

Monday 6 August 2018

O'SULLIVAN STILL RELISHING HONG KONG CHALLENGE



Paul O'Sullivan (left) with Hong Kong Jockey Club CEO Winfried Engelbrecht-Breges (HKJC)

After 14 years competing in the white-hot environment of Hong Kong racing you could excuse trainer Paul O'Sullivan for becoming a little weary of the constant struggle to perform.

However, a brief chat with the man who has won more than 400 races during his time in the former British colony quickly establishes he is more than ready to resume the battle when the new season of racing commences there on September 2.

O'Sullivan, who returned to Hong Kong on Sunday after spending time back in New Zealand, is excited about his prospects for the new season as he looks to develop a

younger team than he has worked with in previous years.

"We have had quite a few retirements from the last season, so I'm going into this year with a number of new and untried horses," he said.

"That will be a challenge as you try and get them to adapt to their surroundings, so I'm not expecting to start that strongly, but I do expect to really fire later on in the year as there is some real talent amongst the horses we will be working with."

Win Beauty Win (NZ), a Makfi four-year-old who has won four of his seven starts, is one horse that O'Sullivan expects to feature prominently for the stable during the year.

Continued on page 3





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O'SULLIVAN STILL RELISHING HONG KONG CHALLENGE

(Continued from page 1)

"Win Beauty Win is a very promising horse who I think will really excel for us this season," he said.

"His record is already very good and if he makes the type of improvement that I think he can then he could be a real contender for a race like the Hong Kong Derby.

"When you get up in the ratings in Hong Kong you know you have a horse that can compete at an international level and I think this fellow is on that path."

Adding to the challenges of the season will be the opportunity for O'Sullivan to base part of his team at the new hi-tech Conghua training facility the Hong Kong Jockey Club has developed across the border in China.

O'Sullivan is one of nine trainers invited to stable up to 25 horses at the facility that he describes as "simply the best in the world".

"We will have 45 horses at our traditional Sha Tin base and then another 25 at Conghua," he said.

"I spent a few days there just before I came back to New Zealand and the facilities there are just mind-blowing.

"The Jockey Club has taken the best practices from around the world and put them into this complex which is just outstanding. The horse welfare amenities and services are second to none and it will be a privilege to be involved."

Having established himself as one of the top operators in the fiercely competitive market O'Sullivan is keen to make the most of that position for the foreseeable future.

"At this stage I have another seven years available to train here as long as I fulfil the seasonal criteria and I'm going to make the most if it," he said.

"There certainly have been challenges along the way, but while I'm still enjoying the lifestyle I'm going to keep doing the best job that I can."

- NZ Racing Desk



STALLIONS 2018

CHARM SPIRIT <i>Invincible Spirit - L'Enjoleuse by Montjeu</i>	P.O.A	MONGOLIAN KHAN <i>Holy Roman Emperor - Centafit by Centaine</i>	\$10,000*
TURN ME LOOSE <i>Iffraaj - Indomitable by Danehill</i>	\$15,000*	RAGEESE <i>Street Cry - Rabsha by Dehere</i>	\$5,000*
RIP VAN WINKLE <i>Galileo - Looking Back by Stravinsky</i>	\$12,500*	VANBRUGH <i>Encosta de Lago - Soho Secret by Lucky Owners</i>	\$5,000*
SHAMEXPRESS <i>O'Reilly - Volkrose by Volksraad</i>	\$12,500*	FALKIRK <i>Tale Of The Cat - Madam Valeta by Palace Music</i>	\$4,000*

*All service fees exclude GST and include a Live Foal Guarantee





CALL ME ROYAL PROVIDES PERFECT SEND-OFF FOR MITCHELL

Rugged front-runner **Call Me Royal (NZ)** (Civics) provided his trainer Tarissa Mitchell with the perfect farewell to her northern training operation when he led all the way to win the opening event at Te Rapa on Saturday.

