

Tuesday 27 December 2016

ALYSHA TIMES HER RUN TO A NICETY AS CONSENSUS UPSETS IN ZABEEL CLASSIC



Alysha Collett brings Consensus (#10) with a well-timed finish to catch Volkstok'n'barrell (red colours) in yesterday's Zabeel Classic at Ellerslie.

Underrated mare **Consensus (NZ)** (Postponed) upset the appiecart at Ellerslie yesterday when she produced a powerful finishing burst to capture the Group One Zabeel Classic at outside odds.

Previously a winner at Group Three level, Consensus had to overcome a talented field and the protest siren to claim the feature event on the Boxing Day programme. Things got tight in the closing stages with third placed runner Saint Emilion (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) squeezed between the winner and runner-up Volkstok'n'barrell (NZ) (Tavistock), however the

protest was withdrawn as quickly as it was lodged and order was returned to proceedings.

The protest siren briefly had trainer Stephen McKee thinking back to earlier in the year where the same two horses were involved in a controversial finish to the Group One New Zealand Stakes, with Volkstok'n'barrell holding the win despite interfering with Consensus in the run home.

"We've had a quiet run this year but we've had a good day today so hopefully we are on the way back," he noted.

Continued on page 3





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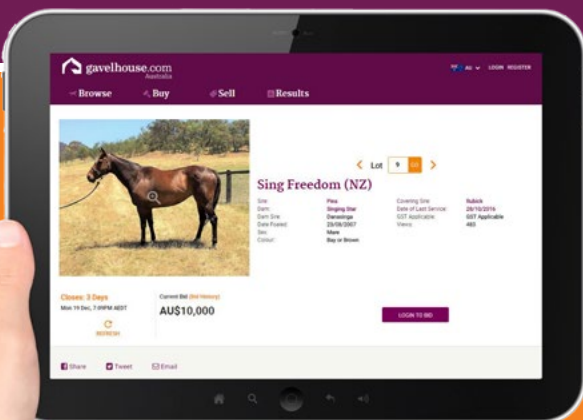


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ALYSHA TIMES HER RUN TO A NICETY AS CONSENSUS UPSETS IN ZABEEL CLASSIC

(Continued from page 1)

"The fast tempo helped her and she always seems to run her best races here.

"She was certainly unlucky back in March in the New Zealand Stakes but I don't know whether it would have changed the result that day. It's always great for a mare to get a Group One though."

Well-known racing identity Leo Molloy manages the syndicate of family members who race the mare and he was also delighted with the victory.

"She's a consistent mare who's been placed eleven times at stakes level so it's good to get the big one," he said.

"It's good for the family as she's a family horse. It's good for Mum as well; she's two years dead but this is the first horse she ever raced so it's pretty important to us."

The mare was expertly handled by rider Alysha Collett who was also securing her maiden success at the highest level. With *Girl Of My Dreams* (NZ) (Gold Centre) and *Saint Emilion* setting a searching speed in front, Collett had *Consensus* humming along nicely in sixth throughout. As *Saint Emilion* kicked strongly, Collett angled *Consensus* into the clear and

set out after him. Ranging up at the 100 metre mark the mare was joined by the heavily backed *Volkstok'n'barrell* but she had too much in hand as she eased past to a short neck victory.

"Today we were on the outside and coming over the top of them with the perfect run," said Collett.

"I couldn't ask for any more. She's a tough mare and she deserves it.

"I'm pretty chuffed. I can't thank Leo and Stephen enough as they've supported me on her the whole way."

Race	ARC Zabeel Classic Gr.1 2000m
Winner	Consensus (NZ) 2011
Owners	Mrs T Gibbens, S Lamond, Mrs D P & M D J Molloy, Touchdown Racing Ltd and Est late M C Molloy
Trainer	Stephen McKee (Ardmore)
Breeding	by Postponed (USA) out of Kate Cross by Cape Cross (Ire)
Breeder	M2 Racing Limited

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Year's Day

There will be no Sunday edition of *Racing & Breeding News* next weekend. The Monday, January 2, edition will have full coverage of New Year's Day racing. The Friday edition is not affected.

