

## CAN ANYONE BEAT BAFFERT? SEEMS UNLIKELY



Charlatan | Coady

### The Week in Review, by Bill Finley

The GI Kentucky Derby is a long way off and a lot can happen between now and Sept. 5, but after what went down Saturday at Oaklawn Park, it looks like the only question left to be answered is which Bob Baffert-trained horse will win the Derby?

That's not getting ahead of ourselves or hyperbole. After what happened Saturday in the split divisions of the GI Arkansas Derby, it's stating the obvious. In **Nadal** (Blame), **Charlatan** (Speightstown) and **Authentic** (Into Mischief), he trains three 3-year-olds who are all undefeated and are all potential superstars. There are 328 nominees to the Triple Crown that are not trained by Baffert and the only one on the list that looks to have a realistic shot of winning the Derby is GI Curlin Florida Derby winner Tiz the Law (Constitution).

That was pretty much the sentiment before Baffert's horses arrived at Oaklawn. Yet, there did seem to be a few potential stumbling blocks for his horses. Would Charlatan, who was light on earnings, even get to run in the Arkansas Derby? Why was Nadal only winning by small margins? If need be, could his horses rate or were they all one dimensional speedballs? In what was nothing short of a perfect afternoon for the Baffert stable, both horses got to run, they didn't have to face off against one another and both answered some questions.

Charlatan looks like the second coming of Triple Crown winner Justify (Scat Daddy). **Cont. p3**

## A LEADING 'LADY' FOR SIKURA, HILL 'N' DALE

by Steve Sherack

Hailing from the same shedrow of Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen isn't the only thing that recent, ultra-impressive Oaklawn Park winners **Casual** (f, 3, by Curlin) and **Volatile** (c, 4, by Violence) have in common.

The promising duo--both bred in Kentucky by Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings, Inc. and Stretch Run Ventures, LLC--trace their lineage back to the millionaire and brilliant two-time Saratoga Grade I winner and the Asmussen-trained Lady Tak (Mutakddim).

After acquiring an interest privately in the GI Test S. and GI Ballerina H. heroine from owners Bill and Corinne Heiligbrodt during her 5-year-old season, John Sikura's Hill 'n' Dale Farms bought out the couple as they began to disperse their holdings a few years later. **Cont. p4**

## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

### GREWE PRIMED FOR GERMAN RESTART

German champion trainer Henk Grewe's string is poised for the resumption of German racing. Sean Cronin & Christa Riebel have the details. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

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**Monday, May 4, 2020**



Vincent and Dominic Talamo celebrate dad Joe's successful first meet riding at Oaklawn Park. | Elizabeth Talamo

**DENNIS LYNCH TRIBUTES**

**6**

Soon after the news was reported Saturday that beloved Fasig-Tipton executive Dennis Lynch had passed away, the tributes started pouring in. Read some of Lynch's fondest remembrances.

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**Week in Review cont. from p1**

He's following the same trajectory--late start to his career, allowance win, Grade I win. The only difference so far is that Justify picked up his first stakes win in the GI Santa Anita Derby.

Despite blowing the field away in his first two starts, Charlatan still had to answer the question of what would happen once he got into stakes company. It may be true that his division was the weaker of the two, but it was still a Grade I race, and Charlatan demolished his rivals, winning by six lengths. If the Derby were run tomorrow, he would be the favorite.

Even as talented as Charlatan is, in a normal year a critic could at least point to his lack of experience. On the first Saturday in May, he was making just his third lifetime start and had not raced as a 2-year-old. Even though Justify overcame similar hurdles, it's still asking a lot for a horse with so little experience to win the Derby. Now, Baffert can take his time. He has four months to get some more racing and seasoning into Charlatan. If he's this good now, how good might he be in September?



**Charlatan | Coady**

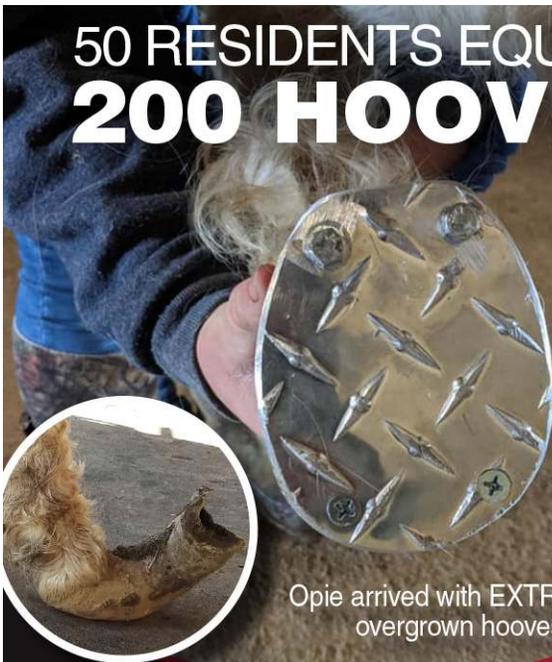
Nadal hadn't shown the brilliance that Charlatan had. He had won the GII San Vicente S. by three-quarters of a length, the same margin by which he won the GII Rebel S. While Charlatan had reeled off successive Beyer numbers of 106 and 105, Nadal's best had been a 98.

He may not have been the recipient of Charlatan-like hype, but his Arkansas Derby win was also something special. He won by three lengths over a good horse in GII Tampa Bay Derby winner King Guillermo (Uncle Mo) and did so decisively.

The best part of Nadal's win may have been that he showed he could relax off the lead. Wells Bayou (Lookin at Lucky) was sent hard from the gate by Florent Geroux to get the lead and, on Nadal, Joel Rosario wisely let him go. Nadal relaxed nicely and didn't take over until on the far turn. That may suit him well in the Kentucky Derby. All three of Baffert's stars have a ton of

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early speed and he's going to have to figure out how to avoid a speed duel of his own making.

Who was better Saturday, Nadal or Charlatan? Nadal's race was slightly faster. He covered the mile-and-an-eighth in 1:48.34, while Charlatan's time was 1:48.49. Nadal got a 98 Beyer and Charlatan's number was a 96. But that's just splitting hairs. The "who's better" question probably won't be answered until they meet. **Cont. p4**



**Nadal | Coady**

Authentic spent his day relaxing at Santa Anita, but that doesn't mean he should be overshadowed by Nadal and Charlatan. He is also undefeated, has also shown brilliant speed and form and could be prove to be the best of he three.

The only major 3-year-old race that is all but certain to be run over the next five weeks is the GI Santa Anita Derby, which is now set to go on June 6. That seems like a logical spot for Authentic. In the meantime, Baffert may have to get creative in order to continue to keep the three apart, but can't map out a schedule until more tracks announce stakes schedules that had to redone because of coronavirus shutdowns.

It might be too much to ask that all three are still undefeated come Derby Day or even that they all remain in top form. But it could happen. Put these three in the same starting gate on Sept. 5 and this Derby will be among the most interesting and exciting editions ever.

### ***Kudos to Oaklawn***

You can't heap enough praise on to Oaklawn Park and the Cella family for their efforts to keep Oaklawn open without any interruptions. With the track's casino having to close and with pressures for all businesses to shut down because of the coronavirus, they easily could have ended the meet early and said, "See you next year."

Yes, staying open yielded eye-popping handle numbers, like the \$40.9 million Oaklawn handled Saturday. Entering this year's meet, the record single-day handle had been \$16.2 million. But that was not management's only motivating factor. They never lost track of their obligation to do what was best for the sport. Knowing that 3-year-olds would need a race to run around the original date of the Kentucky Derby, they moved the Arkansas Derby to May 2. They did the same for their GI Kentucky Oaks prep, the GIII Fantasy S. It was run Friday. It cost Oaklawn an extra \$250,000 to split the Arkansas Derby, but they never hesitated to do so. Throughout March and April, while so many other tracks were forced to close, they offered great racing, which was good for the sport, the owners, trainers and the fans. Just imagine what those months would have been like without Oaklawn Park.

### ***The Virtual Derby***

The virtual Kentucky Derby, won by Secretariat, was exactly what it was supposed to be--a lot of fun. The quality of the computer-generated race was outstanding and the virtual versions of the 13 Triple Crown winners almost looked like the real thing. There was some drama in the way the race unfolded and Triple Crown announcer Larry Collmus added his voice to the proceedings. All along, there was good-natured debate. Was Secretariat an overlay? Would there be a speed duel? When it

was over, a meaningful amount of money was donated to charities dealing with the coronavirus outbreak.

Yes, we'd all rather see the real thing, but this was a welcome and enjoyable diversion. Who do you like in the virtual Preakness?

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### ***Leading 'Lady' for Sikura, Hill 'n' Dale cont. from p1***

"It's a John Franks family--we did a lot of business together and I was very close with him," Sikura said of the beaten 2003 GI Kentucky Oaks favorite, who was bred by the late, four-time Eclipse Award winner as outstanding owner.

"I also have enormous respect for Bill and Corinne Heiligbrodt. They've bought so many fast horses and have a great program. They scaled down, but have scaled back up again now. Lady Tak was uniquely talented. Mutakddim gave me a lot of satisfaction. He was one of our first sires and was also a leading sire in Argentina. He's going be a terrific broodmare sire."

Casual, a 3-year-old daughter of leading sire Curlin out of Lady Tak, kicked off her career with a smart debut victory for her breeders in Hot Springs Apr. 11 ([video](#)).



**Casual | Coady**

Stuck behind a wall of horses as they hit the quarter pole, Casual gamely threaded the needle beneath Ricardo Santana, Jr. as they straightened for home and ran to daylight along the rail in the stretch to graduate like a good thing by a half-length, earning a 90 Beyer Speed Figure in the process.

"When Curlin came to Hill 'n' Dale [for the 2016 season], I wanted to breed all of our best mares to him," Sikura said of the two-time Horse of the Year, who stands the 2020 season for a \$175,000 stud fee.

