

Sunday 24 February 2019

FABULOUS FOUR FOR CLASS MARE



Matamata mare Melody Belle clears out from her rivals at Otaki to register her fourth Group One victory for the season (Race Images, Peter Rubery)

Class mare **Melody Belle (NZ)** (Commands) secured her fourth Group One title for the season when she out-toughed her rivals in Saturday's Haunui Farm Group One WFA Classic (1600m) at Otaki.

Fresh off victory in the Gr.1 BCD Group Sprint (1400m) at Te Rapa earlier in the month, the Jamie

Richards-trained four-year-old was confidently expected to prevail despite being dealt a blow earlier in the week when she drew barrier thirteen in the 14-horse field.

Luck was on the Commands mare's side when rain on Friday and Saturday morning left the Otaki track rated a Slow7 with the pattern of the day

favouring horses who made their runs out wide in the home straight.

Rider Opie Bosson followed that recipe to the letter as he positioned the mare nicely in behind the speed despite travelling wide for the better part of the first 800m.

Melody Belle was travelling easily

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SHOCKING (AUS)

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FABULOUS FOUR **FOR CLASS MARE**

(Continued from page 1)

as she moved into contention before Bosson sent her to the extreme outside to make her challenge. Hitting the front at the 300m mark the glamour mare kept up a powerful run to defeat local galloper Wyndspelle (NZ) (Iffraaj) with Takanini visitor Consensus (NZ) (Postponed) fighting bravely for third.

Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate manager, John Galvin, was on hand to witness the victory from the mare that was purchased for \$57,500 out of the 2016 National Yearling Sale by Te Akau Racing boss David Ellis on Galvin's behalf.

"She's amazing isn't she," he said.

"She has been the benchmark horse of the season, but you still have to get out there and do it.

"This one is really special. If you said at the start of the season you

would run in seven races and win five of them, a Group Two and four Group One's, you wouldn't believe it.

"So, it is very special."

The victory also brought up a rare milestone for Bosson who has now been victorious in every Group One race that is run in New Zealand.

"I enjoyed winning that as it is the only Group One I haven't won in New Zealand, so to get the whole lot, I am quite proud," he said.

"This race always clashes with Matamata, so I haven't ridden in it a lot, but to be on a quality mare like her, I knew I was in with a good chance.

"She is just a professional racehorse who never knows when to lie down.

"I didn't jump away as well as I hoped but she got in a good position and travelled beautifully.

"She was nice and balanced and when she came up underneath me, I knew she was going to be a big chance."

The win took Melody Belle's career record to ten wins from 19 starts, five of those at Group One level, and over \$1.5million in stakes earnings.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Otaki Maori RC WFA S. Gr.1 1600m
Winner	Melody Belle (NZ) 2014
Owners	Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate (Mgr: John Galvin)
Trainer	Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Commands (AUS) out of Meleka Belle by Iffraaj (GB)
Breeder	Mrs N M Leicester
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Premier Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: DC Ellis; \$57,500

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GLOBAL EXCHANGE WINS G2 AUTUMN CLASSIC

Lightly-raced **Global Exchange** (Dundeel) is likely to be put on a path towards the Group One Australian Derby in Sydney after announcing himself as colt on the rise with victory in the Autumn Classic at Caulfield.

The Ciaron Maher and David Eustace-trained three-year-old went into Saturday's Group Two 1800m race off a win at

Race	MRC Autumn Classic Gr.2 1800m
Winner	Global Exchange (NZ) 2015
Owners	Mr SC Khaw, China Horse Club Racing Pty Ltd, Musk Creek Farm P/L, Mr G Pollio, Mr PS Zeccola
Trainer	Ciaron Maher & David Eustace (Caulfield)
Breeding	by Dundeel out of Incredulous (AUS) by Keep The Faith (AUS)
Breeder	China Horse Club Racing Pty
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale – Premier Session; V: Little Avondale Stud, P: Ciaron Maher Bloodstock; \$130,000

Werribee first-up this preparation and took the step up in class in his stride.

