

Sunday 31 December 2017

MUSIC MAGNATE ON SONG IN COMEBACK VICTORY



Music Magnate returns to form in the Listed Christmas Classic - Bradley Photography

Music Magnate (NZ) (Written Tycoon) has made a triumphant return to racing at Randwick to ensure Bjorn Baker enjoyed a happy homecoming hours after arriving from Hawaii.

The Warwick Farm-based trainer timed his return for the Listed Christmas Classic (1200m) and one of his most reliable performers made a successful comeback from injury in Saturday's feature.

A contender for a slot in the \$10 million Everest until he needed bone chips removed from both front fetlocks in May, the six-year-old gelding converted two barrier trial wins into victory when it really counted as the \$3.60 favourite.

Baker deflected the kudos to long-time foreman Jason Patrick after the 61kg top weight notched the 10th win of a 20-start career highlighted by last year's Group One Doomben 10,000.

Continued on page 3



Roster 2017



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Tivaci



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(Continued from page 1)

"I've just turned up this morning and he's in great order. It's a credit to the team and Jason in particular," he said.

"He's known him as long as I have, he said he's never looked better and he raced accordingly."

Baker was confident as the race unfolded with Isorich (Choiser) setting the early tempo before Music Magnate pulled clear at the 100.

"He had to work a little bit to get across so it's good to see him back doing that," he said.

Baker said plans could now be put in place for early 2018 with the defence of the weight-for-age Group Two Expressway Stakes (1200m) at Rosehill on February 3 an option.

"We'll have a bit of a think about it, obviously the Expressway is there," he said.

A \$45,000 purchase who has lifted his earnings past \$1.1 million, Music Magnate is the sort of steal Baker hopes to emulate at the upcoming Magic Millions sales on the Gold Coast.

"He's a top class horse, he's overcome a number of hurdles and with the sales coming up I'm hoping to buy a few more of these ones," he said.

Blake Shinn's first race on Music Magnate panned out

perfectly as he rounded up eventual third-placegetter Isorich before holding off Dothraki (Mossman) by three-quarters of a length.

"Credit to Bjorn for giving him a good foundation to get him ready for today, it's nice to see him deliver," he said.

Music Magnate was purchased by Bjorn out of Westbury Stud's draft of the New Zealand Bloodstock 2013 Select Yearling Sale. Westbury Stud will offer a half sister by Reliable Man to Music Magnate during the Book 1 sale of the 2018 New Zealand Bloodstock Yearling Sale series.

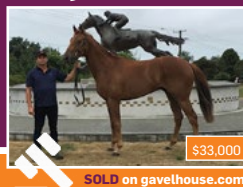
-AAP

Race	Christmas Classic L 1200m
Winner	Music Magnate (NZ) 2011
Owners	Bjorn Baker Racing, Written Tycoon Racing, Mr DR Frampton, Cobbitty Lodge Stud & Stables, Mr DRS Mcevoy, Mr CJ Milton, Mr WJ Williams, Mr GA Quinn, Mr TM Sullivan, Mr SJ Billingsley, Mr C Tognolini
Trainer	Bjorn Baker (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Written Tycoon (AUS) out of Concert Girl (AUS) by Danehill Dancer (IRE)
Breeder	NZ Thoroughbred Holdings Ltd
Sales	2013 National Select Yearling Sale; V: Westbury Stud, P: Bjorn Baker Racing; \$45,000



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STAKES SUCCESS FOR TANAKA IN KAMADA COLOURS

Masa Tanaka's willingness to travel to continue his association with Kamada Racing has been rewarded with a black type success.

The Awapuni-based jockey combined with **Kolonel Kev (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) to claim the Listed The Craigmore Timaru Cup (1600m) on Thursday at the expense of Boots 'N' All (NZ) (Perfectly Ready) and the topweight Tommy Tucker (NZ) (Gallant Guru), who had won the last two editions of the race.

Race	Timaru Cup L 1600m
Winner	Kolonel Kev (NZ) 2011
Owners	Kamada Racing
Trainer	Terri Rae (Riccarton)
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of Lucky Be Lucky (USA) by Storm Cat (USA)
Breeder	PJ & PM Vela Ltd
Sales	2013 National Premier Yearling Sale; V: Pencarrow Stud, P: Lisa Latta Racing Stables; \$200,000

"They were looking for a rider at 53kg and I do ride for Kamada and I had ridden this horse before," said Tanaka, who finished seventh on him in last year's Gr.3 Anniversary Handicap (1600m) at Trentham.

