

Sunday 10 April 2016

## LUCIA TRIUMPHS IN SYDNEY'S RICHEST RACE AS KIWI-BREDS DOMINATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



*Lucia Valentina romps home in yesterday's Queen Elizabeth Stakes, flagship event of the Sydney autumn carnival, to cap a stellar day for New Zealand-bred horses.*

Even though he had planned the assault on Sydney's richest race by **Lucia Valentina (NZ)** (Savabeel) to the finest detail, Kris Lees seemed a touch surprised when it actually came off.

After the mare's fourth in last month's Coolmore Classic, the Newcastle trainer went against his normal pattern and kept her away from the races with just a barrier trial to keep her up to the mark.

The four-week break did the trick and Lucia Valentina took care of some big names in yesterday's \$A4 million Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Randwick – the flagship event of Sydney's autumn carnival, now known as The Championships – coming from last on the home turn to score a decisive 2¼ length win over the favourite The United States (Galileo). Doncaster Mile runner-up Happy

Clapper (Teofilo) finished another half length away in third.

"It's very rewarding when you set a horse for a race so far out," Lees said. "I just thought I had to do something a bit different, thinking I would be taking on Winx.

"She's so effective at 2000 metres and loves to have her runs spaced. I don't know why it took me so long to do it.

"I just wanted to get her here with fresh legs. She didn't have a spell, she just had a little bit of time off so she got here in really good order. I had no doubt about her being effective second up.

"This is my biggest day on a racetrack."

Lucia Valentina's win was also part of the biggest day for the mare's New Zealand owner Lib Petagna, who had earlier collected the trophy for the Australian Oaks with Sofia Rosa.

*Continued on page 3*





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# LUCIA TRIUMPHS IN SYDNEY'S RICHEST RACE AS KIWI-BREDS DOMINATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Continued from page 1)

Stephen Marsh trains Sofia Rosa and was the former trainer of Lucia Valentina, gaining a win in the Group Three Wellington Stakes at Otaki with her before she was sent to Lees to further her career in Australia.

Petagna's bloodstock agent Bruce Perry purchased both at Karaka, paying \$60,000 for Lucia Valentina and \$5000 more for Sofia Rosa.

"We've had a Group Two and Group One on the same day before but never two Group Ones," Perry said. "It's a big thrill."

The win was just as sweet for Lees, who had watched the mare run into dead ends at the 400 metre mark.

"She looked in a lot of trouble on the turn. She dipped and went down on her nose.

"They've been talking about sending her to stud so I might attack them right now and see if I can go another year."

Lucia Valentina's rider Damien Oliver said things got a little dicey but, once she got room, it was over.

"Coming to the turn I had a lot of horse and not much room to go anywhere," he said. "I went up in between a couple as we straightened and got shut out of that.

"She picked herself up again and just went whoosh."

Coming on top of Group One wins by Sofia Rosa in the Australian Oaks and Azkadellia in the Queen Of The Turf Stakes – both million dollar endowed – the win endorsed Kiwi-bred success across the Tasman this season. Despite comprising just over five percent of the Australian racing population, New Zealand-produced horses have taken out better than 25 percent of Group One events.

– AAP TURF



Lib Petagna . . . enjoying a day of unprecedented success

<b>Race</b>	<b>ATC Queen Elizabeth S. Gr.1 2000m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Lucia Valentina (NZ) 2010</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>L Petagna</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Kris Lees (Newcastle)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Savabeel (Aus) out of Staryn Glenn by Montjeu (Ire)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs H G &amp; W G Bax</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2012 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Blandford Lodge, P: Bruce Perry Bloodstock Ltd; \$60,000</b>

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# SHE'S TINY, TOUGH AND AN OAKS WINNER

The agony of **Sofia Rosa (NZ)** (Makfi) losing the New Zealand Oaks on protest has been all but erased by a tough ATC Australian Oaks win, yesterday's Group One success coming a week after Tavago (NZ) (Tavistock) won the ATC Australian Derby, giving the Cambridge training centre a sweep of Sydney's autumn three-year-old staying classics.

"It's a brilliant experience to come here on a big day like this and deliver," managing owner Lib Petagna said. "Particularly after the disappointment of the New Zealand Oaks."

Trainer Stephen Marsh was worried Sofia Rosa's bad habits might cost her again as she entered the straight in the Australian version.

"She still wanted to do everything wrong in the straight and I thought 'oh no, here we go again,'" Marsh said.

"But she was good to the line and

it's just a huge buzz to win a race like this."

