

Sunday 15 January 2017

## HALL OF FAME RESTORES REPUTATION WITH STIRRING WIN IN LEVIN CLASSIC



*In a finish bound to have hearts pumping faster, three high-quality colts, ridden by three crack jockeys, fight out the finish of yesterday's Levin Classic. Nearest the camera, Hall Of Fame holds on for Opie Bosson, with Savile Row (centre) fighting on gamely for Mark Du Plessis as Jon Snow shows he's not far behind the best for Matt Cameron.*

Stephen Autridge and Jamie Richards yesterday completed their unfinished Group One business at Trentham in fine style with **Hall Of Fame (NZ)** (Savabeel), the Matamata trainers producing the colt to win the Randwick Meats Levin Classic – a race in which his stablemate Xtravagant (NZ) (Pentire) suffered a shock defeat

when fourth twelve months ago as a \$1.30 favourite.

Hall Of Fame also put aside the disappointment of his own failure in his spring goal when he beat only one runner home in the Group One New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas at Riccarton.

*Continued on page 3*





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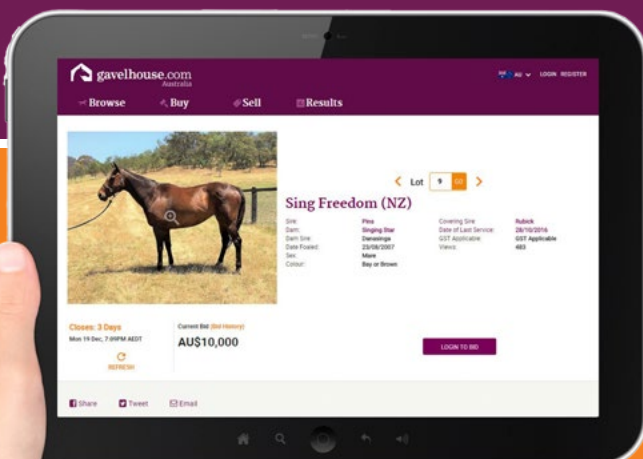


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(Continued from page 1)

“He’s always showed plenty of ability but he’d had enough then and we gave him a break and he’s come back better than ever,” Autridge said.

“It’s great for Savabeel and it’s great for Te Akau; we’re absolutely rapt.”

Hall Of Fame is on a path to the Group One New Zealand Derby and his odds have now been trimmed to \$9 for the March 4 feature at Ellerslie.

“At this stage, he’ll run next in the Waikato Guineas,” Autridge said.

Hall Of Fame was in a good early position behind the pace before he got shuffled back, but rider Opie Bosson was able to angle off the fence 600 metres from home.

They moved into contention at the top of the straight and Hall Of Fame edged clear with 200 metres to go then had enough in reserve to see off the favourite Savile Row (NZ) (Makfi) and Jon Snow (NZ) (Iffraaj), both of whom rallied strongly.

“I got to the front a bit soon and he was gazing around,” Bosson said. “He’s got the best attributes of a top colt and he just goes out and does his stuff.”

Hall Of Fame has now won five of his nine starts for the Te Akau 24/7 Syndicate.

“He was passed in at the Ready to Run Sale and I went to look at him afterwards and paid \$230,000 five minutes after he came out of the ring,” Te Akau principal David Ellis said.

<b>Race</b>	<b>WRC Levin Classic Gr.1 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Hall of Fame (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Te Akau 24/7 Syndicate (Mgr: D C Ellis)</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Stephen Autridge &amp; Jamie Richards (Matamata)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Savabeel (Aus) out of Around The Clock (Aus) by Galileo (Ire)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>M W O’Keeffe</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Lyndhurst Farm, P: Te Akau Racing; \$230,000</b>

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Powerful return by Mighty Conqueror

Progressive four-year-old **Mighty Conqueror (NZ)** (Patapan), resuming after two wins and two thirds from four starts over 1200 metres last year, staved off his rivals with ease to score a strong win in the \$560,000 Class 4 over 1000 metres at Kranji on Friday night.

From the three gate and with Malaysian champion jockey Azhar Ismail in the irons, he was always going to get solid support and the second favourite certainly did not disappoint when he held off all challenges to win by 1¾ lengths from Effortless (Reward For Effort), with stablemate Champagne Rein (NZ) (Captain Rio) third.