Kolonel Kev was then prepared by Lisa Latta and he won five races from her stable before the six-year-old joined Terri Rae's Riccarton operation.

Kamada principal Kevin Pratt's decision to send the gelding south has been swiftly rewarded and he is unbeaten in two appearances from his new quarters.

"The horse is obviously thriving in the South Island environment and Terri is a very good trainer," Tanaka said. "He's always been a nice horse and he felt amazing today."

Kolonel Kev settled on the rail behind the leaders and, once he had shouldered his way into the clear, he lengthened stride to score by three-quarters of a length.

"We had a dream run from barrier one," Tanaka said. "We

were three back on the fence and when Sam Collett on Vinevale popped out to sit outside the leader we had the trail," Tanaka said.

"At the 600m Son Of Maher (Al Mahaer) looked flat so I tried to push Chris Johnson out and we had a bit of a ding-dong, but my horse was going better and he was too strong in the straight."

Son of Maher, who was sent out favourite, weakened out to finish fifth.

- NZ Racing Desk.



Kolonel Kev claims the Listed The Craigmore Timaru Cup at the expense of Boots 'N' All - Race Images South





EL SICARIO TOO NIPPY FOR RIVALS AT SANDOWN

Trent Busuttin says there's not another horse in the stable that has as much speed as **El Sicario (NZ)** (Bullbars) who finally put it altogether to score a city win at Sandown.

El Sicario's win in Saturday's Ladbrokes Odds Boost Handicap was his first on turf after his two previous wins had come on the synthetic track at Pakenham.

Ridden by apprentice Zac Span, El Sicario scored by a length from Sovereign Duke (Postponed) with The Dynamo (Chruchill Downs) a long-neck away third.

Busuttin, who trains in partnership with Natalie Young, said El Sicario had been a handful in the past.

"He's still got a long way to go but it's good to get a nice win for the owners," Busuttin said.

"We don't have a horse in trackwork that runs faster but sooner or later the penny was always going to drop."

Busuttin praised Spain for his initiative after the gelding began quickly.

"We were hoping to go back and get some cover with him but when the horse jumped he assessed things, made the call and rode it good," Busuttin said.

"He's working hard for the stable so



El Sicario scores his first win on turf at Sandown - Bruno Cannatelli

it's good to get a nice win."

Despite looking like he will get over a longer trip than Saturday's 1000m, Busuttin said El Sicario would be kept to sprint journeys.

"To look at him he's a big, skinny, rangy staying type but we tried to get him out over a trip," Busuttin said.

"He ran second in a Group One over 1400 metres in New Zealand but his racing manners have restricted him back at a sprint trip.

"While he's racing like that, we'll keep him at the sprints."

-AAP

Race	Ladbrokes Odds Boost H. 1000m
Winner	El Sicario (NZ) 2013
Owners	Seymour Bloodstock, Mr M Pilkington, Mr KG Burgess, Mr JC Charlton, Mr RW Hill Smith, Grandlodge Racing Pty Ltd, Ken Bee Sports (Aust) Pty Ltd
Trainer	Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young (Cranbourne)
Breeding	by Bullbars (AUS) out of Pica Pica by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	Llanhennock Trust
Sales	2015 National Select Yearling Sale; V: Wentwood Grange, P: TL Busuttin; \$200,000





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CUP WIN PROLONGS CAREER

Batman (NZ) (Falkirk) lives to fight another day following his heroics on Saturday.

The eight-year-old earned himself a reprieve when he returned to winning ways to get the better of Johnny Jones (NZ) (Pins) and triumph in the PGG Wrightson Kurow Cup (1400m).

"I thought he may have done his dash," Riccarton trainer Neill Ridley said. "We'll carry on a bit longer with him now.

"We'll get him home and I'll sit down and work it out from there."

Batman settled in fourth spot and the stakes-winner finished determinedly in the straight to give stable apprentice Hayley Bennet the 14th and most important win of her career.

"We knew there was going to be plenty of speed on and Hayley rode him well," Ridley said.

Batman is part-owned by Waverley horseman Sam Lennox, who formerly trained the gelding to win two races and a number of encouraging performances in strong age group company.

He placed in both the Gr.2 Wellington Guineas (1500m) and the Listed Wanganui Guineas (1340m)

and ran sixth in the Gr.1 Levin Classic (1600m).

