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# “NOT SET UP LIKE THE FBI”: RACING’S INVESTIGATIVE WEAK SPOTS



Getty Images

by Dan Ross

The **shock announcement** of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York’s indictments against a slew of Thoroughbred veterinarians and trainers—and to a much lesser extent the California Horse Racing Board’s (CHRB) long-awaited report into the equine fatalities at Santa Anita early last year—cast a kaleidoscopic shadow of speculation and questions marks over the industry.

But one of the most salient takeaways from these two developments is surely this: What kind of investigative infrastructure is in place within the sport to catch the cheats and protect the horses?

Certainly, the main lesson that outgoing CHRB equine medical director, Rick Arthur, **took from the indictments** was that they were all a product of an exhaustive years-long investigation. “There is nothing here that I can see that was detected by drug testing,” he said. “This was all by investigation—same thing with Lance Armstrong.”

The CHRB fatality report pressed a similar button when it made the observation that all tracks should consider installing a camera surveillance system similar to Santa Anita’s—which is a network of well over 1,000 cameras located throughout barns and stalls. **Cont. p3**

## WOODBINE POSTPONES QUEEN’S PLATE

The 161st running of the Queen’s Plate will be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Woodbine Entertainment announced Wednesday. The event was originally scheduled for Saturday, June 27. While a new date has not been confirmed, Woodbine said in a statement that it intends to host the Queen’s Plate at Woodbine this year, subject to recommendations and restrictions from government and health officials related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Queen’s Plate is the oldest continuously run race in North America and we have every intention of keeping it that way,” said Jim Lawson, CEO, Woodbine Entertainment. “Once we postponed the start of our season, it likely meant that The Queen’s Plate would also be postponed, as certain races are required leading up to it so the 3-year-old horses competing are ready for the longer distance. As soon as we receive clarity on when the season will start, we will create a new stakes schedule and finalize a new date for The Queen’s Plate.” **Cont. p6**

## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

### “TERRIFIC UNCERTAINTY” AROUND BREEZE UPS

Three breeze-up consignors share their thoughts while the world awaits the passing of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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**Thursday, April 2, 2020**



*Bred by Caperlane Farm (Richard and Cathy Heysek), a colt by Army Mule and out of Congarette (Congaree) was foaled on March 13 and photographed on March 19 at Shade Tree Thoroughbreds in Reddick, FL. [Click here](#) to email photos of your 2020 foals for consideration in the TDN. Please include sire, dam, owner, and photographer's name. [Click here](#) to submit foaling news for your stakes-winning and stakes-producing mares. | Photo courtesy Richard A. Heysek*

**LEN GREEN BREAKS DOWN IMPACT OF CARES ACT**

**6**

*TDN's guest tax expert Len Green of The Green Group goes over the provisions of the recently-passed CARES Act providing aid and relief for coronavirus impact, and what it means for the industry's stakeholders.*

**'WHALE' OF START FOR MILLER, ELSER IN NZ**

**8**

*Alan Carasso reports on the team of Joe Miller and Kip Elser branching out to buying horses in New Zealand.*

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**Racing's Investigative Weak Spots cont. from p1**

The report also said that “consideration should be given to expanding video surveillance at all locations, including the racing ovals to monitor morning training.”

Cheating isn't a new phenomenon, of course--nor are the efforts used to catch them. The problem as Mike Kilpack, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association's (NTRA) security integrity consultant, and the equine security supervising investigator for the Breeders' Cup, sees it is that the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) legal authority exceeds that of each individual racing commission's investigative framework.

“Nobody is set up to do what the FBI did. No way,” said Kilpack, explaining how, on top of that, the industry has for too long failed to invest necessary resources into “boots on the ground” investigative personnel.

“Because of the make-up of the commissions, they're just not equipped to do these high-profile investigations.”

**“Very unfortunate”**

Steve Koch, the NTRA's former executive director of safety and integrity, broke the issue down long ago into what he called a “three-legged stool” involving intelligence and security resources, workforce development, and tech and science.

For the purposes of this story, the remit of drug testing--part of the tech and science leg of the stool--will be jettisoned. But that still leaves plenty to chew on, beginning with the intelligence and security resources side of the equation, the poster-child of which is the camera surveillance system.

Proponents of the network of surveillance cameras at Santa Anita--all beamed into a stark box of a room like something out of Minority Report--point to how they've played a part in any number of medication violation rulings, and act as a deterrent. A case of big brother is watching you. **Cont. p4**



Santa Anita | Horsephotos



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Still, very few tracks are equipped with comprehensive surveillance networks, and none as expansive as Santa Anita's, said Kilpack. And even if they were, these systems are a "great tool" but they're not a magic bullet, he added.

The first brick wall concerns the not inconsiderable costs of installation and operation, while some barn areas simply aren't "conducive"--old infrastructure that would be expensive to modernize, for example--to having a surveillance network installed, explained Kilpack.

Then comes the issue of policing activities off-site, filtering the flow of horses and people in and out of the barn area--a security layer that microchipping has helped to tighten.

Kilpack singled out Parx and Woodbine for their stringent entry gate protocols, requiring that every licensee is scanned as they go through the gate, for example. Other tracks are more porous, however, and "don't take the matter seriously," said Kilpack. "Are they bad offenders? No. They're just lax."

But at the end of the day, even the most stringently surveilled backstretch wouldn't preclude the need for boots-on-the-ground investigators. The thing is, the majority, if not all, of individual commissions employ investigative teams that are short on number--sometimes woefully so, Kilpack said.

"Kentucky has three investigators," said Kilpack, adding that the state should double that number, at a minimum, given the

amount of racetracks in the state. "To have just one investigator at a track is very unfortunate."

#### "They have look-outs"

Leasa Johnson is one of two investigators for the New Mexico Racing Commission. She's also the past chair of the **Organization of Racetrack Investigators (ORI)**, a voluntary group comprising investigators from around the country who meet for annual education conferences.

Johnson, who has been an investigator for 16 years, agrees with Kilpack that racing needs more boots-on-the-ground investigative personnel--ideally four per track, she said. To illustrate her point, she tells the story of how, when she rolls up to one of the racetracks in New Mexico, a chorus of whistles reverberate around the track, alerting the horsemen of her presence.

"They have look-outs," she said, of the backstretch community in the state. "I've made a name for myself, and when I'm on the backside, they're going to let everybody know."

But there's more to the issue than simple numbers. To be effective, investigators need to be trained in a vast array of skills to not only sniff out wrongdoing in the first place, but to ensure the chain of custody stands up to legal scrutiny.

**Cont. p5**

## UPDATED TWO-YEAR-OLD IN TRAINING SALE SCHEDULE

The NTRA's sale company partners have had to either reschedule or cancel their two-year-old in training sales this season due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Below are the new dates, as of April 1, for the sales that remain on the calendar. These dates are subject to change.

**MAY 26-27** - Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training - Timonium, MD  
(under tack show May 21-23)

**JUNE 9-12** - OBS Spring Sale of Two-Year-Olds in Training - Ocala, FL  
(under tack show May 31-June 6)

**JUNE 24-25** - Fasig-Tipton June Midlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training - Timonium, MD  
(under tack show June 22-23)

**JULY 14-17** - OBS July Two-Year-Olds & Horses of Racing Age - Ocala, FL  
(under tack show July 6-11)

Visit the calendar at [www.SupportHorseRacing.org](http://www.SupportHorseRacing.org) for updates to this schedule.



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\*figures correct to 31 March 2020

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The skills that many seasoned racetrack investigators have acquired over the years are at risk of being lost to the industry, however. “A lot of the investigators who have been in the industry for many years are fixing to retire,” and their expertise isn’t necessarily trickling down into the next generation, Johnson warned.

Johnson isn’t the only expert who sees opportunity for reform. A recently retired veteran law enforcement officer, Mike Fleischaker is The Stronach Group’s recently minted director of Corporate Security.

During the short time Fleischaker has been given in his new role to patrol some of the nation’s backstretches, it’s clear, he said, that “a lot of work needs to be done” in terms of tightening up “practices and protocols” at both racing and training facilities.

And while Fleischaker said he agreed that racetracks and commissions need to beef up their numbers of trained investigative personnel—four per track “at least”—he recommended that they’re routinely circulated from track to track to avoid over-familiarity potentially compromising the “integrity” of any investigation.

“The horseracing community is a tight-knit community. Unfortunately, some people get treated differently than other people do, and there’s not a lot of consistency to the application of regulations and procedures and guidelines,” he said.

“What I would like to see are teams of investigators, but they don’t get tied to any particular facility for any great length of time,” Fleischaker added. “And there needs to be consistent, regular and random searches of stables and trailers and other places.”

**“I’m assuming they had an informant”**



Jason Servis and Maximum Security | Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia

Some commissions, like Louisiana, farm their investigative work out to local police forces. This can have its pluses—for example, local police officers typically possess a broader range of law enforcement skill-sets than your common-or-garden racing investigator, Kilpack said.

But the flip side of the argument is that local police officers aren’t necessarily trained in the peculiar arcana—from backstretch culture to medication rules—of horse racing, and aren’t always given an incentive to police the backstretch as rigorously as in-house investigative teams are, said Kilpack.

Still, the issue of farming work out to outside police forces brings us neatly back to the recent indictments.

“It’s just the perfect investigation,” said Kilpack, of the FBI-led sting. “I’m assuming they had an informant, turned somebody over for cooperation—a trainer most likely—in lieu of prosecution.”

The thing is, racing’s investigators aren’t privy to the same tools and resources as the FBI, Kilpack explained. “We can’t wire-tap like the FBI,” he said. “They have all the money in the world, and they have the biggest thing in the world which is called confidentiality.”

As a CHRB investigator—a position he held for 25 years—Kilpack was required to share unearthed intel directly with the commission, creating a dynamic that placed certain handcuffs on his approach to the job, he said.



Morning at Santa Anita | Horsephotos

But the FBI doesn’t have such restraints, Kilpack explained, which is one reason why he encourages greater coordination between the industry and outside law enforcement agencies like the FBI, beginning with the world of networking.

“When I was there [at the CHRB], I was on an email list to go to intelligence meetings attended by all the different law enforcement agencies,” said Kilpack. **Cont. p6**

“I don’t know how many [investigators] are doing that now—at least, not routinely.”

As a former law enforcement officer, Johnson has used her connections to help “build that bridge” with the FBI in New Mexico.

“I would love for the same thing to go on here with the FBI as went on back East,” she said, explaining how, despite the bureau’s not-inconsiderable resources, they’re still selective about which cases they pursue. “I don’t think we’re quite there yet.”

**“There are a lot of grey areas in racing”**

When it comes to reform from within, a standardized training program that all racetrack investigators could pursue would constitute a seven-league stride forward for the industry, said Johnson. “There’s nothing out there for racetrack investigators or commissions to send their people to any type of class like that,” she added.

