

Edition 15

MARSH
RACING

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MARSH MONTHLY



Inside this month...

Tightline reunited for retirement
Stephen looks ahead to Karaka

More new owners bonuses
Skyman hits the ground running



Red dot report

A very Happy New Year to all of our readers, I hope you are enjoying a well deserved break before attacking 2024!

We are about to embark on arguably the most exciting year in the history of New Zealand racing.

Prize money is at an all-time high courtesy of the Entain / TAB partnership, and they continue to introduce a raft of new and exciting initiatives directed at encouraging owners to race horses in New Zealand.

We are just a couple of short weeks away from returning to Ellerslie, where they will showcase their brand new \$50million Strath-Ayr surface.

New Zealand bred, trained and owned horses continue to perform at the highest level both domestically and in Australia. Our sales company, proudly owned by the Vela family, are fresh off the back of its "best sale in 30 years", which showed how the trade market to Australia and Hong Kong is as strong as it's ever been.

The good news for us is that we have what I believe to be the most exciting group of young horses we've ever had in the stable to take advantage of the new landscape in 2024. While we will still perform "hit and run" missions to Australia, we have made the decision to focus all our attention on New Zealand from our Cambridge base and Christchurch satellite stable. To remain at the top end of the premiership and continue to win black type races, adding quality young talent to our stable is essential and we will make January's NZB Karaka Yearling sale our primary focus. We have well and truly begun our research of the sales catalogue and are now getting around each farm to inspect every yearling that will be presented at Karaka.

All of this is off the back of a stellar December on the racetrack for us. We currently sit on 45 winners, a frustrating 90 minor place getters, just short of \$2million in prizemoney and five individual stakes winners...and we are not even half way through the season!

Of the 11 individual winners in December, Glamour Tycoon's dominant display in stakes company was an obvious highlight. Racing in the distinctive Bourbon Lane silks, "Glamour" was a 2022 Karaka yearling purchase by us. She is a daughter of the champion sire Written Tycoon and has cemented her future value as a broodmare heading into a tilt at the \$1.5million Karaka Million 3yo Mile later in the month.

El Vencedor was another who added a first victory at stakes level when winning the Gr.3 Eagle Technology stakes by close to 5 lengths. El Vencedor was bred and is raced by long time clients Mark Freeman and David Price. It was a special victory for great supporters, and he looks well placed to tackle the lucrative mile and 2000m races over the coming months.

We have had the chance to gallop horses at Ellerslie and took the opportunity to run 7 horses at the official trials in December. We were thrilled with new surface and it proved a great opportunity give a number of horses a good look at the course. We are building a strong team for this month's show piece Karaka million night and currently have the favourite for the 2YO Karaka Million, star filly Velocious. She has not put a foot wrong winning her first two starts before an ideal return on New Years Day where she ran 3rd in the Gr.2 Skycity Eclipse Stakes. This was the perfect lead up run and will head straight to the Karaka Million 2YO feature on January 27th.

This fast paced six race card has three races at a \$1million or more with total prize money on the night totalling \$4.5million! Well done to NZB, Entain and ATR who have combined to stage such an incredible night of racing on the eve of the annual sale. I have no doubt this will be one of the best sporting events in New Zealand this year and we can't wait to be part of it.

January is always a month where we focus much of our attention on the upcoming sales, as mentioned adding quality bloodstock to the team is essential for us to remain competitive at the top end. We will be very active at Karaka this year and encourage anyone who would like to race a share with our young, successful and vibrant team to make contact now. Our buying strategy has been to provide everyone at all levels with the opportunity to take a share of any size. In the past we have placed an emphasis on buying affordable well-bred fillies, this will form the pillar of our strategy again this year. Please feel free to contact myself or our Bloodstock Consultant Dylan Johnson to discuss any specific requirements heading into the sales and to be first to hear about any purchases we make.

Lastly, I would like to thank my great team of staff. While most people are enjoying a well-earned holiday at this time of year, our team are working harder than ever with racing around the country taking place nearly every day. Led by assistant trainer Rhys Mildon, I believe we have the most committed and skilled team in the business. I am incredibly grateful for the dedication from all at this time of year.