***Cont. p5***

“Hopefully, Casual is a good filly. There’s still not a lot of racing right now [due to the coronavirus outbreak], and [last Friday’s GIII] Fantasy [S. at Oaklawn] came up too soon. I try to be involved in barns where guys have full confidence in their ability and Steve will decide where she runs next. She’ll go to Churchill once horses are accepted there and he’ll map out a campaign.”

Sikura continued, “It’s always rewarding when you have a homebred that shows promise. But at the same time, I’ve had enough good things and bad things happen in this business that you hope beyond tomorrow, but you don’t plan as if tomorrow is already happening. One step at a time. She ran very well. She was visually very impressive and we’ll hope she keeps going in the right direction.”

Produced by Melody Lady (Unbridled’s Song), a stakes-winning daughter of Lady Tak, the lightly raced 4-year-old Volatile returned from the bench and put on a show at 2705 Central Ave. just 13 days later, clocking the fastest six-furlong final time of the Oaklawn meeting ([video](#)).



John Sikura | Keeneland

Dueling in hand through fractions of :21.65 and :44.82, Santana Jr. let the handsome gray loose in the stretch, and the response was devastating. Volatile had 7 1/2 lengths over his nearest rival at the wire while stopping the timer in 1:08.48. He earned a gaudy 101 Beyer Speed Figure.

“He looks to have enormous potential, but again, it has to be fulfilled,” Sikura said. “Steve is a brilliant horseman and he’ll have every chance. I hope that comeback race is indicative of what’s to come. Even as impressive as that race was, he should improve off that.”

A green, but eye-catching debut winner at Ellis last July, Volatile followed a runner-up effort at Churchill Downs at second asking in September with a sharp, first-level allowance tally beneath the Twin Spires after some trouble at the break in

his final start of his 3-year-old season Nov. 3.

The \$850,000 Keeneland September graduate is campaigned in partnership by Phoenix Thoroughbred III, Ltd. and Three Chimneys Farm, LLC. Volatile was the most expensive of 72 yearlings sold from Violence’s second crop in 2017 and his priciest offspring ever sold at public auction. The 2012 GI CashCall Futurity hero, already the sire of 19 stakes/six graded winners, commands a \$25,000 stud fee at Hill ‘n’ Dale.

“Volatile’s sale price probably reflects and lends some credence to market acceptance and the enormity of potential for Violence,” Sikura said. “He looked like he was the hottest young sire in America, got a little quiet and is re-emerging now. The pipeline is full, he bred a lot of high-volume, quality mares. For Volatile to carry the banner—between Violence, Lady Tak and her daughter, and all the other fillies we own in the family—it would be great for us on multiple levels.”

Melody Lady’s first foal Buy Sell Hold, a full-sister to Volatile, became the first stakes winner for Violence, capturing the Kentucky Juvenile S. at Churchill Downs and also hitting the



Lady Tak | Horsephotos

board in the GIII Adena Springs Miss Preakness S. at Pimlico. The 10-year-old is also responsible for the 3-year-old colt Soccer Dad (Bayern), a \$260,000 KEESSEP purchase for Jay Em Ess Stable and a promising second for Brian Koriner behind subsequent graded placed Strongconstitution (Constitution) in his Del Mar debut last summer; a 2-year-colt by Bayern and a foal filly by Army Mule. Melody Lady will be bred back to Violence for 2021, per Sikura.

In addition to Casual and Melody Lady, the now 20-year-old Lady Tak has also produced the SW & MGSP Japanese millionaire A Shin Spartan (Zensational); as well as winners Dona Lucia (Malibu Moon) and Poets Dreamed (Maclean’s Music).

**Cont. p6**

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*Racing Fotos*

Barren for 2018 and 2019, Lady Tak foaled a colt by Maclean's Music two weeks ago and she will be bred back to either Curlin or Kantharos.

"Poets Dreamed had a world of ability--she won impressively in her first start at Oaklawn--but got hurt and never got back to form," Sikura said. "That's why I bred Lady Tak back to Maclean's Music last year."

As for what's next for Lady Tak, Sikura continued, "Do you breed her back to Curlin prior to knowing how good Casual is going to be? Strong consideration is also for Kantharos. He's like the college walk-on that becomes a phenom. He's really fast and she's really fast--try to uncomplicate the process."

Stormy's Song (Unbridled's Song), a granddaughter of Lady Tak and named a **'TDN Rising Star'** after opening her career with a blowout debut win at Belmont Park, topped Book 6 of the Keeneland November sale in 2018 after bringing \$102,000 from Sikura and Vinnie Viola for the Army Mule partnership. She had a colt from the first crop of the unbeaten GI Carter H. winner earlier this spring. Army Mule stands at Hill 'n' Dale for a \$10,000 stud fee.

"I want to have as much of that family as we can," Sikura said. "It's always a delicate balance trying to retain fillies, staying involved in the family and also getting a return on the investment."

Lady Tak, classy enough to carry her speed around two turns for a win in the GII Fair Grounds Oaks, hails from the extended female family of champion 2-year-old colt Capote; multiple Grade/Group 1 winners Exceller, River Memories, Broad Brush; Kentucky Oaks heroine Hidden Talent; and European champions Celestial Storm, Sakhee, et al.

"It's the ultimate goal to try and get involved in high-end mares," Sikura concluded. "Your record sort of gets the slate wiped clean and the next challenge is, despite how you performed on the track, how the offspring will perform. It's the epitome of what a breeder can achieve--to raise, breed and sell a superior horse."

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## TRIBUTES TO DENNIS LYNCH

*In Saturday's TDN, we ran the sad news of the passing of Dennis Lynch, the Senior Account Executive at Fasig-Tipton. One of the sad and strange things about the time in which we find ourselves is the inability to gather at rituals such as funerals, where we have the opportunity to tell someone's loved ones how we felt about them, and make one another feel just a bit better through the sharing of stories. As such, we thought we'd give people that chance in our pages to let people talk about how they felt about Dennis.*

**Evan Ferraro, Recruiting and Marketing Manager, Fasig-Tipton**  
Dennis Lynch was special.

There have been so many wonderful tributes that have poured out about Dennis in recent days, celebrating his strong values of family and faith, his generous spirit, as well as his unmatched sense of humor. His background in racing was rich, and his knowledge of the Thoroughbred deep. He knew horses, the racetrack, and "the game" as well as anyone.

There was so much more to Dennis than even these admirable traits--he lived a remarkably rich life. He was truly a renaissance man, with an insatiable desire to learn new skills and enjoy new experiences. He was extremely well read--particularly on the subjects of American history and Kentucky history. He loved to hunt, fish, play golf, play tennis, and travel. Story telling? Dennis could spin a yarn as well as anyone. Made the best (and probably strongest) martini that could be found in the state of Kentucky. At one point in time he bred Jack Russell terriers and even raced and competed them. He painted quite a bit in his later years (pictures, not houses, as he once told me), often giving them to his friends as gifts. He was so proud of his Irish Catholic upbringing--but also liked knowing that he had a touch of Italian in his heritage. This, coupled with his love of *The Godfather*, prompted him to learn Italian a few years ago ahead of a trip with his family to Italy. Prior to that trip, I had the pleasure of watching him try it out on an Italian speaking server at Prime Italian in Miami (she gave him high marks). He became a master of barbeque. I can remember so many times when he had to go home to smoke four or five pork shoulders that were needed last minute for a church function--always done at his own expense.

Dennis was incredibly charitable, always raising money for a cause he cared about. A few years ago, he helped spearhead fundraising for a new steeple for St. Peter and Paul Church in downtown Lexington--his parish. He went to church every Sunday, no matter where he was in the world, as that was how he was raised. He served on the board of the North Lexington YMCA, supported 4H, and donated his time to the United Way. He would often visit the sick and infirm. The list goes on and on.

As a racing historian, Dennis especially loved the Kentucky Derby. He would start working on his trifecta and superfecta each year two or three days before the race, deciding which horses to key and build his tickets around. He was successful in cashing those tickets more than a couple times.

Dennis liked to call his friends "his boys," and I was fortunate enough to be considered one of these close friends. He knew my parents from his days in California, and when I came to Fasig-Tipton as an intern in 2008, he immediately looked after me both professionally and personally. There is no telling how many people have similar stories about Dennis--he was as big-

hearted a person as one could ever hope to meet.

Having Dennis's friendship was a true blessing, and more valuable than cashing a superfecta ticket on Derby Day 1,000 times over. He was a friend of a lifetime to so many, enriching our lives more than he will ever know.



Dennis Lynch and Evan Ferraro | Fasig-Tipton

### Jerry McMahon

I first met Dennis on a phone call in the late 70s. At the time I was business and ad manager for *The Thoroughbred of California* magazine, and was in the process of moving on to run CTBA Sales, the auction joint venture of Fasig-Tipton and the California Breeders Association. Dennis had been recommended by a friend at the *Bloodhorse*, and I hired him as my replacement based on that.

We of course became fast friends, just as he did with nearly everyone he encountered. By the mid 80s Dennis had gone on to work for his mentor, Gene Cleveland, and then began developing his bloodstock agency business. By that time, I had thrown in with John Finney and Fasig in California after the CTBA had very unwisely (in my opinion) broken up the auction joint venture.

After a change in ownership at Fasig-Tipton in the late 80s, I began working on what would become Barretts, based at Fairplex in Pomona. And the most important person I knew that I needed to make Barretts work was Dennis Henry Lynch. To this day I am in awe of the doors that were opened to us all over the country because of the relationships he had already developed.

And largely because of him, we had a pretty great run from the beginning until he decided to go home to Kentucky to work for Fasig and raise his family.

I'll never forget how glad I was to have him with me on my worst night in the auction business. We had broken the 2-year-old auction record with Unbridled's Song at \$1.4 million,

and the buyer's trainer mysteriously put in a claim to return him. We all knew there was NOTHING wrong with the horse! Anyway, by the next afternoon, no one had picked up the horse, and Dennis and I went down and found him all alone in his stall without so much as a water bucket. Dennis got a shank, and led him up to our stable office, saying over and over, "This can't happen, Jer!"