After settling back in the field under jockey Ben Melham, Global Exchange started to round the field approaching the home turn before sprinting to the front at the 200m.

He defeated last-start Tasmanian Derby winner Cossetot (Epaulette) by 2-1/4 lengths with another head to favourite Aramayo (Poet's Voice) third.

Global Exchange is a son of stallion Dundeel who claimed the Sydney triple crown for three-year-olds in 2013, culminating in his six-length Derby win at Randwick.

Maher said he would now map out a program for Global Exchange, with races such as the Group One Rosehill Guineas (2000m) and Australian Derby (2400m) on the radar.

"We always thought he was a Derby type horse," Maher said.

"He raced here last preparation over a mile and it just showed he wasn't quite mature enough so we put him away and he put the writing on the wall last start.

"We still thought he was a little bit wayward so we put the blinkers on and he really showed his talent today.

"He's a real progressive horse and I think he's got a really bright future heading into the Sydney autumn carnival."

–AAP

Global Exchange win the Gr.2 Autumn Classic (1800m) (Darryl Sherer)





Sunday 24 February 2019

ARETHA UPSETS IN MATAMATA BREEDERS' STAKES



Aretha (inner) out-finishes Rainbow Dash at Matamata (Trish Dunell)

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained **Aretha (NZ)** (Charm Spirit) upset the appiecart when she produced a dogged finish to score at outside odds (\$15) in the Gr.2 J Swap Contractors Ltd Matamata Breeders' Stakes (1200m) on Saturday.

The Charm Spirit filly never left the rail throughout as she out-finished pacemaker Rainbow Dash (NZ) (Showcasing) after the pair set down to a titanic battle over the

closing 300m. Local filly Aalaalune (NZ) (Reliable Man) produced an eye-catching finish from near last to snatch third with Bella Mente (NZ) (El Roca) clinging on gamely for fourth.

It was Aretha's first career win at just her second start and the first Southern Hemisphere victory for Windsor Park Stud shuttle stallion, Charm Spirit. The daughter of un-raced Stravinsky mare, Tsikory, had finished third in her debut performance behind Aotea Lad (NZ) (Savabeel) in the

Gr.2 Wakefield Challenge Stakes at Trentham back in January.

Co-trainer Andrew Forsman was quick to pay tribute to rider Jonathan Riddell who had executed their pre-race plan to perfection.

"She's very brave," Forsman said.

"Jonathan and I had a think about it and we knew she was going to be on the rail.

"We took the punt as we knew he could have angled off and come out

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ARETHA UPSETS IN MATAMATA BREEDERS' STAKES

(Continued from page 5)

three-wide, but we decided to stick to the fence and rail up, as she does like that style of racing.

"I think he rode her a treat, stuck to the plan and it came off.

"Earlier in the day it looked like barrier one was going to be a bit of a disaster, but as the racing has played out, with no rain on the day I don't think the rail is too bad.

"It just gave us that nice easy run."

Forsman acknowledged that after her fine debut performance the main target had become today's feature contest.

"She did that all on ability that day," he said.

"She got a stakes placing behind her, had a freshen up and this was always the target.

"She came off a little bit of a short run as it hasn't been that easy to get

her here, but the team at home have done a brilliant job to manage her through."

Forsman wasn't looking too far ahead with the filly, preferring to acknowledge how much the victory would lift her value once she finished her racing career.

"We will see how she comes through it," he said.

"You never know with two-year-olds as they are pretty fickle, so you just go race by race.

"More importantly, she is a Group Two winner and that is massive for Greg (McCarthy)."

Aretha is raced by her breeder Greg McCarthy and hails from an extended family that includes champion mare Horlicks (NZ) (Three Legs), who won 17 races in a brilliant career that saw her become the only New Zealand-bred

horse to win the prestigious Gr.1 Japan Cup (2400m) when successful in the 1989 edition of the event.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Matamata RC Matamata Breeders S. Gr.2 1200m
Winner	Aretha (NZ) 2016
Owners	G J McCarthy
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Charm Spirit (IRE) out of Tsikory by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	G J McCarthy

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seaway continues his winning ways

Talented four-year-old **Seaway (NZ)** (Ocean Park) looks set to make his mark in strong company during his autumn campaign.

