

Monday 31 July 2017

MR HANKS REDEEMS HIMSELF IN JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIP



Mr Hanks clings on to score a courageous victory from a hard-charging Iffragal

Promising galloper **Mr Hanks (NZ)** (Showcasing) made quick amends from his shock defeat in the Aushorse Golden Horseshoe with a narrow win in the \$200,000 Juvenile Championship (1400m) on Sunday.

The Oscar Racing-owned two-year-old – who turns three tomorrow (August 1) - was beaten by the draw (13) in the first of Singapore's only two juvenile features when sent out as the \$12 favourite on July 7.

Unable to tuck in from his horror gate in the Aushorse Golden Horseshoe (1200m) on July 7, Mr Hanks came a cropper to finish tenth, more than seven lengths off the winner Be Bee (NZ) (Showcasing).

Second-year trainer James Peters, however, quickly regrouped and must be commended for producing the

son of Showcasing to take out the second two-year-old event, even if he had to scrape home by only a head from the fast-finishing Iffragal (NZ) (Iffraaj).

In his post-Aushorse Golden Horseshoe debrief, Peters was adamant that was not the real Mr Hanks that day, and reassured fans better things would be in store in three weeks' time. He did not put Mr Hanks through any rigorous training, just a few easy blowouts, but did bring about one significant change on Sunday – blinkers, which he notably donned at his seventh place to Melody Belle (NZ) (Commands) in this year's Karaka Million (1200m) back in January.

And when luck was on their side at the barriers (3) this time, Peters knew the

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MR HANKS REDEEMS HIMSELF IN JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIP

(Continued from page 1)

chances of a turnaround had multiplied manifold. Indeed, Mr Hanks slotted straight into the box-seat upon dispatch before taking it up in the home straight as the frontrunners capitulated.

The shades of his debut win on June 11, when he bounded away to an impressive victory, emerged at the 400m, but the Long Course felt like it would never end this time.

At first, Mr Hanks looked like he was ready to explode at any second, but as he rolled in to go hard up against the rails, he started to whack away on the one spot instead.

Right behind, longshot Iffragal was at that juncture safely held, but with Mr Hanks finding the 1400m trip a little outside his comfort zone, the Ricardo Le Grange-trained Iffraaj filly suddenly smelled blood and sprouted wings under jockey Oscar Chavez's efforts.

In a nail-biting drive to the wire, the pair finished locked together, but Singapore Turf Club race caller Nicholas Child stuck his neck out by going with Mr Hanks to have held on, and the photo print proved him right – a head separated the two.

Peters was a happy man at the winner's circle. After a smashing first year when he bagged 35 winners his sophomore year had been noticeably quieter, but that big win has come at the right time to lift his spirits.

The Englishman did get the 2017 season off to a decent start but an injury-plagued stable has since put a few spokes in the wheel.

"This horse tries very hard and I think we saw the real Mr Hanks today. The good barrier helped a lot, too," said Peters.

"I thought there would be more pace from out wide, but he found himself behind a surprising leader (Make U Famous)

in a beautiful spot.

"He was behind a few horses and Vlad did not panic, and he was very gutsy to the line. It's great to win a feature race for a new owner, CK (Chian Kin) Phua.

"I've had a bit of quiet time, but it was to be expected as it's been a tough transition. I've had a lot of bad injuries and a few problems with the horses, but I'm building up with a lot of new horses."

A beaming Phua – along with his son Oscar – was leading in his second Juvenile Championship winner after Affleck in 2014.

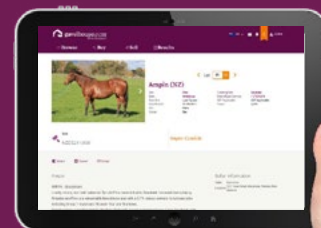
"It's Mike Kneebone (New Zealand Bloodstock) who bought this horse for me. He's a very nice horse and I hope he can keep it up when he turns three," said the Singaporean businessman.

Mr Hanks was a \$21,000 purchase from the Haunui Farm draft at the 2016 NZB Festival Sale at Karaka. He began his career in New Zealand under the name Oscar Eight where he had four starts from the Nigel Tiley stable, finishing runner-up at Listed level in his second start before running on nicely for seventh in the 2017 Listed Karaka Million at Ellerslie in his last local appearance.

