

Breckon Farms – Six of the Best Syndicate



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May 2017 Newsletter

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Hi there

Unfortunately Spandau Ballet continued to be dogged by bad draws and she was once again a little disappointing in her most recent race. This was on the 21st April at Alexandra Park, where she took her place in the Group 1 \$110,000 Woodlands Stud / Caduceus Club 2YO Fillies Classic, once again drawing the outside of the 2nd Row and got back in the field, to just battle in the run home and finish in 10th placing, some 17 lengths from the winner. It was decided after this race, despite the fact that she was holding No.9 in the Harness Jewels rankings, to turn Spandau Ballet out for a spell. It was thought that this would give her the best chance to improve her attitude and mature and strengthen-up as well, so Spandau Ballet has gone for a decent 4-month spell at Breckon Farms. Hopefully this time out now will be beneficial for Spandau Ballet and we will get to see an improved filly return for 3-year-old racing around Christmas time.

Your trotting filly Luby Lou is progressing very well in her pre-training and is set to return to the All Stars Stable in the first week of June. There continues to be very positive comments made around her, so hopefully there are some exciting times ahead, scheduled to start with a run in the Breeders Crown Heat at Addington on the 7th July. Your other trotting filly Deutz Doos is still spelling and is set to remain in the paddock until the 1st July.

The Vicars Daughter, The Peacemaker and Drizella all appear to be making good progress, with the former two looking set to attend the workouts at Cambridge on the 27th May, with Drizella a possibility to go the following week at Pukekohe.

It will be interesting to see The Vicars Daughter, The Peacemaker and possibly Drizella make their first public appearances over the next few weeks and then a little later Luby Lou should get in on the action.

Things are starting to hot up, so let's hope there are many exciting times ahead, as several of your fillies start their journeys towards making it to at least the workouts and trials, and maybe even to the races as well.

I hope you enjoy the read.

Here is the latest information on all your fillies:-

Trainer **Mark Purdon & Natalie Rasmussen** :-

Luby Lou (Muscle Hill – Luby Ann)

Having suffered a pulled hamstring muscle in a training mishap, Luby Lou was to have an enforced 3 months spell.

This was to give her time to recuperate from the injury and to receive some rehabilitation treatment.

Luby Lou was set to return to training on the 3rd April. As you would have seen from the photos last month, she looked very good in condition and in herself, so hopefully she is ready to carry on from where she was when the unfortunate incident occurred, as Mark has again reiterated just how much he likes Luby Lou.

Luby Lou is being pre-trained by Tim Trathen, who is a trainer in his own right from West Melton, before she joins the All Stars Stable proper and so it will be interesting to follow her progress once she arrives at the stable.

On the 11th May stable manager Michelle Neilson advised, "Tim was over here today and said she [Luby Lou] can't come back to All Stars now. I held my breath thinking something had happened, but then he said she's just lovely and coming along nicely, so I was relieved. He said he'll train her and Mark can drive her. Tim just loves her and thinks she's something special too. Her manners are good now. She was a bit of a handful when she first came to us. She's done a bit now and so we'll start doing a bit more with her. After the Jewels she will come back to Mark. Then we'll set her for the Breeders Crown Heat on the 7th July at Addington."

So after the Harness Jewels are staged at Ashburton on the 3rd June, Luby Lou will be transferred back to All Stars Stable and commence her more serious build up to making her race debut.

I will keep you posted with details of any workouts or trials she may have leading up to this, as details come to hand.

It certainly sounds as if there might be lots of excitement to come very soon.

Trainer **Barry Purdon** :-

Spandau Ballet (Bettor's Delight – Giveitawhirlgirl)

After attending the Auckland TC Trials at Alexandra Park, on the 8th April, where she finished in 3rd placing, Spandau Ballet was to race next at Alexandra Park, on the 21st April.

This was to be in the Group 1 \$110,000 Woodlands Stud/Caduceus Club 2YO Fillies Classic Mobile Pace, over 2200m. Spandau Ballet once again was to cop a horror draw at Barrier No.13, the outside of the 2nd Row; meaning that in 5 race starts she has drawn 8 – 14 – 14 – 8 - 13. This race was to be a capacity 13-horse field, in which Spandau Ballet was to be driven by Zac Butcher.

Zac took Spandau Ballet back off the gate at the start and immediately went across behind runners to get somewhere closer to the markers and settled 5-back in the one-off running line, with only three runners behind her. As Dontstopbelievin made the parked position down the back the first time, Spandau Ballet was then 6-back in the running line.

