to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The virus has swept across the globe and resulted in New Zealand entering lockdown for the better part of two months from late-March, closing down racing.

"I don't think I have been through anything quite like this," Hunter said. "As a young boy we went through the war (World War II), but I don't remember a lot of it.

"We were in Lower Hutt then and Hutt Park was taken over by the US Marines. Dad would be jogging an odd horse there and the marines were running around.

"This is certainly a lot different, I think it is more dramatic. There are a lot of people losing their jobs."

Hunter also noted it is probably the biggest challenge he has seen the racing industry face in his lifetime.

"I don't know what it was like back in the days of the depression, but in my lifetime this has affected racing the most," he said.

"I don't know where we go to from here because you depend on gaming money and TAB turnover. All of that is going to be significantly down.

"In the North Island they really just want (to race at) Cambridge and Auckland because it's less costly to race there than having meetings around the country, which is a real shame."

Hunter said he has been relatively confined to his Cambridge house in the last few months, but he has enjoyed being able to get out and about in the last week.

"Our age group was pretty well confined," Hunter said.

"Paul has got a 1000m track with big sweeping turns. He does work on the side of the road, there are just different advantages."

Lemond's season had been cut short last year after he sustained a hairline fracture to his tibia, but Hunter said he has recovered well from the injury under former trainer Ross Paynter's care.

"When we stopped with him he had the hairline fracture of the tibia," Hunter said. "We gave him six months off and we'll try him in a new environment.

"The x-rays six weeks ago were totally clear. He was locked up in a stall for seven or eight weeks and then in a little paddock. He came through it very well."

Hunter is hoping Lemond can get to somewhere near his best down in Canterbury.

"When he is right he is so very good," he said.

"There was one time up in Auckland when David Butcher drove him and he sat parked outside the leader from the get go and went a 1:55.5 mile-rate over 1700m and he took a second and a piece off the New Zealand record which had been held by Sovereignty.

"Those are the things he can do when he is right."

Hunter said he will leave Lemond's spring plans up to Nairn, although a Gr.1 Dominion Trot (3200m) tilt is an obvious target.

"We will just try to get him sound so he can race at his best and I'll leave it to Paul. He will have a chance at two or three races prior to the Dominion."

Close to home, Hunter is looking forward to the raceday return of his other trotter, Reign.

"I have got one with Ross (Paynter) called Reign," Hunter said. "He won a race last year as a three-year-old.

"The night he won at Cambridge, he showed a lot of speed in the last section of the race, so I think he has got quite a future."

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