



NZB  
HARNESS MILLION

  
**HARNESS RACING**  
New Zealand



**ALEXANDRA**  
— PARK —



NZB

# Standardbred<sup>®</sup> HARNESS MILLION NIGHT

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2022



**AKUTA**

**FRANCO INDIE**



## NZB HARNESS MILLION

Saturday's Harness Million meeting at Alexandra Park is the first time it's been run in this country, and it's set to be a highlight of the racing calendar in future years.

Modelled on the highly successful Karaka Million meeting at Ellerslie every January, there will be six races run in a quickfire format, starting at the later time of 7.51pm.

The meeting coincides with the start of NZB Standardbred's National Yearling Sale the next day. Overall more than 400 yearlings will go under the hammer at Karaka (Sunday, February 13) and Christchurch (February 14-16).

The six races will include three three-year-old Harness Million races for Colts and Geldings, Fillies and Trotters. The \$200,000 Colts and Geldings clash will see highly-rated stablemates Akuta, Franco Indie and Franco Mac square off against each other.

The top trotters including Sundees Son and Bolt For Brilliance will clash in the first race of the night, while the open class pacers including Self Assured and South Coast Arden will round out the night in The Sprint at 10.16pm.

In the future the meeting will be held on a Friday, with the Saturday scheduling a one-off due to a clash with Cambridge's meeting on Friday 11 February.





# HARNESS MILLION SERIES

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ADMINISTERED BY THE NZ SIRES' STAKES BOARD

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All yearlings offered at NZB Standardbred's 2022 National Yearling Sale are eligible for the NZB Standardbred Harness Million Race Series.

**\$1,000,000 IN TOTAL WILL BE RACED FOR:**

- 2YO Colts & Geldings, Fillies and Trotters
- 3YO Colts & Geldings, Fillies and Trotters
- 4YO & Older (conditioned) Entires & Geldings, Mares & Trotters.

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# LYELL CREEK STAKES




RACE 1      7:51PM      LONESTAR ALEXNDRA PARK LYELL CREEK STAKES FFA (GR2) \$50,000, R40 TO R120 FFA MOBILE TROT, 2200M			
MICHAEL GUERIN	JONNY TURNER	JOSHUA SMITH	GREG O'CONNOR
SUNDEES SON BOLT FOR BRILLIANCE MASSIVE METRO OUTAMYWAY	SUNDEES SON BOLT FOR BRILLIANCE OUTAMYWAY BITAMUSCLE	SUNDEES SON BOLT FOR BRILLIANCE MASSIVE METRO BITAMUSCLE	SUNDEES SON BOLT FOR BRILLIANCE MASSIVE METRO OUTAMYWAY



1    155X34    Outamyway    R67 (fr)

(4h Love You-Do It Your Way, by Sundon)  
Owners: P F B Williams, Mrs J T Williams, S P Murdoch, V Nairn, Mrs S E Nairn, Red And White Syndicate, B L Lissington.  
Driver: Mark Purdon      Trainer: Paul Nairn  
(16 starts: 4-2-3, \$124,290) Best mile rate: 1-59.4 (2nd, 1980m)  
Just battled last week at Add. after good resumption at Reefton. Looks held here



5    144385    Anditover    R71 (fr)

(6g Andover Hall-So Long Marianne, by Brylin Boyz)  
Owners: D R Lauren, Dr P J Gerard, J A Coulam, J Galbraith, Mrs E M Galbraith.  
Driver: Todd Macfarlane      Trainer: Ross Paynter  
(40 starts: 8-5-6, \$110,475) Best mile rate: 1-59.8 (3rd, 1700m)  
Outclassed in last couple of Camb. runs. One of the many disputing the minor's.



2    231111    Bolt For Brilliance    R116 (fr)

(5g Muscle Hill-Too much To Do, by Britewell)  
Owners: Mrs S Herlihy, D I Donaldson, P J Hailes, Mrs J M Mathews.  
Driver: Tony Herlihy MNZM      Trainer: Tony Herlihy  
(33 starts: 16-7-3, \$458,844) Best mile rate: 1-55.6 (1st, 1700m)  
Made it 4 straight winning at Camb. 13 Jan emphatically. Major danger to the fav




6    243472    Kings Landing    R79 (fr)

(7g Muscle Hill-Pocaro, by Sundon)  
Owners: J T Wilkinson, Mrs L E Howlett, J R Howlett, J Simpson-Morgan, E Crews,G R Dowling, B W Morrison, R J Letch, R J Owen, P W Bibby.  
Driver: Maurice McKendry MNZM      Trainers: Michelle Wallis & Bernie Hackett  
(47 starts: 7-8-5, \$142,644) Best mile rate: 1-59.0 (3rd, 1609m)  
Closed hard behind Massive Metro, 21 Jan. Needs covering in trifecta's & 1st 4's




3    375521    Massive Metro    R93 (fr)

(8g Muscle Mass-Paris Metro, by Safely Kept)  
Owners: Ms M J Wallis, P G Argus, D I Donaldson, G L Read.  
Driver: Todd Mitchell      Trainers: Michelle Wallis & Bernie Hackett  
(55 starts: 10-11-6, \$253,016) Best mile rate: 1-55.5 (3rd, 1700m)  
Gritty effort to hang on here, 21 Jan. Well in contention to fill the trifecta.




7    P15P60    Crazy    R56 (fr)

(5g Crazed-Skee Queen, by Sundon)  
Owners: M T Hall, T D Hall.  
Driver: Scott Phelan      Trainer: Tim Hall  
(16 starts: 3-0-0, \$19,718) Best mile rate: 2-00.1 (1st, 2200m)  
Didn't show enough last week to need consideration tonight in this line-up.



4    113111    Sundees Son    R120 (fr)

(7g Majestic Son-Stardon, by Sundon)  
Owners: C W Hair, Mrs N L Hair.  
Driver: John Dunn      Trainers: Robert & Jenna Dunn  
(60 starts: 27-4-6, \$991,917) Best mile rate: 1-55.9 (2nd, 1609m)  
Continues to dominate the Southern scene and seeking 8th success here.  
Superstar



8    3X8X15    Bitamuscule    R70 (fr)

(4h Muscle Hill-Lotalov, by Love You)  
Owners: M P Smith, Mrs V E Smith, S J Lissington, Mrs L M Lissington.  
Driver: Bob Butt      Trainer: Paul Nairn  
(8 starts: 4-0-2, \$31,435) Best mile rate: 1-59.5 (3rd, 1980m)  
Outfinished from the parked spot at Add. after resumption win. Combo's best hope





# Burgeoning rivalry resumes at The Park

by Joshua Smith



The burgeoning rivalry between two of the country's most exciting trotters will continue at Alexandra Park on Saturday.