Race	Singapore TC Juvenile Championship 1400m.
Winner	Oscar Eight - Mr Hanks (Sing.) (NZ) 2014
Owners	Oscar Racing Stable
Trainer	James Peters (Kranji)
Breeding	by Showcasing (GB) out of Zafonique by Bigstone (IRE)
Breeder	Mrs B J & K V Corrigan; Auckland; NZ
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale - Festival Session V: Haunui Farm \$21000 P: NZB as agent

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SPRING RICHES ABOUND FOR TOP CAMBRIDGE STABLE

With the onset of a new racing season just around the corner the anticipation of feature race success and the creation of the next generation of equine stars is building throughout racing stables across the country.

One man who seems to have almost an embarrassment of riches is Cambridge conditioner Tony Pike.

Fresh off the back of another solid season that saw him tally 53 local victories while going agonisingly close to tearing off the time-honoured Gr. 1 Victoria Derby with Sacred Elixir (NZ) (Pour Moi), Pike is gearing up for a spring that will see him with multiple contenders for the early three-year-old feature titles.

“I’m pretty lucky in that we had a

good year with the two-year-olds and it looks as though they are all coming up well as we start getting them ready to make their return to the track in the next month or so,” he advised.

“Like most trainers we are in a little bit of a holding pattern with the tracks being as wet as they are but we have a few options we can utilise to get them up to speed.

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Aim Smart is just one of the exciting three-year-olds that Tony Pike has set for spring racing features this year





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SPRING RICHES ABOUND FOR TOP CAMBRIDGE STABLE

(Continued from page 4)

"The new training track at Te Rapa is one of those options and we have already taken a couple there for jump-outs. It looks as though they may be going to schedule more regular jump-outs there so we will definitely be heading back to use the surface where we can."

Aim Smart (Smart Missile), a brilliant winner on debut at Pukekohe last November, is one who has already taken advantage of the Te Rapa opportunity as he continues a preparation that began eight weeks ago after a niggling issue saw him put aside after failing at his second raceday appearance.

"Aim Smart is working along nicely and had a gallop at Te Rapa last Thursday," said Pike.

"He is one we won't risk on the heavy tracks so he will miss the Te Teko trials in favour of heading back for another jump-out at Te Rapa.

"He has come back in superb order and is well on track at this stage. He will most likely have the Hawkes Bay Guineas as an early target before we look towards the 2000 Guineas at Riccarton."

Debut Te Rapa winner **Sacred Rebel** (Sepoy) is another that Pike isn't prepared to risk trialling on heavy ground as he gears up for a similar

campaign to Aim Smart.

"He is a lovely horse who did plenty wrong on debut but still got the job done that day," noted Pike.

"He's been back for a while now as we didn't to give him too big a break as he is a pretty gross character who puts on the condition quite easily. He will also have Hastings and Riccarton as his focus.

"We won't risk him on heavy ground either so he will be another of the team who will spend some time at Te Rapa in his build-up to his first start for the season."

Pike's potential Gr. 1 2000 Guineas contenders don't end there with **Hausman (NZ)** (Pour Moi), **Felton Road (NZ)** (Pins) and **Bostonian (NZ)** (Jimmy Choux) all possibilities to make the journey south provided their form warrants the trip.

"Hausman really impressed in his last win and he would definitely appreciate the roomy Riccarton circuit while Felton Road and Bostonian are another pair who we feel have the ability to make it to a race like the 2000 Guineas," said Pike.

"The challenge is going to be separating them during their campaigns as I don't really want to race them against each other unless we have to. It is inevitable they will

clash but where we can we will try and keep them all apart."

Pike also has high hopes for rising three-year-old filly **Ujjayyi (NZ)** (Iffraaj) who will be kept to racing right-handed after making a mess of her only attempt going left-handed in the Gr. 2 Matamata Breeders' Stakes.

"Ujjayyi has any amount of ability but it's fair to say she will be only be going right-handed at this stage," he chuckled.

"We will be looking at some of the good filly's races at Ellerslie with her where we think she can be competitive."

