>>>> RACING&BREEDINGNEWS

Sunday 12 August 2018

SHAMAL TAKES OUT FEATURE RICCARTON STEEPLECHASE



Shamal and Buddy Lammas take out the time-honoured Grand National Steeplechase at Riccarton (Race Images South)

unterville visitor Shamal (NZ) (Zabeel) capitalised on a perfect trip throughout to take out the 144th running of the Racecourse Hotel & Motor Lodge Grand National Steeplechase (5600m) at Riccarton.

The Ken Duncan trained eight-year-old hugged the rails throughout as rider Buddy Lammas positioned him behind the steady pace set by stablemates Amanood Lad (NZ) (Germano) and Kings Deep (NZ) (Viking Ruler). Shamal never covered an inch of extra ground until Lammas angled him

into the clear to make his challenge with two fences left to run in the time-honoured event.

Southern raider Tai Ho joined issue at that point and the pair drew clear to fight out the finish with Shamal proving too tough in the final stages as he eased clear to score the biggest win of his 38-start career.

Lammas, who had partnered Shamal to victory in the Manawatu Steeplechase (4000m) at Trentham last month

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SHAMAL TAKES OUT FEATURE RICCARTON STEEPLECHASE

(Continued from page 1)

when having his first ride on the Zabeel gelding, admitted he was confident of a win as his charge travelled comfortably throughout.

"He travelled really good," he said.

"Last time I led on him and this time I took a sit. He was pulling all the way but I just had that much horse underneath me.

"I knew once we got over the last fence all I had to do was keep him going and he fought really well to the line."

Lammas intimated that the decision to bring the horse to Riccarton had been made relatively late in the piece, a fact that was confirmed by Duncan.

"The plans don't go back that long as he is a day-to-day proposition," Duncan said.

"When we lined him up at Wellington he wasn't quite as I would have I wanted him, but he still won well. The improved track conditions in the middle there were a great help which gave me some confidence.

"I really looked at the weather forecast and the sun gods

"It's a huge thrill as it has been in my family for generations to win this race so it's just fantastic."

Duncan is no stranger to success in New Zealand's prestige jumping events having produced pint-sized mare Wee Biskit (NZ) (Zed) to win the 2014 running of the Great Northern Hurdles (4190m) along with consecutive victories in the 2015 & 2016 Wellington Hurdle (3400m).

Race favourite Chocolate Fish (NZ) (Colombia) put in his usual honest finish to snatch third while sentimental favourite Amanood Lad weakened out to finish sixth.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	CJC Grand National S/chase 5600m
Winner	Shamal (NZ) 2010
Owners	Faith Taylor, J G, J M & D Mck Duncan, M J Linklater, A R Hurley & Ken Duncan
Trainer	Ken Duncan (Hunterville)
Breeding	by Zabeel out of Mistrale by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	Trelawney Thoroughbred Ltd



Shamal clears the last fence as eventual runner-up Tai Ho gives chase (Race Images South)





LIFESAVER GIVES DUNN ANOTHER HIGHWAY WIN

att Dunn's latest Highway Handicap winner has stamped himself as a contender for the \$1.3 million Kosciuszko.

Lifesaver (NZ) (Helmet) has become the Murwillumbah

Race	ATC TAB Highway H. 1100m
Winner	Lifesaver (NZ) 2011
Owners	Mrs KL Dunn, Mr MJ Doyle, MDS Bassi, Mr GJ Frazer, Mrs MA Frazer, Mr NV Schmidt, Mrs HJ Schmidt, Mrs JM Sheahan, Miss CE Sheahan, Mr TRR Sheahan, Mr PL Mills, Mr BJ Gibson, Mr L Polglase, Mr DA Quinn, Mr CA Singleton, Mr R Walters, Dr RK Sheahan
Trainer	Matthew Dunn (Murwillumbah)
Breeding	by Helmet (AUS) out of Storm Fronts (AUS) by Hurricane Sky (AUS)
Breeder	Llanhennock Trust

trainer's 18th winner of the Highway races for country-trained horses with his victory over 1100 metres at Rosehill on Saturday.

The lure of the big prize on the support program for the \$13 million Everest on October 13 at Randwick is on the minds of most country trainers including Dunn.

"We have always had a big opinion of Lifesaver and he races best first-up and when fresh," Dunn's wife and stable representative Keira Dunn said.

"Matthew has The Kosciuszko in mind so he will need to keep stepping up."

Ridden by Tye Angland, Lifesaver travelled just behind the pace and was urged along in the straight.

He had a length to spare on Table Mountain with Risk



And Reward another 1-1/4 lengths away.

"It was a good win," Angland said.

"We just had the right run in behind them and had a good enough turn of foot to beat them.

"You go back through the Dunn stable's stats in these races and they are just so strong, I'm just lucky enough to ride for them."