Sofia Rosa was settled sixth with cover to the home turn where Self Esteem (Stratum) had set a steady speed.

Eased off heels 300 metres out, Sofia Rosa accelerated to reach the lead a hundred metres from the line and went on to defeat Ambience (Street Cry) by half a length with Believe (Fastnet Rock) in third. The \$3.20 favourite Jameka (Myboycharlie) finished fourth after being towards the rear rounding the home turn.

Winning jockey Hugh Bowman took the good with the bad.

"She's got some manners – they're all bad," he said. "She's one of the most difficult I've ridden but she's good. She dug deep in the straight and was too good for them."

Sofia Rosa will now return to New Zealand for a spell and Marsh believes she is the type of horse who would be strong in a Caulfield Cup. He said she has a lot of development left, likening her three-year-old body to a two-year-old's.

"She's very hard work," he said. "Without doubt, she's the toughest I've had – as hard as nails.

"She's attacked ponies, she's jumped on other horses. She's difficult but the team back home put the time into her.

"But you don't mind when they've got that ability."

Petagna named Sofia Rosa after his great-niece, while his other star female Lucia Valentina is named after his daughter.

"The family names are proving pretty lucky for me," he said.

– AAP TURF & racenet.com.au



<b>Race</b>	<b>ATC Australian Oaks Gr.1 2400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Sofia Rosa (NZ) 2012</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>JML Bloodstock Ltd</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Makfi (GB) out of Bislieri (Aus) by Encosta de Lago (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>G Harvey</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2014 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Bruce Perry Bloodstock; \$65,000</b>

*Sofia Rosa rewards Hugh Bowman for his hard work with success in the Australian Oaks.*







# AZKADELLIA GETS RUN ALONG THE RAILS TO STROLL HOME AS QUEEN OF THE TURF

**B**acking up seven days after her third placing behind Winx (Street Cry) in an historic Doncaster Mile, **Azkadellia (NZ)** (Shinko King) showed she had taken no harm from that run, exploding along the rails to win yesterday's Group One Queen Of The Turf Stakes over the same course by an emphatic two lengths.

Despite the Randwick track predominantly favouring leaders, jockey Damien Oliver elected to stick to the mare's normal racing pattern as a backmarker and the pair saved ground on the home corner before strolling to an effortless win.

A multiple placegetter at Group One level, Azkadellia was notching her maiden elite win. "She's always shown that ability but because of her racing style she does run into a bit of traffic and gets a bit unlucky," Maher said. "But she got the favours today."

Oliver was happy to join the Group One club on the \$2.80 favourite after earlier bowing to Sofia Rosa in the Australian Oaks when riding the favourite Jameka.

"She is a little ripper this one. You never get sick of riding these."

Azkadellia commenced her racing career in New Zealand, where in her only start for New Plymouth trainer Ilone Kelly she demolished an Avondale

maiden field by 2½ lengths in July 2014.

Maher believes she might be the horse to give him back-to-back Stradbroke Handicaps during the Queensland winter carnival.

"I was always thinking the Stradbroke Handicap with her but it will be interesting to see what weight she gets now," he said.

"We'll freshen her and make a plan on the back of that."

– racenet.com.au & AAP TURF

<b>Race</b>	<b>ATC Queen of the Turf S. Gr.1 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Azkadellia (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>B Connolly</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Ciaron Maher (Caulfield)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Shinko King (Ire) out of Raving by Centaine (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>C R Linton</b>



*Azkadellia has scooted along the rails and run away with the Queen Of The Turf Stakes.*



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# PERFECT FIT'S BREEDERS' STAKES WIN A DAY TO REMEMBER FOR HAUNUI FARM



*Perfect Fit (#7) has enough in hand to hold out the late charges of Abidewithme (#1) and the southern mare Soubrettes in the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes.*

A stunning Group One success capped a perfect day at Te Aroha for one of the country's leading nurseries. The Haunui Farm-bred and owned pair of Nelson Park (NZ) (Iffraaj) and Chancery (NZ) (Makfi) quinellaed the Rating 65 mile before the Karaka stud's star performer **Perfect Fit (NZ)** (Elusive City) continued her rapid rise to the top with victory in the Fiber Fresh NZ Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes.

At just her eleventh appearance, the Ken and Bev Kelso-trained four-year-old led from the outside gate under Michael Coleman in yesterday's feature and they had enough in reserve to hold out the late finishers Abidewithme (NZ) (Redoute's Choice) and Soubrettes (NZ) (High Chaparral).

