

Sunday 13 March 2016

HUGH'S ARGUMENT CARRIES THE DAY IN PREFERMENT'S AUSTRALIAN CUP



The short half head finish to the Australian Cup that was later overturned . . . Preferment just fails to catch Awesome Rock.

Stewards decided the result of yesterday's Group One Australian Cup at Flemington after **Preferment (NZ)** (Zabeel), in a driving finish, failed by a short half head to catch Awesome Rock (Fastnet Rock).

Awesome Rock had led around the turn with Preferment at his quarters, both horses under strong riding as Awesome Rock drifted out in the home straight. Preferment's jockey Hugh Bowman claimed interference from the 400 metre mark to the winning post against Awesome Rock, ridden by Stephen Baster.

"It's clear to me and everyone else in this room that if I'd had a clear run I win the race," Bowman said during the enquiry.

"From the four hundred to the hundred I was not afforded a clear run. In my mind there is no question I win the race with a clear run."

Chief steward Terry Bailey said Bowman was forced to ease off Awesome Rock's heels as the leader shifted out between the 300 and 200 metre points, a move that affected the result.

Continued on page 3



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A STUNNING INDIVIDUAL - HE OOZES BOTH SPEED AND QUALITY THAT IS TRUE TO PEDIGREE

"Atlante is an outstanding looking individual with a great temperament. He was a quality colt, lovely mover with immense ability. He had electric turn of foot and all the attributes required to compete at the highest level."

- Murray Baker



HUGH'S ARGUMENT CARRIES THE DAY IN PREFERMENT'S AUSTRALIAN CUP

(Continued from page 1)

While expressing sympathy for the connections of the relegated horse, trainer Chris Waller heaped praise on Preferment, who was recording his third Group One victory at Melbourne headquarters.

"He's a very good horse at Flemington," the expat-Kiwi said.

"It's not the way we want to win. I feel for the connections of Awesome Rock; it's heartbreaking.

"Preferment was denied his fair run in the race. Our horse is terrific over 2000 metres; I'm still not convinced he's a stayer in spite of him winning the Derby here.

"This was a fantastic performance second up. He's a good tough colt and he proved it today."

Waller said he was surprised Bowman took Preferment up to settle in second position behind Awesome Rock but described the move as the genius of the rider.

Preferment will now return to Sydney for the Queen Elizabeth Stakes after Waller revealed the Australian Cup victory came about because of a Racing Victoria incentive.

The four-year-old returned from a seventh placing in the Hong Kong Vase in December via the quarantine centre at Werribee racecourse, where he was able to start work for an autumn campaign.

"We had the choice of taking him out of work to do his

quarantine or remaining in work and doing his quarantine at Werribee," Waller said. "Racing Victoria covered half the quarantine costs if he ran in a Group One."

Bowman said Preferment was a genuine weight-for-age performer.

"He lacks a turn of foot but he makes up for that with his ability to gallop at his top for a long time," the Sydney jockey said.

Former Kiwi mare Rising Romance (NZ) (Ekraar), the Australian Oaks winner of 2014, ran on for third, beaten 1¼ lengths.

– racenet.com.au & AAP TURF

Race	VRC Australian Cup Gr.1 2000m
Winner	Preferment (NZ) 2011
Owners	Mrs L F Huddy, I Bruce, G L Huddy, R Smith, B L Mathieson, K H Warriner, J T C Lake, F W Cook, Mrs C M Cook, G G Ltd (Mgr: G G Peterson), Magic Bloodstock Racing (Mgr: P G Tighe) and Woppitt Bloodstock (Mgr: Mrs D N Kepitis)
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Zabeel out of Better Alternative (Aus) by Flying Spur (Aus)
Breeder	Mrs B M & L J Anselmi; Sir Patrick & Lady Hogan; Mrs H M & M J Moran
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Cambridge Stud, P: Chris Waller Racing; \$190,000





EL SOLDADO RUNS 'EM RAGGED WHEN DARRYL DECIDES TO RAISE THE TEMPO

It may have been a Group One upset of epic proportions but a main player behind the Ellerslie shock didn't share the betting market's pessimism.

