

Sunday 27 March 2016

## PREFERMENT LEADS HOME WALLER TRIFECTA IN DASHING BMW TRIUMPH



*A classic contest of class versus toughness in the BMW as the Kiwi-breds Preferment (gold cap) and Who Shot Thebarman fight out a titanic finish.*

Expatriate-Kiwi Chris Waller has captured an elusive BMW win, with Preferment (NZ) (Zabeel) giving the trainer his fourteenth Group One success this season.

The win is yet another link in Waller's sparkling chain of achievements, but he admitted his record in the race was probably not what it should be.

"It's a race that has eluded us," Waller said. "When we have so many stayers, it's one Group One on the calendar you think you should be fairly competitive in."

Dominant rather than competitive is perhaps a more apt description of the stable's effort in this year's BMW, with Who Shot Thebarman (NZ) (Yamanin Vital) and Grand

Marshal (Dansili) making it a Waller-trained trifecta at Rosehill yesterday.

"For Preferment to hang on it was a good tough win, because he had a couple of good two-milers chasing him," Waller said.

The four-year-old was given a near-perfect ride by Hugh Bowman, who took off at the 600 metre mark, breaking the hearts of his rivals.

The BMW win sealed Preferment's fourth Group One, adding to successes in the Victoria Derby, Turnbull Stakes and Australian Cup.

*Continued on page 3*





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*"Atlante is an outstanding looking individual with a great temperament. He was a quality colt, lovely mover with immense ability. He had electric turn of foot and all the attributes required to compete at the highest level."*

- Murray Baker



# PREFERMENT LEADS HOME WALLER TRIFECTA IN DASHING BMW TRIUMPH

(Continued from page 1)

"I missed his VRC Derby win through suspension and that was a bit of a gut wrenching day," Bowman said. "But in racing you have to take the good with the bad.

"We were a bit concerned about the 2400 metres today although my ride probably didn't suggest that because I put the pressure on early.

"But he is a horse that hasn't shown he can quicken and as I didn't want to be left flat-footed I pulled him out a lot earlier than I usually would. When he showed a turn of foot I thought 'oh no'.

"He feels like a Rolls-Royce. He is one of the best movers I have ever sat on and I have sat on some nice ones."

Waller stopped short of declaring Bowman Australia's best jockey but the partnership between the two is undoubtedly the country's most successful at present.

"Hughie's a jockey we'll remember for many, many years and he's now maturing into one of the best," Waller said. "I no longer give him instructions. He knows our horses and he's got a great feel in a race.

"I just love putting him on."

Preferment will now head to the \$A4 million Queen Elizabeth, where he is likely to meet stablemate and Australia's best horse Winx (Street Cry).

Waller said Preferment would have a low-key lead-up to the race, while Winx would run in the Doncaster Mile.

"I'll just back right off him, take him to the beach, even do

a bit of dressage with him just to keep him interested.

"We might have to find another rider for him – I don't think Hughie will get off Winx."

Winx is a \$1.90 favourite for the Queen Elizabeth, while Preferment firmed to \$8 on the second line of betting after his BMW triumph.

It was Bowman's third Group One win in a week with Winx's George Ryder Stakes last Saturday followed by the Hong Kong Derby a day later on Werther (NZ) (Tavistock).

Bowman's delight at winning the BMW was soured somewhat by a \$2000 fine for waving his whip.