Sundees Son and Bolt For Brilliance will clash once again in the Gr.2 Lone Star Alexandra Park Lyell Creek Stakes FFA Mobile Trot (2200m).

Bolt For Brilliance heads into Saturday off the back of four consecutive wins, including the Gr.3 Greenlane Cup (2700m) at Alexandra Park on New Year's Eve and the Gr.3 Cambridge Flying Stakes (2200m) last month.

Sundees Son boasts a similarly impressive form line, having won his last three starts, including his sensational Gr.1 Dominion Trot (3200m) triumph, and dominant victory in the Gr.3 Southern Lights (2700m) at Ascot Park last start.

While Sundees Son was originally set to head to Australia, Southland trotting fans were the biggest winners in the decision to stay at home.

"I was talking with Colin and Nancy (Hair, owners), and they said he was really well received (down south)," said Robert Dunn, who trains in partnership with his daughter-in-law Jenna Dunn.

"It's great when you can take a champion horse to these places, it doesn't matter where in the country it is, they really appreciate it.

"At Omakau he came up to the fence and Johnny (Dunn, driver) said he got a great reception, so that was great.

"It was just too risky (to head to Australia) with everything, and I think we made the right call."

Dunn said Sundees Son has travelled up well to his Pukekohe stable and has settled in well under the guidance of travelling foreman Craig Edmonds.

"Craig has been up here and has taken him to the beach two or three times and he is pretty happy where he is at," Dunn said.

"He looks great and Craig is really rapt with him. He is eating tremendously well and is as bright as a button."

Like many, Dunn is looking forward to seeing his charge clash once again with Bolt For Brilliance.

"Bolt For Brilliance is a terrific trotter. He is a couple of years younger than Sunny and he will take over his mantle one day the way he trots," Dunn said.

TAB bookmakers have installed Sundees Son as a \$1.30 favourite ahead of Bolt For Brilliance at \$3.20, and Massive Metro at \$18.

Dunn will also line-up Highgrove in the Listed NZB Standardbred Harness Million 3YO Trotters Final Mobile Trot (2200m).

The race has only attracted three horses, which Dunn said was disappointing for the inaugural Karaka Million meeting.

"It is really sad for the club. There seemed to be a lot of nice three-year-olds coming along. It was quite a strong Jewels last year for the two-year-olds," Dunn said.

"Things have happened for them to fall away like they have and it is a shame for that race.

"I am picking there will be a full field of trotters next year. From what I have seen around Auckland, there are a lot of nice two-year-olds."

While there are just the three runners, Dunn said Highgrove will still need to bring his manners to feature after breaking at Cambridge Raceway last week.

"He made an indiscretion at the start, which is a shame, and he was very lucky not to break when he got checked at the 900m," Dunn said.

"It was a great credit to him that he kept trotting because he could have easily broken. Afterwards he was super.

"He is pretty safe normally behind the gate. Watching him trot at home, he is very solid and he has handled the Auckland way really well so we are pretty happy where he is at."

Highgrove was purchased by Dunn's Diamond Racing out of Tavistock Breeding's 2020 New Zealand Bloodstock Standardbred National Yearling Sale draft for \$34,000.

Dunn is also excited about the prospects of Dance Till Dawn in the Listed NZB Standardbred Harness Million 3YO Fillies Final Mobile Pace (2200m).

"She is training super," Dunn said. "In her last start she had a little bit of a blood disorder that we picked up on. We have treated that and she seems to have improved.

"It is hard drawing out there (7) because the hardest horse (to beat) has drawn two (True Fantasy) so it makes it awkward.

"I really like this filly, I think she is going to keep on improving as the season goes on.

"I am looking forward to her going another strong race."





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# 3YO TROTTERS FINAL



**HIGHGROVE**

WINNER OF 2021  
\$75,000 HARNESS MILLION  
LISTED 2YO TROT

PURCHASED BY DIAMOND  
RACING FOR \$34,000 AT  
THE 2020 YEARLING SALES



# RACE 2 8:18PM NZB STANDARDBRED HARNESS MILLION 3YO TROTTERS FINAL

\$75,000, 3YO MOBILE, 2200M

MICHAEL GUERIN	JONNY TURNER	JOSHUA SMITH	GREG O'CONNOR
HIGHGROVE EL CONQUEROR WY FI	HIGHGROVE WY FI EL CONQUEROR	HIGHGROVE WY FI EL CONQUEROR	HIGHGROVE EL CONQUEROR WY FI



## 1 9X1163 Highgrove R66 (fr)

(3g Love You-Focus On Me, by S J's Photo)

Owners: A D Neumann, I M Neumann, V R L Neumann, Mrs E J Hintz, B W Clarke.

Driver: John Dunn

Trainers: Robert & Jenna Dunn

(12 starts: 7-0-1, \$93,191) Best mile rate: 1-57.1 (1st, 1700m)

Smart type seeking 8th win in 13th start tonight. Looks home with a clean gait.



## 2 941 El Conqueror R49 (fr)

(3g Sebastian K-Phoebe Revival, by Wrestle)

Owners: R G H Thomson, Mrs S E Nairn, Weedons Horse Racing Syndicate, J A MacKinnon, Pedomi Syndicate.

Driver: Bob Butt

Trainer: Paul Nairn

(3 starts: 1-0-0, \$6,000) Best mile rate: 2-22.2 (1st, 2500m)

Maiden Reefon winner and looked good doing it. Stable respect but up against it



## 3 22X472 Wy Fi MR46 (fr)

(3g Love You-Broadband, by Muscles Yankee)

Owners: Mark Purdon, Mrs H van Opzeeland, Mrs J A Grainger, J H Grainger.

Driver: Natalie Rasmussen Trainers: Mark Purdon & Hayden Cullen

(9 starts: 0-3-1, \$27,198) Best mile rate: 1-59.9 (4th, 1700m)

Beaten fave last week but will be improved with the run. Best can be competitive

## SIBLINGS AT THE SALE

Lot 30 - Father Patrick  
x Broadband Colt. Half  
brother to WY FI



# West is best for Nairn

by Joshua Smith

When it comes to getting his young trotters ready for a trip to Auckland, Paul Nairn believes west is best.

The trotting maestro has had plenty of success kicking off the careers of many of his trotters on the West Coast circuit and El Conqueror has been no exception.

Nairn highlighted the Listed NZB Standardbred Harness Million 3YO Trotters Final Mobile Trot (2200m) at Alexandra Park on Saturday as a key target for his charge this season and headed to the West Coast after Christmas to prepare for the trip.

