

Sunday 13 August 2017

TRIPLE DOUBLE TO MARK AS UPPER CUT SCORES SECOND GRAND NATIONAL WIN



Shaun Phelan stands high in the saddle to celebrate Upper Cut's win over a game Kina Win in yesterday's Grand National Steeplechase at Riccarton.

Mark Oulaghan completed six of the best when he produced a valiant **Upper Cut (NZ)** (Yamanin Vital) to successfully defend his Grand National Steeplechase title.

The Awapuni trainer had previously won the Riccarton event in 2010 and '11 with Counter Punch (NZ) (Yamanin Vital) and in 1997 and '98 with Deecee Seven (NZ) (Bandmaster II) and he took yesterday's success in the

Racecourse Hotel & Motor Lodge-sponsored feature in typically humble fashion.

"I've got to say we've been lucky and, as you know, luck goes a long way in racing," Oulaghan said.

"He's been a little behind all winter and the run on the first day did improve him."

Fourth in the Koral Steeplechase, Upper Cut was patiently

Continued on page 3





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(Continued from page 1)

handled behind the pace by Shaun Phelan and when the pressure went on 800 metres from home they began to get serious.

The 11-year-old took the final fence on terms with Kina Win (NZ) (Zed) and finished too well to take the honours by a length and a quarter.

"I put a lot of it down to his sire Yamanin Vital," Oulaghan said. "One of his progeny (Ready Eddie) won the National Hurdle on Wednesday and they can stay."

Yamanin Vital, who died in 2009, was a son of Sir Tristram and he has also sired other top-class jumpers such as Hypnotize, Climbing High and the Oulaghan pair of Yourtheman and Counter Punch.

Auckland Cup winner and Melbourne Cup placegetter Who Shot Thebarman has been his top flat representative.

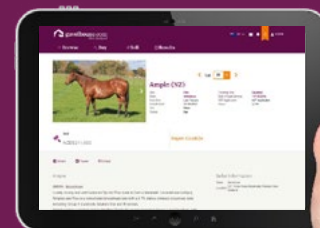
Upper Cut's rider Shaun Phelan paid tribute to Oulaghan's conditioning skills after the event.

"He's a genius. I sat there and enjoyed the ride; the horse did it all," he said. "These are the races you live and dream for."

Koral placegetters Kina Win and Tai Ho (NZ) (Winning Boy) again finished second and third respectively ahead of Chocolate Fish (NZ) (Colombia) and the warm favourite The Big Opal (NZ) (Storm Creek). He had an easy run in front, but was under pressure on straightening and failed to see out the gruelling 5600 metres.

Race	CJC Grand National Steeplechase 5600m
Winner	Upper Cut (NZ) 2006
Owners	M D Ormsby, A P Duncan, M K Oulaghan, S J Speedy and W L Scott
Trainer	Mark Oulaghan (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Yamanin Vital out of Volucidate by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	J E & Mrs S M Murray

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GORDONIAN UPSETS AS A STAR RETIRES

The **Gordonian (NZ)** (Remind) upset his rivals in the feature flat race at Riccarton, which also brought down the curtain on the career of one of the south's best mares of recent years.

The nine-year-old had finished runner-up in Rating 85 company on Wednesday and he was able to go one better in the Christchurch Casino Winter Classic at odds of 25-1 with a gallant performance to deny the favourite Doiknowyou (NZ) (Kashani).

Prepared by Jo-Ann Gordon, The Gordonian made the running and was clearly headed by Doiknowyou before rallying strongly under rider Krishna Mudhoo.

Back in fifth spot and certainly not disgraced was the bonny Tommy Beckett-trained mare Miss Three Stars (NZ) (Perfectly Ready), who is now retired and heading to the North Island for a date with Cambridge Stud's leading stallion Tavistock.

"It came as a bit of a shock when Tommy told me," regular rider Sam



After a length-of-the-straight battle, *The Gordonian* and Krishna Mudhoo finally get the better of Doiknowyou and Lisa Allpress.

Wynne said. "I thought he was messing with me.

"I get goose bumps just talking about her and I'm so grateful for everything she has done for me."

Miss Three Stars won eleven races, including last year's Group Three

Winter Cup and two editions of the Listed Riverton Cup, as well as placing in the Group Three Canterbury Gold Cup. Wynne partnered her in all but one of her victories.

