

Sunday 26 November 2017

SENSIBLE PRINCESS TOO SMART FOR MORE EXPERIENCED STAKES RIVALS



In a stirring finish to yesterday's Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes, Chris Johnson brings Sensible Princess with a late rush to catch Francaletta in the shadows of the post.

Central districts visitor **Sensible Princess (NZ)** (Street Sense) sprang an upset yesterday when she downed a quality line-up of fillies and mares in the Group Two NRM Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes at Pukekohe.

Despite boasting an impeccable formline of four wins from her last five starts, the daughter of capable racemare Cape Princess (NZ) (Cape Cross) was making her first attempt at the elite level, a challenge that she took comfortably.

Handled perfectly by leading rider Chris Johnson, Sensible Princess tracked nicely into the 1400 metre race to issue her challenge early in the home straight. Leading fancy Francaletta (High Chaparral) had assumed control at this point and looked set for victory until, in his usual imperturbable fashion, Johnson urged his mount for a supreme effort which saw her drive to the lead as the pair hit the finish line.

Continued on page 3





PENTIRE
~ 1992-2017 ~



Rich Hill would like to thank everyone for their kind words and support following our loss of Pentire.

He was a special horse who made a great contribution to the industry.

RIP Pentire



SENSIBLE PRINCESS TOO SMART FOR MORE EXPERIENCED STAKES RIVALS

(Continued from page 1)

“She travelled nicely in the run and about halfway I came out three wide,” said Johnson. “I didn’t know if she had quite got up but she obviously got her nose in front at the right time.”

Trainer Fraser Auret was quick to pay tribute to the out-of-action Lisa Allpress, who had ridden the mare in all bar one of her runs in her current campaign before suffering a nasty injury in October.

“I owe a massive plug to Lisa Allpress as she has really developed this mare for me,” he said. “It’s easy for me to sit here and take all the credit but a lot of work goes in behind the scenes. I’ve got a great staff around me and everyone plays their part.”

Auret admitted he wasn’t sure if Sensible Princess had got the victory until he heard the official call.

“I didn’t have any idea to be honest,” he said. “It’s her first start this way around and she had better bearings than me. She had been working well and I felt last start she just may have sat a little handy as she is better when ridden off the pace.”

“As a young horse she used to jar up on the firm tracks but

she’s always had the class.

“We’re not going to get too carried away with things for her but there is a nice weight-for-age mile back at Trentham in two weeks that the stable has won the last two years, so that’s where she might be headed.”

Auret was referring to the Group One Captain Cook Stakes on December 9, a race he won with Aide Memoire (NZ) (Remind) in 2016 and Julinsky Prince (NZ) (Darci Brahma) in 2015.

The victory was also a further boost for owner John Bromley, who saw Sensible Princess’s half-brother by Snitzel sold to Hong Kong interests for \$250,000 on the first day of the NZB Ready To Run Sale held earlier this week.

Race	Counties RC Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders S. Gr.2 1400m
Winner	Sensible Princess (NZ) 2012
Owners	Bromley Bloodstock Ltd
Trainer	Fraser Auret (Marton)
Breeding	by Street Sense (USA) out of Cape Princess by Cape Cross (Ire)
Breeder	Bromley Bloodstock Ltd

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WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH . . .

Tough-as-teak stayer **Maygrove** (Authorized) produced a never-say-die effort to take out yesterday's Group Three Ssangyong Counties Cup in a thrilling four-way finish.

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained grey had to lump the equal topweight of 60kg and give weight to all bar stablemate Saint Emilion (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) in the 2100 metre Pukekohe feature, a fact that had his connections concerned about just how effective he could be in the contest.

"I rang Lib before the race and told him he would have to bring him home for a jumping horse for his son, who loves his equestrian, as we didn't expect him to win with the weight," said Bruce Perry, speaking on behalf of owner Lib Petagna, after the race.

"He's just so game, he's brilliant.

"At one stage Murray wasn't going to come here as the horse doesn't like going this way around but we thought the good thing would be he might run some rating points off which would make him competitive next time."

Despite the dire predictions, class shone through as Maygrove, aided by a gun ride from Johnathan Parkes, produced his very best to down Five To Midnight (NZ) (Domesday) by a short head with local galloper Promise To Reign (Manhattan Rain) just a long head away in third from the fast finishing Francis Drake (NZ) (Tavistock), who finished a similar margin away in fourth.