While he broke when on debut at Westport on Boxing Day losing all chance, El Conqueror continued to improve in his two subsequent starts, breaking through for his maiden win at Reefton.

The son of Sebastian K then won his 2400m trial at Ashburton Raceway last month before heading north.

"We have had this race in-mind for quite a while," Nairn said.

"It is good to get a bit of travelling experience into them before you bring them on a big trip like this to Auckland. That was the main reason for going to the Coast.

"I think he has improved since then. His work at home has been very good."

El Conqueror will have just the two competitors on Saturday, drawing in the middle of Highgrove and Wy Fi.

Nairn believes his trotter will perform well in the small field, however, he did share concerns that El Conqueror didn't travel up as well as he had hoped.

"He seems quite happy going right-handed at home so hopefully he will handle the track well," Nairn said.

"He has lightened up a wee bit on the trip that is my only concern.

"I brought up a couple of stallions with him which was probably not ideal. Outamyway and Bitamuscle are a bit agro. In hindsight I might have changed things a wee bit, but we are here and they are eating up well now.

"I think he will compete well."

El Conqueror was purchased by Nairn out of Phoebe Standardbreds' New Zealand Bloodstock Standardbred 2020 National Yearling Sale draft for \$8,000.

While Outamyway and Bitamuscle weren't ideal travel companions for their stablemate, Nairn is looking forward to lining them up in the Gr.2 Lone Star Alexandra Park Lyell Creek Stakes FFA Mobile Trot (2200m) on Saturday.

"They are in the deep end against Sundees Son and Bolt For Brilliance. Those two look the standouts in the field," Nairn said.

"But all going well I think those two trotters in the future will be right up in that sort of class."

The pair bookend the field, with Outamyway drawing the ace marble, while Bitamuscle drawn the outside of the eight-horse field.

"Outamyway has drawn to get a good trip," Nairn said. "He will get out of the mobile good enough to be handy. He is a good stayer, so if the pace is on he will keep trucking."



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GQG**





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# 2YO FILLIES FINAL

1.40 6 6.30  
SCR 7 SCR  
6.60 8 2.70  
7.50 9 7.20  
1.30 10 2.00  
4.20 11 13.50

QTR 1 31.8  
QTR 2 28.8  
QTR 3 29.3

Weather FINE

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PURCHASED BY JEAN FEISS AT THE  
2020 NZB STANDARD BRED YEARLING  
SALES FOR \$70,000

# RACE 3 8:46PM NZB HARNESS MILLION 3YO FILLIES FINAL

\$150,000, 3YO FILLIES MOBILE PACE, 2200M

MICHAEL GUERIN	JONNY TURNER	JOSHUA SMITH	GREG O'CONNOR
TRUE FANTASY LADY OF THE LIGHT DANCE TILL DAWN MIKI MONTANA	TRUE FANTASY LADY OF THE LIGHT DANNEMORA DANCE TILL DAWN	TRUE FANTASY LADY OF THE LIGHT DANCE TILL DAWN COVER GIRL	TRUE FANTASY DANNEMOIRA LADY OF THE LIGHT MIKI MONTANA



## 1 2441 Dannemora R50 (fr)

(3f Betting Line-Gracy Lady, by Christian Cullen)  
Owners: TD Bagrie Limited, Mrs A G Bagrie, P D Bagrie, E R Husband,  
R R J Storer, G W Moore, M D R Chappell, Mrs M R Husband,  
Syndicate Of A Syndicate.  
Driver: Zachary Butcher Trainer: Tom Bagrie  
(4 starts: 1-1-0, \$9,470) Best mile rate: 1-55.3 (4th, 1609m)  
Decisive Northern debut, 3 Feb. Drawn to get economical trip. Quin's and tri's.



## 5 146646 Aiming For Glory R47 (fr)

(3f Bettor's Delight-Breath Of Life, by Village Jasper)  
Owners: Stonewall Stud Ltd, Aiming For Glory Syndicate.  
Driver: Benjamin Butcher Trainers: Steve & Amanda Telfer  
(6 starts: 1-0-0, \$9,064) Best mile rate: 1-58.0 (4th, 1700m)  
Couldn't kick on after a tough trip, 20 Jan. Will require favours from the draw



## 2 111221 True Fantasy R68 (fr)

(3f Bettor's Delight-Secret Notion, by Mach Three)  
Owner: Mrs J L Feiss.  
Driver: Natalie Rasmussen Trainers: Mark Purdon & Hayden Cullen  
(12 starts: 7-4-1, \$271,961) Best mile rate: 1-55.1 (3rd, 1609m)  
Only beaten here once and was too classy, 31 Dec. Drawn to dominate; take shorts



## 6 111143 Lady Of The Light R62 (fr)

(3f Bettor's Delight-Steel The Light, by Falcon Seelster)  
Owners: Dr I S Bridge, Mrs R P Bridge, Mrs S E McKendry, D Curran, P Fisher,  
A Hassall, S Hassall, Nevele R Stud Ltd, Organ Donation Saves Lives Syndicate,  
Zinnycef Syndicate.  
Driver: Maurice McKendry MNZM Trainer: Jeremy Young  
(7 starts: 5-0-1, \$63,624) Best mile rate: 1-55.8 (1st, 1700m)  
Won them in a row before two minor Dec. placings. Biggest threat to the fave.



## 3 121145 I'llavabubbles R53 (fr)

(3f Always B Miki-Delightful Dale, by Bettor's Delight)  
Owner: G A Rogerson.  
Driver: D P Ferguson Trainers: Graeme Rogerson & Dylan Ferguson  
(10 starts: 3-2-0, \$29,783) Best mile rate: 1-56.3 (2nd, 1700m)  
Not far away but beaten fave twice at Camb. Nice marble to use; cover in multis



## 7 151456 Dance Till Dawn R49 (fr)

(3f Art Major-Shimmy Shoes, by Bettor's Delight)  
Owners: A D Neumann, I M Neumann, V R L Neumann, Mrs E J Hintz, B W  
Clarke, J A Slack, S Langdon.  
Driver: John Dunn Trainers: Robert & Jenna Dunn  
(13 starts: 2-2-3, \$61,209) Best mile rate: 1-56.8 (1st, 1700m)  
Racing ok without threatening and will need to do work from draw. Fringe 1st 4's



## 4 7X5541 Miki Montana R42 (fr)

(3f Always B Miki-Cullens Princess, by Mach Three)  
Owner: Montana Park Pty Ltd.  
Driver: David Butcher Trainers: Barry Purdon & Scott Phelan  
(12 starts: 1-1-1, \$27,207) Best mile rate: 1-55.8 (2nd, 1700m)  
Got her win at Camb, 27 Jan after sitting parked. Can boost exotics with a trip



## 8 X62648 Cover Girl R48 (fr)

(3f Bettor's Delight-Sossusvlei, by Art Major)  
Owners: A J Hickman, Mrs P M Calder, G W Deakins, R R J Storer, B B McCullum,  
D Smith, T R Vince, Hardwood Breeding Syndicate, Miss T M Jones.  
Driver: Bob Butt Trainer: Bob Butt  
(9 starts: 1-2-0, \$101,019) Best mile rate: 1-55.9 (4th, 1980m)  
Winner here last May and solid since resuming. Requires best from this marble.

