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‘ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM IN JEOPARDY’: CA INDUSTRY HIT HARD BY PANDEMIC



Southern California-based trainer Dan Blacker | Benoit Photo

by Dan Ross

The financial toll from COVID-19 on the racing industry in California, spurred by the suspension of live Thoroughbred racing, has been sharp and swift. Backstretch healthcare and mental illness services have been pared back, those in charge of other programs reliant on betting revenue are wondering how to bolster coffers if the broader economy nosedives, while the financial thumb-screws have been further twisted on stretched-thin trainers.

What's more, all this is playing out against an economic backdrop that was already shaky.

The California Horse Racing Board's (CHRB) latest **annual report** showed declines in all handle sources from the prior fiscal year, for example. Back in February, the *TDN* **reported** on the impacts one year on from the welfare crisis that engulfed the sport in the state, and found certain sectors within the industry --especially the smaller cash-strapped operators--struggling to adapt to shifting tides.

"I hope we don't get into a situation where it's an animal welfare issue," said CHRB chairman Greg Ferraro. "If the marginal owners stop paying the marginal trainers who are in arrears with the feed man, suddenly we might have horses abandoned that we might have to look after," he said. "That would be a major CHRB concern." **Cont. p3**

CHURCHILL DELAYS OPENING OF STABLING AREA AGAIN

Churchill Downs will further delay the reopening of its stable areas at both the racetrack and the auxiliary training center Trackside until Apr. 28. The opening of the 2020 Spring Meet, originally scheduled for Apr. 25, has been postponed with the determination of the exact starting date to be made closer to the opening of the stable areas.

Churchill Downs's stabling areas, closed since Dec. 31 for annual winter renovations, had been expected to open Mar. 17, but the opening was delayed in response to executive orders issued by Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear to contain and limit the spread of COVID-19.

Cont. p6

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

EUROPEAN NATIONS LIAISE OVER PATTERN ADJUSTMENT

For the resumption of racing, various behind-closed-door scenarios are being weighed up by the European racing authorities. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

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TEPIN AMONG CANADIAN HOF INDUCTEES

7

Well-traveled superstar Tepin (Bernstein) will be one of five Thoroughbred inductees into Canada's Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

SABANA FARMS ENJOYING EARLY SUCCESS

8

Migdalý Serra's operation bred both GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile hero Spun to Run (Hard Spun) and standout sophomore filly Tonalist's Shape (Tonalist).

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California cont. from p1

"Funding for these has now stopped"

Greg Avioli, president and CEO of the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC), broke into seven the main areas of the industry primarily funded through betting revenue: The CHR's operations, stabling and vanning, backstretch healthcare, drug testing, workers' compensation, breeders' awards and purses. Combined, these programs and services currently require somewhere in the region of \$165 million annually to remain operational, Avioli explained, with the bulk of the money--some \$116 million--going to purses.

"Funding for these has now essentially stopped," said Avioli, adding that Advanced Deposit Wagering (ADW) continues to generate a small slice of revenue for the state, "but it's a trickle --not much."

When the state legislature returns from spring recess, and when the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, the industry will have the opportunity to request economic relief from the state for some of its more critical services, like backstretch healthcare, which falls under the umbrella of the [California Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation](#) (CTHF), said Avioli. "We're going to figure out a way to fund that," he said. "We have to."

When it comes to the CHR's operations, like veterinary oversight and investigations, there may be some relief, said Avioli, in the "complex" way the state financially underpins its agencies. "It could be that that gets funded, we just get a long-term bill we have to pay off," he said.

But some of the other programs self-supported by the industry--like stabling and vanning--may have to undergo some "long-term restructuring" in order to remain financially solvent, said Avioli, which could involve the consolidation of training facilities at certain times and possibly the industry taking on longer-term debt to fund them.

"We will find a way to make all this work in the near-term," he added.

Further complicating the issue is this hypothetical: When normal service resumes post pandemic, will the betting ecosystem have evolved?

"Would you project that if California opens, and everything resumes July 1, you'd have the same level of activity at [off-track betting parlors] that you had in March? Probably not. People's behavior is going to change--the number of people who have an ADW account who didn't," said Avioli. "There's going to be a thousand questions in the old model that you're going to have to address in the new model."

Cont. p4

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California cont.

When asked whether the welfare issues that have dogged the sport these past 14 months could sour the state legislature's response to industry efforts for financial support, Avioli emphasized how racing is an "important agribusiness" in the state.

"I believe we have a strong case to be made," he said. "We are the only form of gaming in the state that has union labor, and we also have a strong and increasingly vocal group of backstretch workers that are very important to the California legislature."

In the meantime, the state's "stay at home" directive, compounded by the suspension of live Thoroughbred racing, has noticeably impacted some of the services geared towards these same backstretch workers.



Los Alamitos Race Course Photo

"It's just sad that we can't help more people"

In a typical month, wagering generates more than \$100,000 that's funneled toward the CTHF, explained Cliff Goodrich, the CTHF executive director. But with Thoroughbred racing suspended completely, "we went from \$100,000-plus to near zero," he said.

As such, the CTHF has had to lay off seven of the organization's 19-strong roster of staff and cut back some of the services offered to backstretch workers, like dental and ophthalmology care. The CTHF has also had to suspend some of its preventative health strategies, like free mammograms for women and programs to help identify and

manage diabetes, a major problem in the backstretch community. **Cont. p5**

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California cont.

Because of limited healthcare access during this time, any sustained suspension of live racing could have similarly long-term impacts on the health of many backstretch workers, Goodrich warned, adding that most have no personal health insurance, and could in the interim "revert back to behavior" that worsens underlying health problems.

"We do not want that to happen," he added. But a likely "pent-up" demand come the resumption of normal service will add another layer of complexity to the problem. "It's just sad that we can't help more people during this time, or at least maintain our revenue stream so that, coming out of it, we've got a chance to meet the pent-up demand," said Goodrich.

Darin Sharer is executive director of the Winners Foundation, a program that provides free support and referral services to CHRB licensees suffering from substance abuse, mental illness, compulsive gambling, anger management and other mental health-related issues.

As a result of the state's "stay at home" directive, the Winners Foundation has suspended its group meetings in favor of over-the-phone and virtual conversations, along with the routine travel its three-person team makes to backstretch communities across California.

The foundation's operating costs vary, depending on how many individuals are in treatment. "We're okay for right now," Sharer said, adding that he has a "rainy-day" fund to help mitigate revenue losses. But Sharer speculated that, if the foundation has to make drastic cuts in the future, it would be at the expense of outside referrals.

"You're probably going to see this on the back end, later on in the year and next year, when you don't have the money to cover the same operating costs," Sharer said. "We have a lot of folks who need help, so it's a very difficult time for us."

Lost betting revenue coupled with a high volume of claims has led California's self-insured workers' compensation program--Post Time Self Insurance Group--to invoice trainers \$1,233 per horse retroactively for the first quarter of 2020.

The group, which is funded primarily from pari-mutuel wagering and per-start fees, recently told trainers that workers' compensation premiums may be considered part of payroll costs included in the federal government's **Paycheck Protection Program** (PPP). This loan program was unrolled to mitigate the pandemic's economic toll. Nevertheless, it's not clear if the PPP loans will indeed cover workers' compensation payments, said Santa Anita-based trainer Dan Blacker.

"Some people say it does. Some people say it doesn't," he said, adding that the sheer volume of applicants for the federal loans available to small business owners is slowing the process down markedly. "We're a long way from having the money in the bank."

Blacker explained that his horse inventory has thus far remained intact. "I'm very lucky--I've got generous, understanding owners," he said, adding that he hasn't yet had to reduce his "day rate," as other trainers have, in order to alleviate the financial burden on owners.

"My margins are so small as it is--no one's giving me a discount," Blacker said. "I wish I could lower my day rate but it's just not an option."

Other trainers are standing on less solid footing.

"It's dire for some people," said Richard Baltas, a leading trainer at Santa Anita and California Thoroughbred Trainers board member. "But I'm trying to remain optimistic. I'm hoping that if the worst came to the worst, some of the bigger owners would step up a bit, and the tracks themselves."



Richard Baltas | *Horsephotos*

"Industry within an industry"

California Retirement Management Account (CARMA) is the state's flagship re-homing organization for retired racehorses. According to executive director Lucinda Lovitt, all non-profits are "concerned" about revenue streams potentially drying up.

"For CARMA specifically it's of concern because the majority of our funding is through contributions from owners, trainers and jockeys through purse revenue, which comes directly from handle," she said. "So, if there's no live racing, owners aren't earning purses, and they aren't making contributions to CARMA from those purses."

The organization's annual operating budget sits at around \$800,000, as much as 40% of which is distributed to individual aftercare facilities through grants. The rest of the money is divided between CARMA's own placement program and events they put on to raise both funds and awareness.

California cont.

CARMA has faced revenue shortfalls before, most recently last year, when the welfare crisis brought about by a spike in equine fatalities at Santa Anita triggered a temporary suspension of live racing.

