



PRIME DISPATCH

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Our Long Sali resumes on Saturday at Moonee Valley!!!
Bill Egan to ride!!!

It has been a positive week on many fronts. Good news is what the country needs. On a racing front we have seen owners able to attend meetings in some jurisdictions which is great. It hasn't been easy for many participants in our industry to cope with the restrictions imposed over the past four months, but we are starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

It was about time the RVL Board settled on the program for the Spring Carnival and it wasn't surprising they chose to go with the traditional one. Derby weekend could be a bumper one for Melbourne with indications the AFL Grand Final may be played on the Sunday between Derby Day and Cup Day. This would be a huge boost for the Victorian economy. I think the discussions which have taken place may be the catalyst for some changes as we go forward but these won't happen this year. Having the Cox Plate run before the Caulfield Cup has a lot of merit.

Racing NSW announced prizemoney levels would revert to pre-Covert 19 levels from 1 July. Again, this is positive. I expect RVL to follow suit although perhaps not as soon. It should be noted at present Saturday races in Melbourne see the winner receive \$55,000 compared with \$46,400 in Sydney. When it comes to stakes money, we should count our blessings. It is amongst the best in the world.

NZ racing is about to restart. I really feel for all participants in NZ. The industry has been dealt a heavy blow and my discussions with friends in the Shaky Isles don't see too much sunshine in the near future. Perhaps it is time for TAB Limited to take over the NZ TAB and revitalise it.

Racing resumes in Tasmania this week. Common sense prevailed with the original seven race program being extended to ten races with stakes money per race increased from \$17,000 to \$19,500. I'd like to take a little bit of credit for this decision. Congratulations to the Tasmanian Racing Minister for getting this over the line. It hasn't been an easy time for them.



Japery was very good at Sale beaten a head - a smart 3yo!!!

We have had an interesting week at the track with Japery's run at Sale being full of merit. The 2yo gelding was beaten a head by a very promising 3yo filly which had excellent form around horses like Super Seth and Garner. Japery looks a horse of the future. He has developed into a fine specimen and has it all before him. Once again, Bill Egan rode him to perfection and almost got him home a winner.

McCain debuted at the same meeting and looked the winner halfway up the straight and finished a solid 4th beaten just over a length. He will take plenty of benefit from the run. We will be stepping out quite a few of our young team over the next month which is positive.

Winter tracks are starting to plague us with the Canterbury track resembling a cow paddock yesterday. Victoria will race at least once a week on the synthetic tracks over the next few months. Patrick Payne isn't keen on racing on the synthetic and our horses only race on these tracks as a last resort.

Once again there was criticism of the Eagle Farm track which was too firm for last week's meeting. The industry in Queensland doesn't seem to be able to take a trick at present with more integrity issues raised during the week over an apprentice jockey being licensed while facing serious charges in another state. I wonder if the industry in Queensland will ever point the finger at who was responsible for the Eagle Farm track fiasco. Someone must be held responsible.

YEARLINGS

Over the years we have made a habit of supporting first season sires whose progeny have attracted our attention for one reason or another. About 50 new sires come on the market each year with them covering about 20 to 30% of the mares to go to stud in any year. Any decent stud master goes out of his way to get the very best mares to his new sire he can.

Each year I purchase two or three yearlings from the sales by first season sires. Rubisaki, Zizzis and Fituese were by first season sires as were our outstanding gallopers Unchain My Heart and Under Command.

This year I was very taken by the progeny of Astern. He was an outstanding racehorse out of one of the best female lines in our stud book. I was keen to buy one if I found one that represented good value.

I purchased this filly from the Inglis Classic Sale for Patrick Payne to train. This is the last opportunity to get into a yearling with Patrick this year. She has been paid up for the rich Inglis Race Series. Inglis have added a new race to the series with a 2yo filly's race to be run on Oaks Day at Flemington. This filly is eligible to run in this race.

I couldn't offer a better type of filly. Get back to me if you are interested in her.

