



*Rob Carr - Syndicate Liaison*

P O Box 202101, Southgate, Takanini, Auckland 2246

Tel. (09) 291-9034 Mobile (021) 227-6444

Fax (09) 291-9035 Email rob.carr@xtra.co.nz

Welcome

Firstly, **CONGRATULATIONS** yet again, with another two wins this month, both by Linda, the most recent in track and career-best time, a Mile Rate of 1:54.8, but sadly the number of fillies remaining racing for your Syndicate has reduced to only three.

There has however, been plenty of excitement.

ALANNAH HALL had a good 2<sup>nd</sup> placing in her race on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, but has had some issues with her eating since. She was to race again on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, but had to miss this meeting and Craig Demmler has advised he is waiting for the results of a bloodtest before deciding whether she will race this Friday at Melton, or not.

LINDA of course has had two starts for her new Victorian trainer Kerryn Manning, managing two very good wins, albeit in lower grade company. The first was in a relatively slow time, but with quick closing sectionals, then in her second start she blew them away with a personal best and a track record for the 1700m at Horsham – an impressive Mile Rate of 1:54.8. WELL DONE !!! Unfortunately, Linda was to then suffer a slight setback, after whacking her head on something and possibly fracturing her sinus bone, which has mean she won't race again for another 3-4 weeks. Let's hope she makes a good recovery and it won't be long before we see her burning up the tracks of Victoria again.

After GLITZY GAL went for a spell at Breckon Farms it was discovered she had an under run in her foot, so this was treated and a gel pad on her foot and she has made a good recovery. She is to have an extended stay at the farm, just to make sure everything heals OK, before she returns to her new trainer Todd Mitchell early in November.

After the very sad demise of LOVE IS A DRUG when she had to humanely euthanised after fracturing a leg, HOTHOOVES has also been retired to the broodmare paddock, after she was showing signs of soreness that were thought to be directly related to her previous injury.

I'm sure we can look forward to many exciting races ahead over the next few weeks, with Alannah and Linda racing in Australia and then when Glitzy returns here in New Zealand.

**GOOD LUCK** for these future races !!!

# CONGRATULATIONS !!!

## *Linda Lovegrace*

... wins at Swan Hill, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015

*Her first start & first win  
under the care of Kerryn  
Manning in Australia !!!*



(Photo taken at Ballarat 16<sup>th</sup> August 2014, as no photos have been received from Swan Hill)

This was Linda's 8<sup>th</sup> win and brought up win No. 25 for the Breckon Farms - The Good Sports Syndicate.



# CONGRATULATIONS !!!

## *Linda Lovegrace*

... wins at Horsham, on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015

*Her second start & second win for Kerryn Manning and a track record and career best 1:54.8 Mile Rate for 1700m !!!*



(Photo at Ashburton 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015, as no photos have been received from Horsham)

This win was win No. 26 for the Breckon Farms – The Good Sports Syndicate and took the Syndicate record to an amazing 131 starts, 26 wins, 20 seconds, 18 thirds, for \$377,954 in stake earnings. **WELL DONE !!!**

This increases your record of being in the money to over 48.8% of all race starts ... **that is truly INCREDIBLE !!!**

... and it took Linda's record to 29 starts, 9 wins, 6 seconds, 4 thirds and stake earnings of \$225,668. **CONGRATULATIONS !!!**

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

### **Trainer Craig Demmler :-**

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

After notching up her first win in Australia on the 10<sup>th</sup> September at Kilmore and in the process setting her fastest Mile Rate of her career to date, Alannah was to race next at Ballarat on the 24<sup>th</sup> September.

This was to be her second race start from the Craig Demmler & Jodi Quinlan stable and was in the \$8,110 Harness Breeders Victoria Loves Trotting Mares Trot, over 2200m, from a mobile start. Alannah drew Barrier No. 7 (outside of the Front Row) in a 12-horse field and was to be driven by Jodi Quinlan.

Prior to the race Craig & Jodi advised, "Alannah Hall has pulled up well from her last start, she has drawn poorly on Thursday night but the field is not over strong and with some luck we expect her to be very competitive."

Alannah was sent out an odds-on favourite for this race and made a good beginning from her wide draw, with Jodi looking to slot across into a handy position, but was forced to ease Alannah back heading into the first bend, where she was initially 4-wide, then down to 3-wide with cover, before eventually getting into the running line, but some 40m behind the leader and second favourite Shes Excited.

