>>>> RACING&BREEDINGNEWS

Monday 7 August 2017

TOUGH DECISION PAYS OFF **FOR WINSLOE**



Chris Johnson guides Irish Excuse to an emphatic front-running victory

superbly judged front-running ride from last season's premiership winner Chris Johnson paved the way for consistent galloper Irish Excuse (NZ) (No Excuse Needed) to take his career earnings over the \$150,000 mark with a victory in the open sprint at Riccarton on Saturday.

The winning result also vindicated trainer Ellis Winsloe's decision to bypass the feature event on the programme, the eStar Winter Cup, after he felt his charge was badly off at the weights in the Group Three contest.

"We were aiming for the Winter Cup with him," admitted

Winsloe after the race.

"He's never really won a big race until today and we were topweight for the race so we elected to take on the 1200m instead."

Bounced straight to the lead by Johnson, Irish Excuse enjoyed an uncontested time in front as he cut out steady sectionals throughout the contest. The tempo adopted by Johnson served the dual purpose of providing his mount with an energy saving run while also keeping his main rival, the Kevin Myers trained Scapolo (NZ) (Bachelor Duke), in a pocket

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TOUGH DECISION PAYS OFF FOR WINSLOE

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behind him at a crucial juncture early in the run home.

That proved the winning and losing of the race as when Scapolo finally emerged to make his challenge Johnson had enough gas left in the tank to kick Irish Excuse clear as he held out the favourite's late charge to score by three quarters of a length at the line.

"It was definitely a master class ride from Chris," said Winsloe.

"Chris knows the other horse well and had him in a pocket so he just sat and probably thought he could out-sprint him, which he did."

The victory made it win number eleven from 48 starts for the seven-year-old gelding who is the older sibling of exciting prospect Irish Express (NZ) (Ekraar) who was unbeaten in two starts as a two-year-old for Ellis and his co-owners, who bred and race both horses.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	CJC Gavelhouse.com H. 1200m.
Winner	Irish Excuse (NZ) 2010
Owners	G D & R A J Copland; P A Grant; M J Millard & E E Winsloe
Trainer	Ellis Winsloe (Gore)
Breeding	by No Excuse Needed (GB) out of Irish Babe by O'Reilly
Breeder	G D & R A J Copland; P A Grant; M J Millard & E E Winsloe; South; NZ

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poon shows great poise on and off saddle

Leading trainer Mark Walker made good use of a jockey on the rise when Hong Kong apprentice Matthew Poon showed plenty of coolness to guide home **Honor (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) at Kranji on Sunday.

Riding with a polish beyond his years, Poon, who opened his Singapore account with Certainly (Nadeem) at his first meeting on Friday night, launched the Rip Van Winkle mare at the right time to claim Sunday's opening event.

Poon was delighted with his second winner, saying that the well-bred mare was winning on raw ability.

"She won easily, but I don't think she's a 1000m mare but she won on ability today," he said.

"She just can't settle and I think she can improve further, I reckon."

Walker was glad he was able to get Poon on, especially for his four-pound allowance.

"She had 59kgs on her back and as Poon was available, it was great to get him on for the two-kilo claim. It sure helped," said the ex-pat kiwi.

"It's taken a while for her to put it together as it was mental more than anything else.

"I think she will improve on more distance as well."



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2017 Ready to Run Sale of 2YOs

SALE: 22 & 23 NOV at Karaka

BREEZE UPS: 16 & 17 OCT at Te Rapa

Entries close 18 August





BIG DREAMER COOL, CALM AND COLLECTED AT TE RAPA

ambridge trainer Paul Mirabelli believes he may have found the key to handy performer **Big Dreamer (NZ)** (No Excuse Needed) after the stakes placed mare delivered a fresh-up victory on the weekend.

The now six-year-old daughter of No Excuse Needed has fashioned a tidy record for Mirabelli including some top performances in the best of company without managing to break through at the highest level.

Good enough to run within three lengths of Aide Memoire (NZ) (Remind) in the Gr. 1 Captain Cook Stakes at Trentham last season, Big Dreamer has often spoiled her chances through poor racing manners and prerace behaviour however her mentor believes she may finally be ready to put those antics behind her.

"She's always been a real tricky number but this time she has come in and been so quiet and easy to deal with," Mirabelli explained.

"We've normally had to work her hard before her first up runs to get her to behave herself on raceday but this time she has been as easy as pie, which has been wonderful.

"She's got black-type and has run in Group One company and finished fifth at weight-for-age so we know the ability is there."

Mirabelli was quick to pay tribute to track-rider Ryan Simpson after



The reformed Big Dreamer lands a winning fresh-up blow at Te Rapa

the race, as well as apprentice Hairi Marzuki who was aboard for the victory.

"I've got to thank Ryan as he rides all the work on her," he noted.

"Without him we would be quite lost as she has been very tricky as I said.

"Hairi used to ride a horse called Salted Caramel for me when he first kicked off in New Zealand and never did anything wrong on her so it's good we could give him the ride here and get rewarded."