Happy New Year and from our whole team we wish you and your families a safe happy 2024!

\$400,000 Boost for TAB Karaka Millions

The iconic TAB Karaka Millions raceday will become even bigger with New Zealand Bloodstock (NZB) joining forces with Entain to introduce an additional \$400,000 in available bonuses for horses offered at the 2024 National Yearling Sales Series at Karaka.

The \$200,000 New Owners Bonus will be won by the first horse across the finish line in the \$1m TAB Karaka Millions 2YO that has 50% or more of the ownership being held by first-time owners. Aimed to introduce newcomers to the thrill of racehorse ownership, new owners can purchase a yearling at the fast-approaching yearling sales at Karaka in January and be racing for \$1.2 million only a year later.

"We've been hugely encouraged by the surge in interest in racing and horse ownership since we entered the New Zealand racing scene earlier this year," Entain Managing Director – New Zealand Cameron Rodger said.

"The New Owners Bonus is a tremendous chance for Kiwis who haven't owned a horse before to join in on the thrills of racing a thoroughbred and enjoy even more success if their yearling sales purchase performs well in the 2025 TAB Karaka Millions 2YO."

The \$200,000 Book 2 Bonus will be won by the first horse across the finish line in the \$1.5m TAB Karaka Millions 3YO that was offered in NZB's Book 2 Sale in January 2024.

Book 2 has been a happy hunting ground for Karaka Millions contenders over the years and this bonus will highlight the quality that comes out of the Book 2 Sale. This bonus will start with the 2026 edition of the TAB Karaka Millions 3YO when the 2024 yearlings are three-year-olds.

Both bonuses will be introduced for horses offered at Karaka 2024, giving buyers an opportunity to target these bonuses when buying at Karaka in January next year.

"Book 2 at the NZB sales has been a great source of outstanding thoroughbreds over the years including Sharp 'N' Smart, Legarto and Roch 'N' Horse, proving that stars can come from all levels of the sales," NZB Managing Director Andrew Seabrook says.

Skyman pleases in Tauranga trial

Well performed former Sydney galloper Skyman (Mukhadram) stepped out for his first New Zealand outing at Tauranga on Tuesday with new trainer Stephen Marsh and his owners, the Go Racing Elton Syndicate, keen for him to display the same competitive spirit that he showcased during his numerous Australian campaigns.

The eight-year-old European import won eight of his 37 starts from the Chris Waller stable, including four at Listed level, before Go Racing boss Albert Bosma made the decision to bring him to New Zealand to continue his career.

Marsh has had the son of Mukhadram for just over a month and was delighted to see him charge to the line in an 1100m open trial to finish a long neck away from dual Group One winner Legarto (NZ) (Proisir) and Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m) runner-up Talisker (NZ) (Embelish).

Marsh will now press ahead to a Group One target at Trentham with renewed confidence.

"He (Skyman) came to us in great order from Chris, but the big question was did he still want to be a racehorse?" Marsh said. "He certainly had settled in well and appeared to be enjoying his new environment, so this was his first test and he passed with flying colours.

"We really just wanted to see him hitting the line and wow did he do that, as he didn't get a lot of room early in the straight but when he got clear he finished off beautifully at a distance well below his best.

"As long as he pulls up well and he is a very sound horse, then we will head to Trentham later this month for the Thorndon Mile (Gr.1, 1600m)."

Marsh believes that Skyman is well suited to the Group One Trentham feature on 20 January and will also be well placed to tackle the Gr.1 Herbie Dyke Stakes (2000m) at Te Rapa a month later.

"He was a very good horse in Sydney and if he recaptures that form, he looks ideally placed with the set weights and penalties conditions of the Thorndon Mile," he said.

"His main mission is definitely the Herbie Dyke at Te Rapa where he would also be in it up to his ears.

Lindsay Back aboard Tightlign

Stable veteran Tightlign was recently retired after a 44 start career which yielded 9 wins and 10 minor placings and over \$200,000 in prize money.

