



**BRECKON**  
FARMS

## Breckon Farms - Super Seven Syndicate



**July 2015 Newsletter**

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Hi there

After having lots of exciting action at the elite level with High Gait (Regal) during May, June/July has been somewhat of a quiet month.

However, lots has been happening behind the scenes and we are about to see some more high level action with Regal racing in Australia over the next few weeks.

Regal actually made her first Australian public appearance at the Menangle Trials today, where she was forced to run against the pacers as she was the only nomination for a standing start heat, which of course was the main purpose of her attendance – to qualify from a standing start. However, she ran an amazing trial against the 2YO pacing colts and finished hard on the back of the winner in an incredible 1:55.5 for the mile. If a standing start clearance cannot be obtained then Regal will trial again next Tuesday to get this, otherwise if it can be arranged beforehand, then she will make her Australian race debut at Menangle next Tuesday. Either way, this will be a lead-up to her Victorian campaign that includes a tilt at the Redwood Classic on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, then on to the Breeders Crown Heat on the 10<sup>th</sup> August, to hopefully qualify for the prestigious Group 1 Final at Melton on "Super Sunday", the 30<sup>th</sup> August.

Spin To Win (Whirl) is now back at the All Stars stable and making good progress. She will be given a good foundation and is probably 7 or 8 weeks away from the workouts. After qualifying at Cambridge on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, Champagne Taste (Taste) has had her 4 week spell and is back in training with Tony Herlihy, while Double Shot (Rhonda) has completed her 6 weeks jogging and started her hopped work, looking big and strong and is about 6 weeks away from her first public appearance at the workouts.

Goodlookingbabe's (Precious) second operation was found not to be required, so she has been brought out of her brief retirement and is now back in work, to have a 3 month preparation and look to attend the workouts in October, before hopefully going on to continue her racing career. Rockon Bye (Rocky) continues her lengthy spell and Factor The Odds (Karen) has responded well to her treatment for her ulcers and bounced back in condition and is making good progress towards her return to training.

***The Super Seven Syndicate record to date is:-***

**9 starts, 5 wins, 1 second, for \$64,819 in stakes**

**CONGRATULATIONS !!!**

*Here is the latest information on all your fillies:-*

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

### **High Gait** (Muscles Yankee – Regal Volo)

After finishing a very good 2<sup>nd</sup> placing at the Jewels, Regal had a week off out in the paddock and returned to training on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, to start back jogging.

Regal was preparing for her impending trip to Australia and before she was to leave, it was planned for her to attend the Trials at Addington on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, just to get her cleared to race from a standing start, by lining up behind the tapes and stepping away to go about 300m before being pulled up, as she was obviously not going to be ready for the full distance of the trial, having only been back in training for a week.



There were only two carded for her heat, which would have been ideal for the exercise, but unfortunately after working well and being very relaxed on the Saturday, two days prior, Regal tied up a little, so she was treated and had to be scratched. Stable foreman Duane Marfisi advised on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, "I have spoken to Mark and he said he would get her standing start clearance sorted over there [in Australia]. She was a lot more comfortable today and worked well again, looking for more work. Her and her spelling mate grew like weeds while they were out, just for that week. She'll be flying out on Thursday morning to Australia."

So, Regal flew across the Tasman on the 18<sup>th</sup> June and reports were that she travelled across fine and settled in well and was "in good shape". Regal was down to attend the Menangle Trials on the 7<sup>th</sup> July, to obtain her standing start ticket, as she was unable to do this before leaving home, however she had to be scratched from this event.

That morning Regal was a little sore, so to be safe Mark decided it was best to scratch her and advised that night, "She was a little sore this morning. It might be a splint coming through and she's bumped it. They get tender at that stage anyway. However, they [McCarthy's where Regal is staying] had a horse delivered last night and the truck driver put the horse in the wrong yard; the one next door to Regal, in the middle of the night. It's likely that she's kicked out, so it might be just that. I'll get the vet in tomorrow and get it checked out. If we miss next week [trial] we'll be in trouble. That's why we were going this week, to ensure we still had time if something like this happened. She should be alright. We'll wrap it and look after it. I've been very pleased with her since she arrived."

