



**BRECKON**  
FARMS

## The Good Sports Syndicate



January 2014 Newsletter

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Welcome to another monthly newsletter for The Good Sports Syndicate.

Happy New Year to you all !!!

I hope that you had a great festive season and all the best for your fillies racing in 2014.

We have had some positive reports on your fillies over the last few weeks, so it looks like we are well on our way to lots of fun and excitement, with the action starting this week (Saturday @ Alexandra Park) in the North and continuing every week over the next 5 weeks, providing all goes to plan; with Linda Lovegrace due to trial in a month's time, in the South.

So, with action-a-plenty to look forward to, here is the latest information on your horses.

### **The Fillies.....**

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

#### **Alannah Hall** (Angus Hall – Regal Volo):-

Having qualified nicely on the 10 December, at Ashburton, and as she was having a few little issues with immaturity, Mark decided it was best that Alannah Hall was sent for a spell.

She has now completed her 6 weeks out and is due to return to training this week.

Hopefully this time out will have helped her mature and will allow her to overcome her minor breathing troubles.

It will be interesting to see how she comes up this time in, as Mark said she had a nice way of going and thought that she should make a 2-year-old racehorse.

#### **Big Lucy** (Badlands Hanover – Halcyon Franco):-

Big Lucy was the first of your fillies to qualify, doing so when winning her Qualifying Trial at Addington, on the 2 December.

She then had a further educational run at the trials on the 10 December, at Ashburton, where she won stylishly.

Mark then decided as she was not a particularly big filly, she could do with a break, so she too was to be given a 6 week spell.

Like Alannah Hall, Big Lucy is also due back into training this week.

She should have really benefited from her spell, so it will also be interesting to see how she has developed and how she can progress this time in her furthering preparation to race as a 2-year-old.

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

After a 3-week break at the end of November and into December, Linda Lovegrace returned to training on the 16 December. She has now completed 5 weeks back in work and Mark has reported, "She trained OK on Saturday. I'm just getting a line on her, as I think she might have been having the boys on a bit. There's not much that's wrong with her and I think she'll be OK. She's due to step up in her work now."

Linda Lovegrace will have about another 4 weeks hopped work and she should then be ready to attend the trials. Although she is not yet qualified, Mark thinks that she will only need one trial, as her fitness level will be good by then and then she will hopefully be ready to race.

This will certainly be exciting for the Syndicate and give us something to look forward to.

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

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

Ctheballerina was sent for a decent spell, originally to be 6-8 weeks, but then being extended to approximately 12 weeks, as it was considered this would help her mature both mentally and physically, which she needed to do.

Ctheballerina is due to return to training this week, so let's hope that her extended time out has helped her develop and will allow her to make it as a racehorse.

#### **Trainer Cran Dalgety** :-

##### **Glitzzy Gal** (Bettor's Delight – Diamonds N Gold):-

Glitzzy Gal was sent for her 6 week spell towards the end of November and she returned to Cran's barn on the 6 January.

Cran reported, "She has grown and looks like she's strengthened. If she's good enough; she's big enough. She did everything right in the end last time, so we'll press on and see."

So, Glitzzy Gal has now done a couple of weeks jogging and will continue with this for a few more, then she will move on to her hopped work, before she should then be ready to attend the workouts and trials, hopefully in March.

## **Trainer Barry Purdon :-**

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

Hothooves has already shown some ability from a young age and has been progressing well in her training, since her work became more serious towards the end of November.

She is tall and big and Barry has advised that she may need a little more time, but as she has come down well in her training, he is going to press on with her in the meantime and she is scheduled to attend the workouts in about 3 weeks time, on Tuesday the 11 February, at Pukekohe.

If Hothooves performs to Barry's satisfaction, then she will probably attend the Qualifying Trials on Wednesday the 19 February, once again at Pukekohe.

These dates will be firmed up nearer to the time and I will confirm these to you by email when this occurs.

Barry has reported, "I'm pretty sure they're going to make it", referring to both Hothooves and Love Is A Drug.

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

After proving a handful to be broken-in, Love Is A Drug was transferred to Barry's stable towards the end of November and immediately received good reports, showing she was a lovely pacer and also just as importantly behaving herself.