– AAP TURF & racenet.com.au

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>ATC BMW S. Gr.1 2400m</b>  |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Preferment (NZ) 2011</b>   |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>Mrs L F Huddy, I Bruce, G L Huddy, R Smith, B L Mathieson, K H Warriner, J T C Lake, F W Cook, Mrs C M Cook, G G Ltd (Mgr: G G Peterson), Magic Bloodstock Racing (Mgr: P G Tighe) and Woppitt Bloodstock (Mgr: Mrs D N Kepitis)</b> |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Chris Waller (Rosehill)</b>  |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Zabeel out of Better Alternative (Aus) by Flying Spur (Aus)</b>   |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Mrs B M &amp; L J Anselmi, Sir Patrick &amp; Lady Hogan and Mrs H M &amp; M J Moran</b>  |
| <b>Sales</b>    | <b>2013 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Cambridge Stud, P: Chris Waller Racing; \$190,000</b>   |

## BATTLE PAINT USA

Tale of the Cat – Black Speck, by Arch

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# DYLAN'S DARING FRONT-RUNNING RIDE SEES LEEBAZ SCORE 'RIDICULOUS' WIN

**A** brave front-running win from **Leebaz (NZ)** (Zabeel) in the Group Three Easter Cup at Caulfield has provided in-form apprentice Dylan Dunn with his biggest success.

Carrying topweight of 58.5kg, Leebaz travelled strongly in the lead and was three lengths clear at halfway. Guardini (Dalakhini) ranged alongside at the home turn and although he looked to be travelling the better, Leebaz maintained his gallop and came again to win by a short head.

Wayne Hawkes, who trains Leebaz in partnership with father John and brother Michael, said he thought the six-year-old was beaten in the straight.

"To be fair, the horse has done a fantastic job," Hawkes said.

"I don't care where you are, whether you're in town or in

the bush, when you go that hard in front, to fight on like that takes some doing.

"He was beaten a long way from home, I thought, and for him to kick on like he did was a ridiculously good performance."

Hawkes said Leebaz "got lost" following a trip to Queensland for the winter carnival two years ago. The Easter Cup was his first victory since winning the Group Two Hollindale Stakes at the Gold Coast last April.

"He just got beaten in a Doomben Cup and has always been thereabouts since," Hawkes said.

Dunn said he was aware he was leading at a good speed.

"I wanted to cross from the wide barrier and he was a bit fired up but enjoying himself," the apprentice said.

"I wanted to keep a bit up my sleeve and when Guardini came alongside at the turn, I knew he'd have to keep finding.

"My horse was very brave and I was holding him at the line."

Observational (Dansili) came from well back at the halfway point to finish third, a head behind Guardini.

Puccini (NZ) (Encosta de Lago), the Group One New Zealand Derby winner of two seasons ago and last year's Group One Thorndon Mile winner, was sent out a \$4.40 favourite and battled on solidly to be a length away in fourth place.

– racenet.com.au & AAP TURF

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>MRC Easter Cup Gr.3 2000m</b>  |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Leebaz (NZ) 2009</b>   |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>GPI Racing (Mgr: G P Ingham), D V Russo, P J Duggan, Brian Carroll Investments (Mgr: B D Carroll) and B &amp; G McAlister (Mgr: Mrs G J McAlister)</b> |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Michael, Wayne &amp; John Hawkes (Flemington)</b>  |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Zabeel out of Polish Princess (GB) by Polish Precedent (USA)</b>  |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Windsor Park Stud Ltd</b>  |
| <b>Sales</b>    | <b>2011 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: Hawkes Racing; \$460,000</b>  |



Inside the final furlong at Caulfield and the grey Guardini lays down a serious challenge to Leebaz (rails) as Observational (white blaze) joins in out wide, with Puccini (maroon and white colours) also in the fight.



# JIMMY CHOUX (NZ)

## A Great Start...

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**Heptagon: An impressive 2YO debut winner for Mick Price, Ballarat – March 9.**

*"Heptagon has gone to the paddock for 6-8 weeks and will return and be aimed at the spring 3YO races leading towards the Caulfield Guineas. He is an exciting colt and the spring can't come quick enough for me."*

**Luke Wilkinson – Bloodstock Manager, Mick Price Racing**

Jimmy Choux's first-crop 2YOs also include:

