

Sunday 4 June 2017

BJORN BANKING ON PENALTY TO GET BONNY O'REILLY INTO STRADBROKE



Bonny O'Reilly is well clear and travelling comfortably as she nears the post in yesterday's Coughlan Stakes at Doomben.

Connections of talented mare **Bonny O'Reilly (NZ)** (O'Reilly) are hopeful a penalty will be given for her win in yesterday's Listed Helen Coughlan Stakes at Doomben and gain the mare a Stradbroke Handicap berth.

Bonny O'Reilly firmed from \$26 into \$15 for next

Saturday's \$A1.5 million Group One feature but will need to have a penalty imposed to make the field.

Before the Coughlan, Bonny O'Reilly was 25th in order of entry with 52kg for the Stradbroke.

Jack Bruce, representing trainer Bjorn Baker, said Bonny

Continued on page 3



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(Continued from page 1)

O'Reilly was only a slim chance of gaining a start with the Group One Tatt's Tiara, over the same 1350 metre distance, at Doomben on June 24 a fallback option.

"If she makes the Stradbroke field we'd love to have a crack because she's a very talented mare who has come through the grades to win five in a row now," Bruce said.

"The way she races she can put herself handy and sprint off a quick tempo.

"Bjorn's been very happy with her and he's confident to push on next week if she gets a run.

"She's bigger and stronger now than she's ever been and horses like her who get into the Stradbroke with a light weight are often good chances," he added. "I think she profiles correctly for the race."

Winning jockey Jason Collett said Bonny O'Reilly's ability to race close to the speed has helped her build an impressive strike rate of seven wins from only nine starts.

"She's got tactical speed and makes things easy for herself during the race," he said.

"If she doesn't get a start next week I think the Tatt's Tiara in three weeks would be an ideal race for her."

In yesterday's dominant display, the four-year-old – backed from an opening quote of \$3.90 into odds-on before starting at \$2.05 – strode to a 1¼ length win over Selita

(Shaft) with Palazzo Pubblico (Conatus) hitting the line gamely a further neck back in third.

Collett used barrier two to land in the box-seat and when the leader drifted away from the rail on the turn, Bonny O'Reilly showed her customary turn of foot to put the issue beyond doubt.

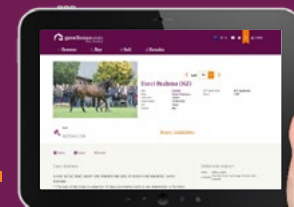
"I could see the leader was under a bit of pressure rounding the bend," the jockey said. "She was starting to wobble, left an opening and I was straight in there.

"They've been placing her perfectly. She's picked up some black type now so it's onwards and upwards."

– AAP TURF & racenet.com.au

Race	BRC Helen Coughlan S. L 1200m
Winner	Bonny O'Reilly (NZ) 2012
Owners	Bjorn Baker Racing, B C Micalizzi, Mrs G James, L L James, W J Kelly, L W Stewart, Ms C Munnich, A Alexiou, Dr T P Clarke, I Y Hui, P G Wildermuth, E J Scott, J E Fox, L Galvin, D J Moylan and R C Horrocks
Trainer	Bjorn Baker (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by O'Reilly out of Pretty by Pins (Aus)
Breeder	Waikato Stud Ltd
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Bjorn Baker Racing; \$100,000

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LADIES FIRST DELIVERS **COVETED CUP**

New Plymouth trainer Allan Sharrock can be proud of his achievements with **Ladies First (NZ)** (Dylan Thomas) this preparation.

Forward planning had the Listed Rangitikei Gold Cup at Awapuni first on the wish list for the mare and last month that was ticked off with the owners' home track feature the next aim.

That target was also duly realised for Humphrey and Fiona O'Leary when Ladies First yesterday cantered home in the Listed Civics @ Cambridge Lodge Wanganui Cup.

"I had her set for the Awapuni race and this is the one they wanted so we've bagged them both," Sharrock said.

"She's a very good, tough mare and where we go to after this I'm not sure. I think she's a year away from her best and Humphrey said after the race to turn her out so we may well do that."