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BOXING DAY SPECIAL FROM VOLPE VELOCE

Volpe Veloce (Foxwedge) yesterday completed six of the best at Ellerslie when she successfully defended her unbeaten record with a determined display to claim the Group Two Cambridge Stud Eight Carat Classic.

The glamour filly produced a Boxing Day special for trainer Graham Richardson, who rated the win as one of the more satisfying of his career.

"I hid away in the jockeys' room and watched it by myself," he said. "I'm absolutely stoked for her and my owners. It's a big thrill, just fantastic."

The win was also one to savour for Volpe Veloce's jockey Johnathan Parkes, who has partnered the filly in all bar the first of her six wins, as it was his first riding success at Ellerslie.

"Her attitude is so professional," he said. "She's just a gem to ride."

The subject of a \$50,000 win bet when her odds eased marginally to \$1.85, Volpe Veloce has now taken the lead with 14 points in the New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year series with the Group One New Zealand One Thousand Guineas winner La Diosa (NZ) (So You Think) on 12.

Settling behind the pace on the fence before Parkes got her off the rails across the top, Volpe Veloce finished resolutely in the straight to account for the central districts visitor Storytime (NZ) (Savabeel) with Date Night (NZ) (Savabeel) a brave third ahead of Devise (NZ) (Darci Brahma) and Glass Slipper (NZ) (Pins).

"Once I got out she did the rest," Parkes said. "I think she's

Volpe Veloce keeps her unbeaten record intact and Johnathan Parkes scores his first Ellerslie win as the pair win the Eight Carat Classic by a half length from the game Wanganui visitor Storytime.

a filly that will definitely stay. She is very relaxed in her races."

Richardson, who paid \$240,000 for the filly at Karaka in 2015, is keen to give Volpe Veloce her chance over 2400 metres next year.

"Her long-term goal is the New Zealand Oaks and she might go to Trentham for the mile down there as well," he said, referring to the Group One Levin Classic on January 14. "It's all about winning and getting more black type."

Race	ARC Eight Carat Classic Gr.2 1600m
Winner	Volpe Veloce (Aus) 2013
Owners	D & C Adams, H Allender, K Anderson, M Chubb, P Dixon, R Featherstone, G Mackin, G Richardson, K & L Robinson, M Skilling, P Spiers, B Wong and K Woodmass
Trainer	Graham Richardson (Matamata)
Breeding	by Foxwedge (Aus) out of Bardego (Aus) by Baratheia (Ire)
Breeder	Mr N Vass
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Lyndhurst Farm, P: richardsonracing.co.nz; \$240,000





RIDDELLS RAPT WITH SPEECH CRAFT

Rejuvenated galloper **Speech Craft** (Oratorio) completed a memorable festive period for trainer Trina Riddell and her jockey husband Jonathan with an upset victory at Ellerslie, the central districts sprinter delivering a knockout blow when winning the Listed Hallmark Stud Handicap at tote odds of 36 to one, with fifty to one offered on the fixed-odds market.

On Christmas Eve at New Plymouth, the Riddells combined for victory with Yodelay (NZ) (Swiss Ace) and Speech Craft provided the second leg of a treasured double.

"He's a lovely horse and full credit to Trina," Jonathan Riddell said. "She

picked him out at the sales, paid nothing for him and she does all the work with him."

Speech Craft won four races from Richard Collett's Pukekohe stable before his owners entered him in the 2015 Mixed Bloodstock Sale at Karaka.

Trina Riddell purchased the gelding for \$5500, syndicated him among friends and the horse had earned them \$50,000 before taking home the thick end of yesterday's \$60,000 stake.

"That's the first time Jonathan has ridden the horse," she said. "I thought they would win; I was so confident."

Speech Craft settled off the pace and once into the clear in the straight he dashed home to beat the favourite

Snowdrop (NZ) (Pins) and set himself up for a crack at next month's Group One Telegraph.