The veteran **El Soldado (NZ)** (Colombia) made it fourth time lucky in the Group One Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup yesterday with a brave front-running performance that rocked punters with a whopping \$125 winning dividend.

Breeder and trainer Phillip Devcich, who races the nine-year-old with his sister Christine and her husband Brent, gave his durable gelding a strong chance of victory.

"Definitely, he's such a good stayer," he said. "This is the one we set him for and he peaked on the right day. We put the work into him and he travelled up here beautifully."

El Soldado, who ran second in the 2013 cup behind Sangster (NZ) (Savabeel), was partnered by Awapuni jockey Darryl Bradley, who trekked north for the one mount.

"He rode him perfectly," Devcich said. "I said to Darryl that he would outstay them and that's what he's done. To win a Group One is unbelievable."

While Bradley may not have shared Devcich's confidence, he carried out his instructions to the letter.

The cup was devoid of any pace in the early stages before Bradley decided enough was enough and made his move.

"He wasn't happy in a slowly run race so I let him slide forward with a round to go," Bradley said.

"He had proved he could run the two miles and that gave me some hope."

El Soldado, also the veteran of three hurdle starts in the winter of 2014, revelled in his front-running role and had the chasing pack off the bit when he slipped clear on the turn then stuck on grimly in the straight to beat Rose Of Virginia (NZ) (Thorn Park) and the favourite Sacred Master (NZ) (Mastercraftsman).

"This is one race I never thought I could win," Bradley said. "I'm so grateful – it's beautiful."

Race	ARC Auckland Cup Gr.1 3200m
Winner	El Soldado (NZ) 2006
Owners	P Devcich and B & Mrs C Higginson
Trainer	Phillip Devcich (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Colombia out of Zo'al by Norman Pentaquad (USA)
Breeder	P Devcich



Darryl Bradley wins a race he'd all but given up on, riding a horse the majority of punters had dismissed . . . El Soldado hangs on to win the 2016 Auckland Cup from the fast-finishing Rose Of Virginia as the favourite Sacred Master battles on into third.





VOLKSTOK SURVIVES ENQUIRY AFTER NAILBITING NEW ZEALAND STAKES WIN

Donna Logan would have felt justice was served at Ellerslie yesterday after **Volkstok'n'barrell (NZ)** (Tavistock) survived an enquiry before she was able to celebrate another Group One victory with the four-year-old.

A year ago, the Ruakaka trainer produced the top mare Rising Romance (NZ) (Ekraar) to finish runner-up in the Bonecrusher New Zealand Stakes behind Sakhee's Soldier (NZ) (Sakhee's Secret) and a protest against the winner failed to change the result.

Twelve months on and Volkstok'n'barrell got home by the barest of margins from a determined Girl Of My Dreams

(NZ) (Gold Centre), with the latter's connections having their protest dismissed.

The pair bumped 75 metres from home but, as senior stipendiary steward John Oatham observed during the hearing, neither jockey had to stop riding.

"It was a great effort and the pace was on all the way and we just got there," said trainer Donna Logan, who prepares Volkstok'n'barrell with Chris Gibbs.

The victory furthered the imperious record Volkstok'n'barrell has at Ellerslie, where he has won five of his seven starts, including the Group Two Great Northern Guineas, the Group Three Bonecrusher Stakes and the Listed Karaka Mile.

His other two appearances at Ellerslie resulted in a runner-up finish in the Group One New Zealand Derby and a third in the Group Two Avondale Guineas, both behind the current Horse of the Year Mongolian Khan (Holy Roman Emperor).

Yesterday, Volkstok'n'barrell settled close to the pace and one off the fence under Vinnie Colgan before knuckling down to a fight with Girl Of My Dreams, which he won by a nose to deny Dylan Turner his first Group One success.