Ladies First is the only horse Sharrock has trained for the Whangaehu-based O'Leary, who also shares in the ownership of the Group One-winning stayer Who Shot Thebarman (NZ) (Yamanin Vital).

"I just got a call out of the blue," Sharrock said. "I'm very happy to have her and hopefully she won't be the last."

Ladies First raced three wide in midfield from an outside gate and once rider Lisa Allpress asked her for a

serious effort she quickly asserted her superiority.

The four-year-old strode to the front 200 metres from home and sailed clear to score by three and three quarter lengths from Zartan (NZ) (Zed) and the front-runner Pacorus (NZ) (Tavistock).

"That was a strong field as well," Sharrock said. "I got a shock when I saw it but she's dealt to them."

Race	Wanganui Cup L 2040m
Winner	Ladies First (NZ) 2012
Owners	F J & HT 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: HT O'Leary; \$8000



Ladies First strides away under Lisa Allpress to easily win the Wanganui Cup.





Sunday 4 June 2017

TRAVELLIN' HORSE **WINS HOME FEATURE**

Duffers Creek (NZ) (Gold Centre) has been to a host of venues for his collection of eleven victories but he stayed closest to home yesterday to post the most important win of his career, Wanganui trainer Kevin Myers producing the under-rated galloper to triumph in his local weight-for-age feature, the Listed Ag Challenge Stakes.

Duffers Creek was backing up from his third placing in last weekend's North Island Challenge Stakes, a race he had won the previous year, and settled kindly toward the back of the field before improving across the top.

The seven-year-old rounded off strongly in the straight for rider Chris Johnson, who later completed a double for the meeting when he took the St Johns Club 1590 on the Paul Nelson-trained No Change (NZ) (Shinko King).

He now has 88 winners for the season and the 53-year-old has closed to within one of his namesake Danielle in the race for the national jockeys' premiership.

Johnson won the title in the 1995/96 season and has already said he is prepared to ride over hurdles to boost his chances of a second crown.

Duffers Creek has covered his share of miles in his 45 starts with past victories in the South Island at Greymouth (twice), Reefton, Hokitika, Kumara and Riccarton and in the North Island at Trentham, Waverley, Hawera and Stratford.

Yesterday's runner-up Thorn Prince (NZ) (Thorn Park) showed he could be in for a lucrative winter with his bold first-up showing while third placegetter Taurus (NZ) (No Excuse Needed) was brave in the defence of his title.

Race	Wanganui JC Challenge S. L 1590m
Winner	Duffers Creek (NZ) 2009
Owners	I S & Mrs M G Morrison
Trainer	Kevin Myers (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Gold Centre (Aus) out of Miss Leading by Casual Lies (USA)
Breeder	I S & Mrs M G Morrison



The disappointments of the race were the mares Underthemoonlight (NZ) (El Hermano) and Gypsy Fair (NZ) (Falkirk), who raced on the pace before petering out to finish fifth and sixth respectively.

Duffers Creek (green cap) claims Thorn Prince near the finish to take Wanganui's Ag Challenge Plate and edge Chris Johnson closer to the national jockeys' title.





GRITTY WIN TO HARD MERCHANDIZE

Hard Merchandize (NZ) (Burgundy) has enjoyed a productive first season with performances that have come under scrutiny from overseas.

The youngster closed out his two-year-old campaign at Wanganui yesterday with a gritty display to claim the Listed John Turkington Forestry Ltd Castletown Stakes, after which trainer Gary Vile confirmed the offshore following.

“There has been some interest from Hong Kong but nothing has come to the fore so as far

as I’m concerned he’s staying in New Zealand,” he said.

Hard Merchandize sat in behind the leader and responded courageously to rider Hayden Tinsley’s urgings to drive home along the fence and nab the northern visitor Bombard (NZ) (Dalghar) on the post.

They were well clear of Satin Belt (NZ) (Power) and Allure (NZ) (Lonhro), who made ground from the tail of the field.