## SIBLINGS AT THE SALE

**Lot 313** - Fear The Dragon x Gracy Lady. Half brother to DANNEMORA

**Lot 32** - Art Major x Cullens Princess. Half brother to MIKI MONTANA

**Lot 250** - Art Major x Breath of Life. Half sister to AIMING FOR GLORY

**Lot 138** - Sweet Lou x Steel the Light. Half borthter to LADY OF THE LIGHT

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# Rivals living a fantasy chasing star filly

by Jonny Turner



The perfect draw for True Fantasy has meant the biggest question ahead of the Listed Harness Million 3YO Fillies Pace at Alexandra Park on Saturday night has changed.

Though there are no certainties in racing, the Mark Purdon and Hayden Cullen looks the next best thing after landing barrier 2 in the Listed \$150,000 feature.

True Fantasy hasn't been seen since her powerful win in the Group One Sires Stakes Fillies Championship at Alexandra Park on New Year's Eve.

But as punters have come to expect from the All Stars stables over many years, she won't be short of a gallop come race start time.

"She has had a couple of trials and I have been very pleased with her," Mark Purdon said.

"She's forward and her work has been very good, so I would expect her to be very hard to beat."

With the favourite opening at what seems to be reasonably fair \$1.10 odds, the big question for many punters will be where the value lies in the market.

Dannemora looks a sensible option for place, top 4 and combination bets.

The Tom Bagrie trained filly was professional in her Alexandra Park debut win last week.

Though the three-year-old hasn't taken on classy types in stakes race company before she has the massive advantage of drawing barrier 1 inside the raging hot favourite.

Dannemora opened at \$41 win odds and \$4 place odds with bookmakers. From there, Dannemora should get her chance to sit handy to the pace on the markers without doing work which gives her genuine top 4 appeals.

On form, Lady Of The Light looks the biggest danger to True Fantasy and a must-include in combination bets.

The Jeremy Young trained filly charged out of the pack to run third behind True Fantasy in her last start Sires Stakes win, finishing third.

Lady Of The Light has been rated the third favourite for Saturday night's race at \$12, behind second favourite Dance Til Dawn (\$7).

Cover Girl opened the fourth favourite at \$16 odds.

The Bob Butt trained filly returns to Alexandra Park after downing True Fantasy in the Listed Harness Million 2YO Fillies Pace last season.

 NZB  
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# New Zealand National Standardbred Yearling Sale

## **AUCKLAND**

13 February  
At Karaka

## **CHRISTCHURCH**

14 - 16 February  
At Canterbury Agricultural Park

# 2022

# 14

## **GROUP ONE WINS**

With the oldest just four years of age, NZB Standardbred graduates claimed 14 Group One wins and 27 stakes wins in the 2020-21 season alone.







BRECKON  
FARMS

YOUNG GUNS  
2YO C&G  
HEAT 1



**RACE 4**
**9:16PM**
**BRECKON FARMS YOUNG GUNS 2YO C&G HEAT 1**

\$20,000, 2YO COLTS &amp; GELDINGS MOBILE PACE, 2200M

MICHAEL GUERIN	JONNY TURNER	JOSHUA SMITH	GREG O'CONNOR
MERLIN SEVE FRANKIE MAJOR SOONER THE BETTOR	MERLIN SEVE HUGO MAGUIRE FRANKIE MAJOR	MERLIN SEVE SOONER THE BETTOR FRANKIE MAJOR	MERLIN SEVE FRANKIE MAJOR SOONER THE BETTOR


**1 Hugo Maguire MR50 (fr)**

(2c Sweet Lou-Zenola Starbuck, by Christian Cullen)  
 Owners: Mrs D C Kennedy, Miss S L Davis.  
 Driver: Matthew White Trainer: Kyle Marshall  
 (0 starts: 0-0-0, \$0) Best mile rate: Not available  
 1st of 2 in 22Jan trial and drawn to advantage. Could squeak a minor prize.


**2 2 Frankie Major MR50 (fr)**

(2c Art Major-Delight Me, by Bettor's Delight)  
 Owner: Lincoln Farms Bloodstock Ltd.  
 Driver: David Butcher Trainers: Ray Green & Andrew Drake  
 (1 start: 0-1-0, \$1,860) Best mile rate: 2-02.5 (2nd, 1700m)  
 Nutted late attempting all-the-way win on debut. Must be respected from marble.


**3 4 Robin Hood MR50 (fr)**

(2c Sweet Lou-Maddison's Delight, by Bettor's Delight)  
 Owner: G A Rogerson.  
 Driver: Dylan Ferguson Trainers: Graeme Rogerson & Dylan Ferguson  
 (1 start: 0-0-0, \$720) Best mile rate: 2-03.1 (4th, 1700m)  
 Did a good job first-up after copping a tough trip. Another in the combo's hunt.


**4 Lydia's Art MR50 (fr)**

(2g Art Major-Lydia's Delight, by Bettor's Delight)  
 Owners: Breckon Racing Syndicate, Mrs G J Kennard, P I Kennard, S R Plant.  
 Driver: Brent Mangos Trainer: Brent Mangos  
 (0 starts: 0-0-0, \$0) Best mile rate: Not available  
 On debut following a 3rd in recent trial. Looks hard-pressed against this field.