A last-start winner of the Group One Haunui Farm

Race	ARC New Zealand S. Gr.1 2000m
Winner	Volkstok'n'barrell (NZ) 2011
Owners	G J Cossey, Mrs A Gibbs, C W Gibbs, J A Gibbs MNZM, A M Goodwin, Mrs D M Logan and Rosemont Stud Pty Ltd
Trainer	Donna Logan & Chris Gibbs (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Volkster by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	IDL Breeding Ltd
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Seaton Park Ltd, P: D M Logan Racing Stables; \$50,000



Classic at Otaki, Volkstok'n'barrell joined the millionaires club with his thick end of the stake and the possibility of adding considerably to his account at the Sydney autumn carnival.

While a programme has yet to be confirmed, the gelding has an attractive 52.5kg in the \$A3 million Group One Doncaster Handicap on April 2 and he also holds a nomination a week later for the \$A4 million Group One Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

On a day of close finishes, Volkstok'n'barrell (red colours) and Girl Of My Dreams fought out the closest – the nose decision in the New Zealand Stakes having to be confirmed in the enquiry room.





HEROIC VALOUR WINS AGAIN AS ALL THE GUNS SHOW UP FOR DIAMOND

Heroic Valour (Fastnet Rock) yesterday powered to the top of the national two-year-old standings when he stretched his unbeaten record to three.

The Te Akau colt's greenness couldn't mask his raw ability, a sterling effort downing the season's most competitive juvenile line-up in the Group One Sistema Diamond Stakes at Ellerslie.

A debut winner at Trentham who then claimed the Listed Matamata Slipper, Heroic Valour was ridden aggressively from a wide gate to race close to the pace and he rounded off strongly in the run home to maintain his perfect record at the expense of the fillies Wyndspelle (NZ) (Iffraaj) and O'Rachael (Northern Meteor).

"He's improving all the time and keeps stepping up," said Jamie Richards, who trains the youngster with Stephen Autridge.

"He still does a few things wrong and that's why we brought him up here to gallop on Tuesday and to give him a good look around."

Heroic Valour credited Te Akau with their fourth individual Group One winner of the season and his champion Australian sire Fastnet Rock with his first two-year-old success at the highest level.

"He's a very talented colt and a very valuable one – we won't be making any decisions just yet on the next move," Richards said. "We'll take a couple of days and then make a plan."

Heroic Valour was ably ridden by Jonathan Riddell, who secured the mount after stable jockey Matt

Cameron opted to partner Sassy 'N' Smart (Smart Missile), who finished sixth.

"She pulled up well and she's a bit green as well and just needs a draw," Richards said.

A half-brother to the Group One Doncaster Handicap winner Triple Honour (NZ) (Honours List), Heroic Valour was a \$400,000 Karaka yearling for Te Akau principal David Ellis, who also purchased the full-brother for \$510,000 earlier this year.

The favourite and Listed Karaka Million winner Xiong Feng (NZ) (Iffraaj) tailed the field home and rider Danielle Johnson said the previously undefeated youngster wasn't the same horse and never travelled well.

Race	ARC Diamond S. Gr.1 1200m
Winner	Heroic Valour (Aus) 2013
Owners	Te Akau 2015 Breeding Syndicate (Mgr: K W Fenton-Ellis MNZM)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Fastnet Rock (Aus) out of Myrrh by Nassipour (USA)
Breeder	Katom, Cobra Bloodstock Australia Pty Ltd, Austramore Pty Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Curraghmore, P: Mr D C Ellis; \$400,000



Heroic Valour lives up to his breeding, his high price tag and his unbeaten form with a gallant win in the Diamond Stakes from the fillies Wyndspelle (#10) and O'Rachael (obscured).





PERFECT FIT PROMPTS A PARTY WITH WONDERFUL WESTBURY CLASSIC WIN

The owners of **Perfect Fit (NZ)** (Elusive City) were in high spirits after the mare passed her sternest test to date at Ellerslie yesterday and their celebrations may go to another level in the near future.