“He’s a tough little horse who puts his head down and has a real go,” said Vile, who shares in the ownership.

“He’s a nice, professional horse who does everything right. He took the



In a finish where the first two cleared away from their opposition, Hard Merchandize and Hayden Tinsley (orange cap) fight their way past Bombard and Sam Spratt in the Castletown Stakes.

trail, travelled well and then took the gap.”

Hard Merchandize now has a win and three placings from his five appearances and was a solid fifth in the Group One Manawatu Sires’ Produce Stakes in his one unplaced start.

“He’s going to the paddock now and I’ll have him back later on for a Wanganui Guineas preparation,” Vile said.

Purchased for \$38,000 at Karaka last year, Hard Merchandize is the first black type winner for Cambridge Stud’s Redoute’s Choice-Grand Echezeaux stallion Burgundy (NZ).

Race	Wanganui JC Castletown S. L 1200m
Winner	Hard Merchandize (NZ) 2014
Owners	A R Osborne, D M Gilshnan, S Whitehead, M Evans, M Osborne, J Aldrich, J King, G Towers, G R Vile and A J Vincent
Trainer	Gary Vile (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Burgundy out of Pride and Passion (Aus) by Encosta de Lago (Aus)
Breeder	C R Grace
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Little Avondale Stud, P: G R Vile; \$38,000





TEST THE WORLD **AT HOME IN BIG CITY**

Bjorn Baker's promising filly **Test The World (NZ)** (Testa Rossa) took the rise to Saturday company in her stride yesterday when winning the Pro Rata ATC Membership On Sale Sprint at Rosehill.

Unfancied in the betting at \$13, Test The World defeated the Gai Waterhouse and Adrian Bott-trained \$3.70 second favorite Arbeitsam (Snitzel) by a short head to complete a hat-trick of wins for her current preparation, following victories at

Race	ATC Pro Rata ATC Membership H. 1200m
Winner	Test The World (NZ) 2013
Owners	Ontrack Thoroughbreds Worldly (Mgr: G J Morgan), D Moretti, D J Frew, Mrs M A Frew, M Byrne, P J Davis, A Barbieri, R V Barker, Mrs P E Bayles, A J Halloran, G A Henry, Dr A M Morrison-Galt, W E Muller, K G O'Brien, M J Ostermeyer and T J West
Trainer	Bjorn Baker (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Testa Rossa (Aus) out of Worldly (Aus) by Danasinga (Aus)
Breeder	K M Van Dyk

Gosford and Warwick Farm.

Godolphin's Dissolute (New Approach) was 1½ lengths back in third while the \$2.25 favourite New Universe (NZ) (Darci Brahma) suffered his first defeat since arriving from New Zealand when finishing a disappointing eighth.

Ridden by Blaike McDougall, the Dynamic Syndications-owned Arbeitsam had been run down late by the Corey Brown-ridden winner and syndicator Dean Watt fired in a protest, with the head-on footage showing the pair coming together 25 metres from home.

Brown told stewards he had moved marginally but if anything was more inconvenienced by Arbeitsam shifting out over the final 100 metres.

Baker's attitude that the protest was frivolous was backed up by the stewards, who were quick to dismiss the objection, telling Watt it indeed bordered on being frivolous given his horse was the main contributor.

Test The World was Brown's first winner for Baker although he has had success with the trainer's father Murray Baker over



the years.

"I haven't had many rides for Bjorn but I used to ride for his father before I went to Singapore," the jockey said.

"It was a good win. She was still having a look around and has a bit to learn but is a nice filly."

Baker said Test The World would likely remain in Sydney for the winter despite her form possibly warranting a trip north for the Queensland carnival riches.

"The money in Sydney is so good, it's hard to turn down. She's still going through the grades," he said.

"She's still big and green and I just get the impression next preparation she's going to be a better horse.

"She's tough and is going the right way."
 – AAP TURF & racenet.com.au

Test The World (#10) outfinishes Arbeitsam in the Rating 78 sprint for three-year-olds at Rosehill.