According to Lovitt, CARMA managed to plug those financial gaps through additional fundraising efforts. But that was achieved when the economy was altogether healthier--if the current situation leads to a sustained economic downturn, fundraising efforts will be squeezed. "For sure, 2020 is going to look very different to 2019," said Lovitt, who isn't alone in worrying.

Helen Meredith is the founder and president of the **United Pegasus Foundation**, a Southern California-based OTTB organization currently providing homes for nearly 150 horses. "I've been really stressed out," said Meredith, about the possible ramifications on her business from COVID-19.

Grants from CARMA and the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) comprise about 30% of the foundation's annual operating budget, which is roughly \$450,000, said Meredith. And regular donations, she said, are already dropping off.

"It's always been a struggle no matter what," Meredith said, adding that additional grants ordinarily open to her have put their 2020 applications on hold, their stock market portfolios having tanked.

"It will hurt," warned Madeline Auerbach, former CHRB commissioner and founder and former chairperson of CARMA. "If there's no money coming in, when people come to us at the end of the year for their grants, there's going to be a very reduced amount of money available."

"It's tragic"

Nevertheless, Lovitt remains optimistic the vast improvements the industry has made broadly in building a racehorse retirement infrastructure over the past decade or so will prove resilient in the event CARMA and other OTTB organizations suffer a significant financial hit.

"We have an industry within an industry," she said. "And I don't think that that industry is going to buckle. I really don't. I think we've got very hard-working individuals, and we have donors that are very supportive of these organizations."

And what are the chances of live racing resuming in California? According to Avioli, discussions between the industry and government officials have recently revolved around the issue of adequate testing. "Basically, moving forward with system-wide plans so that you could have requisite testing in place at the tracks such that the argument becomes more powerful," he said.

"We have made the case dozens of times that it is irrational to allow for training in the morning with 1,000-plus people and to not allow racing in the afternoon with less than 100 people. It's inconsistent intellectually, and we have made a very strong case that by doing this, we are putting the entire ecosystem in jeopardy," he said.

Ferraro agrees that the suspension of live racing should be lifted and emphasized how a suspension of live racing for an extended length of time could jeopardize some of the advances recently made in equine welfare.

"We've come a long way. Breakdowns are way down. We've instituted a lot of procedures--I thought we were making a lot of progress, and then something like this comes along," he said. "The impact on lives, it's tragic."

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Churchill Downs cont. from p1

"Obviously, this is a very fluid situation," said Kevin Flanery, President of Churchill Downs Racetrack. "We're following the lead of the Governor and public health officials, who are giving us advice and counsel on what to expect over time, and every decision we make is made in compliance with those recommendations. We remain hopeful that our horsemen and their horses will be able to return home as soon as possible. Our team will be ready to open under the relevant guidance we are given when the time is right."

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KENTUCKY BUDGET BILL INCLUDES \$1.5M FOR DRUG TESTING LAB

by T.D. Thornton

Kentucky's executive branch budget bill that is awaiting either passage or line-item vetoes from Gov. Andy Beshear contains a \$1.5-million restricted funds transfer from the Equine Drug Research Council (EDRC) to the University of Kentucky (UK) to open a national equine drug testing laboratory.

The budget bill also includes a \$500,000 allotment from the state's general fund into the budget of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC) to hire a safety steward and additional investigators who would be assigned to the state's tracks.

A third general fund appropriation would give \$100,000 to the UK's Sports Medicine Research Institute (SMRI) to advance jockey concussion protocol research and other rider-related health improvements. **Cont. p7**

Kentucky Budget cont.

According to the Kentucky state website, there are three branch budget bills, one for each branch of government. Typically, the budget bills passed by each chamber of the General Assembly are different, and those differences must be worked out in a conference committee of senators and representatives.

Damon Thayer, the Kentucky Senate Majority Leader and a longtime member of the EDRC, told *TDN* he advocated for the inclusion of the three racing-related items in the executive branch budget bill. He added that the Speaker of the House of Representatives, David Osborne, “who is also a horse-industry supporter,” was supportive of the inclusions.



Damon Thayer

“It’s passed both the House and the Senate, and it’s on the governor’s desk,” Thayer explained. “He has 10 days [from Apr. 1 passage, not including Sundays] to line-item veto the budget bill. Then the legislature comes back Apr. 13-15 to consider overriding any of those vetoes.”

Thayer said the proposed UK drug lab would handle the state’s testing and could have the capability to process tests from client jurisdictions outside of Kentucky.

“The EDRC has a statutory purpose to use the money generated from the pari-mutuel tax on equine drug testing,” Thayer said. “Right now, our testing lab is in California. Kentucky should have its own lab at UK. It’s a really big deal. They’ve raised some private money, and we were told that they needed \$1.5 million to complete it.”

Thayer described the proposed drug testing lab as anchoring the “back end” of enforcement, while the \$500,000 that would go toward the hiring of the KHRC safety steward and investigative staff as “front end” support.

“This is a direct response to the federal indictments a couple of weeks ago to increase the numbers of investigators that we have on the backstretches of our racetracks and training centers as well as to add a state safety steward to focus on safety and integrity issues,” Thayer said.

“It sends a direct message that we’re going to crack down on the cheaters by increasing the powers of the racing commission to keep these cheaters out of Kentucky and to make it a safer environment for horses and jockeys,” Thayer said.

Thayer said that last year he and the House Speaker toured the SMRI program to get an overview of the jockey-related research going on there, and that members of The Jockeys’ Guild were supportive of the work being done there.

“They showed us what they were working on for jockey concussion protocols and other jockey wellness issues, and the Speaker and I made a commitment then that we would help try to get some money into the budget to fund those initiatives.”

Kentucky’s state budgeting system usually covers two fiscal years at a time. But Thayer explained that “this is a one-year budget, passed in extraordinary times because of the coronavirus. Normally we do a two-year budget, but [this year’s budget] goes into effect July 1 if signed by the governor or vetoed and overridden by both the House and the Senate.”

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TEPIN AMONG CANADIAN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Tepin | *Horsephotos*

Six-time highest-level winner Tepin (Bernstein) will be among five Thoroughbred inductees into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame for 2020, it was announced Tuesday. Other Thoroughbred inductees are longtime industry fixture Sue Leslie, jockey Gary Boulanger, trainer Michael Keogh and Play the King (King of Spain {GB}). **Cont. p8**

Canadian Hall of Fame cont.

Tepin, trained by 2016 Canadian Hall of Fame inductee and 2020 U.S. Hall of Fame finalist Mark Casse for Robert Masterson, racked up 13 career wins and \$4,437,918, including scores in the 2015 GI Breeders' Cup Mile, 2016 G1 Queen Anne S. at Royal Ascot and 2016 GI Ricoh Woodbine Mile in her lone Canadian start. She sold for \$8 million to Coolmore's M.V. Magnier while in foal to Curlin at the 2017 Fasig-Tipton November sale.

Leslie's near 40-year involvement in the Ontario Thoroughbred industry has been as an owner, breeder and trainer as well as a leader--past and present positions she has held include President/Chair of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protection Society of Ontario, President/Chair of Ontario Horse Racing Industry Alliance, Director of the Avelino Gomez Memorial Foundation, Director of LongRun Thoroughbred Retirement Society, as well as being a member of the Jockey Club of Canada and Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society. A 2011 special Sovereign Award recipient, she was involved in establishing Ontario Racing, and currently serves as its Director and a member of the Executive Board.

Born in Alberta, Boulanger began his riding career in 1987, winning three riding titles at Longacres and two at Calder before eventually returning to Canada in 2000, where he continues to ride--primarily at Woodbine. His notable mounts have included Hall of Famer, Woodbine Oaks and Queen's Plate heroine Dancethruthedawn--conditioned by fellow Hall of Famer Mark Frostad. The 2017 Avelino Gomez Memorial Award winner has won 3,610 races, including 41 grades stakes, with earnings of nearly \$80 million.

Keogh, the longtime private trainer for the late Hall of Famer Gustav Schickedanz, has won two Queen's Plates--with Woodcarver in 1999 and Triple Crown champion Wando four years later. The former assistant to Hall of Famer Roger Attfield also steered the careers of such standouts as Mobil and Langfuhr (Wando's sire), and worked with fellow 2020 inductee Play the King while assisting Attfield. Keogh's trainees have won 330 races and \$21,512,420 to date.

Play the King, trained by Attfield for owner/breeder Kinghaven Farms, won 15 of 29 starts and earned \$942,243. The late bloomer won his first graded stake at age four in 1987 in Aqueduct's GIII Toboggan H., and six more stakes wins that season led to champion older male and champion sprinter honors. He was second in the following year's GI Breeders' Cup Sprint at 49-1 odds, garnering repeat Sovereign Awards for older male and sprinter as well as Horse of the Year honors.

Details about 2020 Induction Ceremonies will be announced in the coming weeks.

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MARKETING ENTREPRENEUR TURNED HORSEWOMAN HITS THE MARK WITH SABANA FARMS



Spun to Run as a yearling at Sabana Farms | Migdaly Serra

by Katie Ritz

Just under a decade ago, Migdaly Serra was busy building up her marketing and human resource company in Venezuela. The successful businesswoman and entrepreneur knew next to nothing about Thoroughbred horse racing.