"He's a great horse," said Perry.



Grand old grey handicapper Maygrove adds another Cup to his collection as he fights off Five To Midnight (black and white colours) and Promise To Reign.

"Great for the public and just great for everyone.

"Lib is watching down in Wellington. He tried to come up but couldn't make it. This one makes up for Francaletta who only just got beaten earlier today."

Parkes, who is unbeaten in two rides on the horse having taken the Listed Feilding Gold Cup at his previous start, had plenty of admiration for his charge's effort.

"He's a cracker horse isn't he, having to carry the sixty kilograms," he said.

"From the jump the pace was on, so I managed to get him to fall asleep down the back straight and all the gaps came nicely as we headed into the run home.

"He's been headed about a hundred metres out but he's kept

giving in a super effort. He's just a good old warhorse."

The win was Maygrove's ninth career victory with five having come at stakes level including the Group Two Wellington Cup in 2015 and Group Two Awapuni Gold Cup last year.

Race	Counties Cup Gr.3 2100m
Winner	Maygrove (Aus) 2010
Owners	JML Bloodstock Ltd (Mgr L Petagna) and P W O'Rourke
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Authorized (Ire) out of Lady Zhivago by Zabeel
Breeder	Laurel Oak Lady Zhivago Syndicate
Sales	2012 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: Bruce Perry Bloodstock Ltd; \$110,000





CRACK ME UP TO BE **VILLIERS AVENGER**

Trainer Liam Birchley is increasingly confident he can score a revenge win in next month's Group Two Villiers Stakes after his gelding **Crack Me Up (NZ)** (Mossman) yesterday scored an impressive stakes victory at Doomben.

Sent out a \$2.70 favourite, Crack Me Up made the most of the inside barrier and a light weight to beat \$13 chance Torgersen (NZ) (Pins) by 1¼ lengths, with another 1¼ lengths to Hopfgarten (Mossman), also \$13 in the betting, in the Listed Recognition Stakes.

Race	Qld Tatt's RC Recognition S. L 1350m
Winner	Crack Me Up (NZ) 2013
Owners	M A McLean, R J McLean, G G Chapman, S M Achilles, S R Webber, S N Edmondstone, R S Heritage, P J Daniel, L A Maddison, Mrs J C Maddison, J A Ford, G P Ford, J A McIntosh, C M Cygler, C J Wessel, Mrs T M Wessel, Ms D Aram and Hervey Jump Out Synd (Mgr: Ms S Murtagh)
Trainer	Liam Birchley (Woodford)
Breeding	by Mossman (Aus) out of Chuckle (Aus) by Danehill (USA)
Breeder	R A & J E Ferguson Partnership Syndicate

Birchley believes Crack Me Up has the right form to win the Villiers.

"I went close with a horse called Rags To Riches a few years back and he should have won. Crack Me Up shouldn't get too much weight in the Villiers and he's a good stakes-class horse."

Birchley said Crack Me Up had matured late in his three-year-old career, winning the Sunshine Coast Guineas and the Tattersalls Mile.

"The penny has dropped with him now. I will run in the Brisbane Handicap at 1600 metres in two weeks' time and from there we will go to the Villiers at Randwick," Birchley said.

"Whether we then come back for the Bernborough Stakes in Brisbane is up in the air."

Jockey Matt McGillivray scored his first stakes win with Crack Me Up and hopes to retain the ride through the summer.

"The inside barrier and his weight helped but he really sprinted in the straight," McGillivray said.

Earlier, Chris Waller's Queensland foreman, Paul Shailer,

said he was resigned to losing **Monasterio (NZ)** (Savabeel) back to Sydney after the gelding won the 1630 metre Ray Garske Memorial Plate.

"He ran in the Queensland Derby last season and he is a handy horse. He seems to have taken another step up here and Chris is keen to give him his chance in Sydney," Shailer said.

– AAP TURF



Crack Me Up scores a dominant win in yesterday's Tatt's Recognition Stakes at Doomben.





BIG-HEARTED WIN BY FULLY FUNDED

Less than forty minutes after Maygrove had lumped the topweight of 60kg to victory in the Counties Cup, rejuvenated sprinter **Fully Funded (NZ)** (Fully Fledged) matched the feat in the day's feature sprint, the Listed Haunui Farm Counties Bowl.