**5 1 Merlin R50 (fr)**

(2c Art Major-Imaginary Bet, by Bettor's Delight)  
 Owner: Montana Park Pty Ltd.  
 Driver: Zachary Butcher Trainers: Barry Purdon & Scott Phelan  
 (1 start: 1-0-0, \$6,600) Best mile rate: 2-00.5 (1st, 1700m)  
 Confirmed promise with authoritative debut performance. Looks a ready-made fave


**6 1 Seve R50 (fr)**

(2c Vincent(AUS)-River Belle, by Red River Hanover)  
 Owners: Mrs S Herlihy, M R Lockwood, Mrs J A Lockwood, Mrs L G Halligan, J S Halligan, S W Waters.  
 Driver: Tony Herlihy MNZM Trainer: Tony Herlihy  
 (1 start: 1-0-0, \$6,600) Best mile rate: 2-02.5 (1st, 1700m)  
 Took advantage of trail to sneak home on debut. Gate speed required again. Tri's


**7 Son Of Mac MR50 (fr)**

(2c American Ideal-Lusty Mac, by McArdle)  
 Owners: B Barnett, L Dixon, D J Rowe, R L Herbert, S M Bowles, K H Bowles, I H MacKay, R D MacKay, T Walker, Lads Go Trotting Syndicate.  
 Driver: Kyle Marshall Trainer: Kyle Marshall  
 (0 starts: 0-0-0, \$0) Best mile rate: Not available  
 Chased Hugo Maguire in trial. No favours with draw and looks stretched on debut


**8 Miki Shan MR50 (fr)**

(2c Always B Miki-Yankee Dream, by Dream Away(USA))  
 Owners: G A Shand, Mrs J J Rogers.  
 Driver: Maurice McKendry MNZM Trainer: Maurice McKendry  
 (0 starts: 0-0-0, \$0) Best mile rate: Not available  
 4th in Merlin's 28 Jan trial win. Hard to make a case for from the widest draw.

----- Second Line -----


**9 6 Lincoln River MR49 (fr)**

(2c Bettor's Delight-Ideal Belle, by American Ideal)  
 Owners: Lincoln Farms Bloodstock Ltd, D M Turner, P C Kelly, D B Hooker, D Jones, Mrs B O'Mara, I A Middleton.  
 Driver: Todd Mitchell Trainers: Ray Green & Andrew Drake  
 (1 start: 0-0-0, \$210) Best mile rate: Not available  
 Battled away solidly on debut with support from good draw. Outside first 4 hope.


**10 2 Sooner The Bettor MR50 (fr)**

(2c Bettor's Delight-Lucky Pocket, by In The Pocket)  
 Owners: Mrs K J Purdon, Montana Park Pty Ltd, R Cole, Mrs C Nausbaum, Mrs M McKay, D J Tonks, B K Parker.  
 Driver: Scott Phelan Trainers: Barry Purdon & Scott Phelan  
 (1 start: 0-1-0, \$1,860) Best mile rate: 2-00.9 (2nd, 1700m)  
 Tough as teak behind stablemate last week. Draw ok & looks biggest threat again


**11 7 Beaudiene Rocknroll MR49 (fr)**

(2c A Rocknroll Dance-Beaudiene Babe, by In The Pocket)  
 Owners: Lincoln Farms Bloodstock Ltd, W D Kennedy, Mrs D P Kennedy, M W Butterworth, Mrs M T Butterworth.  
 Driver: Anrew Drake Trainers: Ray Green & Andrew Drake  
 (1 start: 0-0-0, \$210) Best mile rate: Not available  
 Blew his chances on debut with early break. Happy watching from 2nd row draw.

## SIBLINGS AT THE SALE

**Lot 15** - Always B Miki x Yankee Dream. Full brother to MIKI SHAN

**Lot 55** - Bettor's Delight x Ideal Belle. Full brother to LINCOLN RIVER

**Lot 100** - Art Major x Lydia's Delight. Full bbrother to LYDIA'S ART

**Lot 227** - Art Major x Zenola Starbuck. Half sister to HUGO MAGUIRE

**Lot 245** - Always B Miki x Beaudiene Babe. Half sister to BEAUDIENE ROCKNROLL

**Lot 318** - Captaintreacherous x Imaginery Bet. Half borthter to MERLIN

**Lot 341** - Art Major x Lucky Pocket. Half sister to SOONER THE BETTOR

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# Robin Hood out to give to the punters

by Jonny Turner

If sitting back and having a gold coin on the hot favourites isn't for you then Robin Hood could be your hero at the inaugural Harness Million meeting at Alexandra Park.

The Graeme Rogerson and Dylan Ferguson trained two-year-old comes into Saturday night's Young Guns heat on the back of a decent debut performance, running fourth behind race rival Seve on the same track last month.

Robin Hood paced roughly early in the 1700m event and did it again in a crucial stage of the run home which clearly didn't help his chances.

After opening at \$51 odds for Saturday night's race, well longer than the \$1.40 favourite Merlin, it is fair to say that bookmakers didn't find the performance too compelling.

But it's been uttered more than once or twice on racetracks that backing \$1.40 favourites won't get you rich.

A top 3 or top 4 bet on Robin Hood will offer much more attractive odds and with some confidence in his camp that the pacer can kick a goal for punters those odds might be well worth taking.

"I think he is a top 4 chance if he gets a good trip," Ferguson said.

"I don't think he can beat Merlin or Seve on what they've done and I would say they would have improvement in them as well."

"But he has got a good draw (3), so if he can sit handy to the speed he is not without a first four hope anyway."

Greenness caused the pacer to put in his

rough steps on debut and it looks Robin Hood's biggest issue going into start two. The pacer hasn't quite clicked onto what racing is all about just yet.

"He is a funny horse, he seems to go rough sometimes and not others, but I think it is a bit of a greenness thing," Ferguson said.

"They only sprinted a furlong last time and they went from zero to 100 pretty quick, but I thought he is going to be alright tonight, but he just got the speed wobbles."

"I think that is all it is, he is a half to American Dealer and he was a bit like that but he grew out of it."

"Hopefully he will just keep getting better with a bit of racing."

"I got Dad (Peter Ferguson) to have a drive on him (at the trials) and he is just happy to run with the other horses at this stage."

"I have worked him with learner two-year-olds and he doesn't kick their arse or anything."

"I think that is why he stepped up on race night."

"Hopefully if he can sit handy to the speed he can keep going and be right there."

Trifecta and First4 bets are another option for punters not keen on Merlin's win price. On the strength of the Barry Purdon and Scott Phelan trained juvenile's powerful debut win, anchoring him in multiple bets looks a good option.

Merlin's stablemate Sooner The Better, Seve and Frankie Major look key horses to consider alongside him in Trifectas and First4s.

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# Mooar hopeful of Spreydon Lodge Quinella in rich 3yo Final

Franco Indie may be wearing the Alabar Syndicate colours when he lines up in the \$200,000 NZB Standardbred Harness Million 3YO Colts & Geldings final on Saturday night, but his breeder, Spreydon Lodge has played a leading role in him being there.

The son of Always B Miki was born on the hallowed grounds of Nevele R Stud, Canterbury's premiere and iconic standardbred stud and General Manager, Ged Mooar has several reasons to be excited. Franco Indie was thrown in the deep end along with his stablemate and race rival, Akuta, when they lined up against the hardened open class pacers in their first look at the park last week.

