

Sunday 3 March 2019

MARSH RUNNER UPSETS IN NEW ZEALAND DERBY



Crown Prosecutor (inner) causes a major upset with his victory in the Gr.1 Vodafone New Zealand Derby at Ellerslie (Trish Dunell)

Cambridge trainer Stephen Marsh picked up his maiden Gr.1 New Zealand Derby (2400m) title at Ellerslie on Saturday but not with the horse that many felt would provide that honour.

Marsh saddled up two runners

in the Vodafone sponsored contest with punters favouring Gr.2 Avondale Guineas (2100m) placegetter Vernanne (NZ) (O'Reilly) as his main winning chance. That overlooked the credentials of stablemate **Crown Prosecutor** (Medaglia D'Oro) who

had disappointed in his previous two runs since winning the Gr.3 Wellington Stakes (1600m) back in November.

In a muddling run affair that saw several of the fancied contenders, including favourite Surely Sacred (NZ)

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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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(Continued from page 1)

(Rock 'N' Pop), settle well off the pace, Crown Prosecutor and rider Craig Grylls took advantage of a perfect run in the trail throughout to spring a major upset.

Grylls guided the Medaglia D'Oro gelding into the clear at the 300m mark and dashed to the front to join Te Akau Racing representative, In A Twinkling (Fastnet Rock). The pair set down to a fierce battle over the closing stages that went in favour of Crown Prosecutor who closed at a princely \$105 on the tote.

Grylls was struggling to take it all in as he made his way back to the Ellerslie birdcage.

"Emotions are pretty high," he said.

"He had won a stakes race before, but his form wasn't the best coming in.

"He's been a little off the boil, but Stephen and his team have done a great job and I couldn't believe it.

"The plan was to go forward but he was green down the straight the first time as he tried to duck out a couple of times.

"He was good when he got a bit of cover and they didn't go overly hard.

"Turning in he travelled up underneath me then he just kept grinding away and fought it out to the line."

Marsh, who emulated his father Bruce who took out the 2000 edition of the event with Hail (NZ) (Stark

South), was trying hard to keep his emotions in check as he accepted congratulations after the race.

"It just feels outstanding," he said.

"I know he was one of the roughies of the race and we know how hard it is to even have a horse in the Derby.

"I don't usually get given colts to train and we have, so this is the race you want to win as it's the best race on the calendar.

"I'm just rapt, I'm blown away."

Despite the outside odds for his charge, Marsh did have an inkling he could prove competitive in an even line-up.

"We had him hard fit ready and I said to Craig to go forward as he can out-tough them," Marsh said.

"Nothing had gone right for us last start and he was a stakes winner.

"He (Grylls) rode him perfectly as they went hard and he sat in behind them, so it was a great win."

Runner-up In A Twinkling was brave in defeat with international rider Glen Boss thinking he may have had the race won half-way down the home straight.

"He was a bit slow out and there was a lot of action going into that first turn," Boss said.

"I was three-wide with cover for most of the race and I started to edge forward at the half-mile as he's that type of horse.

"I felt like I had the winner beat the whole length of the straight, but he kept fighting back and pulling out a little more, so full credit to him."

Awapuni raider Platinum Invador (NZ) (Redwood) fought nicely for third with race favourite Surely Sacred also making up good ground for fifth after being held up when the field quickened at the 800m.

Crown Prosecutor is raced by Huntingdon Lodge Ltd.'s Harvey and Linda Green and long-time Marsh stable client, Lib Petagna and has now won two of his seven starts for \$644,625 in stakes earnings.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	ARC New Zealand Derby Gr.1 2400m
Winner	Crown Prosecutor (NZ) 2015
Owners	Huntingdale Lodge 2012 Ltd (Mgr: Harvey Green) & JML Bloodstock Ltd (Mgr: L Petagna)
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Medaglia D'Oro (USA) out of Riptide (AUS) by Exceed and Excel (AUS)
Breeder	Hesket Bloodstock

To watch the race replay, [click here](#)





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PRINCESS KERERU GETS HER ELLERSLIE REWARD

Matamata raider **Princess Kereru (NZ)** (Pins) gained a well-deserved reward when she snatched victory in a thrilling finish to the Gr.3 Waikato Stud Plate (1200m) at Ellerslie on Saturday.

