



Breckon Farms – The Savvy Six Syndicate



September 2018 Newsletter

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Hi there

Welcome to another monthly newsletter for the Breckon Farms – The Savvy Six Syndicate.

Well at last, it appears that spring has sprung. This week has been a much warmer and drier week, so hopefully it's onwards and upwards from here for some good spring weather and racing.

The last month has flown by and already we have received some very encouraging reports on your fillies, but as I always say, we have to be patient !!!

With the positive reports and action with some of your fillies over the last few weeks and months, we are well on our way to what looks like will be lots of fun and excitement.

I look forward to meeting you all personally soon, especially once things start to happen at the workouts, trials, or even races.

This brings me to one of the main points of this Newsletter ... information on your horses.

The Fillies.....

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

Ballroom Beauty (Bettor's Delight / Twist And Twirl)

Ballroom Beauty was broken-in by Mark Smolenski, who gave her exceptional ratings and made extremely positive comments such as, "She was an absolute pleasure to train with all the attributes needed in the making of a nice filly. These are some big calls but she also has the pedigree and the trainer to support it, so I expect something special from this filly."

Ballroom Beauty was then to go for a spell and when she returned on the 25th June she went to Steve Boyd's at Aylesbury to be pre-trained. After a little over 5-weeks being jogged up by Steve, she transferred to the All Stars Stable of Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen on the 1st August.

Ballroom Beauty has now had over 6 weeks in work at the All Stars Stable and last week, this photo of Ballroom Beauty (and On A Roll) was posted on the All Stars website, with the caption, "ON A ROLL LEADS BALLROOM BEAUTY WITH HAYDEN TRACKING THE SECTIONALS IN FRONT" ...



Mark reported on the 17th September, "Ballroom Beauty worked over a mile in 2:25 on Saturday. She's still got to improve a little. She doesn't feel strong enough yet. She has a little trouble with her gait, but a bit more time will help."

In another month or so, Mark and Natalie will have a better idea of where Ballroom Beauty is heading and how she is handling things, as she continues to increase her speed and work down in her times over this period.

So, it will be interesting to see how she progresses over the next month and what the conclusions are at this point.

On A Roll (Bettor's Delight / Only For You)

On A Roll was also broken-in by Mark Smolenski and she too was to receive excellent marks on his rating table, with very good comments as well, such as, "She felt a stronger type than Ballroom Beauty early on but then she started to grow and found it a little difficult to find total balance on speed. This does happen with young horses that are going to be big. Mark Purdon came and had a drive and commented that he liked her willingness and had a smile on his face returning to the barn, which is a positive!"

On A Roll also then went for a well-earned spell, before returning to training on the 25th June, to be initially jogged-up and pre-trained by Steve Boyd, before she too was transferred to the All Stars Stable on the 1st August.

On A Roll has also now had over 6 weeks in work at the All Stars Stable and last week, she too was to feature in the photo above, posted on the All Stars website.

Mark reported on the 17th September, "She's at more-or-less the same stage as Ballroom Beauty, as they both came to us at the same time. She also worked a mile in 2:25 on Saturday, but she is safe in her gear and she feels more like a 2-year-old of the two. She too has a wee way to go, but in another month or so, we'll have a better idea."

So, in about another month, Mark and Natalie will also have a better idea of where On A Roll is at and what will be the next phase for her. She will also continue to increase her speed and work down in her times over this period, so it will be interesting to follow her progress and see where she ends up.

Tailored Elegance (Muscle Hill / Classic Armbro)

After being broken-in by Brent Donnelly and having a spell at Breckon Farms, Tailored Elegance headed south on the 11th July to begin her more serious training.

First, she was to be pre-trained by Steve Boyd, before transferring to the All Stars Stable on the 1st August, along with Ballroom Beauty and On A Roll.

You may be interested in an article that appeared on the All Stars website last month about your filly Tailored Elegance.

Here is the article, if you missed it ...

