

ATBC Newsletter

January 2012



ATBC

ACN 41 003 084 839

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

ATBC P.O. Box 821, Windsor NSW 2756

Phone: (02) 4577 6120 Fax: (02) 4577 6120
Email: atbc@atbc.com Web: www.atbc.com

ATBC Directors

John Holloman, President
(02) 4572 1177

Dianne Lanham, Vice President

Brian Bresnahan, Treasurer
(02) 4571 4515

Sandy Batchelor

Ethne Potowski, Assistant Secretary

Barbara Robertson, Secretary

Lynda Searle

Wendy Simpson

John Tuckfield, Newsletter Editor
john_tuckfield@hotmail.com

Coming Events

Night Racing @ Canterbury, Friday 17th February

We have again secured a number of entry & Member's tickets from the Australian Turf Club for this penultimate Friday Under Lights at Canterbury Park.

Gates open at 5.30 p.m. with the first race scheduled for 7.00 p.m.

Would those interested in joining fellow Club Members for a night at the races, please contact Di Lanham on 4579 6451 and she will arrange to get the tickets to you.

(By the way, for those interested in becoming Members of The ATC, their Membership Manager has reminded us of their current offer to waive the joining fee for the first 5,000 applicant, a saving of \$ 200 on their regular fees.)

Field Day Rosehill, Saturday 18th February

Trainer, Chris Waller has kindly agreed to allow a select group to visit his training facilities at Rosehill on Saturday 18th February.

Remembering that this is a raceday and the stable will have runners that afternoon it is extremely important that we are **punctual**.

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

We are due at 8.30 a.m. and therefore it is essential that we gather in good time, **no later than 8.15 a.m. at the Unwin Street entrance.**



It is also essential that we have a good idea of numbers, so those intending to attend should contact Wendy Simpson on 0420 495 046 as soon as possible.

After the stable tour the ATC have given permission for the group to inspect other training facilities at the racecourse.

We are very grateful to Chris Waller and the ATC for making this opportunity available to us

Happy 30th Birthday to us, Trivia afternoon on 11th March at The Club House

Your Club is about to celebrate its 30th anniversary. As a result of an advertisement placed by Dianne Lanham in late 1981, a public meeting was held in February 1982, where it was agreed that there was a need for a Club for small breeders and a temporary Committee was formed to draw up a Constitution. This Constitution was adopted at the first meeting of the Club on 3rd March 1982.

To celebrate this auspicious occasion, we invite all former, current and prospective members for drinks and light refreshments at our **Club House at Hawkesbury Racecourse on Sunday 11th March from 11am to 3pm.** There will be a Racing & Breeding Trivia competition, with prizes.

As we will be catering for the event it is imperative that we have an accurate indication of numbers. Therefore, would those intending to attend please either contact the Clubhouse or ring **Lynda on (02) 4578 6604 or Dianne on (02) 4579 6451.**

Queen's Birthday Weekend Bus trip

The plan is to visit studs in Victoria staying two nights in the Euroa area. The program is currently being put together, but in the meantime would those who might think this is a trip that they would like to be part of please indicate their interest by contacting the Club

New Member

This month we welcome **Elaine Bronson** of Wilberforce.

Little Wych

Little Wych is an agistment and broodmare farm on the outskirts of Bathurst run by Club Members Fran & John Ovenstone. They offer agistment, spelling and sale preparation. Norm Tattersall swears by them and points to their excellent success record. They can be contacted on 6331 6516 or mobile, 0427 296 771.

2012 Dubbo Yearling Sales, Sunday, 12th February

The first crop of offspring by Bon Hoffa, a former fleet footed Melbourne sprinter by the shuttled Belong to Me, a son of Danehill's sire Danzig, adds to the appeal of the 2012 Dubbo Yearling Sale scheduled to be conducted for the fortieth successive year on Sunday February 12 at noon.

There are 69 yearlings and 10 broodmares in the Dubbo catalogue, which is now available from **Peter Milling & Company, 105-107 Macquarie Street, Dubbo, 2830, phone (02) 6882 3544, fax (02) 6884 7009, web www.petermilling.com.au**

Personal Property Securities Act 2009

The following **Important Industry Notice** was issued by the **Australian Racing Board**

The purpose of this notice is to remind industry participants that the Australian Government's new personal property securities regime is scheduled to come into effect on **30th January 2012**. This new regime impacts ownership of many assets. It is extremely important that all racehorse owners immediately become familiar with the impact that this may have on the ownership of racehorses.