Handled superbly by last season's leading rider, Samantha Collett, Call Me Royal dug deep to defy a late challenge from El Disparo (NZ) (El Hermano) after being annoyed in front by race favourite Youwantmore (NZ) (Sufficient) throughout the 2100m journey.

Mitchell, who will shortly relocate to her new Riccarton training base, admitted she had her doubts about her charge staving off his rivals when she saw Youwantmore up alongside Call Me Royal in the early stages.

"I was really worried about that horse (Youwantmore) with its light weight and I was thinking please don't take us on," she said.

"But he is the man and I just love this horse."

A testing Trentham track put paid to Call Me Royal's chances at his last run, but Mitchell was confident the improved surface at Te Rapa would be more to his liking.

"It was just too heavy at Trentham and he couldn't get his big feet out of



Call Me Royal and Samantha Collett cruise to victory at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)

the ground," she said.

"Lisa (Allpress) looked after him and pulled him up but today we came in with some real confidence."

Collett, who was back from an end of season holiday to sort out her visa for an upcoming trip to Japan, was warm in her praise for her mount.

"It was a good tough effort as I thought the favourite may go up and annoy me with the light weight," she said.

"I let my horse settle and once he gave himself a breather, he got into his second rhythm.

"He was really brave to the line

carrying the top weight."

The win took Call Me Royal's record to seven wins from just 26 starts and over \$130,000 in earnings.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC Distinction Hamilton Hotel H. 2100m.
Winner	Call Me Royal (NZ) 2011
Owners	R Macdonald & Mrs T Mitchell
Trainer	Tarissa Mitchell (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Civics (AUS) out of Autumn Queen by Take Your Partner (AUS)
Breeder	Mrs A M G & Est late A Parnwell; Waikato; NZ





STRADIVARIUS REWARDED FOR CONSISTENCY AT TE RAPA

Young Japanese apprentice jockey Taiki Yanagida may have some good-natured ribbing coming his way after he guided the Lee Somervell trained **Stradivarius (NZ)** (Stravinsky) to victory at Te Rapa on the weekend.

Yanagida is apprenticed to the Matamata training partnership of Lance O’Sullivan and Andrew Scott and it was stable runner Andoyas (Lando) who Stradivarius held out in a desperate finish to the rating 82 1400m contest.

Race	Waikato RC Become a Waikato Racing Club Member H. 1400m.
Winner	Stradivarius (NZ) 2012
Owners	Mr L Goudie, J C & C G Duncan
Trainer	Lee Somervell (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Stravinsky (USA) out of Kapsjoy by Kaapstad
Breeder	Mrs C G & J C Duncan; Central; NZ

Somervell offered the mount on Stradivarius to Yanagida after the O’Sullivan-Scott team opted for experienced jockey Michael Coleman to ride Andoyas. It was an inspired decision as Yanagida produced a first-class effort to guide Stradivarius home after leading throughout.

“Credit to Taiki as I told him if he was going to lead he had to be a length clear so they wouldn’t niggle at him,” said Somervell.

“At Rotorua last time he got taken on and he just can’t relax. This was a lovely ride and the ride of a boy destined to go places.”

More often a bridesmaid than a bride, the victory took the six-year-old Stravinsky gelding’s record to three wins from 40 starts with another 18 minor placings.

Former Hong Kong galloper Andoyas caught the eye with

his sparkling finish, one of the few horses to make ground from the rear on a day where on-pace runners were favoured.

The eight-year-old German bred runner won three races during his Hong Kong career and will be better suited over more ground. He looks a ready-made prospect for some of the feature summer staying events for a group of well-known owners that include former New Zealand cricketer Simon Doull, former New Zealand soccer player and coach Ricki Herbert and Waikato Racing Club chief executive Ken Rutherford.