TAILOR MADE TO TROT -OR NOT

A promising young trotter at All Stars currently is Tailored Elegance the first filly foal of Classic Armbro, an Armbro Invasion mare, by Muscle Hill one of the world's best sires of trotters. And Classic Armbro of course is a daughter of the outstanding trotting mare Merinai. And therein lies a story.

In very few families does one horse define an era but in this case it comes very close. When Merinai came along nobody thought of her immediate family as trotters. With good reason.

But Merinai, winner of 19 races from various stables (the last with Mark) changed all that. Included in her wins were the Rowe Memorial Gold Cup and the Dominion Handicap that made her the Horse of the Year in 1998 a rare feat for a trotter with only names like No Response and Sir Castleton before her. Once she was established her reputation there was a rush to mate her dam and her descendants to trotting sires and the result has been an ongoing succession of smart trotters (Miss Pegasus. Sunny Elegant, Wingsonhai etc) from a family pre-Merinai which was considered a pacing line-at least in this country.

Merinai was by Tuff Choice a pacing stallion by Windshield Wiper from a Bret Hanover mare - not a cross with much trotting interest. However further back there was a lot of Volomite blood around and pacing sires from the family who came to New Zealand - notably Flying Song - left high class trotting horses. Tuff Choice left several other trotters in what was basically a lacklustre stud career and after Merinai's success her dam Meriden, Blossom Lady's sire Farm Timer, was mated with trotting stallions like Sundon and Chiola Hanover.

Meriden's dam Merinda was by the pacing star Lochgair who traced to the Ted Lowe family of Jesse B. It was prized by her breeders because she was a pacer by a pacing stallion something very rare back in the 1880's. Merinda's dam Thunderina, a useful pacing mare (7 wins), was never bred to a trotting sire (10 foals) by the Johnson family of Doyleston and was closely related to a pacing star in Single Direct an Inter Dominion champion.

However there were a few trotting clues around in the pedigree. Thunderina's sire, Thunder On, a thundering failure at stud here in spite of (or perhaps because of) being by U Scott's sire from the dam of Light Brigade whose daughters dominated the era. However Thunder On did leave a record breaking young trotter in Spark Gap and Thunderina's dam was by Medoro, a converted trotter imported by Noel Simpson from Italy to circumvent the then tough international finance rules applying to buying horses in America (basically you couldn't). Medoro sired Single Medoro - a brother to Thunderina's dam, Singlena, a smart pacing mare - who dead-heated in the NZ Derby so the emphasis on breeding pacers was understandable.

Medoro, whose dam, Alma Lee, was once a world record holding trotter over a mile (the first trotter driven by a female driver in 2.00) was a successful sire of broodmares too and some including Paulette and Princess Pat became valuable breeders. He was by the same sire as Dillon Hall a highly successful pacing stallion in this country. The trotting seeds were there it could be said. But it took a long while for the crop to ripen!

Also, here is a photo of Tailored Elegance that appeared on the All Stars website, with the caption, "TAILORED ELEGANCE TRACKING THE GP IN AN EASY 2000M" ...



Doesn't she look good?

So, after she too has been with All Stars for about 6 weeks, Mark reported on the 17th September, "I'm pleased with her. She's quite a nice trotter. Over the last week, she has got stronger in her gait. Being a trotter, it's more than likely that we'll give her a break after about another month, but we'll just wait and see. It's still early days yet."

Things certainly sound very promising for Tailored Elegance, so it will also be interesting to see how she progresses over the next month or so and to see what the decision is at that time, as to whether she goes for a spell or continues on in training.



Trainer Tony Herlihy :-

Cheeky Babe (Muscle Hill / Factor The Odds)

After her time being broken-in by Tony Herlihy, Cheeky Babe was to be sent for a decent 5-month spell at Breckon Farms.

Breckon Farms Farm Manager, Scott Yarndley advised on the 12th September, "Cheeky Babe is doing well during her spell and now that we appear to be through the wet weather she will certainly enjoy the sunshine and spring grass until she returns to training at the end of the month."

