

# OWNERS' BULLETIN



NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

NOVEMBER 2016





## OUR GOAL

To improve the economics, integrity and pleasure of the sport of thoroughbred racing on behalf of all owners.

## PRESIDENT/MEMBERS COUNCILLOR'S MESSAGE

NEIL OLDFIELD

**Welcome members and readers to this edition of the Racehorse Owners Bulletin. Another year is all but a memory. A year that has been marked with performances a plenty on tracks, both within this country and offshore.**

Our Federation has enjoyed continued growth, a modest surplus, and a few challenges. The greatest of the challenges is membership at committee level. We need you to participate at Association level to improve the inputs that your Committees make both at Federation level, but also at National level. Your thoughts and inputs are vital. Everyone has an opportunity to contribute in a way that can make a lasting impression on the industry. Please give it some thought, not too long, and make contact with your local association. You can find these on [www.racehorseowner.co.nz](http://www.racehorseowner.co.nz)

William Hill Cox Plate day lived up to being the greatest two minutes of sport in Australasia for a long time. The ease with which the mare Winx dispatched her rivals, was to memory only matched by the speed she created history. I suppose the lasting memory that Hartnell had was her "winking" as she took control of the event almost eight hundred metres from the finishing line. It was a thoroughly dominant win.

There are two notable NZ connections. Firstly the mare is trained by Chris Waller, Foxton's favourite son is a professional in every sense of the word. He is articulate, humble and confident in his comments on the stable representatives as they advance their careers. And then there is Vegas Showgirl (NZ) the daughter of Al Akbar who when mated with Street Cry produced Winx.

Take time to enjoy the forthcoming 'Christmas at the Races' promotions. Introduce friends and family to the pleasure of thoroughbred racing and get them involved whether at home or on course. Make the day to keep the totes driving the stake monies we all need for the great sport of Racing.

All the best for the festive season

Regards Neil



## BEN NETTLETON RETIRES AS NZTR BOARD MEMBER

**Ben Nettleton has advised the Board of his intention to retire as a member of the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Board at its annual general meeting in November.**

Nettleton has completed two of three possible terms as an NZTR Board member. His decision to step down will allow him to devote more time to his legal practice together with other appointments and business interests.

"I've worked with an exceptional group of directors during my time on the board – we've all been absolutely committed to bringing about the important strategic and structural change necessary for the long term viability of the industry."

NZTR Chair Alan Jackson thanked Nettleton for his efforts on behalf of NZTR. "Ben has been a diligent and hard-working Board member. We are grateful for his efforts, both at a Board level, and his service as a member of our Integrity Committee, where his legal expertise has been particularly appreciated."

Nettleton has been a member of the Integrity Committee, which also serves as the supervisory panel under the bloodstock syndicate code of practice. At the Board's request he has agreed to remain a member of that committee, and has also accepted appointment as one of the Board's nominees to a recently formed Racing Intellectual Property Group, an area of work he has had a significant involvement in.

As a result of recently conducting interviews for a new board member, the NZTR Members' Council has appointed former Hawke's Bay Racing Chief Executive Jason Fleming to replace Nettleton.

Fleming, who is currently Chief Executive of the Infinity Foundation, a gaming trust based in Hastings, was the Hawke's Bay Racing CEO from June 2009 to August 2015.

He previously had a career in banking in both New Zealand and England.

He will replace Nettleton at the NZTR annual meeting.



Two more  
Twitter  
accounts  
please!

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE NZTR MEMBERS COUNCIL

**Nominations for the NZTR Members' Council closed at 12.00pm on Friday 30 September 2016. One nomination was received after this date and was not accepted.**

In accordance with the NZTR Constitution, the following three Regional Members retire by rotation at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, 3 November 2016 in The Zone at 106-110 Jackson Street, Petone. All were eligible for re-election:

1. **Mr Danny Moss (Northern Region)**
2. **Mr John Wheeler (Central Region)**
3. **Mr Bill Cotton (Southern Region)**

The **Sector Member** retiring by rotation is Mr Neil Oldfield, who is eligible for reappointment.

The following nomination was received for the vacant **Northern Region** seat on the Members' Council: **1. Mr Murray Gibson** nominated by Racing Te Aroha.

The following nomination was received for the vacant **Southern Region** seat on the Members' Council: **1. Mr Bill Cotton** nominated by the Canterbury Jockey Club.

The following nomination was received for the vacant **Central Region** seat on the Members' Council: **1. Mr John Wheeler** nominated by Taranaki Racing Inc.

The following nomination was received for the vacant **Sector Member** seat on the Members' Council: **1. Mr Neil Oldfield** nominated by the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Federation.

Accordingly, Mr Gibson, Mr Cotton, Mr Wheeler and Mr Oldfield are declared members of the Members' Council to serve for a three-year term from the conclusion of this year's Annual General Meeting. The other six Regional and Sector Members continue in office.

# EDITORIAL

NEIL MILLER

It's high spring now mares are still being mated and new foals are becoming acquainted with the sight, sounds and smells of the land. I took the photo on the cover with an iPhone where we saw magnificent stallions on a wonderful day. Thank you Haunui Farm and Westbury Stud

There's the New Zealand Bloodstock Ready to Run Sale coming up where on past years history future champions can be bought. Little Avondale have got entries, so who would like a nice Per Incanto or Nadeem? Then keep your eye out for a Haunui bred one; that's where the top liner Turn Me Loose (Iffrac) came from.

Alan Groves, professional scribe and keen owner/breeder, brings us a current example of successful line breeding. Articles like this from Members are most welcome reading!

An early page brings news of raised stakes in metropolitan feature races that will excite those fortunate to have a really good horse and thus have a chance to compete.

The minimum stake level of \$7,000 needs lifting substantially and you can help.

At our Federation's AGM we had member David Archer of BrokerWeb Risk Services speak about FastTrack Insurance, a year after its birth. The main beneficiary is NZ Racing and a great effort is being made to get the scheme up to 'critical mass.'

May I tell you firsthand how to get started? I made contact with a local office and secured the services of a dedicated agent (memorably named) Carol Burnett. I needed a quote for a new car. Carol phoned within hours with three quotes and, once selection was made, a temporary cover was emailed to me so I could pick up the car. As other insurances fall due I will contact Carol to secure quotes and eventually consolidate them all into one file. It's a great chance to streamline your affairs at likely reduced cost and assist racing at the same time.

At the back end of this issue is the report on the John Allen Road Show which NZRB sent us in the hope we would circulate it. Sorry if you have read this important document. In it John writes with honesty of the issues NZRB confronts and they are sobering. Unlike his predecessors I doubt John is going to disappear overseas in a hurry. And in an industry that has the sideshow of a couple of blog sites to snipe at racing administrations I would say JA is a brave man.

Talking of blogs I lifted one about a punters club off Racenet to provide a bit of levity at the end. It's a bit blokey (Aus) so we will balance that with Fashions in the Field in the next issue. I hope!

For your stories contact me – [neilandjeanette@yahoo.com](mailto:neilandjeanette@yahoo.com)



## MEDIA RELEASE

### SUMMARY OF AUCKLAND RACING CLUB (ARC) STAKE INCREASES FOR 2016-17 RACING SEASON

The ARC is pleased to announce a range of stake increases for the 2016-17 Racing Season

- As previously announced, the Vodafone New Zealand Derby run on Saturday 4th March for a stake of \$1,000,000 – an increase of \$250,000.
- The Dunstan Feeds Stayers Championship final on New Year's Day will be run for a stake of \$80,000. The newly formed Dunstan Feeds Rising Stars Championship will also be run for a stake of \$80,000.
- On the ARC's feature race meetings (excluding midweek twilight meetings) between December and the end of February, Rating 65, 75 and 85 races will be run for an additional \$2,500.
  - Rating 65 stakes will be \$22,500 – previously \$20,000
  - Rating 75 stakes will be \$25,000 – previously \$22,500
  - Rating 85 stakes will be \$27,500 – previously \$25,000

Cameron George – Chief Executive of the ARC – commented "Increasing returns to stakeholders is a key tenet in our business plan so it's pleasing that we can offer the above increases for next season, in addition to stake increase announced in previous seasons e.g. \$50,000 minimum stakes. Importantly these increases are sustainable and can be built upon in the future as we continue to explore all business and commercial opportunities."

## STAKE INCREASES FOR NEW ZEALAND AND WELLINGTON CUPS

Both the Christchurch Casino New Zealand Cup and the Wallaceville Estate Wellington Cup have had a stake increase for the current season. The two 3200m races will each be worth \$250,000.

This is a \$25,000 lift for the New Zealand Cup, which will be run at Riccarton Park on November 12 and a \$50,000 increase for the Wellington Cup, at Trentham on January 21.

The increases were confirmed by New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing in conjunction with the Canterbury Jockey Club and Wellington Racing Club.

The increases for the Riccarton Park and Trentham features follow concerns about the declining strength of staying races in Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

This was highlighted by the Asian Pattern Committee (APC) recently following downgrades for the Wellington Cup, Adelaide Cup and Hobart Cup and concerns over the quality of the Auckland Cup. The APC voted to allow the Auckland Cup to retain Group I status this season, pending a review of staying races throughout the region.

NZTR is now working with the Auckland Racing Club on initiatives designed to improve the quality of the Auckland Cup and maintain its Group I status.

"NZTR is committed to maintaining and developing a programme of high quality staying races in New Zealand and we will continue to work with our clubs to deliver on that commitment," NZTR Chief Executive, Greg Purcell, said.

