

ATBC Newsletter

February 2011



ATBC

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This publication is the official Newsletter of the

Australian Thoroughbred Breeders Club Limited

The Club, which currently has over 200 members, was formed to assist thoroughbred breeders through the presentation of talks, seminars, stud visits and social activities as well as providing incentive schemes and a Stallion Tender Scheme. New members are always welcome and the membership can be arranged by contacting the Club Secretary. Annual membership fees are \$ 50 for a single member or \$ 70 for a joint membership, which includes families, partnerships or corporate bodies

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The New Look Website

I hope that many of you have already had a look at our new style website and registered for the forum. As with anything new there may be hiccups and we appreciate all feed back that will allow improvements to be made quickly.

To access the entire forum you must be a Member of the Club. When joining please provide your full name or stud name as everyone who joins will be cross referenced with a list of members of the club.

The General forum area is open to the public to read, where the Member's area is not and is only accessible via a login and password.

Also please be sure to adjust your profile to how you want it to appear as, by default, your age and email will be displayed. You have options to hide these in your profile set up (click profile in the menu, then modify profile). If you have any problems please contact the webmaster, Peter Hayes via email or call 0417 653371 and he will help you through this process.

Please feel free to post in both areas, **remembering the General forum is public.**

We would like you to share all your stories of horses you bred and those that have won. If you have a question about the Club, or breeding, or any related topic, here is the place to ask it.

Production Deadline: Please note that advertisements and articles must be received by the third Tuesday of Each month to guarantee their appearance in that month's Newsletter

Take advantage of all the Members collective knowledge and the answer may be found.

I noticed that to date the most people we have had on line at any one time was 9 and that was at 3.08 am! Night owls or early worms?

Night Racing

There was a good turn out for the Night Racing at Canterbury and a good time was had by all. Here are some photos:



Me, Irene, John Gore and Virginia Harvey



Kaye Goodwin and Virginia



Sandy Batchelor and Wendy Creswell



Wendy Simpson and Irene

Cangon Stud Dungog

Jamie Mackay of **Cangon Stud** Dungog invites members to inspect his two stallions **Nothin' Leica Dane** (sire of **Hot Danish** among many others) and beautifully bred **Recapitalize** by **Royal Academy** from **Blayney Breeze** by **Dahar**.

Please phone Jamie on 0428 499 231

ASB Media Release

The Keeper of the Australian Stud Book, Michael Ford, reported that Thoroughbred mating figures for the 2010 season are just below the 2009 season indicating that the Thoroughbred breeding industry, although bruised, seemed to be recovering from the global financial crisis, albeit slowly. To date, 23,070 mares have been reported as being covered for the covering season which officially commenced 1st September 2010. In 2009, 24,553 mares were covered and 26,600 in 2008. Even though 2010 coverings are currently 6% less than 2009, Ford expected the difference to be 4% after late reports are lodged for a total of 23,500 mares covered by 688 stallions. Some interesting facts:

- 42 shuttle stallions covered 4,566 mares or 20% of the 23,070 reported coverings compared with 4,238 (17%) in 2009 and 5,023 (19%) in 2008;
- 472 or 69% were Australian-bred stallions compared with 68% in 1990 when 2,500 stallions covered 35,500 mares;
- 18 of the top covering 21 stallions were Australian bred, considered a real vote of confidence in the local product by the Keeper;
- While 17% fewer stallions covered mares there will be only 4% fewer mares covered compared with 2009 when final figures are in;
- 45% of mares were covered in NSW, 23% in Victoria, 16% in Queensland, 11% in Western Australia, 3.5% in South Australia and 1.5% in Tasmania, similar to last season.

“While these covering figures are less than previous years, the efficiency of the industry has improved to the extent that the conception rate of mares has increased from 56% to 67% since 1975,” Ford said. “The foal crop for 2011 will be around 15,500 being 600 less than the 2010 crop. Usually 11,000 Thoroughbreds make it to the racetrack from each crop so there should be sufficient potential racehorses from next year’s foal crop.” Ford added that the results of the two recent yearling sales show a similar trend of confidence slowly rising

South Australian Breeders 2011 Tour to South Africa

The S.A. Thoroughbred Breeders have put together a tour of South Africa focusing on stud farm visits, race meetings and a game park. Their programme is as follows:

29th June: Depart Adelaide and travel via Johannesburg to Durban arriving 30th June.

2nd July: Lunch and racing at the famous Durban July meeting

3rd & 4th July: Stud farm, visits including the Summerhill Stud who have been the Champion Breeders for the last 5 years.

5th July; Visit to game park “Springbok Lodge” for 2 nights

8th July: Fly back to Cape Town

9th July; Racing at Kenilworth

10th July: Free day for sightseeing—Table Mountain, Robben Island and shopping at the Waterfront

11th & 12th July; Visits to Robertstown Klawervlei Studs

13th July: Depart Cape Town and travel back to Australia via Johannesburg

14th July; Arrive back in Adelaide.

The tour includes :

- Accommodation with breakfast; 3 nights Durban, 2 nights Mooiriver, 5 nights Cape Town & 1 night Bonnievale
- 2 nights including game drives and all meals at Springbok Lodge
- Entrance and lunch at the Durban July Race meeting
- Bus transport for tours
- International flights Adelaide via Perth to Durban and return and local flight Durban to Cape Town
- Transfers to and from airports

The total cost (twin share basis) will be \$6,650.00 per person, based on 20 people. If that number is not reached there may be an extra charge.