“I just let my horse roll along,” said Azhar. “I gave him a breather midrace and when I asked him to go in the straight he responded. I know him well and I had plenty of horse underneath me when we came into the straight. He’s come back very good after the spell.”

Trainer Mark Walker agreed on the horse’s improved physique after the break but cautioned he still has a few kinks to be ironed out.

“We gave him a nice break and he’s come back stronger. The only thing about him is I wished he relaxed in his run,” he said. “That will be even more so as he goes up in grade as they go quicker. He can get on the bridle a fair bit.”

– Singapore Turf Club



Eleonora (Makfi x Sopra Tutto) 2016 G3 Ethereal S.

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# SAMPSON UPSETS IN STAKES STROLL

Two old mates yesterday combined for an upset win in the Group Three Trentham Stakes with the genuine stayer **Sampson (NZ)** (Dubai Destination), Otaki trainer Howie Mathews calling on Reese Jones to partner the seven-year-old in the Mills Reef Winery-sponsored contest and the experienced northern rider playing his part perfectly.

“He’s the most underrated jockey in New Zealand,” Mathews said. “We’ve been great friends for years.”

Sampson settled one off the rail behind the leading pair and was travelling easily for Jones across the top.

When he was asked for an effort in the straight, the 22-1 shot bounded to the front then strolled to the line for the eighth win of his career at the expense of Authentic Paddy (NZ) (Howbaddouwantit) and Promise To Reign (Manhattan Rain).

Mathews has yet to confirm the immediate programme of Sampson but he is likely to be looking at the summer cups in the north.

“I’ve pulled him out of the Wellington Cup and we might look at the Avondale Cup for him, maybe the Auckland Cup,” he said. “My ultimate dream is to go to Brisbane with him.”



*Just short of the Trentham Stakes winning post... Reese Jones and the cruising Sampson in complete control.*

Mathews is no stranger to success at the Queensland winter carnival, albeit more than a quarter of a century ago.

He trained Coshking (NZ) (Pag-Asa) to win the 1989 Brisbane Cup when the then two mile event carried Group One status.

Coshking was an outstanding stayer who, ridden on each occasion by Kiwi jockey Brian Hibberd, also won the Group Two Dalgety Handicap at Flemington, finished runner-up in the Group One Sydney Cup and third in the Group One Metropolitan. He also

twice finished fourth in the Wellington Cup when it, too, was a Group One race.

<b>Race</b>	<b>WRC Trentham S. Gr.3 2100m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Sampson (NZ) 2009</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mrs L A Mathews &amp; Mrs J L Street</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Howie Mathews (Otaki)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Dubai Destination (USA) out of Magic Star (Aus) by Danzero (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>W Pegg</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2011 National Yearling Sale, Festival Session; V: Leanach Lodge Ltd, P: Mr P E &amp; Mrs N Izett; \$20,000</b>





# SEIZE THE MOMENT GRABS ANNIVERSARY

Stephen Marsh's hopes of a Group One victory during the Wellington Cup carnival have been given a significant boost.

The Cambridge trainer produced **Seize The Moment (NZ)** (Pins) to defeat his stablemate Thee Auld Floozie (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) in the Group Three Tui-Backing A Winner Since 1889 Anniversary yesterday ahead of their rematch in a fortnight's time.

"They'll both be back for the Thorndon Mile," Marsh's travelling foreman Rhys Mildon said.

Seize The Moment raced outside the leader, was in front on straightening when the pacemaker La Fille En Jeu (NZ) (Mettre En Jeu) caved in and then held a strong gallop to the post.

"It's good to see the big boy back and Stephen was very confident," Mildon said.

"Thee Auld Floozie gave him a good fight but he got there

in the end. She tried hard but it was his day today."

Successful rider Matt Cameron said Seize The Moment had been left in front a long way from home but his fighting qualities weren't to be denied.

"He did it tough outside the leader and when the second horse came up he fought really well.

"He's a horse that

loves a dog-fight and he's as tough as they come."

Now the winner of seven races, Seize The Moment finished runner-up to Mabeel (NZ) (Savabeel) in the Anniversary twelve months ago under 58kg when the race was run under handicap conditions.

He was a major beneficiary of the subsequent change to set weights and penalties and came into the race this time around with three kilos less.

