

Sunday 29 May 2016

FURIOUS PACE KILLS FRONT-RUNNERS AS MUSIC MAGNATE COMES WHISTLING HOME



Music Magnate races clear to win the Doomben Ten Thousand.

A suicidal speed battle helped expat-Kiwi trainer Bjorn Baker claim his first Group One success in his own right when Kerrin McEvoy sailed down the centre of the track to win yesterday's Group One Doomben Ten Thousand aboard **Music Magnate (NZ)** (Written Tycoon).

Baker has had a fantastic season, training more than a hundred winners, but a Group One has eluded the son of legendary Kiwi trainer Murray Baker, until now.

"A Group One – it's just great," he said.

"This horse has had a few problems but I always had the winter in mind and we deliberately gave him an easy autumn."

Baker said Music Magnate had not always indicated he would be a stable star but had gradually improved.

The race was run at a frantic pace, with Paul King firing across the front aboard Two Blue (Dubleo), only to have Zac Purton kick up along the inside, unable to restrain the

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(Continued from page 1)

favourite Fell Swoop (Not A Single Doubt).

At the same time, Jim Byrne on Hooked (Casino Prince) surprisingly pressed on three wide to join the leaders, the first 750 metres clocked in a sizzling 42.21 seconds.

Post-race, stewards grilled King, Purton and Byrne, asking them to explain their tactics.

Byrne said when the pace started to ease Purton had come out and bumped his horse and as soon as it happened Hooked grabbed the bridle and wanted to over-race. Purton said Fell Swoop had wanted to pull hard as soon as Hooked came along beside him.

"I really had to strangle my horse and when he sensed Hooked was there he wanted to go again," Purton said.

King said Two Blue had raced to her normal pattern.

As all this was happening, McEvoy was smoking the pipe aboard Music Magnate, fifth one out trailing the hot speed with the second favourite Azkadellia (NZ) (Shinko King) settling last for Mark Zahra.

Although Fell Swoop managed to kick into the straight he was soon running on empty and Music Magnate stormed clear to beat a fast finishing Azkadellia by three-quarters of a length, clocking a time of 1:17.77 for the 1350 metres.

"Bjorn said to me before the start, it's going to be a game of chess on horseback," McEvoy said.

"It was that. I didn't expect them to go that quick. I got a

bit of a prat after they'd gone fifty metres, was squeezed up and had to come back.

"But then I got into a nice rhythm. I knew they were going quick and I knew my horse would be strong late. Bjorn had him cherry ripe for today."

McEvoy indicated he was confident of retaining the mount aboard Music Magnate in the \$A1.5 million Stradbroke Handicap at Eagle Farm in a fortnight.

UBet Fixed Odds slashed Music Magnate's Stradbroke quote from \$13 to \$8 whilst Azkadellia retains favouritism at \$4.40.

– racenet.com.au & AAP TURF

Race	BRC Doomben Ten Thousand S. Gr.1 1350m
Winner	Music Magnate (NZ) 2011
Owners	S W Britton, D R Frampton, D R McEvoy, C J Milton, W J Williams, G A Quinn, T M Sullivan, S J Billingsley, Cobbitty Lodge Stud & Stables (Mgr: Dr J G Morris), Written Tycoon Racing (Mgr: B F Bernhart) and Bjorn Baker Racing (Mgr: B Baker)
Trainer	Bjorn Baker (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Written Tycoon (Aus) out of Concert Girl (Aus) by Danehill Dancer (Ire)
Breeder	NZ Thoroughbred Holdings Ltd
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Bjorn Baker Racing; \$45,000



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ECUADOR PROVES HE'S A GENUINE STAYER

As **Ecuador (NZ)** (High Chaparral) works his way to bigger Cups, one of the biggest of all may be beyond Raw Impulse (Makfi).

The odds-on favourite for the Listed McKell Cup at yesterday's Randwick meeting – and \$17 second favourite in early markets for the Caulfield Cup – Raw Impulse struggled with the 2400 metres to finish four lengths fourth behind the Gai Waterhouse-trained Ecuador and immediately had his Caulfield Cup odds lengthened to \$35.

Although it was Ecuador's first attempt at the distance, he handled it with ease and now heads to the Group Two Brisbane Cup in two weeks after leading all the way to add the McKell Cup to his Lord Mayor's Cup win earlier in the month.

"He's been a slow maturer and I've been very patient with him," Waterhouse said. "He was fantastic today and the Brisbane Cup looks ideal."

