

## Anthony Cosgriff Racing

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### STABLE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2009

#### NEWS/RESULTS:

The stable began the new season with a bang courtesy of the mind-bogglingly consistent Gorge. Two days into the season Gorge lined up in a maiden hurdle at Warrnambool for what would turn out to be the only jumps start this year where he got his preferred heavy ground. Despite the presence of a few promising types Gorge turned the race into a procession, forging to the lead at the second last and then hurtling away in the run to the line to win by a dozen lengths, eased up.



*Gorge and Greg at Sandown (Ayes)*

This performance earned the son of Thunder Gulch a shot at the very top division in the \$100,000 Lachal Hurdle over 3900m at Sandown. Here Gorge acquitted himself admirably, working strongly to the line after being hampered at the last to run a close-up 4<sup>th</sup>. This was obviously an excellent trial for the country's richest hurdle the \$200,000 Grand National Hurdle at Sandown over 4530m. Those close to the stable were quietly confident that over this extra trip Gorge would have a huge chance of turning the tables on the Lachal place-getters. These hopes grew further as serious rain began falling 36 hours from the race, but unfortunately that rain decided to largely avoid Betfair Park, and

the select field of 7 ultimately raced on a rapidly drying surface. After being settled last and way off the pace in a slowly run race, Gorge made a crucial error as the pace was quickening at the 4<sup>th</sup> last that saw him a distant last as the field turned to run downhill to the penultimate flight. Gorge somehow managed to work his way back up behind his rivals approaching the last jump, but sadly Gorge and jockey Craig Durden then had a disagreement about what path to take home, which saw Gorge losing ground again at the last flight and dropping again back to a clear last, well inside the furlong pole! At this point Craig at last decided to let Gorge take his preferred route on the wide outside, after which Gorge produced an incredible finishing burst that saw him make up at least 6 lengths and rocket past 3 rivals in the closing stages, snatching 4<sup>th</sup> on the line and galloping alongside the place-getters just strides later. Everyone associated with Gorge and the stable was immensely proud of this effort, but it was difficult not to dwell on what might have been if Gorge had been able to unleash his run even 50 yards earlier.

Also out of luck was the formerly knackery-bound Master Who who continued his good form with two 1200m heavy track outings at Ballarat. His run on the 7<sup>th</sup> August was particularly noteworthy, as he was severely hampered by a horse falling in front of him when just about to make his run at the 600m. After extricating himself from the melee, Master Who straightened up several time-zones off the leaders, but proceeded to plunder lengths from his rivals down the straight, making it to 5<sup>th</sup> by the line. With Victoria's tracks likely to dry from now on, we hope this wasn't his big day gone begging! Master Who followed this up with an even 3<sup>rd</sup> in stronger company under Craig Robertson later in the month.



*Craig Robertson gets legged aboard Master Who at Ballarat*

#### **HORSES FOR SALE:**

Next year's jumping contingent are now arriving, and we have shares for sale in some extremely exciting prospects. Contact Anthony ASAP for more info! -

**Blarney** 5yog by O'Reilly out of Tall Story (Carnegie) - well bred and very nicely put together, there's a touch of class about this lad, and he showed it by finishing close-up at strong Victorian provincial venues last campaign. Sure to be competitive on the flat before we try him over obstacles.

**Sea Town** 4yog by Ladoni out of My Kind of Town (Volksraad) - by the sire of top jumpers Mt Townsend and Royal Laddie , out of a half sister to a 4 time NZ steeplechase winner, this lad was born to jump! Having raced without luck recently in northern NSW, Sea Town might prove a revelation in Victoria with a switch in code and the chance to run on wet tracks.

**Leica Vino** 5yog by Nothin Leica Dane out of Sweet Madeleine (Piazzetta) - a giant of a horse and a lovely type to boot, Leica Vino is still eligible for a maiden on the flat, but has already shown his preference for staying trips, so it looks like the jumps are already calling out to him like, well we can't deny it, like Sirens on Viagra.



*Giant newcomer Leica Vino*

**LEADING JOCKEYS:**

LEADING JOCKEYS 2008-2009	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Fourths
Craig Durden	1			2
Craig Robertson			1	

Editor's note: we do allow jockeys with names other than Craig to ride for the stable!