The big striding pacer was gallant in defeat, taking ground of the superstar Self Assured in the run home.

"He went super, first time right-handed on a 1000m track, we couldn't have been happier.

"He came out of the gate good which was encouraging, he has that gate speed. To run an Open Class horse like Self Assured that close was a fantastic effort and we just hope he has taken improvement with that run under his belt and is all systems go for Saturday night," said Mooar.

Franco Indie was a \$35,000 Yearling Sales purchase at the 2020 Yearling Sales in Christchurch and was purchased jointly by Nevele R Stud and Alabar NZ Ltd who were looking to syndicate a couple of colts by Always B Miki who they stand jointly at stud.

The recipe for success was first laid out by Graeme Henley of Alabar NZ who when looking to support his then sire, Auckland Reactor, asked Mark Purdon to select a colt by him to train on behalf of the stud and a large syndicate of owners.

Lightning struck twice with both Chase Auckland and Franco Indie now in the record books as winners of the famed Sires Stakes Final on Cup Day.

Mooar is ecstatic at how everything has played



out having had a hand in securing the stallion and the Nevele R team raising the foal on farm before his successful syndication and progression to being a racehorse.

"It's very rewarding and he was always a strong looking foal. He had a couple of issues and had a decent cut to his lower leg which was badly infected through to the bone and it was quite serious at one stage. The team looked after him with good veterinary advice and he got through it.

"He was always a big strong boy with a lovely temperament, and we loved having him here on the farm. We acquired his dam from Ian Dobson around the same time that Christian Cullen was still here.

"Ian was winding back his breeding operation a little and cutting back on some of his numbers. We made an arrangement with him and that's how we got her and bred Indie.

"Since then we have produced two full sisters to Franco Indie out of the mare and she is back in foal to him," he said.

The last five years has seen a changing landscape for New Zealand studs with big money syndication of stallions making it harder to secure the southern hemisphere rights for stallions to shuttle down under.

Alabar and Nevele R have combined their experience and purchasing power to secure the likes of A Rocknroll Dance, Vincent and more recently the full brothers in Ultimate Sniper and Machete.

None of the aforementioned stallions came with the same hype however as the co fastest pacer of all time, Always B Miki.

The stallion has come out of the gates hot, with his first two crops taking the north American age group classics by storm with sensational horses like Perfect Sting, Niki Hill and Monte Miki flying the flag.

In Australia he is already the sire of two G1 juveniles in Tricky Miki and The Miki taker to go along with the G1 success of Franco Indie here in New Zealand.

Always B Miki is also represented in the three-year-old final by the Mike Berger trained Cos I Can and Miki Shan in the first heat of the Young Guns for two-year-olds.

Mooar has naturally been thrilled with the way the son of Always A Virgin has kicked off his career at stud.

"It's huge actually because you put a lot of time in to negotiating when you come across a stallion that is available. You couldn't fault his performance; he could run through walls the horse. He wasn't just the co-fastest horse of all time, but he was tough, and I think you are seeing that in his progeny, they're running through the line really strong.

"I've been over to Victoria and seen him and he has a lovely temperament, he's a big boy but he's not coarse. He's an athletic stallion.

"I think his biggest asset is that his pedigree suits so much of the gene pool down under and his ability to cross over a wide variety of mares is starting to show.

"He is crossing fantastic with Bettor's Delight mares in both hemispheres, he is crossing well over Artsplace line mares and also the Direct Scooter line. There are so many options for mares he can cover which is significant.

"The thrill we get from securing his breeding rights and seeing his stock coming through now is incredible and it's a great relationship that we have with Graeme Henley in New Zealand and Brett Coffey in Australia. The relationship that we have is fantastic and we get on well," he said.

Staying on theme, another positive relationship is the one forming among the large contingency of owners of Franco Indie.

"We will just about make the crowd there on Million's night I reckon," laughed Mooar.

"We have obviously done the right thing and got everything checked off with the club, but I think there is about 39 of us going. Graeme Henley and Ivan Behrnes of Alabar, and a lot of syndicate members as well."

Spreydon Lodge will be naturally hoping for a Franco quinella when another one of their Spreydon Lodge graduates takes his place in the rich three-year-old final also in Franco Mac.

"He was well put together young horse, wasn't overly big but out of a lovely family, he was a lovely horse to prepare, and Anna and the team were very fond of him.

"It's a real thrill to have two in it going forward tomorrow night," said Mooar.

With the first day of the NZB Standardbred Yearling Sales kicking off the day after the action packed six race card, a Franco Indie will have more than just his ownership group cheering him to victory.

A win in the sales series feature will be mightily welcomed by vendors with offspring of Always B Miki who is represented by 38 lots across the two sales.

"Right on the eve of the sale it will be fantastic timing if he could win because that will be what the talk will be about at the sales the next day, so lets hope he does everything well and things can go his way in the running," said Mooar.

Spreydon Lodge are excited to try and replicate the fantastic sale of last year which saw them average \$65,214 from seven yearlings sold and take with them a strong team to Canterbury Agricultural Park next week.

"We have a lovely draft of 11 colts this year going through the sales in Christchurch, we couldn't be happier with them and the interest has been strong. They're from a great line up of commercial sires out of families who are doing the job on the track which is vitally important.

"Anna, Belinda, Zane and the team have done a wonderful job getting them ready for next week and we are looking forward to a good sale, fingers crossed," he said.





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# 3YO COLTS & GELDINGS FINAL



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# RACE 5 9:48PM NZB STANDARDBRED HARNESS MILLION 3YO C&G FINAL

\$200,000, 3YO COLTS & GELDINGS MOBILE PACE, 2200M

MICHAEL GUERIN	JONNY TURNER	JOSHUA SMITH	GREG O'CONNOR
FRANCO INDIE AKUTA CHIMICHURRI MAJOR PERRY	FRANCO INDIE AKUTA FRANCO MAC CYRUS	AKUTA FRANCO INDIE CYRUS MAJOR PERRY	FRANCO INDIE AKUTA FRANCO MAC MAJOR PERRY



**1 517718 Cos I Can R50 (fr)**  
 (3c Always B Miki-Cordelia, by Bettor's Delight)  
 Owners: K E Corboy, Mrs M T Corboy, M D Corboy, M J Corboy, C G Corboy, G P Corboy.  
 Driver: David Butcher Trainer: Mike Berger  
 (10 starts: 2-0-1, \$15,740) Best mile rate: 1-57.9 (1st, 2200m)  
 Forged last week's run when denied gap. Big prior at Camb. but this a real test.