- NZ Racing Desk



Taiki Yanagida guides Stradivarius home at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)





GREAT NORTHERN TILT

A POSSIBILITY FOR SPEEDY JAX

Trainer Kevin Hughes has big plans for handy flat performer **Speedy Jax (NZ)** (Spartacus) after he broke his maiden status over the bigger fences in Saturday's maiden steeplechase at Riccarton.

Raced in the familiar colours of his owner/breeders Don and Dame Wendy Pye, the winner of seven races on the flat and once over the hurdles looks to have a real future as a steeplechaser judging by the way he put his rivals away on the weekend.

Settled at the tail of the field by rider Stuart Higgins, Speedy Jax measured his fences nicely throughout the 3200m contest before easing into

a challenging position with 600m to run.

Higgins took his mount to the outside at the top of the straight where he unleashed a powerful burst after clearing the last fence, to run down northern visitor Mesmerize (NZ) (Yamanin Vital) in a driving finish.

Hughes, who prepares the eight-year-old with wife Pam, was delighted the Christchurch weather patterns had conspired to provide the ideal slow9 footing for his charge on the day.

Speedy Jax breaks his maiden steeplechasing status at Riccarton (Race Images South)

"The relatively dry conditions were going to suit him down to the ground as he is a lovely jumper in the making," he said.

"I'm just thrilled for Don and Wendy as they love their jumping and I think this guy is going to go on to better things."

Hughes announced he harboured plans for Speedy Jax to contest the jumps season ending feature, the Irvines Great Northern Steeplechase (6400m), to be run at Te Rapa this year on September 9.

"I'd like to have a crack at the Northern this year," he said.

"We've won a lot of good races, but

we've never won a Great Northern.

"With it being at Te Rapa, I think it will be an ideal track for him at that time of the year, so that's where we will be trying to go."

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	CJC Avon City Ford Maiden S/chase 3200m.
Winner	Speedy Jax (NZ) 2010
Owners	Don Pye & Dame Wendy Pye
Trainer	Kevin & Pam Hughes (Riccarton Park)
Breeding	by Spartacus (IRE) out of Aromay by Green Perfume (USA)
Breeder	D N & Mrs W E Pye; Auckland; NZ



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WARRIOR KING WINS FIRST BATTLE

Warrior King (NZ) (Saperavi) defied his long odds and a wide barrier to spring a big surprise in the \$20,000 Open Maiden race over 1400m at Kranji on Sunday.

After three unplaced runs, with barrier No 13 not helping his cause either, the Bruce Marsh-trained Saperavi four-year-old was not given much hope in the 14-horse field, but under a positive ride from replacement jockey Zawari Razali, he was bang on target at the wire.

Marsh described Warrior King's early efforts as "dumb", but that didn't mean he was not without some qualities.

"I think the 1400m was the perfect distance for him today. We tried him over

the mile at his last start, he went back and was completely lost," said the Kiwi handler.

"The instructions were to get him up in the first five this time so he can see daylight early, and it's paid off.

"He did give us a good feel in his work, but he's been racing like a dumb horse, especially at his last run over the mile.

"Too bad for AK Lim who rode him at his first two starts, but it's a good pick-up ride for Zawari."



Warrior King breaks his maiden status at Kranji

Race	Singapore TC Open Maiden S. 1400m.
Winner	Warrior King (NZ) 2014
Owners	King Super Stable
Trainer	Bruce Marsh (Kranji)
Breeding	by Saperavi out of Spin a Fortune by Pins (AUS)
Breeder	Mrs B M & M M Cooney; Canterbury; NZ
Sales	2016 South Island Yearling & Mixed Sale V: Willow Glen \$22000 P: Kaipira Lodge 2016 Ready to Run Sale V: Sanderston Park Ltd \$40000 P: Upper B/stock



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NZ STALLION AWARDS

THE CENTAINE AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$13,481,313
DARCI BRAHMA	\$11,230,862
TAVISTOCK	\$7,859,969
O'REILLY	\$7,721,096
ROAD TO ROCK	\$7,488,559
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$6,714,811
PER INCANTO	\$5,367,268
SHOWCASING	\$4,897,532
PINS	\$4,360,902
IFFRAAJ	\$4,126,949