But Serra caught the horse racing bug, and in just a short time became not only a successful farm owner and manager, but also the breeder of last year's GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile winner **Spun to Run** (Hard Spun), as well as **Tonalist's Shape** (Tonalist), a leading 3-year-old filly in 2020.

A native of Venezuela, Serra graduated with a Bachelor of Administration at Simon Rodriguez University before going on to receive postdoctoral degrees in Marketing and Human Resources. She then worked for over 20 years with various mass communication companies, and she also ran her own business for a time.

In 2012, she was introduced to the world of horse racing through her husband, Ivan Hernandez.

"I really had no idea about the horse industry, other than accompanying my husband to the track a few times," Serra said. "I became involved in the administration side of one our Venezuelan companies, Sabana Farms."

Serra said her interest grew when Sabana expanded with the purchase of a farm in Ocala: "We wanted to diversify the activities of Sabana Farms Venezuela by entering the market in the United States to serve as a bridge to bring horses back to Venezuela."

The Ocala-based farm that initially started as a gateway for the Venezuelan branch soon became Sabana's main focus. **Cont. p9**

Sabana cont.

In 2014, Serra was visiting her son in Florida when she made a stop at the Ocala farm. She said she soon found inefficiencies in the management of the business.

“I was only there two weeks, but it was enough time for me to realize the orientation of the farm was not how we had originally planned,” Serra said. “I returned to Venezuela with concern.”



Tonalist's Shape as a yearling with resident veterinarian Roliana Sanchez | Migdaly Serra

One year later, Serra made the decision to move to Ocala to help manage the business. She said she knew that to handle the demands of the farm, she had to learn everything she could about the horse industry, so she enrolled in the College of Central Florida in Ocala.

“Initially I just took classes to learn English, but seeing the needs of my farm, I knew this was insufficient, so I continued my education to orient myself to the world of the horse business,” said Serra.

As her responsibilities on the farm grew, Serra took on more classes, completing equine business management, equine technician, and equine managerial courses.

She also traveled to Kentucky to take conformation courses, participate in nutrition workshops, and visit stallion prospects.

Also at this time, Serra separated from her husband.

“The normal decision would have been for us to sell our farm and liquidate our assets,” she said. “But the dream was just starting to come true for me, so leaving the farm was never an option. We both remain shareholders in the company today.”

While Hernandez handled the financial side of the business back in Venezuela, Serra was to take on the role of general manager of the farm in Ocala. For her first order of business, Serra decided to give the farm an overhaul. The 75-acre plot had

been home to over 35 horses between mares, yearlings, and weanlings. But as the first crops of foals were starting to enter the market, Serra said she saw that they weren't measuring up in the sales ring and the farm was generating losses.

“I decided to rethink the entire business, so from 2016 to 2018 we shrunk to just six broodmares,” Serra said.

Among those six mares, two in particular proved to be well worth their keep: Yawkey Way (Grand Slam), the dam of Spun to Run, as well as Hitechnoweenie (Harlan's Holiday), the eventual dam of Tonalist's Shape.

Yawkey Way, a stakes winner by Grand Slam, was purchased by Sabana in 2014 for \$200,000 in foal to Violence.

Serra said, “It was a hard investment at the time because it exceeded what we had initially planned to spend, but looking back now, it was one of the best decisions we ever made.”

The mare was one of the first to open doors for the farm when the Violence colt became Sabana's first yearling at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Sale and brought \$195,000 in 2016.

For Yawkey Way's first breeding season at Sabana, Serra sought the help of pedigree consultant David Seguías. The team pored over lists of stallions before landing on Hard Spun.

The cross produced an eventual millionaire in Spun to Run.

“Spun to Run was always a foal that stood out to me with his conformation and perhaps the best attitude of our 2016 foal crop,” Serra said. “I remember him excelling at every activity that was asked of him.”

While Serra said she believed in the colt from the start, a series of setbacks got between the colt and buyers during the sales season.

Days before the yearling was set to ship to Keeneland for the September sale, he was discovered to have a small chip. After surgery and initial under-tack training, he was placed with a consignor to prepare for the OBS March sale. But again, a minor ailment forced him to be withdrawn. **Cont. p10**



Sabana Farm | Migdaly Serra

Sabana cont.

Serra decided to take matters into her own hands. She hired Jose Cuellar to work with the colt under her direct supervision. They prepared to send him to the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-Year-Old Sale.

“We contacted Tristan de Meric, who came out to see him train. After seeing how he ran, he agreed to register him under the de Meric Sales consignment,” Serra said.

The colt brought \$64,000.



Serra with Spun to Run's Breeders' Cup trophy | Migdaly Serra

“Both myself and my ex-husband thought about taking him out of the ring, bringing him home, and running him ourselves,” Serra said. “But we had to sell. That was our initial plan, and we had to stick to it. Although we felt like we lost in that moment, time returned our efforts by a thousand.”

Serra was not able to attend the 2019 Breeders' Cup after having just arrived back in the United States from a trip home to Venezuela. But she remembers the moment when Spun to Run crossed the finish line in great detail.

“I will always regret not being able to have been there,” she said. “But just seeing the triumph when he won was enough. I felt like I had been right there with my dear animal, enjoying the moment with everyone.”

Serra said she remembered sitting in her farm office watching the race. As soon as it ended, she walked outside to find Yawkey Way grazing in her paddock.

“The first thing I did was hug my mare and cry with joy,” Serra said. “From there the calls began to come in from my children and ex-husband saying, ‘I knew it, I knew you were going to make it, I told you.’ At first, it all felt like a dream.”

Looking back on the day now, Serra said she feels that her team represented their Venezuelan roots well: “This victory represented myself, as well as Ivan Hernandez, consultant David Seguías, and our foaling veterinarian Dr. Oscar Benavides. I am proud of the achievement we made as a team of united Venezuelans.”

While it might be difficult to top such a successful 2019, Tonalist's Shape is adding more accomplishments for the farm this year.

The three-time stakes winner is out of the stakes-winning Harlan's Holiday mare Hitechnoweenie. Purchased as a maiden at the 2015 Keeneland January sale, Hitechnoweenie was one of the few mares that remained on the farm when the company chose to downsize the next year.

Hitechnoweenie was set to go to a proven stallion, but at the last moment, it was decided to send her to Tonalist, a first-year stallion that the Sabana team wanted to support.

The result was a filly with a bit of spunk and a mind of her own.

“She was arrogant and quite a determined character,” Serra said. “I would be trying to feed her and she would play with me, challenging me and trying to kick. She could be naughty, but that challenging attitude just showed her confidence.”



Tonalist's Shape | Ryan Thompson

Again, Serra couldn't get past bad luck in the sales ring. The filly didn't meet her reserve at the Keeneland September sale, so Serra brought her home to Ocala to train her with the help of employee Angel Alvarez. The duo rented out stalls at Nelson Jones Center to prepare the filly for the OBS April sale.

Cont. p11

BEEAUTIFUL

FIRST FOALS



Filly o/o *Jersey's Soul*



Filly o/o *Secretariat Humor*



Colt o/o *Perfect Lady*

BEE JERSEY

**FAST WINNER OF THE MET MILE (G1)
FROM THE SPEIGHTSTOWN LINE**

JERSEY TOWN – BEES, BY RAHY | FEE: **\$5,000** S&N



Contact Ryan Norton: (859) 254-0424

BEEAUTIFUL

FIRST FOALS

Colt o/o Shirl's Soul



Colt o/o Bourbon Gleam



Colt o/o Risky Agenda



BEE JERSEY

FAST WINNER OF THE MET MILE (G1)
FROM THE SPEIGHTSTOWN LINE

JERSEY TOWN - BEES, BY RAHY | FEE: **\$5,000** S&N

Photos by Frances J. Karon



Contact Ryan Norton: (859) 254-0424

Consigned by Niall Brennan, the filly again failed to meet her reserve in Ocala.

“Everything went wrong for us at the sale,” Serra said. “The winds were very strong and her time was slower than we had hoped.”

When the filly was again unable meet her reserve, Serra picked up the phone to call Hernández, determined to stick with her gut feeling this time around. “I told Iván that I had no experience as an owner, but that I was going to try my luck,” she said. “He agreed with me and minutes later I was shipping my filly back home.”

Tonalist’s Shape was sent to trainer Juan Avila. Making her debut in September of 2019 at Gulfstream Park, the filly turned in an impressive 1 1/4-length off-the-pace victory and Serra’s patience was rewarded. The calls from owners came minutes later, and the filly was ultimately sold to Slam Dunk Racing, Legacy Ranch, and Doug Branham.

While no longer her owner, Serra remains the filly’s biggest fan. Looking back on her score in the GII Davona Dale S. this February, Serra said, “When she was walking up to the starting gate, she reminded me of when she was a yearling in the paddock and everything was a simple game. In that moment, I knew she was going to win. Nothing was going to stop her.”