Ecuador has rediscovered his best since his trainer removed the blinkers on the advice of Tim Clark after the Hawkesbury Gold Cup two starts ago. Clark told Waterhouse he didn't believe the six-year-old was putting his all into his work and advised the trainer to remove the blinkers and make the gelding lead.

With Adam Hyeronimus aboard and carrying 59.5kg, Ecuador made his way to the front with not too much trouble and defied any attempt to get past him.

He had 1¾ lengths to spare over Iggi Pop (NZ) (Savabeel) with the same margin to Havana Cooler (Hurricane Run) with Raw Impulse another half length behind.

Hyeronimus earned high praise from Waterhouse as well as his large and loud group of supporters known as The Hippo Club.

"My cousin Blake and a few of the boys love the races and go to a lot of meetings," Hyeronimus said. "I think it's good to have them here."

"It was also good to win on Ecuador. He did all the work and did it so effortlessly. He had no problems with the 2400 metres and I was confident down the back straight."

Waterhouse said Hyeronimus was the ideal rider for a horse such as Ecuador.

"He understands tempo and is great with front-running tactics," she said. "He judged it so perfectly."

Sam Clipperton, who rode Raw Impulse, said his opinion was that the horse failed to stay the distance.

– AAP TURF

Race	ATC W J McKell Cup L 2400m
Winner	Ecuador (NZ) 2009
Owners	S C Rose, Saddlers Knife Synd (Mgr: D Brook), G J Fisher, T Lillis, G G B Macdonald, J P Nugent, Oliver Racing Synd (Mgr: Dr P J Oliver), Mrs R Winney and Ms J Singleton
Trainer	Gai Waterhouse (Randwick)
Breeding	by High Chaparral (Ire) out of Bak da Princess by Danske
Breeder	D B & P G Hollinshead
Sales	2011 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Esker Lodge, P: Ms Amanda Skiffington; \$360,000



Ecuador clearly outstays his rivals in yesterday's McKell Cup.





PATRICK'S ONSIDE **WITH HIS SISTERS**

After a stellar career in the saddle, Patrick Payne is emerging as a serious trainer of jumpers. Earlier this month Payne recorded his third Grand Annual Steeplechase win while yesterday he pocketed another feature jumps race at Sandown.

Angelology (NZ) (Coats Choice), a horse part-owned by his sisters, former jockeys Cathy and Maree, took out the Australian Steeplechase under a



Angelology takes the last in the Australian Steeplechase marginally ahead of the topweight Wells with Zataglio rising to the fence.

perfect ride by Brad McLean.

Heavily supported from \$3.50 to run the \$2.80 favourite, Angelology scored a 3¼ length win from Wells (Galileo) with Zataglio (NZ) (Savabeel) 1¾ lengths away third.

The Australian Steeplechase win was Payne's second, having claimed the race in 2014 with Kiwi jumper Krase (NZ) (Ekraar).

Payne described Angelology as a family pet but joked it can be difficult training for his sisters, who are married to Melbourne Cup-winning jockeys Kerrin McEvoy and Brett Prebble.

"They've been giving me instructions for the last week telling me how to train him," Payne said.

"Cathy's good to deal with but

Maree likes to put her two bobs' worth in. When she starts to tell me what to do I put the phone down, put the kettle on and make a cup of tea – and when I come back she's still carrying on.

"But it's great for the family. It gives us all something to talk about."

While Angelology was successful in yesterday's feature, Payne doubts the jumper has the class to be a contender in the Grand National Steeplechase at Ballarat in August. Instead, he is likely to be set for the Thackeray Steeplechase at Warrnambool in July.

McLean landed his second Australian Steeplechase and said after riding Angelology last year he had established a fair opinion of the horse.

After Angelology ambled up to be behind the leaders at the turn, McLean was confident of success.

"He only had to jump the last and then it was race over," he said.

– AAP TURF

Race	MRC Australian Steeplechase 3400m
Winner	Angelology (NZ) 2008
Owners	Mrs M Prebble, Miss A K Illston and Mrs C E McEvoy
Trainer	Patrick Payne (Plumpton)
Breeding	by Coats Choice (Aus) out of Fallen Angel by Faltaat (USA)
Breeder	A W Jones and Mrs E W Morris
Sales	2010 National Yearling Sale, Festival Session; V: Berkley Stud, P: Mr N F Ridley; \$3250





GRAND PRIX WIN PUTS MACKINTOSH ON WELL-TRAVELLED COURSE FOR DERBY

Trainer Chris Waller can draw similarities between yesterday's Group Three Grand Prix Stakes winner **Mackintosh (NZ)** (Pins) and his 2013 Queensland Derby hero Hawkspur (Purrealist).

