

Monday 17 April 2017

INFANTRY BACK TO HIS BEST IN JBBA MOONBEAM VASE



Infantry pulls out all the stops to claim the JBBA Moonbeam Vase.

Champion jockey Manoel Nunes' strong faith in **Infantry (NZ)** (Tavistock) was repaid manifold when the Tavistock four-year-old bounced back to the winner's circle in the \$200,000 JBBA Moonbeam Vase (1800m) on Sunday.

A few knockers had been hinting that the Thai-owned Merlion Trophy winner was not cracked up to be that good

when fourth to Time Odyssey (Jet Master) in an Open Handicap race over 1600m three weeks ago.

But the man who held the steering wheel would be in a better position to pass a judgement, and Nunes was adamant – ignore that run.

"There was no pace in the race at his last start and he had

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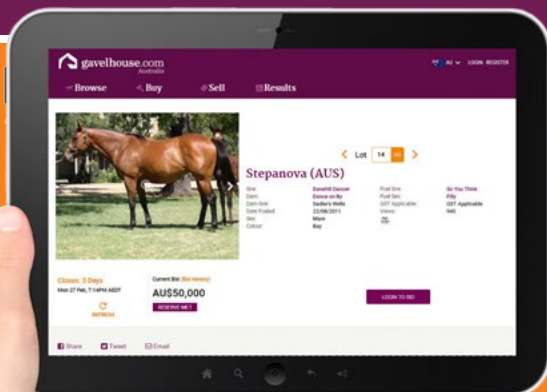
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INFANTRY BACK TO HIS BEST IN JBBA MOONBEAM VASE

(Continued from page 1)

a heavy weight (58kgs) on his back, and gave weight to his rivals," said the Brazilian jockey.

"He was also held up for a run on the inside, and by the time they quickened at the 600m, he couldn't quite go with them. To me, it was still a good run considering how slow they went.

"To me, it was best to ignore that run. I was convinced he would be even better over 1800m as long as there is a genuine pace to the race."

Nunes' wish was granted as there was a steady tempo to the 11th renewal of the feature race from the get-go with noted frontrunner Order Of The Sun (Encosta De Lago) strolling to the front.

Next in the running line was the Ricardo Le Grange pair of Time Odyssey and Perfect P (Perfectperformance), the latter in the box seat, while Infantry had settled in an ideal spot in mid-division just ahead of favourite Gilt Complex (NZ) (Gold Centre).

That pair would begin their run together, but that advantage that Infantry held over Gilt Complex proved to be unassailable in the end, even if Cliff Brown's gallant bay ran his heart out inside the last 300m, only to fall short by a head.

Upon knowing he had nailed it, Nunes could not hold back his joy after the line as he raised his hand in delight.

"I thanked God for another big win. Competition is tough this year, but I'm slowly finding my way back to the top," said the three-time Singapore champion jockey who has ironically leapt over Rodd on the ladder to now sit in second spot on 23 winners, two behind Vlad Duric.

"Alwin has done a great job with this horse. We were over the Long Course, and he really kept fighting to the line.

"I never had any doubt he would see out the 1800m. He is going the right way for the Derby."

The Emirates Singapore Derby (2000m) has always been the long-haul target for Tan's galloper, even if he was a little apprehensive how he would fare at his first local test over nine furlongs. Infantry did run over 1800m before but it was in Korea in the deep sand and he ran nowhere.

"To be honest, I didn't have a lot of confidence about him going for the first time over 1800m, but this horse has such a big heart," said Tan.

"I was a bit disappointed with his last run. He raced a bit keen and that was why I took off the visors today.

"I would say he is the best horse in my yard at the moment. He will be going for the Singapore Four-Year-Old Challenge now."

The Singapore Four-Year-Old Challenge kicks off with the Stewards' Cup (1400m) on May 28, followed by the Patron's Bowl (1600m) on June 18 before wrapping up with the Emirates Singapore Derby (2000m).

