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NINE-FURLONG BELMONT TO BE RUN JUNE 20



The start of the 2019 Belmont | Adam Mooshian

by Bill Finley

What has traditionally been the final leg of the Triple Crown will now be the first. The GI Belmont Stakes will be run June 20 at the distance of a mile and an eighth, NYRA announced Tuesday.

In a year where the coronavirus has caused tracks across the country to scramble and adjust their racing calendars and stakes schedules, the Triple Crown, in order, will now consist of the June 20 Belmont, the GI Kentucky Derby Sept. 5 and the GI Preakness Oct. 3.

“The Belmont Stakes is a New York institution that will provide world-class entertainment for sports fans during these challenging times,” NYRA President & CEO Dave O’Rourke said in a statement. “While this will certainly be a unique running of this historic race, we are grateful to be able to hold the Belmont Stakes in 2020. Thanks to our partners at NBC Sports, fans across the country can look forward to a day of exceptional Thoroughbred racing at a time when entertainment and sports are so important to providing a sense of normalcy.”

The distance of the race was not the only change. The purse has been cut from \$1.5 million to \$1 million and it will take place in front of an empty grandstand.

NYRA confirmed that the race will be shown on NBC, as part of a three-hour telecast.

Cont. p3

BELMONT TO OPEN JUNE 3 WITH REDUCED STAKES SCHEDULE

by Bill Finley

Belmont will reopen June 3 for a 25-day meet with a stakes schedule that includes a number of purse cuts and the cancellation of several stakes traditionally run in the spring at the NYRA tracks. Spectators will not be allowed to attend the races throughout the spring season at Belmont.

Following the opening week, racing will be held Thursdays through Sundays with closing day scheduled for July 12.

“The resumption of live racing at Belmont Park June 3, with all appropriate health and safety protocols in place, will support the hundreds of small businesses, family-owned farms and thousands of hourly workers who form the backbone of Thoroughbred racing in New York,” NYRA President & CEO Dave O’Rourke said in a statement. **Cont. p4**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

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Wednesday, May 20, 2020



The last year the Belmont Stakes was run at a nine-furlong distance was 1894, when New Jersey-bred Henry of Navarre won the race at Morris Park Racecourse. Pictured above is a match race held at the same track and distance on October 6, 1894, when Henry of Navarre defeated 3-year-old Domino and 4-year-old Clifford and clinched Horse of the Year honors. | Keeneland Library

AUTHENTIC'S FLAWLESS START RINGS TRUE TO BLUM 5

Chris McGrath talks to Peter Blum about the dam of undefeated GI Kentucky Derby hopeful Authentic (Into Mischief).

NYRA ANNOUNCES NEW SAFETY INITIATIVES 8

In addition to releasing its stakes schedule, NYRA announced a series of new safety initiatives and rule changes Tuesday, mainly focused on protecting horses coming off long layoffs.

TWENTY POSITIVE EHV-1 CASES AT WOODBINE 9

The number of confirmed equine herpesvirus cases at Woodbine has grown to 20, with one horse dying.

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Belmont Set for June 20 at Nine Furlongs cont. from p1

With the timing and distance of the race and with some trainers likely to prioritize the Kentucky Derby, it remains to be seen what the Belmont lineup will look like. But at least one trainer is ready to embrace the race, as Bob Baffert said he will likely point two of his undefeated stars, **Charlatan** (Speightstown) and **Nadal** (Blame), to the Belmont.

“Depending on how they are training, I will have Nadal and Charlatan for the race,” Baffert said. “I backed off both a little bit but am starting back up now. I am just glad they are having the Belmont. I would have preferred they have it after the Preakness to keep the tradition, but they will all be very exciting races.”

Baffert is pointing his other 3-year-old star, Authentic (Into Mischief, to the June 6 GI Santa Anita Derby.

Barclay Tagg, the trainer of GI Florida Derby winner **Tiz the Law** (Constitution), said he would have preferred the Belmont stay at 12 furlongs, but is nonetheless pointing for the race.

“Yes, we are planning on running, but I don’t particularly like the mile and an eighth,” Tagg said. “I think they should have kept it longer, at least at a mile and a quarter. It’s supposed to be a classic. I guess they are doing that to bring more horses in. The dates, there’s nothing you can do about that. You can complain about dates all you want but there are so many things going into dates this year that you can’t blame anybody for where they are running their races. But it’s a shame they had to change the order of the Triple Crown races around.”

Trainer Patrick Biancone said he plans on running **Sole Volante** (Karakontie {Jpn}) in the Belmont, but not his other top 3-year-old, Ete Indien (Summer Front).

“With the circumstances this year, we need to start somewhere,” Biancone said. “I was expecting the race would be run in the middle or end of June, so I’ve programmed it so that Sole Volante will be ready for the Belmont. When it comes to the tradition of these races, there’s nothing anybody can do about that. This virus has killed so many people, the impact of racing is minimal compared to what is going on in the world.”

Any chance that the Belmont would be run in the fall and in the traditional Triple Crown order all but ended when the Maryland Jockey Club announced Saturday that the Preakness would be held Oct. 3, a month after the Derby. With the Breeders’ Cup set for Nov. 6-7, squeezing the Belmont into a date in October would have likely meant a diminished field with the trainers of many top horses choosing the GI Breeders’ Cup Classic over the Belmont.

“With this whole pandemic situation, this year is a whole new world,” said NYRA Senior Vice President, Racing Operations, Martin Panza.

Cont. p4

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“Churchill moved the Derby to Sept. 5 and none of us really knew that was happening until a few hours before it was announced. That didn’t really leave people with a whole lot of options.”

The June date also allows NYRA to fit in the GI Travers S. between the Belmont and the Kentucky Derby in a spot where horsemen should have enough time to make all four races. The Travers is usually run on the second to last Saturday of the Saratoga meet, which, this year, would be Aug. 29. NYRA has not announced its 2020 Saratoga stakes schedule yet, but is expected to move the date of the Travers so as not to conflict with the Derby.

Panza said the race was shortened because the timing of the Belmont didn’t make it conducive to running it at a mile and a half.

“I am a true believer in long-distance races,” he said. “The Belmont will return next year at a mile and a half. It pains me to shorten races, but for this year everyone is making things up on the fly and trying to add some continuity to stakes schedules, so this seemed like the right thing to do. On June 20, it didn’t make any sense to run a mile-and-a-half race. Not this year. A mile and a quarter was considered, but the last time a lot of these horses will have run was in the [GI] Arkansas Derby back in the beginning of May. There haven’t been a whole lot of prep opportunities for people, so we thought that was a big ask for people to have their horses ready to run at a mile and a half.”

Early on its history, The Belmont was run at a number of different distances, but has been at a mile and a half every year since 1925, when it was contested at a mile and three eighths. The current order of the Triple Crown races dates back to 1933. Prior to that, the Preakness was often run before the Derby and on some occasions on the same day. Gallant Fox, the 1930 Triple Crown winner, kicked off his Triple Crown campaign in the Preakness and then came back eight days later to win the Derby.

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Belmont Releases Reduced Stakes Schedule cont. from p1

“The return of live sports, especially New York institutions like the Belmont Stakes, is a welcome sign of progress that will bring some sense of normalcy back to our everyday lives,” added O’Rourke.

The stakes schedule for the spring/summer meet will feature 40 total stakes races worth \$7 million, including 22 graded stakes. The highlight of the meet will be the GI Belmont S., which has been pushed back to June 20 and will now be the first leg of the Triple Crown. Like so many races on the schedule, the Belmont will have a reduced purse of \$1 million, down from the \$1.5 million paid out in 2019.

The cuts include: The GI Runhappy Metropolitan S. (\$1.2 million to \$500,000); the GI Just a Game S. (\$700,000 to \$300,000); the GI Ogden Phipps S. (\$700,000 to \$300,000); the GI Manhattan S. (\$1 million to \$400,000); the GI Acorn S. (\$700,000 to \$300,000); the GII Suburban S. (\$700,000 to \$200,000); the GI Jaipur S. (\$400,000 to \$250,000); the GII Ruffian S. (\$250,000 to \$100,000); and the GI Woody Stephens S. (\$400,000 to \$250,000).



Racing at Belmont | Horsephotos

The GI Carter S. Has been moved from Aqueduct and will held June 6. The purse has been reduced from \$400,000 to \$250,000. It will take the place of the GII John Nerud S., also a sprint, that has traditionally been part of the spring meet. Other races that will be missing from the Belmont meet are the GI Man O’ War S., the GII Mother Goose S., the GII Brooklyn S., the GIII Peter Pan S. and the GII Dwyer S.

NYRA Senior Vice President, Racing Operations Martin Panza said that overnight purses had also been cut, by about 13%.

“The casino [at Aqueduct] is not operating and that’s 38% of our purse money,” Panza explained. “There’s no on-track play, so that’s another percentage we lose that affects how much purse money we have. Everyone is pretty much having to cut purses to some extent. The business model that funds purses has been disrupted by the pandemic. We didn’t have much of a choice here. We tried to put as much money into our overnight purses as possible. Traditionally, NYRA has a lot of graded stakes and traditionally, NYRA has always had a high percentage of money go to stakes. With the pandemic, the casino being closed and losing all the on-track handle, it forced our hand.”

The GI Belmont Oaks and GI Belmont Derby Invitationals, part of NYRA’s Turf Triple Series, were also absent from the schedule, but, according to a the press release issued Tuesday, the series will be held at a later date.

Cont. p5

The Belmont Stakes card will be packed with big races as the Acorn, Jaipur, the Woody Stephens, the GII Pennine Ridge S. and the GIII Wonder Again will be run that day.

