

Sunday 21 May 2017

'WELL-ORCHESTRATED' PLAN COMES OFF WITH GOLD CUP LANDED BY LADIES FIRST



Lisa Allpress has Ladies First well clear as the winning post looms in the Rangitikei Gold Cup.

A long-term plan was yesterday executed to perfection at Awapuni where the lightly-trying **Ladies First (NZ)** (Dylan Thomas) made a perfect open class debut in the Listed James Bull Rangitikei Gold Cup.

Allan Sharrock had the race in mind for the mare before she commenced her current campaign and the New Plymouth trainer understandably gained great satisfaction

from her performance.

"That was well-orchestrated, you could say," he said. "It's always nice when a plan comes off – get in on the minimum and get some black type."

Sporting headgear for the first time, Ladies First travelled comfortably three wide with cover under Lisa Allpress and strode to the front 250 metres from home.

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'WELL-ORCHESTRATED' PLAN COMES OFF WITH GOLD CUP LANDED BY LADIES FIRST

(Continued from page 1)

"The blinkers were always going to go on for this Listed race," Sharrock said.

"She's a very tidy mare and the owners want to win the Wanganui Cup. She's strong at the end of a mile so the 2000 metres will hold no fears for her."

A daughter of Rosehill Group Three winner Just Polite (Dehere), Ladies First has now won five of her nine starts, with her stake earnings of just under \$88,000 representing a good return on her Karaka purchase price of \$8000.

Last-start Listed Manawatu Anzac 1550 winner Slimline (NZ) (Castledale) came home well from the tail of the field to take second money and Zorralli (NZ) (Librettist) finished third.

Front-runner Prince Mambo (NZ) (Thewayyouare) held on for fourth ahead of the topweight Nashville (NZ) (Darci Brahma).

Race	Rangitikei Gold Cup L 1550m
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

NEWS IN BRIEF

Waller racks up home-track win #400

Sydney's leading trainer Chris Waller reached a Rosehill milestone of 400 wins when \$3.70 favourite **Dagny (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) snared the last in a dramatic conclusion to yesterday's meeting.

The expat-Kiwi, who recorded his 200th Warwick Farm triumph midweek, achieved the landmark home-track win after earlier scoring with New Universe (NZ) (Darci Brahma) and Winx Hall Of Fame Handicap victor Invinzabeel (I Am Invincible).

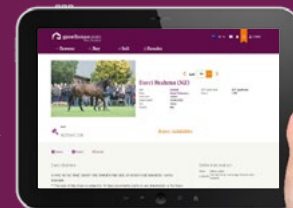
Dagny took the 1400 metre Light Fingers Hall Of Fame Handicap by 1½ lengths from Labdien (Stryker) with Wahng Wah (Casino Prince) a long neck back in third.

"I wouldn't know where she's going but she's obviously massively progressive," Waller's racing manager Charlie Duckworth said of Dagny's future plans.

"Hopefully we can get some winning black type for her."

- AAP TURF

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ALOISIA IMPRESSES IN AUSSIE DEBUT

Former New Zealand filly **Aloisia (NZ)** (Azamour) has made an impressive start to her Australian career with victory at Flemington.

Now in the care of Caulfield trainer Ciaron Maher, Aloisia yesterday took out the Sainthly Hall of Fame Trophy over 1400 metres and may head to Brisbane in search of black type.

Ridden by expat-Kiwi Michael Dee, Aloisia drifted in the betting from \$9 to \$16 before scoring a three-quarter length win from \$19 shot Salsamor (NZ) (Tavistock), with \$26 outsider Grunt (NZ) (O'Reilly) completing a long-priced Kiwi-bred trifecta a neck away.

OTI Racing's manager Terry Henderson said the daughter of Group Three placed Queen Boudicca (NZ) (Perfectly Ready) was purchased in New Zealand as a potential spring three-year-old with an emphasis on the VRC Oaks.

Aloisia had raced twice in her homeland earlier this year with her best effort a second at Wellington on Oaks day and had won a trial at Cranbourne earlier this month. But Henderson was expecting the filly may need more ground.

"We don't find many two-year-olds over there, we usually wait a little longer, but we were keeping an eye on her and she came along," Henderson said.

"When she trialled so well all the loyal guys took a piece so it's great for her to win for our existing clients."

Henderson said Aloisia may now head to Queensland for the Group One J J Atkins at Eagle Farm next month.



Aloisia runs out a strong 1400 metres to beat the juveniles at Flemington in her Australian debut.

Dee suggested there was plenty of upside in the filly and was impressed with the victory.

"She's still got a lot of growing to do and will get further in the future," he said. "The way she took a gap, the way she sprinted and put them away, it was impressive."