A deposit of \$300 per person is payable by 4th April, 2011, with final payment by 1st May, 2011

For further information phone 08 8297 0733, fax 08 8371 1633 or email; tbbsa@bigpond.com

The whips are cracking again

A recent study by Paul McGreevy and David Evans at the University of Sydney has received worldwide exposure and reignited the controversy on the use of whips in thoroughbred racing. The full study can be found at <http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0015622> and an interview with the co-authors can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/user/rspcaaustralia>

Five races were studied and measurements of whip strikes and sectional times during each of the final three 200 m sections of the races were compared. The findings are described in part in the Abstract of the report as follows:

Jockeys in more advanced placings at the final 400 and 200 m positions in the races whipped their horses more frequently. Horses, on average, achieved highest speeds in the 600 to 400 m section when there was no whip use, and the increased whip use was most frequent in the final two 200 m sections when horses were fatigued. This increased whip use was not associated with significant variation in velocity as a predictor of superior placing at the finish.

The PETA website ran a report under the heading **Whipping Doesn't Make Racehorses Go Faster**. The piece includes the following statement: "PETA's working toward the day when horse racing ends for good - and we've made huge progress, but until then, we aren't letting the racing industry off the hook."

The research was funded by the RSPCA and as such has drawn some questioning of potential bias, which McGreevy refutes: "The RSPCA want more information about whip use

and they're entitled to pay for it", he said. "The funders had no role in the study design, data collection, analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript."

Whatever, it is the first step in opening scientific dialogue on the issue and as such has been praised by Scott Palmer, chairman of the American Association of Equine Practitioners' racing committee. Mr Palmer, however, questioned whether the study examined enough horses in enough races to be statistically significant and thought that the study had not been set up to determine whether the whip influences how a racehorse performs. He agreed that the whip can't motivate a horse to overcome its fatigue in the last legs of a race, something he says in common knowledge. "But that doesn't mean that it's futile" Palmer said, adding "You can't answer that question with this study"

An Attorney for the Jockeys' Guild, an advocacy group for jockeys in US asserted that the rules governing the whip use on U.S. tracks are sufficiently restrictive to ensure horses' welfare and that jockeys need their whips to safely control their horses. "there are approximately 60 jockeys in the U.S. who have been permanently disabled as a result of accidents on the racetrack. Without riding crops, that number would be much higher " he said.

A rose by any other name...

Some people have a knack for finding appropriate names for their horses. ***Karuta Queen*** is out of ***Card Queen***, which is also the name of a 2003 Japanese TV series. It is about a 28 year old postal worker who is the undefeated champion player of a card game called Karuta. She was taught the game by her grandmother and has promised to retire if she loses, even once.

Now the Japanese card game is unlike ours. The object is to get as many cards as one can and more than your opponent. There are many varieties, but one has 200 cards. A hundred of these have full poems which are read by the 'chanter'. The remaining 100 cards are laid out and only have the last two lines of the poems. The first one to recognise the poem and matches the card flicks it into their pile. It is played at New Year and results in lots of Japanese people knowing verbatim 1300 year old poems. Bit more tricky than "have you got Mr. Bunn the baker?"

Try as hard as I can I can't find out if the postal worker lost and was forced into retirement, however, Glenn Williams tells me that no such agreement applies to his unbeaten 2yo.

Beware of offers of help to 'fix' your computer

I was at home when the 'phone rang and a person purporting to be from Windows said she was calling because of an 'error report' from my computer in the last few days. She asked that I turn on my computer. I was immediately suspicious. As anyone who uses Windows knows an 'error report' comes on the screen every time something malfunctions and you get the choice to either report it or not. I never do. I also doubted that Microsoft would ring everyone with an error message, as to do so would probably bring down telephone systems throughout the world. I said my computer was in another place and asked for a 'phone number on which to call her back. I then rang Burwood police station told them what had happened and supplied the 'phone number.

My understanding is that the scam goes something like this. If you open your computer and follow their directions the scammers 'steal' your mailing lists. They then email all your friends telling them that you have had an accident/been robbed/fallen on hard times in some foreign parts and asking that the friend transfer some money, not a lot, perhaps a couple of thou-

sand to a nominated bank account. Her from Dungog got such a request from a pal she had just bumped into on Dungog High Street, so knew it be untrue (unless Dungog be considered Foreign Parts).

Hokitika Wildfood Festival

There seems to be yet another outlet for horse semen. At next month's Hokitika Wildfood Festival shots of stallion semen will be served up at NZ\$ 10 a glass. For those concerned about the possible taste of the 'au naturel' version, shots will also be available in cherry, liquorice and banoffee pie flavours. "What is banoffee pie?", I hear you cry. It's an English desert containing sweetened condensed milk, bananas and cream. Still not tempted?

The drinks will be sold by women brandishing riding whips and it is claimed will make you '... have as much zizz as a stallion for a week after'

Editor's Note

I will be going off on holiday so there will not be a March edition of the Newsletter. Any important information will be sent by Newsflash.

Nursery News



Shamrock Vale Thoroughbreds' 2 week old filly by *Bramshaw* out of *Rozsika (Proven Valour)*.

I'm not sure if that's Joan Leslie hiding behind Mum.

Racing Tour to France, UK and Ireland



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- Visit the Irish National Stud at Kildare, Moyglare and Coolmore studs and attend the Irish Derby at The Curragh.

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27 days Escorted Tour, 3rd - 29th June 2011. Tour organised in association with Quadrant Journeys and Rural Press

For itinerary visit www.quadrantaustralia.com/RuralPress

or phone: 1300 301 128

or talk to **Virginia Harvey** at The Land (02) 4570 4444 or 0416 202 300 or

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