Beginning with the GIII Beaugay S., there will be a stakes race on every day of the meet.

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AUTHENTIC'S FLAWLESS START RINGS TRUE TO BLUM



Authentic | *Benoit*

by *Chris McGrath*

Authentic (Into Mischief) has already carved one significant milestone for his sire, his debut success at Del Mar last November having qualified Into Mischief as the first North American stallion to accumulate 200 individual winners in a calendar year. If he can also become a Classic winner, however, he will need a chapter to himself in the Spendthrift phenomenon's epic tale.

Because the rise of Into Mischief, sealed by a first general sires' championship in 2019, has primarily been powered by speed. As his books have gained in quality, the last big challenge is to produce a horse that can sustain his trademark dash sufficiently to win a Triple Crown race.

Graduates of his cheaper early books have not lacked encouragement, Audible and Owendale having finished with persuasive gusto to make the podium in the 2018 Derby and 2019 Preakness respectively. But the first colt to make that definitive breakthrough is going to have wild commercial kudos at stud, not least given the way Goldencents--star of his first crop--has so quickly hinted that Into Mischief may also pass on his alchemical properties as a sire of sires.

As Authentic prepares for a probable crack at the GI Santa Anita Derby, perhaps nobody has better insight into his credentials than his breeder, Peter Blum.



Into Mischief | *David Coyle*

True, Blum's hand has been cultivating this particular family relatively briefly, compared with the dynasty he has built--through as many as seven generations--from his foundation mare Mono, acquired from King Ranch in 1975. (Her dam was a sister to Assault, and her fourth dam a sister to Man o' War.) But Authentic has certainly profited from the astute navigational instincts Blum has meanwhile developed for the pedigree maze.

"I guess I've been doing it a long time," Blum reflects. "I got interested at a very young age, and bought my first horse while at the University of North Carolina. Didn't have very good luck with that one, but I persevered. I learned a lot over the years about pedigree, talking to people I respected and admired--Seth Hancock, for one. I looked for certain things, followed my intuition. But nobody can know enough in this business. You can never stop learning."

Authentic is the third starter (and third winner, albeit the other two operated in a far lower grade) out of the Mr Greeley mare Flawless, who was acquired in utero along with her unraced dam Oyster Baby (Wild Again) for \$160,000 at Keeneland January 2007. Though Oyster Baby would only produce a couple of other foals before a tragically early demise, Flawless showed plenty of ability in a career confined to two starts at Belmont Park, winning a seven furlong maiden by 13 lengths on debut and then a close second in allowance company over a mile.

"I've known Bill Mott a long time," Blum says. "He called me a few days before he was going to put her in, and said that she had talent. But I knew that not many of his horses win first time out, so I wasn't expecting too much; I was just hoping she would run a decent race. When she won so impressively, she was on the back page of the *New York Post* as 'The next Rachel Alexandra.' And Bill's comment in the paper was that she wasn't cranked, she was only half-ready. Her second start, I think she went off at 1-5. But she came back with a [bowed] tendon, and that was it." **Cont. p6**

A couple of years later Blum saw Mott at Keeneland, and they spoke of Flawless. The loss of Oyster Baby, together with her own truncated career, had left the page worryingly thin.

"Bill," Blum said. "I'm a commercial breeder. I don't know that I'm going to be able to sell out of this mare."

"Sell all your other mares," replied Mott. "But you keep her!"

So Flawless stayed in the program. Actually, she might already have slipped through Blum's grasp as a yearling, when offered at the September Sale. Fortunately she did not meet her reserve, at \$285,000: she was named advisedly, after all, as a big, beautiful specimen.

"And her dam Oyster Baby had been a magnificent mare, too," Blum recalls. "Unfortunately, she had a walled-off abscess. Dr. Doug Byars and a number of other vets were trying to save her for six months. And it turned out she had something that could easily have been treated, but none of the radiographs could show it because the bone was blocking the abscess."



Bridie Harrison | Keeneland

There was also bad luck with her daughter's first foal, who showed abundant promise until derailed first by pneumonia, then a capsized van. But Blum persevered. To build a family, after all, demands patience. A cautionary example: the same crop that gave his program Flawless also featured a filly from the Mono family, by Afleet Alex. She was culled, along with her dam.

Given the name Afleet Maggi by her purchasers, she has since become the dam of Grade I winner Dream Tree (Uncle Mo).

Flawless, at any rate, has now vindicated Blum's faith. After consultation with advisor Doug Cauthen, in 2016 Blum sent the mare to the up-and-coming Into Mischief, then still available at \$45,000.

Though a May 5 foal, and buried in the September Sale as Hip 2616, Authentic secured a good dividend when unearthed by SF Bloodstock/Starlight West for \$350,000.

He was prepared and consigned by Bridie Harrison, whose association with Blum goes back to her days at Dromoland.

"Bridie had demonstrated she was an excellent horsewoman, that she deserved the chance, and I was very confident going to her," Blum recalls. "Truthfully, it wasn't even a decision. It just played out naturally. She was a good friend, she'd always given me good advice, I had confidence in the way she raised the horses and I could feel the love that she felt for them."



Flawless | Adam Coglianese

The team had a great sale that year, crowned by a \$1.4 million Uncle Mo colt from the Mono line (a promising fourth on debut, as Believe Now, for Michael McCarthy at Santa Anita in March). But Blum's esteem for Authentic was black and white for all to see in the catalog--already named, as he was, in tribute to the caliber of Flawless.

"We believed in the horse," Blum recalls. "He was one of our best yearlings. But you can't really tell people to come and look at your horses. Bridie just shows them, and answers the questions. But he presented himself well. I mean, he still hasn't filled out commensurate with his height. He's going to be a big horse. He's already tall, and he's going to keep filling out. But he was nice enough for the right people to see his potential."

It is not just in terms of his ongoing physical development, however, that the Derby's postponement could work in Authentic's favor. In itself, after all, the fact that he had not reached his third birthday on the first Saturday in May would not have disqualified Authentic from emulating the first three past the post last year (all had enjoyed the sunshine and pasture that greets a May foal). But he did look extremely raw when making his second start in the GIII Sham S., almost colliding with the rail as he cocked his head in the stretch, even as he opened up by 7 3/4 lengths. So while he subsequently saw off Honor A.P. (Honor Code) with a committed display in the GII San Felipe S., the extended road to Churchill can surely only have helped Baffert hone Authentic's professionalism.

Cont. p7

On the other hand, as Blum points out, there may be Derby contenders in September--Honor A.P. very possibly a case in point--that were nowhere near precocious enough, in athletic terms, to romp in the Sham on Jan. 4. "And a lot of those that were behind, back then, might catch up or even be ahead of him," Blum remarks. "So while he has also extra time to grow, I'm just pointing out that there are both positives and negatives."



Authentic | *Horsephotos*

The mental immaturity he displayed in the Sham, however, apparently betrays no innate unruliness. "I don't know any more than what Baffert has said," Blum says. "And he's joked about it, saying that he doesn't think it is anything to worry about. You know, I think it was more impressive that the horse did pull those antics [in the Sham] and yet still won by as far as he did. He certainly didn't do anything [wrong] last time.

"I think Baffert's done the right thing. He backed off for a month or so and worked him very, very slow. And then the other day he worked three-quarters in [1]:11 flat. I think he just wanted him to chill out. Not that he was a problem, but he had the time to work with him and just wanted him to learn to relax."

Needless to say, Flawless has returned to Into Mischief this spring. (She missed to Mastery on a late cover last year, but that has at least enabled her to reset.) Whether that results in a sibling to a Kentucky Derby winner, however, hinges on the degree of "stretch" that Authentic can eke out of his pedigree.

By this stage, we are well accustomed to Into Mischief's ability to kindle class from the coldest embers. And, as we've seen, there is more to Authentic's immediate kin than immediately meets the eye: Flawless was obviously very gifted; her dam had tragically brief opportunity; while the next two dams were both graded stakes winners.

Moreover, Oyster Baby's half-sister, who was also owned by Blum, produced a nugget to anchor the whole family in Holiday Runner (Meadowlake). Herself fast and precocious, as a Keeneland maiden winner who won two stakes before placing in the GII Adirondack S., Holiday Runner has proved an exceptional producer. Two of her foals are elite winners: the extraordinary Reynalothewizard (Speightstown), who won the G1 Golden Shaheen at seven and was still running to a high level five years later; and Seventh Street (Street Cry {Ire}), who won the GI Apple Blossom H. and GI Go For Wand H. before in turn producing GII Demoiselle S. winner Lake Avenue (Tapit) and GI Malibu runner-up Marking (Bernardini). Another of Holiday Runner's daughters, moreover, is the Grade II-placed dam of American Gal (Concord Point), winner of the GI Test and GI Humana Distaff.



Authentic & Bob Baffert | *Horsephotos*

That branch of the family certainly seems to have been revved up by Meadowlake, but the one extending to Authentic is hardly deficient in speed by comparison. Looking at the overall pattern, in fact, the first thing you might exclaim about Authentic's ancestry is: Ruffian!

Ruffian's half-brother Icecapade (whose accomplishments include a Monmouth track record in 1:08 flat) features top and bottom: Oyster Baby was by his son Wild Again; and his grandson Tricky Creek is the sire, so seldom credited, of Into Mischief's storied dam Leslie's Lady. And there's a nice extra twist: Authentic's damsire Mr Greeley is out of a mare by Ruffian's sire Reviewer.