Because “there are a lot of grey areas in racing,” such a program would need to be broad-sweeping, providing investigative tools to those with little formal law enforcement training, and immersive information about the niche world of horseracing to investigators from outside the sport, said Johnson. “I just believe we’re going to have to step it up and put together a really good curriculum.”

And while the ORI’s annual conference provides an opportunity for continuing education, the fact it’s not mandatory means there are plenty each year who miss out. Indeed, the two CHRB investigators originally scheduled to go to this year’s meeting were prevented from doing so due to an out-of-state travel clerical error.

“Commissions, they’ve got to change their approach to more effective enforcement,” said Kilpack. “But they just can’t do it, whether it’s for budget reasons or something else.”

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**Queen’s Plate Postponed cont. from p1**

On Mar. 23, Woodbine Entertainment announced that it was postponing the start of the 2020 Thoroughbred meet which was scheduled to open Apr. 18. The decision was made to follow the Government of Ontario’s orders to close all non-essential businesses to help stop the spread of COVID-19.



**One Bad Boy winning the 2019 Queen’s Plate | Michael Burns**

All Queen’s Plate ticket purchasers have the option of keeping their purchased seats or receiving a full refund (including fees) at any time between now and the new date of the event through [Ticketmaster.ca](https://www.ticketmaster.ca). Fans are encouraged to visit [QueensPlate.com](https://www.queensplate.com) for the latest information and updates regarding The Queen’s Plate.

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**GREEN GROUP’S LEN GREEN BREAKS DOWN IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT ON RACING INDUSTRY**

by Len Green

*Editor’s note: The Thoroughbred racing industry is covered under legislation passed in Washington to bolster an economy that has been hard hit by the coronavirus. To clarify what is available to racing participants, the NTRA held a teleconference Wednesday which included tax experts who serve the racing industry. To break down what is available and who qualifies for assistance, the TDN has been working with The Green Group’s Founder and Chairman, Len Green to go over the CARES Act and its provisions.*

**Cont. p7**



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The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") became law Mar. 27. The provisions most relevant to employers and small business owners, including those who are self-employed, covers items such as federal loans and tax credits.

Below is a brief overview of the key provisions.

### **Federal Loans, Grants, Loan Forgiveness, Credits and Deferrals**

The CARES Act provides numerous forms of incentives and assistance for businesses to be funded by the Federal Government. These include loans, grants, loan forgiveness, tax deferments and tax credits.

There are a variety of programs available. Here is a summary of some of them:

#### **1. Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EID Loan) - \$2 million Package**

Small businesses (fewer than 500 employees), for profit and non-profit, can apply to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for a loan of up to \$2 million to help alleviate the temporary loss of revenue caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19).

EID Loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that a business cannot pay due to the impact of the pandemic. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses and 2.75% for non-profits.

EID Loans have long term repayment periods of up to 30 years, but specific loan terms, including the amount awarded, is determined by the SBA on a case-by-case basis.

The SBA will require collateral, generally real estate, to support the loan, but will not deny a loan simply because the borrower owns no real estate.

This could be a process taking several months.

To apply for the EID Loan you can follow this link

<https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>.

Contact the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service center at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

#### **2. SBA Rapid Relief Grants**

Recognizing that the time it can take to process an EID Loan application could leave small businesses in desperate circumstances or unable to survive, the CARES Act includes \$10 billion for emergency SBA grants of up to \$10,000 for small businesses or non-profits which have applied for an EID Loan. Recipients can use the grant funds to cover immediate payroll, mortgage, rent and other specified expenses. The grant does not have to be repaid, but only businesses which apply for an EID Loan are eligible. The Act states that the SBA shall pay grants within three (3) days following the SBA's receipt of the grant

application. But because so many companies are eligible, there could be a delay.

To apply for the EID Loan, you can follow this link at <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>.

Contact the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service center at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

#### **3. Paycheck Protection Loans**

This is the big one--the CARES Act also includes \$350 billion to fund another loan program for small businesses with fewer than 500 employees, including non-profits, as well as sole proprietors, independent contractors and self-employed persons, during the period from Feb. 15, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

The program is based on a presumption that small businesses will suffer economic hardships due to COVID-19, so borrowers do not have to demonstrate their losses, as they do to secure an EID Loan.

#### **Limit of Loan**

The amount of Paycheck Protection Loans are 2.5 times the average monthly payroll costs incurred during the one-year period before the date of the loan, up to a maximum of \$10 million. This is important--payroll costs include salary/wages/commissions to employees and independent contractors (up to annualized salary of \$100,000 per employee), sick/family leave/PTO, severance payments, group health benefits (including insurance premiums), retirement benefits and state and local taxes assessed on employee compensation.

The loans will have a maximum term of 10 years and an interest rate not to exceed 4%.

#### **Use of Funds**

Borrowers may use loan proceeds for: payroll costs; continuation of group health care benefits during periods of paid sick, medical, or family leave, or insurance premiums; salaries or commissions or similar compensation; interest on mortgage obligations; rent; utilities and interest on other outstanding debt.

Applicants do not pay any processing fee and are not required to provide collateral or personal guarantees.

To apply for assistance, follow this link <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>.

If you have questions about this application or problems providing the required information, please contact SBA Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 or (TTY: 1-800-877-8339)

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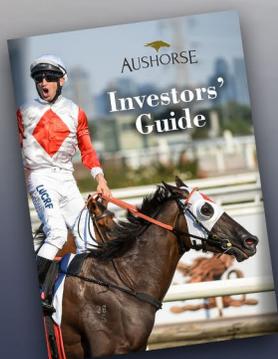
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#### 4. Paycheck Protection Loan Forgiveness

Unlike EID Loans, a portion of Paycheck Protection Loans can be forgiven, on a tax-free basis. The amount of the loan that is forgivable is the sum of the payroll costs, mortgage interest payment, rent and utilities incurred or paid by the borrower during the eight-week period beginning on the loan origination date.

#### Verification

An independent company (like a CPA) can submit schedules and documentation to assist the borrower with their request for forgiveness. The amount of forgiveness will be reduced, if the borrower laid off or furloughed any employees during the period between Feb. 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020 or reduced wages/salaries of any employees by more than 25% during the same period. In recognition of the fact that many employers instituted layoffs before the CARES Act was passed, if an employer rehires the laid off employee or raises salaries and wages back to their prior level by June 30, 2020, the reduction formula does not apply to those employees.

#### 5. Employee Retention Tax Credits

Employers who do not request loan forgiveness of a portion of a Paycheck Protection Loan, may be eligible for a refundable tax credit equal to 50% of wages (including health benefits) paid to employees during the period Mar. 13, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020, subject to certain conditions, and is provided for the first \$10,000 in eligible wages and compensation paid by the employer to an employee. Thus, the credit is a maximum \$5,000 per employee.

To be eligible, an employer either must have had operations fully or partially suspended because of a shut-down order from a governmental authority related to COVID-19, or had gross receipts decline by more than 50% in a calendar quarter when compared to the same quarter in 2019. Eligibility will end before Dec. 31 if the employer's gross receipts for any calendar quarter are more than 80% of receipts the same quarter in 2019.

For employers with more than 100 employees only (based on 2019 employment levels), wages are limited to those paid to employees who were not providing services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Public employers are not eligible for this program.

Eligible employers will report their total qualified wages and the related health insurance costs for each quarter on their quarterly employment tax returns, or Form 941 beginning with the second quarter. If the employer's employment tax deposits are not sufficient to cover the credit, the employer may receive an advance payment from the IRS by submitting Form 7200, Advance Payment of Employer Credits Due to COVID-19.

Eligible employers can also request an advance of the Employee Retention Credit by submitting Form 7200. Employers should contact their payroll companies to make sure the process will be streamlined with their quarterly filings.

#### 6. Payroll Tax Deferral

The CARES Act also allows employers, who did not request loan forgiveness of a portion of a Paycheck Protection Loan, to defer payment of their share of the 6.2% Social Security tax on wages paid from Mar. 27, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020 (or the equivalent portion of self-employment taxes). The deferred taxes are payable in two installments, 50% on Dec. 31, 2021 and 50% on Dec. 31, 2022. Employers should contact their payroll companies to make sure the process will be streamlined with their quarterly filings.

Remember, the above is based on the law as it now is being interpreted and may be subject to changes.

For more information, please contact Diane Campagna at [dcampagna@greenco.com](mailto:dcampagna@greenco.com) (732) 510-1429, Jim Benkoil at [jbenkoil@greenco.com](mailto:jbenkoil@greenco.com) (732) 510-1422 or John Wollenberg at [jwollenberg@greenco.com](mailto:jwollenberg@greenco.com) (848) 212-4018.

Click [here](#) for Part I of this series.

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## A 'WHALE' OF START FOR MILLER, ELSER AND PARTNERS WITH NZ VENTURE

by Alan Carasso

Joe Miller and Kip Elser are no strangers to success in the American bloodstock business. In a 15-year stint with Kern Thoroughbreds, Miller has helped manage the racing and breeding operations of Tracy Farmer and Len Riggio's My Meadowview Farm, while Elser's Kirkwood Stables' graduates include GI Kentucky Oaks winners Plum Pretty (Medaglia d'Oro), Keeper Hill (Deputy Minister) and Gal In a Ruckus (Bold Ruckus); the top-level winning half-siblings Sharp Cat (Storm Cat) and Royal Anthem (Theatrical {Ire}); and GI Breeders' Cup Classic hero Alphabet Soup (Cozzene).

Always ready to embrace a new challenge, Elser jumped at the opportunity to attend the 2018 New Zealand Bloodstock Yearling Sales at Karaka. The South Carolina-based horseman, along with Miller--the North American representative for NZB--Justin Casse and consignor Sam Beatson of the New Zealand-based Riversley Park agency teamed up to purchase a pinhooking prospect by the since-departed Tavistock (NZ) (Montjeu {Ire}). The team's efforts bore fruit when the 3-year-old gelding, now named **Beluga (NZ)** graduated at second asking at Sha Tin in Hong Kong Mar. 14. **Cont. p9**



Joe Miller | kernlillingston.com

“I wanted to figure out a way to get more involved in New Zealand,” Miller said, just after getting Frozen 2 set up for his daughter to give her a break from distance learning. “I met [NZB Bloodstock Services Manager Danny Rolston and I know that the trade is very good from New Zealand to Hong Kong and he was looking to figure out if there was a way to get more Americans involved in New Zealand. There are obviously plenty of Americans involved in Australia and he asked if I’d help him out with that project.

“Kip loves doing stuff all over the world--he’s been involved in South Africa--and this was sort of a natural fit for him,” he continued. “His wife, Helen, has been to New Zealand several times, and has friends there. They came, we decided to raise a little bit of money and put up some of our own money and go buy a couple of horses, with the ultimate goal of playing at the top of the market and pinhook a couple of horses on to Hong Kong.”

Miller explained that he got hooked up with Beatson through fellow bloodstock agent Andrew Williams, who launched his own agency in March 2017.

