

Sunday 4 November 2018

SHILLELAGH LANDS ANOTHER G1 FLEMINGTON WIN



Shillelagh scores in the Gr.1 Empire Rose at Flemington (Bruno Cannatelli)

hillelagh (NZ) (Savabeel) has returned to Flemington to claim a second Group One race on the opening day of the Melbourne Cup four-day carnival.

The Chris Waller-trained mare won the Gr.1 Kennedy Mile (1600m) on the same program last year before capturing Saturday's Gr.1 Empire Rose Stakes (1600m) against fillies and mares.

Ridden by James McDonald, Shillelagh was backed from \$7.50 to \$6.50 before winning by 1-1/4 lengths.

Waller had Shillelagh aimed at last year's Empire Rose Stakes only to have the mare balloted from the 1600m race at acceptance time. "Last year she had to run against the boys and luckily we had her in both races," Waller said.

"She ran well at Caulfield, as she did last year, and the writing was on the wall she was going to run well and her racing style says she needs Flemington."

Continued on page 3



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CONTRIBUTER

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- Champion 3yo Horse of the Year
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SHILLELAGH LANDS ANOTHER G1 FLEMINGTON WIN

(Continued from page 1)

Like her famous stablemate Winx (Street Cry), Shillelagh is a seven-year-old mare and while not in the same class, Waller is proud of her achievements.

"She's pretty good winning two time-honoured Group One mile races here at Flemington and she was pretty good in an Epsom and her run in the Toorak was pretty good from a long way back," Waller said.

"We encouraged the owner not to send her to stud and breed from her but to continue racing for another six or 12 months and that's been justified."



Shillelagh was retained by breeders Christopher and Susanna Grace.

Shillelagh has been entered for the Gr.1 Railway Stakes (1600m) and the Gr.1 Kingston Town Stakes (1800m) at Ascot in Perth.

Waller is keen to try the mare at 2000m and may back her up in the Gr.2 Matriarch Stakes (2000m) next Saturday, but suggested the 1800m of the Kingston Town may suit.

McDonald didn't leave the fence on the mare gaining a run in the last 150m and sprinting clear for an easy win.

"It's great how it all worked out," McDonald said.

"She travelled so beautifully in the running line and was probably fifth-back the fence.

"I had to get a little bit of luck in the run and she got that.

"I was on the right horse, well trained, and peaked to perfection."

Surrey Farm will offer a half-brother to Shillelagh by Ocean Park at the up-coming New Zealand Bloodstock Ready To Run Sale of 2yos as lot 307.

Race	VRC Empire Rose Stakes Gr.1 1600m
Winner	Shillelagh (NZ) 2011
Owners	C R Grace & Mrs S Grace
Trainer	Chris Waller (Flemington)
Breeding	by Savabeel (AUS) out of Trocair (AUS) by Flying Spur (AUS)
Breeder	C R Grace

James McDonald celebrating his Group One win on Shillelagh as they return to scale (Bruno Cannatelli)



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FIVE TO MIDNIGHT TAKES OUT FEILDING GOLD CUP



Five To Midnight dominates his rivals at Awapuni (Trish Dunell)

typically heady ride from top Central Districts jockey Johnathan Parkes paved the way for the ultra-consistent **Five To Midnight (NZ)** (Domesday) to take out the Listed Ricoh Feilding Gold Cup (2100m) at Awapuni.

The Lisa Latta trained galloper carried 60kgs as the clear topweight for the race with Parkes mindful of ensuring he didn't cover an inch of extra ground throughout the contest.

Allowed to lob along at the rear of the ten-horse field, Five To Midnight produced an irresistible home straight burst when asked for an effort by Parkes as he drew clear of minor placegetters Ringo (NZ) (Fastnet Rock) and Balham (NZ) (Don Eduardo) in the final 100m. The Domesday six-year-old looks to have strengthened significantly for his current campaign after winning on the middle day of the Hawkes Bay spring carnival before finishing a credible eighth in the Gr.1 Livamol Classic (2040m).

"He's furnished into a much stronger horse this time in," Latta said.

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FIVE TO MIDNIGHT TAKES OUT FEILDING GOLD CUP

"He had a week in the paddock after Hastings, after a good run there.

"I thought he might need the run today but he was lovely and settled in the birdcage which is normally when he goes his best races."

Latta was impressed with the performance as she plots a path towards the major summer staying races.

"It was a good effort to carry 60kgs on this sort of track," she said.