Batman also finished runner-up at Bendigo during a Victorian campaign before he transferred to Ridley's operation.

He has proved to be a good money-spinner in the south with a further six wins, including a Listed success in the Mosgiel Stakes (1200m) and a third placing in the Gr.3 Stewards Stakes (1200m).

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	Kurow Cup 1400m
Winner	Batman (NZ) 2009
Owners	Sam Lennox, Lorraine Reardon, Steve Ridley, 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



Batman beats Johnny Jones earning a reprieve from retirement - Wild Range Photography

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CUP SUCCESS **BOOSTS STABLE SPIRITS**

Wayne Hillis is hoping **Nothing Trivial's (NZ)** (Elusive City) Taupo Cup (1950m) victory might be a forerunner to further holiday weekend success.

The Matamata trainer's versatile eight-year-old claimed major honours in the Harcourts-sponsored event on Saturday and at Ellerslie on New Year's Day he will be represented with a pair of in-form runners in two feature events.

Watch This Space (NZ) (Elusive City) will tackle the Gr.2 Rich Hill Mile (1600m) while his two-year-old stablemate Bit Lippy (NZ) (Showcasing) will step out in the Gr.3 Barneswood Farm

Eclipse Stakes (1200m).

"Watch This Space has got 59kg so he's giving away a fair bit of weight and maybe the Thorndon Mile at set weights and penalties will be more up his alley," Hillis said.

"He is well though and has won with 59kg before so we'll see. Bit Lippy goes well and he's been a bit unlucky in both of his runs."

Jockey Sam Weatherley successfully reverted to Plan B with Nothing Trivial at Taupo, opting to drop to the tail of the field.

"We were going to go forward, but a heap of them did that and good jockeys make a decision to go back and not get into a fight," Hillis said.

Weatherley got on to the back of the favourite Quintessentially (NZ) (High Chaparral) across the top and Nothing Trivial's sustained finish earned him the 10th win of his career.

"He's an old favourite and he should have won more, he's

had some bad luck," Hillis said.

Nothing Trivial was making his second appearance since finishing eighth in last month's Gr.3 New Zealand Cup (3200m).

"He looked like being right in it on the turn, but maybe he didn't see out the two miles," Hillis said.

"He had a run at Te Rapa the other day and he improved with that."

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	Taupo Cup 1950m
Winner	Nothing Trivial (NZ) 2009
Owners	Mrs M E A Evans
Trainer	Wayne Hillis (Matamata)
Breeding	by Elusive City (USA) out of Gia Maria by Famous Star (GB)
Breeder	Mrs M E A Evans



Versatile galloper *Nothing Trivial* claims the Taupo Cup - Peter Rubery Race Images





MARSH LOOKING SOUTH WITH FILLY

Stephen Marsh is considering sending **Sophie's Choice (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) on a road trip following her defeat of the older horses at Taupo.

The Cambridge trainer produced the filly for a tenacious win in the Kinloch Fasttrack +\$5K (1200m) and he is now looking at all options for the three-year-old.

"Ideally, we'd like to get a bit of black type with her so maybe a trip south," Marsh said.

The Listed Liquorland Gore Guineas (1335m) on January 20 is a possible target.

Sophie's Choice, who finished fourth

in the Gr.3 Phoenix Park 2YO Classic (1200m) last season, was making her first appearance for the summer at Taupo and the fresh-up win came as no surprise.

"She had trialed up really well and I thought she would be hard to beat," Marsh said.

Sophie's Choice settled in second spot before rider Danielle Johnson moved outside the leader Culzean (Duke of Marmalade) before the turn and, after a battle down the straight, they got in the deciding stride.

"She's not very big, but she's pretty tough," Marsh said. "She knows where the post is and she's a really game filly."

Culzean gave a bold account of himself before coming up a short head second and third money was taken by High Distinction (NZ) (Zacinto), who cornered awkwardly and ran home gamely once balanced.

The Oaks Stud will offer a yearling half-brother (Lot 1000) by Roc de

Cambes to Sophie's Choice during the Book 2 Sale at Karaka in 2018.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	Kinloch 1200 Fasttrack H. 1200m
Winner	Sophie's Choice (NZ) 2014
Owners	Go Racing Show Me The Money Syndicate (Mgr: Albert Bosma)
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of Show Up by Show a Heart (AUS)
Breeder	The Oaks Stud
Sales	2016 National Select Yearling Sale; V: The Oaks Stud, P: Go Racing; \$40,000



Sophie's Choice produces a tenacious effort to beat the older horses - Peter Rubery Race Images



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BRIGHT FUTURE PREDICTED FOR FILLY

Those closest to **Chill (NZ)**

(Mastercraftsman) are hot on the three-year-old's future black type prospects.