"The jury is out," admits Blum, regarding Authentic's stamina potential. "Nobody knows. It would be foolish to say he's definitely going to get a mile and a quarter. But I think if he gets the mile and eighth [in the Santa Anita Derby] and does it the way he won his previous three races, I'd say he would have a heck of a chance. **Cont. p8**

"In his last race, he looked like he could run all day. He was just galloping. Every now and then, you see a special horse that may not even have pedigree but that will go out there and do amazing things. I'm not saying he's the special horse. But if you go back, it's a very gutsy family. Who knows? I like his chances."

For now Authentic has yet to be asked for tactical versatility. As and when he squares up to barnmate Charlatan (Speightstown), who has likewise controlled all three starts at his leisure, somebody is going to have to show a new dimension. But there is certainly nothing manic about the speed that has borne Authentic so effortlessly to the front.

All that, of course, can safely be left to a trainer with a third unbeaten meteor in Nadal (Blame). Baffert aptly compares Authentic's light stride to that of a gazelle, which duly limits the demands the horse makes of himself. Interestingly, moreover, he went back to his American Pharoah playbook when fitting ear-plugs for the San Felipe.

For now, as with any Classic aspirant, the onus of proof naturally remains on Authentic. He has to confirm that his Sham quirks were just a matter of inexperience, and to show increased professionalism as the summer goes on. And, above all, he has to make "by Into Mischief out of a Mr Greeley mare" read more like a Derby pedigree on the racetrack than it does on paper.

But then a Mr. Greeley mare produced Closing Argument, by a fast horse in Successful Appeal, to lead into the stretch and beat all but Giacomo (Holy Bull) in the 2005 Kentucky Derby. Even in ordinary Thoroughbreds, pedigrees can be hard to predict; and there are few more extraordinary than Into Mischief.

Whatever happens from here, Blum knows--seasoned horseman as he is--to enjoy the ride. Certainly the first-hand reports back to Atlanta from his son Josh, who is working for Richard Mandella, have given an extra dimension to Blum's engagement as "breeder."

"Josh has been there for all three of Authentic's races," Blum says. "And that's been really special. That's what brings a tear to my eye. A few months back, when Bob Baffert and Richard were sharing a barn, Josh would see the horse just about every day. One time they'd given him a bath and were just getting ready to walk him. And Josh said, 'Mr. Baffert, do you mind if I took a picture of the horse?' And Baffert said, 'No, I'll take the picture, you get in and hold the horse.' And he then said to be sure to send a copy to your dad."

But if they can just get another photo taken at the end of the summer, with the addition of a blanket of roses, then they should also send a copy to Authentic's dad. Because as mementos go, there could only be one word for such an image. Flawless.

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NYRA ANNOUNCES NEW SAFETY INITIATIVES, ENTRY RULE CHANGES

In addition to the news about the GI Belmont S. and stakes schedule at the upcoming Belmont meet, the New York Racing Association announced new safety initiatives and entry rule changes for the 25-day meet.

Among them are new rules for horses coming off of long layoffs and horses making belated career debuts. Horses which have not started in more than 180 days, but fewer than 365 days, will be placed on the Veterinarians' List and must be presented to the NYRA Veterinarian prior to racing, while horses which have not raced in 365 days or longer will automatically be added to the Veterinarians' List and must satisfy the same requirements for removal from the Veterinarians' List as horses designated as "unsound." If a start has not been made within 60 days of the NYRA Veterinarians' clearance, then the horse will be placed back on the Veterinarians' list. The same restrictions and placement will apply to horses making their first start Feb. 1 or later of their 4-year-old year.

NYRA also announced a new option for owners/trainers in claiming race to opt to declare a horse exempt from being claimed. In order to do so, the horse must meet the following requirements:

- The horse has not started since Mar. 16, 2020.
- The horse is entered for a claiming price equal to or greater than the price it last started for (horse must have started in a claiming race in the previous start to qualify).
- Failure to declare the horse exempt at the time of entry may not be remedied.
- The waiver rule can only be applied to said horse's first start following each such layoff.

Finally, NYRA is instating a new rule when it comes to trainers with multiple horses in the same race. In all overnight races, no same trainer entry will be allowed to draw into the body of a race to the exclusion of a different trainer entrant. At time of entry, trainers must designate a "different owner first choice (DO1)" and a "different owner second choice (DO2)." Stakes races are excluded from this rule. A different owner second entry (DO2) is preferred over a same owner second entry (SO2).

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TWENTY CONFIRMED CASES OF EHV-1, ONE DEATH NOW REPORTED AT WOODBINE

Twenty horses on the Woodbine backstretch have now tested positive for the equine herpesvirus EHV-1 and one has died from the infectious disease, according to a release from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. Sunday, **it was reported** that two horses residing in Barn 12 had tested positive for the neurotoxic strain of EHV-1, and the AGCO reported that all 59 horses in that barn have now been tested.

“The affected horses are in isolation or have been sent to the Ontario Veterinary College for treatment,” the AGCO said. “Regrettably, one horse has had to be euthanized due to the neurological disease.”

The AGCO added that all horses in Barn 12 who tested negative would be retested Tuesday and all horses in neighboring Barn 11 will be tested as well. In order to trace contact with the infected animals, the release said, “Woodbine is identifying all horses and people that may have come into contact with or been in proximity to horses in Barn 12. The AGCO has also ordered Barns 33 and 35 be locked down due to a horse showing signs of fever. The horse has been isolated and will also be tested on May 19.”

Monitoring and containment measures, put into place when the first positive cases were confirmed Sunday, remain in effect.

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GRAYSON-JC WEBINAR: RECORD TRANSPARENCY & MONITORING BETWEEN STARTS

By Christina Bossinakis

During the second installment of its ongoing webinar series, the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation presented the “Importance of transparency in medical records; monitoring horses between starts” Tuesday afternoon. Chief Veterinary Officer of The Stronach Group’s Dr. Dionne Benson moderated the discussion and was joined by private racetrack practitioner Dr. Ryan Carpenter (Equine Medical Center, Cypress, Ca.); Dr. William Farmer (Equine Medical Director, Churchill Downs Incorporated) and Dr. Scott Palmer (Equine Medical Director, New York State Gaming Commission).

Leading off the 1-hour discussion was the necessity of the transparency in medical records and who should have access to the information.

“Some of the information in racing is used exclusively for a regulatory purpose, while some information is intended for use by racing stakeholders and other information is prepared for

public distribution,” said Dr. Palmer. “With these different audiences and needs we have to be attentive to those differences and our information needs to be packaged for each of them.”

Regarding how much information should be available, he added, “Overall, we do have a philosophy in our commission to be very transparent. And there are the folks, and I would be included in this category, who are on a ‘need to know’ basis for the information but you’re often in conflict with those that fall into the ‘want to know’ basis. Trying to reconcile these two perspectives is a challenge.”



Dr. Dionne Benson | *Veronica Branson/RTIP*

Offering the view of the same issue from a private practitioner’s perspective, Dr. Carpenter added, “I think the regulatory body in whatever state you are working in should have access to everything you do. I think you should be very accurate on how you record your information, not only in terms of your paperwork and the interactions with the California Horse Racing Board, but also the conversations with the regulatory vets. I found that’s the best way to develop a working relationship that puts the horses’s best interest first.”

He continued, “Where it’s a bit different for me is when dealing with the ‘want to know’ group. It’s what you make public to the general public. That’s tough because there’s a lot of conversations taking place with the trainer or the owner about the diagnostic approach to that horse that, without the context of the conversation, it gets lost. So people can start drawing inferences and assumptions that are not correct because it tells the story they may want to tell. Regarding the transparency to the public, I don’t think the nitty gritty details are important. But a summary is fine.”

Dr. Farmer, the former official veterinarian for the CHRB, was appointed to his post at Churchill Downs last fall.

Cont. p10

Noting some of the challenges stemming from the differing amount of information received in his posts, past and present, he said, “I think it is a team approach where, from the association side working with the regulatory body, to be able to work together. We don’t get to see the confidentials, but what we have done at our Churchill properties are acquire the exams prior to entries, so that we do get to see because those are our house rules. But with regards to the individuals treatments, we don’t see those. So there is a hole from our side, so by working closely with the regulatory body, we hope to complete that picture.”

Addressing how the availability of medical records can influence rule enforcement within a jurisdiction, Dr. Palmer offered, “Rules can sometimes be difficult to enforce and there are often points of conflict or contention that can occur. To give an example, right now [in New York] we are doing quite a bit of hair testing on horses that had been in the custody of trainers that were indicted for the alleged use of illegal medication. So we are compiling a large number of test results for these horses and at the same time, we require all the owners to provide medical records on their horses from December 2019 to the day they had their hair test done. We will be comparing those medical records with treatment records with our test results, and if everything lines up, then we have no problem. But if we have evidence of a prescription drug in a horse and there is no prescription or medical record that a veterinarian gave the drug, then that record represents an area of exposure for that trainer for regulatory action. A person can get away with a lot for a period of time, but there comes the moment when they get caught up in regulatory process and there are enormous consequences as a result.”

“These things are enforceable. It’s not a perfect system but it’s a good system.”

Dr. Farmer, who also served as an out-of-competition coordinator and consultant for the Breeders’ Cup, underscored the importance of developing a system of uniform record keeping to facilitate both the delivery of information relating to the enforcement of rules.

“At Churchill Downs, the volume of information that is coming in on a continual basis is enormous,” he said. “And then trying to decipher handwriting and what was the intention can be really challenging. So we need to look towards a consensus of an electronic medical record that is consistent across the board.”