The rest of that is history of course. Fast forward to last year when I first found out about his cancer diagnosis. We were having a conversation about our mentors in the business, and I told him that the late John Finney had the biggest influence on my own career.

Fortunately, I was able to add to that in a comment on Dennis's wonderful blog about his battle with cancer. I was able to express that, while Mr. Finney had been a terrific mentor in learning to run an auction company, it was Dennis who set the standard for success in the overall horse business, and more importantly in life in general.

No matter whose illustrious barn we visited, Dennis always went first to the grooms and hot walkers, and was usually able to call them by name. And he was the same at restaurants, hotels and car rental counters. He showed me that EVERYONE is important in the scheme of things, and I've tried to apply that in my own life, even though I'll never be nearly as good at it as he was. To him it was as natural as breathing.



Dennis Lynch | Fasig-Tipton

### Grant Williamson, Account Executive, Fasig-Tipton

We did not work together for very long, but Dennis made a huge impression on me in that time. More than his talent as a horseman, it was his generosity that I will remember most. He truly cared about others even as he was already fighting his own battle. **Cont. p8**

He always had a smile, a kind word, friendly advice or a funny story and he went out of his way to make someone else's day better. Dennis was a lovely man and I will miss him dearly, as I know everyone at Fasig-Tipton and many others will.

### **Kip Knelman, Farfellow Farms, Paris, Kentucky**

As a small breeding operation that would sometimes consign our own horses, Dennis Lynch always made us feel important, as well as complimenting us on how good our horses looked. Each spring his visits were uplifting, always leaving us with pleasant thoughts and appreciation for our business. He not only represented Fasig Tipton well, but was emblematic of how one should treat others in life. While we didn't know Dennis on a personal basis, we are certain that his family is blessed with many memories they will cherish for life.

### **Jonathon Pults**

I taught one of Dennis's sons in 2007 in a time where racing was becoming a passion of mine. I was especially taken by a horse on the Derby trail named Zanjero and made no secret to students as the preps continued.

After the Derby, Dennis made arrangements for me to meet Zanjero--simply because he knew of my affinity. It was special, of course, to me, but later the next year when taking my students to a Seabiscuit field trip to Keeneland, Dennis was there as an invaluable source of information and access. He even paid for the bus to get us there so the trip wouldn't be missed.

I don't pretend that we were close, but that's my point: he did these things when he certainly didn't have to. His goodness was so clear. I am very saddened to have learned of his passing.

### **Leslie Heerman**

I prepped yearlings with Dennis at Buck Pond Farm when my father, Victor Heerman, was a partner in the ownership of the farm with Susan Proskauer. The most familiar family story concerning Dennis was that he sought out my father for advice, and perhaps a job, for how to become a bloodstock agent. My father handed him a pitchfork and pointed toward a stall. "That's where you start." It's very much my father and Dennis retold it often. Dennis was always kind, generous, eager to learn, and full of humor. There were four of us working in the yearling barn that summer and one had to expect pranks and silliness.

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## **HOW MUCH OF THE WAGERING DOLLAR ACTUALLY GOES TO HORSEMEN?**

*From the Thoroughbred Idea Foundation:*

The following is an abridged version of the Thoroughbred Idea Foundation's #FreeDataFriday entry for this week. The full version [can be read at this link](#).

Here is a simple question: How much revenue does a horse race produce for the horsemen running horses in that race? The answer is incredibly complex, and in many jurisdictions, almost impossible to discern.

A publication from the [Thoroughbred Owners of California](#) in 2016 offers a glimpse into an answer, at least for races run in that state. While these numbers are likely to have changed since their last publishing, they offer some interesting insight to the revenue distribution scheme.

Let's focus on a bet made on a race at Santa Anita in 2016. In the simplest presentation possible, here are the details of the percentages that went from the wagering dollar to purses from a customer betting on that race:

- From Santa Anita – 9.46%
- From a California OTB – 6.76%
- From an ADW account in California – 5.35%
- From any bet on the race made outside of California – 3.40%

There are some intricacies in the California model which we have intentionally excluded for the sake of clarity.

In addition, purses in California received 2.79% when a California customer bets via ADW on races out of California – be it Belmont, Turfway, Will Rogers Downs or any other track.

Instead of an equitable split, where a dollar bet on a Santa Anita race yields the purse account the same no matter where that dollar is bet, the jumble outlined above serves as the model.

Of course, for many tracks, money bet off-track represents the super majority of handle. This is problematic.

A quick glance at the total handle figures from these different sources confirms the obvious: on-track and OTB handle is down, ADW handle is up--but the shift is hardly even. In 2018, California handled a combined \$421 million less from on-track and California OTB sources compared to 2010. The increase in ADW handle of \$161 million from 2018 over 2010 does not erase the difference, which is compounded by the reality that this increase is in the least valuable source for the purse account.

So if purses aren't getting a sustainable share of revenue, who is?



Racing at Santa Anita | Horsephotos

This dialogue could get increasingly complex and dabble into source market fees, geolocating and what not. But for today’s purposes, we will keep it simple. Think of it this way – on-track and OTB bets are highly-regulated wagering sites, but the majority of play has shifted to lightly-regulated ADWs. In some cases, the biggest ADWs can end up retaining nearly half of wagering revenue, serving as technological bet-processors, while purse accounts are left to make due with roughly a quarter.

ADWs are facilitating more and more bets, an obvious technological evolution, but are they doing so at the expense of the sustainability of the very races on which they offer wagering?

This model is madness.

Make no mistake. You cannot blame the ADWs for this model. The horsemen have, in some capacity, approved this status quo. What didn’t seem to matter as much when ADW handle was in the low single-digit percentages now matters far more when it is approaching half of all betting.

Calls for change are NOT new. In 2007 at the Jockey Club Round Table, then CEO of Churchill Downs Incorporated (Robert Evans) and the Chairman of the National HBPA (Joe Santanna) echoed each other, from very different perspectives, about the need to develop a new model.

Evans: “We’re simply trying to deal with the fact that the original business model under which the industry’s ADW business was created is terribly flawed...but, facts are facts. It’s not working.”

Santanna: “A critical review of what represents a fair portion from the takeout for purses is absolutely necessary. We may have to redesign the model--move away from host fees, move away from source market fees--to fuel the proper amount of money necessary to make purses correct.”

So what’s going to change now? What will make this time any different?

The one constant we have experienced over the last 15 years is a decline in wagering handle, particularly when accounting for inflation. Meanwhile, the overall cost of wagering has actually increased. This adds to an already sub-optimal situation. So how does racing generate more for purses? Raising the cost of betting--the takeout--is not the answer.

An analysis of the California racing industry was conducted by the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics at the University of California in 1991. Keep in mind that at the time this study was published, nationwide handle, adjusted for inflation, was roughly \$16 billion, or about 31% higher than 2019. Demand was stronger. If anything, the need to be more aggressive in improving the pricing of racing wagering is greater.

“Perhaps most notable is the finding that total pari-mutuel revenues are very responsive to changes in the effective takeout rate. In economic terms, the demand for wagering is found to be highly elastic with respect to the ‘price’ of a typical wager. This result indicates that pari-mutuel revenues can be enhanced by reducing the current effective takeout rate.”

It truly is time to seek common ground.

There are two clear issues: the revenue distribution model which determines how purses get funded is in need of monumental renovation, while concurrently, appropriate takeout rates should be implemented which meet customer demand.

If we have collectively endured decades of this mismanaged situation, which has led us to this sub-optimal state, where is the harm in bringing everyone to the table and starting over, trying to build a better future for the entire industry?

Let’s do it.

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# MAKING BETTING MORE FRIENDLY



*With racing's temporary opportunity as the only game in town, the TDN's Katie Ritz took a poll of some industry insiders known to like a good bet and asked them: what is one simple way that tracks could make betting more friendly for existing horseplayers and/or more effective at bringing in new players? As you'll see, none of them could stop at just one.*

## **GABBY GAUDET, Racing Analyst & Reporter, TVG**

One way that racetracks could help both novice and expert horseplayers is by improving the camera shots and angles on their simulcast feeds. Some horseplayers wager based on the physical appearances of the horses on the track. Give the viewers more intimate shots of each horse in the post parade and especially when the field is behind the gate. I'll go one step further and say that any gate mishap (breaking through gate, getting loose pre-race, etc.) should be archived and available to view. Improved camera angles DURING a race would help as well. Try to avoid any and all blind spots (trees, structures, turns), and provide multiple angles. This not only enhances real-time viewer experience, but it also gives "trip" handicappers and horseplayers better tools to place a wager when they go back and watch the replay. I understand this is a costly request, but likely a necessary expense as the drive towards watching and wagering from home/handheld devices increases.



**Gabby Gaudet** | Keeneland

## **JIM MULVIHILL, Senior Director of Betting Information, Churchill Downs:**

**More friendly for existing horseplayers:** I'm afraid most of the best ideas out there aren't simple or they would have been enacted already. One constant annoyance for me is that tracks don't have enough wagering information on display throughout the facility. I hate staring at a monitor waiting for a specific piece of information to appear on the simulcast signal--exacta combinations, will pays, pool amounts, scratches, prices, replays, picks, etc. They all rotate through at different intervals and if you miss the one crucial bit of info you want, you have to stand there wasting valuable time until it comes up again. Why not have more channels and monitors dedicated to specific information? The closest example I can think of is that wall at Keeneland that shows every race replay on its own TV on a loop all day long. I'd like to see more configurations like that with separate screens for types of betting information--one monitor dedicated to will-pays, one dedicated to replays, one for exactas, one for pool totals, one for expert picks, and so on. My dream grandstand would look like Times Square but every board would feature real-time betting information.