"We will probably head to Counties and then maybe the Manawatu Cup, (Continued from page 4)

which is back to 2300m this year, and then to Waikato.

Five To Midnight was successful in last year's Gr.3 Waikato Cup (2400m) after finishing runner-up in the Gr.3 Counties Cup (2100m) before going on to be placed third in the Gr.2 Avondale Cup (2400m) ahead of a runnerup finish in the Gr.1 Auckland Cup (3200m).

Saturday's victory took his career record to eight wins and a further 13 placings from 37 starts with over \$493,000 in prizemoney for owner Kevin Pratt under his Kamada Racing banner.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Rioch Feilding Gold Cup L. 2100m
Winner	Five To Midnight (NZ) 2012
Owners	Kamada Racing
Trainer	Lisa Latta (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Domesday (AUS) out of Fastnet Lady (AUS) by Fastnet Rock (AUS)
Breeder	The Oaks Stud
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sales – Select Sale; V: The Oaks Stud, P: Lisa Latta Racing Stables; \$165,000

NEWS IN BRIEF

Patrick Erin out of the Lexus Stakes, Cup

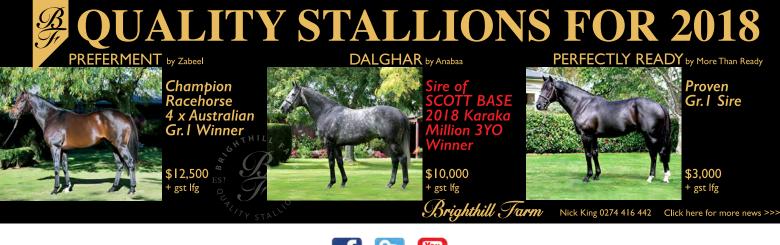
Trainer Chris Waller has lost the battle to get **Patrick Erin (NZ)** (Gallant Guru) into the Melbourne Cup (3200m) via the Lexus Stakes (2500m) with Group One winner succumbing to an elevated temperature.

Patrick Erin needed to win Saturday's Lexus Stakes to be assured of a Cup start three days later.

He was withdrawn from Wednesday's Bendigo Cup (2400m) with a slightly elevated temperature and Waller ordered blood tests on Friday to determine if the horse had an underlying infection and he was taken out late in the afternoon.

Waller said Patrick Erin remained bright and had been eating well.

Waller already has three guaranteed Cup runners – Finche (Frankel), Youngstar (High Chaparral) and veteran Who Shot Thebarman (NZ) (Yamanin Vital). -AAP





TOPWEIGHT SCORES IN AWAPUNI FEATURE SPRINT

alented galloper **Ocean Emperor (NZ)** (Zabeel) gave his rivals weight and a beating when he took out the Courtesy Ford Red Craze Bowl (1400m) at Awapuni. The seven-year-old Zabeel entire was having his first run since a disappointing campaign at Hawkes Bay that saw him finish midfield in the Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy (1400m) on the first day of the spring carnival there before dropping away to finish well back in the Windsor Park Plate (1600m) on the middle day.

The brief freshen-up worked the oracle as Ocean Emperor charged home along the fence for rider Rosie Myers to down

Race	Courtesy Ford Red Craze Bowl Open H. 1400m
Winner	Ocean Emperor (NZ) 2011
Owners	G T Hennessy, A K K Wong & S Y S Yan
Trainer	Gary Hennessy (Matamata)
Breeding	by Zabeel out of Tootsie by Pins (AUS)
Breeder	G J Chittick
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sales – Premier Sale; V: Waikato Stud, P: G Hennessy; \$450,000

talented performers Beefeater (NZ) (Alamosa) and Darscape Princess (NZ) (Darci Brahma) in Saturday's contest under the steadier of 60.5kgs.

Trainer Gary Hennessy cut a satisfied figure as he watched his stable star return to the winner's enclosure.

"The key to him was getting some cover," Hennessy said. "He was absolutely murdered in the Tarzino and it just stuffed up our whole programme.

"He's always shown a heap of ability and we are now back on course.

"He's a lovely horse to deal with, he was perfect today." Hennessy hasn't been afraid to take on the best company with his charge, trekking to Singapore in May to contest the prestigious Kranji Mile (1600m) where he finished a creditable seventh and he has ambitious plans for the coming weeks.

"He will go back to the Tauranga weight-for-age that he won last year," he said.

"Probably from there he will then go down to the Captain Cook at Trentham."