**Hip 491** was consigned to the Book 1 of the 2018 Karaka Sales on the account of Curraghmore and hailed from the sixth crop of Tavistock, whose early successes included 2016 Hong Kong Derby hero Werther (NZ). The Oct. 30 foal is out of a multiple group-placed dam who was a half-sister to Group 3 winner Cassini (Aus) (Reset {Aus}).

“We decided that we wanted to buy something in our first year that was by a proven stallion that could be at the higher end of the market,” Miller explained. “We found a lot of horses we liked, but we weren’t really ready to take a shot with a first-year stallion. We thought that bringing something a little more proven was what we wanted, with some black-type under the first dam.”

The team gave NZ\$150,000 for the colt, who Miller categorized as “very straight-forward.”

“Beluga was an October foal and he maybe wasn’t as mature as some of the others, but that was going to be OK, because we had 10 months to the 2-year-old sale,” he said, referring to NZB’s Ready To Run Sale which takes place fully 10 months hence in late November. “We had a lot of things we were looking for, but really, we just wanted to find a horse we thought would make a really good racehorse. A horse that would be sound, vet very clean. Size is kind of a factor when you’re selling to Hong Kong--they don’t really buy small horses--so we knew we wanted to buy a horse that was going to be about 16 hands.



Beluga as a 2-year-old | nzb.co.nz

He continued, “He just had a great frame to him, though he was still a little bit immature. But he had a great walk to him and he had a great brain. He just hadn’t quite filled in or muscled up yet into that frame, he was just a baby. We thought he had a ton of improvement in him. Tavistock had done well in Hong Kong--at the time, Werther was one of the best horses in Hong Kong. Physically, he was not the finished product, he was something we thought could develop into a really nice horse.”

Whereas there is often a preference for speed and horses that will be “early” at American juvenile auctions, Miller and partners were taking a longer view when they signed the ticket at Karaka.

“Kip and I really want to buy milers, we’re really not trying to buy a precocious horse,” he said. “We’re actually trying to stay away from things that look like they’re going to be 2-year-olds. That does us no good. We want a horse that’s going to breeze well, but when people go and look at it, they think it’s going to make a good 3-year-old and 4-year-old.

“We’re not looking for the sharp 2-year-old and that’s sort of the same thing Kip and I are doing with our gallop-only consignment,” he added. **Cont. p10**

“We’re not looking for a 2-year-old that’s going to win in May or June or a horse that’s going to breeze in :10 flat. We’re looking for a late-year 2-year-old or 3-year-old sort of horse.”

The gap between the yearling and 2-year-old sales in New Zealand affords horsemen the opportunity to bring their horses along at a more leisurely pace that ultimately does the animals a world of good, Miller opines.

“They have a bit of a different way of training their horses,” he said. “What Sam does is break the horse and then turn it out for 30 days. Get back on it, get it up to a good gallop and then give it another 30 days off. And then once you get into June, you go on from there, but the horse gets two or three breaks from the time it starts. If he feels he needs 10 days in the paddock at some point, there’s really no pressure.”

The team’s purchase went his 200 meters in :10.45 ahead of the Ready To Run Sale and caught the eye of noted judge John Foote, who gave NZ\$400,000 for the athletic bay.

“We were very happy with that for sure,” Miller affirmed. “For our first venture down there, to even make a profit was great. Kip and I were both pretty green when you go down to the Southern Hemisphere—you don’t know the pedigrees and you’re not familiar with the farms you’re buying off of. It’s a really different landscape. But it is the least-intimidating landscape. People are so helpful and friendly and now after doing it once or twice, it’s second nature now.



Kip Elser | *Horsephotos*

Miller continued, “Sam liked him all along. He thought he was one of his top two or three horses and I thought he breezed really well. He had his head down, breezed really easy. The goal isn’t to get him to go :10 flat, the goal is to try to get him to go just fast enough doing everything the right way. The horse kind of did that on his own.”

Beluga is off to a promising start, having built on a debut second Mar. 1 to graduate by a measured half-length Mar. 14

for G1 Melbourne Cup-winning trainer David Hall ([video](#)). This season, the Ready 2 Run Sale has tossed up the likes of 2019 G1 Longines Hong Kong Sprint winner Beat the Clock (Aus) (Hinchinbrook {Aus}) and Golden Sixty (Aus) (Medaglia d’Oro), who landed the BMW Hong Kong Derby Mar. 22. Miller hopes Beluga can be the next good thing in Hong Kong.

“I am hoping that this is just the beginning of a successful career over there,” said Miller. “He couldn’t have won more easily, he’s got tactical speed and I’d have to think he wants to go significantly farther than six furlongs. Any time that they’re successful this early in their career, you have a lot to look forward to. Things don’t really get going for another six or eight months for a horse like him.”

This past January, Miller and Elser teamed with Kilgravin Lodge’s Eion Kemp to purchase a colt by Ocean Park (NZ) for NZ\$50,000 at this year’s Book 1 and, in partnership with Beatson, gave NZ\$75,000 for a Per Incanto colt during Book 2. In partnership with Kilgravin, they also purchased a No Nay Never colt for A\$80,000 at Inglis Melbourne Premier Sale in February. All three are headed to the RTR sale in eight months’ time.

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## LUKAS TAKES OVER TRAINING OF COME DANCING



Come Dancing | *Sarah Andrew*

Grade I winner **Come Dancing** (Malibu Moon), who has been residing in the D. Wayne Lukas barn at Oaklawn Park after being shipped from Carlos Martin’s outfit in New York, where racing was suspended Mar. 19, will remain with Lukas as she targets the Apr. 18 GI Apple Blossom H. in Hot Springs for her seasonal debut.

“Carlos Martin sent her in beautiful shape, so my job is to keep her happy and move her forward,” Lukas told the Oaklawn notes team. **Cont. p11**



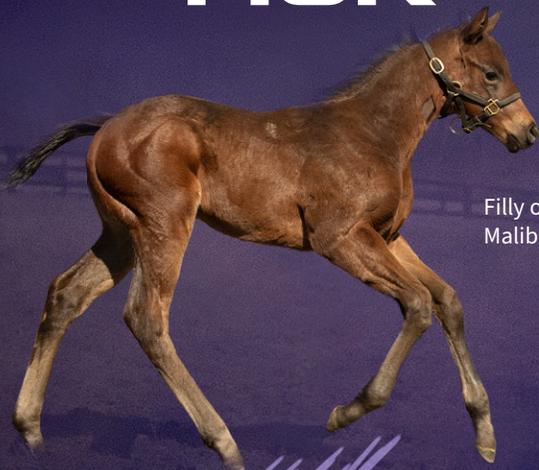
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Lukas said fellow trainer Dale Romans suggested Martin, grandson of the late Hall of Fame trainer Frank “Pancho” Martin, send Come Dancing to Lukas in Arkansas. Romans also trains for breeder/owner Marc Holliday of Blue Devil Racing Stable.

“Usually when they show up in the barn, there’s a problem and they want you to correct it,” said Lukas, who annually winters at Oaklawn. “They don’t usually come in looking like she does and working like she does.”

Come Dancing, a five-time stakes winner, hasn’t started since finishing sixth in the GI Breeders’ Cup Filly & Mare Sprint--her only career race outside New York--Nov. 2 at Santa Anita. The 6-year-old had previously captured the GI Ketel One Ballerina S. Aug. 24 at Saratoga and the GII Gallant Bloom H. Sept. 22 at Belmont Park. Overall, Come Dancing has won eight of 14 career starts and earned \$1,064,950.

“She’s impressive,” Lukas said. “I’ve had a number of, something like 19 Eclipse-champion fillies, and she fits the mold.”

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## CANTERBURY FURLOUGHS 850 WORKERS

Canterbury Park has furloughed approximately 850 employees as a result of their temporary closure due to the coronavirus, and has subjected key personnel to salary reductions, according to a statement from the Canterbury Park Holding Corporation Wednesday.

“Since suspending all operations at Canterbury Park on Mar. 16, 2020, we have acted aggressively to preserve cash by reducing our operating expenses, suspending or delaying our 2020 planned capital expenditures, and suspending our quarterly cash dividend,” said Randy Sampson, Canterbury Park President and CEO. “The additional actions we are implementing today are the hardest we have ever had to make given the impact on our dedicated employees for whom this situation is beyond our collective control. While this was an extremely difficult decision to make, the Board of Directors and I remain committed to taking the necessary actions that help ensure our employees’ health and safety as well as the Company’s long-term future. We continue to work closely with Governor (Tim) Walz, the Minnesota Department of Health and other government entities, and will seek their guidance on when Canterbury Park can reopen so that our team members’ way of life can get back to normal. We look forward to seeing our dedicated team members return to Canterbury Park once we reopen.”

The release said that Canterbury would continue to operate with “significantly reduced staff of key personnel,” until Canterbury could resume normal operations.

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## JACK KNOWLTON JOINS TDN WRITERS’ ROOM TO TALK TIZ THE LAW, FUNNY CIDE



Jack Knowlton | Sarah Andrew

Seventeen years ago, Jack Knowlton’s band-of-buddies Sackatoga Stable took the racing world by storm when their “gutsy gelding” Funny Cide (Distorted Humor) upset the GI Kentucky Derby before adding the GI Preakness S. and becoming one of the most popular horses of his generation.

Things look much different for Sackatoga these days, with almost all new faces, but Knowlton remains the constant, and now he and his partners have another top Kentucky Derby contender to get excited about in GI Curlin Florida Derby victor Tiz the Law (Constitution). Knowlton joined the TDN Writers’ Room podcast **presented by Keeneland** with hosts Joe Bianca and Bill Finley Wednesday as the **Green Group Guest of the Week** to talk about possibly rekindling the Derby magic.

“It really is totally different because as you remember, Funny Cide was a New York-bred--as is Tiz the Law--and he was also a gelding. There had never been in New York-bred to win the Kentucky Derby. There hadn’t been a gelding since 1929 when Clyde Van Dusen did it. So the fact that he beat New York breds in three races as a 2-year-old didn’t really get anybody’s attention,” Knowlton said. “With Tiz the Law, he won impressively, broke his maiden at Saratoga and then jumped up and won the Grade I Champagne in October at Belmont. So when that happened, all of a sudden, he was on everybody’s radar screen.”

Much of the conversation with Knowlton focused on the peculiarity of this year’s Derby trail, with suddenly five months from the Florida Derby until the Run for the Roses, instead of five weeks.

“Everybody thinks that he’s one of the ones that should show up on the first Saturday in September. Which sounds really strange,” Knowlton said. **Cont. p12**

As for the plan to get Tiz the Law to the new Derby date, Knowlton deferred to longtime trainer Barclay Tagg, saying, “Barclay’s a firm believer that when you have a horse in a routine, you keep him in a routine. And it’s worked perfectly except for just a little, little bump in the road he had about five or six weeks ago where he had a little bit of an issue with one of his hoofs after he threw a shoe. But other than that, after he won the [GIII] Holy Bull, we gave him a little lighter next couple of weeks, didn’t have to work him. And that’s what I expect we’ll do.”