**More effective at bringing in new players:** For most tracks, you can throw money at all forms of advertising but it's doubtful you'll get a return on that investment in new handle or other forms of revenue. I prefer to see initiatives that target casual fans and push them to the next level of engagement. It's far more realistic to get someone to participate more often and spend more on each visit (to a track or a website) than to try to inspire people who have never shown an interest in their previous decades of life. The most effective simple thing I've experienced is simply introducing casual but curious fans to more serious players. If they meet some regulars who can show them how to play smarter and how to have a great time at the track, they will want to be like those people. I know I'm still inclined to bet more races for larger amounts when I'm around bigger bettors and want to play on their level, even if just for that day. If I meet someone who wants to learn more I make sure to connect them with established players I think they'll get along with, and to employees at the track who can help them. Those connections and familiar faces will keep them wanting to learn more and, as we all know, there's always more to learn in this sport!

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April 29, 2020

**The TDN Writers' Room with  
TIF Executive Director, Pat Cummings**





**9th-Gulfstream, \$46,000, Alw, 5-3, 3yo, f, 6 1/2f, 1:17.20, ft.**

**BOERNE (f, 3, Fed Biz--Seeking the Jewel, by Seeking the Gold),** fourth in her 5 1/2-furlong debut at Gulfstream Park West last November, graduated by a front-running 3 1/2 lengths going this distance Mar. 15 and added a 7 1/4-length romp in a six-furlong allowance Apr. 11. The 6-5 favorite jumped out to the early lead and was clear through fractions of :22.83 and :45.66. She extended her advantage into the stretch and sailed under the wire 4 1/4 lengths in front. Sweet Mia (The Big Beast) was second. Sales history: \$10,000 Ylg '18 FTKOCT. Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-0, \$76,580. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-De Luca and Sons Stable; B-Randi & Eric Moreau-Sipiere (TX); T-Juan Carlos Avila.

**7th-Gulfstream, \$43,000, Msw, 5-3, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:37.69, ft.**

**DANCE D'ORO (f, 3, Medaglia d'Oro--Dance Quietly {SW, \$123,570}, by A.P. Indy)** showed nothing in a local sprint Mar. 29, and was dismissed at 20-1 for a good second-out barn that won under markedly similar circumstances with 13-1 second timer Superfecto (Constitution) one day earlier. Briefly poking a head in front before dropping back to track from third, the bay moved up under busy ride to engage the loose pacesetter heading for home, and kicked away from there to score by a convincing 4 1/4 lengths. Guazza (Tapit) closed to be second. Mandy Pope's Whisper Hill paid \$950,000 for Dance Quietly while she was carrying Dance d'Oro at the 2016 Keeneland November sale.

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Cont. p2



Dance d'Oro | Lauren King

**Dance d'Oro cont.**

Dance Quietly had previously sold to Ben Leon's Besilu Stables for \$2 million five years earlier during the blockbuster dispersal of Ned Evans's powerful breeding empire. Dance Quietly is a half to Horse of the Year Saint Liam (Saint Ballado); GISW and young sire Funtastic (More Than Ready); GSW Quiet Giant (Giant's Causeway), in turn the dam of Horse of the Year Gun Runner (Candy Ride {Arg}); MGISP, \$2.6-million weanling Miss Besilu (Medaglia d'Oro); GSW Congressionalhonor (Forestry); the dam of GISW Buster's Ready (More Than Ready); and the dam of MGSW/GISP Lull (War Front). Dance Quietly produced a Curlin filly in 2018 and a full-brother to Dance d'Oro last year. She was bred back to Arrogate. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$26,230. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O/B-Whisper Hill Farm, LLC (KY); T-Ralph E. Nicks.

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**4th-Gulfstream, \$38,000, Msw, 5-3, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.86, ft. COMPETITIVE SAINT (g, 3, Competitive Edge--W W Old School, by Royal Academy)** was sent off at 6-1 in this unveiling. The bay gelding pressed the pace through an opening quarter in :22.33 and powered to a clear advantage through a half in :45.77. He drifted out slightly down the lane, but maintained a 1 1/2-length advantage to the wire. Getthe Muny Bernie (Munnings) was second. A \$60,000 KEENOV weanling, Competitive Saint was purchased by SGV Thoroughbreds for \$90,000 at the 2018 Fasig July sale and resold for \$160,000 following a :10 flat work at OBS March last year. He is a half-brother to Dubdubwatson (Kipling), MSP, \$201,892. W W Old School produced a filly by Keen Ice last year. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$22,800. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** O-Bona Venture Stables; B-Patrick Durbin & James Lynch (KY); T-George Weaver.

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*FTKOCT value buy Boerne (Fed Biz) dominates for third straight time.*



**Competitive Saint** | Ryan Thompson

**7th-Tampa Bay Downs, \$20,000, Msw, 5-3, 3yo, f, 1 1/16mT, 1:44.17, fm.**

**SUMMER LOVE (f, 3, Summer Front--Feline Flatline, by Lion Heart)** sixth on debut over this course and trip Mar. 29, was sent off at 13-1 in this second start. The bay filly broke alertly and had the lead in the early strides before ceding her advantage to Mijet (Bernardini). She stalked from second as that longshot opened a clear advantage through a quarter in :23.32 and a half in :48.28. Summer Love ranged up three wide into the stretch and outbattled Pure Rhythm (Hard Spun) to the wire to win by a neck. Favored All Others Follow (GB) (Sea the Stars {Ire}) was closing late to be a length back in third. Summer Love, a half-sister to Mihos (Cairo Prince), SW, \$183,660, RNA'd for \$65,000 as a KEENOV weanling and sold for \$45,000 at KEESEP. Feline Flatline, carrying a full-sibling to '**TDN Rising Star**' Mihos, sold for \$175,000 at last year's Keeneland November sale. She had been purchased by Ashview Farm for \$10,000 as a 4-year-old at the 2014 Fasig-Tipton February sale. Her Speightster colt sold for \$170,000 at last year's Keeneland September Yearling Sale. The mare, a half-sister to Grade I winner Sharla Rae (Afleet Alex), produced a filly by American Freedom last year and a colt by Cairo Prince this year. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$11,580. O-Niall J. Brennan; B-Wayne, Gray & Bryan Lyster (KY); T-Michael Stidham.

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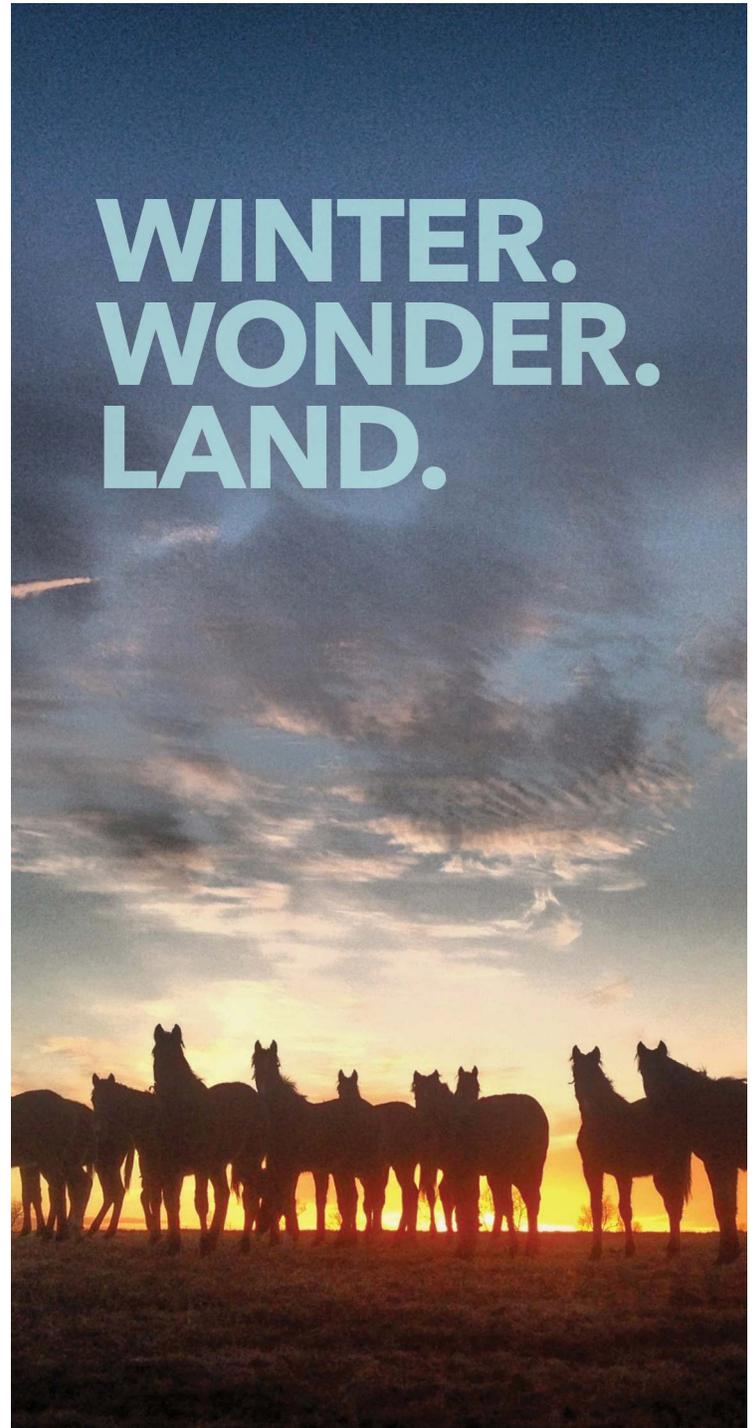
# ADDITIONAL RACING

**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**  
**11th-Gulfstream, \$45,300, 5-3, (NW1\$X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.06, ft.**  
**CORY GAL (f, 4, Corfu--With Elan, by Offlee Wild)** Lifetime Record: 20-4-5-2, \$155,767. O-OGMA Investments, LLC; B-Eric J. Wirth (FL); T-Gustavo Delgado. \*1/2 to With Verve (Kantharos), SW, \$135,940.