- AAP

Lifesaver stamps himself as a contender for the \$1.3 million Kosciuszko (Bradley Photography)





THEANSWERMYFRIEND ADDS TO WEIR'S HAUL

t was another day of domination for Darren Weir, with the master trainer winning seven races — four of them at Flemington, including **Theanswermyfriend** (High Chaparral) who picked up the VRC Member Damian Cubela Handicap (1400m).

The Karaka graduate turned in a bold front-running performance and staved-off the challenge of the fast-closing Night's Watch (NZ) (Redwood), with Odeon (NZ) (Zacinto) finishing third.

The winner and runner-

up were both prepared by Weir.

"Both horses ran terrific," Weir said.

"Probably the winner just had the fitness edge because he's had a couple of runs. He was ready to go forward today. He'd been getting in behind and doing a few things wrong, but today we thought his fitness level was ready to be in the first four.

"He landed in front and rolled along nicely and kicked well."

While delighted to see Theanswermyfriend claim his first win since joining his stable in May, Weir was equally excited about the runner-up.

"Night's watch looks like he is in for a great prep. He's had a really good spell and he's developed and there's a nice win in him somewhere.



Theanswermyfriend claims his first win since joining Darren Weir's stable (Quentin Lang)

"He could be a Bendigo, Ballarat or Geelong Cup sort of horse once he gets out over a bit of a journey."

Theanswermyfriend was offered by Gordon Cunningham's Curraghmore at the 2015 New Zealand Bloodstock Premier Yearling Sale, where Aquanita Racing secured him for \$70,000.

Race	VRC Member Damian Cubela H. 1400m
Winner	Theanswermyfriend (AUS) 2013
Owners	Mr RAE Lyons, Mr PD Harrison, Mr PN Kean, Mr GL Smith, Mr JP Van Duuren, Mr I Roberts, Mr GK Roberts, Mr SW Hansen
Trainer	Darren Weir (Ballarat)
Breeding	by High Chaparral (IRE) out of Blowin in the Wind (IRE) by Danehill (USA)
Breeder	Goldendale
Sales	2013 South Island 2YO & Mixed Sale; V: Mansfield Farm, P: P J Walker; \$15,000



SMITH'S FRUSTRATING RUN ENDS WITH WIN

ifteen months of frustration for trainer Brian Smith has been eased with **Order Again (NZ)** (Iffraaj) scoring a strong win at Doomben.

Despite being slow to jump Order Again swamped the field at the 200m to beat Time To Torque (Show A Heart) by 2-1/4 lengths in the Moda Events Portside Open Handicap (1350m).

Order Again took full advantage of a breakneck early pace to clock 1.17.69, breaking the previous class record of 1.17.73 which had stood for 14 years.

The gelding was ruling favourite for the 2017 Queensland Derby after winning that year's Group Three Grand Prix Stakes.

But Order Again missed the Derby and has had only two runs since after being dogged by feet issues.

Smith had a sun cancer removed from his face on Friday but was able to smile enough to declare Order Again's win "unbelievable".

He left much of the talking to winning jockey Larry Cassidy who has a big opinion of Order Again.

"He would have won the Derby had it not been for his bad feet. Brian is a

master and to get him back to the races is an outstanding effort," Cassidy said.

"Order Again bungled the start because he was probably a bit fresh. But the fast early pace suited him."

Order Again is likely to have one more start in Queensland at 1600m before heading to the Sydney carnival.

-AAP

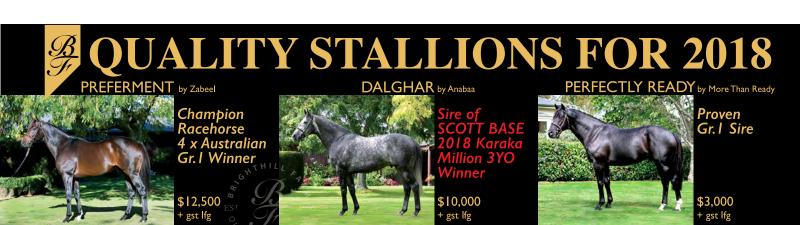
Race	BRC Moda Events Portside H. 1350m
Winner	Order Again (NZ) 2013
Owners	Mr CEJ Stewart, Mr CJW Stewart
Trainer	Brian Smith (Eagle Farm)
Breeding	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Glass Half Full by Van Nistelrooy (USA)
Breeder	CEJ&CJW Stewart



Brighthill Farm

Order Again ended a frustrating run with a win at Doomben (Grant Peters)

Nick King 0274 416 442 Click here for more news >>>





RAILS-HUGGING EFFORT SECURES CLASSIC WIN FOR DEZ

op jockey Lisa Allpress followed the adage that the shortest way home in any race is hard up on the rails as she guided the lightly raced **Dez (NZ)** (Zed) to victory in the Christchurch Casino Winter Classic (1800m) at Riccarton.