"I wasn't concerned about the barrier as there's a long run down the back straight but she had to do a lot of work and didn't get to the front as easily as I had thought," Ken Kelso said.

Perfect Fit is by the former Haunui resident Elusive City, who also sired the Kelso-trained 2013 winner Xanadu (NZ), out of the three-time Group One winner Fayreform (NZ) (Tights).

"She has got a fabulous temperament and does everything right," Kelso said. "She's a very good mover and it's just a dream to have her.

"She was a bit weak and fragile early on but we've got

*Continued on page 8*





# PERFECT FIT'S BREEDERS' STAKES WIN A DAY TO REMEMBER FOR HAUNUI FARM

(Continued from page 7)

very good owners who were patient and this has been a good team effort."

Perfect Fit is unbeaten in three appearances this year after success in an open handicap at Matamata and in the Group Two Westbury Classic at Ellerslie and Kelso said they hadn't decided on the mare's future.

"We'll get her home and see how she does. There has been a hint about Brisbane but we'll wait and see."

While there was elation in one camp, there was tragedy in another after the multiple Group One winner Recite (NZ) (Darci Brahma) had to be put down after breaking a leg during the race.

Trained by John Bary for The Oaks Stud, the daughter of crack juvenile filly Chant (NZ) (Traditionally) won the Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes at two and added the Levin Classic at three.

<b>Race</b>	<b>Te Aroha JC New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' S. Gr.1 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Perfect Fit (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Haunui Bloodstock Ltd, M Duncan, The Provincial Club Ltd, G H Madill and J Orton</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Ken &amp; Bev Kelso (Matamata)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Elusive City (USA) out of Fayreform by Tights (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Haunui Bloodstock Ltd</b>

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Another Singapore milestone for Laurie

Champion trainer Laurie Laxon hit the 1200-win mark with **Ron (NZ)** (Align) in the opening race at Kranji on Friday night, and there was no better provider of such a milestone than his good friend and loyal owner Mr Phua Chian Kin of Oscar Racing Stable.

The inseparable pair have shared many momentous occasions together with Laxon's first winner Streisand (NZ) (Deputy Governor) and one thousandth winner Alan (NZ) (Darci Brahma) the most famous.

Even though Ron scored in a humble \$S35,000 Class 5 Division 1 race over 1600 metres, the buzz at the winner's reception was just the same.

"I've been fortunate to have Oscar Racing and CK as an owner all these years. He's a very good friend as well," said the New Zealander. "We've shared many great moments together and he's again given me another significant milestone."

Ron was recording his fifth win from forty starts for stakes earnings in excess of \$S130,000.

– Singapore Turf Club

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# HAWKE'S BAY CUP THE 'LOGICAL STEP' FOR TE AROHA WINNER SAINT EMILION

**W**in machine **Saint Emilion (NZ)** (Mastercraftsman) is likely to head back to the central districts to crown a lucrative season with a black type success.

A stakes victory is all that is missing from the CV of the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained stayer, who struck for the sixth time this season with a tenacious display to down Storming The Tower (NZ) (Storm Creek) in yesterday's J Swap Te Aroha Cup.

Providing he comes through the race well, Saint Emilion's

<b>Race</b>	<b>Te Aroha Cup 2200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Saint Emilion (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Estate late R A Horton</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Murray Baker &amp; Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Mastercraftsman (Ire) out of Roseario by Pentire (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs R A Horton</b>

next assignment is the Listed Hawke's Bay Cup at Hastings next Saturday.

"I'll have a talk with Murray but that's the logical thing to do," Forsman said. "He's better that way around as well – he got on one rein a bit today."

Saint Emilion made the running under Matt Cameron and rallied bravely in the straight to score by a head.

The four-year-old has had two previous attempts at Listed level and finished seventh in the Kaimai Stakes before he was a beaten favourite in the New Zealand St Leger.

"He over-raced a bit and 2500 metres at Trentham was a bit too tough," Forsman said.

The stable will also be looking for higher honours for **Bonniegirl (NZ)** (Darci Brahma), who successfully returned from a break in the Pyramid Trucking 1200.

"We'll be looking for some black type for her now,"

Forsman said.

Meanwhile, Matamata trainer Graham Richardson is already looking ahead to next season's spring features with **Snapshot (NZ)** (Stravinsky), who was a decisive winner of the Team Wealleans Handicap.

He was ridden aggressively from a wide gate by Craig Grylls to lead and they weren't tested in the run home for their sixth win in eight starts together.

