

Sunday 24 July 2016

TIM KEEPS THE RIDE ON LONGCHAMP AND DOES A MAN-SIZED JOB IN OPUNAKE CUP



Longchamp and Tim Johnson easily take the Opunake Cup.

Tim Johnson enjoyed the biggest day of his racing life at New Plymouth yesterday when he continued his winning association with the Group One contender **Longchamp (NZ)** (Tavistock).

The Awapuni apprentice had ridden the four-year-old to previous victories at Otaki and Wanganui before he was entrusted with the ride in yesterday's Listed Powerworx Opunake Cup.

It was Johnson's first start in a black type race and he kept a cool head to complete a hat-trick of wins aboard the free-

going gelding.

"I said to Tim that we all had the utmost faith in him and he hasn't let us down," trainer Andrew Campbell said.

"He's done a great job and he's a young fellow going places."

Longchamp disputed the early pace before he took control 600 metres from home and he held a strong gallop in the run to the post to win by two and a half lengths.

"He jumped nicely and he put himself in the race like he

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TIM KEEPS THE RIDE ON LONGCHAMP AND DOES A MAN-SIZED JOB IN OPUNAKE CUP

(Continued from page 1)



always does," Johnson said. "He's quite easy to ride.

"I knew he would handle the track and we stuck to the fence and he was too good. I am very grateful to the connections for the opportunity to ride him."

The winner of six of his sixteen starts, Longchamp's record might be even better but for ongoing leg problems.

"He's a very good horse, but with issues," Campbell said. "We've got that first race at Hastings to look at now."

Campbell has his sights set on

August 27's Group One Makfi Challenge Stakes, a race he won with Longchamp's sire Tavistock in 2009.

Yesterday's placegetters North And South (NZ) (Strategic Image) and Taurus (NZ) (No Excuse Needed) will head in a different direction with next month's Group Three Winter Cup at Riccarton on their programmes.

Race	Taranaki RC Opunake Cup L 1400m
Winner	Longchamp (NZ) 2011
Owners	T G Heptinstall, J A Barnao, D R Platt, T M Pivac, N Cruickshank, C B McDowell, W C Webb and Withonell Syndicate
Trainer	Andrew Campbell (Opaki)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Shot At The Title (Aus) by Danehill (USA)
Breeder	Sir Patrick & Lady Hogan and Letmar Investments Pty Ltd
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Cambridge Stud, P: A R Campbell; \$40,000

Tim Johnson brings Longchamp back to scale.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Change of tactics the key to Arhat

Singapore trainer Michael Clements said a change of tactics had unlocked the true potential of **Arhat (NZ)** (Iffraaj) after the gelding ran out a strong winner in the \$538,000 Kranji Stakes D over 2000 metres on Friday.

The four-year-old had frustratingly been collecting placings at his first seven runs until finally breaking his duck over a mile three weeks ago. Ridden cold by Michael Rodd, Arhat had unwound inside the last 200 metres to claim victory.

Unsurprisingly, Clements stuck to the same ploy on Friday.

"I think he's proven again that was the best way to ride him, switch him off early. We raced him handy before and it didn't quite work," he said. "He's physically more impressive now. Although he is a late four-year-old, he's picked up a bit of weight lately and is definitely going in the right direction.

"I always knew he would get the 2000 metres."

– Singapore Turf Club

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LADIES FIRST GRINDS OUT ANOTHER WIN AND HAS ALLAN THINKING 'CUPS HORSE'

Ladies First (NZ) (Dylan Thomas) yesterday added another victory to her near-perfect winter campaign with a tenacious performance on her home track.

The Taranaki filly looked to be making hard work of it 500 metres from home but she dug deep and rallied strongly for what turned out to be a comfortable win in the NZB Finance & Leasing 3YO at New Plymouth.

Ladies First's only defeat came at her second appearance, a fourth placing at Te Rapa that was a run full of merit.

"It was against the big boys up north and she still went a very good race," said Lisa Allpress, who has ridden Ladies First in all of her starts.

At New Plymouth, the filly sat behind the pace before she came away from the fence across the top and then required aggressive riding to make ground on the front pair.

When Allpress switched the stick to her left hand in the straight, Ladies First responded and she pulled away from a game Bowie (NZ) (Iffraaj), who gave the winner four kilos, to score by



Ladies First has overpowered her opposition and strides away with New Plymouth's three-year-old feature.

two and three quarter lengths.

"She seems to eat mud and had a nice weight considering what she's done," trainer Allan Sharrock said.

"She put them away pretty easily in the end. She's quality and could end up a cups mare."

Sharrock has yet to discuss Ladies First's immediate future with the three-year-old's connections, but his first thought was to give her a three-month break to let her develop.

