



BRECKON
FARMS

The Good Sports Syndicate



April 2014 Newsletter

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Welcome

In the pre-race notification given last month, I advised you that your filly Linda Lovegrace was to return to the races on the 28 March at the Metropolitan TC Meeting, at Addington Raceway. This was after she had competed in a workout on the 22 March at Motukarara, on the grass track there, in a 2YO Mobile Pace (C0), over 2000m, which drew a field of four runners, all from the Purdon/Rasmussen barn, in which Linda drew Barrier No. 2 and was to be driven by Ross Payne. She duly obliged, winning this heat narrowly but well in a time of 2:44.7 (MR 2:12.5), with the last 800m in 62.2.

This was to stand Linda in good stead for her next racenight assignment, which was to be in the \$18,000 Magness Benrow Sires Stakes Fillies Series 31 (Heat 4) Mobile Pace, over 1950m, where unfortunately Linda drew wide at Barrier No. 8 (outside of the Front Row), but did come into No. 7 with a scratching inside her. Linda was once again to be driven by her co-trainer Mark Purdon and was sent out a hot favourite for the race.

Linda had recovered well from her little setback, when she had a high white cell blood count that caused her to perform below her best in the Young Guns Final at Alexandra Park in her previous start and after a false start, she made a quick beginning to sit outside Bettor Think Twice early, before pressing on to take the lead at the 1600m mark. As they passed the winning post with a lap-to-go, second favourite Joanne's A Delight came forward quickly and Mark handed up the lead to take a nice trail. As they turned for home and into the home straight Mark took the passing lane and quickly made up the leeway, to go on and win very nicely by $\frac{3}{4}$ length.

Linda's winning time was a respectable 2:24.2 (MR 1:58.9), with good closing sectionals of 57.7 and 27.1.

The following photos are those taken by Race Images and as I have downloaded these from their website they are not of a very good quality, however you can view and order photos of this win from Race Images Chch Ltd Website at:- www.raceimages.net.nz.

To view the photos, click on "Galleries", then "March 2014", then "Addington 28 March 2014", then go to Pages 2 & 3 and you will find the photos of Linda.



ACTION



WIN



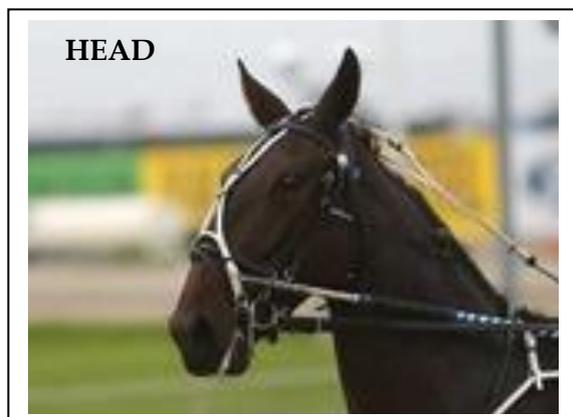
RETURN



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HEAD

So, CONGRATULATIONS !!! You now have your first winner on the board !!!

This win of course qualifies Linda for the \$150,000 Magness Benrow Sires Stakes Fillies Final on the 9 May, to be run at Alexandra Park on Rowe Cup Night, so it will be great to see her back in the North, but first there is another serious target for her; the Group 1 \$110,000 Caduceus Club Fillies Classic, on the 2 May, also at Alexandra Park.

Then, all going to plan, it will be on to the Harness Jewels, at Cambridge on 31 May, as Linda is currently No. 2 on the Group 1 \$150,000 2YO Diamond Leader Board, behind Democrat Party.

All your other fillies have had quiet times this month, either out spelling, or returning from spells and in the early stages of their preparations, however Glitzy Gal, Alannah Hall, Big Lucy and Ctheballerina are all scheduled to attend the workouts in the next few weeks, so there will soon be plenty of action.

Here is the latest information on all your fillies.

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

Alannah Hall (Angus Hall – Regal Volo):-

Alannah returned to training in February, after her 8-week spell, in great order and is progressing well in her training.

Over the last month she has started with more serious work in training, but unfortunately this has been hampered with some adverse weather in Canterbury.

Mark reports, "She's trotting along OK, but we've had some terrible weather, with continual rain, so she's been put back a little in her work. It will be about 5 or 6 weeks still before we go to the workouts."

Alannah should be ready to attend the workouts at the end of May or beginning of June, so we will all have to remain patient, as I'm sure the wait will be worth it, to hopefully see her race as a 2-year-old, which will be a an achievement in itself.