**7 6X1446 Classy Operator R50 (fr)**  
 (3g Bettor's Delight-Classy Beach, by American Ideal)  
 Owner: G A Rogerson.  
 Driver: Dylan Ferguson Trainers: Graeme Rogerson & Dylan Ferguson  
 (11 starts: 2-2-0, \$39,685) Best mile rate: 1-56.6 (1st, 1700m)  
 Beaten fave in last two runs and draw no assistance here. Should be outclassed.



**2 111112 Franco Indie R71 (fr)**  
 (3g Always B Miki-Idancedwithcullen, by Christian Cullen)  
 Owners: Alabar (NZ) Ltd, Nevele R Stud Ltd, S G Wells, Darren Hayward Syndicate, I J Kedzlie, Always 'B' Syndicate, Witteman-Smith Syndicate, A J Casey, Mrs H F Casey, Miki's Magic 7 Syndicate.  
 Driver: Natalie Rasmussen Trainers: Mark Purdon & Hayden Cullen  
 (8 starts: 6-2-0, \$139,525) Best mile rate: 1-51.9 (1st, 1700m)  
 Bold behind Self Assured last week. Best drawn of leading hopes so goes on top.



**8 211141 Franco Mac R64 (fr)**  
 (3g Bettor's Delight-MacFire, by Mach Three)  
 Owners: C H Nicholson, M C Nicholson, Mrs P P Gillan, P I Baken, D R Cole, R Cole, Mrs J A Shaw.  
 Driver: Tony Herlihy MNZM Trainers: Mark Purdon & Hayden Cullen  
 (14 starts: 5-1-2, \$88,174) Best mile rate: 1-53.9 (2nd, 1980m)  
 Super in front last week but from handier marble. Smart enough to go close again



**3 921422 Magic Four R48 (fr)**  
 (3g Bettor's Delight-Caribbean Blue, by Mach Three)  
 Owners: McKerrow Bloodstock Limited, P C Wyatt, M L O Williams, A P Saker.  
 Driver: Peter Ferguson Trainers: Steven Reid & Simon McMullan  
 (9 starts: 1-3-0, \$13,700) Best mile rate: 1-57.4 (4th, 2200m)  
 Strong efforts since winning at Camb, Xmas Eve. This a major step up; looks held



**9 111X14 Akuta R71 (fr)**  
 (3g Bettor's Delight-Adore To Our Dreams, by Christian Cullen)  
 Owners: Cullen Breeding Limited, Mark Purdon.  
 Driver: Mark Purdon Trainers: Mark Purdon & Hayden Cullen  
 (7 starts: 5-1-0, \$254,630) Best mile rate: 1-51.8 (1st, 1609m)  
 Made up a stack from the rear 9 days ago. Luck required but could get over top.



**4 X11812 Chimichurri R54 (fr)**  
 (3c Bettor's Delight-Saucycullen, by Christian Cullen)  
 Owners: Stonewall Stud Ltd, Chimichurri Syndicate, Mrs J M Austin, R N Austin.  
 Driver: Benjamin Butcher Trainers: Steve & Amanda Telfer  
 (8 starts: 3-1-0, \$35,958) Best mile rate: 1-56.4 (1st, 1700m)  
 Winner of 3 from 5 since resuming. Likely to find a few sharper; first 4 fringe.



**10 335314 Mitch R49 (fr)**  
 (3c Art Major-Cheer The Lady, by Bettor's Delight)  
 Owners: Stonewall Stud Ltd, Mitch Syndicate.  
 Driver: Brent Mangos Trainers: Steve & Amanda Telfer  
 (8 starts: 1-2-3, \$14,221) Best mile rate: 1-57.8 (3rd, 1700m)  
 Nice 4th at Camb, 20 Jan following maiden win there. Will find this much harder



**5 431295 Flyin Tommy R48 (fr)**  
 (3g Highview Tommy-Cathy's Flybye, by Caprock)  
 Owners: P F Curran, M G Hill, M R Notman, N D Young, Thunderbolt Syndicate.  
 Driver: Sailesh Abernethy Trainer: Jeremy Young  
 (6 starts: 1-1-1, \$12,983) Best mile rate: 1-58.5 (2nd, 1700m)  
 Shade disappointing last week and this is decidedly harder. Hard to recommend.



**11 214621 Major Perry R58 (fr)**  
 (3c Art Major-Katy Perry, by Bettor's Delight)  
 Owners: Mrs K J Purdon, R Cole, Mrs T L Whittaker, Est Mrs A V Whittaker,, D R Cole, C J Ryder, Mrs C Nausbaum.  
 Driver: Zachary Butcher Trainers: Barry Purdon & Scott Phelan  
 (14 starts: 3-3-2, \$78,391) Best mile rate: 1-55.6 (1st, 1700m)  
 Held bravely after being labelled urgent from wide here, 3 Feb. First 4 prospect



**6 331632 Cyrus R56 (fr)**  
 (3c Bettor's Delight-Jen Marie, by Christian Cullen)  
 Owner: Mrs J L Feiss.  
 Driver: Maurice McKendry MNZM Trainers: Mark Purdon & Hayden Cullen  
 (14 starts: 3-4-4, \$38,029) Best mile rate: 1-56.4 (3rd, 1980m)  
 Strong from the trail behind Franco Mac, 3 Feb. Can complete a stable first 4.

## SIBLINGS AT THE SALE

**Lot 22** - American Ideal x Caribbean Blue. Half sister to MAGIC FOUR

**Lot 45** - Art Major x Cordelia. Half brother to COS I CAN

**Lot 122** - Bettor's Delight x Saucycullen. Full brother to CHIMICHURRI

**Lot 229** - Always B Miki x Adore To Our Dreams. Full sister to AKUTA

**Lot 264** - Captaintreacherous x Cheer the Lady. Half sister to MITCH

**Lot 331** - Bettor's Delight x Jen Marie. Full brother to CYRUS

**Lot 405** - RocknRoll Heaven x MacFire. Half brother to Franco Mac

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# Draws change rankings

by Michael Guerin

Mark Purdon admits the barrier draws have changed his rankings for the \$200,000 NZBS Harness Million three-year-old on Saturday.

Akuta has been the dominant favourite for the first big three-year-old race of the season, even after his defeat by Franco Indie, both behind open class stablemate Self Assured, in a free-for-all at Alexandra Park last Thursday.

But after Franco Indie drew perfectly at barrier 2 for Saturday's 2200m mobile and Akuta drew one on the second line Purdon, who trains in partnership with Hayden Cullen, says their personal stable rankings have changed.

"It is going to be really hard for Akuta now, even as good as he is," says Purdon.

"And Franco Indie was so good last week that I can see him leading and being our best chance.