The next day Mark reported, "I cancelled the vet today as the leg looked considerably better and she jogged sound. I am sure she has struck out at the horse next to her on that night. I have the vet on standby if anything changes, but don't think there will be any ongoing issues." After wrapping and treatment Regal's leg settled down after three days and all was well.

So, Regal was to attend the Menangle Trials, on the 14<sup>th</sup> July (today), where she competed in a 2YO Mobile Start, over 1609m. This heat was actually for 2YO pacers, however as there were no other nominations for the Standing Start Trot, Regal was moved into this heat.

This in itself caused a few problems for Mark, in that because there were not at least two runners in the standing start heat, the stewards would not pass Regal for a standing start if she started on her own in that heat. So Mark made contact with the stewards in New Zealand, in an attempt to get a clearance given for the standing start, when Regal started in a workout from a stand at Methven earlier on.

Today Mark advised, "They weren't able to help us at home. I will speak to the head steward here and see if they can accommodate us in any way."

In the meantime, Regal was to go around at Menangle today, as her next step to making her race debut in Australia.

She trotted away nicely from the mobile, ignoring the breaking horse next to her, as Its Inevitable rushed out from the outside barrier 7 to take up the lead. Hell Bent from No. 3 settled in the trail and Regal settled in 3<sup>rd</sup> on the markers.

Regal remained there throughout as they ran along at quick speed and at the top of the home straight Hell Bent pulled out from the trail to make his challenge and Regal ran up into the trail and finished right on the back of the winner, under a hold with no room at all, in 3<sup>rd</sup> placing.

The winner was Its Inevitable, in a fast time of 1:55.5, with quick closing sectionals in 56.8 and 27.7. The margins were a ½ head x 4m, so Regal was only a little over a length away, running a faster time than the 1:56.5 NZ Record time for 2YO Colts & Geldings set in 2012 by Royal Aspirations and smashing the 1:58.5 NZ Record time for 2YO Fillies set in 2001 by Jo Anne. **WOW !!!** What an awesome run, especially against the pacing colts as well.

You can watch the video of this amazing run on the Harness Racing NSW website at:-

<http://www.harnessmediacentre.com.au/trotstv/trials/20452>, then click on Trots TV, then LATEST TRIAL REPLAYS, then click on Race 3 and the trial video will play.

It's certainly worth a look.

Mark said after this trial, "She trotted beautifully. We crossed the line full of running, but were pocketed in. She could have won it if we got a gap, but I was quite pleased when I heard the time afterwards. It was a very good run."

Mark has advised that if he is successful in obtaining a standing start clearance from the stewards, then Regal will look to race next Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> July, at Menangle, as a lead-up to the Redwood Classic, otherwise if he is not successful in obtaining the clearance, then Luke McCarthy (where Regal is staying) has offered to put a couple of horses in at the trials next week to enable Regal to get qualified from a stand. These trials will once again be at Menangle on the Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> July.

So we'll have to wait and see what can be arranged and I will confirm details of Regal's race or trial, whichever it will be, when these are known.

Whether Regal trials or races next week, her next main target will be the Group 1 \$50,505 Seelite Windows & Doors Redwood Classic, for 2YO Trotters, at Maryborough in Victoria, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, so I'm sure this will please syndicate member Danny Trainor immensely and fulfil his dream to one day have a horse return to his old home town and compete in the Redwood Classic. Danny, it's about to happen, so you had better think about booking a ticket.

After the Redwood Classic, Regal will then be looking to race in the Breeders Crown 2YO Trotting Fillies Heat at Maryborough on the 10<sup>th</sup> August and hopefully qualify for the prestigious Breeders Crown Final set to be run on "Super Sunday" on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, at Tabcorp Park Melton.