For further information visit the PPSA Register via the following link

www.ppsr.gov.au or for specific questions, email

enquiries@ppsr.gov.au

[or telephone 1300 007777](tel:1300007777)

Hot Air Ballooning

Members in the Hawkesbury area who are experiencing trouble with hot air balloons landing on their property are asked to contact **Councillor Paul Rasmussen on 4776 1611**. I've checked the calendar and April 1st is still someway off, so it's obviously a serious request. Apparently it is not uncommon for an uninvited hot air balloon to land in paddocks with perhaps disastrous results for livestock that call the paddock home. Already two of our committee members have become targets.

Thoroughbred Matings for 2011

The Australian Stud Book is reporting that initial figures suggest that matings for the 2011 season are significantly down.

To date there were 21,500 mares covered which is expected to rise to 22,500 after late filings. This compares to 24,140 in 2010 and 24,610 in 2009, In pre-GFC days the figure regularly exceeded 26,000

The coverings by shuttle stallions remained at 20%; equal to 2010 and up from 17% in 2009.

Only Fastnet Rock (224) covered more than 200 mares. This is down from six stallions in 2008 and perhaps indicates a move from what was perceived as a worrying trend. A total of 66 stallions covered more than 100 mares, down from 77 in 2010.

Australian-bred stallions dominate with 68% of the matings with USA next best at 16%. Of the top 20 stallions, 17 were Australian.

NSW continued to dominate with 47% of the mares covered, followed by Victoria 24%, Queensland 15%, Western Australia 10%, South Australia 3% and Tasmania 1%

Mother England

I stumbled upon a couple of interesting research papers on the University of Cambridge Website.

The first hypothesises that although Thoroughbred racehorses have typically been associated with the highly prized breeds of the Arabian Peninsula, British and Irish mares have been hugely influential in determining their make-up.

The first study investigated the maternal origins of 1,929 horses by examining their mitochondrial DNA, the genetic information passed exclusively from mother to daughter.

The thoroughbred male lines trace back to the late 17th century and just three stallions, but what of the foundation mares? Because of a common belief that all the defining qualities of elite racehorses came from the stallion, far less information was collected on the female line.

This research determined that hundreds and thousands of existing racehorses came from 72 mares, of whom little is known. However, DNA shows that 61% of these were from British and Irish breeds whereas just 8% had possible Middle East or west Asian links. In particular genetic links with Connemara, Irish draft and Exmoor horses figured prominently.

Other research has shown that speed and stamina are associated with two different variants of the myostatin gene complex; the C:T variant (known as the C-gene) for speed and the T:T variant (known as the T-gene) for stamina. In the wild horses needed both to avoid predators, however, in the early days when horses were required to race over long distances and perhaps several times in a single day stamina was vital. Breeders selected and the T-gene dominated the population. Many elite horses of that time had two copies of the T-gene.

From the mid 19th century races for younger horses over shorter distances became more popular, thus attracting breeders to select for sprinting and they unwittingly began to favour the C-gene over the then more commonly found T-gene. The modern spread of the C-gene has been pinned on Nearctic and his son Northern Dancer, but where did this gene originate from, the foundation stallions having two T-genes rather than one of each. Obviously the source must have been the female line.

The principle researcher, Dr Bower explained "Our findings point to a British mare - one of the mares crossed with the three foundation stallions or their early descendants -being the most

likely source of the original C-gene.”

The study looked at 20 horse breeds and discovered that the humble Shetland had the highest frequency of the C-gene. Apparently the Shetland was highly prized for their racing ability before the Thoroughbred was established. That is not to say that the Shetlands were speedy in themselves but rather that their genes have made a key contribution to the Thoroughbred line. What is fascinating is that the study found only a single C-gene compared to 11 different T-gene variants, meaning that the speed gene entered the Thoroughbred line just once.

Although the precise identity of the mare that introduced the gene will never be known, but the research shows that the British native breeds that have been so under-valued historically, were fundamentally responsible for the racing ability of the modern Thoroughbred breed. I shall never look at a Thelwell cartoon in the same light again.

(Matriarchs of Thoroughbreds unmasked & Speed and stamina: a tale of two genes. University of Cambridge Research News. www.cam.ac.uk/research/news)

Heroic Failures

According to the Ultimate Book of Heroic Failures the worst British racehorse was Quixall Crossett who in 1998 had lost 103 races in a row. The previous worst had been Amrullah with a mere 74 races without victory.

