

Sunday 21 August 2016

## SHAUN GETS FINISH INCH-PERFECT AS HE GUIDES KICK BACK TO HUNT CUP VICTORY



*There's not much of her but she can jump with the best... as Kick Back shows with this neat display at one of yesterday's fences.*

The deadly Kevin Myers and Shaun Fannin pairing combined once again to take out a premier jumping contest as **Kick Back (NZ)** (Bahhare) yesterday prevailed in a thrilling finish to the Tractor Centre Pakuranga Hunt Cup at Ellerslie.

Fannin rode a perfectly judged race to come from near last with a lap to run in the 4900 metre contest as he guided Kick Back to victory by a head over last year's winner Jack Romanov (NZ) (Ustinov), the pair staging an all-out war over

the final hundred metres of the contest.

Kick Back's stablemate and race favourite Crash Bandicoot (NZ) (Casual Lies) finished close up in third, just ahead of gallant outsider Nells Belle (NZ) (Istidaad) who had made a bold bid to steal the race when taking control with 2000 metres to run.

Despite his mount's smallish stature, Fannin was quick to praise the winner's fighting spirit.

"She's really only a tiny mare but she has a huge heart and

*Continued on page 3*





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# SHAUN GETS FINISH INCH-PERFECT AS HE GUIDES KICK BACK TO HUNT CUP VICTORY

(Continued from page 1)

a real never-say-die attitude," he said. "She is just so tough and when it got a bit close as we squeezed between them over the last fence she just put her head down and went for it."

Fannin was delighted with the way the mare handled her first look at the famed Ellerslie steeplechase circuit and is looking forward to bigger things in a fortnight.

"She loved those fences and jumped beautifully all the way," he said. "The plan was to stay back early and follow Crash Bandicoot into the race but he jumped up to the leaders a little earlier than I wanted so I just bided my time until the top of the hill.

"I did get caught up a little behind a couple and when she got to the outside coming down the hill I thought I might be a little too far back. She seemed to appreciate the good ground, though, and really made up lengths from that point so I knew I was a big chance with a good jump at the last and

she flew it.

"Hopefully she comes through this one well as I think on that performance she has to be a big chance in the Great Northern."

Although beaten, runner-up Jack Romanov showed he is right on target to defend his Great Northern Steeplechase crown with a gritty effort that will top off his preparation nicely for the 6400 metre feature.

<b>Race</b>	<b>Pakuranga Hunt Cup 4900m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Kick Back (NZ) 2008</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>A S &amp; Mrs P Trotter</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Kevin Myers (Wanganui)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Bahhare (USA) out of Take Three by Al Akbar (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>A S &amp; T A Trotter</b>

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Randwick racing has good news for Kiwi studs

Two New Zealand nurseries had cause to celebrate when yesterday's results from Randwick came through. Matamata's Rich Hill Stud was first to receive good news when Divine Prophet (Choisir), a full brother to the farm's rookie stallion Proisir, opened his three-year-old season with a storming win in the Group Three Up And Coming Stakes, coming from last in the 1300 metre event to down the highly regarded Victorian colt Derryn (Hinchinbrook) by a short neck with the Gai Waterhouse-trained favourite Thronum (Snitzel) the same margin away in third.

Senior training partner John Hawkes said Divine Prophet, now at \$6 for next month's 1400 metre Golden Rose, was being aimed at an "up to a mile, maybe a mile and a quarter" programme.

"He is in the Golden Rose, the Caulfield Guineas and the Cox Plate but we will take it one step at a time."

Later on the Randwick card, Godolphin filly Pearls (Exceed And Excel) followed an impressive barrier trial to score first-up in the 1300 metre Group Three Toy Show Quality. From the Singspiel mare Accessories (GB), Pearls added another line to the CV of her half-brother Bullbars (Elusive Quality), now standing at High View Stud, with his first crop just turned three.

Trainer John O'Shea said the Group Two Golden Pendant for fillies and mares, run at Rosehill on September 24, would be an ideal target for the Group Two Tea Rose Stakes winner.



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# HUNT HURDLES TO NANCHO LASS AFTER WAYWARD RUN HOME BY NGATIRA GOLD

An action-packed edition of the Pakuranga Hunt Club's premier hurdle event at Ellerslie was concluded in favour of outsider **Nancho Lass (NZ)** (Mr Nancho) after the Craig Thornton-trained mare was awarded the race in the enquiry room.

Expat-Kiwi Richard Cully had produced the ride of the day to guide Ngatira Gold (NZ) (Gold Centre) across the line in first place in the Harrison Lane-sponsored contest after a rails-hugging effort saw the combination repel the challenges of Nancho Lass and the well favoured Just Got Home (NZ) (Storming Home) in the run to the post.