Wellington Racing Club President Wayne Guppy and Canterbury Jockey Club Chairman Jeff McCall welcomed the stakes increases for their signature races. "We are pleased to be able to announce the increase with NZTR, especially given that we have put our great race back to 3200 metres," Guppy said. "This will assist us in rebuilding the race to the highest standard."

The Canterbury Jockey Club has also announced that the stake for the Gold Club Metropolitan Handicap (2500m), on the first day of the New Zealand Cup Meeting, has been lifted from \$50,000 to \$75,000. "The club, together with NZTR, recognises the iconic nature of the staying race on the New Zealand racing scene and the massive interest they command amongst the racing and betting public," McCall said. "These stake increases look to cement that status and interest."





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## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

### AUCKLAND/ NORTHLAND ADVICE

MIKE GETHING & SALLY BLYTH

#### AUCKLAND REGION

At last the tracks are drying out. Auckland and Waikato's near record September rainfall slowed down the progress of most aspiring racehorses and caused the cancellation of some meetings. MetService.com recorded 175mm for the month of September in Auckland and 144mm for the same month in Hamilton. October continued in a similar pattern. Disruption to trial and race meetings has affected everyone.

One senior trainer interviewed on the topic stated that in 34 years of training he had never experienced such a wet spring with so much interference to his horses preparation.

We are fortunate that in the 'winterless north' there is a sand-based track that can cope with such weather. Whangarei Racing Club deserves our thanks and plenty of accolades for putting on extra meetings at Ruakaka when others have had to be cancelled.

In Auckland, the Auckland Racing Club released its' annual report with one very big piece of news – the New Zealand Derby, to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017, will have a stake of \$1,000,000. They also announced a new sponsor for this prestigious race – Vodafone NZ.

Along with showing a surplus for the year, the Auckland Racing Club also revealed in their report that last year they contributed an additional \$720,000 toward stakes for races run at Ellerslie, over and above the stake money provided by NZTR stakes funding policy. From an owner's perspective they deserve serious credit for that.

Meanwhile, the Auckland Owners' committee prepared a survey that was sent out to Auckland members in October. The feedback received will help us identify the types of things members would like to do as a group as well as how we can help improve aspects of horse ownership. Thanks to those who have responded, the information is valuable, and the results will be analysed and presented at the Auckland AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> November (details below).

Our committee has met several times over recent months and it is fair to say that discussion extends far beyond the agenda into all things horse-related, and more. We're a social, friendly and enthusiastic bunch, working hard to keep an eye on all things racing and maximise experiences for members.

The Auckland Owner's Annual General Meeting will be held at Ellerslie Racecourse, Ascot Stand (Level 1) on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 3pm. Please come along and join us – we'd love to see you there!

#### EXPANDED INFORMATION ON ELLERSLIE WEBSITE (ABRIDGED)

The [www.ellerslie.co.nz](http://www.ellerslie.co.nz) website now contains a specific racing section. This includes sectional times, pre-race trainer and jockey interviews, as well as post-race jockey comments from black-type races and jockey comments from beaten favourites.

The site also includes racedates, information relating to owners' privileges, feature races, track records and industry links.

### WAIKATO WORDS

JENNY COWAN

The story of Waverly Racing Club in the September Owners Bulletin and its people was of much interest. I can relate it to most country clubs. It's really what we all like. A bit tough to turn the page to Chantilly!

Cheika and Cheeky – our Aussie friends believe James McDonald is theirs. I like that they refer to him all the time on air as – J-Mac. An amazing story already!

Our tie-up areas on our race courses are difficult to access and hopefully a process is in place to rectify this so owners can enjoy racing more. At the Gold Coast they have a purpose built covered, airy building as their tie-ups, with alleyways serving two lines of horses. Piped railing separates the horses from us. As a visitor, or owner, I know I can walk freely to a stall and chat/observe with the trainer and horse, with no security involvement. But I understand our barns aren't built for this purpose, at the moment.

We highlight Piazza, a winner at Matamata on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> for Patron, Alan Galbraith with family Galbraith and M. Lewis. Hope they were present to witness and enjoy their win.

Watching the archive story of Noel Eales on TV he said he rode his first winner at Marton, or Feilding on 'Quick Draw.' That was in the forties, I presume. Quick Draw was my father's horse and I remember Dad telling me they sent it down from Matamata by train. It was possibly trained by the colourful George Cobb.

I think George won a cup at Melbourne with Thinker.

Ross McCarroll has had two wins recently with Mo Chara, the latest at Ellerslie on 22 October. She is raced by family connections – Ross, his wife Delwyn and daughter Stacey Elliot, along with Shane McAlister. Shane's father Jim has been a long time supporter of the McCarroll stable.

Tarissa Mitchell took a sort of holiday break to Riccarton and won on 22 October with Irish Call. So, all expenses paid! Call Me Royal has had a slight setback, but she has another Civics in her team. Wagner, a transfer from the Baker Forsman stable, ran second at its first start at Motukarara on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.

Cath Cameron from Cambridge, is a convert to a combination of show riding and racehorse training. She won recently at Te Rapa with Infinite Joy owned by herself and Wendy McLean, who is the daughter of Brian Cameron, a trainer in our ranks a few years back.

Well done to Clayton and Clare Stevenson from Waipu carrying on the work and pleasure started by the late Dick Stevenson. Clare, his wife and Clayton his son who is an accomplished farrier, would have enjoyed Smedley's performances during the winter. They have beachside stables where all benefit from sea salt air and sand.



Patrons Pride – Piazza

## HAWKES BAY HAPPENINGS

TONY LYNDON

**A chance meeting with Sylvia Kay resulted in Paul Nelson buying Perry Mason, the winner of two races on the flat, for the I See Red Syndicate. It was decided his future was in jumping especially as he likes wet tracks. The Syndicate had to wait 7 months for a return on their purchase then Perry Mason won at Rotorua in July, a class 65 over 2200 metres. He returned a dividend of \$23.00 for a win and \$7.50 for a place.**

Montana Lodge proprietors Graham Roddick and wife Isobel were delighted when Rich Habit won a maiden at Otaki. The Zed gelding is out of the deceased Four Seasons mare Change of Habit. This is the same family as multiple Group 1 winner Rough Habit. An apology to the Roddicks as in our Bulletin it was reported that Baltica was the winner of the H.B./P.B. Broodmare of the Year. It should have read Chasing the Habit, dam of multiple winner Addictive Habit, who won the H.B./P.B. Owned Horse of the Year title.

Hawkes Bay owned and part owned horses were to the fore at the Riccarton Grand National meeting. Onefortheditch owned by Graham Duff and Paul Robinson raced 4 times in a fortnight and won 2 races in the space of 3 days as well as collecting 2 placings. In doing so he won his owners the Kevin Wood Memorial Trophy for June/July.

Zentangle won a \$25,000 class 75 and Upper Cut the Grand National Steeplechase. Hard luck story of the meeting was dual Hawkes Bay Steeplechase winner and 2<sup>nd</sup> in last year's Grand National Steeple Mr Mor who but from veering out after jumping the last fence finished 2<sup>nd</sup> beaten half a length when losing an estimated 3 lengths.

The Knight made it three in a row for Shirin Wood when winning a \$40,000 sprint at Canterbury. This win followed two earlier wins a \$25,000 sprint at Winton and a \$30,000 sprint at Riccarton. Shirin is a long time and valued committee member of the H.B. Owners Assn.

Pacorus won his third race in a row when winning the \$50,000 I.T.M. Provincial Championship at New Plymouth and is now on target for the N.Z. Cup. The Tavistock gelding was a \$15,000 purchase from the 2013 Karaka Sales by Dave and Jenny Morison who formed a 10 member syndicate to race him.

Waipukurau owned and trained Kipkeino rounded off three consecutive 2nds when winning at Wanganui. Owned and trained by Lucy de Lautour and husband Will he has now won 7 races and \$112,000 in stake money. In doing so he won the Kevin Wood Memorial Trophy for August/September.

Beadle raced by a syndicate that includes two Hastings men Les Byford and Ian Newton had his 2<sup>nd</sup> success when winning a \$20,000 rating 65 at Awapuni. Both of his wins have been on heavy tracks so he may not be seen again till next winter.

Hastings Owner/Breeders Charlie Whyte and Andrew Lockyer were all smiles when their talented filly Honey Rider won first up for the season in the Group 3 \$70,000 Gold Trail Stakes. Although the connections were quietly confident of a good run she still looked a race short in condition. Charlie and Andrew purchased an Align filly for \$40,000 at the 2008 Karaka Mixed Sales and named her Southern Heights. As a racing proposition she looked only average so it was decided to send her to stud. Her first foal a colt by Savabeel died but the second foal by Pins is Honey Rider. They now look to have a bright future with her both as a racehorse and later on as a broodmare.

Paul Nelson's team of jumpers for next winter had further value added when Zardetto added to his good record over fences when winning the \$20,000 open steeple at Wanganui. The winner of one hurdle race, the larger fences seem to be his forte as he is unbeaten in 2 starts. He is impeccably bred being by Redoute's Choice out of the Group 1 winning Zabeel mare Champagne. He is raced by Paul and Carol Nelson, brother David and his wife Kaye.

Second Innings added to his two wins over hurdles at the Grand National meeting by making it 3 from 3 when winning at Te Aroha. Between the 2 meetings he also won a 2200 metre flat race at Awapuni and has now won 7 races for Paul and Carol Nelson who race him with Garry and Jan Sherratt and Cambridge trainer Ben Foote and partner Kim Rogers.