- Manolo Blahniq** – 1st **Gr.3** Eclipse Stakes, 2nd **Listed** Murdoch Newell Stakes
- What Choux Want** – Winner, 2nd **Listed** CJC Welcome Stakes, 3rd **Gr.2** Matamata Breeder's Stakes
- Sweet Varden** – Placed 4th for Tony McEvoy in **Listed** MRC Santa's Magical Kingdom Stakes (beaten 0.8 lengths, only start)
- Echappe** – Recent Australian winner for John Sargent





# WAYNE'S FEARS PROVE GROUNDLESS AS WATCH THIS SPACE SPACES THEM

**W**ayne Hillis had pre-race worries on two fronts with **Watch This Space (NZ)** (Elusive City) at Tauranga, but neither amounted to anything as the four-year-old coasted to his first black type victory.

The Matamata horseman, who prepares the gelding with Shaun Kesner, ended a frantic search for a jockey by booking Brendan Hutton for yesterday's Group Two Windsor Park Stud Japan/NZ International Trophy and then had concerns about the heavy going.

"Reese Jones rode him last time and then his manager rang and said he couldn't make the 52kg," Hillis said.

He wasn't the only trainer struggling for a rider as the handicap conditions of the feature mile had all but Julinsky Prince (NZ) (Darci Brahma) on the minimum weight.

"We got Brendan in the end and he got the job done really well," Hillis said. "I was worried about the track as well, he'd had one run on a slow track and struggled on it."

Watch This Space sat third on the outer before Hutton made his move

across the top to hit the lead on straightening.

"He travelled beautifully and kept on kicking," he said. "We had the light weight and were getting seven and a half kilos from Julinsky Prince so we had to make the most of it and make him chase us.

"It was a great training performance on the seven day back-up."

Watch This Space had three lengths to spare on Julinsky Prince, who chased bravely without ever looking likely to make up the leeway, to give Hutton the biggest win of his career.

Nigelissima (NZ) (Pentire) was a solid third in her first appearance for five months and the resuming Candle In the Wind (NZ) (Darci Brahma) also made some late ground to finish fourth.



Watch This Space and Brendon Hutton are well clear at the finish of yesterday's feature mile at Tauranga.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>BOP RC Japan-New Zealand International Trophy Gr.2 1600m</b> |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Watch This Space (NZ) 2011</b>                               |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>Mrs M E A Evans</b>  |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Wayne Hillis &amp; Shaun Kesner (Matamata)</b>               |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Elusive City (USA) out of Multi Tasker by Kaapstad</b>    |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Mrs M E A Evans</b>  |





# SAM'S RIVERTON CUP WIN PROVES THEY MAKE 'EM TOUGH IN IRELAND



*Miss Three Stars edges away from Motorboat Mike to claim her and Samantha Wynne's second success in the Riverton Cup.*

**R**esilient apprentice Samantha Wynne put a tough time behind her when she combined with **Miss Three Stars (NZ)** (Perfectly Ready) for another Listed Riverton Cup victory.

They went back to back in the Carriers Arms Hotel-sponsored feature after the 27-year-old native of Ireland had battled back from a nasty fall at Timaru eight days ago.

Wynne was knocked unconscious and suffered a hip injury in the incident, which cost her rides in the Group One New Zealand Oaks on Magic Wonder (NZ) (Eighth Wonder) and in the Group Two Wellington Guineas aboard Cantilena (NZ) (Per Incanto).

She was able to get a medical clearance on Wednesday to ride at Riverton and deliver a knock-out blow of her own on the Tommy Beckett-trained Miss Three Stars.

The drama then continued off track with the connections of the runner-up Motorboat Mike (NZ) (Perfectly Ready) lodging a protest after the two horses had come together in the closing stages.

"My heart was going but the bump cost me more – I had to stop riding my mare and the other fellow didn't," Wynne said. "The best horse on the day definitely won the race."

Miss Three Stars hadn't been successful since her cup

*Continued on page 8*







# SAM'S RIVERTON CUP WIN PROVES THEY MAKE 'EM TOUGH IN IRELAND

*(Continued from page 7)*

triumph of twelve months ago, but she had placed in the Group Three Canterbury Gold Cup, the Great Autumn Handicap and the Winter Classic.