Elsewhere on the podcast, which also featured regulars Jon Green and Brian DiDonato and a [new video component via Zoom](#), the crew discussed the impact coronavirus is having on the racing calendar in the [West Point Thoroughbreds news segment](#), reminisced on their favorite horses of all-time and talked about the personal silver linings they’ve found in social distancing and staying home. [Click here to listen.](#)

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## FONNER PARK MEET TO CONTINUE



Fonner Park | Fonner Park photo

by Bill Finley

With the two-week experiment to continue racing at Fonner Park having resulted in record handle numbers for the Grand Island, Nebraska track, management has agreed to keep racing going through the month of April. The 2020 meet is scheduled to close May 2.

Three weeks ago, horsemen were told that Fonner was shutting down because of the coronavirus. They went to management and reached an agreement to stay open for a trial period. A track that normally ran Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, Fonner went to a Monday-through-Wednesday schedule where it would be among the only tracks available to

simulcast bettors. The hope was that the shift in the schedule would result in added handle.

The experiment has been a rousing success, with Fonner handling a record \$2.8 million Tuesday and eclipsing the \$2-million mark on two other occasions. Before changing its racing schedule, Fonner handled \$500,000 to \$600,000 on a good day and had never had a handle above \$1.3 million in its 57-year history.

“The answer is yes, we are going to continue,” Fonner CEO Chris Kotulak said. “We were very pragmatic about this and knew what we needed to accomplish to stay open. We have exceeded our expectations. Having other tracks shut down has certainly helped us. We’ve been in the limelight and the lights have been cranked up. It’s not just the U.S. and Canada. They are betting on us in Australia, in South America.”

The signature race of the meet is the Bosselman Pump and Pantry/Gus Fonner Stakes, which is scheduled to be run Apr. 25 with a purse of \$75,000. The race is sponsored by Bosselman Energy, which, Kotulak said, has been putting up \$40,000 of the purse but told management that it cannot afford to do so this year because of a decline in business during the coronavirus scare. However, the race will be run, likely with a smaller purse. Kotulak expects it will attract one of the best fields in its history.

“We will confirm the date and the purse soon,” he said. “There are a lot of people out there with good horses that have no place to run, so this race is getting a lot of attention. I think we’re going to see one heck of a race. We might have to make it the Bosselman Invitational. Who knows?”

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## SO... WHO'S THE LEADING FIRST-CROP SIRE OF 2020?

*Even if most racing is delayed, we’re all hoping it will get underway sometime this spring or early summer, if for no other reason than so we can all find out the answer to our annual favorite question. We surveyed some top judges on who their leading first-crop sire is, and to give us some under-the-radar picks as well.*

### NICK HINES

Uncle Mo will have a really good look as a "sire of sires" this year with **Laoban**, **Outwork** and **Nyquist** all entering the breeding shed as freshman sires in 2020. The question is, can they all co-exist and at the top level? **Cont. p13**



Nick & Cash Hines | MyRacehorse

That being said, Nyquist ranks as my selection for leading freshman sire of 2020, with **Runhappy** (for Mattress Mack's sake), as an honorable mention and **Exaggerator** as an "under the radar" stallion.

As a racehorse, Nyquist was the best of his class early on (champion 2-year-old) and into his 3-year-old season, with an ability to both sprint and route and, of course, win at a Classic distance in the Kentucky Derby. While not as masculine and scopey as his Uncle Mo counterparts, his physical stability and psyche comprised a tenacious spirit on the racetrack which I believe will be seen in his foals, and especially early! With his first-crop yearling average ranking number one at \$236,000 and judging by what I've seen from his progeny as 2-year-olds in training, my expectations are in line with what the market trends reflect.

Runhappy, brought to you by Mattress Mack, has undoubtedly been given the strongest campaign support since Ronald Reagan and as a result, along with the incentives provided, has garnered plenty of support to springboard his success for his freshman year. As a son of the fairly precocious Super Saver, his first book of mares include 34% who won at the age of two are the producers of 27% winners to date. Although Runhappy did not reveal himself as a precocious type while peaking in the midst of his sophomore season, my belief is that with his natural speed and having not raced on Lasix, this will give his progeny a leg up early on.

Although I see Exaggerator as a stallion whose progeny will thrive at longer distances, he proved his mettle at a very early age, not to mention with a conservative handler in Keith Desormeaux. They were steady market sellers as weanlings to yearlings, and from what I've seen of thus far, they've evolved nicely as 2-year-olds, exhibiting good balance and aptitude, while selling reasonably well at the recently concluded OBS

March sale. He's one to watch for sure.

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## SILVER LININGS

*"We are the silver lining in any and every dark cloud we could ever find. There is no need to go looking for the light when you bring it with you." -Tyler Knott Gregson*

TDN Intern Katie Ritz polled a series of industry members to see if they had found anything good that has come out of the current crisis. Their responses will appear every day in the TDN. To submit your own, email [suefinley@thetdn.com](mailto:suefinley@thetdn.com)

### MARK TAYLOR



Mark Taylor | Keeneland

Here is my silver lining: I feel like the coronavirus and its forced social distancing has in some ways triggered a reset of our world in a positive way. Before social distancing, I felt like the world had lost much of its ability to listen to one another. The Twitter culture had sucked everyone into sound bite communication with a clever hashtag. Depth of listening and sincere empathy were on the endangered species list of human virtues.

I feel like we are slowing down, taking a deep breath and engaging in deeper communication. A few examples of this are less vitriol on social media (it's not gone, but it has diminished), more families out walking together, more friends calling and having actual conversations, more generosity, more empathy, and less judging. **Cont. p14**

These are anecdotal observations, but they are real. There is still a great amount of suffering to come. We have no idea what the future holds. My hope is that we will continue to see kindness, generosity, and sincere communication multiply as this situation unfolds.

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### THE JOCKEY CLUB SAFETY NET FOUNDATION DONATES FACE SHIELDS TO NYRA

The Jockey Club Safety Net Foundation has donated 1,000 Kroop’s Brands face shields to the New York Racing Association racetrack community as it deals with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. NYRA’s Aqueduct Racetrack is the location for a temporary medical facility being constructed to help during the pandemic.

“The Jockey Club Safety Net Foundation is committed to helping Thoroughbred racing industry personnel, and providing face shields to NYRA during this difficult time is another way that we are able to help,” said Shannon Kelly, executive director, The Jockey Club Safety Net Foundation. “Donations to the foundation are earmarked for backstretch workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the current priority is stocking food pantries at racetracks around the country.”

To contribute to the foundation, please visit [tjcfoundation.org/donate](http://tjcfoundation.org/donate).

Kroop’s makes goggles for sports such as horse racing and skydiving. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the company began creating a face shield to help protect medical personnel and others from the coronavirus.

“We started seeing a lot of a particular goggle moving on our website and Amazon—this was four to six weeks ago—and we assumed it was in response to the virus,” said Andrew Trembley, president of Kroop’s. “We started noticing where they were going, medical supply companies and doctors, and we realized that they need goggles and can’t get them. We’re using components and equipment used to make the jockey goggles to make the shields.”

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### RICE, FRANCO, REPEAT AQUEDUCT WINTER MEET TITLES

Trainer Linda Rice notched 40 wins for her second consecutive winter meet crown, while jockey Manny Franco posted 64 victories to win his third consecutive winter meet title at Aqueduct Racetrack. Drawing Away Stable bested all owners with 19 wins for the abbreviated winter meet that ran from Dec. 12 through Mar. 15.

"It's exciting to win another title," said Rice of her title defense. "I was pleased to finally come away with a win last year and it's great to build on that success. I changed my business model five years ago to stay in New York year-round and not divide my stable between New York and Florida. I think that's certainly helped us to gain more ground on the New York circuit. New York has really good purses and we've concentrated on racing here for the most part."

Originally scheduled to run through Sunday, Mar. 29, the New York Racing Association, Inc. suspended racing Mar. 19 due to changing circumstances in the racing community relative to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

On Saturday, NYRA announced that live racing at Aqueduct was canceled for the remainder of the winter and spring meets with the building set to serve as a temporary hospital site during the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

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### NOURISH LEXINGTON INITIATIVE WILL EMPLOY DISPLACED FOOD SERVICE WORKERS TO FEED LEXINGTON FAMILIES IN NEED

Nourish Lexington, an initiative to utilize hospitality workers recently unemployed due to the COVID-19 closings as well as other community food assets to provide prepared meals to those who need immediate access to food, has been created by several Central Kentucky community organizations, including Keeneland.

FoodChain, with support from the E.E. Murry Family Foundation, Keeneland and VisitLEX, formed Nourish Lexington as a model collaboration to use the skills and talents of local chefs, businesses, farms, funders and nonprofit agencies in order to feed our hungry community members. Other generous donors who have stepped forward to support the cause include The Lavin Family Foundation and the Jenna and Matthew Mitchell Family Foundation.

In exchange for preparing and delivering meals, food service workers will receive a \$60 payment for a four-hour shift. Meals will be distributed to hospitality industry families, other families in need, seniors in affordable housing apartment complexes, and children and their families through family resource coordinators. **Cont. p15**

“The mission of the E.E. Murry Family Foundation is to eliminate poverty. We believe that starts with stopping poverty before it begins. With that goal in mind, we partnered with FoodChain, Keeneland, VisitLEX and the Blue Grass Community Foundation to create income opportunities for individuals displaced by COVID-19 in the service industry and serve meals to those in need,” said Wes Murry of the E. E. Murry Family Foundation.

To help provide relief, Keeneland donated 1,500 pounds of food to the Nourish Lexington program and will contribute 100% of the proceeds from online sales from The Keeneland Shop and Keeneland Mercantile during the month of April to the effort.

“Keeneland is part of the rich fabric of this community. After the difficult decision to cancel our race meet, we refocused our energies to help those in our industry and Central Kentucky community who are most vulnerable,” Keeneland President and CEO Bill Thomason said. “This community supports Keeneland year-round, and this is a time when we all must come together to support one another.”

Nourish Lexington will be piloted at FoodChain’s kitchen facility at the corner of Jefferson and West 6th Street in downtown Lexington.

“Under the current crisis, with the need for meals rising at exponential rates, we had to leverage as many of our resources, partnerships and infrastructure as possible to address the problem,” said FoodChain Executive Director Becca Self. “That our kitchen and networks could be an asset to bring Lexington’s skilled food sector together to produce ready-to-eat meals safely, while also coordinating their delivery to places that could be accessible to those most in need, has been a blessing in these otherwise turbulent times.”

Nourish Lexington is fueled by the generous donations from community partners and members of the public. To learn more about this effort and help feed members of the Lexington community who need it most, visit [www.nourishlexington.org](http://www.nourishlexington.org) or <https://bgcf.givingfuel.com/nourishfund>.

