
AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



The Racing's Night of Champions has come and gone and we are settling back down after a hectic couple of months' organisation.

Winx dominated the awards for the final time, winning Champion Miler, Champion Middle Distance and of course Champion Horse of the Year, prompting a standing ovation. It was great to see other groups of happy owners taking up the other awards, the results being outlined in the full report in this newsletter.

All the feedback we received from the evening was very positive and there was a fantastic atmosphere in the room, in part due to the new alliance with Spinal Cord Injuries Australia. They produced a touching, short video featuring injured jockeys Tye England and Kate Nipperess, who are clients of SCIA. The rehabilitation and peer support provided by SCIA is a huge help to members of the racing industry. This was followed by an interview with Tye on stage, who showed that the courage and positivity he demonstrated on the race track has not left him.

With Jane Henning only starting in the role of CEO at the beginning of the year, and the charity also being completely new to the scale and therefore work involved in securing auction items and making this event a success, it was particularly pleasing to see the night unfold. Our thanks also go out to Infinity Events' Pauline Lamb, whose experience and behind the scenes work always ensures a successful Racing's Night of Champions. Special mention should also go to Tommy Berry, who donated his 2019 breeding right to Vancouver. Supported by a free return donated by Coolmore Australia, this brought \$40,000 plus GST.

We are hugely grateful for the continued sponsorship of TAB, Racing NSW, Sky Thoroughbred Central, the Australian Turf Club, New Zealand Bloodstock, Wild Oaks, Inglis, Carrazzo Consulting, Hall Chadwick, International Animal Health Products and De Bortoli Wines. These fantastic groups were joined by City Tattersalls Club and Coolmore Australia as new sponsors this year. On behalf of NSWROA and SCIA, our thanks again.

Ray McDowell



Tabcorp is a world-class diversified gambling entertainment group and top 50 ASX company with more than 5,000 employees. In December 2017 Tabcorp combined with Tatts Group.

Tabcorp now operates the iconic brands TAB, Sky Racing, Sky Sports Radio, Tatts, NSW Lotteries, Golden Casket, SA Lotteries and Keno – familiar names which ignite excitement in millions of Australians. Tabcorp also delivers leading gaming services and products through Tabcorp Gaming Solutions, MAX and Ebet.

Tabcorp’s operations deliver hundreds of millions of dollars in returns to the community each year and is the biggest financial contributor to Australian racing. Last year Tabcorp returned over \$900 million to Australian racing and proudly backs the industry and its people.



What a Night!

While the announcement of Winx as last season’s Champion Horse of the Year was no surprise, the large crowd in the Royal Randwick Ballroom rose to their feet to celebrate this true champion.

We saw the “very best” in the racing world in contention for all the awards at this gala event held in the Royal Randwick Ballroom, which was televised live on Sky Thoroughbred Central.

The NSWROA Award Winners for the 2018/19 season are:

AWARD	FINALISTS
NSW 2 YEAR OLD OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Australian Turf Club	Kiamichi
NSW 3 YEAR OLD OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Inglis	The Autumn Sun
NSW SPRINTER OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Australian Turf Club	Osborne Bulls
NSW MILER OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Wild Oaks	Winx
NSW MIDDLE DISTANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by New Zealand Bloodstock	Winx
NSW STAYER OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Coolmore Australia	Shraaoh (Ire)

QUEEN OF THE AUTUMN Proudly sponsored by City Tattersalls Club	Dixie Blossoms
NSW COUNTRY CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Sky Thoroughbred Central	Eckstein
NSW PROVINCIAL CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Sky Thoroughbred Central	Angel of Truth
NSW CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by TAB	Winx

NSW Racing Writers' Personality of the Year was awarded to the much admired **Nini Vascotto**, who delivered a heartfelt and touching speech. Enduring Stage 4 cancer, and leaving hospital to attend for a few hours on the night, her courage touched the room.

Co-Major Sponsor, Racing NSW, also presented their annual awards on the night, with **Chris Waller** taking out the coveted Bart Cummings Medal for the ninth straight time. Chris quipped that, "If Nini managed to hold back the tears, I better as well."

Chris Waller also picked up the T J Smith Award for the Sydney Premiership Trainer.

Other awards presented included the George Moore Award (**James McDonald**), the Theo Green Award (**Robbie Dolan**), BOBS Horse of the Year (**River Bird**) and the Sydney Strapper of the Year (**Alexandra Maher** from the John O'Shea yard).