As Serra tracks the filly’s development from her Ocala farm, she plans for the future, saying she hopes to make the most of the updated pedigrees throughout her barn. Hitechnoweenie’s two most recent foals remain on the farm—a 2-year-old filly by Outwork and a yearling son of Connect. Yawkey Way had a Frosted filly sell for \$180,000 last September and also has a yearling colt by Practical Joke.

“I know that this world is not easy, and everything might not fall into place tomorrow as it has recently, but at Sabana we will continue to grow and search for new ways to get better results,” Serra said. “We are not people who sit on our triumph, rather we want to use both our triumphs and our failures to continue to improve.”

Despite everything that has changed for the young farm, their philosophy remains the same.

“I don’t think our goals differ that much from any other Thoroughbred breeder—we want to raise winning horses,” Serra said. “All the things we do at Sabana we do with passion and dedication, and we choose not to skip out on the small details of the process.”

She continued, “My life has changed so much in the past year, but these changes have made me grow. Now I feel more responsibility than ever to hold this farm to a standard, and the most difficult part for our team will be to maintain ourselves and someday improve from here.”

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STAGE MAGIC PRODUCES HALF-SISTER TO TRIPLE CROWN WINNER JUSTIFY

by Jessica Martini

Stage Magic (Ghostzapper--Magical Illusion, by Pulpit), dam of champion Justify (Scat Daddy), produced a half-sister by Curlin to the Triple Crown winner in the early hours Tuesday at John Gunther’s Glennwood Farm in Versailles, Kentucky.

“We are quite excited to have a filly,” Gunther’s daughter Tanya said Tuesday morning. “We don’t fetal sex our mares, so we never know what we are going to get. We were very keen to get a filly since we don’t have one out of the mare. So that was very good news. And just to have a nice safe, healthy foaling took a lot of stress off.”

Of the foal, Gunther said, “So far, it looks like she has good bone, good leg, she’s got nice long ears that are kind of cool looking. She looks like her brother and her mom, so that’s always a positive. She’s got a nice shoulder on her. It’s too early to tell, but I like what I’ve seen so far.”

Stage Magic’s two most recent foals were both colts, a 3-year-old named One More City (Will Take Charge) and an unnamed 2-year-old by Pioneerof the Nile. Both colts went through the ring at the Keeneland September sale as yearlings, but the plan will be to keep and race the new filly.

“We better [keep her], otherwise I’ll have to lay down in front of the trailer or something,” Gunther said with a laugh.



The 13-year-old Stage Magic will be bred back to Curlin this year.

In addition to Justify, who swept the Triple Crown and was named champion 3-year-old during a whirlwind six-for-six racing career in 2018, Stage Magic is also the dam of graded stakes winner The Lieutenant (Street Sense). Her once-raced daughter Egyptian Storm (Pioneerof the Nile), a \$230,000 Keeneland September yearling in 2017, sold in foal to Quality Road for \$750,000 at last year’s Fasig-Tipton November sale.

Curlin--Stage Magic cont.

The Gunthers retained both of the mare's recent colts, with One More City RNA'ing for \$1.75 million at Keeneland in 2018 and her 2-year-old RNA'ing for \$950,000 last September.

"They are both in training," Gunther reported. "The Will Take Charge was a big boy, if you remember him, so it's taken him a bit longer to come together, but he's doing well. We are hoping that there is a return to racing at some point in the near future and we'll get a chance to move forward with him. The 2-year-old is in training as well, doing well, but it's early days, at least for us. We don't tend to push them out the door to a trainer too quickly. We wouldn't usually expect to be putting them with a trainer until May or June at the earliest stage, so we haven't made any plans in that regard with him."

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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

CONRAD BANDOROFF

Amidst all of the craziness and uncertainty facing the world and our industry, there have been two things that have particularly given me solace and comfort during these hard times.

I begin each day walking down to our foaling barn and seeing the new foals, if any, from the night before. It gives me a sense of reassurance that, while there is so much anxiety and despair out there, ultimately life goes on and that this too shall pass. With each new foal comes newfound hope for virus-free days and future dreams.

The second is my faithful four-legged companion Mabel who accompanies me on my walks--ever searching for a good stick to romp around with! She and the foals are a reminder of the many good things out there. We just have to choose to see them.

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Listen to this week's podcast
April 1, 2020
Sackatoga Stable's Jack Knowlton
Talks Florida Derby Winner Tiz the Law





NM GOVERNOR, SUNLAND PARK ANNOUNCE \$2M CORONAVIRUS RELIEF GIFT

New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino announced Tuesday that the Stanley E. Fulton Family Foundation is making a commitment of \$2,000,000 to assist New Mexicans. The Stanley E. Fulton Family Foundation was endowed by the long-time owner of Sunland Park, the late Stanley E. Fulton. The gift will go to the **All Together NM Fund**, which will oversee the distribution of the gift to local charities and food banks in the areas hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis.

"I am immensely grateful every single day when I hear stories of generosity and compassion from all across the state as we grapple with this pandemic," said Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. "This gift is a significant one--and it will make a significant difference in our efforts to shore up local charities and food insecurity amid this crisis. New Mexicans everywhere are stepping up for their neighbors, for their communities. It is an inspiring reminder that, even amid dark circumstances, the light of our people will shine through."

"In times like these, it is important that we all come together as New Mexicans to help those that are most vulnerable," said Rick Baugh, general manager of Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino. "Mr. Fulton was extremely generous to New Mexico during his lifetime, and we are pleased to see that legacy of generosity continue."

"Dad would be pleased to know that the foundation he established is following his lead in giving back to this great state," said Mike Fulton, son of the late Stan Fulton.

The Fulton family continues to operate Sunland Park.

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Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Into Mischief (2005) by Harlan's Holiday Crops: 9 Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$175,000	8	18	3	6	--	--	168	42	300,000	2,958,086
2	Curlin (2004) by Smart Strike Crops: 9 Stands: Hill 'n' Dale Farms KY Fee: \$175,000	6	13	3	8	--	--	129	39	390,000	2,446,907
3	Tapit (2001) by Pulpit Crops: 13 Stands: Gainesway Farm KY Fee: \$200,000	4	9	3	7	--	--	111	25	1,000,000	3,781,181
4	Uncle Mo (2008) by Indian Charlie Crops: 6 Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$125,000	4	9	4	6	--	--	100	38	377,400	2,166,754
5	Munnings (2006) by Speightstown Crops: 7 Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$30,000	7	9	5	6	--	--	100	28	300,000	2,115,069
6	Quality Road (2006) by Elusive Quality Crops: 7 Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$200,000	3	8	1	4	--	--	86	26	120,000	1,257,634
7	Bernardini (2003) by A.P. Indy Crops: 11 Stands: Darley KY Fee: \$40,000	2	7	1	2	--	--	86	19	120,000	1,264,290
8	Hard Spun (2004) by Danzig Crops: 10 Stands: Darley KY Fee: \$40,000	1	6	1	5	--	1	114	22	200,000	1,427,062
9	Candy Ride (Arg) (1999) by Ride the Rails Crops: 13 Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$100,000	1	6	--	3	--	1	85	24	75,500	1,096,527
10	Malibu Moon (1997) by A.P. Indy Crops: 18 Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$60,000	2	5	--	1	--	--	108	31	200,232	1,544,346
11	Congrats (2000) by A.P. Indy Crops: 11 Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$10,000	--	5	--	2	--	--	133	37	81,000	1,240,806
12	Constitution (2011) by Tapit Crops: 2 Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$40,000	2	5	1	3	1	1	40	12	598,300	1,232,184
13	Ghostzapper (2000) by Awesome Again Crops: 12 Stands: Adena Springs KY Fee: \$85,000	--	5	--	2	--	--	86	24	147,000	1,174,851
14	The Factor (2008) by War Front Crops: 5 Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$17,500	2	5	1	4	--	1	103	20	125,040	953,163
15	Speightstown (1998) by Gone West Crops: 13 Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$70,000	3	4	1	2	--	--	98	33	506,328	2,521,962

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QUIET DANCE, by Quiet American. 6 wins, 2 to 4, \$224,240, Gala Lil S.-R (PIM, \$19,170), 2nd Demoiselle S. [G2]. Dam of 12 foals to race, all winners, incl.--

SAINT LIAM (c. by Saint Ballado). 9 wins, 3 to 5, \$4,456,995, horse of the year, champion older horse, Breeders' Cup Classic [G1] (BEL, \$2,433,600), Stephen Foster H. [G1] (CD, \$513,360), Donn H. [G1] (GP, \$300,000)-ntr, 1 1/8 mi. in 1:48 2/5, Woodward S. [G1] (BEL, \$300,000), Clark H. [G2] (CD, \$345,960), 2nd Whitney H. [G1] (SAR, \$150,000), Woodward S. [G1] (BEL, \$100,000), New Orleans H. [G2] (FG, \$100,000), lowly Derby [L] (PRM, \$50,000), 3rd Oaklawn H. [G2] (OP, \$50,000). Sire

FUNTASTIC (c. by More Than Ready). 4 wins at 3 and 4, 2018 N.A./U.S., United Nations S. [G1] (MTH, \$180,000), \$30,000). (Total: \$410,711).

