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STABLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009

NEWS AND RESULTS:

At last the stable was back at the races after our recent hiatus, and our new recruit Blarney leapt into form for us straight away with a close and unlucky 3rd at Yarra Valley. The son of O'Reilly travelled beautifully in running but was badly hampered when trying to find racing room at the top of the straight. Once finally clear, Blarney flew home and was in fact trying to dive between the 1st and 2nd place-getters when he was hampered again just before the line. Blarney did not manage to run a place in his last, seven-run campaign before joining us, so he has clearly thrived with us.



Blarney is hampered for the second time when a close 3rd at Yarra Valley (Slickpix)

Leica Vino also ran well when sneaking into 4th on Ballarat Cup Day. While the 1600m trip was always going to be inadequate, fourth prize in this valuable maiden made it a nice day out with the cheaply bought, giant gelding.

HORSES IN TRAINING

MIZEN HEAD 3yof Secret Savings (USA) – Hultarani (USA): Relishing her work this time in and remains on track to debut shortly.

STORMING NORTH 3yog Giants Causeway (USA) – Reem Albaraari (GB): Making steady rather than rapid progress towards his first start, but pleasing us no end.

BLARNEY (NZ) 5yog O'Reilly (NZ) – Tall Story (NZ): Put in the star performance of the month, but then freakishly injured himself in the Yarra Valley tie-up stalls after his race, getting himself horribly strung up and needing a hacksaw to rescue him! Will have a little time to his next run to ensure he is recovered from this untimely incident.



Sea Town – extremely impressed by Victoria's spring grass

SEA TOWN 4yog Ladoni (GB) – My Kind of Town (NZ): Joined us after a busy campaign in NSW, and so was given some R and R on lush Victorian spring grass. Has been back in work just over a month now and doing everything right, although he will likely need wet tracks and hurdles to make his presence felt in Victoria.

ONAJET 7yog Superjet (USA) – Our Ampulla: In full work and is providing a sparring partner for Gorge most mornings. Onajet will have a run or two on the flat to ensure his fitness before the jumps season commences next year, but based on last year's extremely disinterested efforts on the flat it may be best for serious punters to look on until he leaps!

LEICA VINO 5yog Nothin' Leica Dane – Sweet Madeleine: Debuted nicely for us but is already looking more like a jumper than a flat performer. Will have another few goes at breaking his maiden on the flat before turning to hurdle trials early next year.

GORGE 7yog Thunder Gulch (USA) – Heed Zamelina: Returned to the track earlier than planned to take advantage of recent rains: however, Gorge seems to have acquired the knack of making the rain stop wherever he is racing, so he found the track at Yarra Valley far too firm at his first-up run, although he ran home satisfactorily and was not beaten far. With the announcement of Totesport (UK) as the major sponsor for our trip, Gorge's history making UK assault is now on target.

GREAT MASTER 6yog Anabaa (USA) – Albanella (GER): Working along nicely, although his long break has done nothing to change his remarkable propensity to hold weight, despite many long, long treks under saddle around the district. May have one or two runs on the flat before hurdle trialling in the new year.

LEADING JOCKEYS:

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

Reece Wheeler has been riding with a touch of class lately, and he has been the mover on our jockey's list this month. While the race would not be considered a career highlight, Reece's effort to gain 4th money over a mile on the gear-less budding steeplechaser Leica Vino was a fantastic example of persistent, strong riding without overuse of the whip.

JUMPS RACING DEBACLE:

On behalf of Racing Victoria Limited, we would like to apologise to all of our owners, in particular those that race a jumper with us, for the recent decision to axe jumps racing at the end of next season. It is shocking that the people supposed to represent our interests as owners and trainers, having crippled the sport in recent years by refusing to guarantee its future, can now end it, citing declining participation as a reason.

Perhaps a lifeline for the sport will be found, but even if it does it is hard to see a satisfactory level of confidence returning, and this has frankly been a massive blow to our business, not to mention the personal worry we all feel now over the future of our old friends Great Master, Onajet, Gorge and new recruits Leica Vino and Sea Town, both bought solely with jumping in mind.

If this is indeed to be the final year of jumping we will endeavour to make it a good one for our stable - in both hemispheres!