Big Lucy (Badlands Hanover – Halcyon Franco):-

Lucy had a decent 2-month spell after winning a trial stylishly on the 10 December and returned to training in February.

She has progressed well and has completed 5 or 6 weeks of hopped work so far.

However, she too has been affected in her training by the recent adverse weather in Canterbury, setting her back a week or two.

Mark is happy with her to date, but she too won't be ready to attend the workouts for another 5 or 6 weeks, as is the case with Alannah.

Lucy did develop well during her spell, which will help her to now go forward and attend the workouts also at the end of May or beginning of June, in preparation to make her race debut.

Won't it be great if she too can make it as a 2-year-old racehorse.

Linda Lovegrace (Bettor's Delight – Linda Grace):-

As documented above, Linda has certainly been performing very well of late, winning a workout and then winning her race in the Sires Stakes Heat, on the 28 March, notching up The Good Sports Syndicate's first win. Let's hope it is the first of many for all your fillies.

She will now look to have a trial in Canterbury, before heading North for her big month of May, with races on the 2, 9 and 31 May. All three races are at the elite Group 1 level, so it is certainly going to be exciting for us all.

GOOD LUCK and GO LINDA !!!

Trainer Tony Herlihy :-

Ctheballerina (Bettor's Delight – Cheyenne Girl):-

Having completed a 3-month spell, Ctheballerina returned to training looking good and also looking as though she had strengthened and developed, ready for some more serious work this time in.

She has now completed 3 or 4 weeks hopped work and Tony reports, "Everything is ticking over fine. She is working down in her times and has a bit of spirit, which can be good in a filly. She's still probably 3 or 4 weeks away, before going to the workouts."

So, Ctheballerina is on schedule and should be ready to go to the workouts within the next month. It will be great to see her and follow her progress.

Trainer Cran Dalgety :-

Glitzy Gal (Bettor's Delight – Diamonds N Gold):-

Glitzy Gal returned to training in January, after her 6-week spell and had grown and strengthened up nicely.

She completed her jogging to raise her fitness levels last month and is now making good progress in her hopped work.

Cran reports, "She has really improved. She is an ample size now, which is great after her being a bit on the small size earlier on. I certainly have more positive vibes about her now. She is working down nicely in her times and after another 3 weeks, then we should be ready to go public and attend the workouts and qualifying trials. Once she's qualified we'll have to see how she goes and assess things after that and see where to from there."

So in 3-4 weeks time Glitzy Gal should be ready to go to the workouts/trials, so it will be interesting to see how she does progress and where to from there, once she gets the job done of qualifying first of course.

Trainer Barry Purdon :-

Hothooves Bettor's Delight – Matter Of Fact):-

After her pleasing efforts in her three races to date, even though she has not yet managed a placing, Hotty was sent for a decent spell on the 14 March.

This was considered the best thing for her at this stage of her career and she will return to training on the 1 July, hopefully more developed physically and mentally, which will stand her in good stead for her future racing.

Sometimes some horses can take a little longer to mature and learn what this racing game is all about, so patience can be a real virtue.

Love Is A Drug (Art Major – Loma Fay):-

Judy also has not yet run a place in her three starts to date and did mix her efforts a little, going a good race first-up but then was a little disappointing in her subsequent two races.

So Barry also decided it would be best to give Judy a decent spell and she was sent for this at the same time as Hotty and together they went to Breckon Farms for their time out.

This was thought to be the best thing to give her a chance to mature and she too will return to training on the 1 July, along with Hotty.

Trainer Geoff Small :-

Pinup Pony (Art Major – Tarena Jay):-

After qualifying on the 8 February, Pinny as she is known, was also sent for a spell, but hers was to be much shorter than Hotty and Judy's.

Geoff thought that as she was not up to the top fillies going around at the time, it was best to give Pinny a spell and give her a chance to strengthen and mature a little more.

Pinny also headed for Breckon Farms to spell, but she was to have only 5 or 6 weeks out, returning to training on the 27 March. Geoff reported, "She's put on a bit of weight and has grown a little too. She actually looks like she is going to have a growing spurt while she jogs up, so that should all be OK."

After she has completed her time jogging, hopefully Pinny will be ready to go forward in her hopped work and improve and carry on from where she left off.

So we really do have some extremely exciting times ahead in the next month or so. These of course will be concentrated on Linda and her attempts to become a Group 1 winner, contesting the three major 2YO Fillies races on the calendar, through the month of May. Then it will be onto the next batch of four of your fillies that will begin their journeys to the workouts and hopefully on to race thereafter.

Cheers

Rob



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