Race	Singapore TC Moonbeam Vase 1800m.
Winner	Infantry (NZ) 2012
Owners	Kajorn Petch Racing No. 2 Stable
Trainer	HW Tan (Kranji)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of The Nightingale by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	Sir Patrick & Lady Hogan; Waikato; NZ
Sales	2013 National Weanling; Broodmare & Mixed Sale V: Cambridge Stud \$7000 P: A Rutten





SEVENTH UP ADDS HIS NAME TO EASTER STAKES CONTENDERS

Cambridge trainer Shelley Hale is hoping she can produce a two-pronged attack on Saturday's Manco Easter Stakes at Ellerslie after **Seventh Up's (NZ)** (Shinko King) comfortable victory at Tauranga on the weekend.

The lightly raced six-year-old made it three wins from three starts at Tauranga when he cruised to success in the day's feature event, the Taste Of Asia Mount Maunganui 1400. Punters who installed the Shinko King gelding as a warm favourite for the contest were on good terms with themselves as veteran rider Grant Cooksley produced a copybook display to land the victory.

Cooksley bounced Seventh Up from the gates to take up a forward position in the early stages of the race before sending his charge to the lead upon straightening. Under a very kind ride Seventh Up found the line strongly to score by a half-length and set himself up for a tilt at this weekend's Ellerslie Group Two feature.

"I was a little nervous going in as I wasn't sure just how heavy the track would be after all the rain we've had," admitted Hale.

"His record on heavy ground is very good but he doesn't really like it that much, it's just that he always gives his very best and tries his heart out.

"He prefers it more in the dead to slow range so I'm hoping he gets something like that on Saturday."

Hale has had the Easter Stakes

pin-pointed as the main target for this campaign after sending the horse for a break following a courageous run for fourth in the Coupland's Bakeries Mile back in November.

"He jarred up very badly after Riccarton so we had to put him out for a decent break," she explained.

"I set him for Ellerslie then but it hasn't been easy going and for a while I didn't think I could get him back in time.

"He has really thrived over the last few weeks so I'm pleased with him and although it will be a hot field I think he is up to it."

Hale is also hopeful her progressive sprinter-miler Go Nicholas (NZ) (Danroad) can also gain a start in the race, providing her boutique stable with two live chances.

"We've also had the Easter in mind for Go Nicholas but his rating is lower than Seventh Up so he might miss out on a start," she said.

"I think if he did sneak in he would not be a forlorn hope as he just loves it at Ellerslie and has a lethal sprint when saved up for one run at them. They often run the race at a very genuine



Shelley Hale with her pride and joy Seventh Up

tempo so that would definitely be to his advantage."

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	BOP RC Taste of Asia Mt Maunganui H. 1400m.
Winner	Seventh Up (NZ) 2010
Owners	Miss S A Hale, Noel & Alison Johnstone Family Trust & R M Stent
Trainer	Shelley Hale (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Shinko King (IRE) out of Regelle by Exploding Prospect (USA)
Breeder	Miss S A Hale; N W Johnstone & R M Stent; Waikato; NZ





WOODEN EDGE ALL CLASS AT TAURANGA

A decent break over the summer looks to have paid dividends for Saturday's impressive Tauranga winner, **Wooden Edge (NZ)** (Have No Fear).

The lightly raced five-year-old looked like he would rattle through the grades when he produced three straight wins to launch his career last winter. He followed that with some muddling performances in the spring that saw trainer Chris Wood turn him out for a lengthy spell following a disappointing effort at Hawkes Bay on Livamol Classic day in October.

Wood admitted he wasn't sure at the time why the gelding suddenly lost form although an answer to the puzzle presented itself within a few days of being placed on the easy list.

"We sent him out to part-owner Gary Edge's place and about a week after he got there Gary gave me a call with some news," recalled Wood.

"He told me the horse was lame so we got the vet in and he found a very deep seated stone bruise.