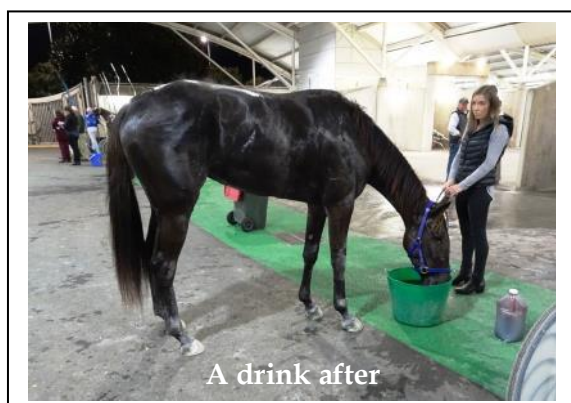
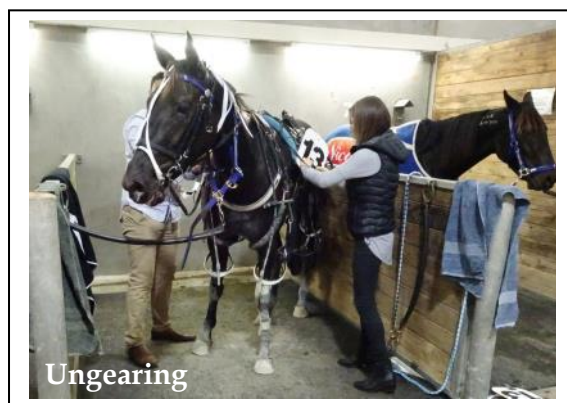
With about 1400m to run, Zac was about to take Spandau Ballet into the 3-wide line, but decided against it and stayed in until the favourite Elle Mac and also A Lister went forward 3-wide from behind him, so Zac then joined this 3-wide line with about 1150m to go. Unfortunately Spandau Ballet got shunted 4-wide at the 900m point, when Brent Mangos moved out abruptly on Purest Silk and Spandau Ballet was relegated to last.

Zac then followed Purest Silk down the back out 3-wide, but she was still a long way off them and just battled in the run home to finished in 10th placing, some 17 lengths from the winner.

The winner was Elle Mac, a Breckon Farms bred filly, in a time of 2:42.8 (MR 1:59.1), with the final 800m in 57.3 and the 400m in 29.1.

Zac said, "She went awful really. She's had enough. All those bad draws after her good first-up win have been too much for her. She needs to go to the paddock. I'll have to talk to Barry, but she's not good enough to go to Ashburton [for the Jewels]."

Here are some photos taken at Alexandra Park on the 21st April ...



The following week, Barry advised, "She probably almost got stage fright that first run and that's why she went so well, but she hasn't recaptured that. It's no use just carrying on and carrying on with her. I think its best we stop now. She's got an OK attitude, but can be a bit nasty; not that that's any real trouble. She just hasn't got a terrific attitude. She's not 100% with you. It's like she says, 'Do I have to do this?' and yes you do. She may improve her attitude and mature and strengthen-up as well, so I think we will give her a decent break of about 4 months. I'll send her back to the farm [Breckon Farms]."

So hopefully a good spell in the paddock will be beneficial for Spandau Ballet and we will see an improved filly return for 3-year-old racing around Christmas time. She has done well to win a race as a 2-year-old, as this is not always easy to do, but unfortunately she did not carry on, but did probably have a valid excuse in drawing so badly every single time she went to the races.

It is planned that Spandau Ballet will have May through to August having her break and return to training in September.

It was certainly a shame that she couldn't progress, as Spandau Ballet was ranked at No.9 on the Harness Jewels Leaderboard for the 2YO Diamond and it would have been exciting to see her there, but reality is that she will be far better off in the long run having her time out now to be given the chance to strengthen up and mature and hopefully be able to make a nice 3-year-old.

Spandau Ballet has been withdrawn from the Jewels and is now showing as such in the rankings on the Leaderboard.

Deutzy Doos (Muscle Hill – Love Ya Doosie)

Deutzy Doos was sent for a spell on the 30th January and headed to Breckon Farms for some rest and time to strengthen and mature.

She had made good progress in her training, but appeared a little weak, with this being put down to the fact that she is a late born foal, having been born on the 12th January.

Deutzy Doos has now been out in the paddock for 3½ months, so is already more than halfway through her scheduled approximately 5 months out.

She continues to do well during her spell to date and is set to have another 6 weeks out before she should be ready to return to training on the 1st July.

I'm sure this extended break now will give Deutzy Doos her best chance to grow, strengthen and mature, which ultimately will help her on her way to making it as a successful racehorse.

Trainer Mike Berger :-

The Vicars Daughter (Rocknroll Hanover – Vicario)

After returning to training on the 15th February, The Vicars Daughter has been generally pleasing Mike Berger in her training.

On the 21st April Mike advised, "She's doing OK. She's gone up in the rear again. She's going to be a big filly. It might be the middle of next month instead of the end of this month, before we know where we're going."

As Mike referred to, when young horses are growing, they often go up in the rear end first and then as they grow further the front end comes up to catch up and during this time it is considered best to give them their chance to grow up without too much pressure being put on them physically.

Today, the 16th May, Mike reported, "She worked 3:18 [for 2400m] this morning and the half [last 800m] in 61 [seconds] and I was pleased with her. I think we'll box on and get her qualified. We might look at going to the workouts, just in a Learners Heat, on Saturday week [the 27th May], here at Cambridge and if everything is OK, look to get her qualified after that."