Mackintosh, a tight \$2.10 favourite, held on grimly to claim the Derby's main lead-up event at Doomben in much the same manner as stablemate Hawkspur did three years ago, which preceded victory in the Group One Queensland

Derby at Eagle Farm a fortnight later.

The former New Zealander survived a late charge from the Bryan Guy-trained Eagle Way (More Than Ready) to prevail by a short neck while Darren Weir's South Australian Derby winner Howard Be Thy Name (Redoute's Choice) also closed strongly, finishing a further half-head away in third.

"Hawkspur is a similar horse; he was winning the same races as a three-year-old from on the speed," Waller said.

"We tried to take a sit on him again today from barrier three but nothing really wanted to lead so he's happy rolling along in front and I suppose it will be the same in the Derby.

"I thought his last fifty metres was strong but it's hard to sort of weigh up how that will line up with 2400 metres at Eagle Farm in two weeks' time."

Since joining the Waller camp in February, Mackintosh has won three of four starts, including the Group Three Rough Habit Plate over 2000 metres at Doomben a fortnight ago. His

Race	BRC Grand Prix S. Gr.3 2200m
Winner	Mackintosh (NZ) 2012
Owners	T Muollo, A Muollo and L Petagna
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Pins (Aus) out of Lolly Scramble by Generous (Ire)
Breeder	Waikato Stud Ltd
Sales	2013 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Bridge Racing; \$11,000

only failure came first-up in the Group One Randwick Guineas on March 5 when finishing more than eight lengths astern of Le Romain (Hard Spun).

In a surprising shift to the Queensland Derby market, Mackintosh's quote was turned out to \$3.80 from \$3.40 by online bookmaker Ubet while Eagle Way's price was slashed from \$12 into \$5.50.

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ROGIE HAS HIGH HOPES **FOR ICHIBAN**



Hard up against the outside rail, Ichiban travels too well for his rivals in yesterday's Great Northern Foal Stakes.

Graeme Rogerson barely had time to catch his breath following yesterday's win by **Ichiban (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) at Ellerslie before he headed to the airport.

The Tuhikaramea trainer was bound for Queensland to oversee the sale of the dual Group Two winner Serena Miss (NZ) (Iffraaj), who is going to auction as a broodmare prospect at the Gold Coast next Wednesday to dissolve a partnership.

"She's been a high-class racehorse and I think she will be making a lot of money," said Rogerson, who shares in the ownership of the filly.

He is also a co-owner of Ichiban and rates yesterday's Listed Graeme Thomson Jewellers Great Northern Foal Stakes winner as a future Group One prospect.

"He's going to be a really good horse," Rogerson said. "We've had a few big offers for him so I'll have to talk to the other owners when I get back, but I would be happy to keep him for next season's Two Thousand Guineas.

Ichiban was in touch with the pace throughout and, despite racing greenly in the straight under Leith Innes, he held on to score narrowly from Quantum (NZ) (Keeper).

"Leith was very impressed with him," Rogerson said. "He did everything to get beaten but still got there. He's still very immature and he's got a lot of developing to do.

"He'll go to the paddock now. I've got a few other young ones around and Lord Ascot can run for us in the Castletown Stakes next weekend."

Rogerson also drew on his inside knowledge to gain

confidence in Ichiban's ability to handle yesterday's Heavy 10 track conditions.

"I've had a bit of success with his family and they all handled wet tracks," he said.

Rogerson has won seven races with Ichiban's brother Staccato (NZ) and he also prepared their relative Illuminates (Strategic) to win ten races, including four at Listed level in Australia.

Race	ARC Great Northern Foal S. L 1400m
Winner	Ichiban (NZ) 2013
Owners	G A Rogerson, Robin Ratcliffe, Paul Manning, Grant Wilson, Kyle Selinger and NZ Thoroughbred Holdings Ltd
Trainer	Graeme & Debbie Rogerson (Tuhikaramea)
Breeding	by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Eclaircissement (Aus) by Hussonet (USA)
Breeder	G Harvey





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POLISHED DISPLAY BY ZINJETE GETS HER OFF TO FLYING START FOR NEW STABLE

Zinjete Moki's stint with the powerful Kevin Myers stable got away to a flying start at Trentham yesterday when she successfully combined with wet-track specialist **Duffers Creek (NZ)** (Gold Centre), giving a polished display aboard the six-year-old, who revelled in the Heavy 11 going to triumph in the IRT North Island Challenge Stakes.

