

Sunday 20 November 2016

CHOCANTE COMES INTO CONTENTION FOR STAYING RICHES WITH COUNTIES CUP WIN



In an impressive show of stamina, Chocante strides clear for Craig Grylls to take the Counties Cup. Behind him, El Pistola battles on well as she furthers her preparation for the upcoming two-milers.

The connections of the rising staying star **Chocante (NZ)** (Shocking) might have an impressive haul of silverware come the end of the four-year-old's current campaign.

The gelding successfully jumped from Rating 75 to the open ranks at Pukekohe yesterday with a steely performance to land the Group Three Ssangyong Counties Cup.

"He's a very progressive horse with a very bright future," trainer Stephen Marsh said.

"He's nominated for the City of Auckland Cup and the Auckland Cup in March. He's another winner for Shocking,

they're really coming into their own now."

Raced by Mark Freeman and David Price, Chocante had won consecutive lower-grade races at Matamata and Te Rapa before he was narrowly beaten at Trentham.

"We went there hoping to win to confirm his place here, but he got in anyway," Marsh said. "We're super proud of the horse, he really dug deeply."

Chocante drew a wide gate and rider Craig Grylls was forced to sit three deep near the pace.

Continued on page 3



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CHOCANTE COMES INTO CONTENTION FOR STAYING RICHES WITH COUNTIES CUP WIN

(Continued from page 1)

"I said to Craig to be positive and to go forward and hopefully get one off the fence," Marsh said. "It wasn't Craig's fault that he got caught three wide and they have done a great job."

A tenacious Chocante answered every call in the straight from Grylls to outstay his opposition and score a brave length and a quarter victory.

El Pistola (NZ) (El Hermano), who got to the front 300 metres from home, took second money ahead of Jiayuguan (Teofilo), whose stablemate and favourite Chenille (NZ) (Pentire) ran fifth with Megablast (NZ) (Shinko King) splitting the Tony Pike-trained pair.

"She's nominated for the City of Auckland Cup, the Wellington Cup and the Auckland Cup," El Pistola's trainer Nathan Hanley said. "She's a dead-set two miler."

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Race | Counties Cup Gr.3 2100m |
| Winner | Chocante (NZ) 2012 |
| Owners | M W Freeman and D G Price |
| Trainer | Stephen Marsh (Cambridge) |
| Breeding | by Shocking (Aus) out of Strictly Maternal by O'Reilly |
| Breeder | M W Freeman and D G Price |

NEWS IN BRIEF

NZTBA international scholarships awarded

The New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association have announced the 2017 recipients of their annual international scholarships. At twenty-one years of age, Lance Forbes is one of the youngest recipients of the Sunline International Management Scholarship while Waikato Stud's Cameron Ring is the 2017 Irish National Stud recipient.

Currently the yearling manager of Cambridge Stud, Forbes has previously worked for Ascot Farm and Arrowfield Stud in New South Wales. He is the son of former trainer Graeme Forbes and Sheryl (nee Tims) and brother of former jockey Alex and Kiltannon stable's Mark.

Ring inherited his interest in thoroughbreds from his grandfather Bill, a former president of the Matamata Racing Club, while his great-grandfather Calvin was a stalwart of the industry.

Ring has previously worked at Hinuera Lodge and holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a major in rural valuation from Lincoln University, which he attended on a Future Leader's scholarship.



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BIG WIN AS MOIRA 'HAS A GO' WITH LASARLA

Moira Murdoch's judgement proved on the money at Pukekohe where her unfancied mare **Lasarla (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) yesterday caused a Group Two boilover.

Her faith in the daughter of Italian mare Imco Main was vindicated when the four-year-old belied her lowly 64 rating to return a win dividend of \$60 – with \$101 offered on fixed odds – when successful in the NRM Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes.

"She's always showed a lot of ability and, while she had won only one race, sometimes you just have to have a go," said Murdoch, who was joined in a training partnership at the start of this season by her daughter Kieran.

"She's been a beautiful horse from day one, she's never put a foot wrong and she's just a lovely animal."

The winner of one of her previous five starts, Lasarla was given a cosy run in the trail by rider Cameron Lammas and rounded off strongly in the run home.

"She got a beautiful run and when she popped out at the top of the straight she got all the clear space she needed to kick on," Murdoch said.

Lammas had been aboard Lasarla when she finished runner-up at the September Avondale trials behind the multiple Group One winner Turn Me Loose (NZ) (Iffraaj) ahead of her resuming second at Te Rapa last month.