At the end of the back straight the first time, as they passed the 1500m point, as the pace had slackened, Jodi moved Alannah forward 3-wide to reach the death with about 1100m to go. Alannah closed to be a length away rounding the home turn and fought bravely all the way up the home straight, but couldn't overhail the leader and finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> placing, 3.1m from the winner.

The winner was Shes Excited, who had led all the way, in a time of 2:50.6 (MR 2:04.8), with good closing sectionals of 57.9 and 27.8.

Craig advised after the race that they were happy with Alannah's effort and her progress since and she was then to race next on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, at Melton.

This was not to be however, as Craig advised today (13<sup>th</sup> October), "Alannah has been off her feed on and off for the past week. I have pulled a blood test on her and have nominated her for Friday night [16<sup>th</sup> October] at Melton. I will monitor her in the next few days and analyse her blood results today as to her running Friday."

So, Craig will analyse Alannah's blood test and make a decision on whether she starts this Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup> October, at Tabcorp Park Melton, or not.

Currently, Alannah is in Race 4, timed to start at 9:30pm (NZ Time). This is the \$9,350 Swift Signs Trot, over 1720m, from a mobile start. Alannah has drawn well at Barrier No. 1 and will be driven by top reinsman Gavin Lang, if indeed she does start.

If she does start, this race is scheduled to be shown live on Trackside 2, here in New Zealand, so **GOOD LUCK for this race, if it eventuates !!!**

If there is any change and I hear further from Craig, I will let you know by email, but hopefully all will be OK and Alannah will take her place in this field.

## **Trainer Kerry Manning :-**

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

After her very good run in the Breeders Crown Final, Linda was to remain in Australia under the care of leading Victorian trainer/driver Kerry Manning.

In her first report on the 17<sup>th</sup> September, Kerry advised, "She settled in very well straight away and came straight onto our feed as well and hasn't left a grain. She has done very well in a short period of time and we have been very impressed with her work. So much so that we have her in on Tuesday night at Swan Hill and expect her to go very well. It is a maiden race so the class is quite a bit weaker than her last few starts so barring accidents she should be very hard to beat, there are a couple that go ok but hopefully her class prevails. She is in race 1 at 6.08pm our time drawn 4, unfortunately as I was a little naughty and currently serving 2 weeks suspension Grant my husband will be driving her. When we picked her up from Mark he mentioned some swelling in her off side hock and to keep an eye on it, at this stage it has not caused any issues and we will be sure to have our vets look at it if we feel it needs any attention."

So, Linda was to have her first start from Kerry's stable on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, at Swan Hill in Victoria. This was in the \$6,610 Sweet Lou @ Woodlands Stud Mobile Pace, over 2240m, where Linda drew Barrier No. 4 in an 11-horse field and was to be driven by Grant Campbell.

Linda was sent out a very hot odds-on favourite, finishing up at \$1.00 for the win and \$1.00 for a place, but did get down as low as \$0.90 to win and \$0.30 for the place on the early tote. She was showing \$1.04 and \$1.01 on the fixed odds, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> favourite showing \$39.00 and \$3.90 on the tote. This was mainly due to the field being reduced to only 7 runners, after there were two scratchings and two late scratchings.

Linda went straight to the lead and ambled along at a very moderate pace, dictating terms and controlling the race.

A couple put in their claims down the back the final time, but Grant just held Linda back to the field and was cruising round the home turn and as she straightened for the run to the finish, Linda quickly put 10m on her rivals and ran away for a very easy win, by an ever increasing 16.5m margin.

Linda's winning time was a slow 2:51.4 (MR 2:03.1), but her closing sectionals were good in 56.5 and 27.4.