"I'm pretty stoked to get my first winner for Kevin," the 27-year-old said.

Moki has transferred south to the Wanganui trainer for the winter with the blessing of Pukekohe Park trainer Richard Collett, whose stable numbers have decreased with the onset of the wet tracks.

Still able to claim three kilos, Moki allowed Duffers Creek to stride to an early lead and he was travelling comfortably at the top of the straight.

"He was just cruising along and then I took a bit of a hold of him when he got keen," she said.

Duffers Creek responded when Moki asked him for a serious effort in the run home and they forged clear to win by a length and a quarter from Shezgorgeous (NZ) (O'Reilly) and the favourite Madonna Mia (NZ) (Red Clubs).

"I gave him a couple behind the saddle to keep him honest," she said.

Moki's fellow apprentice Nivesh Teeluck also used his three kilo claim to good effect aboard the diminutive **Lucy Liu (NZ)** (Thorn Park) to narrowly claim top honours in the In Memory of Bill Wylie Premier.



Duffers Creek is on his own at the finish of the North Island Challenge Stakes.

"There's not a lot to her and she's only three, but she's going to win her share of races," said Johno Benner, who trains the filly with his partner Hollie Wynyard.

Teeluck was able to get the best out of Lucy Liu in a tight finish to score by a head for the second win of the filly's six start career.

Race	WRC IRT North Island Challenge H. 1400m
Winner	Duffers Creek (NZ) 2009
Owners	I S & Mrs M G Morrison
Trainer	Kevin Myers (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Gold Centre (Aus) out of Miss Leading by Casual Lies (USA)
Breeder	I S & Mrs M G Morrison

Race	WRC In Memory of Bill Wylie H. 1200m
Winner	Lucy Liu (NZ) 2012
Owners	Jomara Bloodstock Ltd
Trainer	Johno Benner & Hollie Wynyard (Otaki)
Breeding	by Thorn Park (Aus) out of Carib by Montjeu (Ire)
Breeder	Jomara Bloodstock Ltd





OLD-TIMER HELPS SAM GET ONE OVER MUM

Veteran performer **John Gray (NZ)** (Jahafil) is showing no signs of slowing up and the sprightly old-timer provided his rider with a victory to savour at Ellerslie yesterday.

The rising twelve-year-old opened his account for the winter with success in the Bidvest 1600 under Samantha Collett, who pipped her mother Trudy Thornton aboard **Celebrity Miss (NZ)** (Civics) in a driving finish.

"It's not often I can outride Mum," Collett said. "I threw everything at the horse."

Trained by Antony Fuller at Tauranga, John Gray was having his third run back from a spell and, after a less than encouraging start to the campaign, he returned his backers odds of 40-1.

"I knew he was well although I have to be honest and say we were expecting better efforts in his first two runs," Fuller said. "Maybe he didn't go as well because he was a bit fat."

John Gray's workload was subsequently stepped up and the senior citizen of the open handicap ranks responded positively.

"He's away now and he will back up in the Cornwall Handicap next weekend, providing everything is okay with him after this race," Fuller said.

John Gray settled in behind the leaders before Collett let him slide forward and challenge soon after straightening.

"He started pulling at the 1000 and he's stronger than me so I let him go," she said.

John Gray was bravest under pressure in the run to the post to keep the Group One performer **Celebrity Miss** at bay by a short head with a nose back to rank outsider **Seconds Out (NZ)** (Perfectly Ready).

"I thought he had stuck his big head out in time," Collett said.

Our King Sway (NZ) (Shinko King) got home well to cut the favourite **Joey Jonz (NZ)** (Starjo) out of fourth money while **Spoke To Carlo** (Halling), well below par when unplaced seven days previously at Awapuni, turned in another disappointing performance to tail the field home.

Race	ARC Bidvest H. 1600m
Winner	John Gray (NZ) 2004
Owners	R M Brownlee and Mrs S H Fuller
Trainer	Antony Fuller (Tauranga)
Breeding	by Jahafil (GB) out of Mum's the Word by Woodborough (USA)
Breeder	N G & R M Brownlee



Sam Collett gets the best out of John Gray as the veteran scores his fourteenth win and takes his stakes earnings past the \$300,000 mark.