However, an alarming outwards movement by the winner in the closing 150 metres saw stewards fire in a protest on behalf of both placegetters after they were hampered when attempting to challenge. The judicial panel agreed that both had their chances affected enough to warrant a change of placings with Ngatira Gold relegated to third, providing Nancho Lass with the victory.

Trainer Craig Thornton was philosophical about the final result, delighted to grab the victory although disappointed it came against his partner Samantha Logan, who trains Ngatira Gold.

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*Ngatira Gold gets to the line first but has come well wide of the rails position he'd held on straightening and generally maintained to the final flight. There were no surprises when the placings were altered, with Nancho Lass (centre) and Just Got Home (#1) both being promoted.*





# HUNT HURDLES TO NANCHO LASS AFTER WAYWARD RUN HOME BY NGATIRA GOLD

(Continued from page 4)

"I'm definitely pleased to get the win, especially for my owners, but to have it go against Samantha isn't how you would want it to go," he commented.

"That's racing, however, although I do think her horse is a massive chance in the Great Northern in a fortnight so I hope that can go in her favour then."

Thornton was keen on his mare's chances when track conditions improved dramatically during the week and saw the race run on a Slow 9 surface.

"My mare loves the better ground and I said to Charlie Studd that it would definitely work for us and against some of those better fancied runners," he explained.

"She is a lovely jumper, very good in the air and has really come to it this season.

"There is some doubt she can get the Northern trip but if the weather stays good then we will take our chance in it."

The victory topped off some consistent form for the eight-year-old mare, who had finished third to Ready Eddie (NZ)

(Yamanin Vital) in the Waikato Hurdles earlier in the season.

The early sensation in the contest was created by race favourite Raisafuasho (NZ) (Johar), who took a heavy tumble at the second flight. Rider Emily Farr remained prone on the track as the race continued, with riders instructed by the clerk of the course to skirt the obstacle at the 1200 metre mark during the final lap of the race.

Farr, who had also fallen in the previous event on the card, was placed in an ambulance and taken to hospital for further observation.

<b>Race</b>	<b>Pakuranga Hunt Hurdle 3350m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Nancho Lass (NZ) 2008</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>D H Barons and C A &amp; Mrs E C Booth</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Craig Thornton (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Mr Nancho (Arg) out of Wydawake by Hereward the Wake (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>C A &amp; Mrs E C Booth</b>



## BULLBARS

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# JOEY JONZ CAN JUMP BUT 'NOT JUST YET'

Ellerslie specialist **Joey Jonz (NZ)** (Starjo) may have staved off a jumping career for the time being after yesterday producing a bulldog-like effort under 60kg to score his fourth win on his favourite track when triumphing in the Bridges Insurance 1600 at Ellerslie.

The nuggety gelding had been disappointing in his last three starts after scoring nicely at New Plymouth in mid-May. Trainer Rudy Liefting decided to change his routine after he finished a disappointing seventh at Trentham last time out so put him over the hurdles in a Cambridge trial last Monday.

That winning effort may have worked the oracle as Joey Jonz settled

beautifully in the trail as Kindaleica (NZ) (Captain Rio) set a steady pace at the head of affairs. Although travelling kindly for rider Lynsey Satherley at the entrance to the home straight, the duo soon found themselves in trouble as veteran John Gray (NZ) (Jahafil) kept them pinned in a pocket as he moved up to challenge for the lead.

A brief bumping duel occurred before Joey Jonz found galloping room to issue his winning challenge, striding to a one and a quarter length advantage over Kindaleica at the winning post with John Gray a further neck away in third.

"I didn't actually give him much chance because he was carrying such a big weight," admitted Liefting after

the race.

"To carry that weight, and beat a good horse like John Gray, he might be better than I thought."

Liefting was also quick to acknowledge the impact the hurdle training had played in the victory.

"He went to the hurdle trials on Monday and won so well that Aaron Kuru said he'd win on him first time over the jumps," he said.

"He'll be ready to go when he does step out in that role but after today I might have to put it on hold just yet."

Satherley had plenty of praise for her mount while noting that the improved track conditions had also been a factor in the gelding's favour.

"He's always been a nice horse and I think the better track helped as he really seemed to ping off that ground today," she said.

"He loves the game. However, after that hurdle trial the other day he did try and shy from the ones down the back as he thought he might have to jump them."



<b>Race</b>	<b>Pakuranga HC Bridges Insurance H. 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Joey Jonz (NZ) 2009</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Kakapo Lodge Ltd</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Rudy Liefting (Pukekohe)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Starjo out of Mi Martina And I by Mi Preferido (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Kakapo Lodge Ltd</b>

*Joey Jonz strides purposefully to the line for Lynsey Satherley, the horse's defiant demeanour seemingly his response to a bout of schooling.*





# PACORUS COMPLETES A DOUBLE FOR CHRIS

Cambridge trainer Chris Wood yesterday produced another one-two raceday punch when promising gallopers Wooden Edge (NZ) (Have No Fear) and **Pacorus (NZ)** (Tavistock) combined for a winning double at New Plymouth.

