



**BRECKON**  
FARMS

## Super Seven Syndicate



May 2015 Newsletter

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Hi there

Amazingly, we haven't had a race runner this month, mainly due to the late declaration that Regal was ineligible for the Sires Stakes Prelude on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, which was scheduled to be her next race start.

She has now been kept ticking over at home and has pleased her trainers in her work. Regal was to have trialled on Monday, but these were cancelled due to lack of entries, so she will go into her next race tomorrow night on the fresh side.

This of course is the Group 2 \$60,000 Lone Star Riccarton Sires Stakes 2YO Trotters Championship, to be staged at Addington, at the Second May Premier Meeting for the NZ Metropolitan TC. Even though she is likely to start favourite for this race, Regal is going to need some luck in the running, as she has been given possibly the worst barrier possible in the race, No.1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Row, at Barrier No. 9.

However, **GOOD LUCK** for this race, it will be great to see and cheer Regal on in her attempt to win another Group Race.

You have also had none of your other fillies appear in public over the last month, but Champagne Taste, or Tina as we know her, is about to do so, for the first time, this Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> May, at Pukekohe. This will certainly be great to see, I'm sure.

Spin To Win (Whirl), Double Shot (Rhonda) and Rockon Bye (Rocky) are all still spelling.

Unfortunately, the news for Goodlookingbabe (Precious) is not so good. Her operation was not successful and to remedy this would be an expensive and risking thing, so it has been decided best that she be retired. It is certainly a shame that Precious didn't get to show us what she really possessed in the way of talent, as both trainer Geoff Small and driver David Butcher both thought very highly of her.

Factor The Odds (Karen) is making progress in her training, albeit with a few difficulties similar to last time when she faded away, but so far this time, not so dramatically. Her work in training has stepped up and hopefully she will be able to make it to the trials in about 6 weeks time.

I'm sure you are looking forward to tomorrow night as much as I am, so ...

**GOOD LUCK** and **GO REGAL !!!**

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

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

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

As advised, Regal was nominated to race next at Rangiora on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, in the Sires Stakes 2YO Trot Prelude, but after having been nominated for this race, Natalie was advised that Regal was ineligible to compete.

The race attracted 10 nominations and resulted in a field of only 7 runners facing the starter, after one was scratched and of course did not include Regal.



Apparently, there was a change made to the conditions of the NZ Sires Stakes Series regarding the Preludes, in that if you had won a Prelude, then you were ineligible to contest another and as Regal had won the NZ Sires Stakes Prelude at Cambridge, she was deemed ineligible for this Prelude at Rangiora. The conditions state, "In the case of a horse having won a Prelude it shall be deemed ineligible for the remaining Preludes." However the good news is that the conditions also state, "The first three horses to finish in each Prelude will be automatically eligible for the Championship.", which is of course now to be Regal's next race.

Co-trainer Natalie Rasmussen was quite upset when learning of Regal's ineligibility and contacted the Club to have the matter clarified. She said, "Apparently she's ineligible because she won that race in Cambridge. They've changed the rules; shifted the goal posts really. It's hard to fathom, as is a prelude not a heat. She is ready to go, but now there's nothing for her. We don't want to line her up against the older horses, so she'll just have a couple of days freshener, then look to trial in two weeks. She'll probably have two trials, to get her ready for the big one [the Sires Stakes Final on the 15<sup>th</sup> May]".

So, this was certainly hard to work out and also hard to stomach as well, as racing opportunities for 2-year-old trotters, never mind 2-year-old trotting fillies, are few and far between, as is confirmed by there not being any age group races for Regal between the 19<sup>th</sup> April and the Sires Stakes Final on the 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Regal was to attend the trials last Monday, but these were abandoned due to lack of entries, so she is to go into her next major assignment, which happens to be this Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> May, at Addington, a little on the fresh side. She has been kept ticking over at home and Mark has reported, "She seems pretty forward. We just got the worst draw for her. Hopefully the Alan Clark horse [Dark Ops] in front of us will go out; he usually does and there will be some breakers early and she can get off the markers. She is trotting nicely and is a real tradeswoman, so with some luck she should do us all proud."

So, Regal is now to race tomorrow tonight, the 15<sup>th</sup> May, at Addington, in the Group 2 \$60,000 Lone Star Riccarton Sires Stakes 2YO Trotters Championship (Mobile), for 2YO trotters, over 1950m. This is Race 7, timed to start at 7:59pm and unfortunately Regal has drawn poorly at Barrier No. 9 (No.1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Row), so will need some luck from there. She is to be driven by her regular driver of late Natalie Rasmussen.