"It's great to get these big races and I knew that Moira has always rated this horse," he said.

"From the good draw we jumped out and got behind the leader and she had a good kick. She's still got a bit to learn so she will improve with the run as well."

Pacemaker Somethingvain (NZ) (Falkirk) was clear 300 metres from home but had no answer to Lasarla's finishing run while Slice Of Class (NZ) (Guillotine), who is in foal to Makfi, earned a valuable Group Two credit with her effort for third.

The favourite and previously unbeaten Francaletta (High Chaparral) raced on the pace but had nothing to offer in the straight and dropped out to finish tenth.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Race | Counties RC Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders Gr.2 1400m |
| Winner | Lasarla (NZ) 2012 |
| Owners | Emblem Ltd |
| Trainer | Moira & Kieran Murdoch (Pukekohe) |
| Breeding | by Rip Van Winkle (Ire) out of Imco Main (Ity) by Danehill (USA) |
| Breeder | Emblem Ltd |



In a finish the two outsiders had to themselves, Lasarla runs past Somethingvain to win the Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes at yesterday's Pukekohe meeting.





SHEZHARDTOCATCH **CATCHES FAVOURITES**

In foal to Showcasing, **Shezhardtocatch (NZ)** (Elusive City) has limited racing opportunities ahead of her but yesterday at Pukekohe showed that she's in the right order to take advantage of them when she returned from a brief break to down a smart field of sprinters in the Listed Haunui Farm Counties Bowl.

"We had a go at the Foxbridge Plate and after she ran sixth we freshened her and got her in foal," said Allan Peard, who prepares the six-year-old with Bruce Wallace at Byerley Park.

Shezhardtocatch came back to finish fourth at Ruakaka in September and a trial outing at Ellerslie topped off her preparation.

"She's a tough mare and she trialled really well so we were quietly confident that she was going to run well," Peard said.

Shezhardtocatch settled off the pace before she unwound powerfully in the hands of veteran jockey Grant Cooksley to get in the deciding stride on the post.

"That's Cookie for you; he never panics," Peard said. "She's certainly up to the best sprinters on her day and she'll definitely go to the Concorde and maybe the Newmarket before the Railway."

Shezhardtocatch won the Group Three Concorde Handicap as a three-year-old before she also added the Group Three Cambridge Breeders' Stakes to her record.

Promising mare Snowdrop (NZ) (Pins) gave an excellent account of herself in her open class debut to go under by only a short head with a nose back to topweight Perfect Fit (NZ) (Elusive City), who gave the winner and runner-up five and six kilos respectively.

In a desperate finish, there was only a head back to Fire Jet (NZ) (Tavistock) with Red Striker (NZ) (Red Giant) a close-up fifth.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Race | Counties Bowl H. L 1100m |
| Winner | Shezhardtocatch (NZ) 2010 |
| Owners | Able International Ltd |
| Trainer | Bruce Wallace & Allan Peard (Byerley Park) |
| Breeding | by Elusive City (USA) out of Party Queen by Gold Brose (Aus) |
| Breeder | Able International Ltd |



After the two favourites Snowdrop (centre) and Perfect Fit (red cap) had edged away inside the final furlong, Shezhardtocatch continued Pukekohe's day of upsets by arriving late to snatch victory on the line.





MARK USES TALARIA'S BLISTERING SPEED TO BURN OFF RIVALS IN WINNING DEBUT

The very best will be seen of the precocious filly **Talaria (NZ)** (O'Reilly) when she steps out on top of the ground, according to her biggest fan.

The daughter of the late O'Reilly is highly regarded by Mark Du Plessis, who piloted her to a narrow debut victory in yesterday's Listed Murdoch Newell Stakes at Pukekohe Park.

"I probably rode her a bit too confidently," he said. "I thought she would win easier than she did but she will be a lot better on a better track."

The winner of both of her lead-up trials under Du Plessis, Talaria flew the gates to lead and sprinted clear 300 metres from home. She was feeling the pinch in the closing fifty metres but had enough in reserve to get home by a head.

"She's got very good natural speed and we got to the fence easily enough," Du Plessis said.

"She's a really nice filly who's done everything that's been asked of her. I'm very excited about her, she's still improving and there's more to come."

The two-year-old is owned by Sarah Green and Ger Beemsterboer, who also raced the Group One New Zealand One Thousand Guineas winner Planet Rock (Fastnet Rock) from Peter and Dawn Williams' stable.