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-  Has sold **13 Graded Stakes winners** in the last 5 years
-  Has had a graduate in either the **Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Oaks** or **Steve Haskin's Derby Dozen** the last 4 years in a row

#### Derby Milliner Christine Moore turns skills to making masks to help health care workers

Normally Christine Moore's creations can be seen on the heads of Derby patrons. Amid the coronavirus, she has turned her attention to creating masks.

**Michael Clevenger, Louisville Courier Journal**



### DID YOU KNOW?

MGISW **Guarana** (Ghostzapper) was tabbed as a “TDN Rising Star”

Visit the **TDN Rising Stars** section on our website!



Listen to this week's podcast

April 1, 2020

**Sackatoga Stable's Jack Knowlton**  
 Talks Florida Derby Winner Tiz the Law



## THURSDAY'S RACING INSIGHTS:

By *Christie DeBernardis*

Sponsored by *Alex Nichols Agency*

### BROWN UNVEILS PAIR OF BLUEBLOODS

4th-GP, \$45K, Msw, 3yo, f, 1mT, 2:36p.m.

Trainer Chad Brown unveils a pair of well-bred fillies in this test in Juddmonte homebred **PUBLICATION (Tapit)** and Shadwell homebred **Atlaf (Medaglia d'Oro)**. Publication is out of GSW & MGISP Filimbi (Mizzen Mast), who is a daughter of MGISW Flute (Seattle Slew). This is also the family of GISW Weep No More (Mineshaft) and GSW Current (Curlin). Atlaf's second dam is champion grass mare Golden Apples (Ire) (Pivotal {GB}). **TJCS PPS**

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### SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, APRIL 2

**American Pharoah** (Pioneerof the Nile), Ashford Stud, private 318 foals of racing age/33 winners/6 black-type winners 4-Gulfstream, Msw 1mT, AMERICAN GODDESS, 10-1 9-Gulfstream, Msw 1 1/16mT, CARDIAC KID, 8-1 \$120,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl; \$230,000 KEE APR 2yo 4-Gulfstream, Msw 1mT, SLIP SLIDING AWAY, 10-1 \$145,000 RNA EAS MAY 2yo

**Bayern** (Offlee Wild), Hill 'n' Dale Farms, \$15,000 157 foals of racing age/34 winners/0 black-type winners 4-Gulfstream, Msw 1mT, LA BABIA, 12-1

**Carpe Diem** (Giant's Causeway), WinStar Farm, \$15,000 231 foals of racing age/27 winners/2 black-type winners 4-Gulfstream, Msw 1mT, KISS AND RUN, 12-1 \$375,000 FTS AUG yrl

**Competitive Edge** (Super Saver), Ashford Stud, \$12,500 155 foals of racing age/39 winners/4 black-type winners 8-Oaklawn, Aoc 6f, MISTY BLUE, 3-1 \$25,000 FTK JUL yrl; \$105,000 EAS MAY 2yo 8-Oaklawn, Aoc 6f, MY ITALIAN RABBI, 9-2 \$47,000 RNA FTN MIX wnl; \$60,000 OBS WIN wnl; \$160,000 SAR AUG yrl



**MAIDENS**

### IN ORDER OF PURSE:

**7th-Tampa Bay Downs, \$18,000, Msw, 4-1, 3yo, 6f, 1:11.53, ft.**

**SKY MISCHIEF (c, 3, Into Mischief--Sky Mirage, by Sky Mesa)**

finished second in his first two attempts, debuting at Hawthorne Dec. 21 and then at Tampa Jan. 18. Fifth last time in the slop at Gulfstream Feb. 15, he was favored at 9-5 this time around. The \$240,000 KEESEP buy saved ground in third off the heels of pacesetting duo through a :22.91 first quarter. Taking control at the top of the lane, he held off a late bid from first timer Oceanic (Constitution) to score by X lengths. The winner's dam Sky Mirage is a half-sister to U.A.E. MG1SW Kinsale King (Yankee Victor) and GSW Victoria's Wildcat (Bellamy Road). Sky Mischief is her first foal and her only produce since a juvenile filly by Into Mischief, who brought \$230,000 at Keeneland November, Sky Mirage was bred back to Collected last term. Sales history:

**Constitution** (Tapit), WinStar Farm, \$40,000  
 233 foals of racing age/40 winners/5 black-type winners  
 4-Gulfstream, Msw 1mT, SURSUM CORDA, 15-1  
 \$40,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Karakontie (Jpn)** (Bernstein), Gainesway Farm, \$10,000  
 130 foals of racing age/16 winners/3 black-type winners  
 4-Gulfstream, Msw 1mT, MISS FLYING SUN, 20-1  
 \$17,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Palace Malice** (Curlin), Three Chimneys Farm, \$25,000  
 211 foals of racing age/27 winners/4 black-type winners  
 9-Gulfstream, Msw 1 1/16mT, PRICING EXERCISE, 4-1  
 \$37,000 RNA KEE NOV wnl; \$270,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Race Day** (Tapit), Spendthrift Farm, \$7,500  
 148 foals of racing age/20 winners/4 black-type winners  
 8-Oaklawn, Aoc 6f, JOSIE, 7-2  
 \$80,000 FTK JUL yrl; \$170,000 OBS MAR 2yo

**Tapiture** (Tapit), Darby Dan Farm, \$7,500  
 246 foals of racing age/38 winners/3 black-type winners  
 8-Oaklawn, Aoc 6f, BLACK KAT TAPS, 30-1  
 \$30,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$65,000 KEE SEP yrl  
 9-Gulfstream, Msw 1 1/16mT, LIMETINI, 6-1  
 \$36,000 KEE JAN wnl; \$240,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Tonalist** (Tapit), Lane's End Farm, \$15,000  
 179 foals of racing age/25 winners/1 black-type winner  
 9-Gulfstream, Msw 1 1/16mT, SHAMROCKET, 2-1  
 \$130,000 KEE SEP yrl  
 9-Gulfstream, Msw 1 1/16mT, WIND RIDGE, 10-1

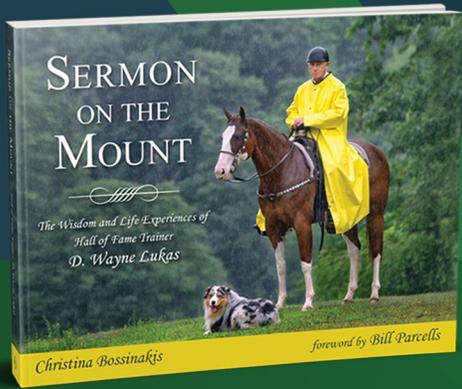


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**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**  
**3rd-Will Rogers Downs, \$26,400, (S), 4-1, (C), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10.64, ft.**  
**VISUAL PUNCH (g, 7, The Visualiser--Best Punch, by Two Punch)** Lifetime Record: 15-3-1-2, \$67,442. O-Shannon Gunter; B-Center Hills Farm (OK); T-Michael C. Gunter.

 **ALL TDN WINNERS BY SIRE**

**INTO MISCHIEF**, Sky Mischief, c, 3, o/o Sky Mirage, by Sky Mesa. MSW, 4-1, Tampa Bay  
**THE VISUALISER**, Visual Punch, g, 7, o/o Best Punch, by Two Punch. ALW, 4-1, Will Rogers



## “TERRIFIC UNCERTAINTY” AROUND BREEZE-UPS



Norman Williamson has backed off the training of his breezers | *Tattersalls*

By Kelsey Riley

The breeze-ups can't seem to catch a break.

Europe's 2-year-old sales suffered a nosedive in fortunes in 2018—a combination of polarization and oversubscription causing figures to plummet—but the market bounced back in 2019 in buoyant fashion. The breeze-up pinhookers, already surely some of the thickest-skinned players in the game, soldiered on, stocking up their barns at the yearling sales to take another shot in 2020, when the renaissance of the 2-year-old sales would surely continue.

And then, along came a pandemic.

“There is a lot of concern out there given what's happening in the world,” said John Cullinan of Horse Park Stud, who sells breeze-up horses in partnership with **Roger Marley** in addition to heading up the Breeze-Up Consignors Association. Cullinan said he is keeping perspective, though. [Cont. p2](#)

## ‘AUSSIE TOM’ IS A POM AT HEART

By Emma Berry

“It ended up being a pretty good day,” says Tom Marquand with no little understatement.

The day in question came less than a fortnight ago in Australia when the English jockey landed his first Group 1 victory aboard the William Haggas-trained Addeybb (GB) (Pivotal {GB}) in the Ranvet S. That same afternoon at Rosehill, Marquand also guided Addeybb's stable-mate Young Rascal (Fr) (Intello {Ger}) to glory in the G3 Manion Cup. With Australian racing currently taking place behind closed doors, there was no thunderous applause to herald Marquand's breakthrough moment, but the plaudits have been ringing out across the racing press and on social media ever since, and deservedly so.

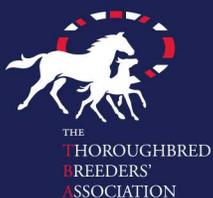
That big-race double had followed his Group 3 strike the previous weekend for Ciaran Maher and David Eustace in the Pago Pago S. with Prague (Aus) (Redoute's Choice {Aus}). Last Saturday Marquand struck again for the training duo when winning the G3 TL Baillieu H. on Holyfield (Aus) (I Am Invincible {Aus}), swiftly followed by victory in the G3 Star Kingdom S. for Anthony Cummings with Vegadaze (Aus) (Lope De Vega {Ire}). Since then the jockey, now dubbed 'Aussie Tom' by his rising fanbase down under, celebrated his 22nd birthday on Monday and, while he is suspended this weekend, thus missing a high-profile ride on Super Seth (Aus) (Dundeel {NZ}) in the G1 Doncaster Mile, he will be renewing his partnerships with Addeybb and Young Rascal during the second weekend of Sydney's The Championships.

[Cont. p6](#)

## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### RACING'S INVESTIGATIVE WEAK SPOTS

In the aftermath of the doping scandal, Dan Ross looks at why racing's infrastructure is not set up to police itself. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)



For the latest information on COVID-19 for the British Thoroughbred breeding industry, visit:

[thetba.co.uk/corona-virus-latest-information-and-guidance/](https://thetba.co.uk/corona-virus-latest-information-and-guidance/)

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A world map in a light tan color, overlaid with a network of white lines and circular nodes, suggesting global connectivity and technology.

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**“Terrific Uncertainty” Around Breeze Ups cont. from p1**

“It’s a shock to people from all walks of life,” Cullinan said. “I don’t think any industry or family will be untouched by this. We have to realize that in the wider world there is a catastrophe ongoing and while we have our problems, every other sector has their problems too.”

Co. Meath-based breeze-up consignor Norman Williamson concurred.

“It’s affecting every walk of life,” he said. “I know this is our business, but at the same time I’d hate to be a nurse or a doctor at the moment. There are worse things going on but from our point of view, certainly dealing with breeze-up horses, it’s very tricky. It’s quite worrying but we’ve got to get on with it.”

