

Sunday 12 February 2017

VINNIE AND VOLKSTOK PAIR UP AGAIN TO ADD A HERBIE DYKE TO THEIR RECORDS



Volkstok'n'barrell (red colours) and Savile Row passed the post locked together, the Herbie Dyke verdict going to Vinnie Colgan's mount by a long head.

Vinnie Colgan and **Volkstok'n'barrell (NZ)** (Tavistock) yesterday returned to their winning ways at Te Rapa to add another prestigious victory to their records, the old firm reigning supreme in New Zealand's richest weight-for-age contest, the Group One Herbie Dyke Stakes.

"I haven't been on him for a little while so it's great to be back," said Colgan, who won both the Group One Haunui Farm Classic and the Group One New Zealand Stakes aboard

the five-year-old last season.

Colgan didn't miss a beat on Volkstok'n'barrell at Te Rapa where he settled three back on the fence and moved off the rail before the turn.

"We had a sweet trip and when I pulled him out he picked up nicely," the Cambridge-based jockey said. "He's a tough horse."

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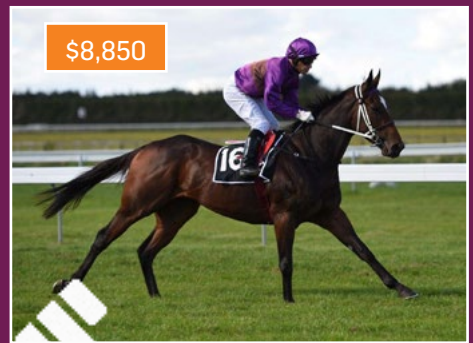
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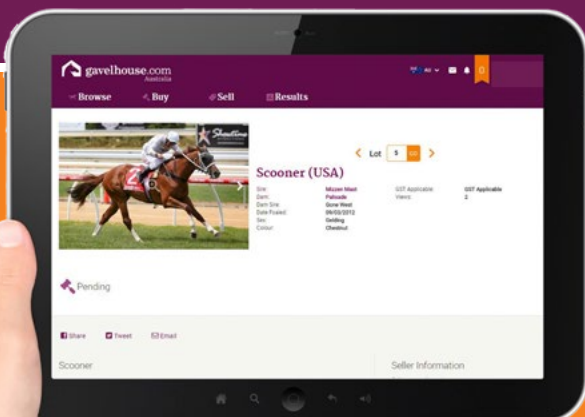


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VINNIE AND VOLKSTOK PAIR UP AGAIN TO ADD A HERBIE DYKE TO THEIR RECORDS

(Continued from page 1)

In a driving finish, they narrowly had the better of the three-year-old Savile Row (NZ) (Makfi), who didn't help his chances by ducking in under pressure.

Volkstok'n'barrell is trained at Ruakaka by Donna Logan and Chris Gibbs and they admitted to savouring a huge degree of satisfaction from the victory.

"It's just so nice to see him back," Logan said. "He's such a neat horse.

"This was our plan all the way through, we're so excited. He's had his knockers and we've kept quiet and now he's done it.

"He's had awkward draws, distances that didn't suit and weights that didn't measure up, but he was a hundred per cent today."

Logan will let the dust settle before confirming their next move with Volkstok'n'barrell, but another crossing of the Tasman is in the mix.

"We might sneak back to Australia," she said. "There are a lot of options over there."

Savile Row's performance has him on the \$6 second line of betting with Camino Rocosco (NZ) (Shocking) for the Group One New Zealand Derby while Authentic Paddy (NZ) (Howbaddouwantit) put in his typically honest effort for third.

In her final race day appearance, the in-foal Abidewithme (NZ) (Redoute's Choice) finished with a flourish from the back for fourth ahead of Consensus (NZ) (Postponed).

Race	Waikato RC Herbie Dyke S. Gr.1 2000m
Winner	Volkstok'n'barrell (NZ) 2011
Owners	G J Cossey, Mrs A Gibbs, C W Gibbs, J A Gibbs MNZM, A M Goodwin, Mrs D M Logan and Rosemont Stud Pty Ltd
Trainer	Donna Logan & Chris Gibbs (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Volkster by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	IDL Breeding Ltd
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Seaton Park Ltd, P: D M Logan Racing Stables; \$50,000

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SPRINT WIN THANKS TO COPYBOOK RIDE

Johnathan Parkes brushed aside an earlier disappointment at Te Rapa to celebrate another Group One victory aboard the star sprinter **Start Wondering (NZ)** (Eighth Wonder), the Wanganui jockey producing a copybook ride on the Wanganui six-year-old to win yesterday's NRM Sprint on the Evan and JJ Rayner-trained speedster.

Parkes was naturally downhearted when Volpe Veloce ran fourth after failing to stay in the Group Two Sir Tristram Fillies' Classic, but the smile was back on his face four races later.

He bounced Start Wondering out of the gates to trail the leader Saracino

(NZ) (Per Incanto) and they were into the clear 400 metres from home.

"We had a good barrier and I just wanted to get him out and going," Parkes said. "It couldn't have worked out any better when we got the split at the top of the straight.

