

Sunday 17 June 2018

## HIFLYER ALL CLASS IN FRESH-UP VICTORY



*Hiflyer and Johnathan Parkes at Ruakaka (Trish Dunell)*

Class galloper **Hiflyer (NZ)** (Tavistock) lived up to the pre-race hype when he lumped 61.5kgs to victory at Ruakaka in the day's open sprint, the Clansman Hotel Bream Bay Bowl (1200m).

The multiple Group Three winner, who races in the colours of breeder and part-owners Sir Patrick and Lady Justine Hogan, was having his first run since finishing third in the Gr.1 Thorndon Mile (1600m) at Trentham back in January.

Proven in stakes company the five-year-old Tavistock gelding was expected to perform with distinction although

trainer Peter Lock admitted he would have been happy enough to see him finish amongst the placegetters as long as he was hitting the line strongly.

"I'm never short of a word but I don't know what to say," said an emotional Lock after the race.

"He's a dream come true.

"He was really only half ready and to give those quality horses that much weight, I'm just lost for words.

"I would have been quite happy if he ran third or fourth as

*Continued on page 3*



# 2018 STALLION ROSTER



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# HIFLYER ALL CLASS IN FRESH-UP VICTORY

(Continued from page 1)

long as he was hitting the line. Halfway down you could see him trying to get off the fence and looking for ground.

"There's not many horses around like this, he's just unbelievable."

Handled expertly by regular pilot Johnathan Parkes, Hiflyer enjoyed a cosy run in midfield throughout the contest before angling into the clear halfway down the straight. Despite being tight for room between eventual placegetters Fire Jet (NZ) (Tavistock) and Rikki Tikki Tavi (NZ) (Tavistock), Hiflyer proved too strong in the closing stages to run out a comfortable victor by just over a neck at the winning post in a slick 1.09.44 on the Dead5 surface.

"I was stoked with the way he went," said a relieved Parkes who at one stage thought he might miss the ride due to some transport issues.

"It's been a very good effort to carry 61.5kgs fresh up over a trip that is probably a little short for him.

"The pace was fairly good so it was just a matter of getting into the gap. He always felt he could do that and control the finish which is what he did."

Lock admitted he was stumped at present in where to aim the horse in the short-term due to his penchant for dry tracks.

"The worse thing about it is that we are coming into the winter, so we may have done things around the wrong way," he said.

"If we can get him to Sydney and have a little look around and then bring him home for a nice freshen up before the first day at the Hastings Spring carnival then you might just see how good he is."

The win took Hiflyer's race record to nine wins and 8 placings from just 21 starts with just under \$280,000 in career earnings.

– NZ Racing Desk

<i>Race</i>	<b>Clansman Motel Bream Bay Bowl 1200m</b>
<i>Winner</i>	<b>Hiflyer (NZ) 2012</b>
<i>Owners</i>	<b>Lady Justine &amp; Sir Patrick Hogan &amp; Go Henry Racing Syndicate</b>
<i>Trainer</i>	<b>Peter Lock (Te Aroha)</b>
<i>Breeding</i>	<b>by Tavistock out of Lady Firebird by Stravinsky (USA)</b>
<i>Breeder</i>	<b>Sir Patrick and Lady Hogan</b>



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# CHRIS WALLER RACKS UP TRAINING MILESTONE

Sydney's leading trainer Chris Waller has amassed 300 winners in a season for the first time as the milestones continue to mount for the Australian Racing Hall Of Fame inductee.

Success through In Times Of War (Street Cry) on the Gold Coast enabled ex-pat kiwi Waller to post a triple century nationwide then **Chatelard (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) produced his 168th Sydney metropolitan winner at Rosehill to leave Waller two victories short of eclipsing the mark he set in 2015-16.

"When I started training, I was hoping to get a thousand winners. I

thought if I did that I'd be remembered," he said on Saturday.

"I've been very fortunate. We've taken some good opportunities and I'm grateful for the support I get from owners and staff. They're just as proud as I am."

