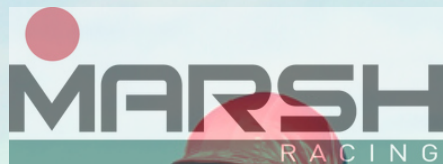


Edition 11



August 2023

MARSH MONTHLY



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A circular inset photograph shows a man in a dark suit and red tie standing next to a brown horse in a stable. The man is smiling and looking towards the camera. The horse is looking towards the camera as well.

Red dot report

Spring is firmly in the air and the stable has started the 2023/2024 season in great fashion!

At the time of writing, we currently sit on 10 wins and a further 11 placings from just 52 runners having earned over \$220,000 in prize money for our owners.

There is little doubt this season shapes as a landmark one for NZ Racing. The well publicised partnership with Entain has provided not only a significant financial boost, but has been the platform for so much positive change.

Initiatives like the increase in the Pearl Series bonus, the Waikato Thoroughbred merger & the Ellerslie project are all contributing to a significant uplift in racing. Since I first started training I struggle to remember a more exciting time to be involved in our sport!

We recently met with ARC CEO Paul Wilcox and had a full tour of the new track and discussed the return to racing programme at Ellerslie. It was incredible to see up close the work that has gone into transforming the Ellerslie surface, and we are only a matter of months away from having a truly world class racing facility. This week the ARC announced further increases in prize money, below is the full article on recent ARC prize money increases.

Most importantly I am thrilled with how our team of horses have started the season.

3 of the 8 winners we had in August were 3YO's and I believe we have a very strong group in this bracket who will be competitive at a high-level right throughout the year. Antrim Coast & Burn to Shine who are raced by Dick Karremen of the Oaks stud were victorious and also a Merchant Queen filly we purchased from the Sydney Easter Sale who won on debut for a great group of owners.

Jodelin Gal returned to the winners circle having recently joined our stable and backed that win up with a fantastic 3rd in a strong edition of the Foxbridge Plate.

Lincoln Lady has quietly put together a terrific record of 4 wins from just 5 starts and is a mare with an extremely bright future.

The first day of the Hawkes Bay carnival is a day away and its great to see we will likely kick off the NZ spring in sunshine on a good track. We have a nice team heading to the first day headlined by Burn to Shine and Codigo in the Listed El Roca – Sir Colin Meads trophy and Glamour Tycoon in the Group 3 Gold Trail Stakes.

Good luck to all connections this weekend.

Stephen

Marsh hopeful that stakes-performing trio can stamp home Guineas claims

[Click Here to Read the full article \(ANZ Bloodsock News\)](#)

Glamour Tycoon, Burn To Shine and Codigo all line up for the Cambridge-based trainer on a bumper card at Hastings this weekend

Stephen Marsh is looking forward to an important day at Hastings tomorrow as he saddles up a trio of Guineas hopefuls across two of the three feature races on the card, the Gold Trail Stakes (Gr 3, 1200m) and Sir Colin Meads Trophy (Listed, 1200m).

Glamour Tycoon (Written Tycoon) will bid to showcase her New Zealand 1,000 Guineas (Gr 1, 1600m) credentials when she takes on 12 rivals in the Gold Trail Stakes.

The Cambridge-based trainer also has his sights set on the New Zealand 2,000 Guineas (Gr 1, 1600m), a race he won in 2016 with Ugo Foscolo (Zacinto), with fellow stakes performers Burn To Shine (So You Think) and Codigo (Ardrossan). Having both made winning debuts as juveniles, Codigo subsequently went on to land the Wellesley Stakes (Listed, 1100m) at Trentham in January, while Burn To Shine returned to action this season with a useful winning effort at Te Rapa last month, beating his elders in a 1200-metre Benchmark 65 event.

“He’s going terrific,” Marsh said of the latter. “He beat the older horses last time and yet he’s still green and a bit new. He has barrier one and I think, with a good position, he’ll go very well once again.”

Following on from his debut win over 970 metres on the Cambridge synthetic track, Burn To Shine, a gelded son of Coolmore stallion So You Think (High Chaparral), then ran third, beaten five and three-quarter lengths, behind the Te Akau Racing colt Tokyo Tycoon (Satono Aladdin), who reopposes this weekend, and Marsh is confident that the distance between the pair can be closer this time around.