The Ken & Bev Kelso and Mark Donoghue-trained mare had looked every inch the winner of the Gr.1 Sistema Railway (1200m) at Ellerslie on January 1 before succumbing to the late dive of Santa Monica (NZ) (Per Incanto) that day.

The pair tangled again in the Gr.3 Concorde Handicap (1200m) at the same venue later that month with Santa Monica again finishing ahead of her rival when they placed fifth and seventh respectively.

On Saturday the rivalry was renewed once again in dramatic fashion with Princess Kereru coming out on top as she held out the late charge of outsider Ronchi (NZ) (Stravinsky) by a nose with Santa Monica a head back in third as the trio fought it out over the final 150m.

Winning jockey Cameron Lammas wasn't sure his charge had held on as the challengers came at him but was delighted when informed of the final result.

"She's as tough as they come and a little warhorse," he said.

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Princess Kereru (inner) puts her head in front where it matters as she scores in a blanket finish at Ellerslie (Trish Dunell)





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PRINCESS KERERU GETS HER ELLERSLIE REWARD

(Continued from page 4)

“She’s pretty quiet really and a lovely ride who gives everything in her races.

“Normally she begins fair but today she jumped good and I got three-back on the fence.

“I went for a tight gap but she’s tough and puts her ears back and gives you everything.”

Co-trainer Ken Kelso was also quick to pay tribute to the spirit of the five-year-old who has now won six of her 23 career starts.

“She’s just a little trooper,” he said.

“Her form’s been great all year and she really deserved that as she hasn’t had a lot of luck in the big races.

“It is so important to get that winning black-type to go with that Group One placing.

“She is just the most adorable little horse you’ve ever come across.”

Kelso was delighted with the ride by Lammas who has been aboard for three of her six wins.

“That’s the way to ride her as she has to be held up and come with that final late sprint,” he said.

“I was a bit worried there as I thought Ronchi might have got us.

“We need to win a Group One now but that might be next year.”

Kelso will wait to see how Princess Kereru pulls up from her exertions before deciding on her next target although he is mindful of the mare’s place in the handicap after the victory as he doesn’t want to burden her with excessive weight in races run under handicap conditions.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	ARC Waikato Stud P. Gr.3 1200m
Winner	Princess Kereru (NZ) 2013
Owners	K R & R P Humphries & PR Partnership
Trainer	Ken & Bev Kelso & Mark Donoghue (Matamata)
Breeding	by Pins (AUS) out of Fleur d’Amour by Thorn Park (AUS)
Breeder	K R; M R; P R & R P Humphries

To watch the race replay, [click here](#)



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Sunday 3 March 2019

PINMEDOWN ENHANCES OAKS **BID WITH ELLERSLIE VICTORY**



Pinmedown dashes clear at Ellerslie to score handsomely in the Gr.3 McKee Family Sunline Vase (Trish Dunell)

A rails-hugging ride by Jake Bayliss paved the way for classy filly **Pinmedown (NZ)** (Pins) to add a second black-type victory at Ellerslie to her record when she scored in the Gr.3 McKee Family Sunline Vase (2100m).

The Mike Moroney and Pam Gerard-trained three-year-old had taken out the Gr.2 Eight Carat Classic (1600m) on a Heavy10 surface on Boxing Day, but relished the Good3 track on offer on Saturday afternoon.

Sent out as a \$5.50 favourite in an

evenly balanced contest, Pinmedown enjoyed a perfect run in mid-field throughout in a muddling run race. Asked to move into contention nearing the 600m mark Pinmedown soon found herself with a wall of horses in front of her as the challenges came out wider.

