



PRIME DISPATCH

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The Wasp wins again at Scone three on the trot!!!

Heads to Provincial Championship qualifier at Gosford 15/03/17

I must say I was pleased to see The Wasp get up at Scone on Sunday on the Club's Country Championship Qualifying Day. \$370,000 was distributed back to the industry through stakes money with BOBS bonuses of \$60,000 on top of that available for the eight races. These Provincial and Country Championship Qualifying days have created terrific interest outside of the metropolitan area with the overall standard of racing throughout country NSW improving which leads to an increase in turnover and more revenue for the industry. Win win!!!

Overall we had a bit of a frustrating week on the track with poor barrier, heavy tracks and lack of tempo in races not helping our cause. I was amazed that the meeting went ahead at Randwick on Saturday. I was at the track on Friday morning and it was bucketing down.

It was a credit to the ground staff at the ATC to have the track safe to race and it turned out a good meeting although I am always wary of the form from meetings run on such a heavy surface. Our runner Savoureux wasn't handling the going at all and Brenton Avdulla did a great job keeping her balanced to the line. Everything going into the meeting suggested she was going very well and I expect she will bounce back once she gets onto a better surface.

Lomazzo couldn't take a trick at Hawkesbury. He drew wide on a heavy track, couldn't get on the track in the run and was posted five and six wide. He will probably head to Newcastle on 29 March for a final chance to qualify for the Championships. Hopefully he gets a better surface although the reports on the new main track at Newcastle are outstanding.

TOUGH WEEK FOR THE INDUSTRY

The news that Canberra track rider Riharna Thompson had passed away on Friday morning after sustaining terrible injuries in a fall earlier in the week once again highlighted the dangerous job jockeys and track work riders have.

At times we are all critical of a ride or a piece of track work a rider may perform on one of our horses. Perhaps we should reflect that each time a jockey or track work rider is legged up onto one of our horses of the dangers they face.

I didn't know Riharna Thompson but our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this most difficult of times.

I have seen some terrible injuries in my time in racing with Michael Lucas, the rider of the first horse I was involved in sustaining serious injuries in a race fall at Gatton in 1976 on Young Ruby. I was only 19 at the time and remember being shocked when I visited him in hospital and saw the state he was in.

GREAT NEWS OUT OF RVL

The half year financial result delivered by RVL acting Chairman Mike Hurst painted a very rosy picture indeed with wagering for the six months up 6% across the board to \$3.63 billion. The bottom line was an increase in profit by \$1.9 million compared with the same point a year earlier.

It is nice to see RVL putting out these figures and which highlights the good job many people do at headquarters. Many of the participants who work in racing are under pressure and this leads them to be critical of the job being done by the administrators. At the end of the day most people involved in our sport are trying to do the best they can for the

industry and these efforts need to be highlighted from time to time. The racing industry is vitally important to our community on many fronts and directly and indirectly employs 100,000's of Australians. It needs to be well managed to ensure it continues to prosper.

NEW VRC CHAIRMAN

I was pleased to hear the Amanda Elliott had been elected as Chairman of the Victoria Racing Club. Over the years I have met Amanda on number of occasions and I'm certain she will do a great job in her new role. Her first press release as Chairman was very positive and the Club is in good hands.

If you have been to Flemington recently you will see the work has started on the new Member's Stand. I must say I was a bit taken back on Saturday when I arrived to see the old Member's Stand had been demolished with work having started on the new Member's Stand. I had some great days in that old stand but it had had its day and I can't wait for the new stand to be built.

I will highlight the yearlings that are quickly filling so if you are interested in getting into these three you should move quickly. The interest in our yearlings is unprecedented.

THIS WEEK'S YEARLINGS

Firstly, I would like to make the point that I am very happy with the way our yearling purchases have been received by the market.

I have steadily increased 'our spend' at the yearling sales over the past few years but felt I needed to if we were to continue to be competitive and a leader in our industry.

At the end of the day I am out there trying to buy not only horses that can win on the track but also to secure horses that can compete with the best on the big days. It is no fluke that there is rarely a major carnival in Melbourne and Sydney where we are not represented.

Our effort in having seven runners at the Magic Millions \$10 million Day in January shouldn't be under estimated. Our trainers and I had targeted the day and to win one of the big races was a dream result, with luck in running we could have won a couple more but there are so many variables in racing.

I hope you like the yearlings I am highlighting this week.



Sebring / Queen Hazel filly – Kris Lees

10% shares \$31,500 5% shares \$15,750

This filly rated very highly as a type and this is backed up with a terrific pedigree. She is closely related to Criterion and comes from a great two year old family. I couldn't have been happier when I secured her. She has a wonderful hindquarter, deep girth and is a lovely walker. She is an attractive looking filly which is positive. The progeny of Sebring can be a bit common looking but that isn't the case with this filly.