QUIET GIANT (f. by Giant's Causeway). 7 wins in 1998, 389, Hill 'N' Dale Molly Pitcher S. [G2] (MTH, \$100,000), S. [L] (MTH, \$60,000), Rare Treat S. (AQU, \$50,000) on the Run

the dna of
a Champion Sire



CO... \$3, \$112...
D... [G1] (BEL, \$2,433,600), Stephen Foster H. [G1] (CD, \$513,360), Donn H. [G1] (GP, \$300,000)-ntr, 1 1/8 mi. in 1:48 2/5, Woodward S. [G1] (BEL, \$300,000), Clark H. [G2] (CD, \$345,960), 2nd Whitney H. [G1] (SAR, \$150,000), Woodward S. [G1] (BEL, \$100,000), New Orleans H. [G2] (FG, \$100,000), lowly Derby [L] (PRM, \$50,000), 3rd Oaklawn H. [G2] (OP, \$50,000). Sire
... \$20,000), 3rd... [G1] (SAR, \$150,000), Woodward S. [G1] (BEL, \$100,000), New Orleans H. [G2] (FG, \$100,000), lowly Derby [L] (PRM, \$50,000), 3rd Oaklawn H. [G2] (OP, \$50,000). Sire
... \$20,000), 3rd... [G1] (SAR, \$150,000), Woodward S. [G1] (BEL, \$100,000), New Orleans H. [G2] (FG, \$100,000), lowly Derby [L] (PRM, \$50,000), 3rd Oaklawn H. [G2] (OP, \$50,000). Sire
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... \$20,000), 3rd... [G1] (SAR, \$150,000), Woodward S. [G1] (BEL, \$100,000), New Orleans H. [G2] (FG, \$100,000), lowly Derby [L] (PRM, \$50,000), 3rd Oaklawn H. [G2] (OP, \$50,000). Sire

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2-Will Rogers Downs, Msw 6f, BADADDATUD, 15-1



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ADDITIONAL
RACING

STAKES RESULTS:

HIGHLAND ICE S., \$50,000, Will Rogers Downs, 4-7, 3yo/up, c/g, 6f, 1:09.35, ft.

1--**OIL MONEY, 121, g, 4, J P's Gusto--Cryptocandiac (SP, \$139,525), by Candy Ride (Arg).** (\$1,300 Ylg '17 OBSOCT; \$28,000 2yo '18 OBSOPN). O-Charles Garvey; B-Brent & Crystal Fernung, Mike Sebastian Sr., Daniel Flanigan & Eugene P. Cahalan (FL); T-Robertino Diodoro; J-Ty Kennedy. \$30,000. Lifetime Record: 15-6-2-1, \$159,147.

 **NICK J. HINES, AGENT #SARGESELECT** 
2--**Imma Bling**, 121, g, 7, Too Much Bling--Imma Be a Wildcat, by D'wildcat. O-End Zone Athletics, Inc.; B-Hall's Family Trust (TX); T-Karl Broberg. \$10,000.

3--**Minister of Soul**, 121, g, 6, Ministers Wild Cat--Sensitive Soul, by Bernstein. (\$16,000 Ylg '15 NCAAUG). O/T-Esteban Martinez; B-Dahlberg Farms Llc (CA); T-Esteban Martinez. \$5,500.

Margins: NK, 1HF, NK. Odds: 18.10, 13.70, 1.30.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

5th-Will Rogers Downs, \$22,880, 4-7, (NW2X), 3yo/up, 1m, 1:37.64, ft.

MILTONTOWN (g, 4, Speightstown--Forest Legend, by Forest Camp) Lifetime Record: 16-4-0-0, \$116,964. O-Rick & Clayton Wiest, R 6 Stable & Norman Tremblay; B-G. Watts Humphrey Jr. & St. George Farm, LLC (KY); T-Robertino Diodoro. *\$25,000 RNA Wlg '16 KEENOV; \$80,000 Ylg '17 KEESEP.

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LANE'S END SALES GRADUATE

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Docs Lucky Jax, c, 3, **Bricktown Cat--Ella's Point**, by Point Given. Will Rogers Downs, 4-7, (S), 6f, 1:12.90. B-Dusty Rose Ranch, LLC (OK).

Mr Misleading, c, 3, **Euroears--So Long Baby**, by Ex Federali. Will Rogers Downs, 4-7, (S), 6f, 1:11.70. B-James E. Helzer (OK).



ALL **TDN** WINNERS
BY SIRE

BRICKTOWN CAT, Docs Lucky Jax, c, 3, o/o Ella's Point, by Point Given. MSW, 4-7, Will Rogers

EUROEARS, Mr Misleading, c, 3, o/o So Long Baby, by Ex Federali. MSW, 4-7, Will Rogers

J P'S GUSTO, Oil Money, g, 4, o/o Cryptocandiac, by Candy Ride (Arg). Highland Ice S., 4-7, Will Rogers

SPEIGHTSTOWN, Miltontown, g, 4, o/o Forest Legend, by Forest Camp. ALW, 4-7, Will Rogers

TDN  **Traffic Trends**
THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

Through the first three months of 2020, traffic is up compared to 2019 as follows:



Pageviews.....	up 41% (1.8m to 2.6m)
Unique Users.....	up 66% (453k to 754k)
28 Day Active Users.....	up 111% (196k to 413k)
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NATIONS LIAISE OVER PATTERN ADJUSTMENT



Anthony Van Dyck inside a packed Derby winner's enclosure in 2019 | *Racing Post*

By Emma Berry

The announcement from Jockey Club Racecourses on Tuesday afternoon clarified, up to a point, a view which many within racing already held: that a number of the Classics would not go ahead on their original scheduled dates.

There are 427 group races and 426 listed races scheduled on the Flat in Europe this year. Only a handful has been run so far this year, the most recent being the one group race and one listed contest on the card at Naas on Monday, Mar. 23. The next day, Ireland followed France, Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain by bringing a temporary halt to racing while restrictions were imposed on citizens to try to contain the spread of COVID-19.

There are conflicting opinions within the racing fraternity with regard to resuming racing in the near future, and those who are keen to do so concede that it will be racing, but not as we know it, certainly in the short term. The possibility of various behind-closed-doors scenarios is being weighed up by racing authorities. While horse racing of any sort will be an encouraging sign for the many thousands of people whose livelihoods depend on the racing industry, an overview must also be taken with regard to the European Pattern races and, in particular, the sport's crown jewels, the Classics. In Britain, the 2000 Guineas, 1000 Guineas, Derby and Oaks have now all been postponed. [Cont. p2](#)

GUINEAS, DERBY DELAYED; ROYAL ASCOT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

The British racing calendar received a modicum of clarity—and plenty more uncertainty still—on Tuesday morning with announcements that Britain's first four Classics would be pushed back, and Royal Ascot would take place behind closed doors as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jockey Club Racecourses confirmed that the QIPCO Guineas Festival, originally set for May 2 and 3 and featuring the G1 2000 Guineas and G1 1000 Guineas, and the Investec Derby Festival on June 5 and 6 featuring the G1 Investec Derby and G1 Investec Oaks, would both be pushed back to as-yet undetermined dates. A statement from the Jockey Club Racecourses said a decision on dates would be made upon the resumption of racing, with consideration giving to spacing between the festivals and allowing ample time for prep races.

[Cont. p4](#)

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

CA INDUSTRY HIT HARD BY PANDEMIC

The financial toll from COVID-19 on the suspended racing industry in California has been severe. Dan Ross reports. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

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Nations Liaise Over Pattern Adjustment Cont. from p1

As the chief executive of Horse Racing Ireland and chairman of the European Pattern Committee, Brian Kavanagh is not just looking at how racing can eventually be restarted in his home country, but is also liaising with colleagues from other nations.

He told *TDN* on Tuesday, "Everyone is looking after their own domestic situation primarily but we had a good phone call last Monday with Britain, France, Ireland and Germany. Firstly that was to catch up with each other and to hear what's going on in the respective countries, and then to share our thinking domestically and more broadly on the international side of things. We will do that again next week after Easter, again just to see what progress there has been."