The nuggety six-year-old was having his first run in a new preparation, having been off the scene since securing a victory at Ruakaka in June. Trainer Joanne Surgenor, who registered her first stakes success with the win, had fitted her charge with three trials leading into the event as she prepared to have him at peak for his campaign opener.

"It was a huge run as he was three wide. He has got a heart this horse, he

just tries so hard," said an emotional Surgenor as she brushed away tears of joy.

"I'm just so proud of him."

Surgenor revealed the race plan had been to put pressure on the leaders approaching the home bend given the tenacious nature of her charge. Despite being posted

wide in the early running, rider Sam Spratt followed instructions to the letter as she made a sharp forward move to join issue as the leaders turned for home.

In a furious four-way battle, Fully Funded refused to be denied as he clung to a narrow margin to down Go Nicholas (NZ) (Danroad) and Heroic Valour (Fastnet Rock) with Ferrando (NZ) (Fast 'N' Famous) close up in fourth.

Spratt echoed Surgenor's thoughts when questioned about the run.

"Gosh, he's tough carrying that weight," she said. "I was a bit worried about the weight, that it might pull him down, but when they came up to him he just dug in. It was a tough effort.

"He just keeps stepping up and every time they come up to him he gives you a little bit more."

Surgenor will now sit down to plot a path to the Group One Railway at Ellerslie on New Year's Day for the gelding, who has taken his career record to eight wins from 25 starts.

Race	Counties Bowl H. L 1100m
Winner	Fully Funded (NZ) 2011
Owners	Sir Patrick Hogan, A J Sutherland and P J Walker
Trainer	Joanne Surgenor (Ardmore)
Breeding	by Fully Fledged out of Keshava by Maroof (USA)
Breeder	Miss H & Miss K E Sanders
Sales	2013 South Island 2YO & Mixed Sale; V: Mansfield Farm, P: P J Walker; \$15,000



Kept going by Sam Spratt, Fully Funded (turquoise and pink quarters) refuses to yield in the open sprint at Pukekohe.





Sunday 26 November 2017

RIVALS DISSOLVE AS MELT BLASTS BY

Locally trained two-year-old **Melt (NZ)** (Iffraaj) produced an irresistible finishing burst that carried her to an impressive victory in yesterday's Listed Ashford Lodge Stakes at Pukekohe.

The Nigel Tiley-prepared filly had impressed when winning a trial at Avondale earlier in the month but had not figured prominently in pre-race discussions due to the focus on debut winner Pinot Grey (NZ) (Burgundy) and expensive yearling purchase Autumn Wild (Snitzel).

Although Tiley had expressed some confidence in his charge's chances prior to the race, when Autumn Wild and Pinot Grey jumped to the front to control the early speed it looked as though the 1100 metre event would turn into a battle between the heavily favoured pair.

Rounding the home bend there was nothing between the two favourites but rider Michael McNab had Melt idling nicely just behind them before angling into the clear at the 300 metre mark. A quick flick with the whip from McNab saw Melt hit overdrive as she put the contest beyond doubt with a devastating turn of foot that saw her clear out by 3¼ lengths from the fast finishing Bit Lippy (NZ) (Showcasing) with Flaunt It Girl (Sidereus) snatching third from Pinot Grey.

Tiley, who had produced Oscar Eight (NZ) (Showcasing) to finish second in the 2016 edition of the race, was delighted with the result.

"Her work on Thursday morning was as good as I've ever had a two-year-old



Melt and Michael McNab have left their rivals far behind as they pass the post in the juvenile stakes race at yesterday's Pukekohe meeting.

work," he said. "I said to Andrew Fowler, who owns her, that I won't run her unless I think she can win."

McNab was also taken with the acceleration shown by the filly despite having some concerns early in the race.

"I thought there would be good pressure early on but they eased up a little," he said. "They did quicken up enough to let me roll into the race and when I let her go there was something special about her.

"I ride a lot of good two-year-olds at Te Akau and this one's given me as good a feeling as any of them."

Tiley will now plot a path for the filly through some of the feature two-year-old events available later in the summer.

"She's not a Karaka Million horse so we don't have to put any pressure on her to go anywhere," he said. "She's got black type now so the pressure's off. We will be looking at some of those good races over Christmas for her."