Race	Taranaki RC New Zealand Bloodstock Finance H. 1600m
Winner	Ladies First (NZ) 2012
Owners	F J & H T O'Leary
Trainer	Allan Sharrock (New Plymouth)
Breeding	by Dylan Thomas (Ire) out of Just Polite (Aus) by Dehere (USA)
Breeder	Go Bloodstock New Zealand Ltd
Sales	2014 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Blandford Lodge, P: H T O'Leary; \$8000





STREAK CONTINUES FOR PIN YOUR HOPES

A late decision by trainer Mathew Ellerton to switch plans with **Pin Your Hopes (NZ)** (Pins) has been rewarded at Flemington, with the in-form gelding adding to his winter winning streak.

Ellerton had been planning to start Pin Your Hopes in yesterday's 1600 metre Benchmark 90 but instead opted for the 1800 metre Henry Bolte Handicap.

Apprentice Ben Thompson used his initiative early in the race, rolling to the front in the field of six.

Pin Your Hopes, at \$4.40 a slight drifter in the betting after opening at \$4, kept going to defeat the \$3.30 favourite

Kenjorwood (Snippetson) by three lengths, with Rhythm To Spare (NZ) (Pins) another 3¾ lengths away in third.

It was the third straight win for Pin Your Hopes, whom Ellerton says is relishing soft tracks, and the fourth from his past five starts.

"I rang Ben's manager on Wednesday morning and asked if he'd taken a ride in this race. He said no so Ben stayed on him," Ellerton said.

Ellerton, who trains in partnership with Simon Zahra, said Pin Your Hopes having less weight in the 1800 metre race, getting down to 52kg with Thompson's claim, was a telling factor.

"The mile race was going to be a bigger field and it might have been a bit more complicated," he said.

Thompson and Pin Your Hopes have built a good combination, with the apprentice riding the six-year-old five times this campaign, including his past three wins.

Ellerton admits retirement was considered for Pin Your Hopes after the Yarra Valley Cup in March, because the gelding had not won since May 2014.

But it seems a spell has made all the difference.

"Since he's been back he's had six starts from his little freshen-up and they've all been really good," the Flemington trainer said.

– AAP TURF



Race	VRC Henry Bolte H. 1800m
Winner	Pin Your Hopes (NZ) 2009
Owners	Cyclone Racing (Mgr: P J Roots), A J Blackshaw, R E Bowen, Mrs C J Roberts, K R Barnett, W R Oliver, L J Oliver, K W Franklin, D W Franklin, M J McCraw, T B Beasley, P G Carey, P J Nicoll and D C Donohoe
Trainer	Mathew Ellerton & Simon Zahra (Flemington)
Breeding	by Pins (Aus) out of Zarvana by Zabeel
Breeder	Miss C A Marshall
Sales	2011 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Lyndhurst Farm, P: Ellerton Zahra Racing; \$100,000

Ben Thompson and Pin Your Hopes return to scale after a tough win in yesterday's open handicap at Flemington.



LA STALLIONS 2016



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DONNA'S INSIDE INFO **LEADS TO BARABAS**

It wasn't any surprise when Donna Logan outbid her opposition at Karaka last year to take home a son of first season sire Dalghar (Fr) (Anabaa).

Having trained the youngster's half-sister Jazzella (NZ) (Black Minnaloushe) to win six races, including two at Group Three level, the \$26,000 the Ruakaka horsewoman paid for the grey is now shaping as an outstanding investment.

Racing as **Barabas (NZ)**, he was a bold second on debut and yesterday had no trouble going one better for an impressive win in the Tavistock Syndicate Owners 2YO on his home track.

"He's always showed us a lot of ability – he's very smart," said Logan, who trains Barabas with Chris Gibbs.

The gelding was out smartly to lead under rider Kelly McCulloch, who was happy to let Magic Warrior (NZ) (Alamosa) accelerate through on her inner to take up the running.

Barabas was out to challenge on straightening and he powered clear in the straight to turn the tables on

Barcelo (NZ) (Alamosa), who had his measure a fortnight ago, with a two and a quarter length victory.

"We'll stick to his home track again and run in his own grade next time and then we'll probably look at the Listed three-year-old race here in the new season," Logan said.

She is understandably a big fan of the progeny of Brighthill Farm's Dalghar, having enjoyed black type success in the autumn with his Listed Champagne Stakes-winning daughter Astaro (NZ), who also finished fourth in the Group Two Matamata Breeders' Stakes.