Zentangle continued on his way to a N.Z. Cup start when winning the \$30,000 North Canterbury Cup at Riccarton. He has now won 4 races and had 2 seconds from his last 6 starts and is raced by a syndicate which includes Hastings Jason Donnelly and the estate of his late father Jim Donnelly.

A \$500 purchase at the Karaka Mixed Bloodstock Sale in 2014 won her 2<sup>nd</sup> race for Mike and Bronwyn Griffin at Tauherenikau. The Griffins went to the sale with the intentions of buying a broodmare but when a Per Incanto filly found little interest minds changed. Missy Moo, as she is now named, was originally trained at Hastings but has now transferred to Fraser Auret at Marton.

## WANGANUI/ TARANAKI ROUNDUP

BRIAN O'DEA

**The Wanganui Jockey Club held its annual racing awards recently. It was a very entertaining evening livened by the anecdotes and personal observations of multiple award winner Kevin Myers.**

Kevin was NZ Jumps top trainer winning 34 of 107 jumping races which helped him into third place on the national trainer's premiership with 81 wins. He also passed the 1000 winner mark during the season (barely acknowledged by NZTR) showing the Wanganui area strength in jumping.

Wee Biscuit, which was equal local jumper of the year, previously took the title outright for Hunterville's Ken Duncan. Further local success in the jumping business was Shaun Fannin's 25 wins from 66 rides over the sticks, a number only exceeded three times since 1903 – one being Brett Scott in 1995-96.

One of the feature awards was Personality of the Year won by Paul Belsham, retiring on a high with local three year old of the year Perfect Harmoniee.

The most successful local breeder was Judy Hewitt, who runs a top agistment farm. The main horse from Judy's breeding was Taurus that won the AG Challenge Stakes (WFA) and was third in the listed Opunake Cup.

Julinsky Prince was sprinter/miler, WFA and Wanganui horse of the year for trainer Fraser Auret. All his seven starts for the season were in Group 1 or Group 2 company with two Group One wins and three other group placings.

On a sad note, Gail Drought who featured in the November 2015 Owners Bulletin passed away recently after a long battle with cancer. Gail worked for the industry and raced a number of good horses including Group One placed Kind Return and Cassini who won the Wanganui Cup twice, her first black type winner.

Local members with recent success include long time Taranaki Dog trial exponent Graeme Northcott and wife Marise who have the good fortune to have a share in top 2yo Gift of Power.

Also after a lean patch Bill Stewart has bred two winners, Spiker part owned by member Brian Williams – and Woody Strobe which Bill part owns with trainer Bill Thurlow.

Justa Charlie which helped Dawn and Eddie Symes to their hundred winners has put together a very good hurdling record never finishing further back than 4<sup>th</sup> from 7 starts and winning three this winter and spring. Another member Alan Hawken also has a share.

Mr & Mrs Bruce from Hunterville along with Paddy and Sylvia Kay had a three wins finish to the spring with Ngario winning the Grand National Hurdle.

Other winners include the Dravitzki family with the Donna Logan & Chris Gibbs trained Zafrenzy and Brian Anderson with the recently acquired She's Half Irish. Then there was Paul Bardall, Joe Huwyler and yours truly along with major owner Kevin O'Donnell winning with Gorbachev.

## MANAWATU/WELLINGTON MATTERS

ALLAN FENWICK

**Successful and respected trainer Kevin Gray recorded his 1000<sup>th</sup> training success on his old stamping ground at Waverley at the end of September, but he wasn't there to see it.**

"How's this for a story," said a chuffed Gray "I get my 1000th winner with a horse I race (Itsallbelt), who is out of a mare I bred, who is led into the birdcage by a former apprentice and now my foreman (Richard French) and ridden by my current apprentice (Holly Andrew)." Kevin trained at Waverley for many years before relocating to Copper Belt Lodge near Palmerston North.

Not only has Kevin been a very successful trainer but many of the winners have been bred by Kevin and wife Kathleen. In addition there have been many, many successful apprentices that have graduated from the "Gray" establishment. Well done Kevin, we salute you! Itsallbelt has now completed a hatrick of wins and now has a total of 6 wins from 28 starts. Apprentice Holly Andrew is a highly sought after 3kgm claimer who only commenced race day riding at the beginning of January this year and has already won 18 races.

Miss Appleton was the winner of the Redcraze Bowl at the Feilding Motor with another lead all the way performance. This was her 6th win and she has now earned over \$120,000. Hamish Macdonald and other family members as well as trainer Gary Vile will now be aiming for the Stewards Handicap at the New Zealand Cup meeting.

Ian McCarrison's Bonniegirl was a big winner first up this campaign at New Plymouth and then ran a creditable 4th in the Group 3 Taranaki Breeders Stakes.

Troup Road was a recent winner for members Mark & Fay Fearon, John Roache, John Druce and Keith Towers. He is trained by Matthew Eales.

Neil & Erin Connors Hutch won his second race in succession at Woodville recently and Ken Duncan's Zed gelding Alfie Dee caused a major upset winning at odds greater than 40 to 1 at his first start at the same meeting.

Salamanca won his 8th race when successful at the Wanganui Spring Meeting. He is raced by Gary and Janet Harris and Peter Gillespie's Pee Gee Bloodstock. Gary & Janet have a share in Heroic Valour, the winner of the Northland Breeders Stakes in September and one of the favourites for the 2000 Guineas.

Peter Gillespie together with Wellfield Stud's Bill Gleeson have enjoyed plenty of successes recently, which is well deserved as they both have made a significant investment in our industry. Their Road to Rock mare Art Deco has won her last two and has a record of 4 wins and 7 seconds or thirds from only 11 starts. Ringo kicked off his current campaign with a win at Hastings and a subsequent 3rd at the Feilding meeting has him on track for another attempt on the Couplands Mile during Cup Week at Riccarton. Last year he was runner up

to Addictive Habit and he also ran in the same race in 2013.

The Ark, bred and raced by Peter and his brother Gerard has won 2 races from the stable of Sandie Cookson and Rock On, another by Road to Rock bred and raced by Bill Gleeson won his second start at the Feilding meeting and looks to be a real stayer in the making.

Kevin Pratt's Kamada Racing four year old Five to Midnight was an impressive fresh up winner at the Egmont meeting in October and then was very brave in the Feilding Cup. After being caught wide rider Darryl Bradley took the initiative and went to the lead only to be caught short of the line going down by a short neck and a nose. He looks a promising handicapper for the future.

Savabeel mare Shillelagh, at time of writing, has had 3 starts in Melbourne this spring for Christopher & Susannah Grace with mixed results. At both her first and third runs she was blocked in and/or checked, in fact she was lucky to hold her feet on one occasion. In between times she was a brilliant winner at Caulfield. Here's hoping it is all good luck at Flemington on "Cup Day" when she will run over 1400 metres in the hands of champion Hong Kong based Brazilian jockey Joao Moreira.

It is pleasing to see the increased number of apprentices attending the Central Apprentice Academy at Awapuni. Many of these young riders such as Holly Andrew, Alfred Chan, Rebecca Goldsbury, Leah Hemi, Danielle Hirini and Tim Johnson are getting a lot of opportunities and riding many winners. This year's Apprentice Academy Prizegiving will be at the conclusion of racing at Awapuni on the 10th of December. Owners and trainers are encouraged to attend.

The Association's AGM is set down for Wednesday, 7 December, 2016 at The Wines, 63 Rangiotu Road, Himatangi, at 7.30pm. The Committee would welcome members' attendance.

### THE MANAWATU RACING OWNERS & TRAINERS ASSOCIATION INC NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**To be held Wednesday, 7 December, 2016 at The Wines, 63 Rangiotu Road, Himatangi, commencing at 7.30pm.**

Business will include:

- Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts
- Election of Officers
- Consideration of proposal to change the name of the Association to Manawatu Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Association Inc
- Consideration of proposal to adopt a new constitution

Current and new Members very welcome. Further details will be contained in the Notice of Meeting.

Allan Fenwick, Secretary

## CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND CAPERS

FIONA HURST

**It's been a fairly quiet time around the area of late that will certainly change with Cup Week right around the corner, and then Christmas racing to follow.**

A Xmas barbecue will be held near the end of November for our Owner members. This year we will be including the presentation of our racing awards so it would be great to see one and all there – date, venue and time to be advised.

Back in the saddle! – Pat Collins, local businessman and ex jockey has recently taken out a training licence to train at Washdyke and his story is probably not the norm. Pat was a talented young soccer player but after a trip to the races with his father and seeing Grey Way, Pat phoned local trainer Pat Corboy after finding his details in the race book and talking to Mr Corboy, he got a job with trainer Barry Jones starting the very next day.

Pat had never touched a horse in his 18 years of life!! He took on an apprenticeship and finally had to tell his parents what he was doing after they wondered why he was getting out of bed so early in the morning. Pat rode for five years before weight got the better of him. He rode more than 60 winners after running third in his first start.

His tenth ride was over fences, he had never jumped a horse before but when Barry Jones didn't have a jockey on race day he told Pat to get the silks on. Pat can remember sitting in the gates with his heart pounding and crashing at the third fence.

About thirty-five years later after meeting a young lady involved in the racing industry, Pat jumped back aboard to ride a bit of track work. He went to the sales, bought some young stock and enjoyed the ownership side of racing. Now he has his 'Permit to Train' licence and shares in the ownership of some horses with Len and Lacey Stewart, as well as owning some outright. Pat trained his first winner recently when 'Rideitlikeustoleit' led all the way to score her maiden win at Oamaru.