One of the ways the Midatlantic regulatory group has tried to address equine welfare in the region is information (Horse Health Record) that is required to accompany all horses transferred in ownership through claiming.

“We are talking about continuity of care and trying to provide core information from the claiming trainer to the claimant, so

the horses has the best chance that their new caretaker is going to be able to make informed medical decisions about these horses,” explained Dr. Palmer. “The justification for this is we have epidemiological data that horses that are claimed are at increased risk for fatal musculo-skeletal injury for at least 30 days after the claim. We feel part of that risk can be mitigated if the new trainer gets appropriate medical information on the horse to make better medical decisions in terms of health care. We think it’s a critical piece of information.”

Dr. Benson later asked the group on their thoughts on the optimal time to start keeping a horse’s records and the importance of keeping those records throughout the lifetime of the horse.

“I believe it begins on the farm,” opined Dr. Carpenter. “There are a lot of things that take place prepping for a yearling sale or a 2-year-old in Training sale that would be very valuable information for a racetrack practitioner. We often deal with the end-product of the sale’s arena. The more complete the medical record is, the better it is for us and even more importantly, the best thing for the horse.”

In the second half of the group discussion, the need to monitor horses between starts took center stage.

“We went through a rough time in California about a year ago and fortunately, through that time, came a lot of really good,” said Dr. Carpenter. “One of things that started because of monitoring was the requirement for a horse to be examined by the veterinarian within five days of a work or three days of entering in a race. That has been really great. It’s allowed the veterinarian to be part of the conversation more. The other thing is there have been vets on the racetrack watching horses train in the mornings. As a vet on the backside, we generally don’t have time to do this on our own. As we have developed our relationship with the vets, it has allowed us to identify things and have that second set of eyes watching a horse.”

When dealing with a large volume of horses and vast array of moving parts at various locations, Dr. Palmer pointed to the creation of the Racing Risk Management Program in New York which assesses a horse’s risk factor while breaking it down at four different levels—unraced horses that are 4-year-olds and older; all horses that have had 120 days or longer layoff; horses that have accumulated 80 or more high-speed furlongs prior to a start; and horses that have been on the vet’s list.

“This out of competition scrutiny is really important and the more of it we can do, the better,” he said. “Also, if we can use technology to help us do this, that’s one way to address the scope of the problem which is enormous, since we cannot put a regulatory veterinarian at every training center and racetrack, I think using the technology of the Jockey Club’s database and Encompass software is incredibly helpful.” **Cont. p11**

The next webinar in the series featuring--Track Surfaces: International standards for racing surfaces and the expansion of the Maintenance Quality System--will be held May 26. Presiding over the segment is Dr. Mick Peterson, Executive Director, Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory; Professor, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at the University of Kentucky.

The free webinars are accessible each week [here](#). Viewers will be able to ask questions through the Zoom webinar platform. All sessions start at 2 p.m. ET.

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PANDEMIC PLANS FOR TRACK REOPENINGS ABSENT FROM NYSGC MEETING

by T.D. Thornton

The New York State Gaming Commission (NYSGC) teleconference meeting Tuesday resulted in the adoption of four new Thoroughbred-related rules and the proposal of two others.

Even though it was the NYSGC's first meeting since the COVID-19 crisis halted the state's racing industry in March, the five commissioners who participated did not discuss the pandemic or any aspect of return-to-racing plans for New York tracks.

The only time the coronavirus got an oblique mention was during the reading into the record of a proposed emergency rule regarding changing qualifying race requirements for Standardbreds.

There was no reference to what might happen with the summer race meet at Saratoga, no talk about safety protocols for the abbreviated spring/summer meet at Belmont Park, and no mention of when Finger Lakes might be up and running.

The proceedings stuck strictly to a follow-the-moderator format, as none of the agenda items sparked even a word of commentary from the commissioners, who collectively cast verbatim voice votes in the affirmative for all 10 rule-making motions.

Adopted as new Thoroughbred rules were items:

- Allowing a claimant to void a claim of a Thoroughbred that is discovered after the race to have become lame or experienced epistaxis due to exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage.
- Allowing horses to race in New York with digital tattoos.
- Allowing tracks to disclose multi-race wager will-pay and live-tickets information to the betting public that had previously been prohibited.
- Amending regulations concerning intra-articular treatments in Thoroughbred racing to 1) restrict the time period for the use of corticosteroid joint injections

to 14 days from the current restriction of seven days before a race; 2) restrict the time period for the intra-articular injection of any substance to a Thoroughbred to match the proposal of a 14-day restricted time period for a corticosteroid joint injection before a horse's next race; and 3) to require that Thoroughbred trainers maintain and submit accurate records within 48 hours of the treatment.

Proposed as new rules and sent out for public comment were items that would:

- Restrict the administration of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such that only one clinical dose may be administered during the week before the horse races. The proposal would limit the administration to the intravenous route, and adopt stricter thresholds for the two most commonly used NSAIDs, flunixin and phenylbutazone, as has been recommended by the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium and adopted as a model rule by the Association of Racing Commissioners International. The proposal also reduces the list of NSAIDs that could be administered lawfully within one week before the horse races to only three by eliminating the NSAIDs that are not widely used and for which the appropriate lab threshold is unclear.
- Allow a horse eligible for Lasix administrations to be removed from the Lasix list for the limited purpose of running in a race whose conditions forbid the administration of furosemide on race day. If Lasix-free races get carded later this year by NYRA as anticipated, the rule would permit the horse's trainer to request reinstatement to the Lasix list after the race without having to re-apply for the Lasix list with the eligibility criteria (including demonstrating another bleeding episode) being re-established. Without the proposed rule amendment, the horse could not run in a no-race-day-Lasix race unless it left the Lasix list, and the horse would need to re-apply for the Lasix list after having raced without the drug.

At the conclusion of the rule-making, commissioner Peter Moschetti, who was acting as moderator at the request of chairman Barry Sample, briefly brought up the topic of whip reform under the "old business" agenda item.

The NYSGC had not discussed possible changes to whipping rules since its December 2019 meeting, when staffers were "directed to discuss the proposed California crop use proposal with the NYRA jockey colony and with other leading regulatory jurisdictions and report back at a future commission meeting."

Cont. p12

Despite that directive, whip use did not get brought up the next time the NYSGC met in February for a meeting that lasted 6 minutes and 40 seconds.

Again on Tuesday, whip reform did not make the cut.

“Considering the length of today’s agenda [32 minutes] and the fact that crop use discussion continues among racing industry stakeholders, I think it would be best to defer the discussion to the next meeting,” Moschetti said. “I think we’re all looking forward to that discussion.”

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INDIANA GRAND RELEASES REVISED STAKES SCHEDULE



Indiana Grand | Coady

Indiana Grand Racing & Casino has released its revised condition book and stakes schedule for the 2020 season. Both are contingent upon the approval of the Indiana Horse Racing Commission on the recently proposed racing dates of a 94-day season beginning Monday, June 15 and finishing Wednesday, Nov. 18.

The Thoroughbred stakes calendar is highlighted by the GIII Indiana Derby and GIII Indiana Oaks that will move to July 8 as a part of a six-stakes program. The Indiana Derby purse has been changed to \$300,000, and the distance changed to 1 1/8 miles, while the Oaks will remain the same at \$200,000 and 1 1/16 miles.

"These unprecedented times have given us many challenges yet some opportunities as well," said Eric Halstrom, Vice President and General Manager of Racing. "We're grateful to Churchill Downs for including our signature stakes' in the Kentucky Derby qualifying points system in this unique year. And while it will be a different on-track experience when holding the

race on a Wednesday afternoon we think it's the best spot to avoid conflict with other important 3-year-old races and maximize handle opportunities on the national racing scene."

The revised Thoroughbred stakes calendar consists of 34 stakes worth \$3.2 million in purses.

"We had to make some tweaks to the previously released stakes calendar in order to account for the condensed meet and interruption in our business," said Kevin Greely, Director of Racing. "But we're happy to bring back our overnight races at 2019 levels and only needed slight modifications to the stakes program to do so. We'll see how some of these changes fare in 2020 and use that as a basis for our overnight and stakes program in 2021."

The revised condition book and stakes schedule will be published online at www.IndianaGrand.com and www.equibase.com.

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UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Track</u>
May 23	GII Charles Whittingham S.	Santa Anita
	GIII Daytona S.	Santa Anita
	GIII Matt Winn S.	Churchill
May 25	GI Gamely S.	Santa Anita
	GI Shoemaker Mile S.	Santa Anita
May 30	GII Monrovia S.	Santa Anita
	GIII Old Forester Mint Julep S.	Churchill
	GIII Winning Colors S.	Churchill
May 31	GIII Honeymoon S.	Santa Anita
	GII Santa Maria S.	Santa Anita

Click [here](#) to access the TDN graded stakes calendar.