## **GO REGAL & GOOD LUCK FOR HER UPCOMING RACES !!!**

### **Spin To Win** (Mach Three – Giveitawhirlgirl)

After returning to training at the end of May and developing a nasty cold, Whirl was soon sent out again, this time to a nearby farm, where she was treated and given time to get over her cold. She then started back jogging at this property, before she was to transfer back to the All Stars stable.

Stable foreman Duane Marfisi has reported, "All is very well. Whirl is over her cold and keeping her condition well. She is actually looking better than when she came in and is putting on weight while in work, which is a good thing. She is working down in her times now and will soon step up to working over 2 miles. Mark likes to give them lots of foundation, so she's probably another 7 or 8 weeks away from the trials. There's no rush with her at this stage, as her foundation should allow her to carry on through most of the season."

So, hopefully Whirl can make a good go of things this time in work and it will be interesting to follow her progress.

### **Trainer Tony Herlihy :-**

#### **Champagne Taste** (Art Major – Affairs Are Bettor)

After qualifying at her first attempt on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, at Cambridge Raceway, Taste was to be immediately sent to Breckon Farms for a spell.

On trainer Tony Herlihy's recommendation, Taste was to be given about a month out and so she then returned to training on the 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Tony reported, "I wanted to get her back in before she got too big again, so I was pleased to see her looking good on her return; not too big."



Taste has been jogging in her further preparation and education and will hopefully go on to race this time in work, but this will probably be a couple of months away yet.

## **Trainer Cran Dalgety :-**

### **Double Shot** (Bettor's Delight – Twice As Good)

Rhonda returned from her 6-week spell at the beginning of June, looking really good and seemingly physically developed after her time out.

She has completed her time jogging and has started on her more serious hopped work.

Cran reports, "She has started on her hopped work and has put on a lot of weight. She's muscle-bound and strong, so it's a good thing. Last time in work she was losing a bit of weight, but this time things are different. She looks great and should be looking to attend the workouts and go public in about 6 weeks time. If the trainer was paying the bill, he'd be happy to carry on with her, so hopefully all is good."

Rhonda will now spend the next 6 weeks or so, increasing her speed and working towards attending the workouts towards the end of August, so in next month's newsletter I should be able to give you a more accurate time for this event.

## **Trainer Barry Purdon :-**

### **Rockon Bye** (Christian Cullen – OK Rock)

After having her first race on the 27<sup>th</sup> March in a heat of the Sires Stakes Fillies Series at Alexandra Park, where she finished a respectable 5<sup>th</sup> placing, Rocky was to be sent for a decent 6 month spell.

Trainer Barry Purdon thought this will help her mature both mentally and physically and reports from Breckon Farms Farm Manager Scott Yarndley are that, "She is still doing very well".

Rocky has now been out spelling for about 3½ months, so she has around 2½ months remaining, before she will return to training, hopefully grow up mentally and matured physically and better able to handle things and make it as a successful racehorse.

## **Trainer Geoff Small :-**

### **Goodlookingbabe** (Mach Three – Goodlookinggirl)

After having an operation to correct the entrapment in her airways on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, Precious completed her rehabilitation, but a further endoscopic examination was to reveal that all was still not right and that Precious would require further surgery under anaesthetic, to remedy the situation, at an estimated cost of \$5000.

This costly procedure also had a prognosis of 50% at best for a return to racing, so a decision was made to retire Precious. However, after it was suggested by a couple of Syndicate Members to Ken Breckon that it might be worth a go to have this procedure done, a vote was called for and a majority of members voted to proceed with a second operation, so this was arranged.

Precious was delivered to the vet clinic on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, to have her operation, but amazingly it was found that her condition had corrected itself and the vet advised that there was no need to perform the operation. An x-ray and further inspection confirmed this, so the operation was abandoned.

The vet advised that there was no reason why Precious couldn't go straight back into work and that it appeared there was no reason for the problem to reoccur and that all might now be OK. With such a condition it is very difficult to tell whether under pressure it will go again or not, so hopefully all will be OK.

When Geoff Small was advised, he was very surprised, but happy and it was arranged for Precious to return to training with him.