The four-year-old has come a long way in a relatively short period of time and she downed a competitive line-up of mares in the Group Two Westbury Classic to earn a likely crack at higher honours.

The Haunui Farm-bred Perfect Fit, withdrawn from the

Ready to Run Sale as a juvenile, was retained by stud principal Mark Chitty, who roped in a group of old friends to race the daughter of the triple Group One winner Fayreform (NZ) (Tights).

“We might be nearing fifty now, but we’ll be partying like we’re in our twenties tonight,” he said.

Perfect Fit travelled comfortably on the leader’s quarters for regular rider Michael Coleman and when he slipped her more rein 250 metres from home they quickly put the issue beyond doubt.

She has now won half of her ten starts and trainer Ken Kelso, who prepares her at Matamata with his wife Bev, said she had needed to be treated with patient hands.

“She’s not that easy and it’s been a great team effort to get her here today. She’s very professional and living up to what we always thought she’d do.”

Kelso said Perfect Fit had trained on well following her

successful open class debut on her home track at her previous appearance and they had been confident of a bold showing at Ellerslie, where she has now won three times.

“There’s plenty more in store for her in the future as well. We’ll definitely carry on toward Te Aroha for the Breeders’ Stakes and hopefully she can do it again in a Group One.”

Race	ARC Westbury Classic Gr.2 1400m
Winner	Perfect Fit (NZ) 2011
Owners	Haunui Bloodstock Ltd, M Duncan, The Provincial Club Ltd, G H Madill and J Orton
Trainer	Ken & Bev Kelso (Matamata)
Breeding	by Elusive City (USA) out of Fayreform by Tights (USA)
Breeder	Haunui Bloodstock Ltd



The day's most clearcut winner, Perfect Fit completes her no-doubter against the mares in the Westbury Classic.



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All team members must have a Taupo fishing licence

Competition briefing - 10 to 10.15am at the Kinloch Marina

Competition starts 10.30am

Teams must be back at the Marina by 5.30pm

Official weigh-in between 5.30 and 6.00pm

6.00pm Drinks, dinner and prize giving at Kinloch's "Tipsy Trout"

Cost: \$40 per team member for entry to the competition, nibbles & dinner

Entries must be received and entry fees paid by 5pm Tuesday 5th April

To enter your team please contact

Bruce Perry (06) 3774363 or 0274 779448 bruce@bpbloodstock.co.nz

Mark Chittick (07) 8887717 or 021 433252 info@waikatostud.co.nz



POSEIDON GETS SOUTH AFRICAN ON HIS WAY AFTER BUREAUCRATS STALL

South African Derreck David was pinching himself at Kranji on Friday night after **Poseidon (NZ)** (Gold Centre) gave him a winner at his very first ride in Singapore, the occasion heightened by the win coming in the night's feature, the S\$125,000 Racing Guide Classic.

A long and frustrating wait before he got the nod to ride in Singapore probably made David savour the moment even more as he'd tried a few times to get in. And when he finally got the stamp of approval, his original six-week tenure was whittled down to only one week through delays in processing his work permit.

The former South African champion apprentice and reigning Mauritius champion jockey could have felt shortchanged but his six rides – two on Friday and six on Sunday – opened a crack in the door; and how he flung it

wide open with a brilliant front-running ride.

Known as the "Prince of the Kilometre" in Mauritius for his knack at getting horses out of the barriers in a flash in 1000 metre scampers, David showed his reputation was not unfounded.

Bouncing Poseidon out from the second-widest barrier at the 1400 metre start, David eagerly scrubbed up his mount until he was two lengths clear before crossing. The four-year-old was inclined to reef and tear a little but David showed silky skills as

he gave him a breather before they cornered for the judge.

The favourite Dragon Fury (NZ) (Sufficient) closed hard but David eased Poseidon off to the middle part of the track before throwing everything he had at him inside the last hundred metres to win by a short head.