One of the older brigade who will be missing from the early spring contenders for Pike is promising stayer **Sacred Shot (NZ)** (Savabeel) who is currently on the way back from a minor injury that halted his summer campaign after finishing third to Tavidream at Ellerslie.

"He is a very promising stayer in the making so we won't be rushing him back straight away," said Pike.

"He is more likely to be seen later in the summer where a race like the Auckland Cup will be an ideal target for him."

– NZ Racing Desk





BOWIE ALL BUSINESS AT ROTORUA

Rugged four-year-old **Bowie (NZ)** (Iffraaj) capped off a memorable year for the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman training partnership at Rotorua on Saturday when he provided the duo with their final winner for the 2016/17 racing season.

In a thoroughly professional effort the Iffraaj gelding bounced well from an outside barrier to settle handy to the pace before taking control of the race at the top of the straight. Kept up to the mark by apprentice Sam Weatherley,

Bowie dug deep to comfortably fend off the challenge of Stratford visitor Hotshot Lass (NZ) (Mettre En Jeu) in the run to the winning post.

“It was a good positive ride by Sam as they did a fair bit of work to get across on a good early clip,” noted Forsman after the race.

“Obviously being on pace in the race was a bit of an advantage.”

Forsman admitted there had been confidence in the camp before the race as Bowie attempted to make it back-to-back wins after scoring at Matamata earlier in the month.

“He has raced well here before so that gave us a bit of confidence,” he said.

“Normally he gets himself a little worked up and has a bit of a sweat but we’ve kept him fresh and he seems to be enjoying what he’s doing.”

The performance took the all-conquering Cambridge team’s final tally to 107 wins as they combined to take out their second National Trainer’s Premiership title in just the fifth year of their partnership. It also completed the second leg of a winning double for the stable after promising filly Crafty Jess (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) had scored earlier on the card.

The victory also provided apprentice Weatherley with the first leg of a winning treble that included the feature race on the day, the Listed Woods Contracting Taumarunui Gold Cup on Gentil Tonton (Yeats). The young Matamata hoop, who is indentured to the Lance O’Sullivan & Andrew Scott team at Wexford Stables, also had cause to celebrate as he claimed the mantle of leading apprentice for the season with 67 victories in his first full season in the saddle.

– NZ Racing Desk



Bowie and Sam Weatherley at Rotorua on Saturday

Race	Taumarunui RC Warren Sinton Memorial H. 1560m.
Winner	Bowie (NZ) 2012
Owners	Glenn Barrie & Lisa Anne Morton & Glenn Michael Morton
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman
Breeding	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Vicky (AUS) by Encosta de Lago (AUS)
Breeder	G B & Mrs L A Morton; NZ





FLICKA OF GOLD ON TOP AT TIMARU

Rejuvenated South Island galloper **Flicka Of Gold (NZ)** (Bachelor Duke) snatched a last gasp victory at Timaru on Sunday to claim back-to-back victories for the first time in a career that began before several of his race rivals were even born.

The hardy seven-year-old made his first appearance as a two-year-old at Ruakaka in July 2012 from the Stephen McKee stable. Brought to the South Island in May 2016, the Bachelor Duke gelding has now produced three of his five career victories in the care of trainer and part-owner Steve Tyler.

Successful in a similar 1200 metre contest at Wingatui last month, Flicka Of Gold looked like having to settle for a minor placing on this occasion when he appeared to be battling in behind the race leader Nakyama (NZ) (Swiss Ace) with just 200 metres to run in the rating 75 contest.

Pulled to the outside by apprentice Rafi Firdhaus the experienced campaigner refused to give in as he raised a final effort that saw him

snatch victory at the winning post. Firdhaus remained unconvinced they had arrived in time and it was a clearly elated rider who produced a beaming smile

and fist pump when the result was announced.

"I wasn't too sure he'd got there either as I was on a bad angle when they hit the line," admitted Tyler after the race.

"I actually thought we would be lucky to hold third halfway down the straight but he never knows when he is beaten and he found some more for us today.

"He's no champion, just a good honest horse that will always give you his best so what more could you ask for."

Tyler will now take some time to work out his next move with the horse although he believes he has found the key to getting the best from him.

"I think I've nussed him out although it has taken a while," he said.