Now 10 years old, the effervescent son of Align found his best form late in his career having successfully been rehabilitated from a tendon strain as a younger horse. It was fitting for him to go out on a high as he boomed home for 3rd behind star sprinter Babylon Berlin in this seasons Listed Legacy Lodge sprint at Te Rapa, having been a beaten a nose in the same race a year earlier.

During the later part of his career Tightlign struck up a fantastic partnership with his regular trackwork rider and stable apprentice Crystal Lindsay. They combined for a total of five wins together, four of those coming in the space of five races during the autumn of 2022. Crystal's ability to keep "the old boy" happy and settled in his customary front running position was a feature of their success together.

Bred and raced by the Carter Family with partners, a decision was made to retire Tightlign and we were thrilled to see him rehomed to Crystal who is now based at our Christchurch stable where he will live out his retirement.

"Tightlign was the horse that really got me started as a 4kg claiming apprentice. I always loved riding him in trackwork, he is such a relaxed easy-going horse so when I got the chance to ride him on race day it was very special.

"He always tried so hard, would never let you down and I always knew he would look after me. To have him at the end of his racing career is pretty special, he is a 1 in a million horse for me" – Crystal Lindsay

"The team at Marsh racing did a fantastic job with Tightlign and he was a special horse to us, always consistent and gave a very good account of himself. I know how much the stable and Crystal in particular admired him so it is great for us to retire him to her care" – John Carter (Owner/Breeder)

Rehoming horses is an important aspect of our stable, we have shared a number of stories about those we have successfully found a new life for after racing and are proud of the work done in the after-racing space. We look forward to more updates from Crystal and Tightlign as they embark on a new journey.



December Winners



2/12/23 Wanganui

Glamour Tycoon

Sam Spratt

2022 Bourbon Lane Stable New Zealand LLC
Partnership, I G Benge, R J Bibby, Mrs L J Botros,
D & S J Freeman, Dr P H Mitchell & A P Saker

The O'Learys Fillies Stakes

(Listed)

[Replay.](#)



2/12/23 Te Rapa

El Vencedor

Joe Doyle

M W Freeman & D G Price

Eagle Technology Stakes

(Group 3)

[Replay.](#)



9/12/23 Pukekohe

Mercurial

Craig Grylls

C T Jones, R I Wyeth, T Myers, M Darvill, T
Phillips & A W Flexman

Happy Milestone Birthday

David Ellis 1200m

[Replay.](#)



10/12/23 Rotorua

La Mezquita

Joe Doyle

Hodson & Goddard Partnership & JML

Bloodstock Ltd

Campbell Infrastructure

1400

Replay.



16/12/23 Te Rapa

Academy Award

Sam Spratt

2021 Bourbon Lane Stables New Zealand LLC

Partnership, W L Bolton, J R Gray, Dr P H Mitchell, Mrs B M & L D Pettifer & A P Saker

Power Farming 1300

Replay.



21/12/23 Otaki

Nikaia

Kozzi Asano

Dewar Partnership

UZA BUS

1400

Replay.



21/12/23 Otaki

The Green Keeper

Michael McNab

M Aldridge, The Christopher Investment Trust, S & F Morgan, S Coxhead, M Darvill, E Fraser, K Fraser, D Harris, D Hooke, L Keane, C Ladbrook, B Marshall, B McCullagh, C Milne, B Sherriff, J Tatere, Mo

Racing This Time TV on
Facebook 1400

Replay.



22/12/23 Matamata

Sentry

Sam Weatherley

Mrs A M & J F Bruford

Donaghys Maiden 2000

Replay.



23/12/23 Te Rapa

Klairelle

Sam Weatherley

G Harvey

Skycity Hamilton New Years
Eve Party Mile

Replay.



28/12/23 Rotorua

Merchant Queen

Michael McNab

I G Bennett, W L Bolton, A Bristow, C Cygler, Dennis E Foster, P A Fowler, J R Gray, B J Martelletti, J A McIntosh, G McNaughton, Mrs B M & L D Pettifer, Two Fat Cows Syndicate, P Williams, J G & Mrs S K Young

House of Elliott 1215

Replay.



30/12/23 Taupo

Provence

Joe Doyle

T V Rider & Social Racing Ellerslie

Winners Circle Syndicate

Mort Webber Memorial

1200

Replay.