Chatelard (\$6.50) paired up with in-form jockey Tye Angland at Rosehill to claim the Winter Racing Handicap (1800m) by a short neck.

Waller was pleased to see Chatelard nail the fourth win of his career second-up after the gelding's previous campaign was underwhelming.

"I guess last preparation he was a little bit disappointing because he did show us quite a bit prior to that," he said.

"It's good to see him come back so well and I think he'll improve again up over 2000 metres."

-AAP

<b>Race</b>	Winter Racing Handicap 1800m
<b>Winner</b>	Chatelard (NZ) 2013
<b>Owners</b>	Raffles Thoroughbred Racing (Mgr: K T Yap), Ms K M Wood, R B T Aurisch, D M McLeish, Mrs A M Howlett, B J Johnston, Mrs T G Johnston, M Townsend, R G Castle, A P Sharp & C A Willmot Trainer: Chris Waller (Rosehill)
<b>Trainer</b>	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
<b>Breeding</b>	by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out of Lutry (AUS) by Johannesburg (USA)
<b>Breeder</b>	P A & Mrs P A Payne
<b>Sales</b>	2015 National Yearling Sales – Select Sale; V: Mapperley Stud, P: Star Thoroughbreds; \$90,000



Chatelard was Waller's 168th Sydney metropolitan winner of the season (Bradley Photographers)





# MANOLO BLAHNIQ ON TRACK FOR QUEENSLAND

**M**anolo Blahniq (NZ) (Jimmy Choux) will join the tail end of the Queensland winter carnival after producing a dogged victory at Rosehill.

The Mornington-based gelding justified trainer Tony Noonan's decision to go north early in this preparation by claiming the Sydney's West App Handicap (1300m) second-up.

Noonan says the Listed Glasshouse Quality (1400m) on the Sunshine Coast in a fortnight is on the agenda after Manolo Blahniq edged Pianissimo (Northern Meteor) by a long neck on Saturday.

Manolo Blahniq launched this campaign with a third over 1100m at Rosehill on May 19

and then benefited from a freshen-up.

"The plan was to give him a very light preparation. He'll improve on that again," Noonan said.

"It was a lovely ride by Blake (Shinn). It's been a month between runs so he had to nurse him a little bit."

Noonan said Manolo Blahniq's confidence and fitness was continuing to build since he transferred from New Zealand in 2016.

"In 12 months time, I'll be disappointed if he's not a stakes horse," he said.

Shinn was pleased with Manolo Blahniq's performance.

"It's taken a lot of time but he's a pleasure to ride now," he said.

"He wants to work with you instead of against you and he's got a very nice turn of foot.



Manolo Blahniq is Queensland bound off the back of his Sydney win on Saturday (Bradley Photographers)

"That win will give him confidence and he can only improve fitness-wise."

-AAP

<b>Race</b>	<b>Sydney's West App Handicap 1300m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Manolo Blahniq (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Tony Noonan Racing, Boeara Holdings (Mgr: Mrs D Dunphy), D D Bet (Mgr: B Houston), P Duggan, Nearco Stud (Mgr: G Tomlinson), S Reilly, Bobbin Along, D Canny, Mrs A Canny, C Daly, Mrs P Daly, S P Grant, C McHugh, Mrs C McHugh, J Racovalis, Mrs V Racovalis, Miss E Curtain &amp; Mrs E K Grant</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Tony Noonan (Mornington)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Jimmy Choux out of Floramour (AUS) by More Than Ready (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Nearco Stud Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2015 National Yearling Sales – Select Sale; V: Curraghmore, P: Mr A W Noonan; \$115,000</b>





# PRINCETON CONTINUES SANDHU'S WINNING WAYS

Julius Sandhu could not have wished for a better start to his training career.

Holding his licence for about eight months and with four horses in work, Sandhu has produced three winners from just 16 starters, his latest coming with **Princeton Spirit (NZ)** (Nadeem) in Saturday's Silver Thomas Hanley Plate (1200m) at Moonee Valley.