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2020 Leading Dirt Sires by Earnings

for stallions standing in North America through Monday, May 18

Earnings and Black-type represents North American & European figures & stud fees are for 2020

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Into Mischief <i>(2005) by Harlan's Holiday Crops: 9</i>	9	20	3	6	--	--	172	45	300,000	3,033,307
										<i>Authentic</i>	
2	Munnings <i>(2006) by Speightstown Crops: 7</i>	7	9	5	6	--	--	111	30	420,000	2,464,559
										<i>Warrior's Charge</i>	
3	Curlin <i>(2004) by Smart Strike Crops: 9</i>	6	14	3	9	--	1	128	43	190,034	2,250,258
										<i>Lady Apple</i>	
4	Mucho Macho Man <i>(2008) by Macho Uno Crops: 3</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	36	10	1,662,000	1,998,544
										<i>Mucho Gusto</i>	
5	Uncle Mo <i>(2008) by Indian Charlie Crops: 6</i>	4	9	4	6	--	1	104	38	377,400	1,989,804
										<i>Modernist</i>	
6	Tapit <i>(2001) by Pulpit Crops: 13</i>	4	9	3	7	--	--	112	27	220,000	1,756,692
										<i>Enforceable</i>	
7	Speightstown <i>(1998) by Gone West Crops: 13</i>	4	6	2	3	1	1	82	27	367,200	1,756,362
										<i>Charlatan</i>	
8	Blame <i>(2006) by Arch Crops: 7</i>	1	3	1	3	1	1	53	13	1,053,000	1,621,262
										<i>Nadal</i>	
9	Goldencents <i>(2010) by Into Mischief Crops: 3</i>	1	2	1	1	--	--	95	26	628,200	1,570,405
										<i>By My Standards</i>	
10	Quality Road <i>(2006) by Elusive Quality Crops: 7</i>	5	11	2	5	--	--	89	30	120,000	1,561,845
										<i>Captain Scotty</i>	
11	Lookin At Lucky <i>(2007) by Smart Strike Crops: 7</i>	1	3	1	2	--	--	63	13	816,600	1,453,813
										<i>Wells Bayou</i>	
12	Congrats <i>(2000) by A.P. Indy Crops: 11</i>	--	6	--	2	--	--	136	43	81,000	1,410,576
										<i>O Seraphina</i>	
13	Constitution <i>(2011) by Tapit Crops: 2</i>	2	6	1	4	1	2	42	14	598,300	1,386,948
										<i>Tiz the Law</i>	
14	Malibu Moon <i>(1997) by A.P. Indy Crops: 18</i>	2	5	--	1	--	--	106	28	127,500	1,379,978
										<i>Pioneer Spirit</i>	
15	Paynter <i>(2009) by Awesome Again Crops: 4</i>	2	4	--	1	--	--	102	28	136,989	1,367,183
										<i>Ring Leader</i>	

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NORTH AMERICAN RACING



SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

Conveyance (Indian Charlie), Buck Pond Farm, \$3,500
69 foals of racing age/7 winners/1 black-type winner
8-Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 6f, BABY BROTHER, 20-1
\$2,000 KEE SEP yrl

Crash Course (Candy Ride {Arg})

7 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
4-Will Rogers Downs, Msw 1m, AIN'T NO FOOL, 10-1

Khozan (Distorted Humor), Journeyman Stud, \$8,500

130 foals of racing age/31 winners/2 black-type winners
8-Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 6f, BABY BOOMER, 10-1
\$1,000 OBS OCT yrl; \$19,000 OBS OPN 2yo

Lockout (Limehouse)

6 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
4-Will Rogers Downs, Msw 1m, BADADDATUD, 8-1



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STAKES RESULTS:

CHEROKEE NATION CLASSIC CUP S., (NB) \$55,000, Will Rogers
Downs, 5-19, (S), 3yo/up, c/g, 1 1/16m, 1:44.03, ft.

1--**UNITED PATRIOT**, 118, r, 5, Flat Out--**Kim D**, by **With Approval**. (\$60,000 Wlg '15 KEENOV; \$85,000 RNA Ylg '16 FTKJUL; \$110,000 Ylg '16 FTKOCT; \$155,000 2yo '17 BARMAR).

O-Foos, Larry and Cartmill, Troy; B-Center Hills Farm (OK);
T-Michael E. Biehler; J-Lori Davina Biehler. \$33,000. Lifetime
Record: 28-10-1-5, \$282,410.

Baccari Bloodstock Sales Graduate

2--**Kwik**, 118, g, 4, Successful Appeal--Babe's Little Sis, by Victory
Gallop. O-Jeff Wyrick; B-Kelly Thiesing (OK); T-Jose Ibarra.
\$11,000.

3--**Gospel Abe**, 118, g, 8, Kipling--Mambo Music, by Mambo.
(\$2,000 Ylg '13 OKCYRL). O-Toby Ferrell; B-Center Hills Farm
(OK); T-Jory Ferrell. \$6,050.

Margins: 3 1/4, 5 3/4, NK. Odds: 1.90, 20.20, 21.90.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

5th-Will Rogers Downs, \$26,400, (S), 5-19, (C), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f,
1:10.66, ft.

SWEET MARY M (f, 3, **Alternation--So Sweet**, by **More Than Ready**) Lifetime Record: 9-3-3-0, \$84,799. O/B-Hal Browning &
Dave Faulkner (OK); T-Kari Craddock.



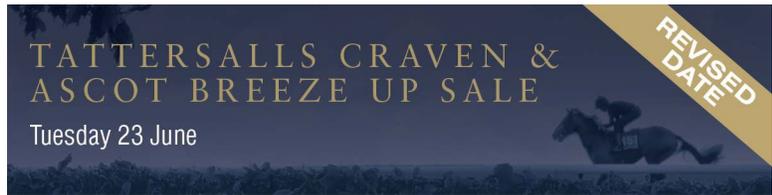
ALTERNATION, Sweet Mary M, f, 3, o/o So Sweet, by More Than
Ready. ALW, 5-19, Will Rogers

FLAT OUT, United Patriot, r, 5, o/o Kim D, by With Approval.
Cherokee Nation Classic Cup S., 5-19, Will Rogers

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RACING OFF IN PARIS, 'RED ZONES' OF FRANCE



Racing at ParisLongchamp and other courses in 'red zones' is once again on hold | Scoop Dyga

After eight days of racing behind closed doors since resuming on May 11, racing has once again been called off in France's 'red zone' areas--Ile-de-France, Hauts-de-France, Grand-Est and Bourgogne-Franche-Comte, which comprise Paris and its surrounding areas--with a government decree expected to be published in the coming days specifying that racing can continue in the country's 'green zones,' but not the red. The meetings affected over the next week are ParisLongchamp (Thursday and Sunday), Strasbourg (Thursday), Fontainebleau and Compiègne (Friday), Saint-Cloud (Monday) and Auteuil (Tuesday). Other courses in red zones include Maisons-Laffitte, La Croix Laroche, Amiens, Wissembourg, Nancy and Vittel.

France Galop is working on plans to rearrange the May and June calendars and relocate the affected fixtures. Changes through this weekend include the movement of the two ParisLongchamp meetings to Deauville; the Fontainebleau meeting will move to Vichy and Compiègne to Dieppe. Thursday's Strasbourg meeting has been postponed with a new date to be announced soon.

A joint release from France Galop and LeTROT read in part, "While the resumption of racing is reinforced by this decree to be published, the parent companies and the Federation Nationale des Courses Hippiques deeply regret that the racecourses located in the red zones cannot operate as they have done since May 11." **Cont. p2**

IRELAND TO STAGE FULL PATTERN PROGRAMME

Despite the delayed start to the flat season, Ireland will maintain its full group-race programme for 2019, Horse Racing Ireland revealed on Tuesday when it published the group and listed races and premier handicaps for the year. The majority of the country's Group 1 races remain in their original spots with the exception of the G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup, which moves to July 26 and is now open to horses aged three and up; it was previously for 4-year-olds and older.

Racing resumes in Ireland behind closed doors on June 8, and as previously announced the Classic season will kick off with the G1 Irish 2000 Guineas on June 12 followed by the G1 Irish 1000 Guineas the next day. The G1 Irish Derby and G1 Irish Oaks remain in their original slots on June 27 and July 18, respectively, as does G1 Irish St Leger on Sept. 13 on Irish Champions Weekend. **Cont. p2**

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

GI BELMONT S. SET FOR JUNE 20

The GI Belmont S., set to be held at nine furlongs, will take place on June 20, 2020. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.**



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Racing Off In Paris, 'Red Zones' Of France Cont. from p1

“The reinforced closed-door protocol and all sanitary measures have also been scrupulously respected since the resumption of racing on May 11. Regular controls have been carried out and have not revealed any problems. However, the parent companies take note of this decision, which regulates the conditions for the resumption of horse racing, and will apply the new directives from Thursday. Some prefectures, such as Paris, have already anticipated the publication of the decree by notifying France Galop and LeTROT this morning of the decision to prohibit the opening of their racecourses.”

A Tuesday evening Tweet from France Galop President Edouard de Rothschild read, “inexplicable and irrational. I will not give up. I am proud of your exemplary behaviour behind closed doors since May 11 and the colossal work provided by our teams for more than two months. Responsive we are and we will be. Long live our races.”

France Galop Chief Executive Officer Olivier Delloye tweeted: “I hoped our contingency plans would not be necessary but they will for the forthcoming weeks. B-plan to be released soon. No fixture will be lost: racing goes on but we need to adapt to fast-changing (and hard to read) rules.”

