

Sunday 19 November 2023

MOLLY BLOOMS IN 1000 GUINEAS



Molly Bloom winning the Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton on Saturday. (Race Images South)

There has always been a hint of something special about **Molly Bloom (NZ)** (Ace High), and that obvious potential turned into breathtaking Group One brilliance in Saturday's Barneswood Farm 51st New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton.

Matamata trainers Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott had been working backwards from the \$500,000 fillies' classic with Molly Bloom ever since her eye-catching third placing in her only

two-year-old appearance in April.

The spring campaign has been far from smooth sailing, with the highs of an outstanding maiden win at Taupo in September quickly replaced by the lows of luckless runs for fifth at Hastings and fourth in the Gr.2 Soliloquy Stakes (1400m) at Pukekohe. But it was all about having Molly Bloom at the peak of her powers in the 1000 Guineas, and on Saturday she delivered in spectacular style.

Rider Joe Doyle's hopes of taking up

a midfield position were extinguished within the first 200m of the race. Molly Bloom jumped only fairly from gate 11, then had a torrid time with multiple bumps and checks along Riccarton's back straight. She dropped right out the back, eventually settling in third-last among a capacity field of 18.

Molly Bloom still had only two behind her rounding the home turn, but Doyle brought her to the outside and turned on the turbochargers.

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MOLLY BLOOMS IN 1000 GUINEAS

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With an exceptional turn of foot, Molly Bloom roared home out wide on the track.

Only Impendabelle (Impending), Tulse (The Autumn Sun) and Luberon (NZ) (Embellish) were still in front of her passing the 100m, and Molly Bloom continued her booming finish and swept straight past them to score by a length.

"I had it in my head to be about halfway or three-quarters of the way back through the field, but it just wasn't happening," Doyle said. "I just kept getting chopped back. We had to go to Plan B, then Plan C, then Plan D. Luckily enough this filly was good enough to overcome all that."

"It's a credit to Lance and Andrew. They've had so much faith in this filly all the way through, and today has shown that they were dead right. They've been massive supporters of mine ever since I came to New Zealand, and I'm so grateful for that. They're easy to ride for, and it's great to get this result for them today."

Molly Bloom gave O'Sullivan a first training success in the 1000 Guineas to go with his three wins as a jockey aboard Olga's Pal (NZ) (Straight Strike) (1988), Nimue (NZ) (Starway) (1992) and Snap (NZ) (Kingdom Bay) (1993).

"It's a huge thrill," O'Sullivan said. "We've talked quite a big game with this filly all the way through, so for her to produce a performance like that is really exciting. We were a bit concerned with about 600m to run, but it was some performance that she put up."

"There's a lot of people that have a small share in this filly, including my daughter's partner, and it's great to get this result for them. Big thanks to



Trainers Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott (Trish Dunell)

all of our staff at home, and Scotty as well – we've been training together for a long time now and we get a thrill out of winning any race, let alone a big race like this."

Molly Bloom was bred by Seaton Park, who offered her in Book 1 at Karaka 2022 as a yearling, and Wexford Stables secured her for \$150,000.

From five starts, Molly Bloom has now recorded two wins, a third, a fourth and a fifth, earning \$309,675 in stakes for her big group of owners.

Notably, Saturday's outstanding 1000 Guineas win made Molly Bloom the first Group One winner for Ace High. Himself a winner of the Victoria Derby (2500m) and Spring Champion Stakes (2000m) at the elite level as a three-year-old, Ace High stands at Rich Hill Stud for a \$10,000 service fee. His oldest progeny are three-year-olds, and Molly Bloom has already been joined by

fellow three-year-old winners Bezique (NZ), My Lips Are Sealed (NZ), O'Ziggy (NZ), Tanganyika (NZ) and Leroy Brown (NZ).