The six-year-old had most recently finished sixth in an open handicap at Wyndham, an effort that boosted Wynne's confidence.

"She was doing her best work at the finish and I was very happy with that run," she said.

Miss Three Stars settled midfield yesterday and rounded

off strongly in the straight to beat Motorboat Mike, ridden by Racha Cuneen, by a long neck.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>Riverton Cup L 2147m</b>                                       |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Miss Three Stars (NZ) 2009</b>                                 |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>Three Star Syndicate</b>                                       |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Tommy Beckett (Ascot Park)</b>                                 |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Perfectly Ready (Aus) out of Missy by Stark South (USA)</b> |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Ms J M &amp; M J Crooks and Mrs B R Nettleton</b>              |



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# STORMING'S CONSISTENT RECORD REWARDED WITH BOP CUP SUCCESS

Variety is likely to be the spice of life for **Storming The Tower (NZ)** (Storm Creek) this winter with a new direction planned for the stayer.

The seven-year-old made a long overdue return to winning form yesterday when he posted a gritty victory in the Drymix Cement Bay of Plenty Cup on a heavy Tauranga track.

Storming The Tower hadn't won a race for more than three years, although he had raced well in decent company between times to place in the Group Two City of Auckland Cup (twice), the Group Three Waikato Cup, the Listed Taumarunui Gold Cup and the Group Three Taranaki Cup.

Bell said the Hawke's Bay Gold Cup and the Rotorua Cup were possible future targets with the intention of mixing flat and jumping assignments.

"We might slip in the odd brush hurdle. He jumps magnificently and one day that will be his go."

While Storming The Tower had been unplaced in the Group One Auckland Cup at his previous appearance, he had finished only six lengths from the winner.

"Unfortunately, he got back and four wide and he was no show from there," Bell said.

On a wet Tauranga track, Storming The Tower was able to sit much closer for rider Leith Innes and they led 250



*Storming The Tower (nearest camera) outstays Seconds Out in yesterday's Bay of Plenty Cup.*

metres from home and stuck on too well for last year's winner Seconds Out (NZ) (Perfectly Ready) and Dubai Shuffle (NZ) (Dubai Destination).

"To be honest, they walked early and he was able to relax and Leith got him into his rhythm," Bell said. "When he was challenged he really put in."

Storming The Tower's promising stablemate Enough (NZ) (O'Reilly) was scratched from yesterday's Group Two Japan/NZ International Trophy, although there is nothing amiss with the four-year-old.

"He's going to Ellerslie next Saturday for a Rating 75 mile and if he

goes nicely in that he might get a start in the Easter," Bell said.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>BOP RC Bay of Plenty Cup 2100m</b>  |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Storming the Tower (NZ) 2008</b>  |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>Benedict Sin and John Bell</b>  |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>John Bell (Cambridge)</b>   |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Storm Creek (USA) out of Midnight Dip by O'Reilly</b>  |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Stoney Bridge Thoroughbred Ltd</b>  |
| <b>Sales</b>    | <b>2009 Winter Mixed Bloodstock Sale; V: Twin Pines Ltd, P: New Zealand Bloodstock Ltd; \$4200</b> |



# TAVISTOCK <sup>(NZ)</sup> 16.½ hh

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**VOLKSTOK'N'BARRELL (NZ) (Tavistock)** wins the **Gr.1 Haunui Farm Classic** 27-2-16



**VOLKSTOK'N'BARRELL (NZ) (Tavistock)** wins the **Gr.1 Bonecrusher New Zealand Stakes** 12-3-16



**TARZINO (NZ) (Tavistock)** wins the **Gr.1 Rosehill Guineas** 19-3-16



**WERTHER (NZ) (Tavistock)** wins the **HK Gr.1 BMW Hong Kong Derby** 20-3-16

**Applications** for nominations to **Tavistock 2016** Service season are now being received and will **close on the 30th April 2016**

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# NYMPH MONTE'S MASTERTON CUP WIN A ROUSING TRIAL FOR AWAPUNI FEATURE

**N**ymph Monte (NZ) (Tavistock) has booked himself a return to stakes company after he barely raised a sweat when winning at Tauherenikau yesterday.