Tony was happy with the way Cheeky Babe broke-in and her good and laid-back attitude, as well as her trotting action and of course she received the seal of approval from renowned trotting expert and leading southern trotting trainer Phil Williamson, so it was great for her to also receive such positive reports.

As I said last month, for this syndicate to be able to have the opportunity to race two fillies that are by the global siring sensation Muscle Hill, is a real privilege and I'm sure will be a major factor in what will hopefully be lots of success.

When Cheeky Babe completes her 5-month spell, she will then return to Tony's Ardmore stable to continue her education.

Monkee Around (Art Major - Sheza Monkee)

After being broken-in by Brent Donnelly, Monkee Around had a spell back at Breckon Farms before then going to her trainer Tony Herlihy's stable for some further education.

Despite being a bit of a handful early on, Monkee Around settled down and was soon pacing along nicely. At the end of this preparation, it was decided that as she was a bit immature, she would then have a decent 5-month spell.

So, she was to go for her spell at Breckon Farms and after a little over 2 months out, Breckon Farms Farm Manager, Scott Yarndley advised on the 12th September, "Monkee Around is also doing well out in the spelling paddock. She has some time still to go, but so far she is progressing well and I'm sure this spell will do her the world of good."

Monkee Around will remain in the spelling paddock until the beginning of December, by which time she should have grown and matured, while enjoying the nice spring grass, to be well-prepared for her next stint in training.

Trainer Brent Mangos :-

Dragon Tattoo (Art Major / Rozelski)

Dragon Tattoo had a few problems working out how to pace early on in her breaking-in period with trainer Brent Mangos and this combined with her wanting to kick all the time, saw her sent to Brent Donnelly in Cambridge to continue her education and get her sorted out.

Brent Donnelly managed to get Dragon Tattoo sorted out and pacing along nicely, so she was to return to Brent Mangos' stable to complete her preparation. She's improved a lot and finished this preparation off with an appearance at the Franklin Park Yearling Parade, at Pukekohe, on the 28th July, where she paraded looking very good and was judged the Best Turned Out Pacing Filly on the day ... **CONGRATULATIONS !!!**

After this success, Dragon Tattoo was to return to Breckon Farms on the 3rd August, for a 2-month spell.

On the 12th September, Breckon Farms Farm Manager, Scott Yarndley advised, "Dragon Tattoo is enjoying her time in the paddock and also is doing well. Now that we are getting some sunshine she is loving that and with the spring growth she should continue to do well until she returns to training at the end of this month."

Hopefully Dragon Tattoo will grow a little too during her time out and be set to return at the end of September for some further education and a more serious preparation this time back in training.

It will be interesting to see how she is at the end of this month, when it's time to return to Brent's.

Breckon Farms at the 2018 Breeders Crown

The Breckon Farms Syndicates have had a great record at the Australasian Breeders Crown over the years (with winners High Gait and Partyon and placegetters Linda Lovegrace, High Gait, Regal Love and Partyon), but unfortunately this year was not to be one of them.

The Breckon Farms – The Perfect Ten Syndicate was to have a representative at this year's Breeders Crown, with (So) Tickle Me Pink in contention. In fact, Tickle Me Pink was installed an early hot favourite to take out the Final, but sadly this was not to be. As she didn't handle the big trip across the Tasman too well, losing condition and underperforming in the Redwood Classic (finishing 5th) and her Breeders Crown Heat (finishing 3rd), the decision was made to withdraw from the series and head home for a spell.

However, this year it was left to Breckon Farms bred fillies and mares to fly the flag, as so many have done in the past with Breeders Crown Champions Katy Perry, High Gait and King Of Swing being bred by Breckon Farms and Glenferrie Shuffle and Miss Moonlite having been bred on the farm.

This year Breckon Farms were represented by no less than six runners, that were either Breckon Farms bred or part-owned, or bred at Breckon Farms.

