

Anthony Cosgriff Racing

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STABLE NEWSLETTER JULY 2009

NEWS/RESULTS:

Another fantastic month from Gorge to round out the season. After missing two maiden hurdles due to late abandonments, Gorge stepped up in grade to run in a city-class hurdle at the transferred MRC meeting at Sale. Under top rider Craig Durden, Gorge made a few minor jumping errors as the race tempo wound up to frantic, but still fought on strongly for 2nd behind classy campaigner Big Noise (providing a race quinella for sire Thunder Gulch). Nine days later Gorge reappeared on the flat in a competitive 0-62 over 2231metres at Warrnambool. Despite the switch back in trip and code, Gorge worked into the race from the 800m stylishly under comeback jockey Peter Hutchinson and in a driving finish got his head in front right on the line, to post his second career victory.

Gorge's fantastic consistency has made him a favourite of pundits and punters: 2 wins and 4 seconds from his last 6 starts!



Reece Wheeler on Gorge after his first win (Slickpix)

Remaining in good form this month was The Taurean who ground on determinedly in a very eventful Casterton steeple to hold down 3rd on the run to the line. Although the lad is probably now too dour to reproduce his best jumps form of last season, coming 3rd in a \$25,000 Open Steeple is a fair effort in anyone's language.

LEADING JOCKEYS:

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

Reece Wheeler has held on to be crowned our leading rider for 2008-2009, a fitting reward for some very consistent riding. Just behind him at the top of the table is Peter Hutchinson, on the comeback trail after, as he puts it, "a seven year freshen-up". It will be fascinating to see if Peter can recapture the heights of his Group 1 wins aboard Fraar and Canonise.

HORSES IN TRAINING (Age as of 1st August):

GORGE 7yog Thunder Gulch (USA) – Heed Zamelina: As of the end of July, Gorge had shot his earnings for his first campaign with us to nearly \$32,000, and his Kerching! Ratio is now up to 7. No wonder everyone loves him!

MASTER WHO 6yog Masterclass (USA) – Prue's Gift: Stepped up in trip this month, and although there were excuses for his 5th over 1600m at Ballarat after getting caught in the worst part of the track, Master Who's subsequent failure over 1900m at Kilmore seemed to confirm that, like most Masterclasses, he simply does not stay. Sometimes it is just all-important who your Dad is (as the world discovered to its cost when "Dubya" ran for president). Will step back in trip in the coming month.

THE TAUREAN 8yog Scenic (IRE) – Georgia: Again soared over the Casterton hedges this month, beating some handy performers when 3rd in Open Company.

ONAJET 7yog Super Jet (USA) - Our Ampulla: Shocking luck in his only run this month, when he was hindered in mid-air and consequently fell at Casterton. Unhurt from the fall, Onajet then proceeded to tangle himself up in the running rail while trying to find his way back to the stables, sustaining some deep cuts in the process. While running an intense treatment program since to get Onajet back on deck, Anthony has been swapping his trainer's hat for his veterinary hat (some say he is equally fluent at talking through either).

MIZEN HEAD 3yof Secret Savings (USA) – Hultarani (USA): Frustratingly close to her first race-day start after trialling well, but has been flirting with shinsoreness, (especially whenever she hears that a race entry has been made).



Mizen Head with strapper Phil Cole (suitably attired for winter trials at Burrumbeet!)

STORMING NORTH 3yog Giants Causeway (USA) – Reem Albaraari (GB): Has at last been named – and what a name! If commentators don't call this horse "Storming into contention!" we'd be very surprised. Continues to please, but having not raced as a 2yo his chances of a stud career have basically disappeared, so he has recently lost two stone quicker than anyone on Australia's Biggest Loser is likely to and will shortly be turned out to mature.

ROUGH NIGHT 7yog Hurricane Sky – Yelgun Dawn:

Thanks to everyone for their concern and sympathy over the sad demise of Rough Night at Warrnambool recently. Rough Night had settled beautifully in the first time blinkers and was jumping with amazing precision, but was freakishly injured when one of his rivals, having taken a soft fall, stood up and actually backed into Rough Night who had just nipped over the hurdle and was still at full gallop. Naturally Rough Night received immediate veterinary attention and, as he had badly damaged his elbow in the collision, was put to sleep without delay.

Anthony is a critic of the rubber jumps used in this country, which have caused the deaths of several horses this year. However, in the case of Rough Night the incident was just one of those things, just plain bad racing luck. It was a tragedy for the horse, but all involved can take comfort from the fact that Rough Night received the very best of feed and care and was doing what he loved right up to a minute before the end.

As usual the anti-jumping lobby gleefully seized upon the news, and planted a headstone for Rough Night in Melbourne's Federation Square. Interestingly not one of these people has ever contacted us to offer a home for any of our jumpers, which highlights an interesting anomaly in Australia. Unlike in other countries, there are virtually no horse sanctuaries run here to try and provide homes for at least some ex-racehorses or other unwanted equines, and in fact the Champions property at Oaklands, which homes a handful of Australasia's best retired racehorses, remains in dire financial straits and begging for donations.

No-one apart from the jumps racing industry wants to feed our horses, but somehow people want to lay phantom headstones in the city and push for the closure of our business – very puzzling.

David Muschamp former director of Monash Ethics Consultancies and now an ethicist in private practice recently assessed the jumps racing debate in the Sunday Age and concluded:

There are huge evils in the way humans have treated and still do treat millions of animals. Poultry and pigs and breeding bitches are crowded into cages, sheep and cattle are loaded onto ships for export to brutal Dhabiha, halal, slaughter. Whales are killed slowly by exploding harpoons, fish are left on boat decks to flap their lives away, drowned by air.

People who are concerned about animal welfare and who are distressed by the extent of cruelty in Australia and throughout the world have a hideously large number of difficult and ethically charged tasks to attend to. Jumps racing is not one of them.

SEASONAL EPILOGUE

And so the end of another racing season is upon us – our third full season in operation. There is no doubt that the 2008-2009 racing season was a frustrating one for the stable, and on the face of it our seasonal haul of 2 winners was a big step down from 2007-2008, our best season to date.

However, the stable remained very competitive in the toughest racing state in this country; with our 31 first four finishes an extremely respectable haul from a stable our size, especially when the vast majority of our runners are still rejects from other stables:

	2007-2008	2008 – 2009
Winners	6	2
First or second	11	12
First three	22	21
First four	31	31

Improving the quality of our bloodstock remains hugely problematic, but we hold high hopes for our younger brigade (two 3yos and three 2yos) all yet to start campaigning. And Anthony's reputation as a trainer of jumpers has continued to grow - if only jumps racing itself could be guaranteed to do the same!

Anthony and Beck would like to express their sincere appreciation to all our owners for their patronage and support, especially during those times this season when all luck seemed to have deserted us! And thanks as always to everyone who helped out this year above and beyond the call of duty, especially Greg and John, and to Dallas Rintoule of Westvic Racepix for his fantastic photos.

Onwards to 2009 - 2010!



Terang Races: Owner Peter Morey with Anthony, Rohan, Grace, Beck, Freya and Darcy (Photo by Westvic)