"I wanted to run him in the Telegraph last year but we were on the ballot," Riddell said. "We had beaten the winner Adventador four times in the lead-up as well.

"My horse hadn't had a Group or Listed placing so I decided to go for this race to get a black type win and now we'll have a go at the Telegraph."

Race	ARC Newmarket H. L 1200m
Winner	Speech Craft (Aus) 2008
Owners	A D Stuart, M P Jones, B S Wall, B N Orange, Miss L M & Mrs L A Marshall, W Wildbore, J P Gardiner, Mrs T L Riddell and Crafty Syndicate
Trainer	Trina Riddell (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Oratorio (Ire) out of Chaleur by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	R A Emery
Sales	2010 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Belvedere Farm, P: Collett Racing Stables Ltd; \$240,000 2015 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Cambridge Stud, P: Mr J K & Mrs T L Riddell; \$5500



Speech Craft bursts from the pack to nab Snowdrop virtually on the line in the Hallmark Stud Handicap.





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BATMAN RUNS 'EM RAGGED AT WINGATUI

It may have been six weeks between races but **Batman (NZ)** (Falkirk) showed he relished the freshen-up when he ran his rivals ragged in the Listed BP2GO Alco Mosgiel 1200 at yesterday's Wingatui meeting.

In a beautifully rated ride, jockey Kylie Williams took advantage of the number one gate and took the seven-year-old straight to the front, managing to string out the field of smart southern sprinters and leaving them struggling to make up ground when it mattered.

In the early stages only Super Trouper (NZ) (Darci Brahma) and Madam Bentley (NZ) (Edenwold) kept in touch with the runaway leader and at the 400 metre mark, as the back markers moved up into challenging positions, Batman kicked away to put a winning break on the field.

Signify (NZ) (Perfectly Ready) was the only runner able to make up ground over the closing stages, finishing just a head behind Batman. There was a clear two-and-a-quarter lengths back to Madam Bentley in third position with the same margin to the favourite Kinagat (Street Cry) in fourth.

Williams was clearly moved by the victory, saluting the heavens to acknowledge the late Rebecca Black as she returned to scale.

Batman came into the Listed event with solid form, culminating in a nice win over 1400 metres at Riccarton

on New Zealand Cup day, where he downed the well-performed Maybe Miami (NZ) (Iffraaj) and Group One winner Nashville (NZ) (Darci Brahma). Despite that, trainer Neill Ridley wasn't brimming with confidence.

"You're never totally confident. He was very well before the race and he'd drawn a good marble," he said.

That inside draw came into play when determining riding instructions in what became a replica of his Riccarton win.

"We decided if he could get a soft lead then we'd take it and see if he could kick away," Ridley said.

The seven-year-old is something of a day-to-day proposition, though Ridley said he hasn't had any problems with the horse since he was sent south

by Sam Lennox, who remains in the ownership.

"All going well, and if we can keep him in one piece, then we'll head to Riccarton at the end of January," Ridley said. "There's a 1400 metre race that should suit him."

Race	Otago RC Mosgiel S. L 1200m
Winner	Batman (NZ) 2009
Owners	Sam Lennox, Lorraine Reardon, Steve Ridley and Kieran & Ed Corby
Trainer	Neill Ridley (Riccarton)
Breeding	by Falkirk out of Zuri by Kaapstad
Breeder	Mrs P A & P A Payne
Sales	2010 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: Anistay Lodge; \$26,000



A bold front-running effort pays off as Batman reaches the winning post ahead of his only serious challenger, Signify.





RUUD NOT TOO RESOLUTE IN RISING STARS

A picture perfect ride and a never-say-die attitude saw the Stephen Marsh-trained **Ruud Not Too (NZ)** (Bernardini) score a decisive victory in the inaugural running of the Dunstan Feeds Rising Stars Championship Final at Ellerslie yesterday.

The four-year-old mare had to overcome an outside draw and a quality field to post her fourth career victory and second at Ellerslie in this campaign. Punters who were prepared to overlook the wide gate were well rewarded as rider Danielle Johnson hustled the mare forward in the early stages before securing a dream run on the outer.