<b>Race</b>	<b>WRC Anniversary S. Gr.3 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Seize the Moment (NZ) 2010</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Go Racing With The Dancer Syndicate (Mgr: A Bosma)</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Pins (Aus) out of Dancing Mistress by Masterclass (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>G J Chittick</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2012 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Go Racing Ltd; \$50,000</b>



*Seize The Moment holds a strong gallop to the line to win the Anniversary.*





# CAMBRIDGE PAIR STAKE THEIR CLAIMS AS SERIOUS KARAKA MILLION CONTENDERS



A green but impressive Padraig gives his juvenile rivals a beating at Trentham.

Cambridge youngsters **Padraig (NZ)** (Power) and **Felton Road (NZ)** (Pins) have emerged as serious Karaka Million contenders.

They were successful in their respective two-year-old contests at Trentham and at Ellerslie yesterday to book their berths in the country's richest juvenile event on January 29.

Wellington Provedoring Premier winner Padraig is trained by Brendon

Hawtin while Felton Road, who was too good in the Countdown To Karaka 2017, is prepared by Tony Pike.

The former settled off the pace then unwound strongly to win going away under jockey Matt Cameron.

"The horse is just going from strength to strength and it was a ten out of ten ride from Matt," Hawtin said. "When he pushed the button he had plenty of horse and there's more

improvement in him.

"He went really well first time out as well when he got a fair way back and made up a lot of ground. He's ticking all the boxes."

Despite racing greenly at Trentham, Padraig still had a length and a half to spare on the filly Dreams Of Platinum (Dream Ahead) at Trentham with the debutante Santuzza (NZ) (Savabeel)

*Continued on page 7*





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# CAMBRIDGE PAIR STAKE THEIR CLAIMS AS SERIOUS KARAKA MILLION CONTENDERS

(Continued from page 6)

third ahead of the southerner Sensei (NZ) (Dream Ahead).

“He’s a beautiful, big horse,” Cameron said. “He’s not a natural two-year-old and he still got the job done nicely.

“I won’t be getting off this one.”

Padraig had finished third on debut last month behind Felton Road, who yesterday impressively overcame a wide gate to maintain his unbeaten record.

“That was good to see the form franked at Wellington and my horse had trained on well,” Pike said.

<b>Race</b>	<b>WRC Wellington Provedoring 2YO H. 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Padraig (NZ) 2014</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Tommy Heptinstall, David Platt, Max Brown and David Wilson</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Brendon Hawtin (Te Awamutu)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Power (GB) out of Dane Dancer (Aus) by Danehill (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Sir Patrick &amp; Lady Hogan</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2016 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Cambridge Stud, P: T L Busuttin &amp; N Young; \$90,000</b>

<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC NZB Insurance Pearl Series 2YO H. 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Felton Road (NZ) 2014</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Frontier Bloodstock</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Tony Pike (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Pins (Aus) out of Rose Red by O’Reilly</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Waikato Stud Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2016 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Botswana Bloodstock; \$20,000</b>



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# EYE-CATCHING EFFORTS **AT ELLERSLIE**

Three-year-olds at different ends of the performance scale produced eye-catching efforts at Ellerslie yesterday.

The lightly tried **Time To Celebrate (NZ)** (Per Incanto) downed a handy age-group line-up in the John Deere Agrowquip 1500 while the crack three-year-old **Sacred Elixir (NZ)** (Pour Moi) delighted trained Tony Pike with his exhibition gallop.

“That was fantastic; he quickened up really well and was very professional,” Pike said. “He was focused and worked extremely well.”

Last season’s Group One J. J. Atkins winner, who hasn’t raced since finishing runner-up in the Group One VRC Derby, ran the

closing 600 metres of his work in 34.2 seconds.

Sacred Elixir will open his Group One New Zealand Derby campaign in the Listed NZB Insurance Karaka 3YO Mile at Ellerslie on January 29.

Meanwhile, the Jenna Mahoney-trained Time To Celebrate lowered the colours of the favourite Heroic Valour (Fastnet Rock) under a well-judged ride by Jason Waddell.

“He’s a really nice horse and I was confident we could steal the race off the front,” Waddell said.

“I didn’t want to go too slow and make it easy for the other horse under his topweight.”

Raced by Vicky Tang, Time To Celebrate will renew his rivalry with Heroic Valour when they take on Sacred Elixir and company in the Karaka 3YO Mile.



*Jason Waddell returns to scale after a well-judged ride on Time To Celebrate.*

“He’s owned in Hong Kong so he will eventually go there,” Mahoney said. “But in the meantime we’ll look at a couple more three-year-old races. He’s got a heap of ability.”