The promising galloper enjoyed further success on the course when he coasted home in the Kuripuni Sports Bar and TAB Masterton Cup after winning the Wairarapa Cup on the track just as easily three runs back.

In between times, Nymph Monte was unplaced in the Group One Herbie Dyke Stakes at Te Rapa before winning at

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>Masterton Cup 2050m</b>                              |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Nymph Monte (NZ) 2011</b>                            |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>T Brooks, W L Dunn, G N Nicholson and A G Nugent</b> |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Grant Nicholson (Opaki)</b>                          |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Tavistock out of Grove Nymph by Grosvenor</b>     |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Sir Patrick &amp; Lady Hogan</b>                     |

Hastings.

Trainer and part-owner Grant Nicholson now has next Saturday's Group Two Awapuni Gold Cup in his sights with the gelding.

"That was always the plan, to back him up, as long as he comes through this well. Going forward we needed him to win like that and the jockey has hopped off and said he did it easily," he said.

Nymph Monte was opposed by only three rivals and he disposed of them in clinical fashion under apprentice Leah Hemi.

She let the four-year-old stride to the front 600 metres from home and he was untested to score by four lengths from Antonio (NZ) (Howbaddouwantit).

"He's a very good horse and he's going to keep on improving," Nicholson said. "He still hasn't got to his best

distance yet – I think he's a 2400 metre plus horse."

From the family of the dual Group One Sydney and Brisbane Cups winner Just A Dancer (NZ) (Star Way), Nymph Monte was purchased privately from Sir Patrick Hogan's Cambridge Stud and has now won five of his 21 starts.



*Nymph Monte and Leah Hemi are lonesome at the finish of the Masterton Cup.*





# TYRO TRAINER TAMMY'S TSUNAMI A TOUR DE FORCE AT TAURANGA

Tammy O'Brien will never forget her first runner at Tauranga with **Red Tsunami (NZ)** (Blue Tsunami) providing the perfect result for the training newcomer.

The local horsewoman celebrated the first winner of her career yesterday when the three-year-old broke through in the Bayleys Real Estate 1300.

"It's really exciting – the filly always tries really hard," O'Brien said. "She definitely deserved this. It's a big buzz."

Red Tsunami began her career with fellow Tauranga trainer Brian McKeagg and placed in two of her three starts before she transferred to part-owner O'Brien.

The chestnut's honest endeavours continued and she finished in the money in four of her first five starts for the new trainer before Mark Du Plessis got her home at the head of yesterday's field.

"She's just needed a little bit of luck and she will better on top of the ground over more ground next season," O'Brien said. "She may have one or two more runs before she goes out for the winter."

Red Tsunami sat in behind the leading pack and came through closer to the fence in the straight to beat North Of The Wall (NZ) (Gorky Park).

"Congratulations to Tammy on her

first winner and I think she'll get another one placed right," Du Plessis said. "She wasn't that comfortable on the wet track."

The heavy going, however, was very much to the liking of a previously out of form **Nahema (NZ)** (Per Incanto).

A quick back-up from a trial placing earlier in the week proved a masterstroke and she led all the way to win the Triton Pacific Owens Plate.

Nahema was a winner as a juvenile last season and finished runner-up, beaten a nose, in the Group Two Matamata Breeders' Stakes but had been well beaten in four subsequent starts.