A key consideration when it comes to the pattern is the

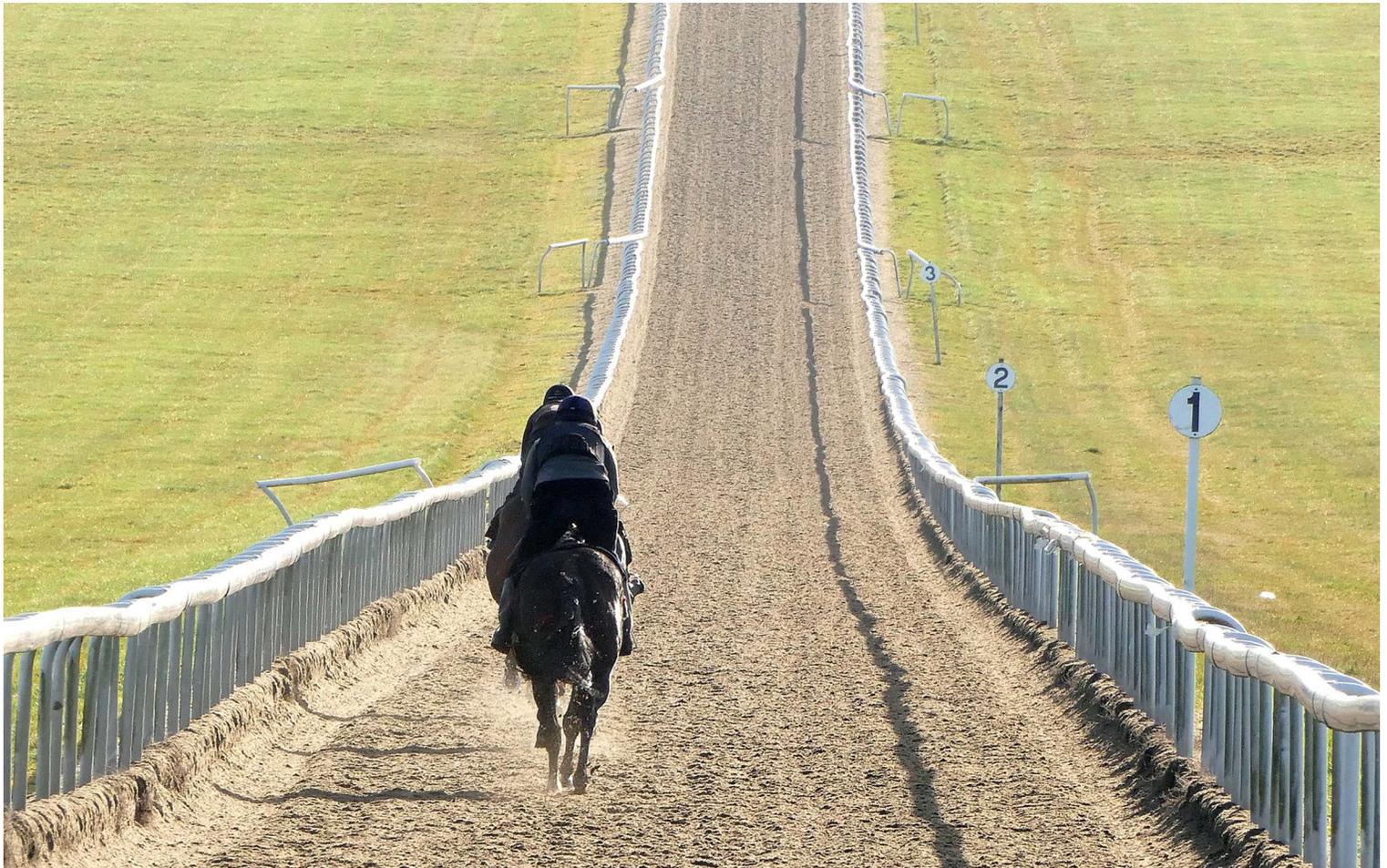


Brian Kavanagh | *Racing Post*

competition between horses from different countries. At present, people are being discouraged from international travel though the breeding season has continued largely uninterrupted. In Europe, that means a reasonable level of equine traffic, particularly between Ireland, Britain and France.

"The European Pattern is dependent on international horses travelling from other countries, so as much as we can we need to make sure we're all on the same page, which thankfully we are," said Kavanagh. "It is encouraging that there's still breeding stock moving between those countries at the moment on very strict protocols. If something similar were possible for racing we definitely should explore every aspect of that. But in the first instance, local trainers want to know when racing is going to be back in their country."

Cont. p3



Horses and their riders on their way up Warren Hill in Newmarket. | *Emma Berry*



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Nations Liaise Over Pattern Adjustment Cont.

He continued, "The Pattern is at the peak of it and it's an important consideration, but the prime effort is focusing on getting racing back going in our respective countries. I wouldn't concede on the international travel too quickly, but obviously we will be guided by the governments and the health rules in each country."

Britain may have left the European Union but in bloodstock terms it is closely entwined with its European neighbours when it comes to both racing and the sales. Until the end of 2020, the transitional phase of Brexit means the Thoroughbred population is still operating under the Tripartite Agreement when it comes to free horse movement between the UK and EU countries.

Kavanagh added, "Pattern races without international competition doesn't look great. In Ireland there's only a small number of yards that would compete at that level. In Britain there's been a huge dependence on the Irish and French horses at the races in recent years, and French racing has been very dependent on UK horses, which have been very successful in France in recent years. So it's something we need to move quickly on once racing is back on, but obviously the health considerations and the protocols and regulations from government are vital in the first instance."

One of the ground rules of the European Pattern states that races "should have no indigenous conditions, i.e. not be restricted to horses bred or trained in the country concerned." These are extraordinary times, and when racing went behind closed doors in Ireland, it was stated that no entries would be taken for horses from overseas. There are still many hurdles to be cleared before racing resumes at all, but if it resumes in individual countries with a ban on foreign runners, this could have an effect on how any group races run within that time are subsequently viewed.

"Technically, a domestic pattern race would be a restricted race which would disqualify it from pattern standing, and I don't think anyone wants that," Kavanagh explained. "We don't want to be running pattern races without status and that's why it is important to get the international side of it sorted sooner rather than later."

But in exceptional circumstances, could exceptions to be made?

"In the event that some of the races had to be run that way, we could look at ignoring the domestic criteria for the purpose of this year," he conceded. "With the International Cataloguing Standards Committee and the Society of International Thoroughbred Auctioneers, we could say that globally this is an exceptional year and there will have to be a 'health warning' with regard to group races won during that period because some of them may have been restricted." [Cont. p4](#)

IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

POSITIVE RESULTS AT INGLIS EASTER

The first day of the virtual Inglis Easter Yearling Sale posted positive results on Monday. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)

Nations Liaise Over Pattern Adjustment Cont.

The European Pattern Committee routinely keeps a watch on the quality of group races, assessing the average ratings of winners and placed horses over a three-year period to decide whether or not a race warrants retaining its current status. Ahead of the 2020 season, three races were upgraded from listed to Group 3 status. Similarly, three races lost their group status.

Kavanagh added, "It may be that when it comes to measuring the merits of races, instead of taking a three-year average you discount this year's ratings, because ratings are ultimately forged on international competitions as well. It's one thing a domestic handicapper having a rating but it's only when that horse is exposed to international competition that you can get some idea of the level of the merit of various horses. So it could be that we have to ignore the ratings of races for the purpose of upgrades and downgrades of 2020."

THE EUROPEAN PATTERN IS
DEPENDENT ON INTERNATIONAL
HORSES, SO AS MUCH AS WE CAN WE
NEED TO MAKE SURE WE'RE ALL
ON THE SAME PAGE.

Brian Kavanagh

The biggest problem for industries across Europe is the uncertainty of how various countries will start to emerge from the current lockdown restrictions. Not knowing when the starting stalls will burst open again for racing means that firm planning on the pattern front is almost impossible.

"If the hiatus goes on much longer, the question will be whether we try to reschedule lost pattern races or just say, ok we'll only reschedule Group 1 races or a major race," Kavanagh noted. "[In Ireland] we got one race off, the Park Express, on our first day, and now we're starting to miss Guineas trials. So the issues we are looking at are whether we push the season back in its entirety and in the current format and, say, everything will take place a month later, or do we lose 'x' amount of races, try to reschedule the more important of those and just live without the rest of them. It all really depends on how soon we get back. If it's the start of May I think the loss is manageable, but if it goes beyond that then there are probably too many races to reschedule."

Taking some consolation from the fact that various governments appear to value the importance of the racing industry, particularly when it comes to the employment it brings to rural areas, Kavanagh said, "The whole economy is going to be smashed by this. There's a huge rebuilding element going to be required, and to some extent racing has a ready-made model to help that. The question is can we sustain demand for horses from the end user, the owner? I found the figures from the Australian sales overnight quite encouraging in terms of the drops not being catastrophic considering there were no people and no horses on the sales ground."

He added, "There are some reasonably positive signs coming out of Germany and France. German football teams started training yesterday with a view to resuming matches in May. I think that's given the German racing authority some encouragement that they might be able to get racing back. In France I know they are determined to get back sooner rather than later. Britain has a well thought-out strategy with regard to regional racing and we have said in Ireland that we're on a racing-ready basis and that if we get the go-ahead from government we can race within seven days."

"Everyone is ready and everyone is prepared, and from a Pattern Committee point of view we are talking to each other about what we can do."

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EUROPEAN NEWS

Guineas, Derby Delayed, Royal Ascot Behind Closed Doors Cont. from p1

Ruth Quinn, director of international racing and racing development at the BHA, said, "As a sport we have a responsibility to safeguard the staging of our Classics, and to position them within a sensible, balanced schedule of complementary events wherever possible. We will continue to work together to deliver the optimal outcome within these unprecedented set of circumstances."