"My dream has come true. I'm very emotional now, it feels unreal," said David post-race. "It was already a dream to ride

Continued on page 10

Race	Singapore TC Racing Guide Classic S. 1400m
Winner	Poseidon (NZ) 2011
Owners	Olympian Stable
Trainer	Cliff Brown (Kranji)
Breeding	by Gold Centre (Aus) out of Waikiki Princess (Aus) by Turtle Island (Ire)
Breeder	J R O'Brien



Poseidon responds to Derreck David's vigorous riding to take the main event on Friday night's Kranji card.





POSEIDON GETS SOUTH AFRICAN ON HIS WAY AFTER BUREAUCRATS STALL

(Continued from page 9)

here at the Singapore Turf Club and it doesn't get any better than this.

"The wide draw was a concern but he really pinged the gates tonight. I got him out quickly and when I saw a couple of horses inside me were slow I knew half the battle would be won once we crossed over.

"He travelled beautifully. I tried to come out to intimidate the others but I didn't have to as he had his ears pricked and never stopped.

"He's a progressive horse and I'd like to thank Mr Cliff Brown for putting me on him."

The feeling was mutual with the Australian trainer. He had never met or heard of David before but took a chance with him and was repaid with a third consecutive win from the gelding.

"I was getting to know him and he was getting to know me, too. And we got a winner, how good is that?" said Brown.

"He's an easy horse to train. All we have to do is just get him ready, I don't deserve much credit. We may look at the Singapore Four-Year-Old series with him."

– Singapore Turf Club





MANOEL REPAID FOR HARD WORK IN UNLEASHING ELITE STAR'S TALENT

Singapore trainer Shane Baertschiger was repaid for his loyalty to jockey Manoel Nunes on Friday night when the pair combined successfully with the very wayward **Elite Star (NZ)** (Pins) in the S\$60,000 Class 4 race over 1100 metres.

Baertschiger and Nunes don't team up all that often but Elite Star is a horse the Australian handler had long earmarked as needing the Brazilian jockey's special skills. The big gangly galloper has been a headache for a number of jockeys and track riders but results were plainly visible when Nunes started to climb on his back every morning.

Unfortunately, he was suspended at the three-year-old's last start, with Baertschiger calling on another Brazilian, Elione Chaves. They duly won but Baertschiger had made it clear Chaves was just filling in, even if he too has that special Brazilian trait of getting horses on the right diagonal.

On Friday night, Elite Star was all over the shop when he came charging at the 300 metre mark to join Royal Ruler (Roman Ruler) and leader Effortless (Reward For Effort). Although Nunes took corrective action, his mount made contact with Royal Ruler before the youngster's raw talent saw him draw away to score by 1½ lengths.

Royal Ruler's jockey, Barend Vorster, decided to lodge a protest for alleged interference but it was overruled by the stewards.

"I wasn't worried about the objection. He was going away from the other horse even if there was a slight bump," said Baertschiger.

"He's still a very gross horse, still raw, but he has a lot of potential. He'll have another two runs and then I'll give him a break. He's better than this grade and Manoel told me he will go higher than Class 4.

"From day one, Manoel has been working with him to get him to run on the

right leg and it was only right I put him back on tonight."

Nunes was grateful for Baertschiger's support which he rewarded with a winning ride, even if it was not for the faint-hearted.

"I work him every morning, canter him, but he shies away at anything," Nunes said. "Still, he's improved so much even if he still gets on the wrong leg, but he's learning.

"At the top of the straight, I switched my whip to the left hand and gave him a smack, but he laid out and that's why I put it back in the right hand. He was very strong to the line."

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1100m
Winner	Elite Star (NZ) 2012
Owners	Elite Star Stable
Trainer	Shane Baertschiger (Kranji)
Breeding	by Pins (Aus) out of Chico by High Chaparral (Ire)
Breeder	Mrs J Hines
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Lyndhurst Farm, P: Shailer Thoroughbreds; \$55,000 2014 Ready to Run Sale; V: Bradbury Park, P: S D Baertschiger; \$140,000



Manoel Nunes coaxes Elite Star to a win at Kranji on Friday night.