“I think Burn To Shine has really developed from two to three,” the trainer said. “He won a race over 970 metres on the tapeta track, something he shouldn’t really have been able to do with his breeding and size, so he’s furnished.

“I wouldn’t want any other three-year-old going into this race. I think he has a very bright future.”

After having secured his win in the Wellesley Stakes, Codigo then made the journey across the Tasman to compete in a competitive 1200-metre event down the straight track at Flemington.

Ridden by Blake Shinn on that occasion, the gelding finished third behind winner Steparty (Artie Schiller) and runner-up Dolphin Skin (Telperion), with the latter going on to win the Taj Rossi Series Final (Listed, 1600m) on his next start, while the former has also won again, stretching his unbeaten tally to three.

“Codigo hasn’t raced for a while, but he’s unbeaten in New Zealand and then ran in a hot two-year-old race in Australia where he had to carry a big weight and finished third,” Marsh said.

“His trial was good the other day and he’s forward enough to go well, but he’ll certainly improve for the outing.”

Michael McNab, who has ridden Codigo for both his wins in New Zealand last season, has chosen to remain with the son of Ardrossan (Redoute’s Choice) for this weekend’s Listed event.

“I think he sort of made his choice because he’s ridden Codigo for three starts (one of those a trial) and three wins, including the stakes success, so that was probably the factor in deciding who to ride,” Marsh said.

Looking ahead to the spring, both Burn To Shine and Codigo are set to be aimed at the New Zealand 2,000 Guineas at Riccarton on November 11, and Marsh feels that the step up to 1600 metres would bring about improvement in both. “He’s (Codigo) another on target for the 2,000 Guineas and you’d think when both these horses get up the the mile trip, they’ll improve for it,” Marsh said.

Meanwhile, Marsh is confident that four-year-old entire Financier (Tavistock) can get back to winning ways in the Rating 65 contest over 1300 metres on the Hastings card. The son of Tavistock (Montjeu) finished runner-up, beaten one and a half lengths, behind his stablemate Burn To Shine on his seasonal reappearance at Te Rapa last month.

“He’s another going really well,” Marsh said of the son of Tavistock (Montjeu).

“He has a bit of a sticky gate (barrier ten) but the blinkers go on and they seemed to have sharpened him up a lot.

“I think he’s one for stakes company and one that can go through the grades. If he can get any luck from his draw, I think he’ll be very hard to beat.”

Marsh also has last season’s Desert Gold Stakes (Gr 3, 1600m) winner Mazzolino (Savabeel) making her seasonal return in the Vet Services Equine Hawke’s Bay Premier (1200m). She finished her three-year-old career with runs in the Levin Classic (Gr 1, 1600m) and NZ Thoroughbred Breeders’ Stakes (Gr 1, 1600m) on her last two outings, registering a fourth-place finish in the former.

“She’s going to improve a lot for the run. She has 58.5 kilos here and it’s more a case of getting her out and fit and then moving her out over further trips” Marsh said.

The trainer will also send out El Vencedor (Shocking) in an Open Handicap at Ruakaka over 1400 metres, and he feels that the five-year-old gelding can get back to the form of his stylish victory in a 1400-metre handicap at Hastings in April, having ran down the field in an ultra-competitive Foxbridge Plate (Gr 2, 1200m) first-up.

“I think he can [get back to that form] and he has come on really well from that first-up run in the Foxbridge. His work has been great and he gets in nicely here back up to 1400 metres,” Marsh said.

“He’s got to jump from a wide gate [barrier ten], but he should be able to just roll across and get a lead. He’ll be a big improver I think.”



ATR Boosts Stakes by \$3 Million

LoveRacing.NZ News Desk

Auckland Thoroughbred Racing (ATR) has confirmed that it will be contributing \$3,094,000 into stakes for the season as part of its annual stakes announcement, bringing total stakes on offer for the Club's 2023/24 season to \$18,705,000.