Allpress made full use of a brilliant beginning by the seven-year-old to set the early pace before settling into a perfect trail behind the free-going Kings Pal (NZ) (Kingmaker). Dez gave Allpress a torrid time as he pulled hard for a good portion of the contest before settling into his rhythm with 600m left to run.

As the field fanned wide in search of better footing, Dez scooted through on the fence with Allpress riding hard to establish a break on her rivals. The Zed gelding responded gamely as he held out a late challenge from last weekend's Gr.3 Winter Cup (1600m) winner Platinum Command (NZ) (Red Giant) with local runner Elfee (NZ) (Iffraaj) finishing strongly to grab third.

Trainer Simon Wilson was thrilled with the win that followed his charge running a superb race for third behind Platinum Command on the first day of the carnival.

"He tries hard and has finished off a great week," he said.

"He's taken a bit of time as he had an injury, but he's getting better and better with more ringcraft as he's been a bit green."

Wilson was quick to pay tribute to Allpress after she made all the right decisions during the race.



Dez and Lisa Allpress dash away to win comfortably at Riccarton (Race Images South)

"She's very clever with her riding tactics and she certainly helped the horse today," he said.

"She has done a great job with him." Allpress believes there is still plenty to come for Dez once he improves his racing manners.

"He's still so green and does a lot wrong but he just tries so hard," she said.

"He charged along quite hard early on and it took a lot to get him to come back underneath me.

"He's the sort of horse who doesn't like to be hit by the whip as he runs around. When I got to the fence I really made him hit the line as having the fence inside him made him run straight.

"He's still just figuring out what

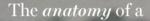
its all about but in time I think he will come right."

The win was the third for Dez in his current campaign after he spent more than two years on the sideline with injury after winning two of his first three starts. His career record now stands at five wins and three placings from just 10 starts.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	CJC Christchurch Casino Winter Classic H
Winner	Dez (NZ) 2011
Owners	S G Lennox, P I Mitchell & S J E Wilson
Trainer	Simon Wilson (Waipukurau)
Breeding	by Zed out of Black Falcon by Felix the Cat (USA)
Breeder	Mrs C J & D R Isaacson





FOUR-TIME GROUP ONE WINNING DUAL DONCASTER CHAMPION

Sacred Falls

His two-year-olds hit race tracks in the 2018-19 season SERVICE FEE: \$30,000+gst LFG

Group One good looks

His good looking yearlings landed him the title of Leading First Season Sire at this year's Karaka Yearling Sale and across all Australasian Sales, his yearlings averaged \$111,086 and sold for up to \$300,000, with six lots fetching \$200,000 or more

Strong and compact

A precocious individual, he was unbeaten at two and his first crop don't look like they're going to take too long either

Athletic hindquarters

For the extreme acceleration required to become the first colt in 50 years to win back-to-back Doncaster Miles

Flawless forelimb conformation

A distinct trait he has passed on to his ultra-correct and well-balanced progeny

Superior sire lines

By champion sire O'Reilly, he is out of a winning Redoute's Choice mare

Powerful shoulders

This superior feature allowed him to cover more ground than his opponents to win nine races between 1000m and 1600m, including four Group Ones



FIND OUT MORE



FINBARR JUSTIFIES WARM SUPPORT AT RICCARTON



Finbarr adds to a growing reputation with a win at Riccarton (Race Images South)

he Gay Robinson-trained
Finbarr (NZ) (Falkirk) justified
some inspired support when he
produced a brave effort to take out the
Millennium Hotels & Resorts Premier
Open (1400m) at Riccarton.

Backed into race-favourite, the four-year-old Falkirk gelding was on the toe as he made a belated entrance to the parade ring before the race. That nervous energy was put to good use as rider Lee Callaway bounced him

out nicely from a wide barrier to find a handy place behind the early speed, albeit three-wide without cover.

Callaway asked his charge to come into the race at the 400m mark and he responded gamely to wear down pacemaker Irish Excuse (NZ) No Excuse Needed) in the final stages as he scored by a neat length with Shaara (NZ) (Castledale) finishing resolutely to steal third.

Robinson had set her charge for the

Gr.3 Winter Cup (1600m) on the first day of the carnival but he failed to gain a start after being placed on the ballot for the race. Saturday's victory proved a handy consolation for his trainer who also shares in the ownership of the horse.

"We're starting to realise he could be a good horse," she said.

"It was a good ride by Lee as he had to waste hard to make the weight."

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FINBARR JUSTIFIES WARM SUPPORT AT RICCARTON

(Continued from page 9)

"It was a great result for Lee and for us."