**CONGRATULATIONS** on what was an incredibly easy win. I guess her very short price on the tote said it all.

Kerry reported two days after the race, "Yes Linda won very nicely as I guess she should have but as you probably know it doesn't always happen that way ha ha. I thought she may have been a little bit chubby going into it as she does love to eat so the run will do her good and she pulled up super, didn't even need a hose as she hardly raised a sweat and wouldn't of blown a candle out. Actually couldn't even tell she had run. Ate up good last night too. I got our vet to have a quick look at her today as she has a small lump just above her knee where the knee boot goes and it seemed a little bit sore to touch but it was ok, vet said it's like an old knock and there

is a little bony lump under the skin and the knee boot probably aggravated it and also just got him to check the hock she has the swelling on as Mark said to keep an eye on it but he was happy with that too. So all good news there. Better safe than sorry I always say. I'm looking at putting her in Friday week at Melton, think it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, it's worth a bit more money and looks a good race for her. Will touch base with you closer to that race and let you know how she is. Thanks."

Kerryn then advised on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, "Just a quick message to let you know that Linda's race at Melton didn't get enough entries so it will be scrapped which is a bugger!! So I will enter her at Horsham next Monday."

So, Linda was then to race next on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, at Horsham in Victoria. This was in the \$6,350 Conways Horsham – Alex Ashwood Pace, over 1700m from a mobile start. Linda drew Barrier No. 5 in a 9-horse field (reduced to 8 runners with a scratching) and was to be driven on this occasion by Kerryn Manning.

Kerryn advised prior to the race, "I've been happy with her since her first run. The field is slightly better than at Swan Hill but still none in it that should trouble her too much, the only one that may be a bit of a pest is my dad's horse Our Bedrock who drew inside her, as it's a bit mad and likes to lead and pull hard so I'm pretty sure we will have to possibly sit outside it while it runs along but it does usually stop at the end so it's more of an annoyance but will see what happens as the race pans out. Will see what's next for her after this one and let you know."

Linda was once again sent out a hot odds-on favourite and made a good beginning, but as Kerryn had predicted Our Bedrock made his way to the lead and Linda was obliged to sit parked, right from the outset.

Our Bedrock began to sky away and as they reached the bell with a lap-to-go, was about 15m in front, with Linda still sitting parked. Into the back straight Our Bedrock drew ahead even further, by about 25m, as they completed the second quarter of the last mile in a very fast 27.7.

With about 500m left to run, Linda moved into a clear second position and began to work on closing the gap. Rounding the home turn, as they passed the 400m mark, Linda was closing rapidly and was soon right up on Our Bedrock's back, pulling out as they turned for home and just ran away from them in the home straight, to go on for a very good win

Linda's winning time was 2:01.3 (MR 1:54.8), with closing sectionals of 58.2 and 28.8. The winning margin was a massive 20.1m.

Linda's Mile Rate of 1:54.8 set a new personal best for her and a new Track Record for the 1700m distance, eclipsing the previous mark by 0.5 seconds.

So, **CONGRATULATIONS** once again; another good win by Linda !!!

So, as the commentator put it, "sizzling conditions on and off the track", as the temperature rose to 37 degrees, to match Linda's hot pace.

**WELL DONE !!!**

Linda came through her race well, but unfortunately, on the 8<sup>th</sup> October Kerryn reported, "I had nominated Linda for Bendigo next week but have taken her out as

when she came in to work this morning she had blood in one nostril and some skin off her forehead, not sure what she has done in her yard last night but has obviously whacked her head on something. I spoke to our vet about it and he said she may have fractured her sinus bone, it sounds worse than it is as because it's not a weight bearing area so won't affect her too much and you can't actually do anything for it but just needs a week or two of jogging only and see how it goes. Horses do the stupidest things sometimes. This means she probably won't be racing for 3 or 4 weeks I'm sorry. I will get the vet to check her progress next Wednesday to see how it is healing and I will let you know more about how it's going then. Sorry for the bad news."

So it will be 3 or 4 weeks before we see Linda racing again, so let's hope that her sinus bone heals quickly and she makes a complete recovery.

Linda is obviously very well placed in the handicapping system in Australia and her two-from-two recent wins in Kerryn's care have been very dominant ones, so I'm sure there will be many more suitable racing opportunities for her in Victoria in the immediate future, where she can be more than competitive and many many more races.

### **Trainer Todd Mitchell :-**

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

After having one race in the north where she was pulled up after breaking a hopple, then having a run at the workouts to try and sort things out, Glitzy had also shown some signs of soreness, so was sent for a spell.

She was to have 8 weeks out at Breckon Farms, but in her final week it was discovered that Glitzy had an under run in her foot, so this was dug out and she was confined to a box for 10 days, before having a further 3 weeks in the spelling paddock to allow her time to get over this further setback.