The husband and wife team have since been joined in a training partnership by Paul Richards and the



Talaria (tangerine colours) completes her demonstration of equine low flying by holding out the fast-finishing Oscar Eight in yesterday's juvenile feature at Pukekohe.

trio have Talaria on a path toward the Karaka Million.

"I thought she had gone out a bit too fast but Mark knows her well," Dawn Williams said. "She's got blistering speed and she managed to hold on. It's not easy when they're having their first start."

Runner-up Oscar Eight (NZ) (Showcasing) made ground strongly after missing the jump with Nothin' On Me (NZ) (Not a Single Doubt) three and a half lengths back in third.

"It was a really good run, we had no choice but to go back from the wide draw," Oscar Eight's trainer Nigel Tiley said. "That should be enough to get

him in the Karaka Million so a bit of pressure is off."

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | Counties RC Murdoch Newell S. L 1100m |
| Winner | Talaria (NZ) 2014 |
| Owners | Barneswood Farm Ltd for S C Green and G C Beemsterboer |
| Trainer | Peter & Dawn Williams & Paul Richards (Byerley Park) |
| Breeding | by O'Reilly out of Alberton Princess by Golan (Ire) |
| Breeder | Mrs R Kerr-Taylor and Mrs A K Storey |
| Sales | 2016 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Mapperley Stud Ltd, P: G C Beemsterboer; \$100,000 |





OP GETS PRINCEFAMOUS **BACK ON TRACK**

Once Kerrin McEvoy found the front aboard **Princefamous (NZ)** (Fast 'N' Famous) at Rosehill yesterday it became a game of follow the leader as the Melbourne Cup-winning jockey's front-running expertise once again came to the fore.

McEvoy had barrier seven in the eight-horse field but crossed effortlessly, finding the rails after 300 metres in the 1100 metre Benchmark 93 Handicap. Despite a speed map which predicted pace, topweight and expected leader Kuro (NZ) (Denman) was restrained in second place while the speedy type Painte (Strada) went back and the pacy Echo Gal (Stratum) was content to sit midfield.

Turning for home, McEvoy slipped Princefamous some rein and the Peter

and Paul Snowden-trained five-year-old, belying his \$5.50 to \$10 betting drift, scooted clear to win by 1½ lengths from a hard-trying Kuro with Press Report (Written Tycoon) holding down third a further short half head away.

"He had a good time in front," McEvoy said. "He relaxed well and had too strong a sprint for them."

Princefamous won four of his first five career starts but a subsequent loss of form resulted in five unplaced efforts before a spell and an operation.

"We did find a problem with him," Paul Snowden said. "So he's had the tieback operation."

"We're seeing the benefits of that now. He's in at the right time of year, he can punch on and butter-up

through these summer periods.

"There are plenty of sprint races. Every fortnight there is one here for him."

– racenet.com.au

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | ATC ABA Automatic Entrance Specialists H. 1100m |
| Winner | Princefamous (NZ) 2011 |
| Owners | The Yellowbrick Road Co Pty Ltd (Mgr: R J Visalli) and J L Pastoral Co Pty Ltd (Mgr: Mrs M Logozzo) |
| Trainer | Peter & Paul Snowden (Randwick) |
| Breeding | by Fast 'N' Famous (Aus) out of Vesuvia by O'Reilly |
| Breeder | Waikato Stud 2001 Ltd |
| Sales | 2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: John O'Shea Bloodstock; \$75,000 |



With dust kicking up on the firm track, a fresh-up Princefamous finishes well clear of his rivals in the Benchmark 93 sprint at yesterday's Rosehill meeting.





INFANTRY STORMS BACK **AFTER DEFEAT**



Infantry shows his class with an easy win fresh-up over 1400 metres at Kranji on Friday night.

The ghosts of a crushing Korean defeat for **Infantry (NZ)** (Tavistock) have been well and truly vanquished after the Alwin Tan-trained galloper made a sensational winning comeback at Kranji on Friday night.

In Seoul's Group One Keeneland Korea Cup, over 1800 metres in September, the four-year-old was a far cry from the impressive younger horse who had swept to four wins from twelve starts in Singapore, backpedalling in the deep sand track to finish among the also-rans.

Fears that Infantry may not come back the same horse after such a dismal run were legitimate but quickly allayed, a rapid form turnaround at his return to Kranji prompting Tan to produce the gelding for Friday's \$5100,000 Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy, an Open Benchmark 83 race over 1400 metres.