Robinson was undecided on future plans for Finbarr who was a \$50,000 purchase from the Windsor Park Stud draft during the 2016 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready To Run sale. She indicated a brief spell was the preferred option before a decision was made on where the horse would look to add to the five wins he has produced from his first 17 starts.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	CJC Millennium Hotels H. 1400m
Winner	Finbarr (NZ) 2014
Owners	J F Dooley & Ms G Robinson
Trainer	Gay Robinson (Ascot Park)
Breeding	by Falkirk out of Southern Cloud by Kaapstad
Breeder	Windsor Park Stud Ltd
Sales	2016 Ready to Run Sale; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: J F Dooley; \$50,000

NEWS IN BRIEF

Riccarton double for Rock 'n' Pop

Rock Island Line completed a Riccarton double on Saturday for Rock'n' Pop when he defeated his Rating 65 rivals over 1400m.

The Waikato Stud stallion's lightlytried son Bully Boy had earlier opened his account in style, also over 1400m.

Trained by Lisa Latta, Rock Island Line came from back in the field under Ryan Elliot for the second win of his career.

"We had a plan to bring him down here for a three-race campaign," Go Racing's Matt Allnutt said.

"To be fair, he was a bit disappointing

at Oamaru and last Saturday he didn't quite get the mile.

"Back to 1400m today suited him and he's quite a progressive horse."

Rock Island Line also boasts the breeding to suggest he can move further through the grades.

He is out of the Al Akbar mare Island Time, also the dam of the Listed Levin Stakes (1200m) winner North And South.

The Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m) winner Hulastrike also features in the pedigree.



Racing review. (Click image to play)



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VERRY FLASH MAKES IT A HAT-TRICK AT PUKEKOHE

he Nicholas Bishara-trained **Verry Flash (NZ**) (Zed) kept up a run of winning form with another comprehensive victory when taking out the Haunui Farm 1600m at Pukekohe on Saturday.

With regular pilot Rowena Smyth aboard, the four-year-old race-favourite jumped nicely from an inside barrier to settle in mid-field on the rail. Smyth guided Verry Flash to the inside of pacemaker Waipipi Lad (Mr Nancho) to take control around the home bend and establish a winning break that they kept up with a strong gallop to the line.

"He [Verry Flash] was happy enough and I saw [Sam] Spratt in an earlier race cut the corner and just get beaten so I thought I'd do the same," Smyth said. Concerns that the son of Zed would not make it through a heavier track seemed to be unfounded.

"It was more holding today but it doesn't seem to bother him, as he gets through it well," Smyth said. "When he gets on those better tracks, he'll go further."

Bishara was quick to echo those thoughts about the horses' chances on better ground.

"He is going through the grades," Bishara said.

"His trackwork on a good-ish track last Saturday was phenomenal.

"He's got stamina plus and I can't wait to get him up over ground as he's going to be a really nice stayer."

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Verry Flash makes it three wins on end with a victory at Pukekohe (Trish Dunell





VERRY FLASH MAKES IT A HAT-TRICK AT PUKEKOHE

(Continued from page 11)

Bishara usually gives his horses a week off after they race but with the way that Verry Flash has been bouncing back he suggested he might look at giving him a run in The ITM Interprovincial Challenge (1600m) at New Plymouth on 25 August.

"He hasn't had a trip away, so it might be a good learning curve for him," he said. "But we will see how he pulls up tonight."

The form of Verry Flash is a welcome relief for Bishara who has endured a lean spell stretching back over 18-months.

"I had eighteen months in the wilderness where I think I only had two runners as we just didn't have any decent horses," he said.

"I'm rapt."

Bishara will look to extend his winning run when Verry Flash's full sister Verry Ellegant (NZ) (Zed) has her second start at Ruakaka tomorrow.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Counties RC Haunui H. 1600m
Winner	Verry Flash (NZ) 2014
Owners	Nicholas Bishara & Don Goodwin
Trainer	Nicholas Bishara (Ardmore Lodge)
Breeding	by Zed out of Opulence by Danroad (AUS)
Breeder	J D Goodwin

NEWS IN BRIEF



Nick Columb

Vale Nick Columb

Prominent racing identity Nick Columb is being remembered as a 'larger-than-life' character with an incredible racing passion following news of his death in Spain overnight.

It is understood the 72-year-old suffered a stroke last weekend while on holidays, passing away several days later with family members by his side.

A successful Melbourne businessman who spent nearly two decades as chairman of Australia's Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Association (TROA), Columb raced champion gallopers including Caulfield Cup winners **Imposera (NZ)** (Imposing) and Tristarc (NZ) (Sir Tristram), as well as Golden Slipper winner **Courtza (NZ)** (Pompeii Court), the dam of **O'Reilly (NZ)** (Last Tycoon).

More recently, he resided in Asia where he was a respected bloodstock consultant for the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Columb has been a regular visitor to Karaka and the Trentham Sales and sourced many of his best horses from New Zealand.