Bayliss spied a gap one-off the fence at the 300m mark and when the Pins filly saw clear air, she burst through the gap to dash to the front and defeat Clementina (NZ) (Savabeel) and Savy Yong Blonk (NZ) (Savabeel),

who both closed nicely out wider.

"It was going to be fifty-fifty where we ended up from the gate, but we found ourselves a little handier in mid-field," Bayliss said.

"From there it was just a matter of getting out and giving her a bit of room.

"I thought she was a momentum filly, but she gave a good turn of foot up the straight.

"She ran right through the line, so she is definitely on an Oaks path."

Continued on page 7





PINMEDOWN ENHANCES OAKS **BID WITH ELLERSLIE VICTORY**

(Continued from page 6)

Co-trainer Pam Gerard confirmed that the Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks (2400m) at Trentham in a fortnight was a target for her charge although she did admit she would have to keep her fingers crossed that the accident-prone filly could get there in one piece.

"I think that she's just a very very good horse," she said.

"I've thought that all along although she's a little accident-prone and doesn't help herself.

"She gets really wound up raceday and when you look at her in the birdcage she's sweating up and you wouldn't have a bar of her.

"She would be one of the toughest horses I've ever come across, she just throws curveballs at you all the time."

Gerard is keen to see Pinmedown

tackle the 2400m of the Oaks journey as she believes she will relish the challenge of the feature event where she is listed as a \$6 third-favourite by TAB Bookmakers.

"She is tough and gives her all, all of the time," she said.

"On her breeding I don't think that (the 2400m distance) is a problem as that is why Mike and Paul bought her.

"It's what we have aimed at all along and to get two (stakes wins) along the way is a bonus."

Pinmedown is the daughter of Oregon mare Alleyway and hails from an extended family that includes two-time Hong Kong Horse of the Year, Ambitious Dragon. She was purchased by Paul Moroney for \$28,000 from the Ardsley Stud draft at the 2017 National Yearling sale. – NZ Racing Desk

Race	ARC Sunline Vase Gr.3 2100m
Winner	Pinmedown (NZ) 2015
Owners	Savvy Racing Blues Syndicate (Mgr: Keith McDonald), Lois & Mike Wilson, Noel Gurney, Richard Sims, Adrian Mathieson, Rob Alderson, Ken & Bev Cherry & Ballymore Stables NZ Ltd
Trainer	Michael Moroney & Pam Gerard (Matamata)
Breeding	by Pins (AUS) out of Alleyway by Oregon (USA)
Breeder	Ardsley Stud Ltd
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Select; V: Ardsley Stud Ltd, P: Paul Moroney Bloodstock; \$28,000

To watch the race replay, [click here](#)

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QIJI TAKES THE EXPRESS WAY HOME

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained **Qiji Express (NZ)** (Shamexpress) took the shortest way home when successful in the Listed Mufhasa Fasttrack Stakes (1300m) at Ellerslie on Saturday.

Given a perfect ride by Craig Grylls, the son of Shamexpress sat just behind the favourite and leader Queen Of The Air (I Am Invincible) and did not go around a horse as he followed the rail home.

The well-performed three-year-old was fresh-up and had been gelded since failing to run out the mile in the Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m) where he finished eighth.

He had previously split Group One winners Sword Of Osman (NZ) (Savabeel) and Madison County (NZ) (Pins) when second in the Gr.2 James And Annie Sarten Memorial Stakes (1400m).

"It was a really good effort," Grylls said.

"He will take natural improvement out of it and he is in the right stable, they do a great job.

"It worked out well. I got a really good run up the fence and he kept on really strong, He baulked around a little bit when he did hit the front, but he'd already put a break on them."

Despite starting at odds of \$13.70 trainer Murray Baker said

he thought the Chinese-owned galloper would run a strong race fresh-up and he comfortably held runner-up She's A Thief (NZ) (Showcasing), with Tiger Silk (All American) close up in third.

