

Anthony Cosgriff Racing

PO Box 52
Miners Rest
Victoria 3352

Ph: 0353 346 533

Mob: 0432 328 592

Email: enquiries@anthonycosgriff.com.au

Web site: www.anthonycosgriff.com.au

STABLE NEWSLETTER APRIL 2009

NEWS/RESULTS:

It was all Murphy's Law for the stable this month – if anything could go wrong, it did! Closest to the money was Gorge's solid 4th at Bendigo in a very strong 2200m maiden. He followed this up over 3000m at Sandown where, taken on again and again in front, he endured the toughest run suffered by any horse since King Henry the Eighth gave up hunting in 1547, and not surprisingly finished out of the frame.

Meanwhile, Pride of Pins, having at last qualified to go steeplechasing, slipped on the tricky Hamilton turn while making a promising debut over the fences and suffered a serious injury. And our extremely promising hurdler Great Master was cruising at his jumps debut when his rider was dislodged after a horse fell in front of them.

With no hurdles races scheduled in the state for 23 days (!!) after this, he next stepped out in a trial at Warrnambool where he also suffered injury and will be out of action for some time. The promise of his stunning hurdle trial win at Moonee Valley has somehow slipped through our fingers!



Something missing! - Great Master shows his jumping style at Mornington (Holdsworth)

The most heartbreaking news of the month was the sad demise of Ruling Dubai. Having been bought relatively cheaply by Anthony and Belhus Racing at the 2007 Premier sale, this filly had lately developed significant broodmare value due to her ¾ brother winning a Group 1 in Malaysia. Sadly Ruling Dubai suffered a serious accident while away from the stable undergoing a course of barrier re-education, and she subsequently had to be put down. Everyone at the stable is very upset at losing this lovely filly, who had so much untapped potential.

LEADING JOCKEYS:

LEADING JOCKEYS 2008-2009	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Fourths
Gavin Bedggood		2		
Reece Wheeler		1		1
Dean Holland		1		
Kosuke Kawakami			3	2
Terry Barry			1	
Paul Hamblin			1	
Nikita Beriman			1	
Danny Brereton				1
Damien Holland				1
Craig Robertson				1
Dean Larsson				1

HORSES IN TRAINING:

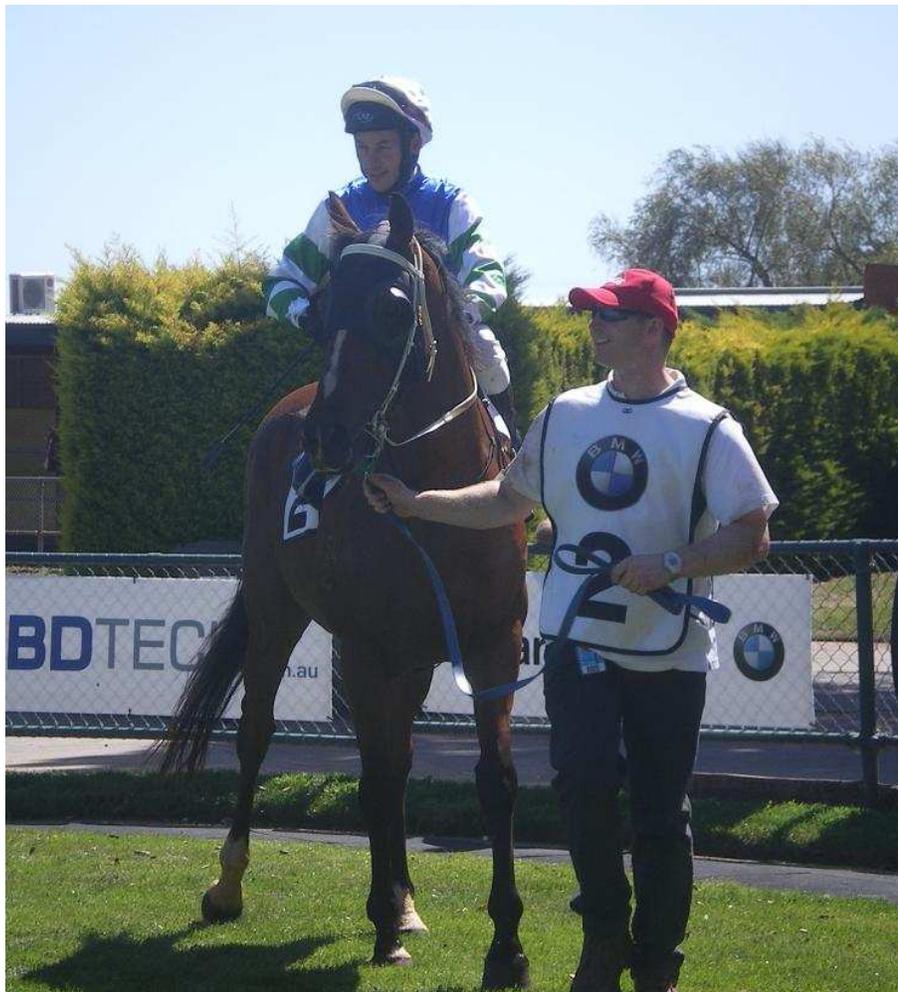
THE TAUREAN 7yog Scenic (IRE) – Georgia: No luck over steeple this month, crunched out of contention, losing many lengths, when handy at the 3rd last at Hamilton. Despite this, The Taurean rallied bravely to finish 5th, only 4 lengths off top chaser Al Garhood. Let's hope this lad can put it all together and pull out a performance this good on a day when he has some luck in running!