"He needs time between his races as he seems to go his best when he is fresh. I gave him two weeks off after his last win and he's hardly had a gallop before today.

"It's a worry on these wet tracks as you wonder if you've got them fit enough but he has really blossomed of late.

"I'm not sure if he is a Riccarton type so the Grand National meeting could be too big an ask but if we do miss going there then there is a race for him back at home later in the month so we do have a couple of options."

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	South Canterbury RC Onceuponatime Dash H. 1200m.
Winner	Flicka of Gold (NZ) 2009
Owners	Steve, E R & M H Tyler
Trainer	Steve Tyler (Wingatui)
Breeding	by Bachelor Duke (USA) out of Flicka Grove by Grosvenor
Breeder	Est late T G Brough; Waikato; NZ



Flicka Of Gold gets in the deciding stride at Timaru





KOK FINDS RIGHT HORSE TO PRESS REFRESH

Those who did not buy a share in **Refresh (NZ)** (Rock 'n' Pop) would have been kicking themselves when he scored on debut on Sunday.

Trainer David Kok tried to sell shares or 100% of the son of sire Rock 'N' Pop to some of his owners after he bought him for NZ\$31,000 at the Ready-To-Run sale in New Zealand last year, but his offer fell on deaf ears. Even though the dam Wahaha (NZ) (Stravinsky) is the mother of Kranji gallopers Euro Zone (NZ) (Iffraaj) and debut winner Soonbaby (NZ) (Redwood), that did not sway them either.

In the end, Kok decided to keep all the shares for himself, hoping his judgement would not prove too costly.

On Sunday, he recouped a big chunk back after Refresh, unwanted at \$169, repelled all challengers under apprentice jockey Wong Chin Chuen to land the \$75,000 War Affair 2013 Stakes, a Restricted Maiden race over 1200m.

Bustled up early by Wong to take a prominent spot, Refresh probably won the race when he secured the lead early before handing it up to favourite Boy Wonder (Mastro Lorenzo) down the back.

Metalocene (NZ) (Darci Brahma) ranged alongside to form a two-pronged attack on Boy Wonder upon straightening. While Metalocene was green and hung out badly, Refresh was peeled off Boy Wonder's heels for his move, and was moving a lot more professionally even though he is only two.

He did roll out under pressure, but he never broke his momentum, and at the 150m, Kok could already head down to lead in only his fourth winner for the year.

"It's good to see him win first-up as I own the horse by myself. He won a breeze-up in New Zealand, and I bought him as I also liked his first-season sire," said Kok.

"As I couldn't get any of my owners to buy him, I kept him for myself, and it's great he's won today, especially as it's been so long since I had a winner.

"Today, I asked CC Wong to go forward as I worked out



Refresh upsets the favourites at Kranji

there wasn't much pace to the race."

Wong was not at his first time atop Refresh as he rode him at the second of his two barrier trials, in which they ran eighth to Iffragal (NZ) (Iffraaj), but was never tested at any stage. The run actually left the Singapore champion apprentice jockey quite indifferent.

"He didn't show anything and as I thought he was a bit of a one-pacer, I decided to go forward and he would have a better chance up there," said Wong.

"He followed nicely behind the leader, and I was very surprised when he gave a nice kick. Maybe he is a different horse when he is on turf."

Race	Singapore TC War Affair S. 1200m.
Winner	Refresh (NZ) 2014
Owners	Kok Teik Wai David
Trainer	David Kok (Kranji)
Breeding	by Rock 'n' Pop (AUS) out of Wahaha by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	Ms E Shattock; Waikato; NZ
Sales	2016 Ready to Run Sale V: Anistay Lodge \$31000 P: NZB as agent



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NZ STALLION AWARDS

THE CENTAINE AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$11,549,111
DARCI BRAHMA	\$8,573,363
TAVISTOCK	\$8,023,964
PINS	\$7,333,893
IFFRAAJ	\$6,973,888
O'REILLY	\$6,535,899
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$5,756,545
THORN PARK	\$5,504,177
PENTIRE	\$3,888,828
KEEPER	\$3,879,279

Criteria: Sire whose NZ-conceived progeny have accumulated the highest stakes earnings worldwide