"She deserves a good retirement and the owners are doing the right thing by her," she said.



Miss Three Stars... bowed out at Riccarton.

Race	CJC Christchurch Casino Winter Classic H. 1800m
Winner	The Gordonian (NZ) 2008
Owners	K V Anderson, Ms J H Condon, Mrs V M Gordon, Ms S Hinga, Mrs J M & Miss S M Holland, N G A Minty, N M Sword and B J Townley
Trainer	Jo-Ann Gordon (Ascot Park)
Breeding	by Remind (USA) out of Viva Lyphard (USA) by Lyphard (USA)
Breeder	Ms D Clark and M G Gordon
Sales	2010 South Island 2YO & Mixed Sale; V: Long Acres Stud, P: B & S Gordon; \$5000





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NASHVILLE NUDGING MILLION MILESTONE

The Riccarton double by **Nashville (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) during Grand National carnival week has taken the durable galloper ever closer to a memorable milestone in his career.

The Hunterville nine-year-old is bordering on millionaire status after he added yesterday's Millennium Hotels & Resorts Premier Open to his record following success seven days previously in the Group Three Winter Cup.

Nashville has now banked more than \$965,000 from his fourteen wins, five of them having come on the Christchurch track.

"He's got nothing left to prove," said jockey Kate Cowan. "He's a great horse."

She is apprenticed to Nashville's trainers Adrian and Harry Bull and she further repaid their confidence with another well-judged ride aboard the veteran.

They sat out the back of the field on the fence before shouldering into the clear at the top of the straight and the horse finished determinedly,

"I'd been riding him during the week and he's been feeling a box of birds," Cowan said.

"He felt like he was travelling sweetly but he did feel the ground the last fifty metres. He held on well, he's so tough."

It was Kate Cowan's day at Riccarton yesterday, combining again with first-day Winter Cup winner Nashville for one of the day's better prizes after success aboard Southern Cool and later adding a third win with Standrews Masonic.

Luke (NZ) (Nom du Jeu) was alongside Nashville on straightening and despite being in receipt of 5½ kilos he couldn't foot it with the northerner in the closing 350 metres. Taurus (NZ) (No Excuse Needed) gave yet another genuine account of himself in finishing third.

Race	CJC Millennium Hotels & Resorts H. 1400m
Winner	Nashville (NZ) 2008
Owners	A M & Mrs R E Bull
Trainer	Adrian & Harry Bull (Hunterville)
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of Royal Kiss (Ire) by Royal Academy (USA)
Breeder	Chesterfields Ltd
Sales	2010 Ready to Run Sale; V: Chesterfields Ltd, P: Beamish Bloodstock; \$40,000



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SHAMEXPRESS <i>O'Reilly - Volkrose by Volksraad</i>	\$12,500*
MONGOLIAN KHAN <i>Holy Roman Emperor - Centafit by Centaine</i>	\$10,000*

RIP VAN WINKLE <i>Galileo - Looking Back by Stravinsky</i>	\$10,000*
RAGEESE NEW <i>Street Cry - Rabsha by Dehere</i>	\$8,000*
VANBRUGH NEW <i>Encosta de Lago - Soho Secret by Lucky Owners</i>	\$6,000*
FALKIRK <i>Tale Of The Cat - Madam Valeta (Palace Music)</i>	\$4,000*

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SWAMPLAND IN AGAIN AT FLEMINGTON



Swampland (black and red colours) strides away from the opposition in the mares 1400 at Flemington.

Swampland (NZ) (Redwood) has completed a hat-trick with an impressive win in mares company at Flemington, her victory in yesterday's VRC Member Mark Young Handicap giving the Henry Dwyer-trained four-year-old back-to-back wins at Flemington following a victory at Cranbourne last month.

Providing jockey Regan Bayliss with the second leg of a double, the \$4.80 third favourite won by 2½ lengths from \$2.25 favourite Samovare (Savabeel), with \$9 shot Niminypiminy (Primus) 1¼ lengths away in third.

Dwyer said the daughter of the Volksraad mare Marsh Harbour (NZ), Group Three-placed in the Desert Gold Stakes at Trentham in the 2009/10 season, was beginning to live up to

early expectations.

"I always thought she was a superior wet tracker so we had her in over winter," he said. "But we still haven't found a wet track.

"I've always held good aspirations for her but it's taking a bit longer than what she showed us earlier.

