

Sunday 18 December 2016

CUPS CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY AS STAYING TRIP RETURNS FANATIC TO WINNING FORM



Fanatic and regular rider Mark Hills take a decisive step to summer staying success with this easy win at Te Rapa.

Classic winner **Fanatic (NZ)** (Shocking) powered into contention for the major summer cups after turning her fortunes around with a hot performance at Te Rapa.

The Te Awamutu mare won her first race since claiming the Group One New Zealand Oaks on protest when she proved a class above her opposition in yesterday's Dunstan Feeds Championship Qualifier.

In between times, Fanatic and her connections suffered a bizarre piece of bad luck in the spring when a spider bite counted her out of the Group One Caulfield Cup and forced her early return home.

The four-year-old was unplaced when resuming in the Group Two Cal Isuzu Stakes seven days ago and showed the benefit of that outing with a clinical display for trainers Graeme Sanders and Debbie Sweeney.

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(Continued from page 1)

“We thought she may have needed another run,” Sweeney said, “but she was very impressive.”

Fanatic settled back of midfield on the fence before rider Mark Hills got her off the rail with 700 metres to run. They made rapid ground to be in contention on straightening and dashed clear 200 metres from home for an emphatic win.

“As long as she pulls up well, she’ll go to the City of Auckland Cup on New Year’s Day,” Sweeney said.

Fanatic is also nominated for the Group Three Wellington Cup and the Group One Auckland Cup, with the Ellerslie feature her more likely target.

The stable and Hills had earlier celebrated a victory from

their Group One New Zealand Derby hope **Wehadadeal (NZ)** (Pluck) in thebestlittlebookstore.co.nz 1400.

“It was a good effort and we thought he would go close,” Sweeney said. “He was left a sitting duck the other day. He’s a nice, relaxed horse with a lovely attitude.”

Wehadadeal had placed at his first two appearances before his last-start fifth at Waipukurau.

“We think the further he goes the better he’ll be,” said Rick Williams, racing manager for breeder-owner Dick Karreman, of The Oaks Stud.

The three-year-old is currently a \$61 chance for the Derby, to be run on March 4.

Race	Waikato RC Dunstan Feeds Championship Qualifier H. 2100m
Winner	Fanatic (NZ) 2012
Owners	S P Kiernan
Trainer	Graeme Sanders & Debbie Sweeney (Te Awamutu)
Breeding	by Shocking (Aus) out of Komplete Klass by Groom Dancer (USA)
Breeder	S P Kiernan

Race	Waikato RC thebestlittlebookstore.co.nz Maiden S. 1400m
Winner	Wehadadeal (NZ) 2013
Owners	D Karreman
Trainer	Graeme Sanders & Debbie Sweeney (Te Awamutu)
Breeding	by Pluck (USA) out of Gazumped by Darci Brahma
Breeder	The Oaks Stud

NEWS IN BRIEF

Christmas and New Year publishing schedule

Next week’s Sunday and Monday editions of Racing & Breeding News will not be published. In their place a special edition will appear on Tuesday, December 27, with full coverage of Boxing Day racing. There will be just one edition the following weekend, appearing on Monday, January 2, with coverage of New Year’s Day racing. The usual Friday editions are not affected.



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190	Br.F Savabeel	Guisseppina
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285	B.F Tavistock	Mirandola
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320	Br.F Makfi	Orquidea
327	Br.C So You Think	Paolino
328	B.C O’Reilly	Papilio
425	B.F O’Reilly	Stanica

SELECT SALE

LOT	SIRE	DAM
476	B.C Keeper	Vandenne
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RIVALS CAN'T CATCH **FREEGOING MATIMBA**

When **Matimba (NZ)** (Perfectly Ready) was allowed to make his own rules in the open mile at Te Rapa he never gave his rivals a look in and cruised to an easy victory.

The freegoing eight-year-old revelled in his work and strolled home by two-and-three-quarter lengths in the Lodge City Rentals Handicap under apprentice rider Anna Jones

"We were very hopeful as he had been working well," Tauranga part-owner and trainer Peter Darvill said.

"That was a pretty impressive win. I'm really happy with him and hopefully there's a few more wins in

him yet."