Just a little reminder, that you should remember to watch out for the Harness Jewels Colours in this race, as these are what Regal's driver should be wearing, as she is still leading the way in these rankings.

The HRNZ Trottech pick Regal as their first pick for this race, saying, "Unbeaten in four starts. Tricky draw but she has the game to overcome it.", so I'm sure it will certainly be a very exciting time for us all watching.

After this major assignment, Regal will then of course be aimed at the Harness Jewels.

I will be in touch with details of the Group 1 \$100,000 2YO Ruby Harness Jewels field once they are available.

But in the meantime ... **GOOD LUCK** and **GO REGAL !!!**

After Regal is safely through the Jewels, Mark is considering very seriously a trip to Australia with her. He said, "We have the Breeders Crown in our sights, especially now they have split the boys and the girls this year. I think she would be hard to beat in that."

So, many more exciting times lie ahead in the near future ... the Sires Stakes, the Jewels, the Breeders Crown ... **WOW that's amazing !!!**

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

Whirl was sent for what was to be a 7 or 8 week spell at the beginning of March, but this has now been extended, with the latest advice being that she will return to training early in June.

Mark has reported, "She's a big filly and seems to be doing well, so there's not much point bringing her in any earlier. We'll look to bring her back after the Jewels [to be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> May]."

So, Whirl will now spend a total of 3 months out, but I'm sure this will ensure that she is well over her earlier troubles of the reoccurring bug, with coughing and developing lots of mucus, as well as giving her a good chance to develop and mature, as big fillies often need.

She will then look to start her new campaign, having put her troubles behind her and hopefully be able to put her best hoof forward and go on this time in training to qualify and make it to the races.



## **Trainer Tony Herlihy :-**

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

Taste returned from her extended spell on the 30<sup>th</sup> January and as advised was in very big order, so it has taken longer to work her down in her training than is usual.

Taste completed 6 weeks jogging before moving on to her hopped work and has been slowly working down in her times.

Tony reported last week, "She didn't work that good last week, so we didn't go [to the workouts] last week. She did work quite nicely this week, so I'll take her over to Telfs [Steve Telfer, a neighbouring trainer with an excellent track to fast work on, that Tony often uses] on Saturday and if she works OK, we'll go [to the workouts] on the 16<sup>th</sup> May. She's such a big girl still; it's taking some time to get her down."

Tony has now updated with advice that Taste worked OK last Saturday in her fast work and is now on target to attend the Franklin TC Workouts at Pukekohe, this coming Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

The programme for these workouts is usually released on Friday afternoon, so once the details of Taste's heat are known, I will send through an email to all members with the update.

It will be great to see Taste make her first public appearance and I'm sure something for us all to look forward to.

## **Trainer Cran Dalgety :-**

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

After her work in training seemingly got to the bottom of her, Rhonda was sent for a 6-week spell in the middle of April, to hopefully to mature and bulk up.

She is still out enjoying her time off and will probably complete her spell in another 2 weeks.

Cran will be checking on her next week and confirm this, but it is likely she will return to work after the Jewels (30<sup>th</sup> May).

Let's hope that she has developed and matured enough, to allow her to go on and make it as a successful racehorse on her return to training this time.

## **Trainer Barry Purdon :-**

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

After making her race debut at Alexandra Park on the 27<sup>th</sup> March in a heat of the Sires Stakes Fillies Series, finishing a respectable 5<sup>th</sup> placing, Rocky was sent for a decent long spell, on the recommendation of her trainer Barry Purdon.

Barry thought that Rocky's run was "only just OK" and said he thought she should be given a decent spell of maybe 6 months, for her to mature mentally and physically.

So Rocky was to go to Breckon Farms for her spell and reports are that she is doing very well.

Let's hope that Rocky can grow up and mature during her time out and be better equipped to make it as a successful racehorse when she returns.

### **Trainer Geoff Small :-**

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

After the discovery of an entrapment in her airways, Precious' racing plans were to come to a halt and it was necessary for a minor operation to be performed. This was carried out on the 30<sup>th</sup> March and she was to travel back to Geoff's Pukekohe stable the same afternoon to commence her rehabilitation.