Tammy O'Brien with her pride and joy Red Tsunami.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>BOP RC Bayleys Real Estate Maiden S. 1300m</b>                         |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Red Tsunami (NZ) 2012</b>  |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>N J Elliott, Miss T L O'Brien and Mrs M D Robinson</b>                 |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Tammy O'Brien (Tauranga)</b>   |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Blue Tsunami (Aus) out of Our Rosalia by Al Akbar (Aus)</b>         |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Mrs H R &amp; J R Best, B D Manssen and Mrs D M &amp; P D Robinson</b> |







# NOVA WARRIOR SHOWS HIS FIGHTING SPIRIT TO CLIMB OFF CANVAS AND WIN

An ultra-combative **Nova Warrior (NZ)** (Bachelor Duke) pulled his way back from the brink of defeat to take the \$580,000 Class Three over 1200 metres at Kranji on Friday.

After enjoying an uncontested trip at the head of affairs, the four-year-old looked in trouble when Luminiff Lad (Iffraaj) drew on level terms at the 300 metre mark with jockey Shafiq Rizuan probably the only person on the course who thought he wasn't a beaten horse.

As the former two-time Singapore champion apprentice got busy, Nova Warrior responded with a brave effort that saw him stretch his neck back on the line – denying Luminiff Lad a three-in-a-row.

Trainer Alwin Tan was delighted with the late rally of his charge, saying that he still held a sliver of hope he would mount a late fightback even though he was on the ropes a furlong out.

"The trick to this horse is he must have a comfortable lead. He cannot come under stress, like today," he said. "He may not win but at least you know he will give his best. I thought we would lose when the other horse went past but I still hoped he would come back as he'd had a fairly soft lead.

"Luckily he kept going and I would say Shafiq has a lot of luck with him. This is their fourth win together.

"Today he was running in a stronger field. I thought it would be a



*Nova Warrior (#5) comes again to defeat Luminiff Lad.*

good challenge and he's proven to be up to the task."

Shafiq agreed that Nova Warrior is not a horse who accepts defeat easily.

"He jumped very well and was happy in front. At the 600 mark I asked him to quicken but when the other horse came to us I thought we were gone," he said.

"But I know this horse inside out and I know he would not run away from a fight, especially as he had quite a soft lead. He's got a big heart and, true enough, he fought back."

Tan has not set any short-term ambitious targets for the gelding – who was registering his fifth win from eleven starts and taking his prizemoney past the \$5200,000 mark –

but has not ruled anything out.

"I think I will give him a break of three to four weeks and keep him to 1200 metre races. He's more of a Polytrack horse and I don't really have any Four-Year-Old dreams with him."

– Singapore Turf Club

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>Singapore TC Class 3 H. 1200m</b>  |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Nova Warrior (NZ) 2011</b>   |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>Nova Racing Stable</b>   |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Alwin Tan (Kranji)</b>   |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Bachelor Duke (USA) out of Muppy (Aus) by Snaadee (USA)</b>   |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Mrs B L &amp; Dr P V Rattray</b>   |
| <b>Sales</b>    | <b>2013 National Yearling Sale, Festival Session; V: Esker Lodge, P: Makaraka Horse Company; \$11,000</b> |





# JAMIESON PARK'S SINGAPORE STORY OPENS WITH NO-DOUBTER TO VRAAD

South Auckland stud Jamieson Park secured its first winner in Singapore on Friday when **Vraad (NZ)** (Volksraad), from the stable of Kiwi trainer Mark Walker and racing in the name of stud principal James Chapman, bolted away to an easy win in the \$575,000 Restricted Maiden over 1400 metres.

Ridden by Shafiq Rizuan, Vraad was having just his third start after two unplaced runs over 1000 metres and 1200 metres and was a lot quicker out of the gates this time around, taking a seat behind leader White Shadow (NZ) (Guillotine) before going for broke at the top of the straight. Clair De Lune (Commands) ran on late but had to settle for

second, 2¼ lengths away, with Trumps Up (Fasliyev) third, another two lengths astern.