"He's been working well and we gave him a jump-out the other week at Cambridge and it was a very strong heat and he ran well," Baker said.

"He ran fourth out of four, but was close up and we thought he was ready to go.

"We thought he'd go pretty well fresh and he got a good barrier (gate 4) and Craig rode him a treat."

The Gr.2 Norwood Family Wellington Guineas (1400m) at Trentham on March 16 is the logical target for Qiji Express, who became his sire's fourth stakes winner from just 39 starters.

"He will certainly get 1400m, but it was a very good win today," Baker said.

Qiji Express is raced by Chinese connections, including Horse Feng Bloodstock's Hongwei Chen and Alex Teng and Tianjin-based businessman Fudong Niu.

The son of Windsor Park Stud stallion Shamexpress, Qiji Express is a graduate of the NZB Select Yearling Sale, where he was secured for \$27,500.

– NZ Racing Desk



Race	ARC Mufhasa S. L 1300m
Winner	Qiji Express (NZ) 2015
Owners	Horse Feng Bloodstock Ltd & F Niu
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Shamexpress out of Miss Krisdel by Spectatorial (AUS)
Breeder	Mrs D A Hurley-Smith & Ms G E Kenny
Sales	2017 National Yearlin Sale - Select; V: Lyndhurst Farm, P: Horse Feng Bloodstock/Y Niu & F Niu; \$27,500

To watch the race replay, [click here](#)

Qiji Express and Craig Grylls score in the Listed Mufhasa Fasttrack Stakes (1300m) at Ellerslie on Saturday (Trish Dunell)





Sunday 3 March 2019

EMILY MARGARET DOMINATES WINGATUI RIVALS

A trip north to contest the Gr.2 Norwood Family Wellington Guineas (1400m) at Trentham beckons for multiple stakes-winning filly **Emily Margaret (NZ)** (Pins) after a dominant on-speed victory at Wingatui on Saturday in the Listed NZB Insurance Stakes (1400m).

Ridden by Robert Hannam, the Central Districts rider took luck out of the equation, venturing straight to the front on Emily Margaret from barrier 14 and never looked like being beaten.

The Kevin and Pam Hughes-trained galloper scored by two-and-a-half lengths from Dreamtesta (NZ) (Testa Rossa), with northern visitor Naval Fleet (NZ) (Declaration of War) landing some black-type in finishing a long neck away in third.

"I was very, very pleased with her and Robbie did a great job," Hughes said

"We thought we could just grind them all into the ground and that is what she did.

"She was very, very fit and was just too good on the day."

Hughes said he was not sure what the strength of the Wellington Guineas field would be but he was keen to give his filly a chance at adding a Group Two to her record.

"She seems to have come through the race very well and we will have a look at the Wellington Guineas. The travel doesn't seem to worry her,"



Emily Margaret winning the Listed NZB Insurance Stakes (1400m) (Wild Range Photography)

Hughes said.

Emily Margaret has had an extensive three-year-old preparation, which started back in September with victory in the Listed Canterbury Belle Stakes (1200m), a leg of the NZB Southern Filly Of The Year Series.

Saturday's contest was the second leg of the series, meaning the daughter of Pins has the maximum points, with the next leg being the Listed NZB Airfreight Stakes (1600m) at Riccarton on April 6.

"I think 1400m is her pet distance," Hughes said.

"You might get away with a mile as a three-year-old. If she had someone

like Robbie riding, she could steal a mile race, so we might do that third leg, we'll just see what happens at Wellington."

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Otago RC New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance S. L 1400m
Winner	Emily Margaret (NZ) 2015
Owners	Mr & Mrs Rodger Finlay
Trainer	Kevin & Pam Hughes (Riccarton Park)
Breeding	by Pins (AUS) out of Seven Schillings by O'Reilly
Breeder	Archer Equine Investments Ltd
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Select; V: Trelawney Stud Ltd, P: RJ Finlay; \$55,000