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Ireland To Stage Full Pattern Programme Cont. from p1

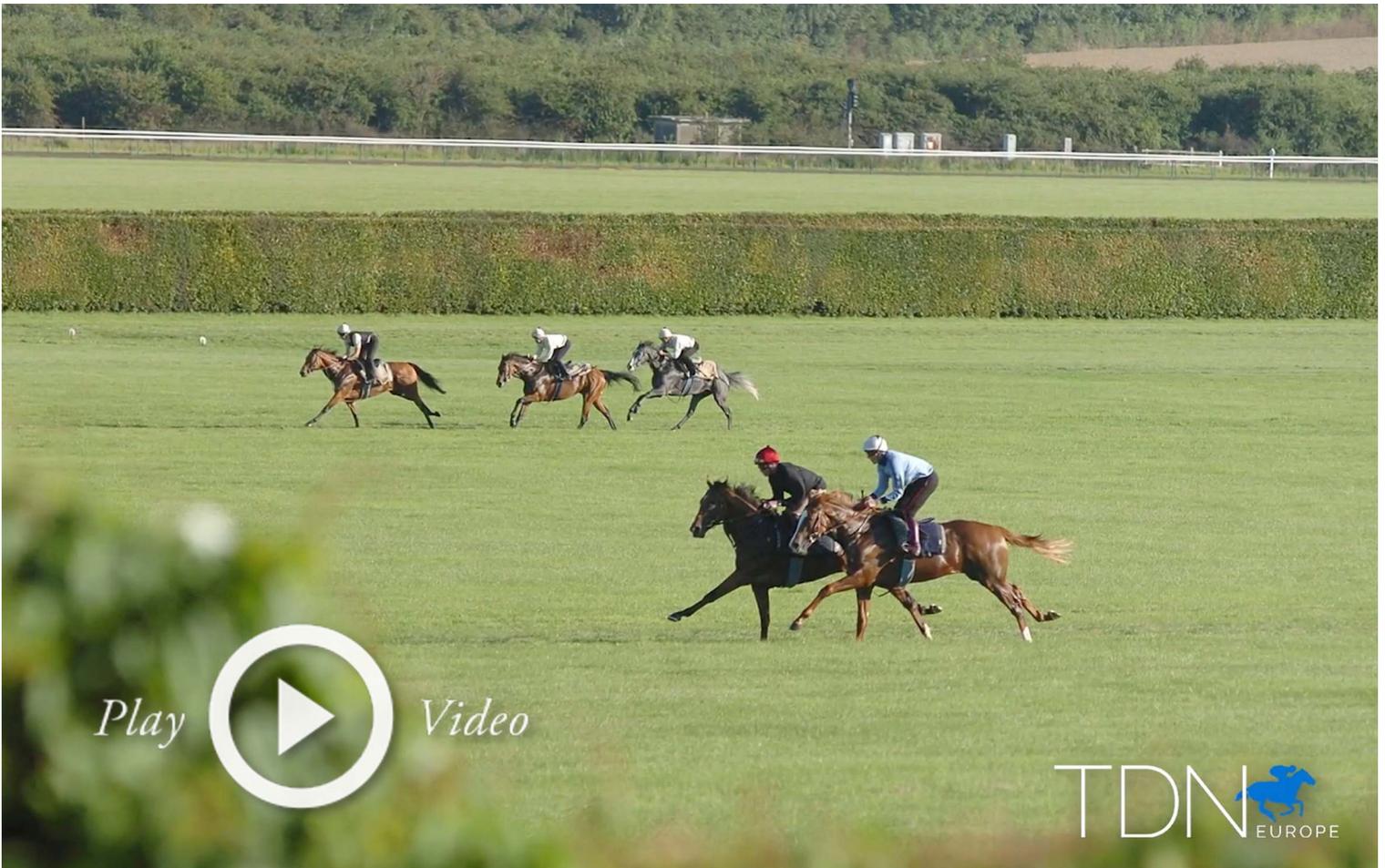
The 2-year-old pattern will begin in early July. [Click here](#) for the updated pattern and listed race and premier handicap and nurseries schedule.

Racing in Ireland was held behind closed doors from Mar. 13 to 24, after which it was suspended as the country went into lockdown due to COVID-19. Eighty-seven fixtures were lost.

“The revised list of pattern races published today will see many of them run on their original dates and under their typical conditions, though inevitably some have had date, race conditions and even venue changes to allow them fit into the new schedule,” said Brian Kavanagh, chief executive of HRI. “Apart from the three Group 1 races normally run on Guineas weekend, all other Group 1 races in Ireland will be run on their originally scheduled dates and venues.”

“The 2-year-old group race programme will start about six weeks later than normal, in early July, but again the full complement of opportunities will be run between then and season end; 2020 will be anything but a normal year, but in the circumstances we have tried to preserve the opportunities which the Irish race programme offers to the better horse.”

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In Tour of Newmarket Heath, Part Three, John Berry shows us around the Limekilns and The Links. [Watch here.](#)



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IFFRAAJ LEAVING HIS MARK ON THE ANTIPODES *By Heather Anderson*

Rare are the horses that go to stud that actually prove their worth as stallions. Rarer still are those that make an impact in more than one racing jurisdiction. Darley's **Iffraaj (GB)** (Zafonic), is one such exemplary individual. With time called on his **Southern Hemisphere service** as his son **Ribchester (Ire)** takes the reins at Haunui Farm in New Zealand, it's worth taking a look at the elder's record in Australasia as he makes Darley's Dalham Hall Stud in Britain his permanent base.

Bred by Darley, and raced in the silks of Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid al Maktoum and later on Godolphin, the 2005/2006 G2 Park S. hero was a close head second in the G1 July Cup. **Also a winner of the G2 Lennox S.**, Iffraaj stood at Darley's Kildangan Stud from 2007-2014 and moved to Dalham Hall in 2015, where he commands £30,000 this term. His annual Southern Hemisphere sojourns to Haunui began in 2008, with a 2019 asking price of NZ\$25,000 in what became his final season.

The sire of G1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere hero and Haras d'Etreham sire-on-the-rise **Wootton Bassett (GB)** from his first Northern Hemisphere crop in 2008, Iffraaj has sired 71 black-type winners worldwide with 35 group winners. Four of his 10 total Group 1 winners were bred on Southern Hemisphere time, with G1 Al Quoz Sprint victor and young Telemon Thoroughbreds stallion Jungle Cat (Ire) also successful in the G1 Sir Rupert Clarke S. in Australia. From his 697 Southern Hemisphere foals, 26 black-type winners (12 at group level) have appeared.

When his first Southern Hemisphere juveniles hit the racecourses in the 2011/2012 season, there were five winners from 19 runners in Australia and New Zealand highlighted by the G2 Matamata Breeders' Cup S. runner-up **Liberating (NZ)**. His **Twilight Granita (NZ)** also placed twice at the listed level in her native land. [Cont. p4](#)



Iffraaj | Darley

IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

MIRUNNERS BUYS EVEREST SLOT

miRunners have purchased CPI's The Everest Slot. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)

Iffraaj Cont.

Once that cohort turned three, the latter became Iffraaj's first SH black-type winner in the Listed Fordell O'Leary Fillies S., and later that season reported home second in the G1 New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' S. in April of 2013. After placing third in the G1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas, **Fix (NZ)** went on to take the G2 Eight Carat Classic, the first of three consecutive Group 2 contests prior to a runner-up performance in the 2013 2400m G1 New Zealand Derby. She was named the NZB Filly of the Year for the '12/'13 season. A win in the G3 Mr. Tiz Trophy by **So Wotif (NZ)** and two more listed winners—one of them NZB Southern Filly of the Year **If I Can I Can (NZ)**—helped vault Iffraaj way up the New Zealand Sires' List to 10th by the end of the racing year. The versatile bay was also named champion second-crop sire.

Although the 2013/2014 racing season yielded only listed winner **Kisses (NZ)**, who had scored at that level the year prior, Iffraaj still finished 16th in the sires' standings and was the leading sire of 2-year-old winners. **Franzac (NZ)** was only a half-length shy of Group 1 glory in the G1 Levin Classic. **Riding Shotgun (NZ)** just missed when runner-up in the lucrative Listed Karaka Million and **Iffwedance (NZ)** completed the trifecta in the G3 Manatu Classic.

With his oldest progeny only 5-year-olds, Iffraaj took fourth at the end of the season in the NZ sire standings on the back of five black-type winners and was also the leading sire of 3-year-olds. His sire's best runner in the Southern Hemisphere, New Zealand Champion Sprinter/Middle Distance horse **Turn Me Loose (NZ)** captured the G2 Hawke's Bay Guineas in October of 2014, before becoming his sire's first Southern Hemisphere Classic scorer in the Nov. 8 one-mile G1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas. It would not be Iffraaj's only Classic winner that season, as the aforementioned Iffwedance struck in the Listed New Zealand St. Leger. On the distaff side, Iffraaj's **Serena Miss (NZ)** saluted in the G2 Matamata Breeders' S., while MSW **Belle Miraaj (NZ)** ran third in the G1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas and **Sardaaj (NZ)** was second by just a head in the G1 Levin Classic.

As a 3-year-old, Serena Miss took third in the New Zealand 2000 Guineas after a Group 2 win in October, the same position as her sire in the sires' standings by the end of the 2015/16

season. Kisses further boosted Iffraaj's group winners, taking the G3 Taranaki Breeders' S. The juveniles **Wyndspelle (NZ)** and **Xiong Feng (NZ)** completed the exacta in the G1 Sistema Diamond S. and won the Karaka Million, respectively, while granting their patriarch the title of leading sire of 2-year-olds. There would also be new ground broken for Iffraaj in Australia.

Turn Me Loose added the G2 Crystal Mile across the Tasman in October of 2015, prior to Group 1 scores in the G1 Emirates S. a month later and in the G1 Futurity S. in February of 2016. Also in Australia, listed winner **Who Dat Singa (NZ)** would run second in the G2 WATC Derby.

The 2016/17 racing season resulted in the first of consecutive New Zealand Sires' Championship silver medals for Iffraaj. **The Soutaker (NZ)** (Bulb Elite in Hong Kong), won the G3 Bonecrusher S. in mid-September, one of seven stakes winners that season and **Order Again (NZ)** saluted in the G3 Grand Prix S. The G2 Waikato Guineas and G2 Avondale Guineas went to the colt **Wyndspelle** and gelding **Gingernuts (NZ)**, respectively in February, sandwiching a runner-up performance by Turn Me Loose in the G1 C F Orr S. before a stud career began for that veteran at Windsor Park Stud.