The son of Ocean Park remained unbeaten this preparation following his win in the Schweppes Handicap (1500m) at Rosehill on Saturday.

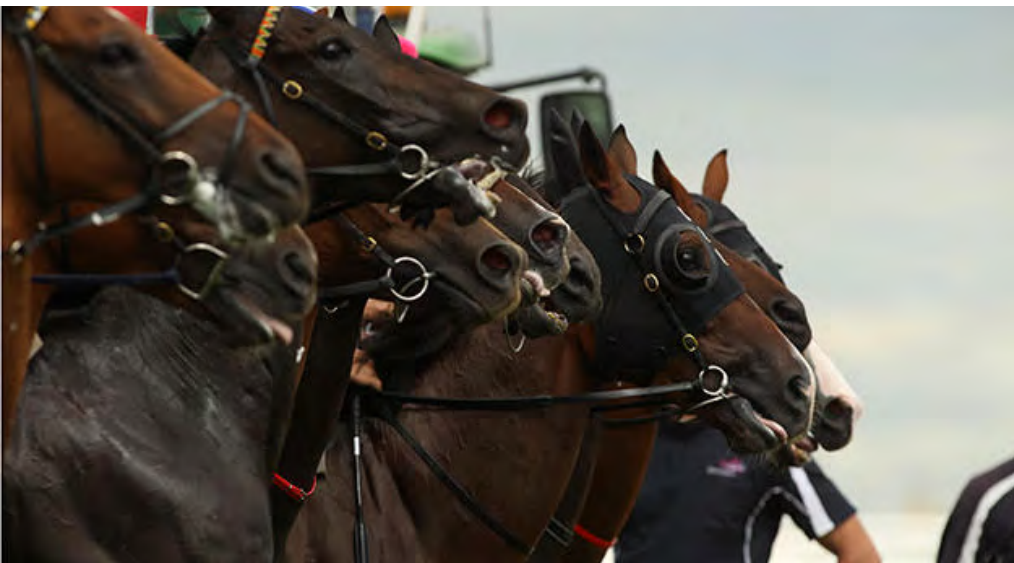
Sent out a very popular favourite, Seaway had to do all the work outside the leader Mask Of Time but still proved too strong at the finish.

Jockey Kerrin McEvoy was impressed with the geldings genuine qualities, "He relaxed well and has a good winning attitude."

Seaway had resumed with a course and distance win for trainer Chris Waller earlier this month.

He was purchased out of Waikato Stud's Premier Sale draft to Karaka in 2016 by Star Thoroughbreds for \$210,000.

Seaway is a son of the One Cool Cat mare Miss Purrfection, also the dam of the multiple Singapore stakes winner Kiwi Karma.





YOURDEEL DOMINATES HOME TRACK FEATURE

Classy youngster **Yourdeel (NZ)** (Dundeel) gave his rivals a galloping lesson on Saturday when he cleared out over the final stages of the Gr.3 Waikato Stud Slipper (1200m) at Matamata.

The Dundeel two-year-old was having his first run since dead-heating for third behind stablemates Probabeel (NZ) (Savabeel) and Aotea Lad (NZ) (Savabeel) in the rich Karaka Million 2YO (1200m) at Ellerslie last month.

This time Yourdeel turned the tables on Aotea Lad as he sat nicely in the trail for rider Matt Cameron before being angled into the clear on the point of the home turn. The Jamie Richards-trained youngster quickly dashed away from his rivals

before easing down to beat Aotea Lad by a conservative four lengths with pacemaker Moeraki (NZ) (El Roca) fighting on gamely for third.

Richards was pleased with the final result as he outlined the future plans for his charge.

“His work had been really strong, although I had been a little worried about the track,” Richards said.

“He’s a pretty exciting horse.