With her difficulties in being broken-in she was a little behind the others, but she was quick to show some ability and she too is progressing well and doing everything right in her training.

She too, like her stablemate Hothooves, should be ready to attend the workouts in about 3 weeks; most likely also at Pukekohe, on the 11 February and also like Hothooves, if she performs up to Barry's expectations, then she too will likely attend the Franklin TC Qualifying Trial, at Pukekohe, on the 19 February.

So, some interesting and hopefully exciting times are not too far away for both of Barry's fillies.

## **Trainer Geoff Small :-**

### **Pinup Pony** (Art Major – Tarena Jay):-

After returning to training from a short 3-week freshen-up in mid-November, Pinup Pony had pleased Geoff with her improved manners and behaviour. Geoff reports, "She is a lot better than she was, but can be a bit heavy in the mouth still. We'll take her for a quiet run at the workouts this week, then give her another run the following week and then look at maybe the Qualifying Trials after that."

So, providing Pinup Pony continues her progress, she will attend the Alexandra Park Workouts this Saturday, the 25 January, then again the following week, on the 1 February, before looking to attend the Qualifying Trials on Saturday the 8 February, also at Alexandra Park.

I will also send you an email confirming each of these runs, once details are available.

It will be great to see Pinup Pony at the workouts and a chance for all members who live in the Auckland area to get along and see her. I look forward to seeing you there.

### **An introduction to Harness Racing**

Some will already know the story, but for those who don't and I'm sure for those who do, this story will prove interesting.

Ken Breckon, along with his late brother Peter, started their involvement in our great sport/industry from humble beginnings and the following NZ Herald newspaper article, published on 6 February 1995, documents this.

I thought you would enjoy the read ...

# Novice brothers steal the show

**By LEO GEORGE**

Peter and Ken Breckon, brothers of Mt Albert, Auckland, will have a story to tell their friends and family after attending their first horse sale at Karaka yesterday.

They were the centre of attention after a \$30,000 bid secured for them a daughter of Butler B G and Aberfeldy — the top priced filly at the Australasian Classic Yearling Sale.

The two brothers were absolute novices in procur-

**'I knew she was too big to put in the back seat and I didn't know whether I would have to drive her home. We didn't know any trainers or where we were going to put the horse.'**

ing horseflesh and didn't have a clue what to do when it became apparent the filly was theirs.

"We had no idea," said Peter Breckon. "We were not even registered as buyers. I put in a bid at \$25,000 and Ken took over for the final bid.

"It was on Thursday night that we decided to do something different and buy a horse after reading a story about the sale in the *New Zealand Herald*. It was mentioned the Aberfeldy filly would be a sought after lot," said Peter Breckon.

The brothers thought the sale started at noon, not 10 am. And they were further delayed when they got to the Mt Wellington motorway turnoff and discovered

they had left the cheque book at home.

After backtracking to Mt Albert they did not arrive at Karaka until lot 63 was in the sale ring. They quickly obtained a catalogue and discovered their intended buy was lot 68.

The first time they laid eyes on the filly was when she appeared before the auctioneers.

"We didn't know what to do after we bought the filly," said Ken Breckon.

"I knew she was too big to put in the back seat and I didn't know whether I'd have to drive her home. We didn't know any trainers or where we were going to put the horse."

Peter Breckon took up the story: "We went to the office and said we had bought a horse and wanted some assistance.

"One of the Pyne, Gould, Guinness [auctioneers] people asked me what lot. I said 68 and he said 'Don't pull my leg.'

"When I again said it was lot 68 he said 'You're having me on ... am I on Candid Camera or something!'"

Finally convinced it was real, the cheque was paid over and the two brothers were in the horse business.

"Hopefully she can win a race for us but if she doesn't we can breed from her," said 35-year-old Peter Breckon.

He and brother Ken, 37, along with Aucklander Ron Brittain, own a marketing company involved in plumbing and irrigation supplies. They have a warehouse at Takapuna and a staff of 18.

● More on the sale on page 3, section 3.



Hopefully we are soon to experience some exciting times when your fillies make it to the races. I wish you good luck for this and look forward to seeing you at the workouts, trials, or races.

**Rob**

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