Princeton Spirit is getting together a handy record, winning five of his seven starts, the first three for fellow Cranbourne trainer Mick Kent.

Sandhu part-owns the gelding and worked as a foreman for Kent before taking out his licence.

"We work hard and we've got some good horses," Sandhu said.

"I'm really fortunate to have worked

with Mick and I learnt so much from him."

"He's always there for me to pick his brain with a few bits and pieces and I'm fortunate to have a great crew around me."

Ridden by Beau Mertens, Princeton Spirit scored a three-quarter-length win from Lord Barrington (NZ) (Darci Brahma).

Sandhu said he was confident Princeton Spirit could overturn a last-start fourth at Moonee Valley.

"We were a bit disappointed last time as he got to the wrong part of the track," Sandhu said.

"But he still ran on and I was quietly confident if he got the right run he'd be hard to beat and he did work super

on Tuesday."

Both Princeton Spirit and Lord Barrington were sold through the New Zealand Bloodstock auction ring from the draft of Little Avondale Stud. The former was purchased as a weanling by agent Phil Cataldo for \$10,000, while Lord Barrington was selected by Paul Moroney for \$140,000 as a yearling.

-AAP

<b>Race</b>	<b>Silver Thomas Hanley Plate 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Princeton Spirit (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>J Sandhu, Ms V Naidoo, D Richards, Dr B G Groves, Mrs S L Beazley, R Mead, Miss N P Ewing, C E Martin &amp; B J Mead</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Julius Sandhu (Cranbourne)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Nadeem (AUS) out of Ivy Hall by Towkay (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Little Avondale Trust</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2014 National Weanling, Broodmare &amp; Mixed Bloodstock Sale, V: Little Avondale Stud; P: Phill Cataldo Bloodstock; \$10,000</b>



Princeton Spirit held off the challenge from fellow Little Avondale Stud graduate Lord Barrington to win at Moonee Valley (Bruno Cannatelli)



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# GAME PERCY LIVES UP TO HIS NAME AT AWAPUNI



*Game Percy (outer) clears the last with a spectacular leap as he battles Joking for superiority at Awapuni (Race Images)*

**G**ame by name and game by nature was the story around the LJ Hooker Manawatu Steeplechase (4200m) that was taken out by the Kevin Myers trained **Game Percy (NZ)** (Sir Percy).

The Sir Percy six-year-old was having just his second run over the bigger steeplechase fences, mixing races on the flat and over hurdles in his most recent runs. A strong performance for fifth last weekend in the rescheduled KS Browne Hurdle

(3200m) at Trentham indicated he was coming into some worthwhile form and that proved the case as he gave a polished display to make his first steeplechase win a memorable one.

Expertly handled by leading rider Shaun Fannin, Game Percy sat back throughout the early stages of the contest as Te Awamutu visitor Thenamesbond (NZ) (China Cat) set a solid tempo out in front. Fannin began to ease his way in contention down the back straight the last time before

joining issue with another northern visitor in Joking (NZ) (Lucky Unicorn) around the home bend.

Game Percy leapt the last fence like a toff and out-toughed a game Joking to score by a half neck at the line with another Myers trained runner in I've Got This (NZ) (Casino Prince) a further six lengths away in third.

"He probably put the writing on the wall at Trentham the other day when he made up good ground to finish just behind them," said Fannin.

*Continued on page 9*







# GAME PERCY LIVES UP TO HIS NAME AT AWAPUNI

*(Continued from page 8)*

“This has been a top effort for a maiden chaser but he is typical of Kevin’s horses in that he has been jumping for a couple of years, so he is pretty proficient over both the hurdles and the bigger fences.

“He jumped well the whole way and responded nicely when I asked him to come into it down the back the last time.

“He hit the last well and was too strong in the run home which is the sign of a pretty good horse.”

While to all intents and purposes it was a well-judged ride by Fannin, he did admit he had copped a decent earful from Myers over his ride on Kiddo in the Awapuni Hurdles earlier in the day.