Blinkers did the trick with honest little mare Spider Lily who has scored twice in her last two starts under the training of Len Stewart with whom Pat shares ownership.

Astroturf owned by Bob and Diane Goodeve won three starts ago and holds a nomination for this years New Zealand Cup.

Recent recipients of second place in our Points Series, Peter and Sandra Millar enjoyed seeing their mare 'Laaffaire' cross the line first at her home track of Ashburton recently.

Barry Thomas is having a great ride with his Iffraaj gelding, five year old 'Maybe Miami'. He has scored six wins from seventeen starts with three wins in a row at Riccarton last year. Impressive! Then followed another win in an Open 1400m at Ashburton in July this year, a win in the Couplands Bakeries Mile Prelude and another win in his next start in the Ashburton Cup, both recent wins coming in October this year. Maybe Miami holds a nomination for the 12<sup>th</sup> running of the Couplands Bakeries Mile during Cup Week.



# WINX: A LESSON IN LINEBREEDING

*Notes from a hobby-scale linebreeder*

BY ALAN GROVES

**First, let me introduce myself: a former journalist, I was the chief racing reporter for the sadly now defunct NZ Press Association up until the early 1990s.**

I worked at NZPA for over 10 years and was lucky enough to cover some pretty awesome race meetings in Australia, including the race that saw Bonecrusher achieve equine immortality – his courageous defeat of Waverley Star in the 1986 Cox Plate at Moonee Valley.

There have been very many champions that have won the race since, including Octagonal, Saintly, Might and Power, Sunline, Northerly, Makybe Diva and So You Think, but – arguably – none more impressive than the winner of the most recent edition, Winx.

This was her second, back-to-back win in the race – emulating Sunline (who was equally dominant in her two wins and unlucky to go down in two subsequent attempts), Northerly and So You Think in the time since Kingston Town set the gold standard with his three wins in 1980-2.

Winx is now being held up as one of the best racehorses in not just Australia but the world. If she can go on now to win at group one level overseas, as Sunline's former pilot Greg Childs suggests she needs to, she absolutely deserves to rank alongside our own Sunline and the unbeaten Black Caviar as truly world-class mares to have emanated from our part of the world in recent times.

As is our wont, we have found a way to lay some claim on Winx. Apart from the fact she is trained by ex-pat Chris Waller, who is rewriting the record books in Sydney's trainers' ranks, she is out of the good race filly Vegas Showgirl, who won the listed Avondale Fillies Classic at two and the Soliloquy Stakes at three.

Graeme Rogerson, who co-bred her, thought enough of her to take her to Australia where she didn't quite make the grade. However, she has now made an indelible mark at stud, through the feats of Winx, and her foals will be highly sought after from here on in.

Vegas Showgirl was by the very good first-crop son of Success Express, Al Akbar, from an Australian-bred mare Vegas Magic (by Voodoo Rhythm), who was from Vegas Street, a grey daughter of champion NZ sire and broodmare sire Sovereign Edition.

The next dam back, Vegas (by Stunning), was a half-sister to El Khobar (by Gabador), who won the Warwick Stakes and Doomben 10,000 in Australia before being sent to the US where he set a track record over 6.5 furlongs at Santa Anita. He ended up in England, returning to his homeland to take up stud duties at the ripe old age of 16.

So there is a lot of performance and some very good stallion influences on the bottom line

of Winx. But, as a linebreeder who looks for obvious nicks, I find it hard to look past the up-front cross of Street Cry, her sire, and Success Express, sire of her damsire Al Akbar.

Dubai World Cup winner Street Cry, who was put down in 2014 aged 16, was already a notable success at stud before Winx hit the tracks, having previously left the phenomenal racemare Zenyatta, who tied the US record for consecutive wins at 19, and was only beaten once. He has also left the Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense, Melbourne Cup winner Shocking and his high-class stablemate Whobegotyou, and more recently the outstanding 2yo Pride of Dubai.

Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Success Express was also something of a phenomenon in his short time at stud in NZ (he stood at Trelawney Stud from 1991-3) and Australia.

Apart from the Bayer Classic winner Al Akbar (foaled in Australia in 1990), he sired NZ Oaks winner and Filly of the Year Savannah Success (dam of Cox Plate winner and champion NZ sire Savabeel), Golden Slipper winner Polar Success, group one-winning 2yo Mossman (sire of the world-class sprinter Buffering and Golden Slipper winner Mossfun), and the very good racemares and broodmares Coogee Walk, It's My Sin and Staging.

But it is his record as a broodmare sire, particularly in relation to the Cox Plate, which is remarkable. Savabeel (by Zabeel) won the race in 2004, and since then two other horses out of Success Express mares have prevailed: Pinker Pinker (by Reset, a son of Zabeel) in 2011 and Shamus Award in 2013.

Winx has added further lustre, though Success Express is a further generation back.

At this point it's worth noting, for the record, the extraordinary connection between NZ trainer Graeme Rogerson and what could be described as the Success Express phenomenon. He trained Savannah Success and her son Savabeel, who he co-bred, as well as Polar Success and Vegas Showgirl, who he also co-bred.

So why does Success Express work so well with Street Cry?

Without wanting to get into too much pedigree detail, Street Cry carries two lines that in my view nick well with Success Express: the line of Halo through Coup de Folie, the dam of his sire Machiavellian (by Mr Prospector), and the line of Prince John through Riverman, the sire of his second dam Waterway.

Prince John is also the sire line of Success Express, and from his immediate family hails Pilate, sire of Eight Thirty and Lovely Night who also appear in Success Express' pedigree. And Halo's dam is by Cosmic Bomb, a half-sister to the dam of Prince John. There are a lot more lines that reinforce this nick – but they are hard to explain in words.

The upshot is that, in my humble view at least, mares carrying Success Express, through his sons (including Al Akbar) or daughters (which include daughters of Savabeel), are very well suited to sons of Street Cry or his sire Machiavellian.

There are two sons of Street Cry at stud in NZ: Melbourne Cup winner Shocking and good Italian sprinter Per Incanto, both promising sires. And we now have another option in Italian group one winner and Melbourne Cup placegetter Jakkalberry, a son of Storming Home (by Machiavellian).

I became a Success Express fan some time ago, seeing his emergent and then quite pervasive influence reveal itself over a long period of time. I actually visited him at Trelawney within weeks of his arrival, writing a story for Tim Greene, then editor of the NZ Bloodhorse (also now sadly defunct), and was on hand two years later, with Okawa Stud's Tom Lowry, when Al Akbar, a beautiful specimen, won the Okawa Guineas en route to the Bayer Classic and later the Canterbury Stakes in Sydney.

Over a decade later I made my first investment in a Success Express mare, with another linebreeding enthusiast in Iain Gunn. Her name was Escaline and she was bred in Australia from an imported daughter of top-class Derby winner Caerleon and French Beauty, a half-sister to world champion mare Allez France and champion NZ stallion Noble Bijou. Not a bad bottom line.

To complete the circle, she was bought at Karaka by Graeme Rogerson on behalf of Eric Watson and trained by him in Sydney, managing a maiden win before being tried in Melbourne as a spring 3yo.

Last year, in an attempt to further prove the linebreeding theory, I sent her for the first time to a sire from the Machiavellian line; Novara Park's foundation stallion Jakkalberry. This photo of the resultant filly foal (see page 10) was taken on September 24 at Tony Bamby's property near Palmerston North when she was just 12 hours old.

Nicknamed Jackie, she is undoubtedly the most attractive, well-built foal the mare has had to date (and she's only left us nice types, though all of them fillies). Her sire is bay/brown and Escaline as you'll see a dark brown, so we can't quite understand the colour. But she's going to be beautiful. By the time of publication Escaline will hopefully be safely back in foal to the same sire.

I have bred from one other Success Express mare. Her name is Explain and she is dam of Aide Memoire (by Remind), who I race with friends from Fraser Auet's Marton stable. A winner already of the Listed Rangitikei Gold Cup (1600m) at Awapuni, she may have added further to Success Express' remarkable record as a broodmare sire by the end of the season. We are certainly hoping!



CHRISTCHURCH CASINO CUP & SHOW WEEK will mark FastTracks 1ST BIRTHDAY! To celebrate, we are giving away 2 x \$500 pressie cards. Provide us with your details and be in to win. See below for more information

FastTrack is an insurance initiative specifically designed to boost NZ Horse racing stakes and it's fantastic to see an increasing number of racing lovers, racing personalities and champions switching to FastTrack. Check out the list of well known names in our industry that are now FastTrack customers! Here's what well known Jockey Noel Harris had to say about FastTrack.....

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## STUD CHAT WITH SAM NOVEMBER 2016

Saracino (**Per Incanto**-Bella Daniela by O'Reilly) takes the cake at Flemington. Congratulations to owner Lib Petagna on beating the Aussie 3YO sprinters in the spring, and in the prestigious G2 Danehill Stakes.

We're biased but if they were giving out an award for the best performed horse over all days of the Hastings Carnival, then Sylvia Kay's Dolcetto (**Per Incanto**-Our Shiraz by Nediym) would have taken some beating.

Another talented Per Incanto performer is the Christopher Grace bred and part owned Sweepstake.

**Nadeem's** had a good time of it off-shore recently. Spanish Bay (**Nadeem**-Belle Jest by Rory's Jester) a horse we sold at Karaka as a yearling, won his second Group race in Singapore, a G3 event over 1400m. **Magnum** (**Per Incanto**-Sound Lover by Sound Reason) ran home for 4<sup>th</sup> in the same race to remain on target for a G2 later in November.