VICTORIA



Astern / Island Pago filly 2018 – Patrick Payne to train
10% shares \$13,000 5% shares \$6,500

I was impressed with some of the fillies by Astern which were offered at the Gold Coast Magic Millions Sale but couldn't secure any. That may well be a bonus as I secured this filly at the Inglis Classic Sale. She is a stunning filly and was highly rated by me, Bill and James Mitchell and Tim Roberts. I was a bit stunned when I secured her for about \$40,000 less than I was prepared to pay for her.

She is by Astern. He was a terrific young horse winning the Silver Slipper and Kindergarten Stakes as a 2yo and the Group 1 Golden Rose as a 3yo. He also won the Group 2 Run To The Rose Stakes.

I often discuss what makes a good sire in this country with Bill Mitchell. There are many factors but the best sires here are the fast horses. This is an attribute Astern had in abundance. He won some of our best 2yo races and then trained on to be a high class 3yo. He won five of his nine career starts and was placed 2nd on two other occasions including the Group 1 Ascot Vale Stakes and the Group 2 Roman Consul Stakes.

Astern is an impressive individual and stands at Darley's Hunter Valley Stud. He has as good a female line as we have in this country. He is out of the fast 2yo winning mare Essaouira by Exceed And Excel. She has also given us Champion filly Alizee and the stakes horses Tassort and Mogador.

The 2nd dam is the Group 2 winning Rory's Jester mare Alizes with the 3rd Dam being the Group 1 winner La Baraka. The 4th dam is Triscay by Marscay, one of the best fillies to ever race in Australia.

Darley think enough of Astern to shuttle him between the USA and Australia.

Island Pago is by Choisir. Choisir is doing a great job as a broodmare sire, although it is early days for him. He is represented by 31 stakes horses from his daughters including three at Group 1 level.

Medaglia d'Oro has crossed very well with Danehill with the Golden Slipper winner Vancouver coming from this cross. He also crossed very well with Thunder Gulch. I love Red Anchor in a pedigree. He was an outstanding horse. He is the dam sire of My Marebelle, this filly's 4th dam.

There is a lot to like about this filly. Most importantly, she is an athlete.



Astern – a big hope of success at stud!!!

TASMANIA

NEEDS FURTHER / REMEMBER THEM COLT

I have shares available in a cracking Needs Further colt to be trained by Adam. He is Magic Millions paid up as well as eligible for Tasmanian Breeding Bonuses.



Needs Further colt out of Remember Them 2018 - Adam Trinder to train

5% shares \$4,125

This picture tells the story. I have been inspecting the progeny of Needs Further for four years and this is the best colt I have inspected by the exciting young sire. He is an outstanding type of horse and from the moment I saw him I was determined to secure him. In my opinion he was the best colt in the 2020 Tasmanian Magic Millions Sale.

He is a superb athlete, light on his feet with a nice hindquarter and excellent conformation. He vetted out without any issues. The colt was reared at Armidale Stud which is a great start. Good horses I have purchased from Armidale in the past include Our Long Sali, Golden Script and our exciting 2yo Needs Further filly Vivilici.

Needs Further has done a remarkable job at stud with his biggest crop of yearlings being just 63. From this modest number he finished 9th on the Australian 3yo Sires List. He has sired the Group 1 winner Mystic Journey as well as the good sprinter Bold Star who recently won the Listed VRC Kensington Stakes. He also has the stakes horses Mystical Pursuit, Our Long Sali, Deroche and Pateena Arena.

I doubt if a better credentialed mare than Remember Them has been to Needs Further. She is by the Champion Sire Elusive Quality. He is best known in Australia as the dam sires of Shooting To Win, Deep Field and Guelph.

Remember Them is a ½ sister to the Stakes horses Highclere and Sunny Skies. She is out of the Multiple Stakes winner Showery. Further down the page is the NZ Oaks winner Natter. Good horses in the pedigree are the Group 1 winners Trap For Fools, Linc The Leopard and Old Money.

Remember Them's two earlier foals are deceased. She is believed to be in foal to Needs Further.

I'm thrilled to have secured this colt and I can't wait for his racing career to start. He looks like a 2yo to me.



Our Long Sali winning the Tasmanian Magic Millions 2YO Classic!!!