Johnson had the mare challenging on the home corner as she sprinted hard to establish a winning break on a large chasing pack headed by

eventual runner-up Dark And Stormy (NZ) (Zabeel). Ruud Not Too was not to be denied as she held on to her advantage, eventually posting a winning margin of two-and-a-half lengths in a smart 1:28.01 for the 1500 metre journey.

Marsh was a full of smiles following the dominant performance.

"That was a monster win wasn't it," he grinned.

"She drew wide, which has been the norm for my runners of late, but Danielle got her in a beautiful spot and she really let down when she asked her for the effort."

Marsh admitted he was a little perplexed with the mare's most recent run where she finished third after appearing to have every chance.

"I thought she could win last time but she raced like a tired horse that

day," he said.

"I do think her fresh-up run took more out of her than we thought at the time so we gave her a little freshen up and she showed what she could do today."

Marsh will now assess the mare's powers of recovery before deciding on her immediate future. There are still some thoughts of a start in the Group Two Rich Hill Mile on New Year's Day although more likely is a tilt at the Group One Thorndon Mile at Trentham on January 28.

Ruud Not Too races in the familiar colours of one of Albert Bosma's Go Racing syndicates with Bosma outlaying \$220,000 for her during the Premier session of the 2014 National Yearling Sale.



Race	ARC Rising Stars Championship Final H. 1500m
Winner	Ruud Not Too (NZ) 2012
Owners	Go Racing Ruud Not Too Syndicate (Mgr: Albert Bosma)
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Bernardini (USA) out of Too Many Diamonds by O'Reilly
Breeder	Sir Patrick & Lady Hogan
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Cambridge Stud, P: Go Racing Ltd; \$220,000

The outlier on a day when nine of the ten races were won by margins of less than a length . . . Ruud Not Too and Danielle Johnson take the inaugural running of the Dunstan Rising Stars by a decisive 2½ lengths.





HALL OF FAME BACK IN WINNING FORM AS OPIE AND TE AKAU GET TOGETHER AGAIN

The newly minted combination of Te Akau Racing and leading rider Opie Bosson were quickly back doing what they do best when they struck early on yesterday's Ellerslie card.

Progressive three-year-old **Hall Of Fame (NZ)** (Savabeel) carried Bosson and the familiar tangerine and blue colours of Te Akau to an impressive victory in the third race of the day, the Conveyancing Shop Lawyers-sponsored three-year-old contest over 1400 metres. It was the colt's first appearance since finishing down the track in the Group One

Two Thousand Guineas at Riccarton last month when well favoured.

Carrying topweight of 59.5kg, Bosson settled the colt just off the speed after jumping well from the inside barrier. Pacemakers Hurry (NZ) (Savabeel) and O'Guy (NZ) (Pins) set a steady tempo with Bosson biding his time as he stalked the pair approaching the home turn. Hurry shook off her immediate challengers at the 200 metre mark but the filly succumbed to the driving finish of Hall Of Fame as Bosson asked for his final effort in the closing stages.

Continued on page 10



With summer-clad infield spectators cheering him on, gun three-year-old Hall Of Fame returns to winning form, giving Opie Bosson the middle leg of a winning treble and kicking off a Te Akau double.





HALL OF FAME BACK IN WINNING FORM AS OPIE AND TE AKAU GET TOGETHER AGAIN

(Continued from page 9)

“Things didn’t go right for him at Riccarton and they have to in Group One races,” admitted co-trainer Stephen Autridge when questioned about the performance.

“He’s had a little let-up and was a touch vulnerable today but he got the gun run from Opie which was a big help.

“He’s a gutsy little horse.”

Autridge and co-trainer Jamie Richards have another three-year-old Group One in mind for the colt next month at Trentham.

“He’ll go to the Levin Classic now,” advised Autridge. “After Wellington we might look at the Derby as he has a nomination for that. He should stay as he’s from a staying family.

“He’s a horse that looks like he will just keep stepping up.”