Jim McCartan, who sells under the Gaybrook Lodge banner, said he is keeping his youngsters ticking over.

“We have most of the work done with the breeze-up horses

and we’re just basically keeping them ticking over at this stage and waiting to see when racing will come back on in both Ireland and England,” he said. “We think that when that happens, the sales will follow. But we think racing needs to kick off and then

the sales after that. Everyone is working very hard behind the scenes to get everything back in action when it’s sensible to.

“They’re doing steady canters and we’re doing different things with them to keep them sweet and moving along.”

With **Goffs UK’s announcement on Monday** that its breeze-up sale would be pushed back to mid-June from its original Apr. 23 date, the earliest breeze-up sale is set to be Tattersalls’s combined Craven and Ascot breeze-up sale on Apr. 30 and May 1. Williamson said he has eased off his training regimes.

“They’ve come up with a new date for Goffs UK’s Doncaster sale, which is now put off until June,” he said.



**John Cullinan heads up the Breeze Up Consignors Association | Tattersalls**

**IN THE EYES of the EXPERTS**

*“We felt that Expert Eye was the best looking, best performed and best value first season sire to retire in 2019 and we are delighted with the result. This is a correct, great walking filly, who, hopefully, will promote the legacy of her grandam Time Charter.”*

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**JUDDMONTE**

**“Terrific Uncertainty” Around Breeze Ups cont.**

“That announcement came out on Monday so we’ve backed off those horses as of [Tuesday] morning. June now seems like a long time away, but we’ll take a couple weeks of going easy then start back cantering again.”

It will be universally understood, however, that the revised calendar is merely a blueprint until COVID-19 is fully under control, and nothing should be set in stone.

“The uncertainty is the biggest thing [that people are concerned about],” said Cullinan. “When there is no racing, it seems pretty [unreasonable] to think of having a breeze-up sale. We were working towards a program of sales starting with Ascot this week and the Craven next week and so on. All of that is obviously shelved and the horses will now be geared to a different program. But even the revised sale dates, there is still terrific uncertainty around them.”

While the knock-on effects of coronavirus mean that the

market is certain to take a hit regardless of the circumstances under which this year’s sales are held, Cullinan said many investors will need some certainty around racing to have confidence to invest.

“There is a sentiment and feel-good factor in the trade of Thoroughbreds--of foals, yearlings, breeze-up horses and

broodmares—it’s all totally dependent on optimism,” he said. “Unfortunately, when there is no racing it is hard to replicate that. And it’s totally understandable. There are people out there paying training fees at the moment for horses in training with no programme to run in. So it’s unrealistic to expect them to be enthusiastic about buying additional horses at the moment.

“Having said that there will be certain people that will realize there will be plenty of value to be had this year at the breeze-ups. And that will be the case, however I still feel we need racing on to have any hope of a decent clearance rate and returns on our investments.

**THE LONGER IT GOES ON THE LONGER THESE EARLY, SHARP 2-YEAR-OLDS ARE GOING TO HAVE MISSED THEIR DATE.**

**Norman Williamson**

**IN THE EYES of the EXPERTS**

*“The Expert Eye colt out of Daring Life is a lovely individual with great presence and conformation. He also has definite markings like his sire and grandsire.”*

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**JUDDMONTE**

### “Terrific Uncertainty” Around Breeze Ups cont.

“I think everyone is being realistic given the times we’re in. We’re going to take a financial hit and it’s a question of damage limitation from here on in.”

Among those hit hardest could be the precocious 2-year-olds and those who deal in them, Williamson pointed out.

“Nobody knows yet how or if the racing calendar is going to be altered or if they’re going to postpone Royal Ascot, etc., but certainly with early 2-year-olds some horses are going to miss the boat,” he said. “The longer it goes on the longer these early, sharp 2-year-olds are going to have missed their date, but I’m afraid everyone is in the same situation.”

Cullinan concurred, “it will affect certain horses and that’s something we can’t avoid. It’s not all about getting them out early but obviously there will be some that have been bought and prepared for an early 2-year-old program and we’re now easing into that time. But there is a broad spectrum of horses for sale at the breeze-ups; whilst there are plenty of early 2-year-old types, there are also the scopier, more backwards 2-year-old and 3-year-old types and onwards.”

McCartan suggested all-weather programs hold opportunities to make up for lost time.

“Everything is going to have to shuffle back to start maybe three months behind where it was originally supposed to start,”

he said. “There are loads of options; they can race on the all-weather in the winter and put on more racing here and more racing there. They can definitely, I think with a concerted effort and plenty of good planning, get racing back on and run most of the big races and most of the sales. It will definitely be a curtailed racing schedule but provided we can get back to normality in two or three months’ time, I think they’ll be able to get plenty of racing on.”

Williamson said the longer COVID-19 leaves us in suspension, the greater the trickle down effect of damage will be. For instance, the longer we are without racing, the fewer opportunities there will be for 2-year-olds before the yearling sales, which will lead to missed chances for pedigree updates.

“If we had a winning post in site, everyone would be happy, whether that winning post was in August—who cares,” Williamson said. “If you have to wait and breeze your horses in June, July, August, whatever it’s going to be, at least you’d know where you’re going. I think the biggest problem is not knowing. Horses will have missed the boat but the longer it goes on the bigger the impact it will have on the yearling sales at the end of the year. By that point some of these horses should have run and some of them should have won.”

Racing has far-reaching economic implications, chief among them its dictation of the value of bloodstock.

## IN THE EYES EXPERTS

*“From day one the reports on this foal were very positive and we are delighted. We were very keen to use Expert Eye when he went to stud. His Vintage Stakes win was the best 2YO performance of the season, in my opinion, and to follow up at Royal Ascot and again at the Breeders’ Cup really showed his brilliance. He is also a great looking horse with a big walk.”*

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JUDDMONTE

### “Terrific Uncertainty” Around Breeze Ups cont.

Cullinan said that is something the powers that be need to consider closely when laying out the curtailed calendar for 2020.

“Racing is the showcase of the bloodstock industry,” he said. “It’s not just a sport. The racing calendar is our showcase. It would be important to try to maintain the racing programme as near as possible as it was originally planned. We obviously recognize that one way or another there’s going to be a truncated season, but they must try and maintain the number of opportunities for horses to run. It might mean a pretty crowded programme when we get back up and racing but I’m sure the racing authorities will put a bit of thought into that and try to spread it out as best as possible.

“The programme in Ireland, for example, starts off with five furlong 2-year-old races and there’s one of those a week, and then it goes to six furlongs and so on. I’m sure they can rethink that and maybe replace some of the early season races later in the season.”

Cullinan wasn’t throwing out the idea of conducting trade through online platforms, but he said he thinks it would be difficult to replicate the experience of seeing one’s desired purchase in-person and the buzz of the sale ring.

“I have no personal experience of [the online platforms],” Cullinan admitted. “I know the online trade in inanimate objects is widespread, but we all know there’s nothing like walking up and standing beside the horse you want to buy and patting him down the neck. It’s a different feeling, and it’s something that’s hard to replicate. Most of the existing trade online seems to be paper transactions in stallion noms and stallion shares, which is a different line of business. But I’m not dismissing it, mainly because I have no experience of it. I hope it won’t come to that, I hope whenever we do get around to selling it will be in the normal form, through a sales ring. It’s hard to beat the drama and excitement of the sales ring. If that is an impossibility due to travel restrictions and so on, obviously whatever alternative method is available has to be considered.”

In addition to being a successful pinhooker, McCartan also operates video production company Adsell Productions, which as part of its portfolio produces progress reports on horses at all stages of life as well as stallion promotion videos. McCartan said he recognizes the challenges of staging a horse sale entirely via

video or online, but said technology could be levied to help keep the market ticking over during these unprecedented times.

“Take for example the Craven sale in Newmarket,” McCartan said. “Every horse could have a file, and within that file you could have all the information necessary which would include video footage, photographs, maybe an x-ray and videoscope report, a vet report, maybe the weight and size of the horse, all that sort of stuff. All that information could be in a file available to any potential buyer sitting anywhere in the world so that he can access that information and then ring his agent and say, ‘I’m interested in lot 1 at the Craven sale. I’ve gone through his file, my vets have looked at all the veterinary notes here in his file. Would you go down and check out that horse, have a look at him physically, report back to me, and then if I can’t go to the

sale would you assess the breeze for me and send me over a video of the breeze and the times of the breeze?’ If that good information is available to everybody I think owners would have enough confidence to go ahead and buy a horse without actually being at a sale.”

It’s no secret that vendors and buyers alike have been reluctant to work in such ways in the past, but perhaps a crisis will bring around a new way of thinking.

“It’s a mindset and it might be the way forward to sell more horses,” McCartan said. “All the big art and furniture auctions are online and they’re quite successful. I know horses are different but I think you can still make enough information available that people would be able to make a confident choice to buy a horse online.”

Cullinan said he has kept in contact with his fellow consignors throughout the ideal—from a distance, of course.

“We keep in touch with each other quite a bit,” he said. “We would normally enjoy a few pints but that’s a luxury we can’t have anymore. But we have kept in touch sometimes to just let off some steam, and other times to discuss our predicament.

“We’re sitting on a lot of stock that’s worth a lot of money and there are running costs attached as well, but we feel we have to go to the formal sales [format] to get them sold. The sooner that racing comes back both domestically and overseas the sooner the sales companies can start firming up plans for putting on the breeze-up sales.”



Potential buyers at the Tattersalls Ascot breeze show last year | *Alayna Cullen*

**'Aussie Tom' is a Pom at Heart cont. from p1**

The latter is currently favourite for the G1 Sydney Cup, while Addeybb is entered for the G1 Queen Elizabeth II S., and the wet-tracker's connections will doubtless be hoping that the rain that has been falling in Sydney this week continues a while yet.

Racing at Rosehill was in fact abandoned after one race on Wednesday owing to heavy rain, but a far greater threat hangs over the continuation of racing amid the coronavirus pandemic.



**Tom Marquand has been on a good run in Australia this winter | *Racing Post***

"I was pretty doubtful a week ago that racing would go ahead but it looks now like we might make it through the Championships and even carry on after that," says Marquand, who returned to Australia in mid-March with the lure of some decent rides. "While I was out here last year, and through this January and February, I really enjoyed it, whereas this time around it's been a bit trickier because of what's going on at home."

Though rightly grabbing the opportunity with both hands, Marquand admits to a little disquiet in these unsettling times, particularly while being on the other side of the world to his partner and fellow jockey Hollie Doyle.

"Being away from family and from Hollie, it's had quite a different feel to it this time," he says. "Obviously the riding side has been fantastic, but just being around here generally has been a lot harder. While things are going smoothly it's easy to be away because everyone is preoccupied and busy, and they're not focusing on the fact that you're away, whereas at the moment there's not an awful lot else to think about."

Marquand's focus for the next week will be on increasing his tally of Group 1 wins.