Taking full advantage of his inside draw, Infantry travelled

buried away along the rails in midfield, enjoying a ground-saving run to the point of turn where jockey Manoel Nunes was clearly sweating on any gap to appear. Looking likely to return to scale as a certainty beaten, the topweight was offered a ray of hope as Murrayfield (NZ) (Pins) slowly drifted off the rails.

Infantry's sizzling acceleration immediately came to the fore as he flashed along the rails towards a 1¼-length win from Big Brother (Orpen) with Murrayfield third, the same margin away.

"He's a real quality horse and that's why we sent him to Korea," said Tan. "He didn't win, and that's because he didn't handle the track, but I was very surprised with the way his form quickly turned around, especially as he was away for more than two months.

Continued on page 9





INFANTRY STORMS BACK **AFTER DEFEAT**

(Continued from page 8)

“There was a question mark how fit he would be first-up and I did tell the owners not to expect the win but he should still run a good race. I’ll see how he pulls up, but I would say he should be going for the Colonial Chief Stakes next.”

It’s odds-on that Nunes would be back for that last mission for the year.

“Alwin took some time to bring him back after Korea. He gave him two trials, the first one an easy one and he went much better at the second,” the Brazilian said. “He’s a big horse and I thought he would need the run tonight especially with the 58½kgs but he’s such a classy horse.

“His run in Korea was not who he was. He’s a horse who

will be even better over 1800 to 2000 metres and the Colonial Chief in two weeks’ time will be ideal for him.”

– Singapore Turf Club

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Race | Singapore TC Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy 1400m |
| Winner | Infantry (NZ) 2012 |
| Owners | Kajorn Petch Racing No 2 Stable |
| Trainer | Alwin Tan (Kranji) |
| Breeding | by Tavistock out of The Nightingale by Stravinsky (USA) |
| Breeder | Sir Patrick & Lady Hogan |
| Sales | 2013 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Cambridge Stud, P: A Rutten; \$7000 |



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BAREND AND GLORIOUS COMBINE AGAIN

Jockey Barend Vorster and **Glorious Prospect (NZ)** (Alamosa) proved they get on like a house on fire when they combined for back-to-back wins at Kranji on Friday night.

The South African rode the five-year-old to an all-the-way win at gigantic odds in a Kranji Stakes D race over 1600 metres a month ago, before a daring raid at Group level in the El Dorado Classic resulted in a distant ninth under Saifudin Ismail.

Trainer Laurie Laxon then dropped the horse back to more modest Class 4 fare for his next run and this time rebooked Vorster for the job.

Bustling up Glorious Prospect from the outside gate to come across for the lead after 200 metres, Vorster seemed to be tapping into his prior knowledge

of the gelding, who again went out at extreme odds, as he summed up the remainder of the race to perfection, even if few racegoers expected the roughie to be able to burn the candle at both ends.

Jockey Danny Beasley must have thought the race was in his keeping when Lim's Elusive (NZ) (Elusive City) pulled into a striking position at the 300 metre mark but Vorster got pumping away in his characteristic piston-like style, which evidently does the trick on the dour galloper.

Glorious Prospect held his ground stoutly to score by three-quarters of a length from Lim's Elusive with Higher Soul (Higher Game) third, another half length away.

"He's a one-pacer. When I first rode

him, I realised he needs some stirring up," said Vorster. "At the second ride, I gave him a wake-up and he responded very well to go all the way.

"Tonight, he took a few strides to get going but he was comfortable and he held off the other horse very well."

Assistant trainer Shane Ellis said he was not really surprised the Macau-owned galloper had saluted for the second time in almost carbon-copy style.

"He had no weight on his back and he does best when he leads," said the Australian. "Tonight's race was a drop in class and I gave him a bit of a chance. He's a one-batter and Barend rode him very well again."

– Singapore Turf Club



| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | Singapore TC Happy Valley S. 1800m |
| Winner | Glorious Prospect (NZ) 2011 |
| Owners | Lai Chan Cheong |
| Trainer | Laurie Laxon (Kranji) |
| Breeding | by Alamosa out of Akris by Zabeel |
| Breeder | Nearco Stud Limited and W J Bloodstock Ltd |
| Sales | 2013 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Wellfield Lodge, P: New Zealand Bloodstock as agent; \$210,000 |

Glorious Prospect completes his end-to-end win.