Our Monster Auction conducted by Greg Radley in aid of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia opened with an on-stage interview with **Tye England**, a client of SCIA, and his close friend Grant Buckley. The top auction item, a service to Vancouver donated by Tommy Berry and Coolmore Australia, was clinched by Australian Bloodstock for \$40,000 plus GST, with the underbidder being Evergreen Farm, Hong Kong.

The successful event was proudly sponsored this year by TAB, Racing NSW, Sky Thoroughbred Central, City Tattersalls Club, the Australian Turf Club, New Zealand Bloodstock, Wild Oaks, Coolmore Australia, Inglis, Carrazzo Consulting, Hall Chadwick, International Animal Health Products and De Bortoli Wines.

Our President, Mr Ray McDowell said, "On behalf of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia and NSWROA, I would like to thank everyone for helping us *"celebrate the best"* of the NSW Thoroughbred industry. My thanks again to our wonderful sponsors, donors and successful bidders. And most importantly, congratulations to all racing's winners and we look forward to seeing you all again next year."

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



While a much larger range of photos can be seen in the online photo album <https://myalbum.com/album/4FN335sKSCCK>, here are a few of the photos of the event, taken by High Impact Headshots.







UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENT

Mark Your Calendar!



The NSW Racehorse Owners' Christmas Cocktail Party will be held at Rosehill Gardens on **Saturday 7 December 2019.**



More details to follow...

NSWROA NEWS

Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation Grant

Funds raised at last year's Racing's Night of Champions were presented to the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation's chosen recipient at a ceremony in July.

Recipient: Prof Ken Butcher, Professor of Neurology and Dr Laughlin Dawes, Head of Diagnostic Neuroradiology

Grant Award: \$55,771

Research: *POWH Perfusion Imaging Registry:* A prospective, observational study to improve ischaemic stroke patients' selection for acute reperfusion therapies.

Impact: This research will close the gap between evidence and implementation for all acute ischaemic stroke population presenting to Prince of Wales Hospital and lead to a more selective use of Hospital resources.

They hope to immediately improve the selection of patients for acute stroke therapy, which are costly and resource-intensive. By improving the 'case-mix' and treating only responders patient will benefit from improved outcomes.



(l to r) NSWROA Vice President Tom O'Callaghan, Vice President of POWHF Robert Hohnen, and recipient, Professor Ken Butcher.

MEMBER BENEFITS

We are very pleased to introduce the support of the following businesses for 2019 financial members:

Satin & Silks
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Satin and Silks is a Sydney based company owned by Annette and Jack Vize. They have been making quality colours & blinkers for owners since 1979. All garments are hand made by Annette, using strong and vibrant fabrics.

To obtain a **10% discount** from your order, send us a photocopy of your 2019 membership card.

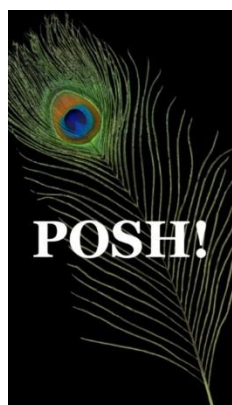
Website: www.satinandsilks.com.au For personal attention please call Annette on **02 99975380**.

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Bradley's offer a **10% discount** to NSWROA Members on the listed price of their products.

Website: www.bradleyphotos.com.au Email: photos@bradleyphotos.com.au



Posh Boutique is a luxury ladies' fashion store with stunning outfits for the races and formal occasions, as well as designer casual wear. Proprietor Maura Engلمان offers NSWROA members a **20% discount** (excluding sale items) on production of their 2019 member's card.

Address: 194 Pitt Street, Sydney. Ph: **(02) 9233 1261** Email: poshandchic@bigpond.com



Boston For Men has been an institution in Randwick for over 25 years. They stock fine quality suits, shirts, shoes, ties, belts and accessories. Boston For Men has a tailoring service, suit hire and is also a wedding specialist.

Proprietor Will Dalton is offering NSWROA members a **15% discount** (excluding sale items) on production of your 2019 membership card.

Address: 84 Belmore Road, Randwick. Tel: **0404 711 588**.



HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Pictorial Displays at Randwick

By Graham Caves

(NSWROA member and volunteer at the ATC Heritage Centre)

On a modern racecourse with new-style buildings with a lot of glass and fittings not conducive to hanging framed works it is somewhat difficult to decorate the premises with racing material – either recent or older historic items.