# ALL TDN WINNERS BY SIRE

**COMPETITIVE EDGE**, Competitive Saint, g, 3, o/o W W Old School, by Royal Academy. MSW, 5-3, Gulfstream  
**CORFU**, Cory Gal, f, 4, o/o With Elan, by Offlee Wild. ALW, 5-3, Gulfstream  
**FED BIZ**, Boerne, f, 3, o/o Seeking the Jewel, by Seeking the Gold. ALW, 5-3, Gulfstream  
**MEDAGLIA D'ORO**, Dance d'Oro, f, 3, o/o Dance Quietly, by A.P. Indy. MSW, 5-3, Gulfstream  
**SUMMER FRONT**, Summer Love, f, 3, o/o Feline Flatline, by Lion Heart. MSW, 5-3, Tampa Bay



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## GREWE PRIMED FOR GERMAN RESTART



Henk Grewe | Marc Ruehl

By Sean Cronin & Christa Riebel

Henk Grewe, Germany's reigning champion trainer, was born in December 1982 and introduced to the joys of turfdom early in life. His parents owned racehorses and, having ridden his first winner at the age of 16, he was champion amateur rider in 2002. Serving an apprenticeship under leading conditioner Mario Hofer, his elevation to the professional ranks was rewarded with career highlights aboard **Prince Flori (Ger)** (Lando {Ger}) in the 2006 G3 Fruhjahrens Dreijahrigen-Preis, **Caudillo (Ger)** (Acatenango {Ger}) in the 2009 Listed St Leger Italiano and **Ovambo Queen (Ger)** (Kalatos {Ger}) in the 2010 G3 Walther J Jacobs-Stutenpreis.

However, Grewe was unable to maintain a viable racing weight and, after racking up 290 wins in the saddle, arrived upon the decision in 2011 to plot a fresh course. His change of direction was swift and, following a near three-year period indentured as assistant to Sascha Smrczek in Dusseldorf, he graduated to become a fully fledged public trainer as July ticked over into August 2014.

The now 37-year-old, initially operating out of Michael Trybuhl's former base with a team of 13, soon embarked on a rapid renovation of Ralf Suerland's nearby 40-box yard on the western edge of Cologne's Weidenpescher sprawl. He earned immediate brand recognition for a budding enterprise founded alongside Christoph Holschbach by saddling that associate's **Anaximenes (Ire)** (Anabaa) to become his first runner and winner within days of stepping up to the plate. **Cont. p2**

## FIEREMENT ADDS ANOTHER TENNO SHO SPRING TITLE

Sunday Racing's **Fierement (Jpn)** (Deep Impact {Jpn}) successfully defended his title and took the G1 Tenno Sho Spring by a nose over **Stiffelio (Jpn)** (Stay Gold {Jpn}) at Kyoto on Sunday. He is the fifth horse to take the 3200-metre feature in consecutive years, while granting his trainer Takahisa Tezuka his sixth Japanese Group 1 crown and pilot Christophe Lemaire his 29th.

Before empty stands as spectatorless racing continues in Japan from the coronavirus, the even-money favourite stayed well off the fence in midfield from his wide draw. Fierement traveled sweetly in the three path entering the stretch for the first time, as **Danburite (Jpn)** (Rulership {Jpn}) led. **Kiseki (Jpn)** (Rulership {Jpn}) took over leadership duties just past the winning post and the first mile was covered in a reasonable 1:36.10. **Cont. p8**

## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### CAN ANYONE BEAT BAFFERT? IT SEEMS UNLIKELY

In his latest The Week in Review, Bill Finley discusses Bob Baffert's pair of GI Arkansas Derby winners with an eye to the Sept. 5 GI Kentucky Derby. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.**

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**Henk Grewe Cont. from p1**

The trainer maintained a steady flow of winners through the teething stages and bolstered domestic tallies with a sizeable number of scores gained in France.

Indeed, the French connection paid dividends when Darius Racing's **Farshad (Ger)** (Kendargent {Fr}) became the stable's first black-type triumph in Deauville's 2017 Listed Prix de Tourgeville and Grewe's regular "Tour de France" forays outweighed the inland contribution by number of winners in both 2017 and 2018. The latter year, which witnessed a new high of 49 in France, was also a benchmark

season at home for the trainer with 42 victories propelling him up the standings to a fifth-place finish in the trainers' table.

He was aided, in no small measure, by a first top-level victory courtesy of **Khan (Ger)** (Santiago {Ger}) in the G1 Preis von



Rubaiyat | Marc Ruehl

Europa at his local track while another Darius Racing-owned and Gestut Karlshof-bred incumbent, **Donjah (Ger)** (Teofilo {Ire}), secured Krefeld's G3 Herzog von Ratibor-Rennen. Gestut Hachtsee homebred **Taraja (Ger)** (High Chaparral {Ire}) had set

the ball rolling earlier in the year when claiming the team's first pattern-race win in Hamburg's G3 Mehl Mulhens Trophy and Gestut Karlshof homebred **Sky Full of Stars (Ger)** (Kendargent {Fr}) was to the fore with a second in Baden-Baden's G2 T von Zastrow Stutenpreis. Other notable efforts included a runner-up finish for **Night of England (GB)** (Lord of England {Ger}) in the G1 Preis der Diana, **Malakeh (GB)** (Harbour Watch {Ire}) placing in both G2

German 1000 Guineas and G2 Meilen Trophy and a second for **Django Freeman (Ger)** (Campanologist) in the G3 Preis des Winterfavoriten.

Cont. p3

# FIEREMENT

c.2015 DEEP IMPACT X LUNE D'OR



**PRICELESS  
MOMENT**

## Tenno Sho (Spring) (Gr.1) Kyoto

Owner ..... Sunday Racing Co. Ltd  
 Trainer ..... Takahisa Tezuka  
 Breeder(s) ..... Northern Farm

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### Henk Grewe Cont.

While 2018 was the breakthrough campaign, last term witnessed additional landmarks for Grewe as he collected a personal-best 62 prizes at home--enhanced by a further 24 in France--and surpassed the number of winners he recorded as a jockey en route to a maiden trainers' championship, albeit without a Group 1 success this time around. Germany's unbeaten Horse of the Year **Rubaiyat (Fr)** (Areion {Ger}) led the way for the yard by saluting in Cologne's G3 Preis des Winterfavoriten and Milan's G2 Gran Criterium while Winterfavoriten runner-up and stablemate **Wonderful Moon (Ger)** (Sea The Moon {Ger}) led home another exacta for the team when bolting up by 12 lengths from **Schwesterherz (Fr)** (Areion {Ger}) in November's G3 Herzog von Ratibor-Rennen at Krefeld.

The older generations played a vital role too with **Shalona (Fr)** (Soldier Hollow {GB}) posting a second in the G2 German 1000 Guineas and **Donjah (Ger)** (Teofilo {Ire}) adding lustre to her resume with two placed efforts at the highest level and a win in Milan's G2 Gran Premio del Jockey Club. Enjoying a bumper semester with his 2-year-old crop, Grewe fell two shy of matching Heinz Jentzsch's seemingly unassailable 1983 record of 31 juvenile wins, but would have been heartened by stable stalwart **Wisperwind (Ger)** (It's Gino {Ger}) farming a 17th career victory earlier in the year.

Prior to last July's 150th renewal, Grewe's two rides as a jockey and two contenders as a trainer in the G1 Deutsches Derby reaped little. His record in Germany's Blue Riband reads: **Prince Flori (Ger)** (Lando {Ger}), ninth; **Hoseo (Ger)** (Konigstiger {Ger}), 17th; **Khan (Ger)** (Santiago {Ger}), 12th; and **Jimmu (Ger)** (Dalakhani {Ire}), seventh. **Django Freeman (Ger)** (Campanalogist) was transferred to dual G1 Melbourne Cup-winning trainer Robert Hickmott after coming close to realising Grewe's dream last term, the G3 Bavarian Classic victor giving best only to Laccario (Ger) (Scalo {GB}) after a pulsating battle in the Hamburg straight.

One Austrian Derby victory notwithstanding, Classic success as a conditioner has thus far eluded Grewe, but soundings emanating from Weidenpesch indicate he has a stronger platform than ever before to strike gold in the short term. Grewe has geared down intensity levels in recent weeks, while still adhering to all mandatory safety measures imposed, but the team is nonetheless primed for an immediate assault once racing resumes.

**Rubaiyat (Fr)** (Areion {Ger}), of course, is at the forefront of a powerful squad and retains entries in Cologne's June 5 German 2000 Guineas and Hamburg's July 12 G1 Deutsches Derby.

Cont. p4

## IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

ONLINE REVOLUTION GETS GROUP 1 BOOST

New G1SW (Commands {Aus}) sold in an online auction, a timely reminder during the coronavirus. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)

## Henk Grewe Cont.

Darius Racing's bay, who also has papers for Chantilly's July 5 G1 Prix du Jockey Club, is due to begin his sophomore campaign in Hoppegarten's May 10 G3 Dr Busch-Memorial. Stall Wasserfreunde's **Wonderful Moon (Ger)** (Sea The Moon {Ger}) is not entered in the German 2000 Guineas, but mirrors Rubaiyat's remaining nominations while also holding steady for a tilt at the May 8 G3 Cologne Classic on his doorstep. With those stable figureheads set fair and Donjah pencilled in for more Group 1 events further along the line, Grewe cast his eyes over a selection of the talent within his circa 100-strong team and gave notice of lofty ambitions in mind for those down the list also held in high regard.