Criteria: Sire whose NZ-conceived progeny have accumulated the highest stakes earnings worldwide

THE DEWAR STALLION TROPHY

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$8,424,222
DARCI BRAHMA	\$3,447,652
O'REILLY	\$3,154,179
TAVISTOCK	\$3,033,899
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$2,883,932
PINS	\$2,831,659
IFFRAAJ	\$2,757,604
RIP VAN WINKLE	\$2,581,658
PER INCANTO	\$2,454,517
MAKFI	\$2,237,437

Criteria: Sire whose progeny have accumulated the highest combined stakes earnings in Australia & New Zealand

THE GROSVENOR AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$3,396,125
IFFRAAJ	\$1,906,527
DARCI BRAHMA	\$1,813,983
TAVISTOCK	\$1,704,727
PER INCANTO	\$1,485,307
FASTNET ROCK	\$1,420,200
ALAMOSA	\$1,310,808
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$1,244,625
PINS	\$1,115,915
ROC DE CAMBES	\$1,085,715

BEST PERFORMERS	EARNINGS
EMBELLISH	\$466,310
GINGERNUTS	\$180,000
DEVISE	\$157,750
GOBSTOPPER	\$188,375
SHADOWS CAST	\$154,812
AVANTAGE	\$ 742,370
STOLEN DANCE	\$131,450
SAINT EMILION	\$218,300
PACKING PINS	\$122,750
VIN DE DANCE	\$623,500

Criteria: Leading Sires by Earnings in New Zealand



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Monday 6 August 2018

NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE AUGUST 3

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
BERLINETTA (NZ) 2014 by Sufficient out of Barchetta by My Halo (Arg)	B J Wallace; Auckland; NZ	Singapore TC Class 5 H. 1600m.	
SACRED MAGIC (NZ) 2014 by Battle Paint (USA) out of Chato Margaux by Montjeu (IRE)	I H Mackay; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1400m.	2016 National Yearling Sale - Select Session; V: Leanach Lodge Ltd, P: L Khoo Peng Ann; \$60,000
ZAC ACE (NZ) 2013 by Swiss Ace (AUS) out of Firelight by Fantastic Light (USA)	Mrs K G Parsons; Canterbury; NZ	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1600m.	
TRIPLE TRIO (NZ) 2014 by Sebring (AUS) out of Darcybee by Fasliyev (USA)	Pencarrow Thoroughbreds Ltd; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1400m.	2016 National Yearling Sale - Premier Session, V: Pencarrow Stud, P: Lyndhurst Farm; \$75,000
COUNTRY BOSS (NZ) 2013 by Guillotine out of No Porsche Needed by No Excuse Needed (GB)	A D; Mrs A M & D J Cherry; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Class 3 H. 1000m.	

NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE AUGUST 5

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
WARRIOR KING (NZ) 2014 by Saperavi out of Spin a Fortune by Pins (AUS)	Mrs B M & M M Cooney; Canterbury; NZ	Singapore TC Open Maiden S. 1400m.	2016 South Island Yearling & Mixed Sale; V: Willow Glen, P: Kaipira Lodge; \$22,000 2016 Ready to Run Sale; V: Sanderston Park Ltd, P: Upper B/stock; \$40,000
LITTLE BIG MAN (NZ) 2012 by Showcasing (GB) out of Caffeine by Zabeel	L Beck; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Class 3 H. 1400m.	2013 National Weanling; Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Golden Oaks Stud, P: Phil Cataldo BStk; \$9,000
Stealth Giant – STAR EMPEROR (Sing.) (NZ) 2013 by Red Giant (USA) out of Lotta Luv by Dubawi (Ire)	C J & Mrs K B Webber; Auckland; NZ	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m.	



Trackside's Emily Bosson reviews the weekend of thoroughbred racing in New Zealand