"We are developing plans to help ensure that a suitable race programme, for the long-term health of the sport, can be delivered in these challenging times. Naturally one of the key priorities is the staging of the generation-defining races. The plan will adapt depending on when racing recommences, but will aim to ensure that we provide suitable opportunities for the horses most likely to define the future of the Thoroughbred breed if at all possible." [Cont. p5](#)



The Queen at Royal Ascot | *Racing Post*

Guineas, Derby Delayed, Royal Ascot Behind Closed Doors Cont.

A statement from Ascot Racecourse Chief Executive Guy Henderson revealed that the course still hopes to stage the Royal meeting in its original June 16 to 20 slot, but that if the event is able to go ahead it will be closed to the public. The statement read in part, "For public health and safety reasons we have reached the difficult but unavoidable conclusion that Royal Ascot 2020 will not be able to take place as an event open to the public. This will of course be a great disappointment for everyone planning to attend. It may prove possible to run the Royal Ascot races behind closed doors, dependent on Government and public health policy and the approval of the BHA for us to re-start racing. This would be for the benefit of the industry, our valued partners and suppliers and our television audiences at home and internationally. Planning for this is now our complete focus and we will update on progress as and when we can.

"The pandemic will have a significant financial impact on our business in 2020, along with so many others. Nevertheless, Ascot Racecourse will come through this crisis and we look forward to being able to welcome racegoers back when it is safe to do so. Meanwhile, our thoughts are with all those grieving and suffering as a result of COVID-19. We offer heartfelt thanks to our wonderful NHS staff, key workers and volunteers for all their selfless dedication."

Ascot Racecourse confirmed that it is also leaving its May Racing Weekend (May 8 and 9) on the calendar as is, but that it will be closed to the public.

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FRENCH RACING HEADS MEET GOVERNMENT

France Galop president Edouard de Rothschild attended a meeting on Tuesday morning with representatives from France's government ministries overseeing the agriculture and accounting sectors.

Along with Jean-Pierre Barjon, his counterpart in the French trotting industry, de Rothschild discussed previous submissions to government documenting the shutdown of racing in the country and its affect on the industry's 21,000 workers.

The economic impact of the cessation of racing since Mar. 17 until the end of April is estimated to be €58 million. A key factor in the resumption of the sport in France and its recovery is dependent on the reopening of the many PMU outlets within cafes and restaurants, which are currently closed.

A statement released by France Galop on Tuesday read, "The presidents particularly appreciated the excellent listening skills of their interlocutors, their understanding of the problems and their requests for clarification relevant to the examination of the case. Additional information has been requested and will be provided promptly."

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WORTHADD PASSES AT 13

Italian highweight and MG1SP **Worthadd (Ire)** (Dubawi {Ire}-Wigman, by Rahy), a winner of the G2 Derby Italiano and G2 Premio Parioli (Italian 2000 Guineas), passed away at the age of 13 on Sunday, *Jour de Galop* reported. Owned by Scuderia Incolinx and later on Diego Romeo, the dark bay died of a ruptured aorta at Haras de Longechaux in France. Also successful in the G2 Premio Ribot and Germany's G3 Badener Meile, the Compagnia Generale-bred was runner-up in the G1 Lockinge S. and third in the G1 Premio Vittorio di Capua. Trained in succession by Vittorio Caruso, Sir Mark Prescott and then Brian Lynch, he leaves behind 21 winners from 77 foals of racing age. He stood for five seasons at the Irish National Stud before covering in France at Haras de Gelos in 2019. 2020 was his first season at Haras de Longechaux where his fee was €2,800.

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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, Ted Durcan is in the hot seat.

Who is your favourite horse?

My favourite horse is easy. I'd have to nominate Somnus (GB) (Pivotal {GB}). He was an absolute dude of a ride at the races. He was the perfect horse: he didn't pull and you could ride him wherever you were happy as long as he had soft ground. I loved riding him and he was very good to me. He won two sales races in one year as a 2-year old. I broke my leg over the winter in Dubai and when I came back I smashed my wrist so I missed the whole summer, but when I came back to riding, the Easterbys and the owners kindly let me back on him. He won the Sprint Cup at Haydock beating Oasis Dream (GB) and Airwave (GB) and that was actually my first Group 1 win in England. After all the injuries and getting back to riding, I really needed a horse to pull me back up and he did that.



Light Shift and Ted Durcan winning the Oaks from Peeping Fawn | *Racing Post*

Best horse you've ridden?

My best horse was harder to choose and I could narrow it down to a few fillies but if I have to pick just one it would be Light Shift (Kingmambo). She won the Oaks for me, beating Peeping Fawn (Danehill), and then she got beaten in the Irish Oaks by Peeping Fawn. I think that was the first of Peeping Fawn's four Group 1 wins in a row, so to be beaten by her wasn't a disgrace. I found it hard to split Light Shift and Sahpresa (Sahm), who won the Sun Chariot and was a seriously good mare.

What are you up to while racing is off?

I've been riding out for Michael Stoute and it's been great to see all the staff in Newmarket and around the country making a really big effort to keep things going. They're so conscientious and we're lucky really to be able to get out and do that every day. I always also squeeze in a run after work and then spend the rest of the day hiding from my wife because she has a list of DIY stuff for me to do around the house. She must think I'm Bob the Builder, which I absolutely am not, so I'm spending most of my afternoons in hiding at the moment.

I'm really looking forward to getting back to the sales. This time of year the breeze-ups so important to so many people so I hope they get going sooner rather than later.

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James Harron Bloodstock purchased this Frankel (GB) filly for A\$670,000 (€381,037) at the Inglis Easter Virtual Yearling Sale. "The filly didn't turn a hair. I went and looked at her a couple of times. She has a wonderful walk on her, a wonderful attitude and great depth of girth," said Harron. "A very exciting filly for us and hopefully she can do well on the track and be in the broodmare band for many years to come." See [TDN AusNZ](#) for more.



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POSITIVE RESULTS AT INGLIS EASTER



Lot 134, a colt by So You Think | Inglis

By Bren O'Brien

The Australian bloodstock market once again showed the resilience and adaptability of its participants with the first Virtual Inglis Easter Yearling Sale withstanding global and domestic economic uncertainties to post only modest falls in sale average and median amid a trio of million-dollar results.

At A Glance:

- The trade market held up well, with the median of \$250,000 only \$10,000 less than last year, while the average dropped moderately, around 15%, to \$306,958 from \$353,511 in 2019.
- At the end of the day, clearance rate was 61.6% (last year it was 86%) and is expected to improve over the coming days.
- There were three million-dollar yearlings sold, two colts for \$1.1 million and a filly for \$1 million.
- Day 1 aggregate was \$32.53 million across 106 lots sold. It was \$64.2 million across 174 lots on Day 1 last year.
- The joint top lot went to Hawkes Racing who secured the full-brother to champion filly Sunlight (Zoustar) for \$1.1 million, while Bon Ho's Legend Racing also paid

\$1.1 million for the So You Think (NZ) half-brother to Classique Legend (Not A Single Doubt).

- Yarraman Park's I Am Invincible ended the day as leading sire by aggregate, with sales totaling \$7.21 million. Darley's Exceed And Excel led the averages for three or more sold at \$562,000.
- Coolmore leads both the vendor and buyer tables by aggregate after Day 1, while Kitchwin Hills currently leads the vendor list by average three or more sold on \$583,000.

Legend Doubles Up on Family

Bon Ho has made no secret of his admiration for Classique Legend (Not A Single Doubt) and the Hong Kong businessman went to seven figures to secure his half-brother by So You Think (NZ) from Tyreel Stud. In paying \$1.1 million for Lot 134, Ho set a new benchmark for a yearling by the Coolmore stallion and put up the first \$1 million-plus purchase of the sale.

Dam Pinocchio (Encosta De Lago) has proven an excellent acquisition for Tyreel Stud, who paid \$320,000 for her in 2014. She has since produced the G2 Arrowfield 3YO Classic winner Classique Legend, who Ho paid \$400,000 for, and Hong Kong sprint star Aethero (Sebring), purchased by George Moore for \$575,000 in 2018.

Pinocchio, a sister to multiple Group 1 winner Racing To Win, now has a million-dollar yearling on her resume after a stirring bidding dual ended in Ho's favour.

"Wow, what can I say, I'm so proud of my staff who have prepared this boy," Tyreel Stud's Linda Monds said. "We've raised him as a team and my staff have put the polish on him in the end. Absolutely stunning result, he deserved every cent of that. He is probably one of the best colts I have ever seen."

Monds said the interest in the colt, particularly from international buyers, had been very strong throughout and there was no great surprise when Ho was the one who prevailed.

"I wasn't quite sure, as there was a lot of international interest and a lot of interest locally as well. I just didn't know who wanted him more," she said. "He was very popular, the word got out how nice he was and it's congratulations to Mr Ho. He has already got one of the family and clearly values Classique Legend so highly. He has an amazing ability and this boy will not be any different."



Lot 212, a Zoustar colt | Inglis

A Star in His Own Light

Lot 212, the Zoustar colt offered by Widden Stud, always loomed as one of the top lots of the sale as a brother to Champion filly Sunlight and stakes-winner Sisstar. Hawkes Racing won the battle to secure the colt, getting the better of their opposition as the colt sailed into seven figures.