Geoff has reported that so far everything is fine, but it is early days yet, as Precious has just been jogging in her training to lift her fitness levels before moving on to the more serious hopped work. It won't be until she is asked to speed up in her hopped work that we will know more definitely what the prognosis is, but so far so good, as they say.

Geoff has advised that Precious will be given a 3-month preparation, bringing her up slowly, which is considered will be better for her and she will be looking to attend the workouts in October.

So here's hoping that all will be OK with Precious.

Trainer **John & Joshua Dickie** :-

#### **Factor The Odds** (Pegasus Spur – Fear Factor)

After "hitting a brick wall" once again in her training, where she was not eating properly and losing weight, which in turn affected her gait. She appeared to get weaker and weaker, so John and Josh decided it was best to give Karen another spell.

When she arrived back at Breckon Farms, Farm Manager Scott Yarndley suggested that he get Karen scoped and checked out. This revealed she had significant ulcers (grade 3's and grade 4's, rated on a grade up to 4), so this was certainly an explanation for her troubles.

Karen immediately began a treatment for her ulcers and Breckon Farms Manager, Scott Yarndley reports, "She's very good. She has almost finished her treatment, having had a recommended initial strong treatment and having responded well, she's now on a lesser level. She will be scoped again when this treatment is finished, to make sure all is OK. Her condition is good and she has picked up really quickly. She's running around enjoying herself."

As previously advised, Karen also had her two wolf teeth removed and these were small and gave no trouble.

So, hopefully it will be onwards and upwards for Karen and her condition will be monitored and her continued progress will determine when she returns to training.

It certainly will be interesting to see how Karen does next time in training, as she did show some ability early on in her career, so hopefully can get back to that.

### **2015 Harness Racing Awards**

The New Zealand Awards night is to be held on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> August, at the Wigram Airforce Museum, Christchurch.

This night is promoted as a night of entertainment and celebration and a look back over the top performers and personalities of the 2014/15 Harness Racing season.

Dress is "Formal (black tie optional)" and the cost is \$130 per person.

For tickets contact Courtney at:- [courtney@hrnz.co.nz](mailto:courtney@hrnz.co.nz) or Tel: 03-964-1212.

Obviously your filly High Gait will be in with a great chance of taking out the 2YO Trotting Filly of the Year title, laying claim through her 5 wins (more than any other 2YO Trotter) and \$61,941 in stakes (also more than any other 2YO Trotter), as well as setting a NZ Record, so good luck for this and let's hope Regal is recognised for her excellent season efforts.

### **A Rocknroll Dance 2015 North Island Harness Racing Awards**

This year's very popular event on the Northern Harness Racing Calendar will be staged in the Tasman Room, at Alexandra Park, on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> September.

There are Pre Dinner Drinks in the Hall of Fame, commencing at 5:30pm, then patrons will move to the Tasman Room at approximately 6pm. There is a 3-course dinner, as well as beer, wine, spirits & juices included, entertainment with a live band "The Dozen" after the awards and the evening will once again have the popular Masters of Ceremonies Mick Guerin and Greg O'Connor.

There will be a couple of auctions on the night, for such items as a set of framed 2015 Harness Jewels colours signed by all the winning trainers and drivers, a fishing trip with harness racing celebrities, and also a service fee auction to the new stallion A Rocknroll Dance. Also bring along a \$5 note for a fun and entertaining chance to win a Samsung tablet!

Tickets are on sale now, so be sure to make your booking early, as this function usually sells out fast. The cost is \$125 per head.

Tickets can be obtained from Suzanne Herlihy, by completing and mailing the 'Ticket Order Form' on the next page, together with your payment, or by phoning Suzanne on 09-298-1757.

Be sure to put 'Breckon Farms Group' under 'Group Name', so you can all hopefully be seated together.

I can certainly recommend this night as an excellent event and it will be great if you can get along to support a possible nomination of High Gait in the North Island 2YO Trotter of the Year category and be there to participate if she should win this award.