"We might even have to raise our sights and push on into the early part of the spring."

Dwyer revealed that Swampland had bled internally after finishing out of the placings at Flemington in June, which prompted a short break.

He said the stable was on top of that problem although Swampland was only one bad run away from going for a spell.

"She's still fairly lowly rated so we'll

just take her through her grades," Dwyer said.

– AAP TURF

Race	VRC Member Mark Young H. 1400m
Winner	Swampland (NZ) 2013
Owners	D W Stutt, E M McNulty, J D Morris, B J Nash, C C Johnstone, K P Johnstone, C Bredbury, R G Freer, S G Freer and D Scalzo
Trainer	Henry Dwyer (Caulfield)
Breeding	by Redwood (GB) out of Marsh Harbour by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	G Harvey and Whangateau Thoroughbreds Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Henry Dwyer Racing; \$82,500



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KING VIV GETTING BETTER **WITH AGE**

Named after West Indies cricketer great Sir Viv Richards, **King Viv (NZ)** (Falkirk) had his fourth win yesterday and his first in the metropolitan area.

Trained by Kim Waugh and given his moniker by her husband, former Australian test cricketer Mark, the \$9.50 third favourite out-finished second favourite Not A Gypsy (Not A Single Doubt) to win the 2000 metre Fairfield RSL Club Handicap at Rosehill by three-quarters of a length.

King Viv had been an unlucky second at Doomben two weeks ago and his trainer decided to remove the earmuffs.

“The earmuffs block out the sound but sometimes the other effect is the horses drift around,” Waugh said.

“I think that’s what happened to him at his last start when he looked like the winner.

“He is such a lovely horse but has taken time to mature.”

The generous odds on offer for King Viv came about through massive support for Vaucluse Bay (Al Maher) but the \$1.75 favourite weakened out completely from the top of the straight and was later assessed to have cardiac arrhythmia.

King Viv’s jockey Tye Angland said the race just worked out perfectly.

“It was a good win. The tempo was comfortable and it allowed him to be on the bridle,” he said. “They didn’t dash home and just rolled through the gears nice. He was strong



King Viv powers home at Rosehill.

late and he’ll get further.”

Waugh, who trains at Wyong, where she combines galloping horses at the track with paddock life on her property, said the Listed Wyong Gold Cup on September 1 could be a target for King Viv.

“That would be a lovely race to win,” she said.

– AAP TURF & racenet.com.au

Race	ATC Fairfield RSL Club H. 2000m
Winner	King Viv (NZ) 2012
Owners	M E Waugh, N G McBurney, Mrs J H Fisk, W Marsden, P Tasker, D J Patterson, Mrs T A Russell, M W Brownlie, R J Albert, J Mills and P Smart
Trainer	Kim Waugh (Wyong)
Breeding	by Falkirk out of Daydream by Centaine (Aus)
Breeder	Archer Corporation Ltd
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Hallmark Stud, P: N G McBurney; \$35,000





ADMIRAL SALUTES – AS FORMLINE SAID

Admiral (NZ) (Align) had to cover more ground at Pukekohe yesterday than originally intended to bounce back to winning form.

Race	Counties RC Mount Shop H. 1600m
Winner	Admiral (NZ) 2011
Owners	S A Seath
Trainer	Stephen Ralph (Te Awamutu)
Breeding	by Align (Aus) out of Pirate Queen by Diamond Express
Breeder	S A Seath

The free-going six-year-old was forced to go the extra mile in the Mount Shop 1600 after Stephen Ralph's target race was scrubbed out.

"We were in the open 1400 before they canned it so we were in this by default," the Te Awamutu trainer said.

The form book suggested Admiral would be hard to beat off the back of his lead-up effort, a close sixth in the Listed Opunake Cup behind Longchamp (NZ) (Tavistock) and subsequent Group Three Winter Cup winner Nashville (NZ) (Darci Brahma).

"That run stacked up really well," Ralph said. "He was taken on in front after he was ridden aggressively to lead and held on quite well – it was full of merit.

"He was in the Winter Cup but we pulled him out to chase these \$30,000 races up here instead."

Admiral jumped well to be a clear leader for apprentice Hairi Marzuki at Pukekohe and, by design, he left the fence for better ground with 400 metres to run.

"That was ideal and he rated him

perfectly," Ralph said. "I asked Hairi to come off the rail on the turn."