HASTINGS IN MIND **FOR BATTLE TIME**

Tim and Margaret Carter's longer-term focus for their versatile performer **Battle Time (NZ)** (Battle Paint) already centres on the Hawke's Bay spring carnival.

The Cambridge husband-and-wife training combination are keen to improve the entire's Group One record but before that they have decisions to make for the four-year-old off the back of his win in yesterday's Edwards Sound Chairman's Trophy at Ellerslie.

"We've had in the back of our minds to put him in the paddock but he's a very good doer and it's hard to keep the weight off him," Margaret Carter said. "He might be better off in the stable."

Group One placed in the Diamond Stakes as a juvenile and in the New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas at three, Battle Time also claimed major honours earlier this season in the Group Two Coupland's Bakeries Mile.

His form subsequently dropped away but a third placing at Te Rapa earlier this month was a strong pointer for Ellerslie.

"He travelled quite well and on his last run I thought he would be hard to beat today with 55 kilos," rider Vinnie Colgan said.

Battle Time stalked the leader before taking control into the straight and he maintained a strong gallop to account for the Peter and Dawn Williams-trained pair of Brilliant Shine (NZ) (Guillotine) and Fire Jet (NZ) (Tavistock).

The topweight Close Up (NZ) (Shinko King), who was bidding for a hat-trick of wins this preparation, was unable to round off his effort and finished a length and a quarter back in fourth spot.

Race	ARC Edwards Sound Chairmans Trophy H. 1400m
Winner	Battle Time (NZ) 2012
Owners	A D Hayward
Trainer	Tim & Margaret Carter (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Battle Paint (USA) out of Lady of Oakview by Diamond Express
Breeder	A D Hayward



Battle Time outtoughs Brilliant Shine in yesterday's testing conditions at Ellerslie.





LOCH NESS BOOSTS QUARTET'S SPIRITS AFTER FRUSTRATING TIME IN BRISBANE

An unfancied debutante yesterday boosted stable spirits when she made the perfect start to her career at Wanganui, **Loch Ness (NZ)** (Keeper) delivering a much-needed victory for local trainers Evan and JJ Rayner and

owners Stephen and Joanne Gudsell in the Wanganui Steelformers Maiden.

The quartet have endured a frustrating time at the Queensland winter carnival and the latest news from Evan Rayner, who arrived home on Friday night, was even worse.

"After Start Wondering's last gallop we had him scoped and he's got a bit of a virus so he's coming home," he said.

Start Wondering (NZ) (Eighth Wonder), whose stablemate Flying Fred (NZ) (Fully Fledged) was well beaten at Ipswich midweek, failed

to handle two heavy tracks when unplaced in both the Group One Doomben 10,000 and the Group One Kingsford-Smith Cup.

However, Loch Ness boosted fortunes with a tidy performance under Johnathan Parkes at the first time of asking to roll home at odds of 16-1.

"There's not much of her," Rayner said, "but she's showed a bit of ability and Johnathan has always said she goes well."

Loch Ness settled midfield on the fence and, once into the clear, the

Race	Wanganui Steelformers Maiden S. 1340m
Winner	Loch Ness (NZ) 2013
Owners	Mrs J M & S B Gudsell
Trainer	Evan & JJ Rayner (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Keeper (Aus) out of Harmony by Zabeel
Breeder	Sir Patrick & Lady Hogan



three-year-old finished too well for So It Was (NZ) (Sir Percy), another first-timer.

"We got a nice run in behind them and didn't spend a penny and the runs came at the right time," Parkes said.

Loch Ness is out of the Zabeel mare Harmony (NZ), who is also the dam of the winner and Listed Wanganui Guineas placegetter Perfect Harmonee (NZ) (Nadeem).

Loch Ness scores a spirit-restoring win in the opening race at Wanganui.





PRINCE HAREEM HONG KONG BOUND

Talented colt **Prince Hareem (NZ)** (Iffraaj) has been purchased by overseas interests, the sale of the three-year-old being confirmed by Cambridge trainer Stephen Marsh, who was also involved in the ownership.