**Nadeem** hasn't had many progeny find their way to South Africa but he has quite a record with two individual G2 winners, one of whom also won at that level in Dubai. A horse we bred that Sledmere sold for us at Sydney Classic and who then fetched second top price at the South African RTR, looks particularly promising. Now named **The Great One** (**Nadeem**-Heureka by Yamanin Vital), the 3YO has won his second and third career starts, both at 1400m. His mum's two stake wins came at 2000m and 2200m so there's plenty of scope to improve further over ground.

Always satisfying to see loyal clients and friends have success. Don Gordon bred **All Roads** with us and retains a racing share in the exciting galloper, while the Gilbert family and Wes Van Der Sheer, who had such a great ride with **Xanadu**, are the breeders of G3 Merial Mile place-getter New York Minute, a filly we sold for them as a weanling.

Given the performances by Sale graduates, there's a lot of excitement over the Karaka RTR catalogue. **Per Incanto** has 12 2YO's including three we own outright or in partnership. Hopefully buyers will find another Baba Mama (**Per Incanto**-Irish Magic by O'Reilly); the 2014 graduate is getting serious reviews in Hong Kong where he's won three and placed second at his last four starts.

Hope you enjoyed plenty of success at Christchurch and good luck finding the X factor at the RTR!



### Once again we're delighted to be part of NZB's RTR Sale which goes from strength to strength.

This year we are involved with nine 2YO's, either in partnership or outright ownership. Looking at their Te Rapa breeze-ups our consignors Diamond Lodge, Kilgravin Lodge, Kiltannon Stables, Lyndhurst Farm and Riversley Park have done a grand job preparing our youngsters.

It's a sale where we've been fortunate to have some success. Two sons of Savabeel, Savvy Nature and Shotover River have won nearly \$1.5 million to date between them.

This year in **LOT 477** we have the only Savabeel in the sale from a G1 winning mare. A late foal, he'll make a gorgeous 3YO. We've always had a lot of faith in the stakeswinning mare A Chance to Dream. She had a genuine turn of foot and **LOT 40**, her second foal a lovely Makfi colt, is vindication of what we had hoped to breed.

We have three lots by our resident sire Per Incanto, last seasons' leading NZ 3YO Sire. **LOT 497**, from an Australian speed family is a lovely trade horse, as is **LOT 497**, while **LOT 328** is a strongly made colt from the wonderful Te Parae family of Grand Cidium & General Command.

Both Nadeem colts, **LOTS 269 and 285** are 3YO classic types. The former is the first foal of a mare stakesplaced at 1900m and **285** is the third foal of a Singspiel mare from a black-type laden European staying family.

We have two Darci Brahma colts. **LOT 202** is a great mating, a very strong colt who breezed up beautifully and **LOT 261**, a half brother to an exciting Nadeem horse in South Africa with the staying traits of his black-type winning mum. Overall, a draft with variety, for the discerning buyer.

# PAT & MIKE (GETHING) — TO WANGANUI

Mike and I decided to come home from Nelson via Wanganui. "You'll do Wanganui in half a day" was the cry. Not at all! Wanganui held many treasures, and not the least was the mural covering the back of the racing stables on Jackson Street. The mural, by Aaron Potaka is of seventeen Thoroughbred racehorses and jockeys, with the jockeys wearing the silks of Wanganui District trainers.

The horses are painted in the style of some of the horses drawn in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. They are quite exaggerated but do capture the elegance and quality of the thoroughbred horse. Apparently the artist's work had caught the eye of breeder/trainer Nigel Auret who put it to Committee members that a mural featuring Potaka's horses be used on the back of the stables. Hooray for them – they must have said "what a good idea". The Wanganui and District trainers were also canvassed and gave their blessings to use local stable and owners' racing colours. One shouldn't have preconceived ideas of trainers and their artistic bents! The mural is vibrant and alive and different. We loved it!

The wall was undercoated, and Aaron Potaka completed the artwork within a week: all done in time for "Christmas@ the Wanganui Cup" in November of last year.

— Pat Woolaston



▲  
*'In My Likeness' Boundless with  
4 day old Savabeel colt foal  
Brent Taylor, Trelawney Stud*

▶  
*Just 12 hours old Jakalbery,  
Escaline filly foal  
(see breeding story page 7)  
Alan Groves*



▲  
*Peoples champion Sir Slick playing with Dalgar colt  
Frances Crimmins*

## BOOK REVIEW

### RACING THE BOYS BY JACQUELINE DINAN

**This is a novel about the life of Granny McDonald, the first woman to train a Melbourne Cup winner (Catalogue). But she was not credited for that due to the chauvinism of the time.**

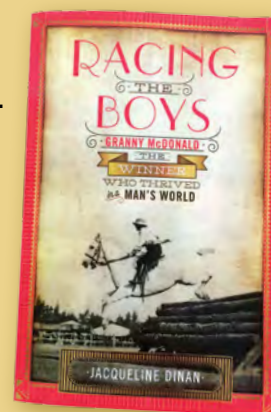
It is written in a simple easy style as was language of the day, and where the writer has taken licence to write on personal matters they do seem believable. I thought that some of the Australian colloquialisms used did not translate to Kiwi vernacular that well.

Granny (Hedwick) McDonald appears as a brilliant horsewoman, tough, fearless and true. She used salty language, smoked and enjoyed a tippie. She related to every level of society, ran a very successful training operation and invariably by strength of character got her way.

The book will appeal to all ages, but those of Hawkes Bay and Manawatu may have special interest in names that appear – Lowry, Fell, Knowles, Collinson are just a few. More than a relative or two of those will read 'Racing the Boys' and the book will be shared around families.

The book was launched near Granny's erstwhile establishment at Palmerston North on Melbourne Cup evening 2016, 78 years after Catalogue romped home in the Melbourne Cup, stunned the crowd, lit up New Zealand and lit another torch for women. It shone the way for Sheila Laxon later in the century on the path to the Melbourne Cup with Ethereal.

I enjoyed the book and think it would make a good Christmas present for young and old. — Neil Miller





# HAUNUI STALLIONS 2016

## SHOWCASING

### *NZ's Champion Second Season Sire*

*Sire of 1000 Guineas  
contender Midnight Gossip*

Limited to 125 mares

**2016 SERVICE FEE \$15,000 +GST**



## *Also standing*



### **IFFRAAJ**

*NZ's Champion 2YO Sire*

*Sire of leading 2000 Guineas  
contenders Wyndspelle & Jon Snow*

**2016 SERVICE FEE \$17,500 +GST**



### **FERLAX**

*G1 Aus Guineas Winner*

*Impressive First Foals*

**2016 SERVICE FEE \$7,000 +GST**





# NZRB INDUSTRY CONVERSATIONS SERIES AUGUST 2016

Recently, NZRB CEO John Allen, along with members of his executive leadership team, went out and met with the people of the wider New Zealand racing industry. Over a series of open sessions and smaller group catchups, John and his team talked with people about NZRB, what it is achieving and its plans for the future, and the critical issues that others in the industry wanted to discuss, question or raise with NZRB leadership directly. Here is John's report summarising the discussions, both for those who attended and for those who weren't able to come along but wish to know more about what was covered.

Hi everyone,

Thanks to everyone who was able to join me at the industry conversations recently. It was great to meet and talk with people from all parts of our industry, be they Club officials, trainers, breeders, owners, jockeys/drivers, punters, or any of the myriad of other roles that keep our industry going.

Over the course of 10 days and a couple of dozen meetings, there was a lot of robust, honest and open discussion, concerns were raised and a number of interesting ideas were offered. There is simply no way to include all of the questions and comments that were discussed at the sessions here without writing a short novel. But there were clear key themes across all of the sessions, and these are the ones I'll recap here.

These sessions were an important step towards building a closer, more open relationship between NZRB and the wider industry. I know some people came to these sessions with a mistrust of NZRB. I understand that and know we need to earn people's confidence. We must be able to talk honestly about where we are as an industry, where we are going and what we need to do to get there.

The quality of our racing industry – both its animals and its people – is truly remarkable. But there is insufficient money and growing uncertainty within the industry. Quite simply, people aren't getting the returns they require to thrive.

NZRB is very conscious of the dependency of the racing industry on our performance. This is why we are investing in key areas which will deliver an estimated \$5055 million per year in annualised profit once fully implemented. All our profit goes to the racing industry.

However, we also know that this will take time we estimate it will be two to three years to fully realise the benefits of this work, and that time is something not everyone has the pressure is on now. There is a valid concern about the level of costs incurred by NZRB, and the rate by which these are increasing compared to profit.

We recognise the need to deliver change now, and have begun to do so. Our annual accounts are currently being finalised and audited, so we don't have final figures to release just yet, but we are looking at exceeding our budgeted Net Profit for the year. Early indications are that we will exceed our profit targets and see a year-on-year increase of around 4% (taking out the impact of gains on building sales of Petone and Christchurch in both this and the previous year). We've improved our customer numbers and our turnover and revenue figures for both betting and gaming, and while margins have been impacted by a continuing shift to Fixed Odds Betting and lower margin sports betting, encouraging improvements have been seen in domestic racing FOB particularly for Harness racing.

It's not gamechanging, but it is progress in the right direction. And while we are investing in our

business to generate longterm growth, we've also committed to increasing distributions to the Codes over the next two years through anticipated revenue/profit due to new race fields legislation. We will also revisit distributions each year and we expect them to increase further as benefits from our investment strategy are realised.