It was once again a successful year, with Stress Factor (Majestic Son / Fear Factor) bred by Breckon Farms taking out the Group 1 \$70,000 Woodlands Stud Breeders Crown Series 20 (3YO Trotting Colts & Geldings) Final, (Our) Princess Tiffany (Art Major / Dancing Diamonds) bred by Braeden and Caroline Whitelock at Breckon Farms winning the Group 1 \$290,000 Always B Miki Alabar Breeders Crown Series 21 (2YO Fillies) Final and Just Rockon Bye (Christian Cullen / OK Rock) bred by Breckon Farms taking out the \$20,000 Always B Miki Alabar Breeders Crown Graduate Cup.

Unfortunately, it didn't work out quite so well on the night for (I'm) Another masterpiece, co-owned by the Breckon Racing Syndicate, along with Glenys & Phil Kennard (also

Breckon Farms Syndicate members), Jim & Anne Gibbs and Garry & Kerry Woodham, in the Group 1 \$290,000 Woodlands Stud Breeders Crown Series 21 (2YO Colts & Geldings) Final, where he was checked out of the race at the start and while mounting a huge effort after an excellent drive by Mark Purdon, he just found his early exertions a little too much when they ran a sizzling last 800m in 54.5 seconds and had to settle for a valiant 3rd placing, only 5.4m from the winner.

So, once again it was a great night's racing and with great results for Breckon Farms and we offer CONGRATULATIONS to all successful connections on the night.



Stress Factor wins the 2018 Breeders Crown 2YO Trotting C&G Final



Princess Tiffany's connections after her Final win to make it 9-from-9

Always B Miki 2018 North Island Harness Racing Awards

The Always B Miki North Island Awards Night was held in the Tasman Room, at Alexandra Park, on Saturday the 1st September, with a great crowd of approximately 350 people in attendance, in what was the 26th edition of these awards.

This year's very popular event on the Northern Harness Racing Calendar commenced with Pre-Dinner Drinks in the Lyell Creek Lounge, with patrons then moving to the Tasman Room, in the Centennial Stand, for a sumptuous 3-course dinner, while celebrating the recognition of industry achievements, with the night once again extremely well overseen by popular Masters of Ceremonies Greg O'Connor and in his second appearance southern counterpart Mark McNamara.

Notable equine award recipients were the 2-year-old pacing Colt or Gelding of the Year Supreme Dominator, the 2-year-old pacing Filly of the Year Princess Tiffany, the 2-year-old Trotter of the Year Tickle Me Pink, the 3-year-old pacing Colt or Gelding of the Year Triple Eight, the 3-year-old pacing Filly of the Year Ivana Flybye and the 3-year-old Trotter of the Year Monaro Mia. The up-and-coming young trainer Steve Telfer took out the Trainer of the Year award, while Princess Tiffany also took out the Filly / Mare of the Year category, with Speeding Spur taking out the Aged Trotter of the Year and Star Galleria the Aged Pacer of the Year.

Noteworthy human award winners were Sheridan Rapley as Groom of the Year, Benjamin Butcher as Junior Drivers of the Year, Braeden & Caroline Whitelock as Owners of the Year, Braeden & Caroline Whitelock also as Breeder of the Year, David Butcher once again as Driver of the Year and Michelle Wallis the Female Racing Accomplishment Award.

The special award for Racing Achievement was presented to John & Josh Dickie and Amanda Kiddie and the Outstanding Contribution to Harness Racing Award was made to Murray & Deneece Goldsworthy who were instrumental in the establishment of the very successful Kidz Katz.

A quiz was staged amongst those in attendance with a prize of a Nespresso Coffee Machine kindly sponsored by Magness Video Ltd and there were several auctions on the night, for such items as a service fee to Sir Lincoln (donated by Lincoln Farms Bloodstock), a set of framed 2018 Harness Jewels colours signed by all the winning trainers and drivers, a fishing trip for two with Ross Johnson & Tony Herlihy and a service fee to Always B Miki (donated by Alabar & Nevele R Stud), all to raise funds for the North Island Harness Racing Awards Trust.