– AAP TURF

Race	VRC Sainthly Hall of Fame 2YO Trophy 1400m
Winner	Aloisia (NZ) 2014
Owners	OTI Racing, S M Layton, Mrs S L Layton, J P Spence, Mrs J T Spence, L Webb, Ms D McKeown, Ms M Webb, D Miller, Mrs D Miller, J A Boyd, Mrs E Dodd, R Koch, Jjagg, Carte Blanche Racing, Two State Synd, 2W Syndications, Three Hand Racing, Hair Ruffle Capital P/L and Uthmeyer Racing
Trainer	Ciaron Maher (Caulfield)
Breeding	by Azamour (Ire) out of Queen Boudicca by Perfectly Ready (Aus)
Breeder	M Hall and J A & Mrs K A Price





BIG SPRING PLANS FOR NEW UNIVERSE

Less convincing but more impressive was the report given by jockey Tommy Berry after the Chris Waller-trained **New Universe (NZ)** (Darci Brahma), starting at odds-on, took out the Saintly Hall Of Fame Handicap at Rosehill yesterday, winning by a long neck from longshot Vienna Romance (Duporth) with a nose back to second favourite Memes (Time Thief), making it two wins from two Australian starts.

Berry had been aboard the New Zealand import for his first Australian start over 1200 metres on a good track on the same course a fortnight ago and again had the ride when the lightly raced three-year-old was dropping back to 1100 metres and meeting a soft track for the first time.

"This was a bigger win than last start," the leading jockey said.

"He had to handle a track that he wasn't really suited by, he was off the bit chasing most of the way and didn't feel comfortable. For him to rattle off the way that he did and to win with authority, it was a very good win."

Although pleased by the latest win, Berry's opinion was that New Universe felt like a better horse last start.

"He gave me a lot better feel last start, the feel of a very good horse. Today he didn't give me that sort of feel because I don't believe he was comfortable but I think it was a better effort because things were against him today," he said.

New Universe settled well back in the field before letting down with a long, sustained run down the outside to pick up the leader in the shadows of the post for a comprehensive victory.

The ex-Kiwi is nominated for

next month's Group One Stradbroke Handicap although he is unlikely to head north for the 1400 metre feature, according to stable representative Charlie Duckworth.

"Obviously, the Stradbroke is a massive step up from today and we'll just sort of take it day by day and work out where we can get to," Duckworth said.

"He's got plenty of ability and, obviously, he'll go on from here onto bigger and better things. He's far better than a winter Saturday horse.

"We might pull stumps and find a spring target, which I feel will be more likely because there is a lot more prize money to be won before stepping up into Group One company," Duckworth added, noting the inaugural \$A10 million Everest over 1200 metres at Randwick on October 14.

"With The Everest and races like that we want to encourage our horses to be sprinters."

- racenet.com.au & AAP TURF



Race	ATC Saintly Hall of Fame H. 1100m
Winner	New Universe (NZ) 2013
Owners	C C Lai
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of Shalaka (Aus) by Lonhro (Aus)
Breeder	The Sunlight Trust
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: J K Farm, P: C J Wood; \$40,000

New Universe, carrying clear topweight in Rosehill's three-year-old sprint, sweeps past Vienna Romance and Memes to keep his Australian winning record intact.





BJORN'S BONNY BRISBANE BOUND



Bonny O'Reilly (#12) passes the post a comprehensive winner of the Rating 85 sprint at Rosehill.

The Bjorn Baker-trained **Bonny O'Reilly (NZ)** (O'Reilly) yesterday signalled her readiness for stakes company and earned a trip to Queensland with a dominant win at Rosehill, the mare racking up her fourth successive win and sixth from eight starts to set up a tilt at a Listed sprint at Eagle Farm in two weeks.

If she can win that, the four-year-old should gain a start in the Group One Tatt's Tiara in Brisbane.

With Baker at home on parenting duties, stable representative Maddie Berkeley said Bonny O'Reilly remained untapped.

"She still has more to give and she will go to Brisbane," Berkeley said.

"There's a Listed race in two weeks for her. She needs to get her rating up to be able to get into the Group races."

Jason Collett had the \$3.20 favourite in a good position tracking the leaders in the Benchmark 85 1200 metre event and let her go in the straight.

She powered home to beat \$9.50 third favourite Wild 'N' Famous (NZ) (Fast 'N' Famous) by half a length with longshot Dream Lane (Al Maher) another length way in third.

On a day honouring the Australian Racing Hall of Fame, the race was named for the late T J Smith.

Smith's daughter Gai Waterhouse, also a Hall of Fame inductee, earlier won a 2000 metre race honouring the late Bart Cummings when **Broadside (NZ)** (Raise The Flag) proved

too powerful for his Rating 85 rivals.