> That immediate target is the Gr.2 Gartshore Tauranga Stakes (1600m) that will be run at Tauranga on November 17 with the Gr.1 Rydges Wellington Captain Cook Stakes (1600m) run at Trentham on December 8.

The victory took Ocean Emperor's career record to eight wins and a further 5 placings from just 28 starts with more than \$206,000 in stakes earnings.

– NZ Racing Desk

Ocean Emperor bounces back to winning form at Awapuni (Trish Dunell)





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SLEEPING BEAUTY WIDE AWAKE AT TAURANGA



Sleeping Beauty is well clear as she scores a comprehensive victory at Tauranga (Race Images)

alented mare **Sleeping Beauty** (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle) proved too slick for her rivals when she led all the way to take out the day's open sprint contest over 1300m at Tauranga.

The lightly raced six-year-old was registering her eighth victory from just 17 career starts as she defied race favourite Embellish (NZ) (Savabeel) and former Hong Kong galloper Your Way (NZ) (Thewayyouare) to run her down in the home straight after dictating the pace throughout. Sleeping Beauty relished the rain affected footing, rated as a Dead4, with co-trainer Andrew Scott content to extend her current campaign while the tracks remain with some moisture in them.

"She's quite incredible as she has had a long winter campaign but is coming up like a spring horse," he said.

"At her last race she ran 1.12 (for 1200m) which was a personal best and again today she has run a wee bit of time. "She has really turned in the coat and is carrying good condition. Condition means speed as she is quickening on top of the ground and showed a good turn of foot.

"We had been waiting to put her aside when she ran a bad one but she just keeps getting better."

Scott was quick to admit that the race had panned out well for Sleeping Beauty when the likely pacemaker Rich Billie Marsh (NZ) (Viking Ruler) was



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SLEEPING BEAUTY WIDE AWAKE AT TAURANGA

slow away which allowed his charge the luxury of a cheap lead in the early stages.

"I think that was the winning of the race," he said.

"She got a couple of soft sectionals where everyone else was looking for Rich Billie Marsh while we were in front doing very little.

"She's learning to race now, which is strange for a six-year-old, but she's taken a long time to settle and (Continued from page 7)

come down off the bridle but she's quickening well now."

Scott was also pleased with the fourth placed run of former Hong Kong galloper Giovanni Canaletto (Galileo), who was having his first race for over two and a half years, while last season's Gr.1 2000 Guineas winner Embellish lost no admirers with a handy effort in the first race of his four-year-old campaign. – NZ Racing Desk

Race	Chesters Plumbing & Bathroom Open H. 1300m
Winner	Sleeping Beauty (NZ) 2012
Owners	Sir Peter Vela
Trainer	Lance O'Sullivan & Andrew Scott (Matamata)
Breeding	by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out of Kailey Princess by Danehill (USA)
Breeder	P J & P M Vela Ltd

NEWS IN BRIEF

Walker gets Cup ride

Jockey Michael Walker has won his way into the Melbourne Cup (3200m) on English stayer **A Prince of Arran** (Shirocco) with a stirring victory in the Gr.3 Lexus Stakes (2500m) at Flemington.

Trainer Charlie Fellowes would have preferred not to run A Prince Of Arran on Saturday but with the six-year-old just outside the 24-horse limit for the Cup, his hand was forced.

A Prince Of Arran has firmed from \$34 to \$15 for the Cup on Tuesday but 32-year-old Fellowes just as excited about what he describes at the biggest win of his career.

Walker will ride him at 53kg on Tuesday with handicapper Greg Carpenter deciding not to penalise the horse for the win.

"I hit the front too early but nothing was taking me into the race, and in these staying races, these European horses keep going," Walker said.

"He was pretty strong at the finish and I'm looking forward to Tuesday."

With the barrier draw completed later that afternoon the Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott trained Sir Charles Road (Myboycharlie) will start from gate 14, while the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman trained Zacada (NZ) (Zabeel) has drawn the extreme outside in gate 24. Who Shot Thebarman (NZ) (Yamanin Vital) will start in his fourth Melbourne Cup from barrier 18.-AAP



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LITTLE BIG MAN JOINS THAI TRIBUTE IN STEWARDS' ROOM

ne race after the black armband-wearing Nooresh Juglall saluted on Siam Vipasiri (Bernardini) in memory of the late Thai billionaire Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha in Singapore on Friday night, French jockey Olivier Placais followed suit on Little Big Man (NZ) (Showcasing) –

Race	STC Class 3 1400m
Winner	Little Big Man (NZ) 2012
Owners	Falcon Racing No 2 Stable
Trainer	Lee Freedman (Singapore)
Breeding	by Showcasing (GB) out of Caffeine by Zabeel
Breeder	L Beck
Sales	2013 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Bloodstock Sale; V: Golden Oaks Stud, P: Phil Cataldo Bloodstock; \$9,000

even if it came in the Stewards' room.