"Nothing had shown up at the stable as he was as sound as a bell but it could have been niggling him during those last few runs. Once he had it treated he was as good as gold and thrived during the break he had."

Wood was confident of a good performance when his charge resumed on the weekend and got just that as Wooden Edge bolted away from his rivals in the run home under the urgings of apprentice Hairi Marzuki.

"His work had been good and with the track pretty wet I thought he would go well," he said.

"When the fields came out I was umming and aahing about a rider as it looked like all of his main rivals were going for an apprentice claim.

"Hairi hasn't ever ridden for me before, not even in trackwork, but he sent me a text so I decided to have a look at him. Tim Vince told me he thought the boy could ride so I booked him and he ended up doing a great job."

Wooden Edge and Hairi Marzuki forge clear at Tauranga

Meanwhile Wood is hoping a visit from a chiropractor will work some magic for his other stable star, Pacorus (NZ) (Tavistock), who was slightly disappointing when finishing fourth in Saturday's Hawke's Bay Gold Cup.

"There is something just not quite right with him," admitted Wood.

"He went okay but certainly not as well as he can. He is eating fine and looks tip-top but he isn't finishing his races off like we would want.

"I've got my chiropractor coming over from Melbourne so I'm hoping he might find something with him. I think he also needs the tracks a little bit wetter than he is currently getting so that could well have been another factor on Saturday."

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	BOP RC STE Industrial Electrical H. 1200m.
Winner	Wooden Edge (NZ) 2011
Owners	G Edge, Betalert Ltd, S Durrant, D Sexton, I Green, K Gregory, P Wicks, D Proverbs, M Hayes, D McHugh, P O'Sullivan, R Clark & R Woods
Trainer	Chris Wood (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Have No Fear out of Oh My Girl by Istidaad (USA)
Breeder	M G Hodge; Waikato; NZ





PITMAN TEAM ENJOYING RIVERTON SUNSHINE

The father and son training partnership of Michael and Matthew Pitman stamped their mark on the opening day of the Riverton Easter Carnival on Saturday when they produced four winners from their eight runners at the meeting.

O’Kiwi (NZ) (Pentire) and Prince Ransom (Red Ransom) got them away to a flying start with wins in the first two races on the day before **Jazzman (NZ)** (One Cool Cat) and Dynamic (NZ) (Perfectly Ready) added further success later in the programme. It was just reward for the partnership with Pitman senior a noted supporter of the traditional two-day meeting for many years.

“I like coming back here as it is a great club who look after us well and do a great job,” he said.

“We brought our team down earlier in the week and they have settled in well and raced accordingly. It is something we had planned a fair bit for so it’s nice when that has the rewards like we achieved on Saturday.”

While Pitman was delighted with the team’s performance he had a special mention for the ride of apprentice Amanda Morgan on Jazzman, who took out the Waiau Hotel Aparima sponsored open 1200 metre event.

“It was a lovely ride by Amanda as she did everything I asked of her,” he noted.

“I walked the track after the horses had galloped here on Thursday morning and I said to her then she needed to hug the rails all the way on him. When it is a little wet here they tend to go wide on the home corner

so I knew if she could stick to the rails it was worth a length or two to him.

“Amanda did exactly that so it was the difference between winning and losing the race.”

Pitman has welcomed the capable 27-year-old apprentice back into the stable after she had spent a year or two away from racing.

“Amanda took a break from it all after my son Johnny’s death and I told her then there was always a place for her if she decided she wanted to come back,” he said.

“We’ve only had her back for a few weeks now and she has started with a hiss and a roar, riding 3 winners from her first 8 rides.

“She loves Jazzman and has now won six races on him so they are a combination that definitely click.”

The Pitman’s will look to extend their winning streak on the second day of the carnival today with O’Kiwi nominated as a leading chance provided he can gain a place in the field for race 10 where he is listed as the 4th emergency for the event.