Richardson said he would like to give Snapshot a run over a mile before spelling the gelding with the Hawke's Bay spring carnival his longer-term aim.



*After a length-of-the-straight battle, victory in the Te Aroha Cup goes to the grey Saint Emilion over a gallant Storming The Tower.*





# OUTSTANDING DEBUT EARNS HOLLYWOOD LASS A SLOT ON BRISBANE CARNIVAL TEAM

**F**lying filly **Hollywood Lass (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) is in line to join Tony Pike's travelling party to the Queensland winter carnival.

The Cambridge three-year-old started a red-hot favourite on debut at Te Aroha yesterday and spaced her rivals to the delight of her army of admirers.

"That's the way you want to see them win," Pike said. "She's showed us plenty at home so it was nice to see her do it on race day.

"I'll see how she pulls up. The Cambridge Breeders' Stakes might come up a bit



*It's Hollywood Lass first, daylight second in a stunning debut maiden win.*

too quickly for her so I might look for another race in her grade and then think about Brisbane."

Pike has also short-listed his Group One New Zealand Derby winner Rangipo (Stryker) and third placegetter Raghu (NZ) (Showcasing), fellow talented three-year-olds Slice Of Cake (NZ) (Sir Percy) and Provocative (NZ) (Zabeel), crack sprinter Sacred Star (Flying Spur) and the smart juvenile Sacred Elixir (NZ) (Pour Moi) for the Queensland trip.

Hollywood Lass had won both her trials leading into the Te Aroha Liquor

Maiden, having accounted for Lewis Caroll (NZ) (Darci Brahma), who is unbeaten in both his subsequent race day appearances, in her first outing in November.

"She's got plenty of natural ability, but she went shin sore after that and then came back and did it nicely again at Matamata," Pike said.

Hollywood Lass was a touch tardy out of the gates yesterday but she gathered momentum to lead and when Leith Innes asked her to lengthen stride into the straight she quickly put the issue beyond doubt

and strolled home by 4¾ lengths.

"She was a little bit slow before she mustered speed," Innes said. "She switched off in front and won easily."

<b>Race</b>	<b>Te Aroha Liquor Maiden S. 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Hollywood Lass (NZ) 2012</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mrs K A Dell &amp; M L Thompson</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Tony Pike (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Holly Bolly by St Petersburg (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs K A Dell &amp; M L Thompson</b>





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# AFTER LUCKLESS RUNS AGAINST THE GUNS SHADOWS CAST REGAINS WINNING FORM

**M**ark Oulaghan put two previous Trentham defeats with **Shadows Cast (NZ)** (Per Incanto) behind him yesterday when the three-year-old showed his true worth.

The Awapuni trainer's fortunes belatedly turned around with the gelding, who was successful for the third time in his short career when proving too good in the Have Faith In Me Cup.

"He's a good galloper and he's been a bit unlucky in his two runs here before," Oulaghan said.

Shadows Cast finished sixth in the Group One Levin Classic behind Dukedom (NZ) (Bachelor Duke) and last time out he came from the tail of the field to finish less than five lengths off The Justice League (NZ) (I Am Invincible) in the Group Two Wellington Guineas.

"He had far too much ground to make up," Oulaghan said. "He's got the ability but in Group races you have to have everything go your way."

Bad luck was yesterday taken out of the equation for Shadows Cast, who

showed his talent when runner-up in the spring to the subsequent Group One Australian Derby winner Tavago (NZ) (Tavistock) in the Group Three Wellington Stakes at Otaki.

In a small field, rider Lisa Allpress took Shadows Cast to the front and he dug deeply in the run home to repel the challenge of Beefeater (NZ) (Alamosa).

"I couldn't see a lot of pace in the race so if we could get an easy lead he would be out of trouble and it all panned out," Oulaghan said. "That's probably it for him for the season now."

Meanwhile, Oulaghan's jumping team for the winter will be headed by

last winter's Manawatu Steeplechase winner Upper Cut (NZ) (Yamanin Vital).

"He's by the far the best performed of them," Oulaghan said. "He had a bit of a problem at the end of the last jumping season with a leg issue but he seems pretty good now and he's got all the ability."

<b>Race</b>	<b>WRC Have Faith in Me Cup 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Shadows Cast (NZ) 2012</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>R N Cunningham</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Mark Oulaghan (Awapuni)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Per Incanto (USA) out of Ages Past by Slavic (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Miss C M Harris</b>



*With the rest well astern, Shadows Cast (inner) and Beefeater fight out the finish of yesterday's three-year-old event at Trentham.*







# THE JOHNO AND HOLLIE SHOW ROLLS ON AS **McPHOEBE TOO SMART AT TRENTHAM**

**M**cPhoebe (NZ) (Makfi) continued her stable's winning streak when she put paid to her two-year-old rivals at Trentham yesterday, the well-related youngster adding to the recent haul of Johnno Benner and Hollie Wynyard when she claimed the Luna Rossa Cup.