One clever way the Heritage Centre has alleviated this problem is to produce a number of montages of its finest pieces and photographic collection in modern material and place them where the decor allows.

They often get asked for identification of something or someone where there is not a legend accompanying the montage. People have been known to offer the information in some crowd scene or occasion scene – “that’s me there!”

Here (left) is one of the paintings in the montage we will discuss below – Revenue, the 1901 Melbourne Cup winner.

The most spectacular of these montages is located alongside the escalator taking patrons from ground level on the western side of the new Queen Elizabeth II Stand, near the

“Meeting Tree”, up to the upper levels of the stand. You will see the montage, about twelve metres long, as you ascend and you can move off the escalator on the mezzanine level to view it at your leisure.

In the montage you will see reproductions of some of the most famous paintings in the ATC Collection. The Gloaming/Beauford Spring Stakes work, Carbine at the start of the Sydney Cup, paintings of Ajax, Revenue, Veno, The Barb, Manfred, Artilleryman, Bernborough, Eremein, some noble-looking past AJC Chairmen, and many others.

I apologise for the quality of the photograph below; it was professionally taken but as the under cover display is open to daylight, there is reflection. We needed a dull day and didn't get one. While many of the paintings have captions, there has now been added a legend at the left-hand side describing the details of the exhibit.



COUNTRY RACING

Goulburn trainer Kurt Goldman and his owners were the proud winners of the SKY Thoroughbred Central Champion Country Horse of the Year, with the marvellous **Eckstein**.

The winner of the Gr3 Southern Cross Stakes and Listed Furphy Paris Lane Stakes at Flemington amongst other stakes placings last season under Kurt's charge, Eckstein was then purchased by Coolmore for \$750,000 at the Magic Millions National Broodmare Sale on the Gold Coast in May, she has so far won the Listed Winter Stakes and was 3rd in the Listed Winter Challenge for her new owners and will be off to the breeding barn soon.

Congratulations to Kurt Goldman and Eckstein's owners (Manager Alan Cardy).



PROVINCIAL RACING



The winner of the SKY Thoroughbred Central NSW Provincial Champion Horse of the Year was **Angel of Truth**, trained by Gwenda Markwell at Kembla Grange and owned by Ross Williams of Superhorse.

The 3yo gelding, who kicked off the season with a narrow maiden win at \$19 on his home track at Kembla last November, won five races during the 2018/19 season, including the Group 1 ATC Derby and the Group 2 Tulloch Stakes.

Not a bad rise to fame!



COUNTRY & PROVINCIAL NEWS

Major increases to prizemoney at country racing carnival was announced in July, boosting the annual total to more than \$81 million, an increase of \$48 million since 2012.

There will now be eight feature Country Cup races with prizemoney of \$200,000 at the following racecourses: Port Macquarie, Goulburn, Albury, Wellington, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Scone and Grafton.

In addition, prizemoney for Grafton's Ramornie Handicap, the Wagga Wagga Town Plate and Scone's Dark Jewel Quality will also be increased to \$200,000.

The Coffs Harbour and Muswellbrook Cups will receive an increase in prizemoney to \$150,000 each and the Taree Cup, Dubbo Cup and Snake Gully Cup at Gundagai will receive an increase in prizemoney to \$100,000.

Also, the feature meetings at Lismore, Coonamble, Coonabarabran, Mudgee, Moruya, Bega and Orange have received significant increases for their Cups and support races at these meetings.

At each of these feature country meetings there will now also be a \$50,000 'Country Magic' race which is restricted to country-trained horses only. These 'Country Magic' races will ensure country participants have an extra opportunity to compete at these feature meetings.

These latest announcements follow on from recent increases to minimum prizemoney levels to \$22,000 per race and 40 Country Showcase meetings per annum with each race being at least \$30,000 and the introduction of races restricted to country-trained horses only such as:

- \$1.3 million The Kosciuszko
- \$500,000 Country Championships Final
- 7 x \$150,000 Country Championships qualifiers throughout NSW for total \$1,050,000
- \$75,000 weekly Highway races
- \$40,000 maidens for country-trained horses only

Racing NSW has also recently announced the 2020 dates and venues for the \$1.6 million Country Championships and \$1.25 million Provincial Championships Series.

The Country Championships will culminate with a \$500,000 final at Randwick on 4 April, 2020, while the Provincial Championships will culminate at the same venue and for the same prizemoney, on 11 April 2020.

COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE:

Date	Day	Venue	Region
15 February 2020	Saturday	Coffs Harbour	Northern Rivers
16 February 2020	Sunday	Nowra	South East
22 February 2020	Saturday	Albury	Southern Districts
23 February 2020	Sunday	Taree	Mid North Coast
1 March 2020	Sunday	Mudgee	Central Districts
8 March 2020	Sunday	Tamworth	Hunter & North West
15 March 2020	Sunday	Coonamble	Western
22 March 2020	Sunday	Muswellbrook	Wild Card
4 April 2020	Saturday	Royal Randwick	Final

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE:

Date	Day	Venue
29 February 2020	Saturday	Newcastle
7 March 2020	Saturday	Hawkesbury
14 March 2020	Saturday	Gosford
21 March 2020	Saturday	Kembla Grange
28 March 2020	Saturday	Wyong
11 April 2020	Saturday	Royal Randwick (Final)

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TAB

BOBS & BOBS EXTRA UPDATE



By Mark Brassel



Galaxial (Sam Clipperton) shades You and You Alone at Nowra. Image by Bradley Photographers

Promising filly **Galaxial** posted her first BOBS Bonus for connections with a hard-fought victory at Nowra on August 25.

A daughter of Deep Field, Galaxial was well-trying in the betting (\$4.60 into \$3.70) but endured a tough run having been posted three-wide the entire trip.

However, Sam Clipperton was content to sit outside the odds-on favourite You and You Alone (\$1.80) who was one-off the leader Hasty Minx.

But after a long struggle down the stretch, Galaxial proved superior in the run to the line defeating the popular elect by three-quarters of a length.

Prepared by the Richard and Michael Freedman team, Galaxial netted a \$5625 BOBS bonus for connections at only her second race start.

There were two BOBS bonus winners the previous day at Newcastle when Heart of the Oak (James Innes jnr, \$2.10 fav) and Mayaaseh (Cejay Graham, \$4.20) landed the major prize.

Heart of the Oak (by Sebring for trainer Gerald Ryan) and Mayaaseh (Exceed and Excel, Peter & Paul Snowden) each picked up BOBS bonuses of \$5625 for connections.

BOBS LEADERBOARD

HORSE	SIRE	BOBS BONUSES	WINS
DAWN PASSAGE	Dawn Approach (IRE)	\$22,500	1
MANDELA	Sebring	\$22,500	1
PANDEMIC	Sepoy	\$22,500	1
SUBEDAR	Sepoy	\$22,500	1
CAPTAIN STARDUST	Star Witness	\$11,250	1
DEFERENCE	Exceed And Excel	\$11,250	1
HEART OF THE OAK	Sebring	\$11,250	2
LAKIA	Redoute's Choice	\$11,250	1
REFORMIST	Dissident	\$11,250	1
YAO DASH	Smart Missile	\$11,250	1

MEMBERS' BLACK TYPE HONOUR ROLL

Following is a list of all black type races won by our members for the entire racing 2018/19 season.
Additions to the Honour Roll in June & July are shown in **Red**.

G1	ATC Winx Stakes	Winx	P & Mrs P Tighe, Mrs D Kepitis
G1	ATC George Main Stakes	Winx	P & Mrs P Tighe, Mrs D Kepitis
G1	VRC Makybe Diva Stakes	Grunt (NZ)	R Legh
G1	ATC Epsom Handicap	Hartnell (GB)	Godolphin
G1	VRC Turnbull Stakes	Winx	P & Mrs P Tighe, Mrs D Kepitis
G1	MVRC W S Cox Plate	Winx	P & Mrs P Tighe, Mrs D Kepitis
G1	VRC Cantala Stakes	Best of Days (GB)	Godolphin
G1	MRC Blue Diamond Stakes	Lyre	Godolphin
G1	MRC Futurity Stakes	Alizee	Godolphin
G1	ATC Chipping Norton Stakes	Winx	P & Mrs P Tighe, Mrs D Kepitis
G1	ATC Golden Slipper Stakes	Kiamichi	Godolphin
G1	ATC George Ryder Stakes	Winx	P & Mrs P Tighe, Mrs D Kepitis
G1	ATC Ranvet Stakes	Avilius (GB)	Godolphin
G1	ATC Tancred Stakes	Avilius (GB)	Godolphin
G1	ATC Sires Produce Stakes	Microphone	Godolphin
G1	ATC Doncaster Hcp	Brutal	R & C Legh Racing Pty Ltd
G1	ATC Queen Elizabeth Stakes	Winx	P & Mrs P Tighe, Mrs D Kepitis
G1	ATC Sydney Cup	Shraaoh	Mr D M Ackery, Mrs K Ackery
G1	BRC Stradbroke Hcp	Trekking	Godolphin
G2	ATC Silver Shadow Stakes	Fiesta	D Henderson
G2	ATC Chelmsford Stakes	Unforgotten	P & Mrs P Tighe
G2	ATC Theo Marks Stakes	Home of the Brave (IRE)	Godolphin
G2	ATC The Shorts	Ball of Muscle	N B Couper
G2	VRC Danehill Stakes	Encryption	Godolphin