BULLRUSH DOES IT TOUGH AT RANDWICK TO PICK UP FIFTH WIN FROM FIVE STARTS

Co-trainer Michael Hawkes described **Bullrush (NZ)** (O'Reilly) as a "street fighter" after the four-year-old extended his unbeaten record to five in the One Solutions Benchmark 78 Handicap over 1400 metres at Randwick yesterday.

Bullrush worked across from a wide draw to take up the running and in the straight repelled as many as six challengers to give apprentice Koby Jennings his first Saturday and Randwick double. He won earlier in the day aboard Wonderbolt (More Than Ready).

"That's something special," Jennings said. "I felt him lift twice in the straight. He loves it.

"He had every right to be run down. To have to work like he did to get across and setting a speed like that at his first start over 1400 metres on a track like that. He's a pretty smart horse. It's a privilege to ride him."

Bullrush, at a generous \$4.80, given his form, crossed the line with a half-head to spare over the \$4.20 favourite Roguish (More Than Ready) with the same margin back to Disgraceful (Redoute's Choice) before the connections of Disgraceful and fourth placegetter Invinzabeel (I Am Invincible) both lodged protests against the runner-up.

Stewards deemed the interference caused by the wayward Roguish over the final hundred metres had affected the result and upheld both objections.

When correct weight was declared Bullrush defeated Disgraceful and Invinzabeel with Roguish relegated to fourth.

- racenet.com.au



Carrying the Waikato Stud colours, Bullrush (#5) fights on best to win the last at Randwick and keep his unbeaten record intact.

Race	ATC One Solutions H. 1400m.
Winner	Bullrush (NZ) 2011
Owners	G J Chittick
Trainer	M, W & J Hawkes (Rosehill)
Breeding	By O'Reilly out of Pin Up by Pins (Aus)
Breeder	G J Chittick



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WINTER CUP **THE TARGET FOR RAMARRO**



Sam Spratt and Ramarro (#4) come out on top in a head and head battle with Pan Dulce.

Peter Lock's hopes of a warming winter with **Ramarro (NZ)** (Patapan) were further stoked at Ellerslie where the proven wet track performer was back in the winning groove.

The Te Aroha trainer has black type plans for the rising seven-year-old this preparation and yesterday's success in the Scot Thrust 1200 boosted hopes of attaining stakes status.

"The Winter Cup at Riccarton is the aim this year," said Lock, who also part-owns the gelding. "He loves bad ground so hopefully he can continue on with the good form."

While Ramarro has now won four races – two of them at Ellerslie – he

isn't yet the finished article.

"He can get himself very worked up so there's improvement to come in the brain department," Lock said.

Ramarro was, however, on his game yesterday for rider Sam Spratt, who bided her time toward the tail end of the field and then came with a determined finish to collar Pan Dulce (NZ) (Don Eduardo) short of the post.

The genuine Biggin Hill (NZ) (Falvelon) finished third, the 25th minor placing of his career, while the well-backed Nahema (NZ) (Per Incanto) dropped out to beat two home after racing on the pace to the turn.

Lock also looks to have a strong

winter prospect in the lightly tried Mr Luigi (NZ) (Darci Brahma), who earlier in the day resumed on an encouraging note, making a good recovery after copping an early check, when runner-up behind the unbeaten Parallel Universe in the Tourism Ireland 1200.

"He's a very, very good horse and I hope he stays in one piece," Lock said. "He'll go right through the grades."

Race	ARC Scot Thrust H. 1200m
Winner	Ramarro (NZ) 2009
Owners	A Alunno and P W Lock
Trainer	Peter Lock (Te Aroha)
Breeding	by Patapan (USA) out of Beau Zena by Beau Zephyr (Aus)
Breeder	Seaton Park Ltd





BUYERS CIRCLING AS PARALLEL UNIVERSE DOMINATES AGAIN IN ELLERSLIE SUCCESS

Overseas buyers are circling around **Parallel Universe (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) and Shane Crawford is resigned to losing the talented three-year-old.

The Cambridge trainer can, however, be proud of his efforts after producing the gelding for a debut victory in the central districts earlier this month and another dominant victory in yesterday's Tourism Ireland 1200 at Ellerslie.

"The phone was hot last night and it's going to be ringing hot again after this," Crawford said.