Hall Of Fame was a \$230,000 purchase by Te Akau’s David Ellis from the Lyndhurst Farm draft at the 2015 Ready To Run Sale at Karaka. The colt has now won just shy of \$100,000 from his eight career starts.

A race later it was the turn of Hall Of Fame’s stablemate **Splurge (NZ)** (Savabeel) to further his own Group One claims.

“He holds a nomination for the Thorndon Mile,” Richards said, “but we’ll see how he comes through this race first.”

A \$500,000 Karaka yearling, Splurge is now undefeated in two starts this campaign following an impressive resuming effort at Hawke’s Bay.

“It’s good to see Opie on the team and it was another lovely ride,” Richards said. “David paid a bit of money for the horse, who is raced by the same owners as Xtravagant.”

Race	ARC Conveyancing Shop Lawyers H. 1400m
Winner	Hall of Fame (NZ) 2013
Owners	Te Akau 24/7 Syndicate (Mgr: D C Ellis)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Around The Clock (Aus) by Galileo (Ire)
Breeder	M W O’Keeffe
Sales	2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Lyndhurst Farm, P: Te Akau Racing; \$230,000

Race	ARC Shaws Wire Ropes H. 1200m
Winner	Splurge (NZ) 2012
Owners	Te Akau 2014 Breeding Syndicate (Mgr: D C Ellis)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Splashing Out by O’Reilly
Breeder	Waikato Stud Ltd
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Sale; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: D C Ellis; \$500,000

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STAR TREASURE JOINS KARAKA HOPEFULS

Stephen McKee's chances of defending his Karaka Million title were yesterday given a significant boost at Ellerslie.

The Ardmore trainer produced Xiong Feng (NZ) (Iffraaj) to win the country's richest two-year-old race last season and **Star Treasure (NZ)** (Lonhro), who is from the same family and who races in similar ownership, will represent the stable in the Listed feature on January 29.

"Hopefully, we can all get another result," McKee said.

Star Treasure, whose half-sister by Pins will be offered as Lot 820 by Monovale Farm at Karaka in 2017, was making his third raceday appearance when he powered to victory under rider Opie Bosson in the Auckland Co-Op Taxis Juvenile.

The colt had finished third on debut at Ellerslie in mid-October before a tactical change backfired when he ran fifth at his next appearance.

"We rode him handy at Pukekohe, where he drew one, and he's a very long-legged horse and it probably wasn't the right thing to do," McKee said.

"I told Opie to ride him a bit colder today. He's a smart colt and he won't need to run again before the Million."

Star Treasure settled back of midfield from a wide barrier and lengthened stride impressively in the straight to win going away by three-quarters of a length.

"He's a good colt and I had a lap full of horse turning for home," Bosson said.



The first of Opie Bosson's three winners for the day and the start of a Stephen McKee double, Star Treasure is too good for his fellow juveniles.

Favourite Haussmann (NZ) (Pour Moi) gave a bold account of himself on debut to finish runner-up after hitting the front 250 metres from home. Kapoor (NZ) (Reliable Man) ran third ahead of Sophie's Choice (NZ) (Darci Brahma), who was forced to cover extra ground from her outside barrier.

Race	ARC Auckland Co-Op Taxis 2YO H. 1100m
Winner	Star Treasure (NZ) 2014
Owners	Kim Chua Stanley Tan, Koon Eng Tan, Leong Chen Ming, H C Yeow, Hui Leung Wai Man, Leung Terry and Eng Teong Goh
Trainer	Stephen McKee (Ardmore)
Breeding	by Lonhro (Aus) out of Lost in Dubai by Dubai Destination (USA)
Breeder	Monovale Holdings Ltd
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Monovale Farm, P: K C Tan; \$70,000



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This 2YO filly is the by the champion sire of juveniles **Showcasing** out of Blue Hope who is the dam of five foals to race, all winners, including five-time race winner **Skyweka** (pictured left).

She is already in training with **Tony Pike**. She's a very nice quality type of filly, a good walker and nice mover who really looks the part.