- **Richard Edmunds, LOVERACING.**
NZ News Desk

| Race | CJC Barneswood Farm New Zealand 1000 Guineas Gr.1 1600m |
|----------|--|
| Winner | Molly Bloom (NZ) 2020 |
| Owners | B Anderson, A R & C J Marshall, Forest Partnership, I Whitley, B Kwok, D Lye, K & L Morey, Kypu Syndicate, James Group Syndicate, B & D Verryt |
| Trainer | Lance O'Sullivan & Andrew Scott (Matamata) |
| Breeding | by Ace High (AUS) out of Dancilla by Iffraaj (GB) |
| Breeder | Seaton Park |
| Sales | 2022 National Yearling Sales – Book 1; V: Seaton Park, P: Wexford Stables; \$150,000 |



CAMBRIDGE STUD CELEBRATE GUINEAS SUCCESS

Cambridge Stud principals Brendan and Jo Lindsay celebrated Group One success on Saturday as royally bred filly **Joliestar** (Zoustar) claimed the Gr.1 Thousand Guineas (1600m) at Caulfield.

The royally-bred daughter of Zoustar is out of the Gr.2 Roman Consul Stakes (1200m) winner Jolie Bay, who finished second in the 2012 edition of

the Gr.1 Coolmore Stud Stakes (1200m).

Purchased by Cambridge Stud for A\$950,000 at the 2022 Sydney Easter Yearling Sale, leading trainer Chris Waller was the beneficiary of the prized filly and has long had a good opinion of the filly.

Successful in her only start as a two-year-old, Joliestar had been placed in all three of her starts this campaign,

including runner-up finishes in both the Listed Reginald Allen Quality (1400m) and the Listed Desirable Stakes (1400m) on Melbourne Cup Day.

Superbly ridden by James McDonald, Joliestar travelled easily in the trail behind another Lindsay-owned runner in Zourion (NZ) (Zoustar) before finding clear air to issue her challenge

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Brendan Lindsay leads in Joliestar after her win in the Gr.1 Thousand Guineas at Caulfield. (Scott Barbour, Racing Photos)



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CAMBRIDGE STUD CELEBRATE GUINEAS SUCCESS

(Continued from page 4)

shortly after straightening.

McDonald shot her to an unassailable advantage as she found a powerful kick to stave off the efforts of runner-up Kimochi (Brave Smash) while the well fancied Skybird (Exosphere) made up good ground to finish third ahead of race favourite Coeur Volante (NZ) (Proisir).

Brendan Lindsay was on-course to lead in Joliestar, who will at some stage be another jewel in the Cambridge Stud broodmare band.

"We've got Brendan here today to collect the trophy," McDonald said.

"He told me a funny story before I got legged on. He said I've booked two tickets (home) and I said what, to take me home and he said no, for the trophy.

"He must have known.

"I had such a really good feeling about her that she was building towards something. Her run was fantastic last start with a really good gate and being able to get a really good trip in transit, she was always going to produce."

"The (inside) barrier was pivotal today, especially on the circle track that has been playing a little bit up and in, so we were grinning ear to ear walking out.

"She's had a feeling about her during her whole preparation that she has kept improving and improving but she hasn't been winning.

"She hasn't had a lot of luck, so I thought today from barrier one she was

going to get every chance."

Waller said the race had been the plan this campaign for Joliestar.

"We did identify that she had ability right from the start," Waller said.

"Cambridge Stud, Brendan and Jo Lindsay, Henry Plumtre, really liked her at the sales. We couldn't afford her however I got her to train and they have been justified in their investment.

"They're (Cambridge Stud) a great nursery in New Zealand and they spread their wings in Australia each Carnival.

"So, to train one for them with James McDonald (another Kiwi) aboard is pretty cool."

Waller explained he had given the filly a patient build-up and was quick to praise former top jockey Steven Arnold for his work with her.

"The progression of good horses is a lot easier than average horses, it's as simple as that," he said.

"She's done it herself. I've found the races, she's turned up.

"Steven Arnold does a lot of work for us and came and rode her on Tuesday morning and said she got around here well and said she was on the way up. He said she gave him the right feel.

"So, thanks to Steven and Jo and the team down here, they do a fantastic job.

"She had a great barrier and James did the rest."