Admiral skipped clear and safely held the well-supported Bowie (NZ) (Iffraaj) to win by a length and three-quarters.

"He likes to lead and I was able to give him a breather and at the top of the straight he just took off," Marzuki said.

Admiral will now be set for the defence of his Listed Karaka Classic title at Pukekohe on September 24.



On a murky day at Pukekohe, Admiral completes his all-the-way win over Bowie in the Rating 85 1600.





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JACKFROST SET TO BE A WINTER STAR

Fast forward twelve months and the perfectly named **Jackfrost (NZ)** might well be giving the top jumpers in the land a cold.

The near-white son of Gallant Guru has taken to his new role in a brilliant style and yesterday kept his unbeaten record over obstacles intact when he ran away with the Zilco Premier Hurdle.

Jackfrost had made a successful debut over the smaller fences for Brian and Shane Anderton on Wednesday after joining their Wingatui stable earlier this year after previous spells with David and Emma Haworth and with Andrew Carston.

“The race didn’t seem to take too much out of him and it’s not often you

get two chances with a maiden,” Shane Anderton said.

“He’s won well again today and he’s close to a spell now. He’s a really nice type and he could be a Grand National horse next year.”

Jackfrost was patiently handled by a confident Stuart Higgins after their midweek success and he had the seven-year-old travelling kindly one off the fence in the middle of the field.

The 25-year-old Englishman made his move across the top to challenge at the top of the straight and led over the last two flights to post a clear-cut victory.

“I schooled him before his first race and he won that really well and only went up a kilo-and-a-half,” Higgins

said.

Speedy Jax (NZ) (Spartacus) enjoyed a good run in the trail throughout and he fought on for second ahead of Sir Ritchie (NZ) (Elusive City), a runaway maiden flat winner on Wednesday, who tired in the closing 300 metres after jumping well, if not a little extravagantly, in front.

Race	CJC Zilco Maiden Hurdle 3100m
Winner	Jackfrost (NZ) 2010
Owners	Frosty’s Shoutin The Beers Syndicate
Trainer	Brian & Shane Anderton (Wingatui)
Breeding	by Gallant Guru (Aus) out of Vital Note by Yamanin Vital
Breeder	B J & Mrs L E Anderton



Stuart Higgins has his eyes on the prize as Jackfrost takes the last.





CLASS, DRAW, WEIGHT **SUIT PREDITOR**

Known as Predator in his homeland, where as well as winning two minor races he placed second on Karaka Million night and ran a respectable seventh in the 2016 Group One New Zealand Derby, **Preditor (NZ)** (Savabeel) scored his third Singapore win in Friday night's \$5100,000 Open Benchmark 89 over 1600 metres – a step down in class from his last-start fifth in the million dollar Singapore Derby a month ago.

Parked in an ideal spot in third hugging the rails courtesy of his inside barrier, the even-money favourite punched through a gap as

leader Mighty Kenny (Shinzig) rolled off to go on to a three-quarter length win from Robin Hood (NZ) (Nom du Jeu) with Mighty Kenny hanging on for third place, another half length away.

The win brought up the fourth winner from three meetings for Hong Kong's rising star Matthew Poon, whose tally could rise with his near-full book of nine rides today.

The 23-year-old Adelaide dux could have been swell-headed by the whirlwind success at only his first Singapore stint but his answer was as modest and sincere as the young man himself.

"I'm only trying my best. I have to thank Mr Baertschiger and the other trainers for their support," he said. "This one is another nice horse and I just followed instructions and it's paid off."

Trainer Shane Baertschiger said Predator had many factors in his corner other than Poon's able hands and two-kilo claim.

"He had a light weight plus Poon's two kilos that shaved it



The classy Predator in the clear at Kranji.

off to 51kg," said the Australian.

"He was also well drawn in one. The only worry was it was his first time over Polytrack but he does work well on it.

"He pulled up well after the Derby. He didn't run a bad race finishing fifth to Infantry.

"The Gold Cup was not in the plans but I am starting to think about it now. We'll see how it goes but he won't go through the first two legs of the Triple Crown series."

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Benchmark 89 H. 1600m
Winner	Preditor (NZ) 2012
Owners	Shane Baertschiger
Trainer	S Baertschiger (Kranji)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Bird by Danasinga (Aus)
Breeder	M J Chittick
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: NZ Bloodstock as agent; \$75,000



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MIGHTY CONQUEROR IN FULL FLIGHT



Mighty Conqueror flies in.