Waterhouse's training partner Adrian Bott said the former New Zealand stayer could back up in next week's Listed McKell Cup over 2400 metres.

– AAP TURF

Race	ATC TJ Smith Hall of Fame H. 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

Race	ATC JB Cummings Hall of Fame H. 2000m
Winner	Broadside (NZ) 2011
Owners	A Konstantatos, Mrs S Lilley, D W Lilley, J J Gallin, Ms B Nixon, I W Patrick, Mrs C M Patrick, D Healey, S C Rose, Ms J Singleton, Mrs S A Hardie, B Cross, M Sinclair, C J Bell, Mrs A Konstantatos and Mrs S E Healey
Trainer	Gai Waterhouse & Adrian Bott (Randwick)
Breeding	by Raise the Flag (GB) out of Anam Cara by Straight Strike (USA)
Breeder	J H Perkins



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BIG OPAL SHINES IN WAIKATO STEEPLES

Jumping gem **The Big Opal (NZ)** (Storm Creek) yesterday completed a top day at Te Rapa for rider Shaun Fannin when he turned in a sparkling display to win the Waikato Steeplechase.

The Kevin Myers-trained eight-year-old showed he is going to be a force to be reckoned with in upcoming winter features when leading all the way to reign supreme in the PJR Warren Storm Lifebrokers-sponsored event.

It was the second success on the card for defending jumps jockeys' premiership champion Fannin after he had guided Myers' Highly Likely (NZ) (High Chaparral) to his maiden jumping win in the Neil Treweek Steeplechase.

The Big Opal has now triumphed in five of his seven starts over the big fences and showed his quality last term with a runaway victory in the Koral Steeplechase at Riccarton before he was the beaten favourite in the Grand National Steeplechase.

"Things went wrong there when the saddle slipped," Fannin said. "He can go on with it now though – he's top class."

The Big Opal had his rivals stretched out after a circuit yesterday before Joking (NZ) (Lucky Unicorn), who subsequently fell at the last fence, closed the gap 800 metres from home.

"He's the sort of horse that you don't realise how far in front you are," Fannin said.

"I had a look over my shoulder down the back and they were a long way away. When he heard that other horse



Shaun Fannin and The Big Opal are first over the last obstacle in the Waikato Steeplechase as Joking rises to the fence. Unfortunately for the horse and rider Caroline Kennedy, their challenge didn't survive the landing.

coming he got his second wind and he was strong to the line. He's done a tremendous job."

The Big Opal had three and a half lengths on Mr Mor (NZ) (Corrupt) at the line with Fair Script (NZ) (Fast 'N' Famous) third and the winner's stablemate and 2014 winner Palemo (NZ) (Don Eduardo) a distant fourth.

Race	Waikato Steeplechase 4000m
Winner	The Big Opal (NZ) 2008
Owners	A J & Mrs D I Dravitzki
Trainer	Kevin Myers (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Storm Creek (USA) out of Opal Desire by The Commander
Breeder	A J, B G & Mrs S M Dravitzki

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THE NAMESBOND'S RIVALS ARE SHAKEN, STIRRED AND OUTSTAYED IN HURDLES

A Te Rapa game plan for **Thenamesbond (NZ)** (China Cat) was yesterday executed to perfection by jockey Will Gordon for the pair to earn major honours in the Waikato Hurdles.

The hardy jumper was urged to put the pressure on his rivals a long way from home in the PJR Porritt Sand-sponsored feature by the gelding's rider and that proved the winning of the race.

"I wanted to get the others off the bit a long way out and turn it into a real staying test," part-owner and trainer Stephen Ralph said, explaining the tactics.

"Will managed that perfectly, full credit to him. When he started riding pretty hard down the back I thought

good on you, the horse can stay."

Although Thenamesbond was headed three flights from home, his reserves of stamina came into play and he came back strongly to defeat the longshot Yardarm (NZ) (King's Chapel) and Ooee (NZ) (Ruff Nipper).

"He's a really tough horse and very much a one-pacer so the plan was to put the pressure on the others early," Gordon said.

"He's quick and economical over the jumps and he fought back really well."

Twice successful on the flat, Thenamesbond has now won seven times over hurdles and last winter was successful in his debut over the big fences at Te Aroha.

"He's only eight and he's probably

got three, if not four, years left for steeplechasing so there's plenty of time and we don't want him to get too high up in the weights just yet," Ralph said.

The disappointment of yesterday's race was the 2013 winner Sea King (NZ) (Shinko King), who drifted to last 700 metres from home and didn't jump the final fence.