“I went too early on Kiddo and got him beaten when he may have been able to hold on if I had bided my time a little more,” he said.

“Kevin tore strips off me afterwards so I hope I have made it up to him with this win.”

It was the third career victory for Game Percy who carries the colours of his owners Di and Dr John Bowbyes who also race accomplished performer Megablast (NZ) (Shinko King) who took out the Gr.2 Easter Handicap (1600m) earlier in the year before finishing third in the Gr.2 PJ O’Shea Stakes (2200m) at the Sunshine Coast at his most recent run.

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>L J Hooker Manawatu Steeplechase 4200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Game Percy (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mrs D M &amp; Dr J A Bowbyes</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Kevin Myers (Wanganui)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Sir Percy (GB) out of Game Call by Montjeu (IRE)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Judge Clapham &amp; Rich Hill Thoroughbreds Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2013 National Yearling Sale – Festival Sale, V: Rich Hill Stud; P: Dr J A &amp; Mrs DM Bowbyes; \$26,000</b>

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# UNBELIEVABLE EFFORT NAILS OPENING EVENT AT AWAPUNI

If you didn't see it, you wouldn't believe it.

Jockey Aaron Kuru and maiden steeplechaser **Des De Jeu (NZ)** (Mettre En Jeu) were the talk of the track at Awapuni on Saturday after a winning effort that defied the laws of gravity.

Although warmly supported as the second favourite in the 3200m opening steeplechase event, the five-year-old gelding appeared to lose all chance when he crashed heavily after clearing the first fence on the journey.

In a remarkable display of horsemanship, Kuru slid alongside the horse before leaping back into the saddle as Des De Jeu scrambled back to his feet. With barely a pause to regain his irons, while managing to exchange a comment with the nearby clerk of the course, Kuru had his mount back in the race and charging after the leaders.

Despite the initial mishap, Des De Jeu jumped stylishly from then on to race into contention with 600m to run. Showing no signs of fatigue, he hunted down the heavily backed Gagarin (NZ) (Pentire) over the last fence to race clear and score a stunning victory.

Trainer Mark Oulaghan admitted he had written off his charge's chances after the first fence mishap.

"We thought he wasn't a bad sort of an animal but after the first fence I wasn't giving him too much of a chance," he said.

"I was amazed he (Kuru) got back on as I thought he was gone.



An exuberant Aaron Kuru at the winning post aboard Des De Jeu (Race Images)

"He's a big, scopey horse who jumps well so we think he has a big future as a chaser."

Although he had shown plenty of emotion when crossing the line in front, Kuru was his normal understated self when interviewed after the race.

"It was his first start over the fences and he probably landed a bit steep and just went down," he said.

"I don't really know and can't explain it as it just sort of happened.

"I got back on and he drew himself back into the race. He's got plenty of ability.

"After that first he jumped pretty well although there's still plenty of improvement in him, so it's exciting."

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>ITM Frame and Truss Steeplechase 3200</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Des De Jeu (NZ) 2012</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>H N Auret, L G Haydock, J H Meyer, Mrs D J &amp; E H Symes</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Mark Oulaghan (Awapuni)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Mettre En Jeu out of Desiderata by Four Seasons (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Letham Stud Ltd</b>

Footage of Aaron Kuru's supreme horsemanship aboard Des de Jeu.



CLICK TO PLAY





Sunday 17 June 2018

# JON WICK ALL ACTION AT RUAKAKA

Leading apprentice Sam Weatherley made the best possible start to his last day of riding in New Zealand for the time being when he guided **Jon Wick (NZ)** (Thewayouare) to an all-the-way win over 1200m in the opening event at Ruakaka.

Weatherley, who is about to embark on a three-month stint with leading trainer Chris Waller in Sydney, was having his first raceday ride aboard the Thewayouare two-year-old gelding although he had guided him to a comprehensive trial win at Cambridge back in May.