"Dad (John) and Michael did the inspections. Michael rang me and said 'we've found the colt'," Wayne Hawkes said. "He just said he's an absolute A, a perfect A in his opinion and John Hawkes does not hand out many As at a sale in any year. Plus the cross works, Sunlight is an iron horse and this bloke only needs to be half as good as her. It would be great if he could go and stand at Widden Stud one day."

It's a continuation of the amazing run of success for dam Solar Charged (Charge Forward) who Widden Stud and Qatar Racing purchased for \$650,000 six years ago and who has produced two stakes winners plus the half-brother Halogen (Sebring), who fetched \$650,000 at this sale last year.

"It's a great feeling, it's a huge relief, from the moment this guy was born we thought he was a million-dollar colt," Widden Stud proprietor Antony Thompson said. "The journey that goes with that, the rollercoaster ride that has been the past few weeks, for him to realise \$1.1 million in this market is a stunning result--we are thrilled!"

"For Sheikh Fahad from Qatar Racing, who bred the colt with us and Dan Fletcher up there in Queensland, who was also involved, it's a huge thrill from when we bought Solar Charged."

Williams Goes to \$1 Million for Vinnie Filly

Andrew Williams Bloodstock paid the top price for a filly on the day, going to an even \$1 million for Lot 223 for a filly by I Am invincible out of Group 1 winning mare Srikandi (Dubawi {Ire})

for an undisclosed syndicate. Williams, who purchased the filly as a weanling for \$600,000 at last year's Chairman's Sale, said her physical attributes drew him in again.

"I thought she was a standout filly," Williams said. "An outcross option, an early running type by I Am Invincible and an A++ physical."

Kitchwin Hills, who sold dam Srikandi for \$2 million at last year's Chairman's Sale, was rapt with the result.

"For that filly to make a \$1 million is extremely rewarding for all the guys here and the staff that have prepped her under extremely strange conditions," manager Mick Malone said. "We had a strong reserve on her, but it was nowhere near what we made. But because we pinhooked her, it was important that she sold well. Fillies like that don't come along too often. She is beautifully bred and Srikandi was a superstar."

"Well done to Andy Williams who bought her. They tell me Dean Hawthorne was the underbidder. When you get two good judges like that on a filly like her, that is what can happen. She's a filly that deserved that sort of money."

Kitchwin Hills ended Day 1 as the leading vendor on average (3 or more lots), selling three at \$583,333, while I Am Invincible was easily the top sire on aggregate with 14 sold for a total of \$7.21 million.

Magnier Lines up Vinnie Colt

It was Coolmore's Tom Magnier who struck early going to \$875,000 for Lot 73, the imposing I Am Invincible colt out of Miss Interiors (Flying Spur) offered by Torryburn Stud. Miss Interiors is a half-sister to multiple Group 1 winning sprinter and now Newgate stallion Russian Revolution as well as Group 3 winner Turbo Miss (Sebring).



Tom Magnier & Sebastian Hutch during the 2019 Inglis Easter Sale

Bronwen Healy

"He was lovely. We went down to Torryburn a couple of times. He's a horse with a lot of quality and the whole team liked him. We are just looking for a bit of luck with him going forward." Magnier said. "We are very happy with him and hopefully he will be a good early 2-year-old."

Magnier said a decision on which trainer the colt would go to would be made after the horse comes back to Coolmore.

Torryburn Stud Farm Manager Mel Copelin was pleased with the result in what was a tough market.

"In other circumstances, he may have made more, but he's gone to a great home, top judges have bought him and we are very happy," she said. "He's a very imposing colt and we knew he would be up there."

Miss Interiors was purchased for \$625,000 through the 2017 Inglis Chairman's Sale in foal to Deep Field and the resultant colt, now named Aysar, was purchased by Shadwell for \$260,000 at last year's Magic Millions Gold Coast Sale.

"This colt's got a stallion's page and that's why we bought the mare in the first place to hopefully breed a colt like that. She's paid for herself now and she has got a Capitalist colt on the ground and in foal is foal to Dundee," Copelin said.

Magnier also went to \$525,000 for a colt by Not A Single Doubt offered by Strawberry Hill Stud. Lot 199 is out of G1 Australian Oaks winner Once Were Wild (Johannesburg (USA)). He also purchased Lot 56, a Snitzel colt from Willow Park Stud, for \$475,000 and Lot 111, a

Capitalist colt who is a three-quarter brother to Group 1 winner Booker (Written Tycoon) offered by Mill Park, for \$380,000.

Magnier was the top buyer on the opening day spending \$2.25 million, while Coolmore was the leading vendor on aggregate with \$2.95 million worth of sales, just ahead of Yarraman Park. Coolmore's American Pharoah (USA) is leading first-season sire on aggregate (\$1.51 million) and average (\$302,000) having sold five yearlings on the opening day.

Jockey Club Picks up Duo

Craig Rounsefell of Boomer Bloodstock secured two excellent colts for Hong Kong Jockey Club later in the afternoon, to bring his tally to four for the day. He paid \$760,000 for a colt by Exceed And Excel, which was offered by Willow Park Stud as Lot 191. The colt is the first foal out of Group 3 winner Serious Satire (More Than Ready (USA)), from a line of stakes winners that goes back to the third dam, the Group 1 winner Star Satire (NZ) (Volksraad (GB)).

"Exceed And Excel's progeny have done very well in Hong

Kong, the latest of his stars including sprint Champion Mr Stunning and up-and-comer Big Party," Rounsefell said. "This colt is the first foal out of a very fast G3-winning mare, bred on the same cross as Bivouac from one of New Zealand's best families. He's a beautiful, scopey colt who will develop into a lovely horse."

Soon after, Rounsefell paid \$700,000 for the well-regarded Lot 213, a colt by I Am Invincible out of Solar Moon (GB) (Pivotal (GB)), offered by Three Bridges Thoroughbreds.

"I rated this I Am Invincible colt as high as any I have seen this year. He is an outstanding type from a significant international family," he said. "I love the way Three Bridges raises their horses in large open paddocks, it's a very natural environment for young horses to lay good bone and muscle tone. I thought he was a special colt and was delighted to secure him."

Solar Moon is a three-quarter sister to top English stayer Dee Ex Bee (GB) (Farhh (GB)), from the family of G1 Dubai World Cup winner and stallion Dubai Millennium (GB).

"We are trying to buy superior types by proven stallions off the best farms," explained Rounsefell. "I think we achieved that with the four purchases today. I'm very much looking forward to tomorrow and another day of incredible quality bloodstock."



Gai Waterhouse bidding remotely | Inglis

Harron Falls for Frankel Filly

The second top-price for a filly on the day was the \$670,000 that James Harron paid for Lot 143, who is by Frankel (GB) out of Group 1 winner Princess Coup (Encosta De Lago). Tony Bott's Evergreen Stud Farm bred the filly and offered her, with Harron prevailing in a spirited battle.

"It was a lovely combination and coming from that mare, she was a superstar and to be able to see her produce such an amazing filly to Frankel, she is probably one of the best Frankels I've seen," Harron said. "The filly didn't turn a hair. I went and looked at her a couple of times. She has a wonderful walk on her, a wonderful attitude and great depth of girth. A very exciting filly for us and hopefully she can do well on the track and be in the broodmare band for many years to come."

Bott said he felt the market had not favoured the vendors, but at that price he was prepared to meet the market rather than retain her himself.

"If it had had been a normal sale down there with everything back to normal, we felt she might make a bit more," Bott said. "She was certainly an in-demand filly and a lovely specimen from a great family by a great sire. She was probably more like Princess Coup than anything previous. Both in look and mannerisms and the way she carried herself."

Bott said it was always clear from those who were interested in her through her parades that she would be sought after.

"A couple of them had indicated to us that she was up there with one of the best in the sale. I didn't have the opportunity to go around and have a look at the rest of the catalogue, normally you can do that if you are at the sales," he said. "She had a dozen or so hit on X-rays which meant people were interested, it seemed to be the right people."

Webster Reflects on Extraordinary Day

Inglis Managing Director Mark Webster was particularly pleased with the broad interest in the sale and the way in which the market weathered current difficult times.

"It's been one of the most extraordinary days on the job for me as Managing Director, to oversee Day 1 of an Easter Sale with no horses and no people physically present, it's certainly something out of the box" he said. "Our website traffic figures have been quite phenomenal – we have had people watching our Sale Day Live coverage from 99 different countries on six continents around the world and buyers coming from all across the globe as well, as well as almost 150,000 visitors to the website today alone.

"That side of things has been very satisfying because our vendors put a tremendous amount of work in, under arguably some of the most challenging conditions of their lives. To be able to even conduct a sale under the circumstances for them has been a great team effort. Looking back on it, it's been a very good start to a sale under very challenging conditions for everybody in our industry.

"I hope to see the buyers back online tomorrow as we offer another 200 or so yearlings. As today showed, there is plenty of value to be found so I urge people to register to bid and to get involved, these horses are the best of the best and will prove that on the race track in months and years to come."

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