ACE KING REWARDS **TRAINER'S PATIENCE**

Ace King (NZ) (Swiss Ace) rewarded trainer Theo Kieser's patience with a gutsy winning debut at Kranji on Friday night.

It's been well documented that the three-year-old was gearing up as one of the eye-catchers at this year's Singapore two-year-old series when an untimely tendon injury sent him back to the paddock.

It was not serious but his South African handler decided to abort his two-year-old campaign and bring him back once fully recovered.

Connections were obviously downcast the much-hyped juvenile campaign had been derailed but it was a healable injury and Ace King did pull through. Again, Kieser did not rush him when he was fit enough to



Ace King holds on for a winning debut.

have a saddle on, just putting him through a couple of easy barrier trials before finally giving him his debut run in the \$575,000 Lantau Island Stakes, a Restricted Maiden race over 1200 metres.

Ridden by Antonio da Silva, who has been looking after him at this new prep, Ace King began well to camp outside race leader Perfect Commando (NZ) (Ego), looking relaxed and full of running as the field swung for home.

The moment da Silva pushed the button, Ace King responded with a nice burst but swayed a little before regrouping for another kick. Favourite Sir Isaac (Dream Ahead) was rattling home on the outside but Ace King fought back gamely to score by three-quarters of a length.

"He hurt this tendon at his first prep and we gave him time off," said Kieser. "When he came back, I gave him some trials to just do enough to get ready. Hopefully, he will improve from tonight's run."

Da Silva was delighted he was able to steer Ace King to a

debut win.

"I work him every day and he's improved a lot," he said. "Tonight, he jumped well and got into a nice position early. He has a lot of speed.

"He gave a nice kick in the straight but he then changed legs. Once I got him on the right leg, he kicked on very well."

– Singapore Turf Club

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | Singapore TC Lantau Island S. 1200m |
| Winner | Ace King (NZ) 2013 |
| Owners | Titanium Racing Stable |
| Trainer | Theo Kieser (Kranji) |
| Breeding | by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Atomic Dancer (Aus) by Danehill Dancer (Ire) |
| Breeder | C Stewart |
| Sales | 2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: New Zealand Bloodstock as agent; \$25,000 |



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JOAO PUTS SMILE ON STEPHEN'S FACE

Kranji's favourite jockey Joao Moreira never fails to enthrall his old home crowd whenever he returns for a quick jaunt and Friday night was no different when he got on his third ride of a full book, **Louey Veloce (NZ)** (No Excuse Needed).

Missing on an odds-on favourite in the first then a five to one shot in race two, the Magic show was back on the road in the \$560,000 Victoria Peak Stakes, a Class 4 Division 2 race over 1000 metres, where Louey Veloce looked the goods to become his 737th Kranji winner after mustering speed from an inside barrier to take the lead, before handing up to Lim's Sincere (Snippetson).

Moreira allowed Salim Yusoff on Lim's Sincere to take the ascendancy before he went full bore on straightening, giving his opponent a whiff of an upset for a second. But not many unseat Moreira when he is in a winning position, as Salim now knows first-hand.

A two-time winner from four starts in New Zealand, Louey Veloce hit the line with 1¼ lengths to spare from Lim's Sincere for his maiden Singapore success.

"To ride a winner back in Singapore is always a great feeling; brings back a rush of memories," said Moreira. "Steve told me to ride him a little quiet but he wanted to go to the lead early. I had to let him go forward.

"Once I put some pressure to him, he gave me everything."

Gray was grinning from ear to ear at the winner's circle, obviously rapt with the first win of a recent stable transfer and for the Moreira feelgood factor as well.

"We're honoured to have Joao here. The owners all wanted to get a picture with him at the parade ring," said the Kiwi handler. "This is what we race for. It's about people and owners all being happy to share these moments.

"This horse improved by two

lengths under Joao. He was meant to go to Malaysia but Mike Kneebone, who looks after him, told me to have a look at him. He raced well at his first few races for us, but Joao is of a different class."

– Singapore Turf Club

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | Singapore TC Victoria Peak S. 1000m |
| Winner | Louey Veloce (NZ) 2010 |
| Owners | Graceland Stable |
| Trainer | Stephen Gray (Kranji) |
| Breeding | by No Excuse Needed (GB) out of Kathy O'Reilly by O'Reilly |
| Breeder | G J Chittick |
| Sales | 2011 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Mr N Tiley; \$500 |



A common sight in Hong Kong, Australian and Singapore racing ... Joao Moreira landing a winner, this time on Kiwi trier Louey Veloce.