He has two willing accomplices in the Haggas duo, both of whom posted battling performances to win their previous starts under rides which came in for plenty of praise. The man in the saddle, however, remains typically modest in the face of this tide.

"Obviously every jockey wants to be on the world stage and by complete default I've ended up being on the world stage because it's the only stage there is at the moment," he says. "It's really just by complete chance that it's happened. Obviously it was a massive opportunity getting to ride Addeybb and Young Rascal. It was a bold shout from William to send them down anyway, and then putting me on added another dimension to it again. He could easily have used Australian jockeys. I'm really fortunate to be on the receiving end when someone like that puts their confidence in you."

Despite his protestations, Marquand's Australian success is no fluke. Since being crowned champion apprentice in Britain in 2015, his annual tally of wins has risen progressively to a career-high in 2019 of 136, just 20 ahead of Doyle who set a new record for female jockeys in Britain with 116 wins. Marquand was fourth overall in the British jockeys' table behind Oisin Murphy, Danny Tudhope and Ben Curtis, and Doyle was ninth.

Marquand says, "At home I've been very fortunate to ride quite a lot of winners in the last few years but there's an element always of, well it's great riding lots of winners but no one's watching Chepstow when Royal Ascot is on. That's hopefully the way I want to send it now, being at the big days, and hopefully this [success in Australia] is a step in the right direction."

He continues, "I had last winter in Australia and I really enjoyed it. I had a taste of success then but this time it has been a whole different level coming back."



**Tom Marquand and Hollie Doyle | *Racing Post***

**'Aussie Tom' is a Pom at Heart cont.**

"I went back thinking that though it won't quite be starting from scratch I've been away for 10 months and I thought it would take a while to get back going again in Australia. But my first weekend here all of the trainers and owners who had used me before stuck me straight back on nice horses and it made that transition really easy."

Currently riding at a 19% strike-rate, five of Marquand's 24 wins this winter have come for John O'Shea, who left his position as Godolphin's Australian trainer back in 2017.

"John O'Shea has been very pivotal in what I've been doing,"

Marquand says. "He's the one I initially came over for and obviously he was with Godolphin before and he has spent the last three years building up his own stable. He's built it from the ground up and I enjoy being involved with someone like that. And he's put me on horses when he could have had plenty of other people on them."

Flights permitting, Aussie Tom will soon be Tom the Pom again. The jockey is planning to attempt to return to Britain after the second day of the Championships on

Apr. 11 but concedes he may have to stay on a little longer.

"It's tricky because I don't know really what's going to happen and there are fewer flights by the day," he says. "There's no point in stressing about it that much. Either I get to come home and complete my quarantine before the English racing starts again or I get to stay here and ride another week.

"Obviously it's the same job here and the aim is the same but you have to go about it in a very different way. I know I've certainly benefitted from it in the fact that when I come home I ride a lot differently without even trying to because of the way you adapt your style here."

While Marquand has spent much of his winter in warmer climes, Doyle opted to slog it out in the cold and has been rewarded for her efforts by 35 wins so far in 2020, with only Ben Curtis and Luke Morris having notched a higher number. Marquand will be playing catch up on his return but he insists, "We're not in the slightest bit competitive with each other. I think it's a big let-down for everyone really because they expect us to be, but we just get on with it."



**Tom Marquand and Addeybb** | *Bronwen Healy*

He adds, "Last year was fantastic for Hollie, it went so well, and she decided to stay in Britain to ride through the winter. She rode a lot of winners while racing was going ahead--and I know it's hit everyone hard--but I know she was hoping to carry on that momentum through to the turf season. So with racing stopping it has felt like more of a blow to her than it has to me because I was away and I've been fortunate that I have carried on riding. To work all through the winter and start to look forward to the season and then for there to be nothing is quite hard."

Whenever racing does resume in Britain, Marquand is looking forward to renewing his ties with Richard Hannon, to whom he was apprenticed when he won the championship, and Hannon's former assistant Tom Ward who is now training in his own right.

"We live in Hungerford, so we're near Lambourn because Hollie is in Archie Watson's stable four days a week," he explains. "I still spend a bit of time at Richard Hannon's, and I go in and gallop for Tom Ward because of all the help he gave me over the last few years at

Richard's. I'm also going to be trying to spend a bit more time in Newmarket because that's where a lot of my support is coming from now, from William Haggas and James Fanshawe, and there have been a number of other trainers who have put me up. It may mean extra time on the road but no one minds working at it as long as it's worth it."

With a work ethic to match his ability in the saddle, Marquand is fast developing into one of the most sought-after young jockeys on either side of the world. Stand by for some more pretty good days.

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# JOCKEYS IN LOCKDOWN

*With more time on their hands than usual, stars of the weighing-room past and present have been reflecting on memorable equine partners over the years. Today, James Doyle is in the hot seat.*

## Best horse you've ridden?

The best horse I've ever ridden would be Kingman (GB), without a doubt. I couldn't look any further than him. He had everything, every aspect you need in a top-class horse. He was a push-button ride, he liked to wait and just pounce on them. He had such a turn of foot and a super temperament in every way. I've ridden a few of his offspring and they're smart horses.



Kingman and James Doyle after winning the Prix Jacques Le Marois | *Racing Post*

## Favourite horse?

I'd have to say Al Kazeem (GB). He's a gorgeous-looking horse and if any horse could talk to you it would be him. He had such a lovely nature and he really helped me when I was thrown in at the deep end, from not riding in Group 1 races to suddenly riding him and him and being favourite in the Prince of Wales's S., the Eclipse and the Tattersalls Gold Cup. They were high-pressure rides but he was so good to me and easy to ride. It was particularly special to win the Tattersalls Gold Cup on him when he came back into training.

## What are you up to while racing is off?

I was riding out every day before I went to Dubai but since I got back from Dubai last Monday I thought I should give it a good week at least, just to be on the safe side.

I converted the garage into a gym when I moved in which was handy so I have everything here to be able to keep fit. We just have to hope that we can start again sometime in May.

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## UNDER THE RADAR *by Tom Frary*

### MASCAT

In the latest of the series targeting “dark horses” to follow in 2020, *TDN's* Tom Frary speaks to Ralph Beckett about a potentially smart colt in his yard.



Mascat winning at Newmarket | *Racing Post*

**MASCAT (GB), c, 3, Zoffany (Ire)--Critical Acclaim (GB), by Peintre Celebre.**

Bred by Coln Valley Stud and an 80,000gns Tattersalls October Book 2 purchase, the stoutly-bred chestnut from the Juddmonte family of Observatory bettered a promising debut second behind 'TDN Rising Star' Palace Pier (GB) (Kingman {GB}) over seven furlongs at Sandown in August with a breakthrough score upped to a mile at Newmarket the following month. It is notable that his maiden victory came in a contest won in the past by such luminaries as Telescope (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), Eminent (Ire) (Frankel {GB}) and Ghaiyyath (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}).

“He ran well both times and has done well throughout the winter, so we're looking forward to where he takes us,” Beckett comments. “I don't have a set theory about him, as he was pretty immature at two and so I expect him to progress. He'll start off in stakes races and will lead us to his level. I am a fan of his, he is very professional and I think there is plenty to look forward to. He goes about his work well.”

**Under The Radar: Mascat cont.**

Mascat's pedigree: [Click for the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.](#)

Mascat's debut at Sandown: [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

Mascat's win at Newmarket: [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

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## EUROPEAN NEWS

### CLASS OF 2020 TAKING SHAPE FOR JUDDMONTE

Juddmonte has released details of some of the foals already on the ground at Banstead Manor Stud this year, including a colt by Kingman out of the multiple Grade I winner Proviso (GB) (Dansili {GB}).

The March-foaled colt is one of a number by his exciting young sire to have been welcomed by Juddmonte so far in 2020, along with a filly out of another Grade I winner, Ventura (Chester House {GB}), who is already the dam of G3 Prix de Lieurey winner Fount (GB) (Frankel {GB}). Listed winner Mirror Lake (GB) (Dubai Destination) produced a Kingman half-brother to recent G2 Ajax S. winner Imaging (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}) on Mar. 6, and Kingman's dual Group 2-winning son Headman (GB) also has a full-brother this year.

Like Mirror Lake, the G3 Fairy Bridge S. winner Tested (GB) (Selkirk) is a grand-daughter of Roupala (Vaguely Noble {Ire}), and she was one of the Juddmonte mares to visit GI Breeders' Cup Mile winner Expert Eye (GB) during his first season at stud.



Lucky Kristale's Frankel colt | Juddmonte

The result of that mating is a bay colt born on Feb. 6 and described by stud director Simon Mockridge as "the mare's best foal to date." Lilyfire (First Defence), a half-sister to the dam of Bated Breath (GB) and Cityscape (GB), is another with an Expert Eye colt at foot, having foaled on Feb. 25.

Frankel (GB) continues to attract strong books of mares and among those from Juddmonte's own ranks to have visited him last year is the G2 Lowther S. winner Lucky Kristale (GB) (Lucky Story), who produced a colt on Jan. 29 having had two Frankel fillies in the preceding years.

Her 2-year-old, now named Trinket (GB), is in training in France with Francis-Henri Graffard.

On Feb. 3, Argentinean Grade 1 winner Samba Inc (Arg) (Include), another recent purchase, produced her first foal, a bay Frankel filly.



Mori with her Dubawi filly | Juddmonte



Ventura and her Kingman filly | Juddmonte

### Class Of 2020 Taking Shape For Juddmonte cont.

Among the offspring of outside stallions is a Cracksman (GB) colt out of Photographic (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}), and a colt by Dubawi (Ire) out of Photographic's daughter, the G2 Musidora S. winner Shutter Speed (GB) (Dansili {GB}). Listed winner Mori (GB), a daughter of Frankel and the champion racemare Midday (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}), also visited Dubawi last year in her first season and on Feb. 4 gave birth to a filly.

Dansili's Group 1-winning daughter Passage Of Time (GB) foaled a Lope De Vega (Ire) half-sister to the National Stud stallion Time Test (GB) on Jan. 23, and Lope De Vega was also the stallion chosen last season for Suffused (GB) (Champs Elysees {GB}), the treble Grade III winner and half-sister to last year's G1 St Leger winner Logician (GB) (Frankel {GB}), who has produced a colt.

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## REMAINING IRISH NATIONAL HUNT SEASON CANCELLED; PUNCHESTOWN OFF



INPHO/Morgan Treacy

The Board of Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) has agreed to conclude the 2019/2020 National Hunt season, effective immediately, with the spring festivals at Fairyhouse and Punchestown not to be rescheduled as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

“We have stressed throughout that Government and HSE guidelines around fighting Covid-19 must come first and racing will only be able to resume when the Government guidelines permit and when there is adequate medical cover in place to ensure that race meetings can be staged safely,” said Nicky Hartery, Chairman of Horse Racing Ireland. “No-one can predict when this point will be reached.”