The tangerine and blue Te Akau Racing silks were carried by Gingernuts to win the G1 New Zealand Derby in March of 2017, with Iffraaj also siring the third horse home—Jan. 14 G1 Levin Classic third **Jon Snow (NZ)**, completing a NZ Triple

Crown for the Haunui stalwart. However, this duo would add three group victories in Australia later in the season to their sire's resume—Gingernuts captured the G1 Rosehill Guineas on May 18, and first the Mar. 25 G2 Tulloch S. and then the Apr. 1 G1 ATC Derby went the way of Jon Snow, as Iffraaj's progeny scored 11 times at black-type level in Australasia that season.

During the SH autumn, Gingernuts added the G1 Windsor Park Plate to his haul in September of 2017 and was a nose second in October's G1 Livamol Classic before an injury derailed his racing career. Jon Snow's Australian raids continued with a win in the G3 JRA Cup and he ran with credit to be third in the G1 Caulfield S., while Wyndspelle was third in the G1 Cantala S. Back in New Zealand, juvenile filly **Melt (NZ)** claimed the G3 Eclipse S. on New Year's Day, while GSP **Astor (NZ)** became a listed winner that March. [Cont. p5](#)



Turn Me Loose | Bronwen Healy

Iffraaj Cont.

Even though his later seasons have not brought out quite as many stakes winners, Iffraaj still finished a very good sixth in the sires' standings in the '18/'19 NZ racing year, as Melt added another Group 3 win, and rolled a pair of twos in the Oct. 6 G2 Hawke's Bay Guineas and Nov. 17 G1 Manuatu Sires Produce S. The consistent duo of Jon Snow (Makybe Diva S./Zabeel Classic)—now a stallion at Clearview Park Stud—and Wyndspelle (Windsor Park Plate/Harcourts Thorndon Mile/Haunui Farm WFA Group 1 Classic) were other top-flight placers that year. **Deals in Heels (NZ)** also captured the Listed Matamata Cup and was group placed, while **Who Dares Wins (NZ)** landed the G3 Canterbury Gold Cup and GSW Order Again added another Group 3 level in the Rough Habit Plate.

In this coronavirus-abbreviated season—New Zealand racing ceased on Mar. 24 and is due to begin on July 3—Iffraaj sired his fourth SH Group 1 winner when Wyndspelle took the Captain Cook S. in December. The entire was second in both the G1 Tazino Trophy at the end of August in 2019 and also filled that position in the Jan. 18 G1 Harcourts Thorndon Mile before being retired with a stallion career in the cards. His sire currently sits in 14th position on the New Zealand Sires' List.



Melody Belle | Trish Dunell

Although it is early days yet, Iffraaj's single black-type winner as a Southern Hemisphere broodmare sire is in the form of New Zealand Horse of the Year and 10-time Group 1 winner **Melody Belle (Aus)** (Commands {Aus}). Out of Iffraaj's winning daughter Meleka Belle (NZ), she was named the 2017 New Zealand Champion 2-year-old and the 2019 New Zealand Champion Sprinter the same year as her Horse of the Year accolade. He is also represented by another three stakes-placed runners, among them **Centimental (Aus)** (Snitzel {Aus}), runner-up in the G3 Widden S.

Although his shuttling days are over, time is still on Iffraaj's

side, as his progeny have plenty of years to burnish their sire's reputation in Australasia.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

JUVENILE POLICY WILL NOW APPLY TO ALL TRAINERS

After the British Horseracing Authority released a policy to ensure that Royal Ascot's 2-year-old races were made up of the highest quality fields possible despite the challenges posed by the coronavirus on Friday, that scheme has now been tweaked to include all trainers after discussions with the National Trainers Federation and the Racehorse Owners Association, the BHA announced on Tuesday afternoon. The policy is intended to manage the demand for 2-year-old runs in the first eight days following the June 1 resumption of racing and was part of a [larger bulletin from the BHA's Resumption of Racing group](#). The BHA's statement read in part:

"In order to get into Ascot races, a previous run is likely to be necessary and the chances of getting one would normally be decided by random ballot. Under the policy, trainers are being asked to identify specific horses that they would like to see given priority against elimination from any division of the currently programmed 2-year-old races.

"The number of horses that can be selected by any trainer is based on their previous record with 2-year-olds in open maiden or novice races as well as the number of runners that they have had in Royal Ascot 2-year-old races in the last three years. The number of priority nominations resulting from this formula is relatively small per trainer, with 126 nominations spread across 50 trainers. This means that we would expect a further 225 places to be available in 2-year-old races in the first eight days for horses that have not been prioritised by their trainers, and qualification for these places will be by random ballot.

"Following further consultation with horsemen representatives it has now also been agreed that trainers that did not qualify for priority selections through this formula will be invited to make up to one selection should they feel that they have a horse that they consider to be an Ascot prospect."

Trainers will be contacted directly to let them know how they can submit a horse to be given priority against elimination in the first eight days of British racing's resumption. Any submission must be made by May 26, with the full list of submitted horses to be published on May 27.

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DEUTSCHER GALLOP RELEASES GERMAN FIXTURE LIST THROUGH AUGUST

The updated German fixture list, which has been modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was released by Deutscher Gallop on Tuesday. Previously, the racing calendar for Germany had been outlined through only June 15, as the nation begins to leave lockdown. The current safety precautions, which include racing without spectators, regional clustering and one event per calendar day, will also still apply. For the German racing calendar through Aug. 30, go to www.deutscher-galopp.de.

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GODOLPHIN FLYING START TRAINEES ANNOUNCED FOR 2020-2022

The 12 Godolphin Flying Start Trainees for 2020-2022 were announced on Tuesday. Split evenly between the sexes and hailing from Australia, France, Ireland, the UK and the USA, the dozen students will participate in the Thoroughbred Industry Management and Leadership Programme where they will study and work in Ireland, the UK, the USA, Australia and Dubai. The course is accredited by University College Dublin Michael Smurfit Business School as a Graduate Certificate in Management. The trainees are as follows:

- George Broughton, UK
- Samantha Bussanich, USA
- Devon Dougherty, USA
- Solène Hudbert, France
- Thomas Lyon-Smith, UK
- Donncha McCarthy, Ireland
- Erin McLaughlin, USA
- Marine Moussa, France
- Brigitte Murphy, Ireland
- Tom Murphy, Ireland
- Angus Robertson, Australia
- David Skelly, Ireland

For more information, go to www.godolphinFlyingstart.com.

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bringing on and selling ponies. That [background] taught me so much from assessing conformation and ability, to breaking in and educating youngsters.

At university, my lecturer at the time, Annie Bishop, was a massive influence. She had been a manager at some of the major studs and was the one who then encouraged me to go and work in Australia. This really ignited my passion for the breeding industry. She would also turn a blind eye if I wanted time off to work at the sales or go racing during term time.

What's the best advice you've been given and why did it stick with you?

AT: To take every opportunity and always try to make a good first impression. I think the latter is especially relevant within racing where you may only meet people briefly at the races, riding out or working at the sales. A good first impression goes a long way.

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Alice Thurtle | Tweenhills

THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORS

ALICE THURTLÉ

Who has been the biggest inspiration in your career and why?

AT: Tough question. There are so many inspirational people within the industry. For my own career, my parents are definitely responsible for my passion for horses and racing. I was riding before I could walk and spent most of my childhood



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OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

Acomb S. winner and GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf fourth Dundonnell (First Defence).

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HALF TO GROUP 1 WINNER SILASOL DEBUTS AT LA TESTE

11.25 La Teste de Buch, Mdn, €13,000, unraced 3yo, 10 1/2ft
Alain and Gerard Wertheimer's homebred **STAMINA (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB})** is out of G2 Prix de Sandringham third Stormina (Gulch) and thus a half-sister to G1 Prix Marcel Boussac and G1 Prix Saint-Alary victress Silasol (Ire) (Monsun {Ger}). Opposition to the Christophe Ferland trainee includes Godolphin's **Adept (GB) (Dubawi {Ire})**, who is a homebred daughter of G1 Epsom Oaks heroine Qualify (Ire) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), herself a 1.6-million guineas Tattersalls December purchase; Team Valor International's **Attendante (Fr) (War Command)**, who is a half-sister to GSW G1 Epsom Oaks, G1 Irish Oaks and G1 Prix de l'Opera placegetter Fleeting (Ire) (Zoffany {Ire}) from the Yan Durepaire stable; and Coolmore's **Landmark (Ire) (Gleneagles {Ire})**, who is a Jean-Claude Rouget-trained half-brother to G3

FRANCE

Tuesday's Results:

1st-Saint-Cloud, €20,000, Mdn, 5-19, unraced 3yo, f, 10 1/2ft, 2:14.31, gd.

CAMOGIE (IRE) (f, 3, Invincible Spirit {Ire}--Game Zone {Ire} {GSP-Fr}, by Hurricane Run {Ire}) was well away and occupied a handy role in third exiting the first turn in this unveiling. Making smooth progress off the home turn to launch her bid at the two pole, the 73-10 third choice led soon after and was ridden out in the latter stages to account for Caustic (Fr) (Wootton Bassett {GB}) by a comfortable four lengths. Seamia (GB) (Sea the Stars {Ire}), Alain and Gerard Wertheimer's homebred daughter of G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe heroine Solemia (Ire) (Poliglote {GB}), raced prominently until fading late and finishing eighth.