"It's very hard to win the sort of money that was on offer," he said. "He's an extremely talented horse and he's still very much untapped."

A half-brother to the Group Three winner Valpolicella (NZ) (Red Ransom), Prince Hareem finished runner-up in his first two appearances before he won consecutive races at Hawke's Bay and Te Rapa.

"He's been vetted and he's in quarantine for Hong Kong where he'll be trained by John Moore," Marsh said.

The deal was brokered by Greg Zarra, of the Australasian Bloodstock Agency.

A \$70,000 Karaka purchase in 2015, Prince Hareem was raced by Lincoln Farms, Dennis James, Ian Middleton and Marsh.

Meanwhile, Group Three Counties Cup winner Chocante (NZ) (Shocking) is making pleasing progress ahead of his next outing in Queensland.

Third in his Australian debut in the Group Three Chairman's Handicap, the four-year-old was all at sea in the heavy ground when unplaced in the Group Three Premier's



Prince Hareem in winning form at Hastings.

Cup on the much-maligned Eagle Farm course.

"It was 110 per cent down to the track," Marsh said. "He's done well since and he'll run in the Brisbane Cup next Saturday. We're happy with the switch to Doomben; he's already run very well there."

On the home front, racing numbers have been trimmed for the winter.

"We've got a lot of young horses coming in and out but we're not done just yet and we'll have five racing at Avondale next Friday and five at Te Rapa the following day."



STALLIONS 2017

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TRIO REUNITED FOR WEBSTER'S WIN

Champion jockey Manoel Nunes' Friday night win at Kranji aboard **Webster (NZ)** (Showcasing) brought memories of the best horse he rode in Singapore. The three-year-old, having just his second start, is raced by Graham Mackie and Trish Dunell, the owners of former champion four-year-old Spalato (NZ) (Elusive City).

"I'm very pleased I won for Graham and Trish again," said the Brazilian. "We've had a great association with Spalato and I'm glad to be riding this horse. I rode him at his first start and I'm grateful for the chance to ride him again tonight.

"I didn't expect him to be so quick tonight. If they weren't so close to me throughout the race, he would have cleared out for a bigger win."

Just like Spalato and a lot of the horses Mackie and Dunell have brought to Kranji, Webster was bred by Dunell, well known in New Zealand racing circles, both for her passion for breeding and as a racing photographer.

Webster's all-the-way win in the \$575,000 Restricted Maiden over 1200 metres was tinged with sadness.

"His mum Asaweb broke a hip last year. She was in foal and got too heavy. Unfortunately, she didn't survive," said Dunell.

"I liked her because she is a half-sister to a very good horse who raced in Hong Kong, Joyful Winner. She was in foal to a new sire called Niagara but we couldn't save the foal either.

"But we are so happy Webster won tonight. I thought Showcasing was a good mating with Asaweb – the Showcasings are not big and there wasn't much of her and Webster is pretty small as well.

"Dan wasn't too impressed when he first came to his yard, his head was so hairy. But I told him not to worry, he won a trial back home and he'll be right.

"We flew over to watch Gilt Complex run in the QEII Cup on Sunday and it's a good start to the weekend."



Sporting the Mackie all-emerald colours, Manoel Nunes guides Webster to an all-the-way win at Kranji.

Trainer Daniel Meagher was delighted he had been able to get his new partnership with the Mackies off to a winning start.

"I'm so glad for Graham and Trish. It's our first runner together and it's our first winner now," said the Australian. "He's only a small horse and I will space his runs from now on. He was quite immature when he first came to us but I took my time with him.

"As everyone would know, I trial my horses quite often and this one was no different. It was more to build him up mentally. He is what he is – he is very raw, very new."

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Restricted Maiden S. 1200m
Winner	Webster (NZ) 2013
Owners	Graham Christopher Mackie
Trainer	Daniel Meagher (Kranji)
Breeding	by Showcasing (GB) out of Asaweb (Aus) by Secret Savings (USA)
Breeder	Mrs P A Dunell