Matimba had started off his current campaign encouragingly when runner-up on his home track before two unplaced performances, although he had genuine reasons for both of those failures.

"They weren't his fault," Darvill said. "One was on a wet track and in the other he copped one on the nose."

Consensus (NZ) (Postponed), who raced in third or fourth spot throughout, never leaving the rails, returned a much better effort to finish runner-up following her last-start failure to beat a runner home in the Group Three Counties Cup, while

Silhouette Noir (Dane Shadow) boxed on for third.

The red-hot favourite Ronchi (NZ) (Stravinsky) never gave his army of supporters any cause for hope after settling a clear last and passing only two in the straight.

Race	Waikato RC Lodge City Rentals H. 1600m
Winner	Matimba (NZ) 2008
Owners	Mrs N P & P W Darvill
Trainer	Peter Darvill (Tauranga)
Breeding	by Perfectly Ready (Aus) out of Pheroz Gold by Super Imposing
Breeder	Mrs N P & P W Darvill



A well-judged front-running ride by Anna Jones sees Matimba clear in the lead when the post is reached in the open mile at Te Rapa.





LEWIS CAROLL HARES AWAY AT AWAPUNI

Progressive four-year-old **Lewis Caroll (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) yesterday continued his quick march through the grades with another commanding display at Awapuni, putting away a handy field of Rating 75 performers in the Totally Vets Premier for Cambridge part-owner and trainer Ngaire Fraser and regular rider Shaun McKay.

"He's shown us a huge amount of ability since day one," Fraser said.

"It's just been a matter of finding the right races for him. He's still a bit green and he was hanging in down the straight today and trying to get to the rail. He did that in his last start at Waverley as well."

Lewis Caroll has now won four of his six starts and has yet to finish out of the money.

"He can settle in his races, which is a big plus, so he's quite exciting," said Fraser, who races the gelding with her daughter Wendy.

Lewis Caroll settled behind the leaders in a genuinely run affair and finished solidly one off the fence to sail clear by two-and-a-half lengths.

"We were able to follow a good speed," said McKay, who has ridden the horse in all of his starts.

"We got a bit closer coming to the turn and then the gap appeared and he finished it off really well without me doing too much.



Still green and wanting to hug the rail, the lightly raced but talented Lewis Caroll strides away for Shaun McKay to win the only race run at yesterday's Awapuni meeting.

"He was a bit green and wanted to get to the rail but he was all good after that."

Race	Manawatu RC Totally Vets H. 1200m
Winner	Lewis Caroll (NZ) 2012
Owners	Ngaire Fraser & Wendy Fraser
Trainer	Ngaire Fraser (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of Yellow Brick Road by Soviet Star (USA)
Breeder	Ngaire Fraser

QUALITY STALLIONS FOR 2016



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EXCALIBUR CONFIRMS DERBY CREDENTIALS

Excalibur (NZ) (Tavistock) was a classic market mover yesterday after putting his rivals to the sword at Te Rapa with an overdue first success.

The Shaune Ritchie-prepared three-year-old came in from \$26 to \$18 for the million-dollar Group One New Zealand Derby following a dominant performance to win the Print House 1600.

Given a dream run behind the pace on the fence, Excalibur rounded off impressively in the straight under rider Leith Innes in the Bonecrusher colours of part-owner Peter Mitchell.

"He's still got his quirks and he sweats up a bit but he's a pretty talented horse," Ritchie said.

"I don't want to overtax him too much as he's a clean-winded horse. I'll be sitting down with Peter to work out a Derby plan.

"He's by Tavistock out of a Stravinsky mare, who's out of a Zabeel mare and he's looking for 2000 metres now. He's a big, long-striding horse as well."

As another son of Tavistock, with Zabeel as the sire of his second dam, the Group One Australian Derby winner Tavago (NZ) is bred on the same cross.

Excalibur placed in his first three starts and while he then finished only fifth in the Listed Trevor Eagle Memorial at Ellerslie, Innes was more than happy with

the colt's showing.

"He ran the fastest 600 metres of that race so it was a better run than it looked," he said.

Innes had no concerns yesterday and Excalibur was out to challenge soon after straightening then powered clear to score by two-and-three-quarter lengths.

"With the blinkers on he travelled a lot better and it was all over pretty quickly," he said.