G2	ATC Shannon Stakes	Noire	D & Mrs M McLeish
G2	ATC Golden Pendant	Shumookh	Emirates Park
G2	ATC Hill Stakes	Ace High	J Cordina
G2	ATC Roman Consul Stakes	Sesar	J & Mrs A McDonnell
G2	MRC Schillaci Stakes	Ball of Muscle	N B Couper
G2	MRC Tristarc Stakes	Shumookh	Emirates Park
G2	MVRC Moonee Valley Gold Cup	Ventura Storm (IRE)	R Legh
G2	VRC Linlithgow Stakes	Osborne Bulls	Godolphin
G2	MRC Sandown Guineas	Ringerdingding	W & Mrs R Mula, K Maloney
G2	ATC The Villiers	Sky Boy	Think Big Stud
G2	ATC Expressway Stakes	Alizee	Godolphin
G2	ATC Breeders' Classic	Champagne Cuddles	Ramsey Pastoral Co (S & T Ramsey)
G2	ATC Apollo Stakes	Winx	P & Mrs P Tighe, Mrs D Kepitis
G2	ATC Silver Slipper Stakes	Time to Reign	G Bachell, Grant Bloodstock, Whitby Bloodstock
G2	MRC Caulfield Autumn Classic	Global Exchange	China Horse Club Racing
G2	MRC Peter Young Stakes	Avilius	Godolphin
G2	ATC Skyline Stakes	Microphone	Godolphin
G2	ATC Challenge Stakes	Ball of Muscle	N B Couper
G2	MVRC Alistair Clark Stakes	Global Exchange	China Horse Club Racing
G2	ATC Skyline Stakes	Microphone	Godolphin
G2	ATC Challenge Stakes	Ball of Muscle	Mr N B Couper
G2	ATC Reisling Stakes	Tenley	Godolphin
G2	VRC Sires' Produce Stakes	La Tene	Godolphin
G2	GCTC A D Hollindale Stakes	Life Less Ordinary	Mrs K Ackery, Mr D M Ackery
G3	VRC Aurie's Star Handicap	Voodoo Lad	K Maloney
G3	ATC Show County Quality	Le Romain	A Carusi
G3	SAJC Spring Stakes	Dollar for Dollar	R Legh
G3	MRC The Heath 1100	Ball of Muscle	N B Couper
G3	ATC Concorde Stakes	Redzel	J N Allen
G3	NJC Spring Stakes	Aramayo	Godolphin
G3	NJC Newcastle Gold Cup	Carzoff (FR)	N & Mrs A Vass, D & Mrs K Ackery
G3	ATC Kingston Town Stakes	Avilius (GB)	Godolphin
G3	MRC How Now Stakes	Winter Bride	K Maloney
G3	ATC Colin Stephen Quality	Miss Admiration	K Maloney
G3	VRC The Bart Cummings	Avilius (GB)	Godolphin
G3	MRC Northwood Plume Stakes	Winter Bride	K Maloney
G3	MRC Coony Cup	Best of Days (GB)	Godolphin
G3	ATC The Nivison	Resin	Godolphin
G3	VRC Carbine Club Stakes	Ranier	Godolphin
G3	VRC Ottawa Stakes	Bella Rosa	K Maloney
G3	VRC Maybe Mahal Stakes	Cool Passion	J & Mrs A McDonnell, Ms J Henning, D Balian
G3	MRC Eclipse Stakes	Tally	Godolphin
G3	MRC Kevin Heffernan Stakes	Cool Passion	J & Mrs A McDonnell, Ms J Henning, D Balian
G3	Gosford Belle of the Turf Stakes	Sexy Eyes	P & Mrs P Tighe
G3	BRC BT McLachlan Stakes	Sun City	Mrs A McDonnell, Mr J S McDonnell
G3	ATC Widden Stakes	Amercement	Godolphin
G3	ATC Canonbury Stakes	McLaren	China Horse Club Racing
G3	MRC Manfred Stakes	Tin Hat	Godolphin
G3	MRC Carlyon Cup	Avilius (GB)	Godolphin
G3	ATC Southern Cross Stakes	Eckstein	A M Cardy
G3	CTC Black Opal Stakes	Pin Sec	Godolphin
G3	ITC Keith F Nolan Classic	Pohutukawa	Godolphin
G3	ATC Sky High Stakes	Red Cardinal	A Mitevski
G3	ATC Pago Pago Stakes	Cosmic Force	China Horse Club Racing
G3	ATC Magic Night Stakes	Kiamichi	Godolphin
G3	VRC Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes	Flit	Godolphin
G3	ATC Doncaster Prelude	Mister Sea Wolf	Magic Bloodstock
G3	ATC P J Bell Stakes	Multaja	Godolphin
G3	ATC Carbine Club Stakes	Ringerdingding	Mrs R J Mula
G3	ATC Kindergarten Stakes	Bivouac	Godolphin
G3	ATC James HB Carr Stakes	Laburnum	Godolphin
G3	ATC Hall Mark Stakes	Trekking	Godolphin
G3	HRC Hawkesbury Guineas	Military Zone	Godolphin
G3	BRC Rough Habit Plate	Purple Sector	Think Big Stud
G3	BRC Grinders Coffee Roasters	Savatiano	Godolphin
LR	ATC The Rosebud	Sandbar	N & Mrs A Vass
LR	MRC Regal Roller Stakes	Osborne Bulls	Godolphin
LR	HRC Rowley Mile	Mister Sea Wolf (Ire)	P & Mrs P Tighe
LR	MVRC Mitchell McKenzie Stakes	Brutal (NZ)	R Legh
LR	ATC Premier's Cup	Avilius (GB)	Godolphin
LR	WRC Mona Lisa Stakes	Savatiano	Godolphin
LR	WRC Wyong Gold Cup	Carzoff (FR)	N & Mrs A Vass, D & Mrs K Ackery
LR	SAJC Morphetville Guineas	Fiera Vista	J Camilleri
LR	VRC Exford Plate	Brutal (NZ)	R Legh
LR	VRC Testa Rossa Stakes	Trekking	Godolphin
LR	VRC Poseidon Stakes	Wild Planet	R Legh
LR	VRC Paris Lane Stakes	Eckstein	A M Cardy
LR	MRC Gothic Stakes	Ranier	Godolphin
LR	ATC City Tattersalls Cup	Exoteric (GB)	K Pryke, P & Mrs P Tighe, D & Mrs K Ackery
LR	VRC Jim Beam Stakes	Pohutukawa	Godolphin
LR	VRC Springtime Stakes	Ringerdingding	W & Mrs R Mula, K Maloney
LR	Tatts Qld Legacy Classic	Stella Victoria	W & Mrs R Mula
LR	BRC Nudgee Quality	Manicure	Godolphin
LR	VRC Bagot Hcp	Etymology	Godolphin
LR	ATC Australia Day Cup	Etymology	Godolphin
LR	TRC Tasmanian Derby	Cossetot	Godolphin
LR	ATC Lonhro Plate	Bivouac	Godolphin
LR	TRC Strutt Stakes	Rock Dove	Godolphin
LR	MVRC Moonee Valley Night Cup	Vengeur Masque (ire)	R & C Legh Racing
LR	VRC Talindert Stakes	Microphone	Godolphin
LR	ATC Parramatta Cup	Red Cardinal (Ire)	T Mitevski
LR	TTC Weetwood Handicap	Sexy Eyes	Magic Bloodstock Racing
LR	BRC Mick Dittman Plate	Plague Stone	Godolphin