"He just goes out and gives his all and he's won nicely again."

Since his return from

Sydney following a bleeding attack, Start Wondering has won three of his five starts, including the Group One Railway Stakes, and he failed by only a nose to also claim the Group One Telegraph.

"He's a very good horse and it was another very good ride," said Evan Rayner, who prepares the gelding for his Wanganui owner Steve Gudsell. "I trained for his uncle nearly fifty years ago."

He wouldn't be drawn on Start Wondering's next target, although the Group One Haunui Farm WFA Classic at Otaki in a fortnight's time is most likely.

Natuzzi (NZ) (Coats Choice) found the line strongly to finish runner-up ahead of the three-year-olds Saracino and Heroic Valour (Fastnet Rock). The favourite Kawi (NZ) (Savabeel) was tardily away and worked home late to finish fifth.

Race	Waikato RC Waikato Sprint Gr.1 1400m
Winner	Start Wondering (NZ) 2010
Owners	Mrs J M & S B Gudsell
Trainer	Evan & J J Rayner (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Eighth Wonder out of Roseanbar by Al Akbar (Aus)
Breeder	I G Hadfield



Start Wondering and Johnathan Parkes hang on for a gritty win over Natuzzi in the NRM Sprint, denying Vinnie Colgan a Group One double by a head.





BONNEVAL BEST IN TRUE STAYING TEST

Murray Baker knew the only way to try and end the winning streak of Volpe Veloce (Foxwedge) at Te Rapa was to ensure the Group Two Sir Tristram Fillies' Classic was run at a genuine clip.

And the Cambridge horseman's pre-race plan worked to perfection with his representatives **Bonneval (NZ)** (Makfi) and Nicoletta (NZ) (Savabeel) dominating the finish of yesterday's Cambridge Stud-sponsored fillies' feature.

"We knew the only way we could beat her was to make it a staying test. Volpe Veloce is an outstanding filly

and she'd won seven straight – I can't recall that being done since Sunline," Baker said.

Last-start Group Three Desert Gold Stakes winner Nicoletta overraced early before rider Michael Coleman allowed her to stride to the front. She then settled well and fought tooth and nail to the post.

"She was pulling and he rated her perfectly and she was only beaten on the line," said Baker, whose training partner Andrew Forsman was in Melbourne with the stable star Turn Me Loose (NZ) (Iffraaj).

Bonneval had been set alight by Matt Cameron 700 metres from home and the filly was able to sustain a long run to earn a head decision over her stablemate.

"She's a very good filly and both of them will be heading to Trentham for the Oaks," Baker said.

Devise (NZ) (Darci Brahma) enjoyed a good run behind



The two Baker/Forsman runners in the Sir Tristram Fillies' Classic fight out a tight finish, Bonneval and Matt Cameron getting home by a head from Nicoletta and Michael Coleman.

the pace and she stuck to her task well in the run home to take third money off Volpe Veloce. Rider Johnathan Parkes had taken the commanding favourite back to last from a wide gate before they got an ideal drag into the race behind Bonneval.

Volpe Veloce was in trouble, though, soon after straightening but to her credit she stuck on grimly to finish fourth, a little under three lengths from the winner.

Race	Waikato RC Sir Tristram Fillies Classic Gr.2 2000m
Winner	Bonneval (NZ) 2013
Owners	T W Jarvis, A R Lawrence & J A Rattray
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Makfi (GB) out of Imposingly (Aus) by Zabeel
Breeder	City Bloodstock Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Baker Racing; \$150,000





BREEDERS' BECKONS FOR GOLD FEVER

The Akau Racing have another major two-year-old title in their sights following yesterday's dominant winning performance at Te Rapa by **Gold Fever (NZ)** (Savabeel).

The powerful Matamata stable produced Melody Belle (NZ) (Commands) to win the recent Karaka Million and her stablemate will now be a leading candidate to add the Group Two Matamata Breeders' Stakes to their roll of honour.

Gold Fever will also be bidding to add to her family's record in the February 25 contest as her half-sister Gold Rush (NZ) (So You Think) was successful in the race twelve months ago.

"The Breeders' Stakes has been the plan for some time," said Jamie Richards, who prepares the filly with Stephen Autridge.

"She's continuing to improve and we think there will be a bit more to come for our home track feature as well.

"She can get her head on the side but she was better

today and more racing will help her."

Gold Fever delivered a perfect result for her connections in the Race A Horse With Te Akau – 2017 Karaka Million under Cameron Lammas.

They sat in second spot to the turn before taking control 300

metres from home and comfortably accounted for Joyfilly (NZ) (Highly Recommended), who came on well from the back. The front-runner Caesour's Dream (NZ) (Nicconi) boxed on well for third ahead of the debutante Fashion Sense (Exceed And Excel).

Meanwhile, Richards said their Millions heroine Melody Belle has thrived since her Ellerslie success.

"She's in great order; she had ten days off after her last run and she'll go straight to the Diamond Stakes. She may have a gallop between races at Matamata."