Race	Waikato RC Print House Maiden S. 1600m
Winner	Excalibur (NZ) 2013
Owners	R J de Lautour, G W Halse, C J, P J & Mrs S R Mitchell and L K & M A Wahlstrom
Trainer	Shaune Ritchie (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Strabelle by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	W L Spring
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Festival Session; V: Kilgravin Lodge, P: Ben Foote Racing Stables; \$22,000 2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Riversley Park Ltd, P: P J Mitchell; \$150,000



Wearing colours made famous by the mighty Bonecrusher, Leith Innes is given an armchair ride to the line by Derby prospect Excalibur.



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33	O'Reilly	BR	C	Alberton Princess
112	Savabeel	BR	F	Danbelle
137	Ocean Park	B	F	Dosh
242	Savabeel	Br	C	Lady Alberton
272	Pierro	BR	C	Mapmaker
287	Tavistock	B	C	Miss Danni
372	Rip Van Winkle	B	C	Roc de Chine
380	So You Think	B	C	Sam I Am
409	Ocean Park	B	C	Silk Shot
453	He's Remarkable	B	F	Thunderchine

2017 SELECT DRAFT

469	He's Remarkable	B/BR	C	Update
510	Ocean Park	B	F	Acacian Secret
515	Ocean Park	C	F	Alberton Star
558	He's Remarkable	B	C	Bella Carolina
580	He's Remarkable	B/BR	C	Bremer Bay
604	The Factor	BR/GR	C	Chelsey Cry
647	Rock 'n' Pop	B	C	De Lago Lady
794	He's Remarkable	BR	F	Lady Harriet

813	Power	B/BR	C	Lilahjay
830	Rock 'n' Pop	B	C	Lutry
840	He's Remarkable	BR	C	Mapperley Magic
1014	He's Remarkable	B	F	Shades of Silk
1050	Pins	B	C	Speeding
1057	Reliable Man	BR	C	Stella Doro
1088	Burgundy	B	C	The Nightingale
1098	He's Remarkable	BR	C	Treasured Choice

2016 FESTIVAL DRAFT

1125	He's Remarkable	B	F	Anticipation
1131	He's Remarkable	B	F	Astralita
1199	Zacinto	BR	C	Flowing
1203	He's Remarkable	B/BR	F	Ginja Ninja
1208	He's Remarkable	B/BR	C	Heartwell
1252	He's Remarkable	BR	C	Miss Andrea
1265	He's Remarkable	B	C	Onyx
1292	He's Remarkable	B	F	Reputedly
1307	He's Remarkable	B	F	Shining Light
1336	He's Remarkable	B	C	The Big Storm



**"THE BRAND
SAYS IT ALL"**



ABANDONED AWAPUNI **TO RESUME TODAY**

Weekend racing was dealt another blow yesterday when the Manawatu meeting at Awapuni came to a premature end.

After just one event, the fixture was called off due to the unsafe state of the track.

It followed the loss last month of the Wanganui Cup meeting because of dangerous underfoot conditions and the Cambridge meeting at Te Rapa where strong winds blew over a large part of the running rail in the front straight.

Yesterday, the Kylie Little-trained Lucyinrio (NZ) (Captain Rio) slipped badly with 800 metres to run and

jockey Johnathan Parkes was lucky to stay in the saddle.

“It would be hard to see a horse lose its footing that badly without falling,” chief stipendiary steward John Oatham said.

“Everybody was desperate for the meeting to go ahead but safety comes first and an inspection of the track showed indications of movement.

“The club requested to put a slicing machine through the track but it was clearly a hazard and we couldn’t say with any certainty that it had fixed the problem.

“The riders were excellent and they had the right attitude. They wanted to ride but at the end of the day we had

to question whether they could go out and confidently do their mounts justice.”

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing’s general manager of racing Matt Hall said the remaining seven races, including the Group Two Kamada Park Manawatu Challenge Stakes and the Group Three Hotel Coachman Manawatu Cup, have been rescheduled for today.

The running rail at Awapuni will be moved out to the position it was for the opening day of the meeting a week ago.



Clear skies, a firm track, competitive fields and a big crowd... how Awapuni should look for today's Manawatu Cup meeting.