– NZ Racing Desk



Jazzman was one of four winners on the day for trainers Michael and Matthew Pitman

Race	Riverton RC Waiau Hotel Aparima H. 1200m.
Winner	Jazzman (NZ) 2009
Owners	A J, Mrs E A & J G Carran & M R Pitman
Trainer	Michael & Matthew Pitman (Riccarton Park)
Breeding	by One Cool Cat (USA) out of Mystical by My Halo (Arg)
Breeder	Mrs S L Frost & Mrs R A Ramage; Canterbury; NZ





LYNDS HOPING BAD LUCK OVER FOR WILLS ROAD

The frustrating run of bad luck that plagued Awapuni galloper **Wills Road (NZ)** (Elusive City) during his last campaign looks to be a thing of the past as the talented six-year-old notched the third win from his last four starts in emphatic fashion at Hastings on Saturday.

The powerfully built Elusive City gelding looked to have enormous potential when he burst on the scene during the 2014 Hawke's Bay Spring Carnival. He finished that campaign with 3 wins from 10 starts and looked to be on his way to the elite level.

However, trainer Jeff Lynds and the horse's connections have had to endure a frustrating 16-month spell that saw the gelding go winless until he finally broke through at Trentham in January. A further two wins from three starts has Lynds believing his charge is now positioned to finally fulfil his true potential.

"He took a while to fully strengthen up and that probably contributed to a few patchy efforts," he acknowledged.

"In saying that he did have some terrible luck in his last campaign that didn't help the

situation. He ran several placings and was pretty much all around it but just couldn't get a win.

"I think he took a lot of confidence out of the Trentham win and he has gone on with the job from there."

Lynds isn't confident Wills Road can handle the deep winter tracks so is eyeing a start at Riccarton on 6 May before sending him for a deserved winter spell.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Hawkes Bay Tarzino H. 1400m.
Winner	Wills Road (NZ) 2010
Owners	Mrs G M & G M Hewson
Trainer	Jeff Lynds (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Elusive City (USA) out of Lady Winifred by Casual Lies (USA)
Breeder	G M & Mrs G M Hewson; Central; NZ



Wills Road is all power as he heads for home at Hastings





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TAUPO ASSIGNMENT FOR ALAMOSIA EXPRESS



Co-trainer Stephen Autridge expects a good run from Alamosia Express at Taupo today

Exciting three-year-old **Alamosia Express (NZ)** (Alamosia) will look to preserve his unbeaten record when he steps out at Taupo today.

The Alamosia gelding has gone from strength to strength after notching victories at Pukekohe and Avondale to open his racing career with co-trainer Stephen Autridge expecting another good performance from his charge.

"He's a horse that has really developed since he won his maiden back in November and we expect that to continue as he learns a bit more about what racing is all about," noted Autridge.

"We weren't too sure about him before he went to the races but he has showed a tremendous will to win and a lot of courage in both his starts and that is something you like to see in all your horses.

"While it's only a small field on Monday there is a bit of class in it so it will be a good test for him."

Autridge and training partner Jamie Richards have enjoyed a stellar season to date under the Te Akau Racing banner and will look to further that success next month when they take

a talented team across the Tasman in search of the riches available during the Queensland Winter Carnival.

"At this stage, everything is on schedule for the team we are taking over there so we are looking forward to the challenge," Autridge said.

"Most of the team will fly over in early May although Heroic Valour will go earlier to Sydney and travel up to Brisbane by road as his first race is only a day or two after that Brisbane flight.

"Currently we have Melody Belle, Hall Of Fame and Splurge set to go on that May flight and they might be joined by Zambezi Warrior. It's a team full of talent so hopefully they can perform up to expectations."

Autridge also reported that New Zealand Derby winner Gingernuts (NZ) (Iffraaj) is back home enjoying some quality New Zealand grass after his successful Sydney campaign that saw him take out the Gr. 1 Rosehill Guineas before finishing fifth in the Gr. 1 Australian Derby.