I'll talk more about what we are doing to address the issues facing our business and industry in the following look back at the main questions from the sessions.

## Q. IS OUR FUTURE SECURE?

I want to start with this probably the most fundamental of questions. My answer to the group of young trainers and to everyone who posed the question 'Do we have a future here, or should we move to Australia now?' is an emphatic yes, we have a future in New Zealand.

Creating a sustainable future for the industry is exactly what NZRB is here to do. And we have a plan that will create real additional value for the industry.

I spent about 20 minutes at each session walking through the details of the 'what we're doing' as outlined in the latest NZRB Statement of Intent. I think it's worth briefly reiterating this here. We are focused on:

- Implementing a full automated fixed odds betting platform. We've seen a noticeable shift from tote to fixed odds betting (FOB) in domestic racing and the largest proportional growth in overseas FOB and inplay sports betting in recent years. FOB now represents 36% of all racing turnover. Investing in a new FOB platform will improve the margins and improve competitiveness as a result of increased offerings and efficiencies.
- Addressing the impact of offshore betting. The proposed Race Fields legislation is designed to help ensure that those using offshore betting and those offering offshore betting on NZ product contribute to our industry. Betting exists in New Zealand to support the racing industry so it makes sense that all should contribute to that.
- Optimising the racing calendar. We are working collaboratively with industry to draft a plan that will result in an industryagreed domestic racing calendar that enhances profitability, reduces costs (I particularly discussed broadcasting costs), and prioritises infrastructure investment (tracks/lights/facilities).
- Increasing customer numbers to generate revenue. We have to remain relevant in a domestic and international market and attract new punters. Our international competition invests heavily in this space. Australian betting businesses, for example, spend over 10% of revenue on customer acquisition and retention. We spend between 67%. As part of that we need to strengthen our channels

– particularly our retail network. We need to offer a consistent experience that meets the needs of our customers – both current and future.

Through these efforts we will generate some \$50-55 million per annum more for the industry. Yes, more is needed and we will work to deliver more but we believe this is a good start.

## Q. HOW CAN YOU SAY COSTS AT NZRB ARE UNDER CONTROL WHEN, ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT OF INTENT, OPEX HAS GONE UP?

We are also clear that if one side of the issue is the need for more money to invest in the industry, the other side of the issue is cost control. It's important to clarify that getting costs under control is not the same as a freeze on spending. It is about being careful where money is invested and tightly managing our costs in all areas.

It is equally true that there was an increase in our operational expenditure over the past year. This was largely a result of upgrading our technology support to a managed service with Spark and staff costs associated with closing the Phonebet service. The Spark change was necessary to give us access to resilient technology and means we avoid substantial capital costs buying new equipment, and the Phonebet change will provide save us \$2.6 million per annum from the current financial year.

Looking at the current year we've put the brakes on the former yearonyear leaps in operating expenses. Our budget is that operating costs will only increase by \$0.3 million, or 0.2% primarily due to increases in health and safety expenditure and technology expenditure, and these have been largely offset by a decrease in budgeted staff expenses of \$1.9 million.

One other example of cost management is that the senior leadership team will get a 0% increase in wages and no bonuses will be given. While there will be people who say that is not enough and that it's easy to freeze salaries when they are 'already so high', for me it shows that our people are genuinely committed to cost control and growing profits and returns to the Industry.

## Q. HOW CAN NONRACING INDUSTRY PEOPLE EFFECTIVELY RUN NZRB?

Firstly, I think it's important to say that NZRB is a part of the racing industry, and those of us here at NZRB are, through the very nature of our roles, racing industry people. While the length of our time in the industry may vary, our commitment to the industry and desire to see it grow and succeed is very real.

We do have a number of people both in our senior leadership team, on our Board, and indeed throughout NZRB, who have significant backgrounds in New Zealand racing. Many are still closely involved outside of their role at NZRB, and there are a number of people on my leadership team who are serial owners and enthusiastic punters.



An understanding of, and passion for, racing is beneficial to any role at NZRB, however we do also need to ensure that we have people with the right skills and knowledge to do their job, and some of those skills and experience are in areas that are equally applicable outside the racing industry. We would be doing the industry a disservice if we limited our pool of potential recruits to only those with direct experience in racing, rather than getting the best people for the job.

#### **Q. WE NEED TO KEEP THE DIEHARD 'OLDER' PUNTERS BUT WE ALSO NEED TO ATTRACT NEW PEOPLE – ARE WE DOING ENOUGH FOR BOTH?**

It's a difficult balance to manage, both keeping and looking after our existing customers, while also providing a fresh and exciting product to attract a new and broader audience and all while managing our costs. We know we have to grow our customers significantly if we are to lift profit and we are dependant on a very narrow group who we can't risk losing in the process.

The recent change to telephone betting to Phonebet is a good example of this challenge. We had a channel that historically been popular receiving 30 million calls per year at its height that had decreased to a point where it was no longer economical to run, but was still used by a small group of customers. The need to manage costs and knowing other channels including a telephone option (Touch Tone) would still be available, the change made sense, but we were aware of the potential impact on this group of often older customers so we tried to make the transition to our other channels as easy as possible for this group.

While we're changing how we do things, we also continue to explore and invest in new technologies that will be attractive to new punters. And yes, that means making changes to enhance the flexibility of Jetbet. While that technology has served us well, it is now hampering us in offering things that young punters are telling us they want – things like the ability to withdraw money from their online account, or to create a league table they can use to compete against their friends.

#### **Q. CAN ONE OF THE CODES GO IT ALONE AND LEAVE NZRB?**

In my view, the current legislation does not anticipate this. The structure of the industry under the Racing Act is vertically integrated, with the NZRB empowered as leader. As a consequence of that we get monopoly protection, we get a ban on advertising in New Zealand by offshore betting providers, tax benefits in that we and the Codes don't pay corporate tax but we do pay levies and duties, and we have the ability to use our gaming profits to benefit racing and amateur sports.

Putting aside the legislation itself, if you start disaggregating the industry, the risk you run is that those other benefits will be affected. In addition under a disaggregated model it is likely to be more difficult for the NZRB to fund critical areas of its operation such as Broadcasting and Retail.

#### **Q. WAS MOVING TRACKSIDE EXCLUSIVELY TO SKY A GOOD IDEA?**

While there is a lot of debate about the move to Sky, it has enabled us to move to better technology through our partnership with New

Zealand Live which provides the production and studio facilities we use in Auckland, and has meant we are now broadcasting thousands more races a year which directly correlates with increased betting on those races.

Leaving our broadcasting operations unchanged was not an option; we had to move to high definition to meet our obligations under our broadcast agreements with Tabcorp, and the technology we were working with could not support this. Partnering with NZ Live meant avoiding significant capital costs of new equipment. Moving exclusively to Sky gave us the ability to offer two different schedules of racing over our two TV channels, rather than replicating content on both.

Having said this we would love to get more New Zealanders watching racing. Both free to air and digital channels would help us achieve this. We are aware that this is a fast changing landscape and that there are some very interesting digital options opening up. We need to be smart about our

decisions here and look at this through the lens of asking 'What is in the best interest of the New Zealand racing industry and its people?'

#### **Q. ISN'T SELLING ASSETS LIKE BUILDINGS SHORTSIGHTED?**

The reason we have sold buildings in recent years is twofold first, it provides money to invest in projects to improve returns to the industry things like the Fixed Odds Betting platform and the customer projects that I mentioned; and second, buildings need maintenance and we are not property managers. The Christchurch building, for example, needed significant work to bring it up to scratch, which would have been a big cost to the business.

#### **Q. CAN WE LIFT MINIMUM STAKES?**

I absolutely agree we need to lift stakes. There has been big debate in the industry about where you lift the stakes in the Maidens, move Saturday racing to \$40,000, or do you lift stakes at the top end with those very large meetings? I've heard support for all three of those models.

This is a particularly good example of one of the big challenges for our industry as it's not one that NZRB can change alone it will take the racing Codes, who set the stakes, to support any action, and we know from experience that getting people lined up and behind new ideas is hard.

Part of that is there are so many ideas out there about what is best for the industry. I personally supported the idea of a \$10,000 minimum, but because we couldn't get agreement on that option over others, we couldn't gain traction. We must find a way to get alignment within the industry if we are to successfully make changes like this that can lead to fundamental improvements to our industry.

#### **Q. WHY CAN'T WE HAVE APPEARANCE FEES REGARDLESS OF THE CODE?**

Different racing Codes have different perspectives on this. The Harness Code is looking to expand appearance fees while the Thoroughbred Code is not currently looking to do so. There is some debate about that but those are decisions that are made by the Codes in terms of how they want to structure their distributions and stakes.

#### **Q. HOW DO WE KEEP PEOPLE COMING TO THE RACES?**

There's no doubt that one of the best ways to get people interested in betting and racing is to get them to come along to a course and see something fantastic. It has to be good racing and an enjoyable onthecourse experience. There is a lot of the infrastructure that is not up to scratch. Everyone knows this – it's no secret.

For me, the only way through that is for us, as an industry, to do two things.

First we have to prioritise and focus our efforts on the most important infrastructure for the industry. We just don't have the money to spread across all the infrastructure in every jurisdiction. The work we are doing with the industry around optimising the calendar and thinking about the structure of the industry with the Codes will enable us to focus infrastructure investment around courses and facilities.

The second thing we need to do is work on getting track surfaces that are more robust. We need tracks that can stand up to the reality of our weather conditions and can be raced on more intensively. If we can get more intensive racing on fitforpurpose tracks, we can get more races broadcast, we'd save the costs of moving horses around the country etc. There are real benefits for the whole of the industry to be had here.