A full list of award winners is as follows:-

2018 ALWAYS B MIKI NORTH ISLAND HARNESS RACING AWARDS

Auckland Harness Racing Trust Premier Cadet Award: **Alicia Harrison**

Waikato Bay of Plenty Harness Amateur Driver of the Year: **Logan Darby**

Kahukuri Bloodstock – Hollis & Robertson Groom of the Year: **Sheridan Rapley**

Magness Video Ltd / Vid-Com Ltd Licence-to-Train/Owner-Trainer of the Year: **Dave Iremonger**

Mitavite Junior Driver of the Year: **Benjamin Butcher**

PGG Wrightson 2-year-old Colt or Gelding of the Year: **Supreme Dominator**

PGG Wrightson 2-year-old Filly of the Year: **Princess Tiffany**

Breckon Farms 2-year-old Trotter of the Year: **Tickle Me Pink**

Breckon Farms 3-year-old Trotter of the Year: **Monaro Mia**

Dunstan 3-year-old Colt or Gelding of the Year: **Triple Eight**

Dunstan 3-year-old Filly of the Year: **Ivana Flybye**

Merv & Meg Butterworth Female Racing Achievement of the Year: **Michelle Wallis**

Garrards Horse & Hound Owners of the Year: **Braeden & Caroline Whitelock**

Caduceus Club Filly/Mare of the Year: **Princess Tiffany**

NI Standardbred Breeders Association Breeder of the Year: **Braeden & Caroline Whitelock**

IRT Driver of the Year: **David Butcher**

Veterinary Associates Equine and Farm Trainer of the Year: **Steve Telfer**

Veterinary Associates Equine and Farm Broodmare of the Year: **Delicata**

HR Fisken & Sons Trotting Stallion of the Year: **Majestic Son**

Woodlands Stud Pacing Stallion of the Year: **Bettor's Delight**

Harness Racing New Zealand Trotter of the Year: **Speeding Spur**

Auckland Trotting Club Aged Pacer of the Year: **Star Galleria**

Sir Lincoln at Lincoln Farms Bloodstock Racing Achievement Award: **John & Josh Dickie and Amanda Kiddie**

Always B Miki Alabar/Nevele R Stud Outstanding Contribution to Harness Racing: **Murray & Denece Goldsworthy**

Breckon Farms had a significant involvement in the night, firstly as sponsors of the 2-year-old Trotter of the Year and 3-year-old Trotter of the Year awards, then having nominations for 2-year-old Filly of the Year (as breeders of Miss Streisand and with Princess Tiffany being foaled at Breckon Farms), 2-year-old Trotter of the Year (as breeders of Tickle Me Pink – raced by the Breckon Farms – The Perfect Ten Syndicate), 3-year-old Trotter of the Year (as breeders of Girls On Film and Stress Factor), Owners of the Year (as a nominee), Filly / Mare of the Year (with Princess Tiffany being foaled at Breckon Farms), Breeder of the Year (as a nominee) and Broodmare of the Year (Goodlookinggirl).

It was great to see Tickle Me Pink take out the 2-year-old Trotter of the Year title, so **CONGRATULATIONS** to the Breckon Farms – The Perfect Ten Syndicate for this achievement and **CONGRATULATIONS** to all other award recipients.

Newsletters On the Website

Please remember, your monthly newsletters will also be displayed on the Breckon Farms Website, so you can access them whenever you wish, especially if you can't find them amongst your emails.

The Breckon Farms website address is:- www.breckonfarms.co.nz

Under the 'Syndicates' menu, you will find the 'The Savvy Six Syndicate' section, then scroll to the bottom and you will find your newsletters.

You may also enjoy reading some of the other sections contained within the website.

Good luck and let's hope there are many wins to come ...

Cheers
Rob



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