“He has always shown us a little bit of ability but was pretty colty in the spring. As soon as we got that out of the road, he has really turned the corner and turned into a racehorse.

“He’s enjoyed a bit of a freshen up so hopefully it is onwards and upwards into the Sistema (Stakes, Gr.1 1200m) from here.”

Part-owner Chris Rutten was on hand to witness the victory after outlaying \$100,000 to purchase the son of Red Ransom mare Miss Zapper from the Little Avondale Stud draft during the 2018 National Yearling Sale.

“We’re really happy with that,” Rutten said.

“Jamie was giving us really good reports through the week and said we should expect something this weekend, although you never know.

“I like the look of this horse as he looked like he would go early, and I buy early types.

“Being from Sam Williams’ draft (Little Avondale Stud), I brought three from there and they have all been winners.”

Rutten was referring to Per Incanto three-year-old Arturo, who won at Wanganui on debut, along with Towkay three-year-old Morpheus who was a winner in Singapore earlier in the month. Both were purchased from the Little Avondale 2017 Select Sale draft for \$65,000 and \$45,000 respectively.

The victory also brought up a winning treble for Cameron who had earlier scored on the impressive Concert Hall (NZ) (Savabeel) in race two and Maison Roxanne (NZ) (Snitzel) in race three.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Matamata RC Slipper S. Gr.3 1200m
Winner	Yourdeel (NZ) 2016
Owners	C A Rutten, C J B Norwood & R N Preston
Trainer	Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Dundeel out of Miss Zapper (AUS) by Red Ransom (USA)
Breeder	D J Myers
Sales	2017 National Weanling; Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: D.J. Myers, P: Little Avondale Stud; \$30,000 2018 National Yearling Sale – Book 1; V: Little Avondale Stud, P: Chris Rutten Bloodstock; \$100,000



Yourdeel is well clear as he scores impressively at Matamata (Trish Dunell)



Sweynesse is a chip off the old block

Darren Beadman

Sweynesse, is a son of former champion racehorse and super sire Lonhro. Beadman rode Lonhro in most of his 26 wins and he gets to work with many of that horse's sons and daughters at Godolphin.

- A multiple Group One performer (2nd G1 Randwick Guineas, 3rd G1 Spring Champion) beating some of the best 3YO Group One winners in Australia including Kermedec, Preferment, Hampton Court, Shooting To Win, First Seal.
- Winner of first four starts including dual Group 3 wins in the Spring Stakes and Gloaming Stakes.
- A winner at only start as a 2YO.
- A top 3YO Timeform rating of 122 makes Sweynesse one of the top Australian 3YO colts of his year.
- By Lonhro -The Champion 3YO, the Champion miler, the Horse of the Year, and now a Champion sire. Lonhro set a new Australian record of 160 individual winners in a season. His son Pierro, unbeaten juvenile Triple Crown winner, was rated the best juvenile colt in Australia since 1977.
- Out of the multiple winning mare Swansea by Champion Sire Singspiel (5xG1 Winner and sire of 98SW).
- Sweynesse is a magnificent individual. He stands 16.2 hh. He has a powerful hind quarter, a strong shoulder and a great athletic walk. He is very correct.
- Sweynesse is syndicated amongst many of New Zealand's top breeders who are strongly supporting him at stud.



Ray Knight

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AUSSIE GROUP THREE WINNER FOR SHAMEXPRESS

The Gr.3 MVRC Typhoon Tracy Stakes at Moonee Valley on Friday night produced a blow out result when unheralded filly **Embrace Me (NZ)** (Shamexpress) descended from the clouds to win the 1200 metre sprint going away.

With two wins at Moonee Valley from her past three starts, Embrace Me had good form at the track and distance but was largely overlooked by punters when sent off at odds of \$32.

Ridden quietly by Brett Prebble, the Danny O'Brien trained filly as still last with a furlong to run, but unleashed a sizzling sprint to dash between horses and score a powerful length and three-quarter win in the 1200 metre sprint.

"She was unlucky last start and was never extended," said Prebble.