Details of nominations will be released probably in the next week or two and these can be obtained via the North Island Harness Racing Awards Facebook page.

Please advise me (preferably by email) if you are going to attend.

*North Island Harness Racing Awards Trust*

**TICKET ORDER FORM**

**c/- Suzanne Herlihy**

**93 Burnside Road, RD2, Papakura**

**Phone (09) 2981757 Fax (09) 2981304 Email [strike1won@xtra.co.nz](mailto:strike1won@xtra.co.nz)**

A ROCKNROLL DANCE

2015 NORTH ISLAND HARNESS RACING AWARDS

Saturday 5 September 2015, Tasman Room, Alexandra Park Raceway

Number of tickets required .....

@ \$125 per head ..... (cheque enclosed)

Group Name .....

Names of persons attending:

1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

4. ....

5. ....

6. ....

7. ....

8. ....

9. ....

10. ....

Name and postal address for tickets to be sent to:

.....

.....

Please make cheques payable to: North Island Harness Racing Awards Trust

Direct credit 01 0398 0238894 02 – please use surname as reference



## **Breeders Crown Finals at Tabcorp Park Melton in Melbourne 30/8/15**

As advised in my email of the 30<sup>th</sup> June, Ken Breckon asked me to advise you all that he and Karen have booked their accommodation at the Crown Towers Hotel, in Melbourne for the Breeders Crown Finals. The Finals are scheduled to be staged at Tabcorp Park Melton (just out of Melbourne), on Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> August and with any luck you may have two runners participating.

Regal has on her programme to compete in the 2YO Trotters Fillies Heat at Maryborough, in Victoria, on the 10<sup>th</sup> August and if she is able to win this heat, she will progress directly to the Final.

If Regal can make it to the Final, that would be amazing and of course a huge day for you and your Breckon Farms – Super Seven Syndicate.

So, if you are interested to also book accommodation at the Crown Towers Hotel, then details are:-

Crown Towers  
8 Whiteman Street  
Southbank Melbourne VIC 3006  
Australia

The website, where you can check out facilities, rates, etc before you book is ...

<http://www.crownhotels.com.au/crown-towers-melbourne/default-en.html>

And reservation details are ...

Reservations Department  
Phone: 61 3 9292 6868  
Facsimile: 61 3 9292 6299  
Toll Free (within Australia): 1800 811 653  
Email: [reservations.mct@crownhotels.com.au](mailto:reservations.mct@crownhotels.com.au)

They say on the website ... "Crown Towers is located in Southbank, the most vibrant entertainment precinct in Melbourne. The Melbourne Exhibition Centre is close by, as too are many of the city's most famous arts and sporting facilities. Crown Towers is the most exclusive luxury hotel in Australia providing easy access to the main areas of the city."

Ken is also looking at maybe organising a limousine to transport everyone who wishes to do this to the track and return and also book tables or a room for those who are also interested.

So, can you please confirm if you are planning to go and if you will be staying in the Crown Towers, whether you wish to participate in the transport to and from the track and partake in the hospitality package, whatever can be arranged.

I would appreciate if you could email this to me ASAP, so I can advise confirmed numbers to Ken.



### **Newsletters On the Website**

Don't forget, your monthly newsletters are also displayed on the Breckon Farms Website, so you can access them there whenever you wish, especially if you can't find them amongst your emails.

The Breckon Farms website address is:- [www.breckonfarms.co.nz](http://www.breckonfarms.co.nz)

### **Horses Birthdays**

The 1<sup>st</sup> August, is the official day that all Standardbred horses' birthdays are recognised and celebrated by some.

They all become another year older on this date, so HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Regal, Whirl, Taste, Rhonda, Rocky, Precious & Karen !!!



Good luck and many more wins to come ...

Cheers

**Rob**



### **Breckon Farms - Super Seven Syndicate**

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Fax: (09) 291-9035 or Email: [rob.carr@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rob.carr@xtra.co.nz) or Post: P O Box 202101, Southgate, Takanini, Auckland 2246**