The Otaki trainers produced the talented Humidor (NZ) (Teofilo) to win the Group Three Manawatu Classic a week ago and they also enjoyed success at Awapuni on Friday with Lucy Liu (NZ) (Thorn Park).

<b>Race</b>	<b>WRC Luna Rossa Cup 1000m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>McPhoebe (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Simon Niblett Ltd</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Johnno Benner &amp; Hollie Wynyard (Otaki)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Makfi (GB) out of Ballet Danseuse by Stravinsky (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Simon Niblett Ltd</b>

"We've got a nice team of horses around us and they are delivering," Benner said.

"Humidor went straight to the paddock after his win. He's gone out on a high note and there's plenty of upside to him. We're really looking forward to him as a spring four-year-old.

"McPhoebe is a special filly as well and she won very easily – what she's achieved as a two-year-old is a bonus."

A debut winner at Wanganui in January, she then finished fourth at Tauherenikau before she was put aside.

"That was a big run as well as she was a bit shin sore. She's very well bred and she's going to make a lovely three-year-old," Benner said.

Raced by her Wellington breeder Simon Niblett, whose broodmare band is based at Curraghmore, McPhoebe is out of a half-sister to the Group One Melbourne Cup winner Efficient (NZ) (Zabeel).

"With that pedigree there's no reason to think she won't run a very good mile next season," Benner said.

Benner will decide over the next few days whether McPhoebe makes another appearance this season.

The Listed Hamilton Vet Services 2YO at Te Rapa on May 7 or the Listed Berkley Stud Champagne Stakes at Riccarton the same day are viable options.

*One of three winners on the day for Lisa Allpress, McPhoebe takes out Trentham's juvenile race.*





# COREY'S RIDE A STUDY IN PRECISION AS LIM'S RALLY NOTCHES UP ANOTHER WIN

Courtesy of a smart ride from Corey Brown, consistent performer **Lim's Rally (NZ)** (O'Reilly) overcame a wide alley in the \$5100,000 Benchmark 83 1200, main race on Friday night's Kranji card, to make it back-to-back wins.

The first task that the jockey achieved was to tuck the four-year-old into a midfield spot with cover from his wide gate. The next job was to keep tabs on one of his main threats, Lim's Rally's stablemate Jay Eff Express (Murtajill), who was on his inside locked away on the fence.

At the 700 metre mark, Brown switched out wide to go around horses and duly outsmarted Manoel Nunes on Jay Eff Express, who became the hard-luck story of the race.

Knowing that Lim's Rally has a short acceleration, Brown sealed the perfect ride by waiting for as long as possible before going for home, cuddling his mount along while Flak Jacket (Dane Shadow) and Raffaello (Oratorio) were being ridden for dear life on his inside and hemming Jay Eff Express on the inside.

Once Brown gave a shake of the reins at the 200 metre mark, Lim's Rally burst past Flak Jacket to salute by three parts of a length with Raffaello third, another 1¾ lengths away.

"He drew a bad gate and there were some concerns over him coming back to 1200 metres from 1400m," said Brown. "Around the home turn I was able to get around horses before

Manoel and when we straightened up I sat and sat for as long as I could as he's got only a short sharp dash.

"Once I went for him, he put it away really good."

Trainer Steven Burrige said Lim's Rally was a horse with plenty of upsides but luck was not always on his side.

"He's been a bit unlucky at four or five starts but he's also won five and now six races," said the Australian handler.

"Corey rode him a treat. From the wide draw, he was able to box-seat and they were cruising. He had no weight on his back and he did a great job."

Lim's Rally has been a handy moneyspinner for the Lim's Stable having already put more than \$5345,000 in the bank.

– Singapore Turf Club

<b>Race</b>	<b>Singapore TC Benchmark 83 H. 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Lim's Rally (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Lim's Stable</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Steven Burrige (Kranji)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by O'Reilly out of Bella Valentina by Pins (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>JML Bloodstock Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2012 National Weanling, Broodmare &amp; Mixed Sale; V: Little Avondale Stud, P: New Zealand Bloodstock Ltd; \$15,000</b>



Corey Brown brings Lim's Rally home a winner.