Eckhard Sauren's **Schwesterherz (Fr)** (f, 3, Areion {Ger}--Nouvelle Noblesse {Ger} {GSW-Itly & SP-Ger, \$151,132}, by Singspiel {Ire}), bought back as a €52,000 BBAG October yearling, experienced a five-race juvenile campaign and impressed with a debut score at Deauville in July before running fourth of four in the G3 Prix du Calvados back on the Normandy coast. Second in a BBAG sales race at Dortmund next time, the homebred bay absorbed a hefty sideways bump when sixth in Baden-Baden's Oct. 20 G3 Preis der Winterkonigin and was cast adrift of stablemate Wonderful Moon (Ger) (Sea The Moon

{Ger}), but 3 1/4 lengths and more clear of the remainder, in Krefeld's Nov. 10 G3 Herzog von Ratibor-Rennen last time.

Produced by G3 Premio Dormello victress Nouvelle Noblesse (Ger) (Singspiel {Ire}), she is kin to four black-type performers headed by G3 Preis des Winterfavoriten victor Noble Moon (Ger) (Sea The Moon {Ger}) and stakes-winning G2 German 2000 Guineas third Noble Alpha (Ger) (Shamardal).

"Schwesterherz is a great filly with a big heart and should be able to stay," Grewe said of the May 17 G3 Schwarzgold-Rennen, June 21 G2 German 1000 Guineas and Aug. 2 G1 Preis der Diana-German Oaks entry. "She should win pattern races and is also entered for the [June 1] G1 Poule d'Essai des Pouliches [at ParisLongchamp] and the [July 5] G1 Prix de Diane [at Chantilly], although the former is probably too early for her under the given circumstances."

Stefan Hahne's **Flamingo Girl (Ger)** (f, 3, Soldier Hollow {GB}--Flamingo Sky, by Silver Hawk) was in the other corner for that G3 Preis der Winterkonigin bumping match with Schwesterherz, finishing one place behind her stable companion in the last of four juvenile starts. She too debuted at Deauville, registering a promising fourth in August, before shedding maiden status in a Baden-Baden conditions heat and posting a third in Dusseldorf's Listed Winterkonigin-Trial in two outings the following month. [Cont. p5](#)



Schwesterherz, kin to Group 3 winner Noble Moon | Scoop Dyga

## Henk Grewe Cont.

Produced by an unraced half-sister to MG1SP G2 Preis der Diana-German Oaks heroine and G1 Deutsches Derby third Flamingo Road (Ger) (Acatenango {Ger}), the €36,000 BBAG Premier yearling is a full-sister to dual stakes-winning G3 Herbst Stutenpreis placegetter Fosun (Ger) (Soldier Hollow {GB}). She shares her second dam Fabula Dancer (Northern Dancer) with G1 Irish Derby hero Frozen Fire (Ger) (Montjeu {Ire}) and G1 Premio Roma and G2 Derby Italiano victor Feuerblitz (Ger) (Big Shuffle).

“Flamingo Girl is very talented and set to make her seasonal debut in the [May 17] G3 Schwarzgold-Rennen [at Cologne] or the [May 16] Listed Henkel-Stutenpreis [at Dusseldorf],” her trainer revealed. “She should make her way to the [Aug. 2] G1 Preis der Diana-German Oaks [at Dusseldorf] in time.”

The hitherto unraced **Sunny Queen (Ger)** (f, 3, **Camelot (GB)**--Suivi {Ger}, by Darshaan {GB}), who was knocked down for €35,000 as a BBAG Premier yearling, is a half-sister to Listed Hannover Derby-Trial victor Suestado (Ger) (Monsun {Ger}) and another in the ownership of Stefan Hahne. The February-foaled bay is out of the four-time winner Suivi (Ger) (Darshaan {GB}), herself kin to a quartet of black-type scorers including the stakes-winning dams of GSW G1 Deutsches Derby runner-up Savoir Vivre (Ire) (Adlerflug {Ger}) and MG1SW US champion Stacelita (Fr) (Monsun {Ger}), who in turn produced MG1SW dual Japanese champion Soul Stirring (Jpn) (Frankel {GB}).

“Sunny Queen was not an early sort, but she is very talented and set to make her debut [in a May 7 maiden over 8 3/4 furlongs] at Hannover,” explained Grewe. “Hopefully, she will then contest a Listed race back at the same track [May 21 Kronimus Diana-Trial over 10 furlongs] with the Aug. 2 G1 Preis der Diana-German Oaks marked as her big target.”

Stall Torjager’s homebred **Kalifornia Queen (Ger)** (f, 3, Lope de Vega {Ire}--Kaldera {Ger} {Hwt. 3yo-Ger at 14f+ & GSW-Ger, \$131,064}, by Sinnandar {Ire}) made just one appearance as a juvenile, winning an 8 1/2-furlong maiden at Dusseldorf in September with a degree of panache. Hailing from the family of Germany’s sole Triple Crown hero and MG1SW leading sire Konigsstuhl (Ger) (Dschingis Khan {Ger}), she has a pedigree that displays an affinity for longer distances. She is the lone foal produced by G3 Deutsches St Leger victress Kaldera (Ger)

(Sinnandar {Ire}), herself a half-sister to Listed Mannheim Steher-Cup winner Klungel (Ger) (Jukebox Jury {Ire}) out of the 12-furlong Listed Berberis-Rennen victress Konigstochter (Ger) (Dai Jin {GB}).

“Kalifornia Queen is a very talented filly and another who should be able to stay a trip,” said Grewe of the €70,000 BBAG October yearling, who is entered in a May 10 conditions heat over 10 furlongs at Berlin’s Hoppegarten venue. “She will be prepared for the [May 31] G2 Diana-Trial [also at Hoppegarten] and then target the [Aug. 2] G1 Preis der Diana-German Oaks [at Dusseldorf].”

Grewe’s second pattern-race triumph as a trainer arrived in 2018 via the aforementioned achievement of Sky Full of Stars (Ger) (Kendargent {Fr}), who had previously finished sixth when another Gestut Karlishof homebred A Raving Beauty (Ger) (Mastercraftsman {Ire}) ran second in Rome’s 2017 G1 Premio Lydia Tesio. That Andreas Suborics trainee subsequently annexed Belmont Park’s GI Just a Game S. and Keeneland’s GI

First Lady S. prior to going the way of Haruya Yoshida for \$2-million at Fasig Tipton’s 2018 November sale. Her homebred full-sister **A Racing Beauty (Ger)** (f, 3, **Mastercraftsman (Ire)**--Anabasis {Ger}, by High Chaparral {Ire}), who was led out unsold at €290,000 as an Arqana August yearling, cruised home for an impressive 2 1/2-length debut success tackling 7 1/2 furlongs at Baden-Baden in

August, but had turned in her winter coat and was never a factor when eighth of 11 upped to one mile back at the Iffezheim course for the Oct. 20 G3 Preis der Winterkonigin.

The February-foaled grey, who is out of a half-sister to MGSW sire Alianthus (Ger) (Hernando {Fr}) from a family including G1 Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe-winning matriarch Urban Sea (Miswaki), features in the nominations for ParisLongchamp’s June 14 G1 Prix Saint-Alary and Chantilly’s July 5 G1 Prix de Diane as well as holding Classic entries at home. Multiple engagements also include Hoppegarten’s May10 G3 Dr Busch-Memorial and Dusseldorf’s May 16 Listed Henkel-Stutenpreis.

“A Racing Beauty won really well in her first start as a 2-year-old,” the trainer recalled. “However, we are not quite sure about her ideal distance just yet. She remains entered in both the [June 21] G2 German 1000 Guineas [at Dusseldorf] and G1 Preis der Diana-German Oaks [at the same track] and is set for a programme targetting one or the other.” **Cont. p6**

A Racing Beauty won really well  
in her first start as a 2-year-old.  
However, we are not quite sure  
about her ideal distance yet.

Henk Grewe on A Racing Beauty

### Henk Grewe Cont.

Classic potential runs deep at Cologne's ground zero and Roland Lerner's **Night Fever (Ger)** (f, 3, Dylan Thomas {Ire}--Night Heart {Ire}, by High Chaparral {Ire}) is another well-regarded individual to merit the trainer's musings. Registering runner-up finishes in starts at Dusseldorf and Munich, she justified odds-on favoritism when breaking through in a Sept. 27 good-ground maiden over 9 1/4 furlongs at her local track last time. The €22,000 BBAG Premier yearling's dam is a winning half-sister to stakes-winning G1 Deutsches Derby third Near Honor (Ger) (Highest Honor {Fr}), stakes-winning G2 Oettingen-Rennen runner-up Near Dock (Ger) (Docksider) and the dual stakes-placed Near Galante (Ger) (Galileo {Ire}). The latter, in turn, produced MGSW G3 Deutsches St Leger victress Near England (Ire) (Lord of England {Ger}) and last term's G3 Herzog von Ratibor-Rennen placegetter Near Poet (Ger) (Poet's Voice {GB}) while sire Dylan Thomas (Ire) (Danehill) also had the Group 1-winning distaffers Nightflower (Ire) and Nymphaea (Ire) from this family.

"Night Fever ran very well at two, winning once and running second in her two other outings," said Grewe. "She has improved over the winter and is a staying sort. The plan is for her to make her seasonal debut in stakes company at Hannover [in the May 21 Listed Kronimus Diana-Trial over 10 furlongs] and then go for the [Aug. 2] G1 Preis der Diana-German Oaks [at Dusseldorf]."

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## OSARUS READY TO MAKE EUROPEAN SALES HISTORY

By Emma Berry

The 2-year-old sale season has been subject to great upheaval but, as things stand, Osarus will be the first breeze-up sale to be held in Europe in 2020 on May 27. It will also be the first Thoroughbred sale in Europe to be conducted online.

Unlike fellow French sale house Arqana, the Osarus breeze-up catalogue is made up almost entirely of horses being prepared within France. The only outside sales consignor listed is John Burke's Irish-based Hyde Park Stud. There have been 11 withdrawals from the 79 lots catalogued for the sale's original date of Apr. 8, but another nine horses will be added as supplementary lots this week having been transferred from the cancelled BBAG breeze-up in Germany.