Srivaddhanaprabha is the owner of English Premier League football club Leicester City who tragically died in a helicopter accident in England last Saturday shortly after watching a match his beloved team drew with West Ham at the King Power stadium.

As a mark of respect for his good friend, fellow Thai and well-known Kranji racing identity Krit Chisatteni had four horses he manages under three stables race with jockeys wearing black armbands.

Placais, who has now brought up four wins on Little Big Man (from a total of six wins), said he would have won fair and square if race-leader and favourite Melting Point (Vital Equine) had not drifted out in the home straight, carrying him off at the same time.

"I would have won without the incident, 100%. Barend's horse was carrying me off the track, and even if I didn't stop riding, I lost a few lengths because of that," said Placais.

"At the 200m, I even thought of going back to the inside, but I would have lost even more momentum if I did that.

"The margin was only a head. I was confident I could have the objection upheld.

"Little Big Man is a horse who runs for me. This is my fourth win on him.

"Lee (Freedman) has done a great job with him. The break (26 days) he gave the horse has helped him a lot.

> "It's also a moment tinged with sadness, as the owner (Falcon Racing Stable) is a good friend with the Thai owner who died last Saturday."

With that sixth win, Little Big Man is now around \$\$10,000 short of the \$\$300,000 mark for the Falcon Racing No 2 Stable. -STC

Little Big Man (No 3) loses by a head to Melting Point in Race 4, but turns the table on the latter in the Stewards' room. (STC)





NZ BRED GIVES LERNER FIRST WIN IN SINGAPORE

t's taken 23 rides – and a most undesirable interruption of eight meetings of suspension – for French jockey Marc Lerner to finally enjoy his first taste of success in Singapore on Friday night.

It was **Moritz Eclipse (NZ)** (Darci Brahma), the horse who has been blowing hot and cold for the previously German-based rider, who turned provider in the penultimate race, the \$\$80,000 Class 3 Division 1 race over 1400m.

The Darci Brahma six-year-old nearly gave the US-trained 200-odd race winner a most unexpected fairytale start at his first day of riding in Singapore on September 14, when he rattled home to beat all but the winner, stablemate Lim's Lightning (Lope de Vega).

Though Lerner didn't win, he had to be pleased with coming so close at his first day at the office – only to have the note soured by a two-day suspension on the same horse for causing interference to Yaya Papaya (NZ) (Nadeem) at the 300m.

His introduction to Singapore racing actually went further downhill. Lerner was again rubbed out, this time aboard Jupiter Gold (Congrats) – for two charges of careless riding again – four days and two days.

That was not quite what the son of French trainer Carlos Lerner had been expecting at his first weeks in

> Jockey Marc Lerner opens his account at Kranji aboard Moritz Eclipse in the Class 3 Division 1 race. (STC)

Singapore, but the 27-year-old is no quitter. He stuck it out and returned from suspension last Friday.

"I didn't get many rides this weekend. Moritz Eclipse is a horse I know quite well as I finished second on him at my first race meeting here, but I didn't like his work during the week, he felt stiff," said Lerner.

"But during the race, I had him settled in a lovely spot, just like at the first time I rode him. He was actually very comfortable and travelling better than I thought he would.

"He was in trouble in the straight, though. He couldn't find the gap, and he hit a bit of a flat spot for a second or two.

"He took a while to ping, but once he got the split, he reproduced the same finish he showed the last time."

Once the traffic cleared up, Moritz Eclipse (\$106) indeed burst clear, coming with a well-timed run to deny Whose Else's (Casino Prince) of a certain win.

Moritz Eclipse has now won five races and placed five times from 31 starts for stakes earnings close to the \$\$270,000 mark for the Eclipse Stable.

Race	STC Class 3 1400m
Winner	Moritz Eclipse (NZ) 2012
Owners	Eclipse Stable
Trainer	Steven Burridge
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of Battocchi by Success Express (USA)
Breeder	P J & P M Vela Ltd
Sales	2014 Ready To Run Sale of 2yos; V: Kilgravin Lodge, P: Mr I Hartono; \$50,000