Already a valuable filly, the Group One success adds further lustre to the future breeding prospects for Joliestar who comes from an extended family that also includes another Coolmore Stud Stakes winner in Merchant Navy who is currently forging a career at stud in Australia. – **NZ Racing Desk**

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | MRC Thousand Guineas Gr.1 1600m |
| Winner | Joliestar 2020 |
| Owners | Mr B J Lindsay, Mrs J E A Lindsay |
| Trainer | Chris Waller (Flemington) |
| Breeding | by Zoustar (AUS) out of Jolie Bay (AUS) by Fastnet Rock (AUS) |
| Breeder | Mr C Barham |

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MAHRAJAAN TAKES OUT NZ CUP

A close fifth behind Nest Egg (NZ) (Reliable Man) on the first day of the carnival, imported stayer Mahrajaan (Kitten's Joy) went to a new level a week later and turned the tables on the hot favourite in Saturday's Gr.3 Martin Collins 160th New Zealand Cup (3200m) at Riccarton.

An American-bred son of Kitten's Joy, Mahrajaan was a three-time winner in England over 2000m and 2400m before Cambridge trainer Shaune Ritchie bought him for £75,000 at the Tattersalls Autumn Horses-In-Training Sale in Newmarket late last year with the specific purpose of targeting the Cup.

The gelding was unplaced in his first New Zealand appearances over 1400m and 1600m earlier this year, but as the distances increased, he steadily improved and kept showing Ritchie and his training partner Colm Murray enough to continue along their path towards Riccarton.

Mahrajaan had his final lead-up run in last Saturday's Listed Metropolitan Handicap (2600m), producing an eye-catching late run into fifth and crossing the finish line only 1.3 lengths behind Nest Egg.

Ritchie and Murray timed the six-year-old's preparation to perfection, peaking for Saturday's time-honoured two-miler

and producing a career-best performance in the hands of jockey Sam Weatherley.

Mahrajaan was prominently positioned throughout the race, settling in third as Eulogy Show set a sedate pace through the first half. The pressure started to increase coming down the side of the track, and when a gap appeared along the inside, Mahrajaan lengthened stride and burst through.

He hit the lead turning for home and then had to call on all his fighting qualities through the final 400m, turning back the challenges of Nest Egg and Waisake (NZ) (Zed) to score a hard-fought win.

From 17 starts, Mahrajaan has now recorded four wins and six placings, earning more than \$300,000 in stakes.

"It's absolutely fantastic," said Ritchie, who had previously won the Cup with My Scotsgrey in 2009. "Last year we didn't have a single runner in the Melbourne Cup Carnival or down here in Christchurch, and I wanted to do something about it and see if I could find a nice staying horse to aim at these good races.

"We went to the Horses-in-Training Sale for the specific purpose of finding that type of staying horse, and he's the one that we came away with.

"We were hoping to get him to either the Melbourne Cup or the New Zealand Cup. We soon decided that he probably wouldn't have the speed for a Melbourne Cup, so we concentrated on Riccarton instead. It's great to pull it off.

"I thought he ran really well in the Metropolitan on the first day, which made us think we had him on target for the Cup. As a trainer, you're always doing your very best to have them peaking for these target races. Sometimes it comes off and sometimes it doesn't.

"Coming into today, we were fully aware that quality horsemen like Allan Sharrock and Stephen Marsh were trying to do the exact same thing with their horses, so it was never going to be an easy task. To come away with this result, there's a real sense of satisfaction."

Ritchie said Mahrajaan is now likely to bypass the Gr.3 Wellington Cup (3200m) at Trentham in January.

"We'll have to be careful with his rating now, so I think he's almost certainly not going to run in the Wellington Cup under its handicap conditions," Ritchie said. "We could have a look at the Auckland Cup (Gr.2, 3200m) in March. He's clearly a horse that needs good ground, so that's something that we'll need to be mindful of.