A mentally and physically stronger **Mighty Conqueror (NZ)** (Patapan) was seen in full flight when winning the \$580,000 Class 3 over 1000 metres at Kranji on Friday.

The five-year-old had long been regarded as one of trainer Mark Walker's most progressive individuals but had not reached his full potential since his winning debut a year ago.

But from the way the previous four-time winner stood over his eleven rivals first-up from a 2½-month layoff, helped by a charmed run along the rails from the number one barrier, it was quite apparent the penny might have finally dropped.

Taking the trail behind stablemate Champagne Rein (NZ) (Captain Rio) from the outset, Mighty Conqueror was jogging as the field neared the

home turn and the moment he dived through the gap the result was a foregone conclusion.

Under Walker's apprentice jockey Zawari Razali's urgings, the warm favourite powered away to a commanding break before being challenged late by Red Dawn (NZ) (Align), the margin 1½ lengths and the time a new class record of 57.96 seconds on Polytrack, only 0.2 seconds

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MIGHTY CONQUEROR IN FULL FLIGHT

(Continued from page 12)

outside the course record held by Northern Lion (NZ) (Ishiguru) since 2011.

“He had it all in his favour tonight. He jumped well from his good gate, he was nice and fit and he hit the line strong,” said Walker.

“He is mentally a lot more mature now. He was quite a handful in the past and we had to change up his training routine. He does a lot of treadmill and swimming – we have to

try something different with him or he will think he knows more than us.

“Physically, he is also stronger as we could see tonight. He was up eleven kilos and he is just getting better and better.

“Even though he’s won twice on turf, he has shown better Polytrack form from what I’ve seen. We’ll just see how far he can go at this level.”

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Class 3 H. 1000m
Winner	Mighty Conqueror (NZ) 2012
Owners	Synthetic Stable
Trainer	Mark Walker (Kranji)
Breeding	by Patapan (USA) out of Sarah San by San Luis (Aus)
Breeder	Mrs J E C & Est late P M Dean



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ETTIJAH WINS FOR **STAND-IN TRAINER**

Assistant trainer Jacqui de Tert dedicated the Friday night win by **Ettijah (NZ)** (Jimmy Choux) in the \$560,000 Class 4 1200 metre race to newlyweds Daniel and Amelle le Grange, who were getting married thousands of kilometres away in England.

Kranji-based South African trainer Ricardo le Grange had during the week flown to England to attend the wedding of his younger brother, leaving the running of the stables to his right-hand woman.

With a big team of seven runners on Friday and another six on Sunday, le Grange could ill-afford to leave anything to chance and could not have a more reliable pair of hands and eyes than de Tert's.

Race	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m
Winner	Ettijah (NZ) 2013
Owners	Al-Arabiya Stable
Trainer	Ricardo le Grange (Kranji)
Breeding	by Jimmy Choux out of Yellow Brick Road by Soviet Star (USA)
Breeder	Ngaire Fraser

"After the first race, I thought 'oh no' this is not happening. Super Dan missed the start and things just didn't go right for him," said de Tert. "But luckily Ettijah has won. It takes the pressure off the shoulders just a tad."

De Tert said the instructions to jockey Oscar Chavez were to work out how the speed sorted itself out on the inside before deciding whether to press on from his wide alley.

"It's a Polytrack race and we had to ride him positive and it's worked out really well."

Chavez jumped off saying that the step up to 1700 metres at his previous start was in hindsight a premature move for Ettijah even if he is a son of a New Zealand Derby winner.

"I thought there would be more speed to the race but we landed in front," said the Panamanian-born jockey. "He was travelling as he wanted once in front. In the straight, he kicked again and was entitled to get a little tired in the end."

Ettijah had looked in trouble as the swoopers descended around two lengths astern but at the post stablemate Majestic Empress (NZ) (Ekraar) came up short by three-quarters of a length with favourite Royal Guard (Purrealist)

another neck away.

Chavez said not to write off the New Zealand-bred as a future staying prospect.

"We probably put him over the wrong distance at his last start – it was too long too soon for him," he said. "If we put him in the right class and in the right race, I believe he can go far. He sure has ability."

– Singapore Turf Club



Ettijah close to home and in no danger.