The filly is currently being broken in and has just jumped out of the ground since I purchased her. She looks every bit a high class filly.

Queen Hazel (USA)

I love buying out of families where Oaks fillies appear on the page and in this case we have a Canadian Oaks winner and Champion Three Year Old in Canada as the third dam. Queen Hazel (USA) was a two year old winner in the USA and also Group 3 placed. She has had one foal to race with it winning twice I 2016 and being metropolitan placed.

Queen Hazel is a ½ sister to the stakes performer Flying Jazz the winner of six races. The dam line here is good with the first three dams having 19 to race for 16 individual winners with a number of black type performers on the page. She has been well bred with an unraced two year old filly by Smart Missile and a foal by Sebring following this filly. In 2016 on the strength of this foal she went back to Sebring and is believed to be in foal. This reads very well.

Sebring

There are not too many better sires in Australia than Sebring. He is very versatile and gets high class two year olds as well as very good staying horses. This season he is sitting 8th on the National Sire's List, 4th on the Two Year Old List and 6th on the Three Year Old List.

I'm really looking forward to this filly getting to the races. She is nominated for the rich Magic Millions race series and will be paid up for the lucrative BOBS Scheme. Kris Lees who is sitting 6th on the National Trainer's Title is the right man to train the filly.

It certainly would be nice to have her at the Gold Coast in January 2018 but given the strength of her pedigree and type of filly she is I wouldn't be surprised to see her really step up as the three year old.



The Girls on fire



2015 Needs Further / Tycoon Sali filly – Stuart Gandy to train

\$32,000 Tasmanian Magic Millions purchase

75% of filly taken up

Last year when I attended the Tasmanian Magic Millions Yearling Sale I was taken with some of the progeny of Armidale Stud's first season sire Needs Further. They certainly looked like racehorses and this assessment has been backed up with them coming out running with one of his daughters being the first stakes winner of the first season sires in Australia. The four I liked and had vetted by Needs Further were well received by the market selling for up to \$60,000 although this filly was the one I wanted.

She is very athletic and has nice length to her. Having written that she also quite strong and possesses a wonderful hindquarter. She has an attractive head and has inherited the a very important characteristic that Last Tycoon puts into a pedigree. He really tidies up the progeny and puts a lot of quality into the foals. She is a terrific chance of doing the job for us and is the first yearling I have purchased for Stuart Gandy.

I am paying her up for both the Tasmanian and Adelaide Magic Millions. Hopefully she can join Flying Jess, Husson Eagle, Hidden Wonder, Rose Of Scotland, Atalanta Miss and Rumeron as a winner of a Magic Millions feature race.

Update: Needs Further has moved to 5th on the Australian First Season Sire's List with two Stakes wins to his credit. No other first season sire has had a stakes winner.



Smart Missile / Devoirs filly – Darren Weir

10% shares \$14,900 5% shares \$7,450

If there was one yearling I was always going to purchase at this sale it was this one. I know the family very well and have two fillies closely related to this impressive Smart Missile filly. The first is Strike For Victory who like this filly is by Smart Missile Australia's Champion First Season Sire of 2015/16 season. Strike For Victory is probably the fastest two year old I have ever had. She has amazing talent but her attitude has let her down although this is improving.

The second filly I have from the family is Honolulu Lass out of Devoirs dam Velasco. Patrick Payne trains her and has a big opinion of her. She should race in the next six weeks. **A Smart Missile colt out of Velasco named Debellatio was an impressive winner WA recently and looks to have plenty of talent and is being aimed towards the Group 2 Karrakatta Plate.**

Devoirs was a good racehorse and Stakes winner. I was offered her first foal Edge Away as a weanling but felt she was too small. She is a Sydney Metropolitan winner.

This filly was reared at Yarraman Park whose reputation for rearing tough horses with good bone and a strong constitution has soared in recent years. I've written many times that it is more important where a foal is raised than who its parents are. This is certainly the case with Yarraman Park.

Progeny reared at Yarraman Park did a remarkable job during the recent Magic Millions Gold Coast Carnival where the highlight was the win by the Yarraman reared Houtzen. Other horses from the farm to perform well on the day were I Am Zelady which was 2nd in the \$1 million Mares Race and Madeenaty 3rd in the Two Year Old race as well.

Smart Missile

I have been a strong supporter of Smart Missile since I first inspected his yearlings and have three very nice three year old fillies by him that have raced with The Wasp and Strike For Victory being very impressive winners and Chastity Strikes being placed before needing a spell after contracting a virus. He was Champion first Season Sire in his year in Australia and s leading Second Season Sire as I write this.

I am thrilled to have this filly in our team and should thrive under Darren Weir's training. The filly will be paid up for the rich Magic Millions Series and looks a real runner to me.



The Wasp by Smart Missile as a yearling