An enhanced National Hunt programme will be scheduled later for October to December 2020, which will include the 2020 BoyleSports Irish Grand National.

Brian Kavanagh, Chief Executive of Horse Racing Ireland said, “While the conclusion of the National Hunt season is a major blow for that sector and jump racing enthusiasts, in making an early decision we want to give as much certainty as possible to owners and trainers and this plan will allow winter National Hunt horses to take advantage of summer grass, reducing the costs for National Hunt owners, with the knowledge of an enhanced programme to come for them from the Autumn onwards, circumstances permitting.”

The Board has also discussed a strategy—a staggered resumption of racing for one month—for Irish racing’s return, while remaining within Government guidelines. Racing is expected to restart on the Flat and likely behind closed doors, with adherence to protocols employed at 10-race fixtures in March.

“We are working on a range of industry supports which we hope to announce in the coming weeks,” Kavanagh added. “Once an achievable target resumption date can be identified, a new fixture list covering the rest of the year will be quickly published based on our on-going work, along with revised race programmes which will cater for the entire horse population.”

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## INFLUENZA VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS EASED

The British Horseracing Authority’s cross-industry Veterinary Committee—in conjunction with the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA)—approved the relaxation of Equine Influenza vaccination requirements temporarily due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The move has been made in order to assist trainers, owners and vets in tackling the logistical challenges caused by the pandemic. During the remainder of 2020, horses will be required to have received an approved equine influenza vaccination within the last 12 months, instead of the existing nine-month period. The change to the policy is for 2020 only. The 12-month policy was in place in Britain prior to 2019.

“In order to continue to best protect the racing industry from the effects of equine influenza it is suggested that, where possible, the current nine-month regulations are adhered to,” according to a BHA release. “However, given the current COVID-19 government requirements it is clear that this will not always be achievable, and provided that a horse has had an approved vaccination within the last 12 months it will remain eligible to compete when racing resumes.”

### Influenza Vaccination Requirements Eased cont.

“The Veterinary Committee, BEVA and the BEF are in agreement that because of the movement restrictions currently in force, the levels of immunity in this population developed as a result of the intensive vaccination activity over the last 12 months, and the fact that there have been no reported equine influenza cases in the horse population in the UK this year, the move to the old vaccination protocol does not represent a significant risk for the remainder of 2020.”

The existing nine-month BHA policy is an interim policy pending a full industry consultation on a permanent protocol, which will be forthcoming.

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### RACING WELFARE ANNOUNCES GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Racing Welfare has outlined a streamlined process for those that work in the British racing and breeding industries who have been financially affected by COVID-19 to apply for a hardship grant. The grants have been calculated into fortnightly amounts for a single applicant (£150) and a family (£210) and are intended to cover basic needs. Those in need of support should call the following numbers between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.:

**Malton:** 01653 696 869

**Middleham:** 01969 624 123

**Lambourn:** 01488 670 034

**Newmarket:** 01638 560 763

For assistance outside business hours, Racing's Support Line is available 24 hours a day (0800 6300 443), or there is a 24-hour live chat service at [www.racingwelfare.co.uk](http://www.racingwelfare.co.uk).

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### BOOKMAKERS TO DONATE VIRTUAL GRAND NATIONAL PROFITS

A group of bookmakers has revealed that it will donate all profits made on Saturday's Virtual Grand National to the National Health Service.

After the world's most famous steeplechase was scrapped due to the coronavirus pandemic, ITV announced that it would air a virtual version compiled with CGI technology in a special programme hosted by Nick Luck. Among the Betting and Gaming Council members involved are bet365, William Hill, Flutter Entertainment, Sky Bet, GVC, Betfred, Betway, BetVictor, JenningsBet and Inspired Entertainment.

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### WOMEN JOCKEY'S WORLD CUP ON HOLD

The 2020 Women Jockeys' World Cup at Bro Park, Stockholm, which had been scheduled for June 28, has been placed on hold by Svensk Galopp, the Swedish Racing Authority, due to the developing Coronavirus pandemic. Held annually since 2017, the event has attracted top female riders from all over the world. Flat racing in Sweden is expected to return with a seven race card at Bro Park staged behind closed doors Apr. 5.

“We are doing everything we can to make sure we can continue to race safely, but given the current global situation it would be unwise to be planning an event that will attract participants and media from all over the world,” said Dennis Madsen Svensk Galopp's Director of Racing and architect of the Women Jockeys' World Cup.

“If the global situation changes dramatically, we could possibly find a date in the Autumn although it is most likely that the Women Jockeys' World Cup will return in 2021.”

Former winners include last year's Japanese representative, Nanako Fujita, Sweden's Josefin Landgren (2018) and French rider Maryline Eon, who won the inaugural running.

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# TDN Progeny PPs

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## YARRAMAN WILL MEET THE EASTER MARKET



Arthur (right), Bill & Harry (left) Mitchell | TDNAusNZ

by Bren O'Brien

Market uncertainty may threaten Yarraman Park's recent 100 per cent clearance rate at Australia's major sales but it remains confident of finding buyers for its elite draft of 10 at the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale.

Yarraman Park has earned a reputation as not only a top-quality vendor, but also one which has been willing to meet the market and it is currently on a streak of selling 71 straight yearlings at major Australian sales without passing one in.

But with so much uncertainty in the market ahead of the Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale, Round 1 of which begins on Sunday as an online auction as part of the protocols in place because of the outbreak of coronavirus, that streak will be put to the test.

While the exact impact on yearling prices the current crisis will have is hard to quantify, the universal expectation among vendors is that selling horses in this environment will be particularly hard work, with clearance rates expected to drop markedly even at a sale as select as Easter.

Director Arthur Mitchell said Yarraman Park will be typically fair on its reserve prices, with the expectation that the depth of the buying bench, as well as their ability to spend, will be significantly hampered by the current environment.

"We are just hoping for the best and we are getting as many people through the farm as possible to view the horses and we

are letting them know that they will be there for sale," he said. "We are going there wanting and trying to sell our horses, the best we can, without having to give them away. We are hopeful of getting the bulk of them sold.

"We are not expecting anything big. We are just hoping to get a few horses sold. We know it's not going to be easy, but I think Inglis have done the best job they can in the circumstances."

Aside from the current economic uncertainty, Mitchell said the online aspect of Round 1 of the sale - Inglis intends holding Round 2 in a traditional format at the Riverside Stables in July - clouds the possible outcome even further.

"It's the first time yearlings at this level are going to be sold like this, I don't think anyone knows what that is going to mean. We are in uncharted territory here," he said.

"We might all end up being surprised, and it might be stronger than we think. I feel it's a very good opportunity for people to buy the best-bred fillies in the land."

### *Impacts Felt Across the Industry*

The knock-on impacts of the coronavirus crisis will be felt far beyond the upcoming sales season, with several of Australia's state-based racing bodies already cutting prizemoney, which has traditionally fueled much of the investment in the bloodstock industry.

There is highly likely to be a major drop in stallion fees for the 2020 season, which adds further uncertainty, while the capacity for ongoing investment from those whose external businesses will be severely impacted by the economic slump, is also another factor to consider.



Lot 12 | Inglis

"I don't think we really know and that is the hard part," Mitchell said. "We don't know how long it is going to take to burn out. We just don't know when we are going to be back on track and know what it is going to look like in July or August at all.

"There will be a bit of a downturn and we just don't know how long that is going to be. Everyone is doing what they can, the race clubs are keeping racing and there is an interest going. Racing keeping going is very important, I'm not sure we can do much more than we have been doing.

"We are obviously thinking that if the world economy becomes depressed, the market will drop dramatically. Hopefully, racing can get back on its feet. Australia is lucky, we've got good prizemoney and we are doing the right thing at the moment cutting it back, but I think long term, we are probably in a better position than a lot of countries in the world."

### **Quality an Easter Focus for Yarraman Park**

Selling top horses is something Yarraman has always done well and while its draft of 10 set for the Easter Sale this year is smaller in quantity than last year, it is at the very top end for quality.

"We only go to Easter with what we think are the top ones. We've got a very good draft all the way through, they are right up with the best we have bred," Mitchell said.

The headline acts, as you'd expect, are the six lots by Yarraman Park's star resident I Am Invincible. There are four fillies, all with big pedigrees and all with significant residual value.

Lot 12 is out of Lady Macan (Where's That Tiger {USA}), a daughter of G1 Blue Diamond S. winner Lady Jakeo (Last Tycoon {Ire}) who produced two stakes winners herself and who boasts another six black-type winners among her family, including G1 Oakleigh Plate winner Mrs Onassis (General Nediym).

Lot 39 is out stakes-placed Lorna May (Redoute's Choice), who is from the extended family of Group 1 winner Virage De Fortune (Anabaa {USA}). The I Am Invincible-Redoute's Choice nick has produced 22 winners already.

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**Inglis Confirms Easter Sale Online Processes**

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**Robbie Dolan To Ride Super Seth**

Lot 123 is another 'Vinnie' filly and is closely related to Group 1 winner and leading first-season stallion Pride Of Dubai, being by Street Cry (Ire) mare Palace Talk (NZ), while Lot 199 is out of stakes-winner Silently (Anabaa {USA}), who has produced four winners, including South African Grade 3 winner Muwaary (O'Reilly {NZ}). Silently is a half-sister to Group 1 winners Criterion (NZ) (Sebring) and Comin' Through (Fastnet Rock). The two I Am Invincible colts are Lot 148, who is a half-brother to South African Grade 1 winner Entisaar (More Than Ready {USA}) out of stakes-placed Purrrurlena (Catbird), and Lot 242, out of the Group 1-placed mare Thinking Of You (NZ) (Thorn Park).

### **Last Chance to Buy a Hinchinbrook**

Easter will also be the last time that Yarraman Park sell a yearling by its former resident, Hinchinbrook, whose final crop have proven very popular so far in 2020. Lot 79 is out of stakes-winning mare Miss Vandal (Don't Say Halo {USA}), making him a half-brother to Group 2 winners Miss Marielle (Encosta De Lago) and Eurozone (Northern Meteor), and a close relative to G1 Coolmore Classic winner Peeping (Redoute's Choice).

"Hinchinbrook has a strong reputation with the Hong Kong market in recent times and it will be interesting to see where that market is," Mitchell said. "A lot of people like to see before they buy, but everyone has made a big effort on their videos, to ensure buyers can get a decent look at the horses. There have also been a lot of agents around."

Lot 273 is the top-priced colt from last year's Magic Millions National Weanling Sale, where he sold for \$480,000 to Blandford Bloodstock. A son of Redoute's Choice, he is out of imported mare Victoire Celebre (USA) (Stravinsky {USA}), who has already produced a stakes-winner in Arab Dawn (GB) (Dalakhani {Ire}). There is also Lot 182, an Astern half-brother to multiple Group 1 winner and young Darley stallion Brazen Beau and Lot 37, a filly by Shalaa (Ire) out of Group 2 winner Longport (Casino Prince).



**Lot 148 | Inglis**