LR	HRC Hawkesbury Gold Rush	Intuition	Godolphin
LR	GCTC Silk Stocking	Demerara	Godolphin
LR	Scone RC Ortensia Stakes	Viridine	Godolphin
LR	Scone RC Luskin Star Stakes	Trekking	Godolphin
LR	BRC Queensland Day Stakes	Vega One	Emirates Park
LR	BRC Chief De Beers Quality	Isaurian	Godolphin
LR	BRC Lightning Hcp	Plague Stone	Godolphin
LR	BRC Helen Coughlin Stakes	Multaja	Godolphin
LR	ATC June Stakes	Deprive	Godolphin
LR	BRC The Wayne Wilson	Vinland	Mrs JA McDonnell, Team McDonnell
LR	Tatts RC Winning Edge Presentation stakes	Kordia	Godolphin
LR	Tatts RC GH Mumm Stakes	Duca Valentinois (Ire)	Godolphin
LR	ATC Civic Stakes	Gaulois	Godolphin
LR	CRJC Grafton Cup	Sacred Day (NZ)	L Mihalyka, S P Grant
RL	MVRC Inglis Banner	Espaaniyah	Emirates Park
RL	Magic Millions 2yo Classic	Exhilarates	Godolphin
RL	Scone TC Inglis Guineas	Wild Planet	R & C Legh Racing