While far from the finished article she has displayed enough raw ability for them to be bubbling over her future.

Chill overcame her lack of experience at Taupo on Saturday to open her account at the second time of asking when successful in the Malcolm Flowers Insurances Maiden (1400m).

"She jumped

outwards on to a couple of others and got a bit further back than I wanted," rider Michael Coleman said.

"I had to wait for a run and once I got it she was always going to win. She's got a bit of talent this filly and she's going to get black type."

Chill lugged in toward the rail in the run home, but she still proved too good for No Doubt A Star (Not A Single Doubt).

"She's still green and learning," trainer Danica Guy said. "I was rapt with the way she settled though and dropped the bit.

"She's going to be very exciting when she gets over more ground. I'll see how she comes through this race and then look for some loftier goals."

Chill had finished third on debut at Tauranga earlier this month and that performance prompted a gear addition.

"She hit the line well and it was a really, really good first



Chill (grey) proves too good for No Doubt A Star - Peter Rubery Race Images

effort, but she wasn't travelling that well down the back. That's why we put the blinkers on today to help her concentrate," Guy said.

Chill is owned by her breeder Gary Harding, who also raced her relative Capella (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle) out of Guy's stable. Her three wins included the Gr.2 Eight Carat Classic (1600m) before a fetlock injury forced her retirement.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	Malcolm Flowers Insurances Maiden S. 1400m
Winner	Chill (NZ) 2014
Owners	GE Harding
Trainer	Danica Guy (Matamata)
Breeding	by Mastercraftsman (IRE) out of Wishing by Montjeu (IRE)
Breeder	G E Harding





FIRST-UP WINNERS IMPRESS AT TAUPO

The covers came off two smart trial performers at Taupo and both lived up to their stable reputations with winning debuts.

The Stephen Marsh-trained **I Am Queen** (Animal Kingdom) was untested in Saturday's Starlight Cinema Centre Maiden (1000m) and a race later **Jasd** (Sepoy) turned it on in the Graeme Thomson Antique Jewellery Maiden (1200m).

The favourite **I Am Queen** made use of her inside gate to share the pace with the well-fancied **Excaliffraaj** (NZ) (Iffraaj), who lost his compass across the top, and she scooted clear 200m from home to give jockey Danielle Johnson a cruisy ride to the post.

"The draw made it a lot easier and when the second favourite ran off," said Marsh of his runaway winner.

"She jumped and travelled beautifully and won really well, she'll go places. We'll keep an eye on her and see how she is, but she'll be much better in the autumn."

I Am Queen had placed in both of her trials, the latest at Te Aroha earlier this month.

"That was a really good trial and she's done nothing wrong," Marsh said. "She's got a bit of class about her."

Jasd was in action at the same matinee meeting and he won his

800m heat by a wide margin.

"He's got plenty of raw talent and he's a gorgeous type, but still mentally immature," Pike said.

Jasd followed the pace at Taupo before rider Michael McNab urged him forward three wide across the top and the three-year-old was too good in the run home.

"He looks like he'll get a mile eventually," Pike said. "We'll probably

Race	Starlight Cinema 1000 1000m
Winner	I Am Queen 2014
Owners	RG Blunt
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Animal Kingdom (USA) out of Cat by the Tale (USA) by Tale of the Cat (USA)
Breeder	Arrowfield Group Pty Ltd, Cloros Bloodstock

look for a soft option for him next, he could be a nice horse for Brisbane in the winter."

A yearling half-sister (Lot 355) to **Jasd** by **I Am Invincible** will be offered by Windsor Park Stud at the Book 1 Sale at Karaka on January 28.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	Graeme Thomson Antique Jewellery Maiden 1200m
Winner	Jasd 2014
Owners	SM Wong
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Sepoy (AUS) out of Mabsam (AUS) by Stratum (AUS)
Breeder	Shadwell Stud Australasia Ltd
Sales	2016 Ready to Run Sale; V: Kilgraven Lodge, P: Waikato Bloodstock; \$240,000



I Am Queen races away to score convincingly at Taupo - Peter Rubery Race Images