Walker said Vraad didn't begin his Singapore career in the most auspicious circumstances but has since made good. "He's a nice horse but he's taken a long time to acclimatise," said the 2015 Singapore champion trainer and current leader on this year's ladder.

"Two weeks after he came, he pulled a muscle in his hindquarters and it was not even after any work. Not sure how he did it but he's all good now.

"He's done a few things wrong but we were patient with him. He's a nice scopy sort with more improvement to come. Being by Volksraad, he will be even better over more ground.

"He's the first horse Jamieson Park has sent to us. They are very good breeders back home and let's hope there'll be more after this one."

Shafiq heaped even more praise on the winner.

"I've watched the replay of the previous race and I thought, with the track on the firm side, it would be better if I

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| <b>Race</b>     | <b>Singapore TC Restricted Maiden S. 1400m</b>                     |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Vraad (NZ) 2012</b>   |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>James Murdoch Chapman</b>                                       |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Mark Walker (Kranji)</b>  |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Volksraad (GB) out of Down View (USA) by Gone West (USA)</b> |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Jamieson Park</b>   |

go forward," he said.

"He's kept improving and I thought he was fit for a 1400 metre race today. I had him under a good hold and he won easy in the end.

"I think he probably should run over this distance one more time before we step him up. He is still learning and is still green but, once the penny drops, he should have a bright future here."

– Singapore Turf Club



*Vraad makes a fine study as he scores his first win.*







# NINE-LENGTH WIN BY FITZROY HAS TRAINER LOOKING AT RICH SERIES

Cliff Brown straight-away labelled **Fitzroy (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) a contender for the Singapore Three-Year-Old Challenge series after he didn't give his rivals a look-in in the \$565,000 Initiation over 1200 metres at Kranji on Friday.

The Australian trainer will saddle Golden Sword (NZ) (Swiss Ace) in today's first leg of the series, the Sgp-Group Three Singapore Three-Year-Old Sprint over 1200 metres, but even though the three-time winner is no slouch it would not be hard to see Fitzroy overshadowing him in the excitement stakes when the second leg, over 1400 metres, rolls around on April 24.

Luckless at his last outing, when he fluffed his lines at barrier rise but still ran a brave fourth, Fitzroy was intent on redemption on Friday – and from the way he decimated his rivals to romp in by nine lengths the atonement was complete.

New partner Vlad Duric went all out once he set the gelding alight and while it looked like the Australian rider might have gone too early, the overwhelming favourite did not let him down, responding to the urgings to dash away by a widening margin.

The ever-canny Brown has heard all about new stars being born after such a walkover, and was as usual not jumping on that bandwagon,

but naming him for the series was no doubt a stamp of approval.

"I thought he may have gone early but he did it easily in the end, I suppose," said Brown. "He lost it completely at his last start but he had a good day today and I was not really concerned. He's a lovely horse and I will enter him in the second leg of the three-year-old series."

Duric's appraisal of Fitzroy certainly was a ringing endorsement to Brown's decision.

"It looked like a nice race for him and it was just a matter of keeping him together," he said.

"Cliff told me he lost the plot at his last start. I just had to keep him quiet on the way to the barriers and although he did play up a little in the gates we were able to calm him down.

"He got out really well and things

were pretty straightforward. I had a lot of horse and coming to the corner I wanted to see what he's got.

"Mentally, he still has some way to go as he's still a young horse but he really impressed me with the way he won today. He's got a massive stride and he should be even better over 1400 metres."

– Singapore Turf Club

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|-----------------|---|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>Singapore TC Initiation P. 1200m</b>   |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Fitzroy (NZ) 2012</b>  |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>Fitzroy Stable</b>   |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Cliff Brown (Kranji)</b>   |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Avec Joie (Aus) by General Nediym (Aus)</b>                                |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>G Harvey</b>   |
| <b>Sales</b>    | <b>2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Cliff Brown Racing; \$130,000</b> |



*Nine lengths clear and headed for classic company, Fitzroy makes light work of his first win.*