<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC John Deere Agrowquip S. 1500m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Time To Celebrate (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Ms V Tang</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Jenna Mahoney (Byerley Park)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Per Incanto (USA) out of Silver Cent by Centaine (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>M McSweeney</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2015 South Island Yearling &amp; Mixed Sale; V: Berkley Stud, P: Shailer Thoroughbreds; \$82,500</b>





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<b>WINNERS</b>	57	58
<b>STAKES WINNERS</b>	5	4
<b>STAKES PLACED</b>	7	5
<b>G1 WINNERS</b>	1	-
<b>G1 PLACED</b>	4	3
<b>INITIAL SERVICE FEE</b>	\$4,000	\$30,000
<b>CURRENT SERVICE FEE</b>	\$15,000	\$100,000

Per Incanto, Nadeem and the Little Avondale Team wish to thank you all for your support in 2016. We very much look forward to drinking champagne with you soon!



# BJORN'S MARE IS THE **BELLE OF THE TURF**

The Bjorn Baker stable has been in vintage form of late and talented New Zealand-bred mare **Imposing Lass (NZ)** (Makfi) continued that run when comfortably taking out the Group Three Belle Of The Turf Stakes at Gosford on Friday.

The four-year-old mare has now won five times from ten starts and added more black type to her pedigree page which already boasted a Listed win and a Group Two placing at three.

"That was imposing!" Baker tweeted after the win.

After jumping from a wide barrier, jockey Jason Collett was positive on Imposing Lass, driving forward to take up a position behind the speed.

"She hadn't been clean away her last two starts but she got out of the gates today," Collett said.

Sent out the \$2.80 favourite, Imposing Lass looked the winner a long way from home and beat Queen Of Wands (Not A Single Doubt) by a length with the Baker-trained Sewreel

(NZ) (Savabeel) finishing third.

It was Collett's first stakes ride since returning from a six-week lay-off after suffering a broken foot in a fall in November.

"It's brilliant," Collett said. "Thanks to Bjorn for chucking me on."

Purchased by bloodstock agent Paul

Willetts for \$120,000 at the 2014 New Zealand Bloodstock Premier Yearling Sale, Imposing Lass is a sister to talented three-year-old Bonneval and half-sister to fellow Group Three winners Full Of Spirit (Flying Spur) and Lady Cumquat (Duke Of Marmalade).

A half-brother by Camelot will be offered as Lot 207 at the forthcoming New Zealand Bloodstock Premier Yearling Sale through the draft of Westbury Stud.

– AAP TURF

<b>Race</b>	<b>Gosford RC Belle of the Turf S. Gr.3 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Imposing Lass (NZ) 2012</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>S A Aspinall, C P Goodall, D B Carey and Mrs C A Aspinall</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Bjorn Baker (Warwick Farm)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Makfi (GB) out of Imposingly (Aus) by Zabeel</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>City Bloodstock Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Paul Willetts Bloodstock; \$120,000</b>



*Imposing Lass gets a well-deserved Group race win in Gosford's Belle Of The Turf Stakes.*





# IMPROVEMENT'S WINNING STREAK NOW AT FOUR AFTER END-TO-END RANDWICK ROMP

**W**arwick Farm trainer Gary Portelli's filly **Improvement (NZ)** (Swiss Ace), raced by entrepreneur Gerry Harvey, continues to live up to her moniker after taking her record to four wins from five starts at Randwick yesterday.

Since finishing runner-up on debut at Hawkesbury on November 18, Improvement has won four consecutive metropolitan events.

<b>Race</b>	<b>ATC ALM H. 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Improvement (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>G Harvey</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Gary Portelli (Warwick Farm)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Upgrading (Aus) by Encosta de Lago (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>G Harvey</b>

Her latest city scalp, the ALM Handicap over 1200 metres, in which she was sent out the \$4.60 favourite after firming from \$5.50 in an open betting race, came against five other last-start winners. The three remaining runners had won two starts ago.

Ridden by 3kg-claiming apprentice Nick Heywood, Improvement led proceedings before finding another gear in the straight to score by three-quarters of a length from \$10 chance Echo Effect (Reset) with another three-quarters of a length to the roughie Reach For Heaven (NZ) (Savabeel).

"I had a pretty easy lead and sort of dictated from there," Heywood said. "She's got a high cruising speed which is a benefit for her. She's not the biggest filly but there's a lot of ticker there."