We're also looking at setting up an infrastructure fund. I know that NZTR has had an infrastructure fund and we're not interested in duplicating things already in place, but we, as an industry, have to take a longterm view around infrastructure and we're going to need to put some serious funding in place.

#### **MY OBSERVATIONS**

As I said in the beginning, there were lots more questions and observations made during the sessions. While they aren't all reflected here, please know I heard you. And I appreciated the passion and enthusiasm that was so evident everywhere I went.

While we need to work on getting more people along to these sessions, I'm very pleased that we did them. We'll schedule another round of get-togethers for late 2016 early 2017 with dates and times advertised well in advance. I look forward to talking with you more then. In the meantime, if you have ideas or concerns, please send me an email (John.Allen@NZRB.co.nz), or if you see me at a race meeting, please come and say hello.

The discussion at these sessions confirmed that we (NZRB) have more work to do. I heard the skepticism and I understand it. We have outlined a highlevel plan in the Statement of Intent and now we have to deliver on it. I get that and I know my team is as committed as I am to doing so.

Interestingly, more than one person said to me that the racing industry is its own worst enemy, possibly reflecting on how challenging it can be to make changes. That may or may not be true, but the key thing for me is that NZRB is making changes. We have a responsibility to the industry and its people to do so. These changes will improve the returns to the industry. It won't be easy, but we as NZRB, and as an industry, have an obligation to find our way through. And it can only happen if we all work together.

*I appreciate everyone's time in attending.*

*Regards, John.*

# SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 – TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING

I was a little slow out of the gates on Saturday, but I had a genuine excuse. I'd met a few members of the 1979 Cronulla Sharks Mermaids cheer squad at the Boiler Room on Friday night and we'd seen in Saturday morning to one long chorus of "Up, up, Cronulla!" It would have been almost 11am by the time I swung through the doors of the non-breeders barn at the Royal Hotel and pulled up a stool around the table of knowledge.

Last week, even before the first had jumped at Riccarton, the punters had a spring in their step. In spite of knowing it would be a tough day at the office, with Hartnell and Winx dictating a couple of no-bet races, the smell of spring and the talk of 11 straight had a smile on everyone's dials. But this week something was amiss. There was a nasty funk in the air. And it wasn't just that usual mustiness and old man smell that always lingered in the TAB area, it was something else. It was tension!

"Who's got the scratchings boys?" I foolishly asked as I fumbled around the table in search of an updated form guide. Patty was normally the go to man on these matters. Armed with his four colour biro, he is the designated pen man every Saturday and given he is the only light drinker at the table, he is also in charge of the syndicate. The green ink is for scratchings, the blue is for media tipsters that have some idea, the black is for the syndicate bets, whilst the red is reserved for media tipsters that have no idea. But Patty was nowhere to be seen. There were no form guides and it seemed no syndicate.

"Under The Louvre is scratched!" I heard a mumble from the back of the room. I turned to try and hear where the voice had come from, but all as I could see were receding hairlines hidden behind form guides. It turns out there had been a stink. The story went as follows: It was 'Mailman' Charlie's week for the punters club bet. We call him that not because he delivers mail for Australia Post, but because he's always getting mail from somewhere. Charlie had gotten a phone call from his old "house mate" Peter just after acceptances on Wednesday saying the stable was declaring Bon Aurum. Peter was well known to the punters club. We'd had a couple of eventful end of season trips to his place in Fiji in 2005 and Vanuatu in 2006, and his mail out of the Maher stable was generally spot on. We figured he was in the know even though we could never find his name in the race book.

But, after more than a dozen phone calls to and fro to various patrons of the table of knowledge, poor old Charlie had got himself in a knot. It was officially decided Under The Louvre was the main



*The Royal Hotel*

danger. One caller had told him it had drawn bad, another reminded him of its Stradbroke win, then he checked the form and realised this was under weight for age conditions. Another caller said his wife's uncle's step-son drives the float for Smerdon and assured him there was no way it was going around. His cousin from Melbourne rang him and said the trainer had just been interviewed on radio and he was sure he was only foxing in order to get a price. By early doors Saturday, poor old Charlie was a wreck. When he saw Patty's green pen work he spat the dummy. "That Smerdon's up to something!" he said turning to Patty, filthy he had missed a roll of the board early in the week.

Patty, being a former apprentice hurdle jockey from Victoria immediately jumped to the defence of his old mate from down south. "Don't blame Smerdon, blame the system!" he yelled at him as he punched in his early quaddie numbers at Murtoa into the TAB touch screen terminal. As he spun back around push almost came to shove at which point Patty was reported to have packed up and set up camp at the Commercial Hotel on the other side of the tracks. But that wasn't before Harry the Toff who was nursing a carafe of chardonnay chimed in from the back corner of the room. "The stewards are there to protect the public, you can't blame them for doing their job!" This all went down before 11am. Luckily, I'd missed the whole ugly scene but it didn't stop me adding my two bobs worth. "You are all a pack of fools. Blame the TAB. If they didn't take out such a fat commission none of this would even be an issue."

And with that I deposited in to phone TAB what was left of the cunning kick after rent, child support and a ten pack of Woodstock cans, and went home to play the numbers on my own.

Spending a Saturday at home is fraught with danger at this time of year. I was already in strife for the late finish the night before, seems the missus had been less than impressed by the three cougars singing "Up, up, Cronulla!" at 4am on the back porch. You see she has it in her head that springtime is for cleaning. So after quickly gliding

over the back lawn with the Victa on the highest setting I managed to pinch a break and slip in to the man cave and latch the door behind me.

With no table of knowledge quaddie syndicate to cheer home I turned to Racenet and the Big 5 from Brad Waters and Paul Joice. After kicking ahead early on the back of Royal Rapture at Caulfield and Urban Ruler in Adelaide, I gave most of it back on Divine Prophet. And after Blake Shinn found more hardship than the early settlers on Prized Icon, I was beginning to feel a bit like the boy with the wheelbarrow.

The reports on First Seal first-up had been enormous, and after hearing John Thompson interviewed in the yard it seemed only a fool would bet against it. But I've followed Joice for a long time and I've called him a lot of things over the years, but a fool isn't one of them. His ticking all the boxes preview combined with his spruik on Tycoon Tara in the Big 5 was enough to convince me to come in for a lamb.

From there the rest is history. We went all up each-way in the next with Moral Victory, and followed it up straight out on Extensible in the last where Shinn went from looking like King George the third on a bad day, to George Moore at his best. What started off as an ordinary day turned in to the best I'd had in a while. And in spite of old Charlie's grumbings, Bon Aurum had got the cash for the syndicate, albeit minus a deduction, so the end of season trip was back on track.

It was about half time in the GWS – Bulldogs game, and just before the Raiders – Storm kicked off when I decided to shuffle back up the street to pick up another ten pack and a chicken chowmein when the phone rang. It was Patty. He'd found the Sydney quaddie. And on the back of the bullish tips from Joice, he'd gone skinny in the last three legs, and had it for a full unit. "Good work," I said, "I'll see you at the pub tomorrow arvo and we'll send it around at Hong Kong." "Sounds like a plan, I'll buy the boys a drink," he replied.

The messy start we had to the day would all be forgotten by lunchtime tomorrow where we'd all meet around the table of knowledge and be friends again. I had the added bonus that the lawns were already mown and I had enough in the kick to slip the missus a couple of pineapples which meant I'd be allowed extended playtime on Sunday arvo.

Winners are grinners, and a happy wife means a happy life. And in spite of what they might have you believe, early spring is for building a bank for the big weeks to come. Not cleaning.

I'm sure all you punters would agree. Just don't tell the missus I said that.



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## CONGRATULATIONS TO FEDERATION MEMBERS ON THEIR RECENT WINS!

We continue to track winning horses owned by Owner's Federation members. As we only have visibility of owner's named in the race book, we know we will have missed members involved in winning syndicates and may have inadvertently missed others. We apologise to any member we have missed and extend our congratulations to all members who have recently experienced the thrill of winning.