Race	Waikato Hurdle 3200m
Winner	Thenamesbond (NZ) 2008
Owners	S B Ralph and M U Sutton
Trainer	Stephen Ralph (Te Awamutu)
Breeding	by China Cat (USA) out of Melbourne Storm by El Moxie (USA)
Breeder	Fernhill Stud Ltd



After making all running then being clearly headed on the home turn, Thenamesbond (striped sleeves) rallies for rider Will Gordon to wrest the lead off Ooee at the last fence of the Waikato Hurdles. The other challenger, Yardarm, is wide on the track and out of picture as Just Got Home battles into fourth.





TOUGH MISS TOPS STRADBROKE HOPE

A courageous **Galaxy Miss (NZ)** (Tavistock) yesterday denied a perfect send off at Te Rapa for an Australian Group One hope, the mare making the most of her weight relief in the Norris Ward McKinnon Handicap to get the better of the topweight Seventh Up (NZ) (Shinko

King), who remains in the mix for the \$A1.5 million Stradbroke Handicap at Eagle Farm on June 10.

“He’s jumped up in the weights and in these conditions it negates his turn of foot,” said Seventh Up’s co-breeder, partowner and trainer Shelley Hale.

“There’s a plane next Friday and if I’m happy with him he’ll be on it.”

A last-start winner of the Group Two Easter Stakes, Seventh Up settled back and came home strongly but was unable to run down Galaxy Miss, who was in receipt of six kilos.

The five-year-old was making her open class debut after winning for the fifth time at her previous appearance

on the course in Rating 85 company.

Ridden yesterday by Danielle Johnson, Galaxy Miss raced in second spot and one off the fence before making her winning claim soon after straightening.

“She was great and she loves a fight,” trainer Danica Guy said. “I might ease up on her now; there are good things in store.

“I’ll have a look around but my preference is to look after her and give her a little break. I don’t want her ploughing around on heavy tracks.”

Johnson said Galaxy Miss coped with the Slow 7 going to earn bragging rights over Seventh Up.

Race	Waikato RC Norris Ward McKinnon H. 1400m
Winner	Galaxy Miss (NZ) 2011
Owners	Eleven Over One Syndicate
Trainer	Danica Guy (Matamata)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Kiss in Vain (Aus) by Vain (Aus)
Breeder	Miss K Fawcett and E S Wright



“It was a tough effort. I thought at the top of the straight that there wasn’t much petrol in the tank but she fought hard when the favourite came at her. She got through the conditions well.”

Galaxy Miss and Danielle Johnson hold a slender margin over Seventh Up in the open sprint at Te Rapa.





SAM'S BEST RIDE **TOO QUICK FOR 3YOS**

Sam Spratt's pre-race confidence in the progressive filly **Blue Shadow (NZ)** (Dalghar) at Te Rapa wasn't misplaced.

The Pukekohe-based jockey fancied her chances of toppling a competitive field of three-year-olds in yesterday's Distinction Hamilton Hotel 1200 and so it proved.

Blue Shadow jumped smartly from an inside gate to make the running and Spratt didn't have to get overly busy aboard the grey daughter of seven-race winner Blue Veil (NZ) (Justice Prevails) in the run home to post a comfortable victory.

"I watched her last win and thought she would be one of my best rides for the day," Spratt said.

She hadn't planned to set the pace with Blue Shadow but the filly determined that plan of attack from barrier rise.

"I was going to take a sit but she jumped well and put herself there so I just let her roll along," Spratt said.

Blue Shadow beat off the challenge of Babe (NZ) (O'Reilly) into the straight and was never threatened thereafter, coasting to an impressive length and a quarter victory.

"She cruised along in front and I was quite confident a fair way out," Spratt said. "She's a really nice filly and that was a pretty good field."

Trained at Cambridge by Graeme Hughes for siblings Colin and Des Bishop and Astrid Morgan, Blue Shadow had broken her maiden status at her previous appearance at Matamata after a debut fifth at Rotorua.

Her Te Rapa success came at the expense of Command Royale (Court

Command), who ran on well in the straight with Huayra (Nicconi) a game third. Tellyawhat (NZ) (Dalghar) did well to take fourth as his rider Alfred Chan crossed the line with only one iron.

Race	Waikato RC Distinction Hamilton Hotel H. 1200m
Winner	Blue Shadow (NZ) 2013
Owners	C M & D J Bishop and A M Morgan
Trainer	Graeme Hughes (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Dalghar (Fr) out of Blue Veil by Justice Prevails (Aus)
Breeder	D W Mace
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Festival Session; V: Seaton Park Ltd, P: C M Bishop; \$18,000



Blue Shadow proves Sam Spratt's assessment spot on with an easy win in the opening event at Te Rapa.