Marzuki had been aboard the mare in her final track gallop during the week and had told Mirabelli he was confident a win was in the pipeline.

"I galloped the horse in her last work and I said to Paul that this horse should win anytime," he said.

"She is such a big horse and she travelled well. I knew I had to be with the front bunch by the 400 (metre mark) so I let her go and she just kept going."

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC Pathway Immigration Specialists H. 1400m.
Winner	Big Dreamer (NZ) 2011
Owners	Dreamcatcher Enterprise Ltd, Dr Mari Ann Moss & Dr Robert Mark Topping
Trainer	Paul Mirabelli (Cambridge)
Breeding	by No Excuse Needed (GB) out of War Bride by Jahafil (GB)
Breeder	Dreamcatcher Enterprise Ltd; Auckland; NZ





BEE TEE JUNIOR REWARDS STABLE CONFIDENCE AT TE RAPA

rogressive stayer **Bee Tee Junior (NZ)** (Nom Du Jeu) delivered on his trainer's pre-race confidence when he strode to an impressive victory over 2100 metres at Te Rapa on Saturday.

Interviewed prior to the race, trainer Shaune Ritchie found it hard to find a negative about his charge's chances and so it proved as the rugged Nom Du Jeu gelding scored with plenty in hand in the rating 85 contest.

Handled superbly by rejuvenated rider Troy Harris, Bee Tee Junior jumped nicely from his handy barrier draw to take up a prominent position behind the early speed. Harris didn't panic as the pair found themselves shuffled back to beyond midfield when the field slowed up in the middle stages, carefully biding his time before angling for a run at the top of the straight.

Asked for an effort Bee Tee Junior found a sustained sprint that carried him past the eventual runner-up Stokers Rock (NZ) (St Reims) and on to a narrow but comfortable short neck victory.

"He's a good honest horse who has won seven races now," noted Ritchie afterwards.

"It was a good ride by Troy who sat patiently throughout. I was smiling when he got into the trail then I thought we were in trouble and then I was smiling again when he got the job done."

The victory has enhanced Bee Tee Junior's prospects of a possible New Zealand Cup start later in the year, a race in which he finished eighth behind Pump Up The Volume (NZ) (Savabeel) in 2016.

"We've been able to place him pretty well and we think a New Zealand Cup is within his range," said Ritchie.

A tilt at the Gr. 3 New Zealand Cup later this season awaits Cambridge galloper Bee Tee Junior

"He ran in the race last year but it may have been a year to soon for him.

"We'll look to space his races now and keep on the good winter tracks before sneaking down to Christchurch with what is hopefully a winnable weight for him."

Bee Tee Junior has now won seven races from 25 career starts with stakes earnings approaching the \$100,000 mark. The victory was the first for Ritchie this season after he enjoyed his best year as a trainer in his own right with 36 wins in 2016/17.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC Lowe Schollum & Jones H. 2100m.
Winner	Bee Tee Junior (NZ) 2011
Owners	B T & S V Meo Family Trust, BM & JH Holdings Ltd & A F Lacy
Trainer	Shaune Ritchie (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Nom du Jeu out of That's My Char by Peintre Celebre (USA)
Breeder	BM & JH Holdings Ltd; Central; NZ





PITMAN PRODUCES LOCAL VICTORY WITH QUEEN SERENE

n a day dominated by northern raiders Kevin Myers and Adrian and Harry Bull it was Riccarton stalwarts Michael and Matthew Pitman who scored a victory for the home team when they produced underrated mare **Queen Serene (NZ)** (Thorn Park) to upset over 1200 metres on the weekend.

The five-year-old, who has enjoyed a productive campaign of late with a win and three placings from her last six starts, was sent out at generous odds in the Linwood Farm Stallions sponsored rating 65 contest after disappointing over 1600 metres at Ashburton early last month.

The brief let-up worked wonders for the Thorn Park mare as she produced a sustained run from well back in the 16-horse field to snatch victory from the Myers trained Tabard (NZ) (Coats Choice) in the shadows of the post.

Michael Pitman was pleased with the effort by his charge as he admitted the stable hadn't held high expectations entering the first day of the three-day Grand National Carnival.

"She's a handy mare who tends to get a lot of bad luck in the running," he noted after the race.

"She is one who can handle some cut in the track and I thought it was a huge run as she just kept coming.

"We actually came here with absolutely no aspirations of winning races as we are not wet-track trainers.

"Cup Week in November is our go".

Pitman was also full of praise for the effort of rider Samantha Wynne who enjoys a good strike-rate when riding for the stable.

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Queen Serene stormed home to keep the home fires burning at Riccarton





PITMAN PRODUCES **LOCAL VICTORY WITH QUEEN SERENE**

(Continued from page 6)

"I pulled off the stats the other day and showed them to her and told her how lucky she was to be riding for us," he said tongue-in-cheek.