But the Poms are not really in the race. Puerto Rican Dona Chepa holds the record at 125 races without troubling the judge, although his trainer, Efrain Nieves did receive a plaque from the Camarero racetrack when he passed Ouroene's previous record of 124.

But my favourite is Zippy Chippy; apparently banned from every U.S. track that he raced on, except one. He never won from 100 starts, but had 20 placings for about \$30,000. Although the horse was mean and kicked and bit all-comers, his owner/trainer refused to enter him in a claiming race because he didn't want "any crazy people claiming him". In retirement he featured in an English advertising campaign to encourage kids to stay in school, lest they ended up like him.

Eat your heart out, Black Caviar.

A Preview of the 2012 Land European Thoroughbred Tour

Escorted by Virginia Harvey

France, England, Scotland, Ireland June 7 – July 4

Visits to prominent training centres and attending race meets at major racecourses in England, Scotland, Ireland and France are on the varied itinerary of a "return" Thoroughbred tour led by The Land newspaper's 21 year Thoroughbred writer Virginia Harvey, in June 2012. Again conducted in conjunction with Rural Press (The Land) and Quadrant Journeys, the tour allows 28 days (June 7 to July 4) to experience Thoroughbred racing and breeding operations, as well as exploring world renowned monuments for example Edinburgh Castle (Scotland) and Stonehenge (England). Being a passionate Thoroughbred lover, Virginia (like in June last year), has assured participants of the ultimate European Thoroughbred experience. While a lift to the top of the Eiffel Tower and viewing the ancient architecture of Paris is scheduled in the first days of the tour, an inspection of the forest bordered Chantilly training centre and French racing will capture participants' imaginations. Melbourne Cup winning trainers Alain de Royer Dupre (Americain in 2010, and fourth in 2011), and Mikel Delzangles

(Dunaden 2011) call Chantilly their training home. Virginia's 2011 tour witnessed Royer Dupre at work (and on horseback) among the "gallops" at Chantilly. There will also be time for a visit to the magnificent Chateau de Chantilly and Grandes Ecuries (the Grand Stables), which are adjacent to the Chantilly racecourse.

A drive in the beautiful French countryside and a Thoroughbred stud visit is also on the itinerary.

Virginia, wanting to add an "unusual" Thoroughbred feature to the tour, has the group traveling next to Edinburgh, which not only takes in its spectacular Castle, but a "Summer Party Night" of races at nearby Hamilton Park. This unique track (in the shape of a backward P with a gully in it) has a country-like festive atmosphere, with the group to be welcomed amongst its friendly crowd.

Next we are visiting Scottish born trainer Mark Johnson (among England's largest trainer of horses) in North Yorkshire, who last year sent over horses for last year's Melbourne Cup.

Of course Royal Ascot near Windsor is a highlight. Just seeing Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip arriving on course among their entourage of magnificent horses and carriages is a sight to behold in itself. Spectators can get a clear view of the royals at close proximity, due to the design of the Royal Ascot amphitheatre like enclosure, and the many who come with them. And then it is the racing, horses, and its people, and the "mouth-watering" possibility of Black Caviar racing on either the Tuesday (first day, and the King Stand Stakes-G1 a highlight) and/or Saturday (last day, the Golden Jubilee Stakes-G1 with the Queen presenting winner's trophy), will be sensational, and are both scheduled for the group. And not to forget the singing, at the end of each day, when 8,000 or so people gather together in Royal Ascot's "bandstand" for a jolly 'ol fashioned "sing-along" is another sight to witness, as well as hear!

Just prior to this spectacle, we will be visiting the great training grounds of Newmarket where the whole town seems to be devoted to training of Thoroughbreds, and since about 1174. Last year's tour group were fortunate enough to meet and spend time with the great legendary English jockey Lester Piggott, as well as seeing first hand how Italian born trainer Luca Cumani prepares his string of horses on the nearby "gallops".

On the stud side of arrangements, seeing Newmarket's spectacular countryside is an eye-opener, as will be Darley's Dalham Hall stud, the English National stud, and others, which will be visited at a similar time.

Time in the beautiful city of Bath is also scheduled, and after, a visit to Swettenham stud is on at its Manton Estate (as well as a sumptuous lunch at the village's "Outside Chance").