Melt is the daughter of speedy eight-race winner Ticklish (NZ) (Maroof), who was successful twice in Listed company during her career.

Race	Counties Challenge S. L 1100m
Winner	Melt (NZ) 2015
Owners	Andrew Fowler
Trainer	Nigel Tiley (Pukekohe)
Breeding	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Ticklish by Maroof (USA)
Breeder	C J Cochrane & W A Fowler





MISS DUBOIS PLEASES PUNTERS

Murwillumbah horseman Matt Dunn, the most successful trainer in the two-year history of Highway races for country-trained horses, may not have managed to win yesterday's Highway Handicap at Rosehill but he has come away with an even bigger prize following the victory by **Miss Dubois (NZ)** (High Chaparral) in the 2000 metre Country Classic.

Yesterday, the \$A100,000 Country Classic was added to the programme and Dunn had four runners, with punters warming to lightly raced seven-year-old Miss Dubois, who started the \$4.40 favourite with Kerrin McEvoy aboard.

McEvoy had to make a couple of decisions in the race when things were not working out quite as he planned.

"The horse I was following wasn't going anywhere so I had to get out and move her a bit closer and then Glyn Schofield's horse got going and had me a bit wide so I had to bide my time a bit," McEvoy said.

"I knew Matty's mare would run the trip out strongly. I've had an easy time of it through the first part and she was very game.

"I must admit, I was a little bit worried at the half mile

when I sort of had to ask her to get into it. And then on straightening, I knew I was going to get it done."

Miss Dubois got it done by three-quarters of a length from outsider Wildflower (Magnus) with 1¾ lengths to another longshot in D'Beak (Medaglia d'Oro).

"I actually thought Bronzed Venom might be the best of the four," Dunn's wife and assistant Keira said. "But Miss Dubois has been racing against the better horses in town so she had the form.

"And what better rider could she have had. I only just met him today."

– AAP TURF

Race	ATC Country Classic P. 2000m
Winner	Miss Dubois (NZ) 2010
Owners	Rifa Mustang (Mgr: J P Earls)
Trainer	Matthew Dunn (Murwillumbah)
Breeding	by High Chaparral (Ire) out of My Funny Face (Aus) by Marscay (Aus)
Breeder	Mrs J M Wanless
Sales	2012 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Trelawney Stud Ltd, P: Belmont Bloodstock Agency; \$50,000



A well-timed stayer's run gets Miss Dubois home first in yesterday's Country Classic at Rosehill.





TEZLAH STRIKES GOLD AT BALLARAT



Tezlah scores his third win from five starts with an impressive performance at Ballarat.

Tezlah (NZ) (Ocean Park) has exceeded the expectations of trainer Robert Smerdon despite collecting his third win from four starts, victory in yesterday's Eureka Stockade at Ballarat providing a healthy payday for the three-year-old's connections.

Not only did he collect \$A66,000 first prize money, there was an extra \$A30,000 in Super VOBIS bonuses.

Ridden by Ryan Maloney, the \$5 second favourite scored a threequarter-length win over Mactier (Reward for Effort), with Captain Harry (Commands) two lengths away in third.

"He's a 67 rated horse and he walks away with something like \$95,000," Smerdon said.

After an unplaced debut at Ararat, Tezlah won at Moe then made a winning graduation to midweek city company at Moonee Valley before Smerdon raced him in Listed grade at Flemington during Melbourne Cup week.

"He's a horse we've always liked but he's exceeded my expectations," the Caulfield trainer said. "I didn't want to run at

Moe because of the barrier but he won the race.

"Not many go from a maiden to a 64 grade race but he won that so we then tested him at stakes grade, which probably found him out a bit.

"We think there's still a bit left in him being by Ocean Park so he can go off and have a bit of a break now."

But Smerdon isn't getting too carried away.

"Step by step," he said. "We don't want to get ahead of ourselves. We've done that before and you fall flat on your face."

– AAP TURF

Race	Ballarat TC VOBIS Gold Eureka Stockade 1400m
Winner	Tezlah (NZ) 2014
Owners	Mrs B K, B A E & Miss R R K Saunders
Trainer	Robert Smerdon (Caulfield)
Breeding	by Ocean Park out of Sienna Sunrise by Bertolini (USA)
Breeder	B A E & Mrs B K Saunders





SLIMLINE WINS ON DARRYL'S GUN RIDE

An unlucky run at her previous start hinted that local mare **Slimline (NZ)** (Castledale) may have been on the way back to her best form and so it proved as she took out the feature event on the day at yesterday's Awapuni meeting.