"She was always going to win from the 500, it was just a matter of getting a gap.

"She has plenty of upside."

A \$90,000 NZB Premier Yearling Sale purchase from the Henley Park for Blue Sky Bloodstock, Embrace Me is the best of three winners from Party Royal, a half-sister to Gr.1 New Zealand Derby winner Military Move (NZ) (Volksraad).

Embrace Me has won four of nine starts earning over \$200,000 in prizemoney.

She is the third stakes-winner for Gr.1 VRC Newmarket Handicap winner Shamexpress, who was also trained by Danny O'Brien and now stands at Windsor Park Stud in New Zealand.

-Breednet

<i>Race</i>	MVRC Typhoon Tracy S. Gr.3 1200m
<i>Winner</i>	Embrace Me (NZ) 2015
<i>Owners</i>	Emmanuel Bloodstock Pty Ltd
<i>Trainer</i>	Danny O'Brien (Flemington)
<i>Breeding</i>	by Shamexpress out of Party Royal by King's Chapel (AUS)
<i>Breeder</i>	Windsor Park Stud Ltd



Embrace Me burst to the lead with a devastating run (Grant Courtney)





DERBY WINNER **BACK IN BUSINESS**

Last season's New Zealand Derby winner **Vin De Dance (NZ)** (Roc de Cambes) capped off a tremendous day for the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman stable when he triumphed in a desperate three-way finish to the Listed Marks Ewen & Associates Kaimai Stakes (2000m) at Matamata.

The Roc de Cambes four-year-old was having just his second start in his latest campaign after being put aside following an unplaced run in the Listed Cranbourne Cup (2025m) back in October.

Overnight rain that saw the Matamata track rated a Slow7 after the first race played in favour of Vin De Dance, who started a well-backed second favourite behind impressive last-start Te Rapa winner, Rondinella (NZ) (Ocean Park).

Forced to sit three-wide in mid-field for stand-in rider Matt Cameron, Vin De Dance improved into contention approaching the home turn before launching his claim at the 250m mark.

Rondinella, who had tracked Vin De Dance into the race, and former Hong Kong galloper Giovanni Canaletto (Galileo) joined issue at the same time with the trio staging a titanic struggle that was settled in favour of Vin De Dance by a nose from Rondinella with a head back to Giovanni Canaletto in third.

The victory made it back-to-back stakes wins for the Baker & Forsman team after Aretha had taken out the Gr.2 J Swap Contractors Ltd Matamata Breeders' Stakes (1200m) one race earlier.

"He was caught out wide in bit of a muddling run race, that didn't pan out



Vin De Dance (middle) prevails in an exciting finish at Matamata (Trish Dunell)

like a lot of people thought," Forsman said.

"It was a bit of a slog in the run home as the track looked quite testing which might have tripped up the second horse (Rondinella), who was game."

Forsman was pleased with how his charge had come back from his summer spell as the stable eyes a major target in Sydney in the coming months.

"He has come back better than we could have imagined and he has improved out of sight since then," he said.

We were really happy with his work leading into this.

"We will wait and see now but there are probably options in Sydney that we have to consider, leading into something like the Sydney Cup.

"We just didn't have time to get him ready for an Auckland Cup."

The Gr.1 Sydney Cup (3200m) will be

raced at Royal Randwick on April 13.

The victory would not have improved the mood of Vin De Dance's regular rider Jason Waddell who had to forego the mount after being injured when falling from two-year-old filly Appellant as she pulled up following the running of the Matamata Breeders' Stakes earlier in the day.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Matamata RC Kaimai S. L 2000m
Winner	Vin de Dance (NZ) 2014
Owners	OTI Racing (Mgr: T Henderson), L Muollo & Kilted Taniwha Syndicate
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Roc de Cambes out of Explosive Dancer by San Luis (AUS)
Breeder	Explosive Breeding Ltd
Sales	2016 Ready to Run Sale; V: Ohukia Lodge Ltd, P: Phill Cataldo Bloodstock; \$70,000





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PERFECT TREBLE SEND-OFF FOR THOMPSON

Young Ben Thompson was all smiles after he booted home his first riding treble in Singapore on Friday night.