– NZ Racing Desk





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Monday 17 April 2017

AHMAR GIVES SHAFRIZAL LONG-AWAITED FIRST KRANJI WIN

On April 13, 2013, a fresh-faced apprentice Shafrizal Saleh rode his first career winner at his very first meeting in Ipoh.

Four years later, almost to the day, on April 16, 2017, the Penang rider rode his first winner in Singapore, **Ahmar (NZ)** (Sir Percy) for trainer Mark Walker.

The feeling of elation was unmistakably the same for either milestone, but you could probably add a huge sense of relief as well on Sunday.

Shafrizal has been plying his trade at Kranji since September 2016 and though pundits had been quick to spot his talent just by looking at his balance and his strength in the saddle, he had not broken the ice in 88 rides.

A handful of placings have come his way, but somehow, he just could not rekindle that winning vein that had come to a screeching halt at win No 43 last year.

But constant guidance and support from his master Michael Clements as well as regular backing from other trainers spurred him on – with his patience finally rewarded in Sunday’s opening event, the \$38,000 Zac Spirit 2016 Stakes, a Kranji Stakes D race over 1400m.

Shafrizal listened to Walker’s assistant-trainer Robbie Hewitson’s instructions to the letter – bounce out the Sir Percy five-year-old from his awkward alley and park him close to the speed before asking for the supreme effort in the home straight.

Ahmar, a maiden who had been knocking on the door with two seconds and one third at his last three runs, rallied under Shafrizal’s urgings to go and post a half-length win from Nova Spirit (Congrats) with Storm Trooper (NZ) (Tavistock), another Walker runner, third another neck away.

“I’m so happy to finally get my first

winner in Singapore. I’ve waited for too long,” said Shafrizal who was at his only ride of the day.

“I’ve never ridden this horse in a race before but I looked at his record and I thought he had a good chance. I rode him in trackwork and he gave me a good feeling.

“The instruction was to put him in a good position and not be too far behind. He quickened very well at the top of the straight, and at the 100m mark, I knew I had my first Singapore winner!

Hewitson said it was not the yard who picked the Malaysian lad for the ride on Ahmar, but was certainly glad he was the one sitting in the saddle on Sunday.

“The owner (Al-Arabiya Stable) put the kid on, it’s worked out good,” said the Kiwi horseman.

“That horse has not had much luck in his races, especially at his last start. He was caught three wide off the track.

“He was due for a win and the kid rode him well.”



Race	Singapore TC Zac Spirit S. 1400m.
Winner	Ahmar (NZ) 2011
Owners	Al-Arabiya Stable
Trainer	Mark Walker (Kranji)
Breeding	by Sir Percy (GB) out of Tabernacle by Kaapstad
Breeder	W J Stewart; Central; NZ
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale - Festival Sale; V: Martindale Stud, P: Woburn Farm; \$9.500

Ahmar seals his maiden win with apprentice Shafrizal Saleh aboard





POSEIDON WORTHY OF ANOTHER OLYMPIAN EFFORT FOR BROWN

Poseidon (NZ) (Gold Centre) franked his current sparkling form with a brilliant win in the \$100,000 Super Easy 2013 Stakes, an Open Benchmark 97 race over 1400m on Sunday.

The New Zealand-bred five-year-old by Gold Centre has been back on an upward spiral since his first-up win in a Kranji Stakes A race over 1200m last November. At his third run from a break this year, the Olympian Stable-owned galloper was right back on target with a smart win in a Benchmark 83 race over 1400m on March 24.

Stepping back over 1400m again brought out the best in him. Taking a tow right behind race-leader Eclair Choice (California Dane) saw him in a prominent spot throughout, and after such an economical run over his pet trip (he scored five of his previous seven races over that distance), he just outsprinted his seven rivals once jockey Vlad Duric went full bore inside the last furlong.