Race	Waikato RC Race a Horse With Te Akau 2YO S. 1200m
Winner	Gold Fever (NZ) 2014
Owners	Te Akau Gold Fever Syndicate (Mgr: D C Ellis)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Gold Rocks (Aus) by Oratorio (Aus)
Breeder	G D & Mrs H J Nicholls and Waikato Stud Ltd



Cameron Lammas brings Gold Fever back to scale after their win against the juveniles at Te Rapa.



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DEBT COLLECTOR'S EYES ON DUBAI PRIZE

Singapore's 2016 Horse of the Year **Debt Collector (NZ)** (Thorn Park), rested since last year's six-in-a-row that culminated with the Sgp-Group One Raffles Cup on October 30, showed he had no cobwebs to be blown away when he took out the \$5125,000 Canada Cup in his trademark last-to-first style at Kranji on Friday night.

Punted down to odds-on favouritism, the four-year-old jumped on terms with the field for Michael Rodd but dropped back to the rear for the first half of the 1400 metre event.

As the other contenders started to jostle for their runs nearing the home turn, Debt Collector swiftly tacked on then stormed past the field, seemingly without his rivals realising what had flashed past them.

Rodd in the end eased down on the champion galloper once he was well clear, though the gelding did seem to gawk around a few strides off the line. The winning margin was 1¼ lengths from Rafaello (Oratorio) with Magnum (NZ) (Per Incanto) holding on for third place, another half length away.

"That was his softest win yet but he is the type who is more switched on at the business end," Rodd said. "He was running very relaxed in the first thousand metres but once I slapped him up he got into second gear.

"I could really feel him coming back underneath me. It's just amazing how he does that.

"Whether he has improved from his last campaign is hard to say but to win first-up like that is just phenomenal.

"He's got bigger fish to fry for sure now. Hopefully, he pulls up well from tonight's run and it's onwards and upwards with him."

Rodd was alluding to the ambitious Dubai campaign mapped out by trainer Cliff Brown and his connections, aimed at the \$US5 million Group One Dubai Turf over 1800 metres at Meydan on March 25.



Debt Collector demolishes the opposition in Friday night's feature at Kranji.

Brown has always made it clear Debt Collector would only book his ticket if he runs well at his two prep runs at Kranji first.

"Dubai is still a long way to go. He will now run in a mile race in three weeks' time," he said. "He's a lovely horse and it's great to see him win first-up. It's a big team effort from all the boys at the stable."

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Canada Cup 1400m
Winner	Debt Collector (NZ) 2012
Owners	Barree Stable
Trainer	Cliff Brown
Breeding	by Thorn Park (Aus) out of Prompt Payment (Ire) by In the Wings (GB)
Breeder	Windsor Park Stud Ltd
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: Michael Wallace Bloodstock; \$30,000 2014 Ready to Run Sale; V: Prima Park, P: Cliff Brown Racing; \$120,000





COUNT OF MONTECRISTO IMPRESSES AGAIN

Promising galloper **Countofmontecristo (NZ)** (Echoes Of Heaven) franked the form shown at his impressive winning debut a month ago with a second win that again spoke volumes for his potential.

Sent out a warm favourite in Friday's \$S75,000 HJM Asia Cup, a Novice 1200 metre event, the three-year-old was again quickly into stride to lead out from two other debut winners in Aotearoa (NZ) (Sakhee's Secret) and Forever Young (Run Away And Hide).

While he didn't clear out as he had at his first run, his great will to win was the factor that again got him over the line.

Second favourite Sir Isaac (Dream Ahead) issued a serious challenge when he snuck up on the inside at the 300 metre mark, but with the gap narrowing as Countofmontecristo hung in under pressure for new partner Glen Boss, the challenger seemed to shy away.

There was probably a bit of brushing contact between the two, but Countofmontecristo never let up and in the end repelled the assault to win by half a length.

Winning trainer Michael Clements certainly liked what he saw.

"He won a good race first-up and his condition has really picked up since then," he said. "He's obviously a very good horse moving up. We expected

him to step up to the mark tonight and he did.

"We will set him towards the Singapore Three-Year-Old Challenge but I will run him in another couple of races first. He's a push-button type of horse and, from the way he keeps finding, I see no reason why he can't go further."

Boss said Countofmontecristo was still green but had plenty of upside which could certainly see him become a major player in the series.

"He's a horse with plenty of talent but he's still very raw," said the three-time Melbourne Cup-winning hoop. "He was very green in the straight, like he couldn't find his way. He had no idea what he was doing and won on raw ability."

– Singapore Turf Club



Race	Singapore TC HJM Asia Cup 1200m
Winner	Countofmontecristo (NZ) 2013
Owners	Joe Giovanni Sarjeet Singh
Trainer	Michael Clements
Breeding	by Echoes of Heaven (Aus) out of Replicate by Towkay (Aus)
Breeder	B F, Mrs H J & P J Crowskey
Sales	2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Kiltannon Stables Ltd, P: Vermair Racing; \$57,500

It's toe-to-toe stuff at Kranji as Countofmontecristo fights off the challenge of Sir Isaac close to home in the 1200 metre Novice.

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