Emmanuel Viaud, managing director of Osarus and one of its auctioneers, will still be on the rostrum for the sale on May 27, but he will be in the unusual position of having no horses in front of him, with the lots set to be auctioned via video link. The website France Sire will be hosting the online auction and filming the breezes, which will take place on May 6 and 13 in two different locations.

Viaud explains, "In France we will be able to go outside again from May 11 and the racing will also be starting on that day. I could not imagine doing this sale without the races having started again.

"The horses in the sale who are based in the west region or in Normandy will do their canters on May 13 at Argentan, so our thanks to the president of Argentan racecourse who has allowed us to do that. Roughly 50 2-year-olds will do their canters there on that day. The rest of the catalogue will do their canters at Mont Marsan in the south on the afternoon of May 6. All the canters will be filmed by France Sire and the vet files will be taken afterwards."

Hyde Park Stud, which will offer three fillies by Outstrip (GB), Tamayuz (GB) and Morpheus (GB), will be providing videos of their breezers. Trainers and agents will be allowed to attend the breeze sessions at Argentan and Mont Marsan.

Viaud continues, "Racing professionals can have a document to say that they are coming to see the horses for their job. We don't want to have 500 people there but we will be expecting some bloodstock agents and trainers to come to the racecourses. Then after that they can go to visit the horses with the individual consignors. The videos are one thing but of course people prefer to see the horse in person if they are planning to buy."



Emmanuel Viaud of Osarus and France Sire's Arnaud Poirier have collaborated in staging the breeze-up sale | Emma Berry

Prospective buyers must register with the sales company by emailing [compete@osarus.com](mailto:compete@osarus.com) and will need to have pre-approved credit

"Buyers will need to give an idea of what they will be wanting to spend," says Viaud. "We will give them a code before the sale which will allow them to bid online, and buyers can also bid by telephone. [Cont. p7](#)

**Osarus Cont.**

"We have attracted some more horses from the Baden-Baden sale that has been cancelled, including a well-bred filly by Helmet (Aus) who will be sold by Larissa Kneip, and a colt by Sea The Moon (Ger). Their pedigrees will be available on our website by Monday or Tuesday."

He adds, "It's the first time that a sale will be done this way in Europe with the horses being sold directly online. We will do our best to make it as easy as possible."

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EUROPEAN NEWS  
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**INITIATIVE TO BOOST GERMAN FUNDS SUCCEEDS**

An ambitious concept to counter the ongoing disruption caused to Germany's racing finances by the COVID-19 lockdown, initiated by entrepreneur and racehorse owner Lars-Wilhelm Baumgarten along with Guido Schmitt and Christian Sundermann, has succeeded in its objective. The idea is based on popular television entertainment show "Wetten, dass..?", which subjected contestants to viewer-determined forfeits if unable to complete bizarre tasks. In one case, a blindfolded farmer successfully recognized his cows by the sound they made while chewing apples.

However, in this sporting scenario, the trio declared they'd find 100 people committing to place a €50 bet in each of Germany's 227 scheduled races from May 4 through June 15 and, if successful, wagers totalling €5,000 per race would generate a €1.135-million turnover for betting pools. It was a high bar set and, notwithstanding a swift recalculation of goals due to the delayed resumption of racing, was met with enthusiasm from all corners of the industry.

In just seven days, the requisite number of participants was achieved at the weekend and the full list can be viewed [here](#). Additional fun aspects to the concept have been introduced in conjunction with Deutscher Galopp and publisher Deutscher Sportverlag and, in the spirit of solidarity, online betting providers have unanimously agreed to waive commissions while also introducing competitive betting options during the period.

Gestut Schlenderhan's Georg von Ullmann captured the mood and told *GaloppOnline*, "Our family has run Schlenderhan for 150 years and we have had difficult times and great triumphs. German racing needs innovation, courage and doers so we very much support this campaign."



Georg von Ullmann (second from right) | Getty Images

Stefan Oschmann, who races Germany's Horse of the Year Rubaiyat (Fr) (Areion {Ger}) in his Darius Racing colours, added, "At this time, racing needs support from betting and maintaining the large number of jobs in this industry. I am very happy to be involved and, despite all the difficulties of launching such a venture, we have got off to a good start."

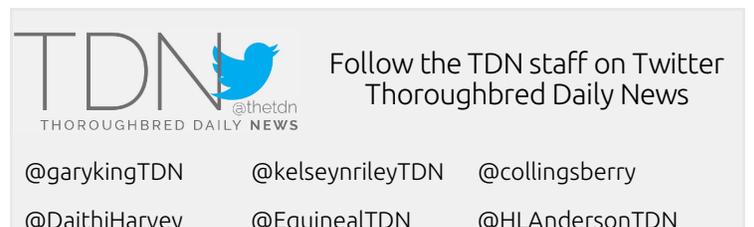
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EUROPEAN-BRED WINNERS

**IN HONG KONG:**

**Momentum Happy (GB)**, g, 4, **Dubawi (Ire)**--Longing To Dance (GB) (SP-Ire), by Danehill Dancer (Ire). Sha Tin, 5-3, Hcp. (£100k/€113k), 1400mT, 1:21.72. B-D J & Mrs Deer. \*200,000gns Ylg '17 TATOCT; HK\$3,700,000 HRA '19 HKMAR. \*\*1/2 to Be My Gal (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), GSW-Fr, SP-Eng, \$115,444. **VIDEO**



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# WORLDWIDE NEWS

## G1 Tenno Sho Spring Cont. from p1

The field was well spaced out on the backstretch, but the back half began to bunch up with a half-mile to travel with Kiseki still on top. Fierement was asked by Lemaire as the rail fell away after the final corner and he began to rally out in the center of the course. **You Can Smile (Jpn)** (King Kamehameha {Jpn}) also unleashed a notable kick up the fence and Stiffelio gained the advantage as Kiseki faded around the 200-metre pole. Closing with a deadly burst, Fierement still had a few lengths to make up and it appeared he was running out of ground, but he bravely stuck his nose in front when it mattered. **Mikki Swallow (Jpn)** (Tosen Homareboshi {Jpn}) got up by a neck over You Can Smile for third, 2 1/2 lengths behind the top pair.



Fierement defeats Stiffelio on the line | JRA photo

“The pace was ideal and I was almost sure it would be an easy win for us, but he wasn't focused at times, so as it turned out we had to fight hard to the line,” said Lemaire. “But in spite of the long distance and the wide draw, he was unhurried earlier in the race and had the strength left to charge home the way he did—everything went well. I'm thankful to the fans rooting for us at home. I look forward to seeing them in the stands very soon.”

Lightly raced, the 2018 G1 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St Leger) hero reported home second in the G2 American Jockey Club Cup last January prior to his first Tenno Sho Spring victory and went missing until an Aug. 18 third in the G2 Sapporo Kinen. He traveled to France for the G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, but made little impact when 12th in the wake of Waldgeist (GB) (Galileo {Ire}). His 4-year-old finale was a fourth in the G1 Arima

Kinen at Nakayama on Dec. 22.

## Pedigree Notes

One of 46 Group 1 winners by his late sire, Fierement is the second to take three or more top-level contests after seven-time Group 1 victress Gentildonna (Jpn). Deep Impact's 156 black-type winners include 127 in group company.

As a racehorse, Italian highweight Lune d'Or was well-traveled, earning checks in four countries to go with her G1 Premio Lydia Tesio victory, two French Group 2 wins and a third in the G1 Yorkshire Oaks in England. She caught the eye of Katsumi Yoshida and hammered for €750,000 during the 2010 Arqana December Breeding Stock Sale with a cover to Galileo (Ire). At stud, the dark bay has produced five other winners besides Fierement, as well as the placed dam of MGSW & MG1SP Inns of Court (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), who is now standing his first season at Tally-Ho Stud in Ireland for €7,500. Her 2016 Orfevre (Jpn) colt Last Noodle (Jpn) has scored twice to date, while her 2017 filly Route d'Or (Jpn) (Just a Way {Jpn}) was first past the post in a Tokyo newcomer race in November from two appearances.

Her dam, the 1983 Noir et Or (GB) mare Luth D'Or (Fr) only captured a French listed race, but was placed twice at Group 3 level there. Luth D'Or was a half-sister to French Champion Miler Luth Enchantee (Fr) (Be My Guest), a winner of the G1 Prix du Moulin and Prix Jacques Le Marois, as well as SW Luth Celtique (Fr) (Thatch).

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## Sunday, Kyoto, Japan

**TENNO SHO (SPRING)-G1**, ¥290,320,000

(US\$2,715,834/£2,173,102/€2,459,730), Kyoto, 5-3, 4yo/up, 3200mT, 3:16.50, fm.

1--**FIEREMENT (JPN)**, 128, h, 5, Deep Impact (Jpn)

1st Dam: Lune d'Or (Fr) (Hwt. 3yo-Ity at 9 1/2-11f, G1SW-Ity, MGSW-Fr, G1SP-Eng, \$440,124), by Green Tune

2nd Dam: Luth D'Or (Fr), by Noir et Or (GB)

3rd Dam: Viole d'Amour (Fr), by Luthier (Fr)

O-Sunday Racing; B-Northern Farm (Jpn); T-Takahisa Tezuka; J-Christophe Lemaire. ¥153,024,000. Lifetime Record:

10-5-2-1. **Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Werk Nick Rating: F.**

2--**Stiffelio (Jpn)**, 128, h, 6, Stay Gold (Jpn)--Serious Attitude (Ire), by Mtoto (GB). O-Shadai Race Horse; B-Shadai Farm (Jpn); ¥60,864,000.

3--**Mikki Swallow (Jpn)**, 128, h, 6, Tosen Homareboshi (Jpn)--Madre Bonita (Jpn), by Jungle Pocket (Jpn). (¥26,000,000 Wlg '14 JRHAJUL). O-Mizuki Noda; B-Northern Farm (Jpn); ¥38,402,000.

