

# FILLY REIGN'S SUPREME

**S**adly, not many of us will ever reach the dizzy heights of winning a Group One race, let alone the Golden Slipper Stakes.

Everyone will no doubt remember the euphoria by the large group of owners when She Will Reign crossed the line in this year's event. It was the stuff of fairy tales and a great result for the syndication process.

NSWROA member, Garry Bachell is part of that large group of owners and I caught up with him recently to find out about this unassuming man who has now scaled heights that few of us will ever reach.

As is the case with the vast majority of industry participants, Garry was introduced to racing at an early age. His Dad had been around and had horses all his early life and as a teenager went to Queensland droving with his mates.

Garry remembers going to the races with his Dad and betting SP with Grandma on a Saturday afternoon. He was only allowed half a crown (approximately 25 cents) each-way maximum but usually a shilling (approximately 10 cents) each-way was the preferred bet.

A favourite horse of the Bachell family to wager on was The Farmer who would regularly lead by some 30 lengths providing great theatre for everyone. The onus was, of course, on the rest of the field to run him down which they could only manage some of the time.

However, Garry's favourite horse was, and may still be, the incredible Peter Pan who won two Melbourne Cups in 1932 and 1934 as well as a string of other time-honoured events.

Garry's grandfather gave him a photo of Peter Pan when he was a child and this photo still takes pride of place at Garry's home today.

He bought his first horse in his early twenties, his first venture into syndication.

"Back then syndication was in its infancy with 'dinosaur' material given – there were no faxes or emails with

**WHO SAID THAT  
WINNING WASN'T  
EVERYTHING –  
CERTAINLY NOT  
SOMEONE WHO OWNS  
A RACEHORSE!**

WORDS: SHARON HUNT  
(EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

all communication by either letter, telephone call or via regular catch-ups at the pub," Garry recalled.

"If you were lucky enough to have a winner, the syndicator took all the prizemoney and said they would offset against training fees etcetera, but somehow the bills still arrived every month. There were no rules, no product disclosure.

"Syndication is now so much better with Racing NSW controlling all payments. Communication has also reached a new level with videos and voice communications received after trials and races."

Over the years Garry has shared (usually 10-20%) in several horses at any one time and has

dabbled with a few broodmares, sometimes in partnership with Scott Darby.

Courgette (dam of She Will Reign) was a mid-week city winner bought and raced by a Darby Racing Syndicate (including Garry) as a tried horse prospect.

She was sent to Mackay to Stuart Kendrick for their cup carnival but jarred up badly on the tracks. The mare was subsequently sent back to NSW and given to

Terry Robinson who was renowned for his skill with horses with leg problems.

Unfortunately, she broke down again and it was decided it was time to move her on. As there were no mare sales coming up, the syndicate agreed for Garry to take over with the mare with no purchase price required.

The new home for Courgette was the Jilly Henderson-run Middlebrook Station. In her first season, she went to Manhattan Rain at Arrowfield Stud as a foal share.

The resultant filly foal was sold at the 2016 Inglis Classic Yearling Sale and bought by Darby Racing for \$20,000. This foal was She Will Reign.



Garry Bachell with partner Choo Poh Ewe at NSWROA's 2017 Autumn Carnival Raceday Function



Ben Melham celebrates as She Will Reign takes out the Golden Slipper at Rosehill Gardens. Picture by Steve Hart

Her second foal, a filly by Shamus Award, was sold at this year’s Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale to Attunga Stud/Blandford Bloodstock for \$425,000. Her third foal is a weanling colt by Time for War and she is currently in foal to him again.

Apart from She Will Reign, who has won the Group 2 ATC Silver Slipper Stakes and the Restricted Listed Inglis Nursery as well as the Gr 1 Golden Slipper, Garry was also a part-owner of the impressive Time for War.

Time for War saluted in the Gr 2 ATC Pago Pago Stakes and the Gr 2 BRC Sires’ Produce Stakes as well as recording second places in the Gr 3 GCTC Gold Coast Guineas, Listed ATC Brian Crowley Stakes and the Listed SCTC Glasshouse Stakes.



**Garry currently has shares in about six horses including She Will Reign, but is not buying into many at the moment.**

Having said that, he has just bought some shares in Time for War’s sister and a lovely Snitzel colt, as a stallion prospect.

Acquired knowledge in this industry is a skill and it is a lesson which Garry has learnt well.

“No one single person in the racing industry has influenced me the most. I soak up education like a sponge from everyone I deal with be it trainers, jockeys, Scott Darby, Jilly Henderson, friends, books and the like,” Garry said.

When asked what had been his most memorable moment on a racecourse. Garry said: “Winning the Golden Slipper – it just doesn’t get better than that!”

And his advice to someone contemplating entering the ownership ranks: “Do your homework, start small, listen, ask questions, go to a seminar like the Masterclass that Aushorse put on recently.

“Hang in there, it is an industry of huge highs and lows, and don’t spit the dummy and carry on at the racetrack or in front of other owners.

“If you can’t handle the emotions,

the people ... get out quick. Otherwise enjoy the ride; reinvest when you’re winning, cut your losses and move on slow horses when you’re not.

“This can be frustrating in some syndicate environments especially with a cheap horse with a lot of first-time owners who sometimes fall in love with a horse and don’t want to believe it’s not making it.

“Don’t forget, it costs the same to train a 20-start maiden as it does to train a champion like Winx, regardless of what you paid for them.”

To those of you who are not owners, why not give it a go! And owners who are not yet members of the Association, why not join this winning team and become a member of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association (NSWROA).

For further information, visit our website [www.nswroa.com.au](http://www.nswroa.com.au) or telephone the NSWROA office on (02) 9299 4299. **RNSW**