"We both had a bit of a laugh about it. Sam is a great person who rides a lot of work for us, probably more than a lot of people know, which is great as she knows the horses so

"I'd like to think we've got a big spring coming up for us and hopefully Sam will be a big part of that."

Pitman will now assess Queen Serene's recovery from her exertions with a view to a start over 1400 metres on the last day of the carnival next Saturday.

Queen Serene is the daughter of stakes winning mare

Queenza who won the Listed Fairview Ford Stakes as a juvenile. She was a \$10,000 purchase by Pitman from the Belvedere Farm draft at the 2014 Select Sale at Karaka.

- NZ Racing Desk

All of this

for \$15

Race	CJC Linwood Park Stallions H. 1200m.
Winner	Queen Serene (NZ) 2012
Owners	Pearl Fillies Syndicate
Trainer	Michael & Matthew Pitman (Riccarton Park)
Breeding	by Thorn Park (AUS) out of Queenza by King of Kings (Ire)
Breeder	T W Tung; Waikato; NZ
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale - Select Sale V: Belvedere Farm \$10000 P: M Pitman

CENTRAL DISTRICT Thoroughbred Breeders'



WELLFIELD







MANAWATU/WAIRARAPA **BREEDERS BIG DAY OUT 2017**

Sunday 13th of August is the NZ Thoroughbred breeders association Central districts branch 'Breeders big day out'.

Meeting at Wellfield Lodge at 9am to view yearlings by Fastnet Rock, Snitzel and Redoutes Choice to name just a few. We'll then board a coach to Kamada park to have a freshly ground coffee and tour of their state of the art facilities.

Then over the hill to Little Avondale Stud where a stud tour of top class yearlings and leading stallions Per Incanto and Nadeem will be presented.

Enjoy a fabulous lunch, famous Wairarapa wines and our guest speaker Bernard Saundry (NZTR'S NEW BOSS)

Coach will return to Wellfield Lodge no later than 4:30pm.

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NZ STALLION AWARDS

THE CENTAINE AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS	
SAVABEEL	\$11,639,393	
DARCI BRAHMA	\$8,660,779	
TAVISTOCK	\$8,035,831	
PINS	\$7,336,877	
IFFRAAJ	\$7,022,679	
O'REILLY	\$6,544,023	
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$5,762,947	
THORN PARK	\$5,518,170	
SHOWCASING	\$3,973,685	
PENTIRE	\$3,891,036	
Criteria: Sire whose NZ-conceived progeny have accumulated the highest stakes earnings worldwide		

THE DEWAR STALLION TROPHY

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$7,594,461
IFFRAAJ	\$4,498,298
PINS	\$3,614,283
TAVISTOCK	\$3,307,239
DARCI BRAHMA	\$3,071,722
O'REILLY	\$2,929,035
PENTIRE	\$2,809,497
MAKFI	\$2,783,251
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$2,376,083
SHOCKING	\$2,235,748

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

THE GROSVENOR AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$3,078,170
IFFRAAJ	\$2,076,273
TAVISTOCK	\$1,729,417
DARCI BRAHMA	\$1,612,320
PINS	\$1,285,549
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$1,139,765
ALAMOSA	\$1,095,600
PER INCANTO	\$1,074,745
SHINKO KING	\$998,550
MAKFI	\$990,710

BEST PERFORMERS	EARNINGS
KAWI	\$378,750
GINGERNUTS	\$665,450
VOLKSTOK'N'BARRELL	\$288,000
DEVISE	\$114,625
REILLY LINCOLN	\$119,062
THEE AULD FLOOZIE	\$305,375
SHE'S POPPY	\$68,745
SARACINO	\$144,375
SEVENTH UP	\$187,225
BONNEVAL	\$289,000

Criteria: Leading Sires by Earnings in New Zealand



Monday 7 August 2017

NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE AUGUST 4

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
The Dark Knight – UNCLE LUCKY (Sing.) (NZ) 2012 by Showcasing (GB) out of Starry Angel by Shinko Forest (IRE)	Hallmark Stud Ltd; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Class 5 H. 1100m.	2014 National Yearling Sale - Festival Sale; V: Hallmark Stud, P: MF Rogers; \$16,000
ANCIENT WARRIOR (NZ) 2012 by Iffraaj (GB) out of Nuance by Star Way (GB)	G J McCarthy	Singapore TC The Hornet S. 1400m.	

NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE AUGUST 6

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
HONOR (NZ) 2013 by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out of Bak da Princess by Danske	D B Hollinshead; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Quechua S. 1000m.	2015 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale; V: Blandford Lodge, P: Te Akau Racing; \$80,000
SAFEER (NZ) 2014 by Savabeel (AUS) out of Ahna by O'Reilly	Waikato Stud Ltd; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Stepitup S. 1100m.	2016 National Yearling Sale - Premier Session; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Waterford B/stock; \$185,000 2016 Ready to Run Sale; V: Prima Park, P: DC Ellis; \$280,000