[Cont. p8](#)



Camogie (Invincible Spirit) winning on debut at Chantilly for Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum. Stephen Hillen purchased the filly for €220,000 from Monceaux at Arqana August in 2018. | *Scoop Dyga*

1st-Saint-Cloud Cont.

Kin to a yearling filly by Kodiak (GB), Camogie is the second foal and scorer produced by G3 Prix Minerve runner-up Game Zone (Ire) (Hurricane Run {Ire}), herself a half-sister to Listed Ben Marshall S. winner Roseman (Ire) (Kingman {GB}) out of a winning full-sister to G1 Coronation S. and G1 Prix Jacques Le Marois heroine Immortal Verse (Ire) (Pivotal {GB}). Sales history: €220,000 Ylg '18 ARAUG. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €10,000.

Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

1ST-TIME STARTER. O-Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum; B-Ecurie des Monceaux & Ecurie Skymarc Farm (IRE); T-Henri-Francois Devin.

2nd-Saint-Cloud, €20,000, Mdn, 5-19, unraced 3yo, c/g, 10 1/2ft, 2:14.48, gd.

DICK WHITTINGTON (FR) (g, 3, War Command--Loutka {Fr} {SW-Fr}, by Trempolino) was shuffled back through the pack after an alert getaway in this debut. Nudged along in eighth off the home turn, the near 28-1 outsider made relentless headway in the straight to lead with 150 metres remaining and powered 3 1/2 lengths clear of Civilian (GB) (Teofilo {Ire}) nearing the line for an impressive success. Coolmore's Royaume Uni (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), a son of G3 Preis der Winterkonigin victress Night Lagoon (Ger) (Lagunas {GB}), was never a factor and finished 11th. Dick Whittington becomes the second scorer produced by Listed Prix Urban Sea victress Loutka (Fr) (Trempolino), herself a half-sister to Listed Oak Tree Juvenile Fillies Turf S. winner She's Complete (Ire) (Oratorio {Ire}) out of the Listed Grosser Radeberger Pilsner Preis victress Arionella (GB) (Bluebird). The homebred bay is a half-brother to the hitherto unraced 2-year-old colt Going In Style (Ire) (Dream Ahead). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €10,000. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

1ST-TIME STARTER. O/B-Malcolm Parrish (FR); T-Yann Barberot.

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

3rd-Saint-Cloud, €22,000, Cond, 5-19, 3yo, c/g, 8ft, 1:41.84, gd.

KING PACHA (IRE) (c, 3, Acclamation {GB}--Regina Mundi {Ire} {SP-Itly}, by Montjeu {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 5-2-1-0, €31,700. O-NBH Racing; B-San Paolo Agri-Stud SRL & Rathbarr Stud (IRE); T-Fabrice Chappet. *€75,000 Wlg '17 ARQDEC; €150,000 Ylg '18 ARAUG. **1/2 to Rocques (Fr) (Lawman {Fr}), GSW-Fr.

4th-Saint-Cloud, €22,000, Cond, 5-19, 3yo, f, 8ft, 1:41.85, gd.

PENTAIADE (FR) (f, 3, Makfi {GB}--Piedra {Ire}, by Lawman {Fr}) Lifetime Record: 6-3-0-0, €30,250. O-Ecurie des Mouettes; B-Jean-Pierre-Joseph Dubois (FR); T-Andrea Marcialis.

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HIGH HEELS RACING SYNDICATE TO SUPPORT AU-DELA DES PISTES

High Heels Racing Syndicate, which closed its books after earning over €40,000 with 53% top-three finishes from 71 races, will donate its remaining funds of €3,000 to Au-Dela des Pistes. The latter is a non-profit organisation that promotes and helps with the welfare and re-homing of ex-racehorses in France. More than 600 horses have found new homes since it was founded in 2016.

"I would like to thank the incredible generosity of our numerous syndicate partners who did not hesitate a second to support the cause," said High Heels Racing Syndicate co-founder and joint-manager Amelie Lemerrier. "Without any doubt, I believe that rehoming and retraining of Thoroughbreds is an integral part of the racing industry and it is crucial for the durability of our sport. Being a committee member of Au-Dela des Pistes myself, I am delighted that the syndicate was able to help the charity."

Added Au-Dela des Pistes President and High Heels Racing Syndicate member Aliette Forien, "I would like to say a very big thank you to the High Heels Syndicate that chose to transfer the funds from the closure of its activities to our association."

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MIRUNNERS BUYS EVEREST SLOT



miRunners purchases GPI Racing's Everest slot | miRunners

By Bren O'Brien

miRunners announces its purchase of the GPI Racing Everest slot and has followed its proven micro-ownership model to offer slot units for sale to the public. The team behind miEverest are hopeful the model will help to grow the sport by making The Everest accessible to all and accessing those everyday Australians the industry currently struggles to reach.

Micro ownership company miRunners has purchased a slot in this year's \$15-million The Everest with 1000 shares to be offered to the public for \$880.

In a move which is set to open up the slotholding process to a whole new market, miRunners has purchased GPI Racing's slot for Australia's richest race, which will be held on Oct. 17 at Randwick.

It paid \$880,000 (inc GST) for the slot and will now offer 1000 shares, or miEverest slot units, with each unitholder entitled to a pro rata share of any prizemoney from The Everest.

A panel of four industry figures, form expert Daniel O'Sullivan, former Group 1-winning jockey Tye Angland, SKY Racing's Lizzie Jelfs and former international cricketer Mark Waugh, the husband of trainer Kim Waugh, will work to decide on which horses will be considered for the slot with unit holders also having a voting role in the selection process.

While The Everest has already generated huge engagement in racing in its first three years, with its slotholder concept fuelling interest in the months building up to the race, access to the slots has been out of the reach of the everyday racing fan.

For miRunners CEO Steve Brown, the opportunity to open up the slotholder experience to up to 1000 people is extremely exciting.

"The Everest has been a revelation for the industry in terms of the level of excitement and engagement it brings to the sport," Brown said. "However, slots are currently owned by either large corporations or wealthy individuals. By offering anyone the ability to participate, miEverest blows any elitist paradigm associated with the race wide open."

A Proven Formula

miRunners has been in action for just over two years, offering 1000-unit shares in premium horses, sourced through the top yearling sales and put under the care of leading trainers.

It's a model which allows a level of affordability to encourage a whole new ownership base to the thoroughbred industry and it has celebrated success already through winners such as Zoushack (Zoustar), Dusty Tycoon (Written Tycoon), Bellarine Beauty (Not A Single Doubt) and Shezawitness (Star Witness).

Dusty Tycoon competed in the Magic Millions 2YO Classic in January while Fixated (Hinchinbrook) raced in the \$2-million Inglis Millennium in February for his large syndicate of owners.

miRunners has now applied that ownership model to The Everest slot in order to try and provide the slotholder experience to a much wider audience.

"Purchasing The Everest slot and splitting it into affordable units is based on the same underlying goals and objectives of miRunners; to make the top end of horse ownership experiences accessible to everyone. Now miEverest takes this to a whole new level," Brown said. "In this COVID world, we really want to encourage groups to form up, position themselves for a bonding experience beyond anything they have done together before and buy their slot as a team."



Yes Yes Yes wins The Everest | Bronwen Healy



Greg & Barb Ingham | TDN AusNZ

“It’s a unique opportunity for social clubs, offices, sports teams, old school friends and groups of 10 mates to get together and spend \$88 each for their slice of the action--their piece of The Everest.

“We’ll be pushing out regular content to bring everyone along for the ride, allowing them to get to know their horse, their trainer and their background stories in detail.”

GPI Back the Initiative

Pre-registrations for the slot units opened on Tuesday, May 18 through miEverest.com.au, with the expectation that there will be considerable interest.

“I am particularly grateful to Greg and Barb Ingham of GPI Racing and Bruce Slade of Kestrel Thoroughbreds who negotiated the deal,” said Brown. “They were courted with higher offers throughout the slot negotiation process but demonstrated exemplary integrity by standing firm and held a strong belief in what we aim to achieve with miEverest.”

For Barb Ingham, the chance to sell the GPI Racing slot, with the potential of up to 1000 owners, was too good to refuse.

“We invested in this aspirational race to be part of one of the

most exciting opportunities Australian racing has to offer,” Ingham said. “We couldn’t be happier to sell our 2020 Everest slot to the miEverest team, as their model allows all Australians the unique opportunity to share in a rare world-class event that we have had the honour of experiencing.”

The concept has been endorsed by fellow slotholder and miRunners shareholder Max Whitby.

“Let me tell you as a slot holder in my own team, you will never experience a buzz quite like this. The build up to the race will completely consume you,” he said. “It is your chance to be a part of what is--in my opinion--the most adrenaline-charged sporting event on earth, in the running of the \$15-million Everest at Randwick. Your chance to do what Australians have always done, take on the wealthy and now compete against the kings.”

GPI Racing's slot last year was purchased at auction by Hong Kong businessman Bon Ho, who utilised it for his sprinter *Classique Legend* (Not A Single Doubt), who finished sixth. In 2018, *Le Romain* (Hard Spun {USA}) ran fourth under the GPI Racing slot, while in the inaugural running of The Everest, the Inghams' own champion *Chautauqua* (Encosta De Lago) took the slot and also ran fourth.

Ho has purchased the slot for the 2020 event from the Australian Turf Club, while the TAB last month confirmed that G1 TJ Smith S. winner *Nature Strip* (Nicconi) would run in its slot in 2020.

Click [HERE](#) to read today's edition of 

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