THE DEWAR STALLION TROPHY

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$7,594,461
IFFRAAJ	\$4,493,298
PINS	\$3,614,283
TAVISTOCK	\$3,307,239
DARCI BRAHMA	\$3,052,972
O'REILLY	\$2,928,535
PENTIRE	\$2,809,497
MAKFI	\$2,783,251
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$2,376,083
SHOCKING	\$2,235,213

Criteria: Sire whose progeny have accumulated the highest combined stakes earnings in Australia & New Zealand

THE GROSVENOR AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$3,078,170
IFFRAAJ	\$2,065,273
TAVISTOCK	\$1,727,417
DARCI BRAHMA	\$1,592,320
PINS	\$1,285,549
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$1,139,765
ALAMOSIA	\$1,089,350
PER INCANTO	\$1,063,745
SHINKO KING	\$998,550
MAKFI	\$988,710

BEST PERFORMERS	EARNINGS
KAWI	\$378,750
GINGERNUTS	\$665,450
VOLKSTOK'N'BARRELL	\$288,000
DEVISE	\$114,625
REILLY LINCOLN	\$119,062
THEE AULD FLOOZIE	\$305,375
SHE'S POPPY	\$68,745
SARACINO	\$144,375
SEVENTH UP	\$187,225
BONNEVAL	\$289,000

Criteria: Leading Sires by Earnings in New Zealand



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NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE

JULY 28

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
ALARANCH (NZ) 2012 by Alamosa out of Ranch (AUS) by Rancher (AUS)	Inglewood Stud (N.Z.) Ltd; Canterbury; NZ	Singapore TC Class 5 H. 1000m.	
HEE'S A MAVERICK (NZ) 2011 by Sir Percy (GB) out of Lionstar by Pentire (GB)	Rich Hill Thoroughbreds Ltd; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Class 5 H. 1600m.	2013 National Yearling Sale - Select Session; V: Rich Hill Stud, P: LK Laxon; \$30,000
PRINCE DARCI (NZ) 2013 by Darci Brahma out of Obsession by Bachelor Duke (USA)	The Oaks Stud; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Class 5 H. 1800m.	2015 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale; V: The Oaks Stud, P: Te Akau Racing; \$60,000
JUSTICE LIGHT (NZ) 2013 by Darci Brahma out of Amaryllis by Red Ransom (USA)	Pencarrow Thoroughbreds Ltd; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Kranji S. 1200m.	2015 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale; V: Pencarrow Stud, P: Te Akau Racing; \$120,000
LIM'S REGARD (NZ) 2013 by Red Giant (USA) out of Celtic Class (AUS) by Spectrum (IRE)	T W Archer Trust; Auckland; NZ	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1400m.	2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Totara Park Stud, P: Lim Siah Mong; \$72,000

NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE

JULY 30

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
DREAM COMES TRUE (NZ) 2013 by Alamosa out of Paint Me a Dream (USA) by Deputy Minister (CAN)	Mrs J M & T M Henderson; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Hello Sri Lanka S. 1200m.	2015 National Yearling Sale - Select Sale; V: Bluegables Farm, P: NZB as agent; \$5,000
REFRESH (NZ) 2014 by Rock 'n' Pop (AUS) out of Wahaha by Stravinsky (USA)	Ms E Shattock; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC War Affair S. 1200m.	2016 Ready to Run Sale; V: Anistay Lodge, P: NZB as agent; \$31,000
GROUND CONTROL (NZ) 2012 by Red Giant (USA) out of Melroy (AUS) by Commands (AUS)	G Harvey; Auckland; NZ	Singapore TC Singapore Yi Ti Xiu Championship Cup 1700m.	
Oscar Eight - MR HANKS (Sing.) (NZ) 2014 by Showcasing (GB) out of Zafonique by Bigstone (IRE)	Mrs B J & K V Corrigan; Auckland; NZ	Singapore TC Juvenile Championship 1400m.	2016 National Yearling Sale - Festival Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: NZB as agent; \$21,000
CHALAZA (NZ) 2012 by Road to Rock (AUS) out of Miss Faberge by Ustinov (Aus)	Nearco Stud Limited; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Mexican Rose S. 1000m.	2014 South Island Yearling & Mixed Sale; V: Highden Park, P: LB Racing; \$26,000