Trainer Gary Vile had never lost faith in the six-year-old mare and she delivered on his confidence with a comprehensive display that saw her dominate in the closing stages of the 1500 metre Wai Pine Ltd/John Turkington Forestry Ltd Bulls Country Cup.

Settled beautifully in the trail by rider Darryl Bradley, Slimline

travelled comfortably before angling into a challenging position as the field turned for home. Bradley quickly urged her to the front and she gamely fought off all challenges to

score a gritty win from Cambridge visitor Seize The Moment (NZ) (Pins).

"It was just unfortunate the run she got last time, but he rode her beautifully today," said Vile after the race.

"She's come of age and, like a lot by Castledale, the older they are the better they get."

Vile indicated he had no specific plans for the mare, preferring to place her to advantage while there remained some give in the tracks.

"She will just carry on until the tracks get too hard," he said.

"Once that happens we will put her aside until the autumn. She hasn't got

the best action in the world but she has won over \$100,000 which isn't too bad for racing solely in New Zealand."

Slimline's victory was her fifth from 33 career starts with prizemoney of just over \$132,000 earned to date.

Race	Rangitikei RC Wai Pine Bulls Country Cup 1500m
Winner	Slimline (NZ) 2011
Owners	S Alford, J Brown, Miss T Field, Mrs L & Mrs V L Free, V Hurunui, C J, E M, H A & Mrs S P MacDonald and S McGill
Trainer	Gary Vile (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Castledale (Ire) out of Tenor of Joy by Kingfisher Mill (USA)
Breeder	Te Runga Stud Ltd



After securing a box-seat run for Slimline, Darryl Bradley brings the mare home for her fifth win, all at Awapuni, her home track.



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DRAW THE KEY **TO CONQUEROR'S WIN**

Honest sprinter **Mighty Conqueror (NZ)** (Patapan) turned his fortunes around with a slashing win in the \$580,000 Racing For Rhinos 2017, a Kranji Stakes C Division 1 event over 1200 metres, on Friday night, the five-year-old suddenly regaining his burst of old to make his presence felt in no uncertain terms inside the last 200 metres.

Silkino (Congrats) looked to have the race in his keeping after he came off his handy spot shortly after straightening but apprentice Zawari Razali had waited for the right moment to call upon his mount, who responded with blistering acceleration score by 1¼ lengths with Hero I Am (Hussonet) third, a length away.

Mighty Conqueror was bringing up his sixth win for trainer Mark Walker and the Malaysian-based Synthetic Stable.

Zawari, locked for some time in a close title fight with defending champion apprentice jockey Wong Chin Chuen this season, had been losing a bit of steam of late but that 26th win from one of his pet horses has given the Kelantan-born rider renewed hopes he can still bridge the gap with three meetings left in the season.

"Mighty Conqueror is my favourite horse. I've won three times from four rides on him," said Zawari, whose win count had stopped on October 1.

"Tonight we drew in three and Mr Gus told me to let him settle in his own strides. The horse was happy where he was on the rails behind the leaders.

"He's a horse who can pull hard when he's fresh but he was travelling so good that, by the home turn, I knew he was a winner."

Gus Clutterbuck, Walker's assistant trainer, was deputising



Mighty Conqueror is too classy for his Friday night Kranji rivals.

for his boss, who is attending the New Zealand Ready To Run Sale at Karaka.

"When this horse draws out, he can't keep in contact with the pack," said Clutterbuck. "It's quite hard for him to win then.

"But he was in the box seat tonight and, once he got the split, he was too good."

With his 85th win, the five-time New Zealand champion Walker is a certainty to add this season's Singapore's trainers' championship to his 2015 title, given the next best, Ricardo Le Grange, is a fair gap away on 62 wins.

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Racing for Rhinos S. 1200m
Winner	Mighty Conqueror (NZ) 2012
Owners	Synthetic Stable
Trainer	Mark Walker (Kranji)
Breeding	by Patapan (USA) out of Sarah San by San Luis (Aus)
Breeder	Mrs J E C & Est late P M Dean