INDUSTRY NEWS

Scientists Identify Genetic Link to Explain Why Some Horses Never Race

Role of one gene, dubbed the ‘Motivator Gene’, identified as key

“Attitude may be as important as physical ability”

New research by scientists at University College Dublin and equine science company Plusvital has established that genes associated with behaviour may play as big a role as a horse’s physical attributes in whether a Thoroughbred horse races or not.

Previous studies have shown that less than half of Thoroughbred foals born actually race, with durability or the ability of the horse to withstand the rigours of a training regime seen as a critical factor.

Now, new peer-reviewed research, published recently in the scientific journal *Animal Genetics*, has established that there is a genetic contribution to whether a horse is likely to race and has identified genes associated with behaviour that may be key influencers. One of these genes is PRCP, which on the basis of these results may be considered the ‘Motivator Gene’.

The research team was led by UCD Professor of Equine Science, Emmeline Hill, who is also Chief Science Officer with Plusvital.

Professor Hill noted that the high proportion of Thoroughbred foals that do not make a racecourse start, despite being specifically bred for this purpose, has a major economic impact not just for the owner but for the racing industry as a whole. She said the identification of key genes opened up exciting possibilities for the sector.

“Our study of 4,500 horses, some that raced and some that did not, has established a measurable genetic link to future racing potential and identified several genes of particular importance. The most important genes appear to be involved in neurological or behavioural traits. This is fascinating in the context of trainers’ assessments that a horse’s ‘attitude’ to their exercise regime is among the most important aspects to a positive outcome on the racetrack.”



“One of the genes, known as PRCP, has previously been shown to be associated with voluntary wheel running in mice. Our findings support the theory that, just as with humans, motivation to exercise may be a critical factor in maintaining a training regime and achieving a high level of fitness. Some horses are just naturally keener for their job than others. This may manifest directly in the training environment, but it is also possible there are more subtle effects from a younger age.”

“The more naturally active foal or yearling in a paddock is likely to strengthen better than others that are less naturally motivated to play and move around, and this could have knock-on effects later in life,” she said.

In addition to establishing a genetic link, the scientists developed a new predictive test for determining the chances a Thoroughbred has of making a racecourse start in their two- and three-year-old racing seasons.

“The prediction model analyses the DNA of a horse and then categorises them as having a ‘High’, ‘Medium’ or ‘Low’ chance of making a racecourse start. Horses categorised as ‘High’ are more likely to have a racecourse start, more likely to run in more races, more likely to have higher earnings but curiously do not have a significantly different sales price. This is therefore valuable information that even the most astute in the market currently cannot assess from the pedigree or by physical assessment of the horse.”

“Of course, genetics cannot on its own replace the current tools. There are many other reasons a horse may not progress to race, through injury or the presence of performance-limiting disorders. But while there are veterinary screening tools for those, there is currently no other means to determine a young horse’s motivation to exercise other than long-term observation, and by then it may be too late to get the best out of them.”

Speaking about the application of the test in practice, Simon Chappell, an early adopter of Plusvital’s genetic testing technologies and breeder of Irish 2,000 Guineas placed Decrypt, said that among the large number of horses he has tested he has seen “an uncanny correlation” between the high potential horses that do well on the racetrack and the horses that score as low potential who haven’t made the grade. “The test matches perfectly,” he said, adding that he has noted “both physical and behavioural differences” in the horses.

The genetic test arising from this research, the ‘Raced/Unraced’ test, is available from Plusvital. For further information go to www.plusvital.com.

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