If there was any sign trainer Cliff Brown was delighted with his latest success, it was not all that obvious from his off-the-cuff remark at the post-race interview, but with 24 winners already on board, he could afford to throw in some light-hearted banter every now and then.

“He’s a lovely horse, but he’s not my best winner for this week,” said Brown with all the seriousness of a multiple-Group 1 winning trainer.

“The kids and I had our Olympics at home and those wins were a lot better!

“Seriously, Poseidon is a lovely horse and he’s going very well at the moment. He’s a genuine performer and he deserved today’s win.



Poseidon cruises home at Kranji

“The way he is going, there is no reason why I wouldn’t look for a big race for him one day.”

Poseidon was registering his eighth win from 25 starts for stakes earnings that have now shot past the \$420,000 mark for Astley Phua’s Olympian Stable.

Race	Singapore TC Super Easy S. 1400m.
Winner	Poseidon (NZ) 2011
Owners	Olympian Stable
Trainer	Cliff Brown (Kranji)
Breeding	by Gold Centre (AUS) out of Waikiki Princess (AUS) by Turtle Island (IRE)
Breeder	J R O’Brien; Central; NZ



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NZ BRED WINNERS IN HONG KONG **APRIL 12**

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
PERPETUAL JOYANCE (NZ) 2012 by Red Giant (USA) out of Make Me Strong (AUS) by Danehill (USA)	G Harvey; Auckland; NZ	HKJC Merlion H. 1200m	2014 National Yearling Sale - Select Sale; V: Westbury Stud, P: Mr G Hennessy; \$40,000

NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE **APRIL 14**

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
COUNTOFMONTERCRISTO (NZ) 2013 by Echoes of Heaven (AUS) out of Replicate by Towkay (AUS)	B F; Mrs H J & P J Crofskey; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Singapore 3YO Classic 1400m.	2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Kiltannon Stables Ltd, P: Vermair Racing; \$57,600
UNSURPASSED(NZ) 2012 by Exceed and Excel (Aus) out of Alamantra (AUS) by Elusive Quality (USA)	R A Emery; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Given Vision S. 1100m.	

NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE **APRIL 16**

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
Perservere - AHMAR (Sing.) (NZ) 2011 by Sir Percy (GB) out of Tabernacle by Kaapstad	W J Stewart; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Zac Spirit S. 1400m.	2013 National Yearling Sale - Festival Sale; V: Martindale Stud, P: Woburn Farm; \$9,500
SHOOT UP HIGH (NZ) 2013 by Coats Choice (AUS) out of Endrita by End Sweep (USA)	A W Jones & Mrs E W Morris; Canterbury; NZ	Singapore TC War Affair S. 1200m.	2015 National Yearling Sale - Select Sale; V: Berkley Stud, P: B McDonald; \$42,500
POSEIDON (NZ) 2011 by Gold Centre (AUS) out of Waikiki Princess (AUS) by Turtle Island (IRE)	J R O'Brien; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Super Easy S. 1400m.	
MR EXCHEQUER (NZ) 2013 by Savabeel (AUS) out of Apollo Treasure (USA) by Apollo (USA)	G M Fraser & Laurel Oak Bloodstock Pty Ltd; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Rocket Man S. 1600m.	2015 National Yearling Sale - Select Sale; V: Haunui Farm, P: Cypress Point Farms; \$30,000 2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Cypress Point Stables, P: SD Baertschiger; \$130,000
INFANTRY (NZ) 2012 by Tavistock out of The Nightingale by Stravinsky (USA)	Sir Patrick & Lady Hogan; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Moonbeam Vase 1800m.	2013 National Weanling; Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Cambridge Stud, P: A Rutten; \$7,000
EL DON (NZ) 2012 by Don Eduardo out of Divinity (AUS) by Woodman (USA)	Mrs S R & T D Loveridge; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Capablanca S. 2000m.	