One of the new alliances he has forged during early morning rides has now paid handsome dividends on raceday. His first two winners on Friday night were both for New Zealand trainer Donna Logan – **Corsa D'Oro** (Medaglia D'oro) and **Dark Necessities (NZ)** (Pins).

"It's my first treble here and it's also a bit special that two of them came for Donna. I didn't know her or (assistant-trainer) Graeme Forbes when I came here, but I've been riding trackwork a fair bit for them lately," said Thompson.

"It's also very satisfying as I did ride both horses in trackwork. It's great to be associated with them behind the scenes and see them win.

"Dark Necessities is quite a fierce racer, but he was fast out in front and I was happy with the way he was travelling."

Based on his sparkling pre-debut trial form at Kranji, the Pins four-year-old was widely expected to put up a bold show when well-supported at his first outing in an Open Maiden race over 1000m on January 6, but he floundered after showing the way.

He did have excuses, though, as he returned with a cut on his off hind leg. Logan backed him off, and a much more settled Dark Necessities was able to turn his fortunes around in Friday's \$20,000 Cancham Cup, another Open Maiden race over 1000m.

"We took the blinkers off and he was a lot more settled tonight," said Logan.

"He's a bit like The Big Easy (NZ) (Super Easy). You have to let him run along on his own, and you really have to be like a mummy to her children with these horses.

"I'd also like to thank Graeme and my staff for the incredible job they have done while I was back home in New Zealand. (Husband) Peter (Woods) and I lost our passports, and we had to reapply for new ones to be able to come back, but it's all good now."

A four-year-old by Medaglia d'Oro, Corsa D'Oro seemed to be plodding away for at best a third place at the 300m of the \$20,000 Scotiabank Cup, a 1400m race for Maidens.

But a very tenacious Thompson did not give up on Corsa D'Oro, who eventually rallied with a late lunge to nab Heart Of Courage (Fastnet Rock) right on the line. -STC



Race	Singapore TC Cancham Cup 1000m
Winner	Dark Necessities (NZ) 2014
Owners	Dark Necessities Stables
Trainer	Donna Logan (Kranji)
Breeding	by Pins (AUS) out of Sparkling by O'Reilly
Breeder	Waikato Stud Ltd

Race	Singapore TC Scotiabank Cup 1400m
Winner	Corsa D'Oro (NZ) 2014
Owners	PCO Racing No2 Stable
Trainer	Donna Logan (Kranji)
Breeding	by Medaglia D'Oro (USA) out of Wokpool (AUS) by Hussonet (USA)
Breeder	Mr G Harvey

Dark Necessities fends off the fast-closing Colour Paint to take out Race 4 (Singapore Turf Club)





STAR EMPEROR THE ONE THEY DIDN'T EXPECT WOULD REIGN

Gatecrasher **Star Emperor (NZ)** (Red Giant) came with a late flourish to cause a massive boil-over in the \$70,000 Canada Cup 2019, a Class 3 Division 2 race over 1200m on Friday night.

With the race launched at 100 miles an hour, a backmarker was typically the best bet to finish on top at the right end of the race, but not many expected Leticia Dragon's \$104 longshot to be the one to knock the favourites out of their sails, even if the former New Zealand one-time winner did win one race (over 1200m in a Class 4 Non Premier race) in three starts at Kranji.

Dwelling at the back from the start, the Red Giant five-year-old probably drew just a passing glance from the race-caller when he went through the field. Even if he was inching forward at the 400m, he still looked a 1000-1 chance to outgun the likes of Jomo (All Too Hard) or Julius Caesar (I Am Invincible) who were then giving him at least a five-length start.

In one fell swoop, the fast-closing Star Emperor settled the stalemate for a soft one-length win from Julius Caesar with Safeer (NZ) (Savabeel) in third place another head away, while Jomo was beaten a neck out of a podium finish. The winning time was 1min 10.39secs for the 1200m on the Long Course.