When she went back out into the paddock, a reinforced gel pad was fitted to her foot and this has helped Glitzy to get over her problem better.

Breckon Farms, Farm Manager Scott Yarnley reported last week, "She looks OK. She's had that gel pad on her foot and now she looks a box of birds, so can really probably go back to Todd's [Mitchell's to go back into training]."

The vet thought that Glitzy's under run could have been there for some time and may have been part of the cause for her earlier difficulties on the track, so here's hoping that this was the case and that she can now put her best foot forward and have her best chance to continue to show us the ability she obviously possesses.

Glitzy will be given another 3 weeks out, to ensure her foot has completely recovered and will return to Todd Mitchell's barn early in November, to commence her training and work towards a successful return to racing, probably in the New Year.



## **Trainer Barry Purdon :-**

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

Having had to have an enforced layoff due to injury, Hotty returned to training and completed her 6 weeks jogging, before moving on to her more serious hopped work.

She was making good steady progress, when on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, trainer Barry Purdon reported, "She's a little nobby in her work. I'll get her checked out. It may just be a stone bruise or she may have a bit of arthritis in there (referring to where she had her fracture and screw inserted). I'd rather wait until Ivan [Bridge – renowned and very experienced vet] is back [from overseas] and get him to check her, especially after what happened last time she was x-rayed."



Then a few days later, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Barry advised, "She's just feeling it. I now have no doubt that it's the original injury and something to do with that. I'll give her a few more days and see how she goes."

On the 29<sup>th</sup> September Barry said, "She's right one day and not the next. I don't want anything to happen to her, or for her to break down. It could be a disaster. It's a result of what has already happened; I'm sure of that. We can get her x-rayed, but that's just more cost and really because it's the same area as her previous trouble, I think it's best to call it a day and retire her to the breeding barn."

So, Ken Breckon was consulted and he agreed with Barry, that it was best to retire Hotty, rather than risk her breaking down, and/or having to spend a considerable amount of money on vet bills.

Hotty has now been retired and has returned to Breckon Farms to prepare for motherhood.

This is certainly a shame, as Hotty had shown some real potential earlier on in her racing career and was close to trialling this time in, but has been unable to fulfil her potential.

I'm sure she will make a great broodmare, as she is closely related to top 3YO filly The Orange Agent. It will be interesting to follow her progeny in the future.

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

Having won her last start in fine fashion, at Cambridge on the 10<sup>th</sup> September, Judy came through this race well and was set to race again the following week, at Alexandra Park, on the 18<sup>th</sup> September.

However, this was not to be, as on the morning of this race Barry phoned to advise that Judy unfortunately had a cut on



her leg that morning and although it was really quite small, it was inside her back leg right where her hobble goes and after trying her that morning with the hobbles on, Judy was tender on it, so regrettably she had to be scratched from her race assignment that night.

Barry also advised, that the cut, while small, appeared to have caused some bruising, so would need time to heal and may mean that Judy wouldn't race for 2-3 weeks. This was indeed unfortunate, as Barry had commented that "she looks great" at the moment and "was a great chance of winning tonight."

The next morning, Barry phoned, very distraught with some very bad news. While Judy's cut had appeared quite minor, but did have some bruising associated with it, she seemed OK in herself and was put out in the paddock and appeared to be moving around comfortably, until that morning when she wouldn't move. Her leg was in bad shape and a fracture was suspected. This was confirmed with an x-ray and very unfortunately Judy had to be euthanized. It was thought that she maybe had a hairline fracture from the kick that was the cause of the cut and bruising, then she rolled awkwardly in the paddock and fractured her leg.

This was indeed very sad news for us all and especially so for Ken and Karen Breckon, who were looking forward to Judy being a broodmare, as she certainly had the breeding behind her and was fashioning a worthwhile racing career to match.

Barry was devastated by the morning's events and found it very hard to make the phone call, saying, "She's gone from racing in 3 weeks, to this. I've never seen anything like it. It's a real shame, because she's such a lovely mare."

So, JUDY was humanely euthanized by the vet at Barry's property that morning and I certainly felt for you all and was sorry to have to give you such sad news.

### **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)

Good luck and many more wins to come ...

Cheers

**Rob**



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