This figure will result in stakes offered at a \$25,000 minimum across all of ATR's race meetings in the coming season. The amount, which is over and above New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing's (NZTR) minimum of \$17,000, continues the upward trajectory ATR committed to at the time of merger. Following the pleasing trend of last season, the figure is the highest minimum to have been offered by the Club, exceeding 2022/23's figure of \$20,000.

ATR chief executive officer Paul Wilcox said that in addition to the exciting installation of the StrathAyr track at Ellerslie, the Club remains committed to improving stakes in the Auckland area.

"We are firmly focused on growing the industry and stakes increases remain a priority for us. We've set an ambitious goal of contributing \$15 million to stakes at Ellerslie and Pukekohe Park within 5 years, giving us averages we've not seen or heard of in New Zealand racing," Wilcox said.

"This really is a journey for us, and we hope our all-important stakeholders – our owners, trainers and jockeys – have enjoyed the improvement in stakes at all levels while racing with ATR to date and today's announcement continues to underline our commitment in this area."

The \$20.3 million stakes increase for New Zealand racing as a whole, announced by NZTR as a result of the Entain/TAB strategic partnership, created a real sense of optimism in the industry and Wilcox said that it is pleasing to offer further stakes increases in the Auckland area.

"To offer a further uplift on top of the boost the industry has already received for the coming season creates a real sense of confidence in the future of racing in Auckland and beyond for our stakeholders," he said.

"We've made no secret of the fact that our new business model is designed to offer sustainable returns to the industry and whilst it may take time to see us ultimately reach the returns we'd like to see, we are heading in the right direction."

The TAB Karaka Millions race meeting, already New Zealand's richest race meeting with three races run for \$1 million in stakes or above, will continue to be the glamour night of the industry with the Gr. 2 Westbury Classic (1400m) now run for \$300,000, \$125,000 more than the NZTR minimum. Likewise, the Gr.3 Brighthill Farm Yearlings Concorde Handicap (1200m) and Cambridge Stud Almanzor Trophy (1200m) will each be run for \$225,000, \$105,000 more than the NZTR minimum.

Wilcox is quick to emphasise however that, whilst ATR's black-type races have all seen significant increases, the Club has also considered the full spectrum of races when setting stakes for the coming season.

"Whilst it's pleasing to announce that our Group One races will now be run for \$450,000 and our Listed races run for at least \$100,000, it's also important to highlight that our stakes increase formula saw races at all levels achieve an uplift.

"As an example, all races run at industry non-peak racedays will have minimum stakes of \$25,000, better allowing those grassroots participants to continue to enjoy the game."

ATR plans to conduct 20 race meetings over the 2023/24 season from both Pukekohe Park and Ellerslie, with racing's headquarters set to return in 2024.

August Winners



6/08/23 Hawera

Lincoln Lady

Michael McNab

Lincoln Farms Bloodstock Ltd
Sandfords Rural Carriers

1200

Replay.



6/08/23 Hawera

Bassoroc

Michael McNab

Don Pye & Dame Wendy Pye
Denis Wheeler Earthworks

Maiden

Replay.



12/08/23 Te Rapa

Penurious

Warren Kennedy

C J Griffin
SVS Starting Gates 2100

Replay.



12/08/23 Te Rapa

Antrim Coast

Warren Kennedy

D Karreman

Fairview Motors 1400

Replay.



12/08/23 Te Rapa

Jodelin Gal

Warren Kennedy

Okaharau Station Ltd

Waikato Stud Foxbridge

Plate Day 26 August 1200

Replay.



16/08/23 Cambridge

Marmac Boy

Courtney Barnes

Bruce & Kay Marsh, Rachael Marsh,

Stephen Marsh, Paul McDonnell,

Danielle Johnson

Waipa Earthworks 1550

Replay.



25/08/23 Waverley

Merchant Queen

Courtney Barnes

*W L Bolton, C Cygler, Dennis E Foster, P A
Fowler, J R Gray, J A McIntosh, Mrs B M & L D*

Pettifer, Two Fat Cows Syndicate,

J G & Mrs S K Young

Pekoe Contracting 2010 Ltd

Replay.



26/08/23 Te Rapa

Burn To Shine

Michael McNab

D Karreman

Ardrossan 1200

Replay.