B & M A Anderson	Hawera	SHE'S HALF IRISH	G J & Mrs L M Moore	Matamata	LIZZIE L'AMOUR
Mrs A S Antoniadis	North Shore City	OUR PATRIARCH	D C & Ms J E Morison	Havelock North	PACORUS
T W Archer Trust	Whangarei	LA DIOSA	I S & Mrs M G Morrison	Warkworth	DUFFERS CREEK
Mere Balzer	Frankton	ANGEL FALLS	D J & Mrs C M Mortleman	Matamata	SHERPA
Duke & Dowager Duchess of Bedford	Matamata	ONLY IF	D E Nakhle	Takanini	KILLARNEY
W L & Mrs C Bolton	New Plymouth	I AM POPPY	P S & Mrs C Nelson	Hastings	SECOND INNINGS, ZARDETTO
W M Brausch	Dannevirke	ENCHANTING SECRET	G R & Mrs M E Northcott	Urenui	GIFT OF POWER
Est K S & Mrs A Browne	Cambridge	UNVEILING, BIG BROWNIE	M D Ormsby	Waipukurau	UPPER CUT
A J & Mrs C Bruce	Hunterville	NGARIO, PERRY MASON	Pee Gee Bloodstock	Mt Maunganui	SALAMANCA, ART DECO, SWEEPSTAKE
D F J Burns	Waiuku	REBEL ROSE	D N & Dame Wendy Pye	Greenlane	LETMEBY
R D Burton	Parnell	THE CHIEF	R Rhodes	Christchurch	SKEEN
Calder Bloodstock	Cambridge	IN A TRANCE, LA DIOSA	J A Roache	Marton	TROUP ROAD
P M J Collins	Timaru	SPIDER LILY	P W Robinson	Havelock North	ONEFORTHE DITCH
C J & Mrs B R Condren	Wellington	OUR GAZZA	G A Rogerson	Hamilton	LUCROR FESTINATIO, ZENOCOIN, DOUBTLESS PRINCESS, SKYLLA, FIERTE, FERRANDO, GIFT OF POWER, MOSSOMAK
C & Mrs E M Connors	Dannevirke	DURHAM			
Mrs E Connors	Wanganui	SHE'S POPPY			
A B Coombe	Paeroa	SHEEZ THE BOSS			
R A & Mrs J D Coupland	Christchurch	NIGHT NURSE, KINAGAT	Ms M M Scanlon	Havelock North	TAKEN THE LIBERTY
G L Currie	Whangarei	LA DIOSA	Peter Schmidt	Frankton	ANGEL FALLS
W B & Mrs L C de Lautour	Waipukurau	KIPKEINO	J D & Mrs L J E Scoular	Hastings	RUNNY HONEY
A E Denham	Palmerston	RIC O'SHEA	D W J Sexton	Hamilton	WOODEN EDGE
M A & P J Dobson	Ohaupo	KENTUCKY SON	G O & Mrs J D Sherratt	Otane	SECOND INNINGS
Mrs J D Douglas	Hamilton	JUST SUGAR	G R Shewan	Hamilton	BAZZ
M K & Mrs C A Dravitzki	New Plymouth	ZAFRENZY	D S & K L Shuker	Pokeno	ALL ROADS
J D Druce	Woodville	TROUP ROAD	W D Skelton MBE	Levin	OUR GAZZA
F T & Mrs F I Drummond	Pukeatua	EL LUCHADOR	D R & Mrs K M Smith	Hamilton	CAMEAHOTFRIDAY
Graham Duff	Havelock North	ONEFORTHE DITCH	L W Somervell	Cambridge	KENTUCKY SON
D McK Duncan	Marton	FISTFUL OF DOLLARS	C B Stevenson	Waipu	BATTLEFIELD
Ken & Mrs J M Duncan	Hunterville	SHAMAL	J B Struthers	Takapuna	KILLARNEY
W M & Mrs F L Fearon	Palmerston North	TROUP ROAD, GLENGOYNE	C Sutton	Palmerston North	DERBY DAN
M L Gibson	Titirangi	LA DIOSA	E H & Mrs D J Symes	Wanganui	JUSTA CHARLIE
P G Gillespie	Mt Maunganui	THE ARK	B M & Mrs C N Taylor	Cambridge	SHAMAL
A S & Mrs L R Goodall	Hamilton	DA SHINDIG	P A J Thomas	Waiheke Island	CAMEAHOTFRIDAY, ITS TIME FOR MAGIC
D J Gordon	Hastings	ALL ROADS	J C & Mrs M A Thompson	Howick	CHACHAR
C R Grace	Hunterville	SWEEPSTAKE	K G Towers	Palmerston North	TROUP ROAD
K & Mrs K A Gray	Palmerston North	ZCASTLE, ITS ALL BELT	Sir Peter Vela	Hamilton	PERSUASIVE, SLEEPING BEAUTY
Kay Gregory	Hamilton	WOODEN EDGE	B N Williams	Patea	SPIKER
D G Hancox	Tauranga	CANTARE, ON PAROLE	Windsor Park Stud	Cambridge	CROOKSHANKS
G E & Mrs J E Harris	Waikanae	SALAMANCA	Mrs S L Wood	Hastings	THE KNIGHT
T O Harrison	Parnell	ZCASTLE			
A J Hawken	Waverley	JUSTA CHARLIE			
K J Hickman	Christchurch	HAYLEY ANN, UGO FOSCOLO, TESSASTOCK			
Sir Patrick & Lady Justine Hogan	Cambridge	VEEARM, RONCHI, GIFT OF POWER			
Bruce Honeybone	Matakana	LA DIOSA			
P J & Mrs S L Kay	Levin	NGARIO, SELWYN, DOLCETTO			
T J Latimer	Levin	RED MAFIA			
C A Leishman	Ellerslie	LUCROR FESTINATIO, GIFT OF POWER			
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B R Levings	Hamilton	MR INK			
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T G Lines	Papakura	TOP CHOICE, SIR JACK REMINGTON, LORD BENTLEY			
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A J Lockyer	Havelock North	HONEY RIDER			
M & Mrs C R Lupton	Matamata	SO TRUE			
H A MacDonald	Palmerston North	MISS APPLETON			
C R & Mrs S M MacRury	Tauranga	ST D'ORE			
P A Makuch	Pirongia	DYNAMO			
I E McCarrison	Wellington	BONNIEGIRL			
R McLaren	Parnell	HOT DATE			
G B & Mrs D Mellow	Opunake	PALMERS PRIDE, GLENGOYNE			

### THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

We wish to extend a very warm welcome to the new members who have joined the Owner's Federation in September to October 2016.

We really appreciate your membership support and look forward to a long and enjoyable association with you.

WAIKATO		MANAWATU	
Mere Balzer	Hamilton	T Frampton	Paraparaumu
Peter Schmidt	Hamilton	Allen & Claire Bruce	Hunterville
Kay Gregory	Hamilton	Chris & Dana Sutton	Palmerston North
HAWKES BAY		TARANAKI	
Paul Robinson	Havelock North	Gary Mellow	Opunake
Graham Duff	Havelock North		



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P.O. Box: 14-027, Hamilton 3252 President: Neil Oldfield 06 327 8426

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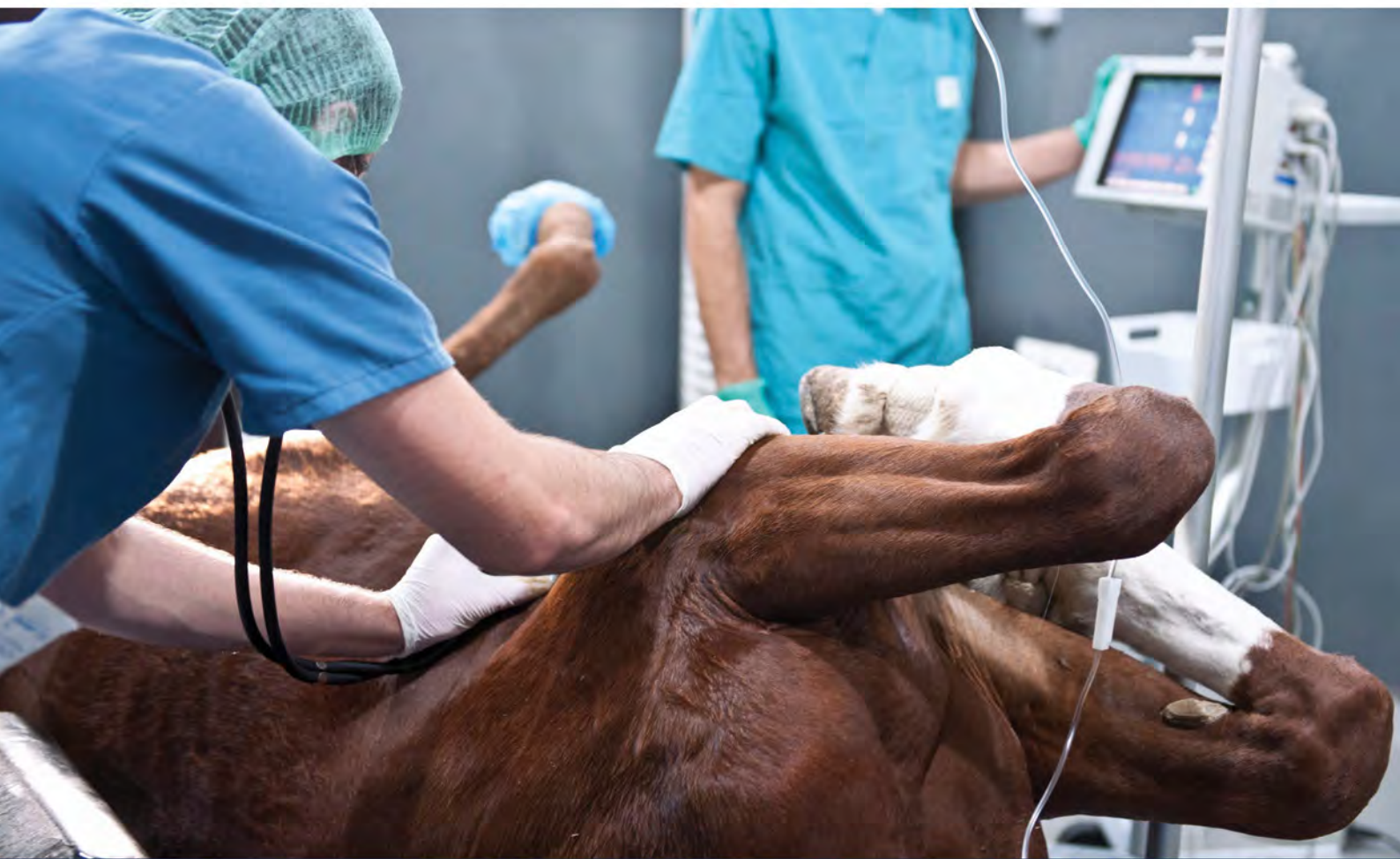
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