"She's still learning her craft but she's going the right way and she'll keep improving. I'm not sure about black type just yet but she's heading the right way."

- racenet.com.au

*Improvement refuses to be caught as she racks up her fourth straight win at yesterday's Randwick meeting.*





# LUCK CHANGES FOR **VIVIANO AND DAVID**

South African jockey Derreck David, who missed two days of racing a week ago through a careless riding charge, bounced back to the winner's enclosure with a riding double at Kranji on Friday night, the second of the wins on six-to-one chance **Viviano (NZ)** (Keeper) for trainer Mark Walker in the night's main event, \$S100,000 Open Benchmark 89 over 1200 metres.

Showing great poise in the saddle, the 2015 Mauritius champion jockey sweated for a run on straightening before punching through a gap at the 300 metre mark.

"It opened up like the Red Sea. Sometimes you sit behind waiting for an opening and you have nowhere to go," said David. "I wanted to go to the outside down the back but decided to go inside.

"When he saw daylight, he really quickened away. I did not expect him to win in this company.

"But the trainer told me he had been unlucky at his last two starts. The way he turned it on tonight was not expected at all."

Walker said he was pleased the Raffles Racing Stable-owned sprinter was able to showcase his true ability.

"He's a horse who keeps improving but, at his last run, Alan Munro said an apprentice annoyed him the whole way," the expat-Kiwi said. "He hasn't had much luck lately and it was great to get a win for Raffles Racing, who have been supporting me for a while now.

"He's won over 1400 metres before and I will probably



*Viviano races away with the feature race on Friday night's Kranji card.*

keep him to the 1200-1400 metre distances."

With his sixth win, Viviano saw his bank account swell by another \$S55,000 to around \$S280,000 for the Raffles Racing Stable of Dato Yap Kin San.

– Singapore Turf Club

<b>Race</b>	<b>Singapore TC Benchmark 89 H. 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Viviano (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Raffles Racing Stable</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Mark Walker (Kranji)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Keeper (Aus) out of Flying Florence by Centaine (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs S Hole</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Seaton Park Ltd, P: Mulcaster Bloodstock; \$85,000</b>





# WOBBLY JOCKEY SCARE FOR SKYWALK

Talented galloper **Skywalk (NZ)** (Battle Paint) gave connections and his legion of backers a huge fright inside the concluding stages of the \$580,000 Open Benchmark 74 at Kranji on Friday night but recovered in time to get the job done in the end.

The three-year-old, resuming after his last-start win last November, looked to have the 1200 metre race all stitched up when he emerged from a handy spot in the home straight, seemingly ready to overpower the horses in front of him.

But as he drew on level terms with Shadow Of War (Sebring) at the 200 metre mark, his rider Wong Chin Chuen gave a whack with the left hand, suddenly lost his whip and, more scarily, also his balance, swinging awkwardly off the side of the saddle, momentarily looking like he would hit the deck.

Wong was, however, able to stay in the irons and, quickly recomposing himself, rode the odds-on favourite hands and heels with renewed vigour, eventually denying longshot Sand Bank (Dubleo) by a neck.

On dismounting, Wong explained his saddle had not slipped, he just lost his balance.

"In the straight, I went in search of daylight and the horse just knows what to do. At the 200 metres I shifted my whip to the left but lost my balance after one hit. I then just pushed him to the line and he ran on very well."

Trainer James Peters admitted to having his heart in his mouth when it



Wong Chin Chuen, sans whip, gets Skywalk home at Kranji.

looked like Wong would part company with the China Horse Club-owned gelding close to home.

"I thought the saddle slipped from where I saw the race. Luckily, CC was able to regain his balance and they did a good job in the end," he said.

"He's a horse who will never win by five lengths. He just does enough. There are still a few things to work out with him. He is just winning on raw ability at the moment.

"I'll see how he pulls up but I think I'll put him over 1400 metres next before the Singapore Three-Year-Old Challenge races come up."

– Singapore Turf Club

<b>Race</b>	<b>Singapore TC Benchmark 74 H. 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Skywalk (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>China Horse Club Stable</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>James Peters (Kranji)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Battle Paint (USA) out of Daystar by Danasinga (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs L J &amp; W L Sullivan</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Sedgmere Farm, P: Regal Farm Partnership; \$32,000</b>
	<b>2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Regal Farm, P: China Horse Club; \$100,000</b>