ONAJET 6yog Super Jet (USA) - Our Ampulla: Has run and jumped well with no luck at all this month. With his stablemates falling by the wayside, Onajet will yet again be shouldering many of the stable's hopes in the next few months.

MIZEN HEAD 2yof Secret Savings (USA) – Hultarani (USA): Continues to show a great attitude, and has trialled well, but having the occasional growing pain so will not be rushing to the races just yet.

MASTER WHO 5yog Masterclass (USA) – Prue's Gift: This lightly raced gelding is a full brother to multiple winner Master Girl. With many of his sire's progeny taking time to mature, this very cheaply bought lad could prove a lot of fun. Shares are available for anyone keen to jump on board and get to the races as an owner quickly.

GORGE 6yog Thunder Gulch (USA) – Heed Zamelina: Good flat performances and promising hurdle trials have been all to the good, although his very tough run at Sandown flattened him somewhat. Should be bouncing back to his best in the next month.



Danny leads Sam Hyland on Gorge.

DANCE THE KASSBAH 4yog Kassab (GB) – Kick Dancer: He's back! After a year off, the solid bay gelding is back in work and attempting to become his sire's third ever winner. Likely to get his best chance on wetter ground.

Giants Causeway – Reem Albaraari 2yog: A long slow program awaits this large lump of a colt as he attempts to come back from an injury incurred away at the breakers last year. Has the breeding to go far if he can remain sound.

JUMPS RACING:

As everyone will be aware, jumps racing in Victoria is under enormous threat following a number of fatalities this year, which have led to sensationalistic media reporting and a

very cashed-up anti-jumping campaign by animal rights groups. It seems this vocal minority has managed to sway the opinion of some of Victoria's non-horse-interested public by focussing attention on recent racecourse deaths; deaths which, ironically, have been made more likely by the overly forgiving jumps which these very groups pressured RV to start using in 2003.

There is no doubt among those in the industry that we should make some changes, in particular to the way we run our hurdle races, but in the current climate there is a very real chance that jumps racing will be permanently erased before we can do this. If that happens we will lose the most entertaining part of our racing, the basis of the massively important Oakbank and Warrnambool Carnivals, and several hundred horses, with no way to earn their keep, will face a bleak future.

Obviously jumpers have been an integral part of our stable for the last two years, and to see the sport in such peril is distressing and alarming. It is very hard for all associated with our stable to understand how we can spend long hours 7 days a week looking after the comfort of our jumping horses, most of whom would have been in the knackery long ago had we not bought them for jumping, and then be accused of cruelty.

There are many nervous people standing behind us awaiting the outcome of the latest threat to jumps racing, and several other animal pursuits, including flat racing, are already in the radar of animal rights groups. As recent events have shown, logic, economic arguments, and common sense have little effect against these groups, especially if the media see a chance to splash emotive pictures around. (As much as everyone in racing hates to see a death, it is hard to understand how footage of a jumps racing fatality can affect public opinion in a country which slaughters 1.1 million sheep per month!) In any case, there is little doubt that all racing fans should be very worried.

At the latest rally at RV headquarters, 600 people turned up to support jumps racing, as opposed to 20 people protesting against the sport. Amazingly, this tiny group were given most of the coverage in many media reports of the event. Perhaps it was because the "anti's", most looking suspiciously like arts students who had never touched an animal in their lives, stayed on longer than many of the pro-jumping fraternity, who naturally had to return home to tend to their horses!

Having heard and read submissions from many parties (including Anthony), the RV board will announce the fate of jumps racing on Monday 18th May. There is probably little we can do now to alter this decision, but it is worth remembering that the current furore was at least in part caused by political pressure from Minister Rob Hulls, who himself feels pressure every time a misguided or ignorant do-gooder emails him demanding the end of jumps racing or any other sport involving animals. We would encourage everyone who supports jumps racing, and who hates to see the hi-jacking of horse racing by a few do-gooding fanatics, to let the minister know (as frequently as you want!):

Email: rob.hulls@parliament.vic.gov.au