Race	Whangarei RC Tavistock Syndicate Owners 2YO H. 1000m
Winner	Barabas (NZ) 2013
Owners	D M Logan, R Beehre, N Burnside and H Norcross
Trainer	Donna Logan and Chris Gibbs (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Dalghar (Fr) out of Jazzmatazz by Citidancer (Ire)
Breeder	Hallmark Properties Ltd; Mrs A M & N King
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Brighthill Farm, P: D M Logan Racing Stables; \$26,000



Barabas improves on his debut second and runs away with the juvenile sprint at Ruakaka.

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NEW YORK MINUTE **WINS BY A MINUTE**

Strapping filly **New York Minute (NZ)** (Iffraaj) doesn't do things by halves and she powered to another runaway success at yesterday's Taranaki meeting.

The three-year-old had won her previous start at Waverley by nine lengths and trumped that with a twelve-length victory against the older horses in the Rating 75 Horton & Co Ltd 1400.

Taranaki trainer and part-owner Ilone Kelly proved the master of the understatement following New York Minute's stroll around her home track.

Race	Taranaki RC Horton & Co H. 1400m
Winner	New York Minute (NZ) 2012
Owners	B Kelly OBE, Mrs J A Kelly, J J Kelly and Mrs M A Kelly
Trainer	Ilone Kelly (New Plymouth)
Breeding	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Zenno Queen by Zenno Rob Roy (Jpn)
Breeder	Spyglass Hill Syndicate
Sales	2013 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Little Avondale Stud, P: J J Kelly; \$15,000

"She's looking good," she said. "I'll take her home and hope the rain hangs around. She's a lovely filly."

New York Minute was a debut winner last season and then finished runner-up in the Listed O'Learys Fillies Stakes at Wanganui before niggling issues took their toll and she was given a good break.

"Ilone said she couldn't get her right, but she's come back so well," rider Lisa Allpress said.

She allowed New York Minute to stride along at the head of the field and they were in a race of their own in the straight.

"It's tough out there and it's just a matter of guiding them through it," Allpress said.

Itsagem (NZ) (Falkirk) was a distant second, ahead of Darci Mac (NZ) (Darci Brahma), who is now unlikely to follow through with his nomination for the Group Three Winter Cup at Riccarton next month.

Trainer Allan Sharrock said pre-race that the four-year-old had to run in the first two to justify a start in the southern

feature.

After earlier successes aboard Kingsgrave (NZ) (Postponed), Ladies First (NZ) (Dylan Thomas) and Art Deco (NZ) (Road to Rock), the win on New York Minute was the fourth on yesterday's eight-race card for Allpress, who finished the day with a fifth on Iffitel (NZ) (Iffraaj).



More success for Lisa Allpress as New York Minute destroys her rivals in the 1400 metre Rating 75 at New Plymouth.





SUPER HERO RUNS AWAY

Hot favourite **Super Hero (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) franked recent good form to open his account with a runaway win in the \$S75,000 Restricted Maiden over 1200 metres at Kranji on Friday night.

After an eye-catching third to smart stablemate Skywalk (NZ) (Battle Paint) at his last run, the James Peters-trained three-year-old found the lead with a quick getaway, held it on a steady tempo to the home turn then skipped clear to record a resounding five-length victory.

Peters praised rider Mark Ewe for the initiative he showed in making his own luck, rating the gelding through steady midrace sectionals before

giving the field the slip at the 300 metre mark.

“When there isn’t much form to go with, you can only try and find a spot where the horse will be comfortable,” said the Englishman. “I told Mark to decide for himself where he wanted to be.

“This horse has always shown a decent level of ability, even if he is not the easiest horse to deal with in training.

“But he’s sure got an engine and I think the

Polytrack suits him very well, too.”

Ewe said the flexible instructions given by Peters helped him fashion his own battle plan.

“There were no real instructions from James, though I thought I would probably settle in midfield,” said the former three-time Singapore champion apprentice. “But the pace was so slow that I found myself going forward. Super Hero settled very well and when the other horses came to us I just let him stride along.

“When we cornered, I changed my reins and gave him a few smacks and he responded well. I was worried something would come at us but I didn’t hear anything.”

Raced by the Super Team Stable of Mr Andre Lim of Super Easy fame, Super Hero was registering his first win from four starts for prizemoney close to the \$S50,000 mark.

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Restricted Maiden S. 1200m
Winner	Super Hero (NZ) 2012
Owners	Super Team Stable
Trainer	James Peters (Kranji)
Breeding	by Rip Van Winkle (Ire) out of Magic Star (Aus) by Danzero (Aus)
Breeder	W Pegg
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Wentwood Grange, P: Michael Freedman; \$130,000



Sporting a famous set of colours, Mark Ewe guides Super Hero home a five-length winner.