Race	ARC Tourism Ireland H. 1200m
Winner	Parallel Universe (NZ) 2012
Owners	Tony Chan
Trainer	Shane Crawford (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of Anca by Howbaddouwantit (USA)
Breeder	Cambridge Hunt Ltd
Sales	2013 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Curraghmore Stud, P: Regal Farm; \$85,000

"He's a very good horse, but unfortunately he's not going to be with us for too much longer. He was actually sold for big money after he won his first trial but the deal fell through."

Rider Leith Innes was happy to sit wide on Parallel Universe near the pace and the son of the good racemare Anca (NZ) (Howbaddouwantit) strode clear 250 metres from home. Despite racing greenly, he had two and a quarter lengths on Mr Luigi at the post.

"I galloped him myself on a wet track at Cambridge so I was confident he would handle the conditions," Crawford said.

"The others in the family have all handled wet tracks as well."

A half-brother to the multiple winners Salamanca (NZ) (Alamosa), who has a stakes victory to his credit, and It's Bianca (NZ) (Alamosa) is raced by his Hong Kong-based owner Tony Chan.

"I paid \$85,000 for him as a weanling at Karaka on behalf of Tony," Crawford said.



Chan is also the owner of Standing In Line (Domesday), who has won both his starts at Dargaville and Wanganui.

"I've still got him at the moment and he's out spelling," Crawford said. "He's been under offer for a while without anything happening but he's sure to go at some stage."

"Tony's only got so many permits in Hong Kong so he can't race them all up there."

It's two starts for two wins as Parallel Universe easily bridges the gap from a midweek maiden win to success on a Saturday at Ellerslie.



Sunday 29 May 2016



NO LONG WAIT FOR TYRO OWNERS WHEN LONGHU SCORES AT FIRST TIME OF ASKING



Still learning but obviously talented, Longhu scores easily at Kranji on Friday night.

New owners getting lucky with their first runner is always a pleasure to see and **Longhu (NZ)** (Per Incanto) provided such an occasion at Kranji on Friday night.

Meaning "Dragon and Tiger" in Mandarin, Longhu made a winning debut in the \$575,000 Restricted Maiden over 1000 metres on Polytrack for the Middle Kingdom Stable of local owner Jayven See, who has split his fifty percent share among five other owners, all Singaporean first-timers. The other fifty percent represents ownership with a deal more experience in

racing, New Zealanders Trevor Luke and Karl Burgess.

What made it more exciting for the happy bunch was that they'd also been on hand at Longhu's barrier trial a week ago. Snapping smartphone pictures and selfies with their new pride and joy, the group had then quickly huddled around to take in the feedback from jockey John Powell and trainer Shane Baertschiger.

Unfortunately, the report, after a fifth, was not all that glowing but, being new to the game, the group were still full

Continued on page 15





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NO LONG WAIT FOR TYRO OWNERS WHEN LONGHU SCORES AT FIRST TIME OF ASKING

(Continued from page 14)

of hope and nothing could dampen the excitement of seeing the three-year-old's first outing. This time they didn't have to hang on the jockey's or trainer's words as the horse did all the talking from the 300 metre mark when he came off a handy spot to collar short-priced favourite Lightning Fast (Hard Spun).

Though not quite the finished article, Longhu kept working home solidly to post a comfortable 1¼-length win from Dragon Master (NZ) (Darci Brahma) with Lightning Fast third, just under a length away.

"He ran very well at his first trial but was a bit disappointing at his second last week. He was pretty green," said Baertschiger. "But he was impressive in the way he won tonight. Under hard riding, he responded quite well and I think he'll be even better over longer."

As he had been battling the 'flu for a while, Powell said he gave a thought to calling in sick but stuck it out and was well

rewarded for his decision.

"I'll be right. Nothing like a winner to get me going," said the heavyweight jockey. "He's a funny horse, a bit gawky. He wanted to hang off at the first corner when I was outside Stay With Me and Lightning Fast came around on my outside. He couldn't come back around heels and fell behind.

"He's still learning what racing is all about. I think we'll give him two more runs and turn him out."

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Restricted Maiden S. 1000m
Winner	Longhu (NZ) 2012
Owners	Middle Kingdom No 2 Stable
Trainer	Shane Baertschiger (Kranji)
Breeding	by Per Incanto (USA) out of Sacred Steps by Elusive City (USA)
Breeder	P R Whyte



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