Margins: NO, 2HF, NK. Odds: 1.00, 63.20, 10.90.  
 Also Ran: You Can Smile (Jpn), Tosen Cambina (Jpn), Kiseki (Jpn), Mozu Bello (Jpn), Meisho Tengen (Jpn), Danburite (Jpn), Etario (Jpn), Melody Lane (Jpn), Miraieno Tsubasa (Jpn), Happy Grin (Jpn), Shirvanshah (Jpn).

Click for the [JRA chart & video](#) or the [free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree](#).

**Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong**

**QUEEN MOTHER MEMORIAL CUP-G3**, HK\$3,250,000 (£335,315/€380,131/A\$652,861/US\$418,997), Sha Tin, 5-3, 3yo/up, 2400mT, 2:27.05, gd.

1--**CHEFANO (SAF)**, 114, g, 5, by **Silvano (Ger)**

1st Dam: **Valdovino (SAF)**, by **Al Mufti**

2nd Dam: **Vino Rosa (SAF)**, by **Foveros (GB)**

3rd Dam: **Luna Rosa (SAF)**, by **Selenio (Arg)**

(R500,000 Ylg '16 CAPJAN; R300,000 Ylg '16 EMPAPR).

O-Chef's Table Syndicate; B-Maine Chance Farms Pty Ltd; T-John Moore; J-Matthew Chadwick; HK\$1,852,500. Lifetime Record: GSP-SAF, 23-4-4-2, HK\$5,295,700. \*Formerly Vacquero (SAf). \*\*Full to **Vino Veritas (SAf)**, MGSP-SAF. **Werk Nick Rating: C+**. Click for the [eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree](#).

2--**Savvy Nine (Fr)**, 115, g, 4, Anodin (Ire)--Insan Mala (Ire), by Bahhare. (€42,000 RNA Ylg '17 ARQAUG; €470,000 HRA '18 ARQARC). O-Julian Hui Chun Hang & Michele Monique Reis; B-Jan Krauze; T-John Moore; J-Joao Moreira; HK\$715,000.

3--**Helene Charisma (Fr)**, 119, g, 7, Air Chief Marshal (Ire)--Lidana (Ire), by King's Best. O-Sir Po-shing & Lady Woo, Jackson Woo Ka Biu & May Woo; B-Franklin Finance S A; T-John Moore; J-Antoine Hamelin; HK\$373,750.

Margins: 2 1/4, 2, 1 1/4. Odds: 26-5, 21-10, 37-5.  
 Also Ran: Helene Leadingstar (Aus), Eagle Way (Aus).

Click for the [HKJC.com chart, PPs, sectional timing and VIDEO](#).  
 Click for the [free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree](#).



**Chefano led home a top-three sweep for the John Moore yard with a front-running victory in Sunday's Queen Mother Memorial Cup | HKJC**

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# TDN Sales Statistics

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## ONLINE REVOLUTION GETS GROUP 1 BOOST



Bella Vella | David Mariuz/AAP Photos

By Bren O'Brien

Saturday's thrilling all-the-way win in the G1 Robert Sangster S. not only elevated **Bella Vella** (Commands) to the status of poster girl for graduates of the Inglis Digital Sale, it was also a very timely reminder of the virtues and value of online sales.

Purchased for \$22,500 through the Inglis 2019 April Monthly Online Sale by John Kelton after she failed to get in foal to Criterion (NZ), Bella Vella delivered a stunning return on her initial investment when under the guidance of Will Clarken and with the urgings of jockey Todd Pannell, she held off her more-fancied rivals to win the Group 1 sprint for fillies and mares at Morphettville.

The timing of the win, given the current environment, was uncanny. Inglis has just concluded its biggest ever Online Sale, which reaped \$4.1 million, and is preparing to host its Australian Broodmare Sale on May 10 through the same platform.

Government protocols around COVID-19 forced Inglis to stage its recent Easter Yearling Sale in a virtual environment, which while not the same platform as the Online sales, utilised a range of similar technology in order to facilitate what was an amazing result considering the economic uncertainty of the times. The Inglis Chairman's Sale will be conducted in similar fashion this Friday.

Meanwhile, fellow sales company Magic Millions has launched an online auction product of its own and is currently conducting a reduction sale on behalf of Cornerstone Stud, which concludes

on Tuesday. In New Zealand, a recent Gavelhouse.com sale saw Group 1-winning mare Hasahalo (NZ) (Savebeel) sold for an online world record for a Thoroughbred of NZ\$670,000.

The growth in the quantity of horses traded online has been building for some years, but Bella Vella's success on Saturday is somewhat of a game-changer in terms of the quality of tried horses available for purchase via this method.

"It's a milestone result for the platform. Every sale wants Group 1-winning graduates and the digital platform is no different," Inglis General Manager Bloodstock Sales and Marketing, Sebastian Hutch, said. "It's a credit to the innovative approach of Mark Webster as well as Nick Melmeth, who has driven the division since its inception in mid-2017. The turnover in that period is nearing \$50 million and the last sale turned over \$4 million. It's been an extraordinary success story for the industry."

### A \$22,500 Group 1 winner

For Kelton, who is a regular buyer through the Inglis Digital platform, Saturday's success was a vindication of the approach he, David Jolly and Clarken have taken with their tried horses over the years.

The trio's confidence in buying tried horses through the platform has grown significantly over the past two years and Kelton says that is reflected across the board with many of the other buyers he speaks to.

"There's a lot more stock coming on the market through these digital sales and there is a lot more good quality horses," Kelton said. "Up to two or three years ago, the stock in these types of sales was generally quite poor, but now there is a lot more better quality racing and breeding stock coming on there."

"When you go through the catalogues they are getting a lot bigger and there seems a lot more trust in the market now to back the online sales and purchase through them. We have purchased a number of horses as tried horses and a lot of them through the sale. We are very happy to use them and you can often get a bargain for them."

Other tried horses that Clarken, Jolly and Kelton have had recent success include stakes-winners Steel Frost (Bryannbo's Gift {NZ}), Cavaloce (Testa Rossa) and Mio Dio (God's Own).

"We are always on the lookout for more of them. We have got a couple more coming through the system. We don't know if they will get to that level, but we are always looking to get a few more through. No doubt other stables are looking at that option more and more as well," he said.



Set Goals | Inglis

Bella Vella was identified by Jolly as a good prospect for the stable given she had initially headed to retirement as a broodmare in good form as an early 4-year-old. After she failed to get in foal to Criterion, she had a couple more starts for Matthew Vella before being offered for sale.

While she was able to win three races in her first preparation for Clarken, a wind operation ahead of this campaign proved the key to transforming her into a genuine stakes-quality mare, and she has now delivered Clarken his first-ever Group 1 winner.

"She's been running through the wire a lot better than she did at the end of her last prep. So we have been able to get that extra couple of lengths out of her, which has allowed her to compete at the black-type level," Kelton said. "The race worked out really well. I have watched the replay plenty of times and Todd Pannell has just ridden the horse extremely well. You need everything to go right in these Group 1 races and he has made that happen by rating her perfectly."

### Online Sales Reap Outstanding Returns

Beyond Bella Vella, Inglis Online Sales, which started out monthly and are now typically held bi-monthly, have produced a series of good results for both buyers and sellers.

Broodmare prospects **Set Goals** (Snitzel) and **Manaya** (Hinchinbrook) sold for \$321,000 and \$400,000 respectively mid last year, while a quarter share in leading Cups prospect **Mustajeer (GB)** (Medicean {GB}) was sold for \$320,000 through the October Sale.

Hutch also points to the result achieved by Arrowfield Stud in pinhooking a Shalaa (Ire) weanling out of the Scone Online Thoroughbred Sale last May and turning a \$37,500 purchase into a \$300,000 result at this year's Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale as a great example of the virtues of the platform.

As important as those outstanding individual results, is the

ability of such sales to provide greater liquidity to the marketplace.

"The primary advantage it represents is the timeliness of it. People don't have to wait for mixed sales, and with the sale going bi-monthly now, it's meant that people can buy and trade stock with ease through a platform that they trust and understand with greater regularity. It's been a massive progression for the industry," Hutch said. "In the current environment, it's allowed everybody to continue to trade where effectively there is nowhere else in the world where you can trade bloodstock in an open market, it's really quite extraordinary."



### IN HONG KONG:

**Like That**, g, 2, **Akeed Mofeed (GB)**--Calemore, by More Than Ready (USA). Sha Tin, 5-3, Griffins (\$166k), 1000m, :56.66. B-Goldin Australia Pty Ltd (SA). \*\$200,000 Ylg '19 MGMMAR.

### VIDEO

**Fabulous Eight**, g, 4, **Dream Ahead (GB)**--Coco Kerringle, by Exceed and Excel. Sha Tin, 5-3, Hcp. (\$194k), 1000m, :55.79. B-Bruce Reid Racing (NSW). \*\$100,000 Wlg '16 MGLMAY; \$70,000 Ylg '17 INGFEb; NZ\$170,000 2yo '17 NZBRTR. **VIDEO**

**Little Thunder**, g, 4, **Hussonet (USA)**--Smytzer's Thunder, by Thunder Gulch (USA). Sha Tin, 5-3, Hcp. (\$194k), 1200m (AWT), 1:08.85. B-Cornerstone Stud Farm Pty Ltd (SA). \*1/2 to Lucky Thunder (Lucky Owners {NZ}), G1SP-Aus, \$287,900; and Storm Approach (Purrealist), SW-Aus, \$276,426. \*\*\$40,000 Ylg '17 MGMMAR; \$90,000 2yo '17 MMOCT. **VIDEO**

**Silver Fig**, g, 5, **Hard Spun (USA)**--Bonifacio (USA) (SW & GSP-US, US\$141,874), by Even The Score (USA). Sha Tin, 5-3, Hcp. (\$291k), 1200m (AWT), 1:08.50. B-Waratah Thoroughbreds Pty Ltd (NSW). \*\$130,000 Ylg '16 INGFEb. **VIDEO**

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**I Am Excited Retired to Bell River**