Both Wood-trained runners had been successful at Te Rapa in July, with both gunning to complete winning trebles for their connections. And after an effortless win by Wooden Edge in the opening race on the card, Pacorus emulated his stablemate with an equally impressive performance as he strode to victory in the day's feature, the ITM New Plymouth Building Supplies Interprovincial 1600.

Although dropping back to 1600 metres from middle distance journeys at his previous four starts, Pacorus was confidently supported to take out the contest as the Waikato representative – a province that hadn't tasted victory in the event since 1995.

Apprentice Viktoria Gatu kept favourite backers happy as she settled the five-year-old in behind the speed before shooting him to the front with 600 metres to run, the horse then keeping up a strong gallop to the line to hold out Meritaggio (NZ) (Road to Rock), who came with a strong late run near the rails, with the fast-finishing Mangaroa Flo Jo (NZ) (High Chaparral) making up good ground out wide to finish third.

Wood had been apprehensive leading into the event as he wasn't sure about dropping the horse back from 2100 metres.

"I did think it may have been a little short for him so I wasn't that confident," he admitted.

"I told Viktoria to try and get him handy early without putting too much pressure on him and then try to slide to the front at the half mile. I knew if he was in front he would be hard to run down and that's how it proved.

"It may not have looked like that good a ride but it was exactly what I asked and she did it superbly so full credit to her."



*Pacorus and Viktoria Gatu give the Waikato colours a welcome return to New Plymouth's Interprovincial winners' list.*

Wood will now sit down and plot a path to the New Zealand Cup carnival in November as he believes the 3200 metres of Riccarton's feature staying race will be perfect for the gelding.

"His breeding suggests he has the credentials to get up to two miles as he is by Tavistock out of a Zabeel mare," he said.

"The task now will be to work out how to get him to the Cup as that is the race I have earmarked for him as long as he keeps making the progress he has over the past few months."

<b>Race</b>	<b>Taranaki RC ITM Interprovincial H. 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Pacorus (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>John &amp; Jennifer Morison, John Borich, Tony Craig, Ian Goodlet, Ken Green, Neville Jamieson, John Morgan, Trevor Palmer and Tim Vince</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Chris Wood (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Tavistock out of Za Tiara by Zabeel</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs A A Corcoran</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Landsdowne Park Ltd, P: D C &amp; J E Morison; \$15,000</b>



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Sunday 21 August 2016

# FITZROY RETURNS **FITTER AND STRONGER**

**E**xciting four-year-old prospect **Fitzroy (NZ)** (Swiss Ace), alongside Debt Collector (NZ) (Thorn Park) in trainer Cliff Brown's embarrassment of riches in the three-year-old races earlier in the year, showed he had lost none of his ability when decimating his Class 4 rivals at Kranji on Friday night.

Spelled for three months, Fitzroy returned with some handy trials and an overall demeanour that oozed improved strength and fitness, the improvement immediately apparent

<b>Race</b>	<b>Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Fitzroy (NZ) 2012</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Fitzroy Stable</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Cliff Brown (Kranji)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Avec Joie (Aus) by General Nediym (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>G Harvey</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Cliff Brown Racing; \$130,000</b>

to his nine rivals in the \$560,000 Class 4 Division 1 event over 1200 metres.

Striding to the front under no pressure from jockey Michael Rodd, Fitzroy was in cruise control to the point of turn where it soon became clear he would be toying with the rest, so comfortable and fluid was his action. A slight squeeze from Rodd brought instant acceleration and a widening margin that resulted in a five length win over Pratt Street (NZ) (Bel Esprit) with Elusive Emperor (NZ) (Elusive City) third, another 1¼ lengths away.

Brown was obviously pleased with the winning comeback but preferred not to get too carried away at this stage.

"He's a very nice horse but he's still got a long way to go towards his ultimate objective," said the Australian, without elaborating further on any long-range goal.

"The winkers helped him to concentrate better. He's always been above average and his run in the Singapore Guineas was fantastic. But he has now grown mentally and has come back generally fitter and stronger. For him to finish off the way he did was pretty impressive."

Rodd, who is also Debt Collector's regular partner, jumped off with a big grin and a thumbs-up.

"It's great to ride this horse as he's shown ability from day one," he said. "When the other horses came to him, he didn't grab the bit. But once he changed legs, he just left them behind."

"He's an exciting horse for sure, but I think Debt Collector has a bit more scope over more ground. Can't complain, as I'm getting a chance to ride two very good horses for Cliff."

With his second success from six starts, Fitzroy, backed down to odds-on favouritism, has now taken his earnings past the \$5110,000 mark.

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*Fitzroy returns in stunning fashion.*

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