"He can have a break now, but probably not a particularly long one, since he's not going to be a winter or a wet-autumn horse." – **By Richard Edmunds, LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

Mahrajaan winning the Gr.3 New Zealand Cup (3200m) at Riccarton on Saturday. (Race Images South)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | CJC Martin Collins New Zealand Cup Gr.3 3200m |
| Winner | Mahrajaan 2018 |
| Owners | G I Barnett, G W Bates, R Cooper, P J Cranitch, G M Jennings, G G Peterson, S F Ritchie, C J Talbot, E J Wood & Est late S F Massey |
| Trainer | Shaune Ritchie & Colm Murray (Cambridge) |
| Breeding | by Kitten's Joy (USA) out of Lahudood (GB) by Singspiel (IRE) |
| Breeder | Shadwell, LLC |



GINO SUPER IN TAURANGA STAKES

Veteran galloper **Gino Severini** (Fastnet Rock) capped off some consistent form with a determined performance to take out the Gr.2 Gartshore Tauranga Stakes (1600m) on Saturday.

In the hands of Central Districts rider Chris Dell the 10-year-old son of Fastnet Rock travelled comfortably on the Heavy9 track surface which had started the day as a Slow5 but deteriorated with persistent rain throughout the day.

Dell settled the Bruce Wallace and Grant Cooksley-trained runner midfield on the rail before improving through on the inner to take control of proceedings approaching the home turn.

Gino Severini and Devastate (NZ) (Vadamos) matched motors early in the run home before Dell pushed his mount clear and he bolted away to win by more than four lengths from Devastate, with Brando (NZ) (Savabeel) back in third.

The Tauranga track has proved a happy hunting ground for the horse as he has never finished out of the money in four starts and registered his last victory in the Gr.2 Japan Trophy (1600m) on a similar track surface back in March 2022.

Cooksley was delighted to welcome the stable favourite back to the winners' enclosure

although he admitted he wasn't that sure before the race how he would perform in the ground.

"He doesn't really like it when it is heavy and the only two wins he has had on that type of track have now both been here at Tauranga," Cooksley said.

"Chris said he just travelled so well all the way and he was pretty confident of a win a long way out.

"He is a pretty remarkable horse and despite his age he is still as keen as ever and enjoying his racing.

"A mile is his pet distance so we will look around for races like that as I think he has a couple more wins in him.

"He goes well at this time of the year and there are some nice options coming up over the next month or so for him."

Raced by Wallace and members of the Wallace family, Gino Severini has now won eight of his 60 starts and over \$527,000 in prizemoney. Three of those wins have come at stakes level while he also finished third in the 2021 Gr.1 Windsor Park Plate (1600m).

- Kevin Robertson, LOVERACING.NZ News Desk

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | RT Gartshore Tauranga Stakes Gr.2 1600m |
| Winner | Gino Severini (2014) |
| Owners | B J, C J, J R & R J Wallace |
| Trainer | Bruce Wallace & Grant Cooksley (Byerley Park) |
| Breeding | by Fastnet Rock (AUS) out of Green Castle (IRE) by Indian Ridge (IRE) |
| Breeder | Stonethorn Stud Farms Ltd |



Gino Severini winning the Gr.2 Gartshore Tauranga Stakes (1600m) on Saturday. (Kenton Wright (Race Images))



WEATHERLEYS CELEBRATE **FEATURE WIN**

A year on from Pier's (NZ) (Proisir) heroics in the Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m), his older half-sister **Maria Farina (NZ)** (Contributer) has picked up a feature win of her own during the New Zealand Cup Carnival at Riccarton.

A last-gasp victory in Saturday's Listed Lindauer Stewards' Stakes (1200m) was the sixth win of a 23-start career for the valuable Contributor mare, who also won the Listed Lightning Handicap (1200m) at Trentham in March.

That Lightning win came on a one-week back-up from a fast-finishing fourth at Pukekohe the previous Saturday, and the same formula delivered a second piece of black-type gold this week. Maria Farina lined up in the Listed Pegasus Stakes (1000m) on the opening day

of the carnival last weekend and finished fifth, recording the fastest times in the race for her last 600m, 400m and 200m.

The six-year-old was even better in Saturday's Stewards' Stakes. Ridden by Matt Cameron, Maria Farina was fourth-last at the top of the straight but launched a withering run out of the pack.

She got there in the nick of time, thrusting her head in front of Imwonderfultnight (I Am Invincible) right on the finish line to win by a nose.