"I think he will be in front, especially after the gate speed he showed last week while Akuta will have to go back and around.

"In a Sales Series field of this depth I think I'd have to move mid-race and can see me being parked outside Franco Indie the last lap."

So what would that mean?

"I think it would be very, very hard to beat Franco Indie under those circumstances," says Purdon. The stable could also have Cyrus and



Franco Mac in the race, although there was a mid-week cloud over Franco Mac that could force him out.

As good as he has been this campaign his chances were all but ruined by drawing the outside of the front line.

While the All Stars horses will dominate the market the one horse who could change the game plan early would be Chimichurri, who has shown great gate speed in some of his races and from the Telfer stable, who are never scared to push forward early, he could have a dab for the lead.

The outcome of Saturday night's feature could even have implications as far-reaching as for the \$900,000 slot race The Race at Cambridge in April.

Akuta's majority owner Ian Dobson bought a slot under his Cullen Breeding operation and if Akuta comes out and gives Franco Indie windburn on Saturday then it would be very tempting to set him for The Race, especially as he would almost certainly be guaranteed drawing barrier one.

If he doesn't win that could change their long-term plans, especially with Akuta having the chance to race in The Race for Dobson the next two seasons and that would potentially free up a much sought-after slot in The Race.

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## 1 630535 Taipo

R70 (fr)

(5g American Ideal-Haylin Express, by Christian Cullen)

Owners: K R Farrier, Mrs S D Farrier, Mrs A M McBeth.

Driver: Todd Mitchell

Trainer: Arna Donnelly

(21 starts: 5-2-5, \$54,224) Best mile rate: 1-53.7 (1st, 1609m)

Sound behind Self Assured last week. Drawn kindly again and rough first 4 hope.



## 5 667446 Dance Time

R81 (fr)

(7g Rock N Roll Heaven-Time To Fly, by Sands A Flyin)

Owners: Plant Racing Ltd, Stonewall Stud Ltd.

Driver: Zachary Butcher

Trainers: Steve & Amanda Telfer

(92 starts: 17-6-17, \$221,643) Best mile rate: 1-53.2 (4th, 1700m)

Honest effort last week. Likely to use gate speed again but looks hard-pressed.



## 2 768132 Kango

R81 (fr)

(5g American Ideal-Dana Maguire, by McArdle)

Owners: E B Brodie, Mrs M H Brodie.

Driver: David Butcher

Trainer: Arna Donnelly

(27 starts: 8-3-4, \$121,083) Best mile rate: 1-55.6 (3rd, 2200m)

Just thwarted at Camb. and has the marble for similar run here. Tri's & 1st 4's.



## 6 113523 B D Joe

R83 (fr)

(4g Roll With Joe-Tact Aunty, by Christian Cullen)

Owners: Stonewall Stud Ltd, B D Joe Syndicate.

Driver: Benjamin Butcher

Trainers: Steve & Amanda Telfer

(22 starts: 7-4-4, \$200,277) Best mile rate: 1-53.6 (3rd, 1700m)

Fought gamely last week but cops another tough marble and 3rd looks his lot here



## 3 122311 South Coast Arden R106 (fr)

(5g Somebeachsomewhere-Southwind Arden, by Bettor's Delight)

Owners: Mrs G J Kennard, P I Kennard, Breckon Racing Syndicate, G A

Woodham, Mrs K J Woodham, J A Gibbs MNZM, Mrs A Gibbs.

Driver: Brent Mangos

Trainer: Brent Mangos

(27 starts: 12-5-2, \$380,023) Best mile rate: 1-51.3 (1st, 1980m)

Wasn't at his best but still managed to win at Camb. Will give fave a stern test



## 7 1X2162 Hot And Treacherous R80 (fr)

(4g Captaintreacherous-Hothooves, by Bettor's Delight)

Owners: Miss B J Twomey, Mrs K M Brown, Four Four Two Syndicate.

Driver: Maurice McKendry MNZM

Trainers: Brian & Gareth Hughes

(23 starts: 8-4-2, \$115,865) Best mile rate: 1-52.8 (2nd, 1700m)

Bold run behind Krug at Camb. 7 Jan after sitting parked here prior. First 4's.



## 4 112211 Self Assured

R120 (fr)

(6g Bettor's Delight-Star Of Venus, by Christian Cullen)

Owner: Mrs J L Feiss.

Driver: Mark Purdon

Trainers: Mark Purdon & Hayden Cullen

(35 starts: 21-10-3, \$1,036,081) Best mile rate: 1-51.3 (2nd, 1980m)

Displayed fighting qualities to win, 3 Feb. Will take some run to deny him here

## SIBLINGS AT THE SALE

**Lot 87** - Art Major x Hothooves. Half brother to HOT AND TREACHEROUS

**Lot 407** - Captaintreacherous x Southwind Arden. Half sister to SOUTH COAST ARDEN

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# Mango's Surprise Attitude

by Michael Guerin



Punters might be surprised by trainer-driver Brent Mangos's attitude to Saturday night's \$50,000 Livamol Harness Sprint Classic at Alexandra Park.

Because while the Pukekohe trainer would love to win the open class feature pace of Harness Millions night he says his stable star South Coast Arden is still very much on the way up and that could even affect the way he drives the giant stayer.

South Coast Arden gained the advantage over arch rival Self Assured in the 1700m dash when he drew inside him at barrier three, with his main rival starting right alongside.

Even with Kango drawn barrier two inside the pair and plenty of speed out wide most punters will expect South Coast Arden to roll to the front and try and run the sprint out of his rivals, as he did when winning both the Jewels and the NZ Free-For-All.

Mangos likes that idea too but says it is not set in stone.

"He will be put in the race at some stage but I am not going into it with only one plan," he told HRNZ.

"He is very well and has come on since his win at Cambridge but he is definitely not as screwed down as he can be.

"He has a lot of big races still to come, like the Auckland Cup and we would expect to be in The Race at Cambridge too with some of his owners having a slot.

"So he will get better for this run and what I decide to do early may depend on what Kango does.

"But yes, we will be up there at some stage and that could mean in front."

Punters who rate the sprint a two-horse race will feel a lot more comfortable about backing South Coast Arden if he is in front as opposed to sitting parked with Self Assured potentially on his back so the start will be crucial.

Having had two lead-up races Self Assured will have a fitness advantage but it is hard to see him getting across to the lead so the key to the race may be the attitude of David Butcher on Kango, who can be very aggressive in the lead but chose to take a trail behind South Coast Arden last start.

Mangos says while South Coast Arden is definitely better suited at peak fitness to longer staying trips he can often turn sprint trips into a staying contest so regardless of who leads expect a quick time to end Harness Millions night.

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