Precious was to follow a rehabilitation programme that entailed her being confined to a box for a week, before being put out into a small paddock and then moving on to do some light exercise.

She was scheduled to have another endoscopic examination on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, to ensure that everything had healed OK and to allow her to return to normal training shortly after.

However, the endoscopic examine showed that there was trouble with her condition, so Precious was to be referred back to the Hamilton clinic where her operation was performed.

On further examination there, a combination of a permanent dorsal displacement of the soft palate (DDSP) and an epiglottic entrapment was found. This condition is quite rare in horses after epiglottic entrapment surgery and the treatment is more complicated and would require further surgery under anaesthetic to remove the entrapment and then a second general anaesthetic to perform a tie-forward procedure, with the combined surgeries having a cost of approximately \$5000 and a prognosis of 50% at best for a return to racing.

So, with the high cost and high risk of her not being able to return to be a successful racehorse, the decision had to be made to retire Precious.

This is indeed unfortunate, especially as both Geoff Small and David Butcher thought that she had the makings of "a half-decent horse".

So I must give you the news that your filly Goodlookingbabe has now been officially retired and you now have six fillies remaining in your Super Seven Syndicate.

On the following page is a copy of the Veterinary Report received for Precious.

## Veterinary Report

GOODLOOKINGBABE, 2012 bay filly

Brand:125067

Trainer: G C Small (Patumahoe)

Owners: Super Seven Syndicate



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Wednesday, 6 May 2015

The aforementioned filly was re-admitted to Hamilton Veterinary Services Equine Hospital on Friday, 1 May 2015. The filly had undergone surgery for endoscopic entrapment approximately 6 weeks earlier. A recent evaluation on the training yard showed that there was an unusual appearance of the laryngo-pharynx and the horse was referred for assessment.

The appearance of the caudal nasopharynx showed a permanent dorsal displacement of the soft palate (DDSP) - the epiglottis couldn't be visualised despite repeated swallowing attempts. An outline of the epiglottis could be seen underneath the soft palate. An examination via the mouth detected a thickened epiglottis - consistent with another entrapment.

The combinations of permanent DDSP and epiglottic entrapment are a problematic. This complication is rare and occurs at between 2 - 5 % of epiglottic entrapment surgeries. Treatment is now more complicated and consists of a laryngotomy under anaesthesia to sharply remove the entrapment and then a second general anaesthetic to perform a tie-forward procedure. The combined surgeries will cost around \$5000 with a prognosis of 50% at best for a return to racing.

My feeling, is that on evaluation of her original post-operative pictures, she is likely to be afflicted with a congenitally small and deformed epiglottis and this has predisposed her to this condition and complication.

I understand that the mare may now be retired from racing to pursue breeding activities. The current condition may cause occasional signs of coughing while eating (dysphagia) and a respiratory noise during exercise in the paddock and should have minimal impact on future breeding.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me at the surgery.

Greg Quinn. BVSc CertES(Soft Tissue) DipECVS  
New Zealand and European Registered Specialist in Equine Surgery.

- Dr D.J.M Black  
B.V.M.S. M.A.C.V.Sc
- Dr N Power  
M.V.B
- Dr A Jorgensen  
B.V.Sc CertEP Diploma A.B.V.P
- Dr G.C Quinn  
B.V.Sc CertES Diploma E.C.V.S  
Registered Specialist Equine Surgeon

- Dr M.F Bertram  
B.V.Sc
- Dr O.C Roan  
B.V.Sc
- Dr C.G. Stalker  
B.V.Sc

Trainer **John & Joshua Dickie** :-

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

Karen returned to John and Josh's in mid-March, looking really good and big and strong.

She progressed well through her build-up of fitness and jogging time and has stepped up to doing strong work for about 3 weeks now.

John reports, "Every time we get to a certain level, she fades away. Having said that she came in, in great order and is still as good as she has been, She just doesn't quite eat as good, but while she's big and bold we need to keep going. She's had enough time now and we need to try and get her to the trials, hopefully to qualify her and see what sort of product we've got. Hopefully we're about 6 weeks away from getting to the trials, so let's hope we can do it."

So, although Karen is seemingly struggling to keep her condition on again, she is at least still making progress and hopefully John and Josh can get her through to the trials this time in and see how she copes with it all.

Let's hope that Karen can make a good fist of things and is able to maybe continue on to make it as a racehorse.

**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)

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

Cheers

**Rob**



**Super Seven Syndicate**

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