Like her half-brother Pier, Maria Farina is trained by Darryn and Briar Weatherley. The Matamata family also co-bred and part-owns both of the siblings, who are out of the Darci Brahma mare La Vitesse (NZ).

"This is a big thrill, and especially after what Pier did down here last year," Darryn Weatherley said. "It's quite a special double. We're very lucky to have the breed.

"It was a great performance by Maria Farina today. She always seems to do it the hard way, but a lot of that has been down to drawing wide and having to drop back because of that.

"The way it worked out, her wide draw today didn't turn out to be quite such a disadvantage, with the ground being a bit



Maria Farina returns victorious following the Listed Lindauer Stewards' Stakes (1200m). (Race Images South)

worse towards the inside. But she finished it off really strongly again and it was a fantastic win.

"We'll get her home now and make a plan for the rest of the season. We'll probably look at the big sprints like the Telegraph (Gr.1, 1200m), but the step up to 1400m for the Westbury Classic (Gr.2) against the fillies and mares on Karaka Million night could also be a bit of a carrot."

Maria Farina's win capped an excellent day for the Weatherleys, who also saddled Tulsi (The Autumn Sun) for a gallant third in the Gr.1 Barneswood Farm New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m).

"Tulsi ran a top race," Weatherley said. "She had to do a lot of work from her gate, but she tried so hard. We're really proud of her." - **Richard Edmunds, LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

| Race | CJC Lindauer Stakes L. 1200m |
|----------|--|
| Winner | Maria Farina (NZ) 2017 |
| Owners | D R & Mrs L M Weatherley & B W P Wright |
| Trainer | Darryn & Briar Weatherley (Matamata) |
| Breeding | by Contributor (IRE) out of La Vitesse by Darci Brahma |
| Breeder | D R & Mrs L M Weatherley & B W P Wright |

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SO RISQUE RETURNS TO WINNING FORM AT CAULFIELD

Handy galloper **So Risque (NZ)** (So You Think) showed plenty of fight in registering a winning performance in Saturday's MRC Foundation Handicap (1400m) at Caulfield.

The Ben, Will and JD Hayes-prepared six-year-old son of So You Think was three wide early on before settling on the tail of pacemaker Imperial Lad (All Too Hard) as rider Daniel Stackhouse bided his time to make his challenge rounding the home bend.

Stackhouse shot So Risque clear and he maintained a strong gallop to the line to fend off the late challenge of Robusto (Churchill) who chased resolutely to get within a length at the line.

Co-trainer Ben Hayes was delighted to see his charge return to winning form in just his second start in a new campaign.

"It was a good effort," Hayes said.

"They all jumped with each other and I'm glad Stacky made the decision and rolled forward. It was a great ride.

"It looked like he was going to be caught three-wide and got in a spot without too much work.

"He didn't have bad luck today and it was really good to get a win with him because he's been running really well and hasn't been winning."

Hayes admitted he did have some anxious moments as Robusto chased hard which brought back memories of the finish to the Gr.1 Cox Plate (2040m) last month where the Hayes-trained Mr Brightside (NZ) (Bullbars) went down by a nose to the James McDonald-ridden Romantic Warrior (Acclamation).

"I was watching the race and I was having flashbacks when I saw James McDonald coming late," he said.

"It was a bit of target race that we came up with today after the month between runs with a trial.

"We've always liked him and today went to plan, while it was nice to get a win for Rob (Slade).

So Risque was a \$100,000 yearling purchase by syndicator Rob Slade from Windsor Park's 2019 Book 1 draft at Karaka and has now won six of his 21 starts.

Stackhouse was also taken by the effort by So Risque.

"This horse has got a lot of ability. I wanted to be positive and got a lovely run race with the tempo," he said.

"We stayed out of trouble, moved forward and travelled really nicely with the tempo.



So Risque finishes strongly to win at Caulfield. (Bruno Cannatelli)

"I got him to improve on the corner and got the other horses off the bridle.

"He quickened like he did and wouldn't get beaten."