Dragon said the win might stun most, but deep down, she knew Star Emperor was no slouch, but was just worried he had not been affected by a

recent post-race mishap.

"This horse actually showed a lot of potential last year, but unfortunately he injured himself after his last start," she said.

"He was in the holding area, but suddenly, he flipped and crashed through the rails. He got concussed on the head and had some neck abrasions.

"But luckily, he's come through that well, and he's bounced back with a nice win tonight."

John, who was riding Star Emperor for the first time in a race, actually knows the chestnut gelding well for having worked with him last year when he was Dragon's senior track rider, before his jockey's licence was reinstated this season.

"The pace was too fast and I know Jomo would set a strong pace," said the former Singapore champion apprentice jockey.

"He tried to lay in in the straight. I had to switch him off and he switched on again, and thankfully at the right time to win the race.

"The 1400m will be much better for him. Tonight, he was fresh-up and that's why he won over 1200m; to me, he needs longer."

Known as Stealth Giant in New Zealand, Star Emperor has now established a promising record of two wins in only four starts for prizemoney around the \$60,000 mark for the Five Two Racing Stable.

-STC

Race	Singapore TC Canada Cup 1200m
Winner	Stealth Giant - Star Emperor (Sing.) (NZ) 2013
Owners	Five Two Racing Stable
Trainer	Leticia Dragon (Kranji)
Breeding	by Red Giant (USA) out of Lotta Luv by Dubawi (Ire)
Breeder	C J & Mrs K B Webber



Star Emperor springs a major upset in the Canada Cup 2019 (Singapore Turf Club)





STAY THE COURSE **PAYS OFF SECOND-UP**

Though still very raw and unpolished, **Stay The Course (NZ)** (Epaulette) showed he was certainly not without an engine when he came thundering home for his first win in the \$75,000 Manulife Cup, a Restricted Maiden race over 1400m on Friday night.

Prepared by trainer Shane Baertschiger, the Epaulette three-year-old has been giving his handlers a torrid time at the barriers, but did give a peek of what he could do if in the right frame of mind at his first two runs, especially the last one in a Restricted Maiden race over 1400m on January 20 when he stormed home for second place for Vlad Duric.

Ridden this time by Baertschiger's stable jockey John Powell, Stay The Course, however, looked like he was left with too much to do when ahead of only two runners at the 600m.

Race	Singapore TC Manulife Cup 1400m
Winner	Stay The Course (NZ) 2015
Owners	Tivic Stable
Trainer	Shane Baertschiger (Kranji)
Breeding	by Epaulette (AUS) out of Z'Honor by Zabeel
Breeder	T R & Mrs V M Pascoe
Sales	2016 National Weanling; Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Esker Lodge, P: Wattle Grove T/breds; \$95,000

Baertschiger said he had been tinkering with Stay The Course's work, but thought he might have erred in his formula when he saw the Tivic Stable-owned gelding not making much headway while the horses in front had already packed up for the final dash to the line.

"I don't usually gallop him a lot, but his weight has been going up and I decided to gallop him a bit more," said the Australian handler.

"But when I saw JP give him one around the tail at the 600m, and he was not really improving, I thought I'd done the wrong thing!

"He's been a real handful at the barriers. We had to get hold of his ears there just to load him in.

"He's still a big baby. He doesn't know what he's doing yet.

"He's out of a Zabeel mare (Z'Honor), he'll get 2000m. Next prep, he could be my Derby horse.

"He probably needs one or two more runs. He'll become a bigger and better horse next year."

Powell, who was at only his second 2019 win after Mikki Joy scored on February 8 having been sidelined through suspension, was glad he was starting to pick up on the pace.

"Things have been slow this year, but it's good to ride a second winner tonight," said the veteran Australian jockey.

"This horse is a big bugger and is very green, but I was confident he would run well tonight.

"He's very loose underneath and he can shift ground, but he quickened beautifully in the end."

-STC



Stay The Course claims his first win on Friday night (Singapore Turf Club)