Over to Ireland where Coolmore stud, the Aga Khan's Giltown Stud, Darley's Kildangan stud and the Irish National stud are among properties to be visited.

While sadly last year's tour only just missed on seeing the great Sadler's Wells (before his passing), we inspected many other of Coolmore's stallions including champions Galileo and Montjeu. There is also a tour of counties Cork and Kerry, concluding with attendance at The Curragh racecourse for the Irish Derby.

**Interested people for an itinerary should call Quadrant Journeys on
1300 301 128 or www.quadrantaustralia.com
or talk to Virginia Harvey at The Land (02) 4570 4444.**

Nursery News

Dianne Lanham and Lillian Cooney's Shaft/ Estee Etoile filly at 10 days.

Given Di's penchant for naming her horses in French, I tried to look up the French for Star Beam and Shaft Of Starlight, without joy.

Di may have given up on this approach anyway. The cleverly named Way of Light mare Entinceler (meaning to sparkle) always sounds like Tinkler in the mouth of An Australian race caller.

In fact she was heard to comment recently that she didn't realise that Patinack had a runner in her race.



2012 Racing Tour of Europe

26 DAYS OF BLACK MAGIC

GG Racing Tours invites you to join us for a unique trip to a whole new world of racing and breeding as we follow **Black Caviar, Sepoy, Helmet and Hay List** to Europe in June 2012.

- **At the track-** Chantilly (Prix de Diane); **Royal Ascot** (Queen Anne Stakes, Kings Stand Stakes, Golden Jubilee Stakes etc); **The Curragh** (Irish Derby) and an evening meeting at the delightful Naas course in Ireland.
- **At the Studs-** National Studs in England and Ireland, Coolmore, Darley and the beautiful Giltown stud of the Aga Khan.
- **At the 'gallops'.** Observe early morning trackwork in France, England and Ireland and meet the trainers and personalities involved. This year we met Sir Henry Cecil and a gracious Sir Lester Piggott on Warren Hill, Newmarket.
- **At the stables-** we'll visit the stables of leading trainers in France, England and Ireland. In 2011 we met Red Cadeaux at Ed Dunlop's 'yard' and got a great tip for The Cup.
- **The Horses-** see the Aussies take on **Frankel** and Europe's best sprinters.
- **Sightseeing-** Paris, The Eiffel Tower, The Chateau de Chantilly, Les Grandes Ecuries des Princes de Condé, London, historic **Newmarket**, Bunratty Castle, the Cliffs of Moher, the Ring of Kerry and a chance to kiss the Blarney Stone at Blarney Castle plus lots of free time for shopping.
- **Wimbledon-** Option: stay on a few days and attend the Wimbledon finals. The tour ends the day before the Men's semi-final. We'll arrange ticketing and accommodation for you if you wish.

At just \$10,200 including
airfares, all accommodation, entries,
transfers and more, this is the best
value and most comprehensive racing
tour yet.



For more information contact-
Graham Orr-
 grahamorr@bigpond.com mob 0413335141
Geoff Richardson-
 geoff@doorstep.com.au mob 0408206225

www.ggracingtours.blogspot.com

Bryant's Freezebrands

Service and
Satisfaction
Guaranteed

All areas
Competitive Rates
Ring Jason
0458 755 580
Anytime

Do you feel that your racehorse would do better with a little T.L.C.?

A smaller stable can give more individual attention. Pre-trainers welcome

To discuss your horse's needs contact

Deborah 0418 421141 or e-mail

Braelodge@bigpond.

Are you looking for that present that is just a little bit different?

Would that person who has (almost) everything like a themed gift item of a horse,

A dog, a cat, a frog, a pig or even an owl?

Visit our website and/or our EBay store and view some of the unique items that are available. (you will find the majority of other animal items on the EBay site)

Delivery is by Australia Post and is usually delivered within 3 or 4 days of payment.



On the web @

www.pussnpoochgallery.com.au

or

<http://stores.ebay.com.au/pussnpoochgallery>

Or email

sales@pussnpoochgallery.com.au

The trusted
name in
Horse
Insurance



www.logans.com.au
(02) 9909 1499

Wayne Cone Transport

Servicing the Hunter Valley

Discounts for ATBC Members

Phone : 02 4981 8713

Mobile : 0427 002 653

Email : wmcone@live.com.au