So, as Mike has suggested, it is likely that The Vicars Daughter will attend the Cambridge Workouts on the 27th May and if this is to be, then I will confirm details to you when these are available.

It will be exciting to see her make her first public appearance.

The Peacemaker (Somebeachsomewhere – Stateofthenation)

The Peacemaker also returned to training on the 15th February, along with The Vicars Daughter and she too has been making good progress.

Mike also advised on the 21st April, "She too is doing OK, but as with The Vicars Daughter, it might be the middle of next month instead of the end of this month, before we know where we're going with her."

Then on the 28th April Mike advised, "The Peacemaker is still not steering right. She might be a little bit sore somewhere, that's making her not steer right and she's got a little splint just come out too. Sometimes they can get a bit sore with those, but it's nothing to worry about. I'll get my man to go over her and see if he can find anything else."

Mike's man couldn't find anything else wrong with The Peacemaker and the vet also flexed her joints and ran her up and down and couldn't find anything either. Her splint has come out and Mike said, "It's out and you don't have to worry about that. I've never seen one have trouble with a splint once it's out. I think her getting round might just be more of a nervous thing."

So Mike continued on with her work, before on the 12th May he advised, "The Peacemaker is still not steering straight and is getting her head around. I've got a half pole on her and she's quite settled. I want to go slowly with her and get her sorted, as she was a bit wayward early on and I don't want to undo all the good we have done. She worked 3:19 [for 2400m] this week and just jogged it, but we need to sort the steering out otherwise we'll come unstuck. She does have some ability, but we need her to be doing things right. I would like to get a full pole on her, but just want to do that slowly and get her accepting it without going backwards from where we are now. So it's going to be a bit longer than I thought, but it will be better to get it done properly."

Then today, the 16th May, Mike advised, "I buzzed her up a bit this morning and she worked 3:15 [for 2400m]. She just does it easy. I actually took the pole off this morning and she steered better, but she's still not perfect. I think she's better in behind [other horses] and with the pace on. With some fillies, they have things on and just don't like them and when you take them off they're better; she might be one of those. If she continues like this, then we'll probably look at going to the workouts here [at Cambridge] on Saturday week [the 27th May] and if all is OK she won't have much trouble qualifying after that."

Let's hope that The Peacemaker continues to make good progress over the next 10 days and is able to attend the Cambridge Workouts on the 27th May.

I will confirm this, with details, if it is to eventuate and I'm sure this will be an exciting time to possibly see two of your fillies make their first public appearance.

Trainer Geoff Small :-

Drizella (Bettor's Delight – Corbie)

Drizella was another who returned to training on the 15th February, after spelling at Breckon Farms.

Geoff has been just bringing her up slowly, not putting too much pressure on her too early and advised on the 28th April, "I've got the 'Go-straight's' [a type of spreader] on her, just to give her a bit more confidence. She's done quite a bit of strong work, but I didn't want to put the clock on her and pressure her. We'll see where we are in about 3 weeks and go from there. We will probably try and get her qualified and then maybe give her another spell, but we'll just see how she goes."

Then today, the 16th May, Geoff reported, "She's been working 3:25 and 3:30 [for 2400m], but I haven't really pressed her to run a half [last 800m]. She ran home in 30.5 [for the last 400m] this morning and the furlong [200m] in 14 and a bit [seconds] with a couple of skips. She's running halves in the 10 or 11 [70 or 71 seconds] bracket quite easily, but when you press the button she gets uncoordinated and clips a knee sometimes. She is quite willing and feels a little deeper than her sister (Cordelia, who won 2 races as a 3-year-old) that I had for Sandy [Yarndley, the breeder]. I'll put the proper spreaders on for a couple of weeks and if they make a big difference, then we will press on to the workouts on Saturday fortnight [3rd June]. If it doesn't, she will need a bit more time and best she is given a spell. If they can cope with it, they're OK, but if they can't you can do some damage. Because she was a handful to break-in, we haven't chased her up in her gear. She's still got a little streak in her. She's not nasty, but there's still a bit of that underlying. I've wanted to try things and be patient and let time help her too. She does feel like she's got something, so I don't want to ruin her by pressing on now if she's not handling it. She will develop more and has more room for development with her size. She is very willing and that should stand by her."

So, over the next couple of weeks we will find out where we are heading at this stage with Drizella and if she is indeed to make it to the workouts, I will confirm details to you should this eventuate.

Newsletters On the Website

Please remember, your monthly newsletters will also be displayed on the Breckon Farms Website, so you can access them whenever you wish, especially if you can't find them amongst your emails.

The Breckon Farms website address is:- www.breckonfarms.co.nz

Under the 'Syndicates' menu, click on 'Six of the Best Syndicate', then scroll to find your newsletters.

You may also enjoy reading some of the other sections contained within the website.

It appears that several of your fillies are making good progress and it won't be long before we see some more action on the track, initially at the workouts and trials and maybe even at the races. However, I always say we have to be patient and hopefully the rewards will come. I'm sure it won't be too long before we can all look forward to lots of fun and excitement.

So good luck and many more wins to come ...

Cheers

Rob



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