So Risque is a son of Volksraad mare Risque Business (NZ) and is the older half-brother to promising mare It's Business Time (NZ) (Turn Me Loose), who was runner-up to Puntura (NZ) (Vespa) in Wednesday's Gr.3 Coupland's Bakeries Mile (1600m) at Riccarton after registering five consecutive victories. **-NZ Racing Desk**

| Race | MRC Foundation Hcp 1400m |
|----------|--|
| Winner | So Risque (NZ) 2017 |
| Owners | Mr R J Slade, Mr M L Davies, Mr G J Moore, Mr J Lumsden, Mr D Lumsden, Mr T E Lucin, Mr M N Thoroughgood, Mr M Hafda, Mr N J Allen, Mr J F Tonna, Ms V Golota, Mr R J Wilson, Mr W T Grant, Mr B Crnac, Mr C P Free, Scutch Comb, Mr G P O'Shea, Mrs S E Fisher, Captains Crew, Mr S Lapsley |
| Trainer | Ben, Will & JD Hayes (Flemington) |
| Breeding | by So You Think out of Risque Business out of Volksraad (GB) |
| Breeder | Windsor Park Stud |
| Sales | 2019 National Yearling Sales – Book 1; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: Slade Bloodstock; \$100,000 |



IMPROVING TOESONTHENOSE STRONG IN NEWCASTLE VICTORY

The John Sargent-trained **Toesonthenose (NZ)** (Ocean Park) scored the fifth victory of his career when running out a strong winner of the Karaka 2024 Midway Benchmark 72 Handicap (1600m) at the Newcastle feature meeting on Saturday.

Carrying topweight of 59kgs, the son of Ocean Park was three back on the fence rounding the home bend but cruised past his rivals to score by just over two lengths under a perfect Nash Rawiller ride.

Sargent has a lot of time for the galloper, who is raced by Tricolours Racing & Syndications and has now won A\$246,460 in prizemoney from 18 starts.

"He's a very promising stayer. He just hasn't had things go his own way," Sargent said.

"He should go on with it now and

get over further."

"Tricolours have been great supporters. This guy was with Mark Newnham and came to me last season (when Newnham relocated to Hong Kong).

Toesonthenose is a graduate of the New Zealand Bloodstock Ready To Run Sale, where he was sold by Kilgravin Lodge for \$50,000 to James Moss of Tricolours Racing.

While Sargent won't be in attendance at this year's New Zealand Bloodstock Ready To Run Sale in person, which commences on Wednesday, he has made arrangements to be represented.

"It has been a terrific sale over the years and hopefully I will be purchasing," he said.

Sargent was still ruing a wide draw of barrier 18 in the A\$500,000 Four

Pillars (1500m) at Toesonthenose's previous start when sixth.

"If he had of drawn a decent gate in the Four Pillars last start, he would have won," Sargent said.

"He will go over 2000m now in a couple of weeks at Randwick and he should just keep improving.

"In the autumn you will see an even better horse. He will get better with time. There is nothing wrong with the Ocean Parks."

Out of the winning More Than Ready mare Peak Performer, who stems from the family of So You Think, Toesonthenose was bred by Ocean Park's trainer Gary Hennessy along with wife Jenny under their Weowna Park banner in conjunction with Andrew Wong. – **NZ Racing Desk**



| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Race | NJC Karaka 2024 Midway Benchmark 72 Handicap 1600m |
| Winner | Toesonthenose (NZ) 2018 |
| Owners | Tricolours Racing & Syndications Pty Ltd, Mr C C Pickford, Mr M Ryan, Mr A C Lloyd Jones, Mr S A Aboud, Shamrock Racing, Mr K Guilfoyle, Mr J I McClelland, Mr M Barry, Mr B Arlington, Mr S D Jolly, Mr W J Fletcher, D McLusky, Mrs S Meehan, Mr D P Charlton, Mr J T Wade, Carney Racing, Mellor Richardson Racing, Mr S B Newman, Mr I C Turbet |
| Trainer | John Sargent (Randwick) |
| Breeding | by Ocean Park out of Peak Performer (AUS) by More Than Ready (USA) |
| Breeder | Weowna Park Ltd & A K K Wong |

Toesonthenose is well ahead of his rivals when winning at Newcastle. (bradleyphotos.com.au)