Bounced straight to the front from an inside barrier, Jon Wick travelled comfortably within himself despite being niggled at by the well-supported Rocket Fuel (Smart Missile). The pair skipped clear of their rivals around the home turn with Weatherley driving his mount to a clear advantage which he maintained in a strong gallop to the line.

Trainer Shaune Ritchie cut a relieved figure after the race as his charge finally delivered on the promise he had shown on the training track.

“That’s the horse that presents himself in trackwork,” he said.

“I still maintain he might be a bit of a sook as when he gets covered up he doesn’t like it much.

“Free-rolling in front, he’s shown what he’s got.”

Ritchie was delighted by the initiative shown by Weatherley once the horse had broken well from the barriers and with the way his charge handled the improved track conditions on offer on the sand-based Ruakaka surface.

“When Rocket Fuel had a crack at him I thought he might take a sit,” he said.

“Sam’s done the right thing as the horse is certainly braver when he’s on the rail.

“I don’t think he’s a duffer in the wet but now that he’s performed on

top of the ground I think it would be foolish to go back.”

Jon Wick is out of the talented racemare Casabella Lane (NZ) (Volsraad) who numbered the Gr.2 Japan NZ Trophy (1600m) amongst her six career victories.

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>Trigg Construction 2yo 1200</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Jon Wick (NZ) 2015</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>KRD Racing Pty Ltd</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Shaune Ritchie (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Thewayouare (USA) out of Casabella Lane by Volsraad (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs S J O’Dwyer</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2017 National Yearling Sale – Festival Sale; V: Fuller Farm, P: KRD Racing; \$30,000</b>



*Jon Wick and Sam Weatherley in complete control at Ruakaka (Trish Dunell)*





# IFFITEL TWO FROM TWO AT HURDLES CAPER

After creating a huge impression with her debut hurdle win at Te Rapa earlier in the month, Matamata mare **Iffitel (NZ)** (Iffraaj) made it two wins from two starts over the jumps when she took out the Manawatu ITM Awapuni Hurdle (2900m).

Jockey Aaron Kuru produced a masterful ride as he bided his time in the trail on the inexperienced mare as pacemakers Thatz David (NZ) (Stark South) and Yipson (NZ) (Gold Centre)

<b>Race</b>	<b>Manawatu ITM Awapuni Hurdle 2900m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Iffitel (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mrs D J &amp; K E Hopson &amp; R G J Macdonald</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Glynn Brick (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Iffraaj (GB) out of Pastel by Grosvenor</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>J W Campin</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2013 National Yearling Sales – Select Sale; V: J. W. Campin, P: Mr KE Hopson; \$22,000</b>

set a mixed tempo out in front. Kuru didn't panic when the Kevin Myers trained Kiddo (NZ) (Istidaad) looped the field to strike the lead at the 600m mark, hugging the rails to save ground and keep the six-year-old within striking distance.

Kuru made his move on the point of the home turn as he drove Iffitel to the front with race favourite Kipkeino (NZ) (Sunray) in hot pursuit. Iffitel cleared the last fence in fine style to maintain a two-length margin to the line from Kipkeino with Kiddo battling away well to claim third.

Trainer Glynn Brick was quick to praise Kuru as he waited for his charge to return to the winner's enclosure.

"Fantastic wasn't it, that was a great sight," he said.

"They call Chris Johnson the magic man but he might be getting replaced."

Brick has his eyes on several of the feature hurdle events left during the winter now his mare has proven herself in top



company.

"The fortunate thing now is, that being a mare, she will go up in the ratings but will get the two kilograms off so she won't be affected weight wise," he said.

"We can pick where we go now.

"First things first we will get her home and give her a few quiet days before we see where we are on Monday or Tuesday."

The win took Iffitel's career record to six wins from 41 starts with all of her victories coming on rain affected tracks which makes her an attractive proposition during the winter months to come.

– NZ Racing Desk

*Iffitel clears out to win the Manawatu ITM Awapuni Hurdle (Race Images)*

