



# THE RACE

BY

# GRINS<sup>TM</sup>



Cambridge  
Raceway  
est. 1919

HARNESS RACING  
New Zealand

# WELCOME TO THE RACE



It is with immense pride that we welcome you to Cambridge Raceway for the inaugural running of NZ's richest Harness event, The Race by Grins.

The opportunity to host the best horses in Australasia who will contest this event will be a spectacle for racing enthusiasts that you don't want to miss.

The supporting programme will also provide great racing and competitive stakes that will prove to be a highlight in the NZ racing programme for now and well into the future.

Our team at Cambridge Raceway have worked extremely hard to ensure that this event is one that attendees remember for a very long time.

Good luck to owners, trainers and connections for tonight's great race.

Special thanks to our slot holders, who have ensured that this race has not only got off the ground, but has attracted a quality field from both sides of the Tasman.

Without your long-term commitment and support, this race would not have eventuated.

Also, it is a pleasure to welcome a new sponsor to NZ racing and we hope that the exposure that this race brings to Grins is worthy of your faith and investment. Thank you for putting your trust in this event.

Finally, to the public attending, we hope you enjoy your experience on our raceway and we will look forward to having you back here for more memorable events at NZ's premier viewing racecourse.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Bowen,  
Chairman, Waikato - BOP Harness

# KRUG - "HE CAN WIN FOR SURE"

BY MICHAEL GUERIN

Cran Dalgety says the world's best galloping trainers have proven a horse like Krug can win the \$900,000 The Race by Grins at Cambridge on Thursday night.

Dalgety takes the three-time Derby winner into the new slot race without a race in five weeks, almost unheard of in harness racing but something not uncommon in the thoroughbred world.

The move was all but forced upon Dalgety by Krug hitting a Menangle wall when luckless there through February, returning to New Zealand a tired horse.

That, coupled with two potential lead-up races not getting off the ground in the last two weeks means Krug will be super fresh and Dalgety likes that, whether it was his choice or not.

"The galloping trainers do it all the time whereas I think in harness racing we have got it in our minds we need to be racing every week or fortnight," says Dalgety.

"He has had enough racing and is fit enough without lead-up racing so he can win for sure."

It is not the first time Dalgety has looked outside harness racing for guidance on racing and recovery, with his involvement as a Coast to Coast athlete two decades ago confirming to him the importance of rest and recovery in human athletes and therefore equines.

"He has a lot of room between him and the ground," said Dalgety, a reference to the fact Krug's stomach is high and tight so he is ready to rock on Thursday night.

Krug has drawn barrier four, which sounds a little like no-man's land but Dalgety says it suits.

"We know we are not going to burn off the Aussies early so I can see Blair (Orange, driver) slotting in the running line and not burning too much.

"There will be speed on and it is two laps, not one so we are going to try and conserve energy for the first one."

Krug looked a happy horse at Derek Balle's Pukekohe property on Monday, albeit with his coat just starting to provide a barrier against the winter cold to come.

The best version of him can surprise the bookies on Thursday, as he showed when a close up third to South Coast Arden and Self Assured in the NZ Free-For-All in November, the most obvious form reference to Thursday's race.

That day he paced his last mile in an actualized sub 1:50, something he did officially at Menangle two months later before the wheels started to fall off the Sydney campaign.

He would normally be one of the fastest horses off the gate in a New Zealand race but this front line is one of the fastest assembled in a race here for years so conservative tactics early look his best chance of getting his slot holders some serious payback.

For all the scary speed of the Australians, Dalgety says Self Assured is the one to beat.

"He is probably the best horse and he has Mark Purdon," he says matter-of-factly.



# AN AUSSIE VIEW

BY ADAM HAMILTON

THE barrier draw has certainly boosted the hopes of an Aussie win in the inaugural The Race.

It was a double-edged win for the four “Aussies” with good draws, while the two biggest Kiwi guns – Self Assured (eight) and South Coast Arden (seven) – drawing the two worst barriers.

It’s race on!

Before I delve into the prospects of the Aussies, there are few key things to consider about such a strong Australian presence in The Race.

Trans-Tasman rivalry is such a hugely important element of harness racing in this part of the world. Oh, how we’ve missed it to a large extent during the travel challenges of Covid-19.

Having so many Aussies in The Race, puts the event on the map on a much broader stage. Almost as many people in Australia will now watch this race as there will be Kiwis watching in NZ.

In the short-term, those Aussie eyeballs equate to turnover, which equates to crucial money going back into the NZ industry. Longer term, whether the Aussies win or lose, it will breed the interest for more Aussies to chase The Race in coming years.

Aussie horses, and drivers for that matter, are usually more aggressive and daring and that should only make for a better contest with them in it.

You only need to think about all the pre-race talk already about who will lead and the explosive gate speed of Alta Orlando and Mach Dan.

The real bonus of this “crop” of Aussie horses in The Race is that it includes the two most exciting, talented and marketable young drivers in Australia – Jack Callaghan (Alta Orlando) and Cam Hart (Majestic Cruiser).

Now, let’s go through the “Aussies” one-by-one.

**STYLISH MEMPHIS:** Sure, she’s a Kiwi at heart, but the biggest open-aged wins and most recent have been in Australia.

It’s a credit to Mark Jones he has entrusted former Kiwi and now Menangle-based Jack Trainor with the task of trying to win the race.

Her chances soared before the draw when the only other mare in the race, Spellbound, was scratched. She could be leader’s back, or maybe three pegs from the pole and that’s the run she’ll need to beat the field.

**ALTA ORLANDO:** Barrier two is a massive help and brings him right into play.

The old boy is still one of the fastest beginners in Australia and I've got no doubt he'll "ping" across Stylish Memphis and lead early.

I'm just as convinced young gun driver Jack Callaghan will then look to take a sit and look to stake his claim along the sprint lane late. He's led at his past two and had his chance, but at this stage of his career he's a lot more lethal coming off a helmet.

**MACH DAN:** He's the least favoured by the barrier draw of the Aussie quartet.

It's easy to say he blasted off the gate and even crossed King Of Swing to initially lead the Miracle Mile last month.

But, and it's a big but, he didn't have a blazing beginner inside him like Alta Orlando. So the real question is whether Alta Orlando would want to take a sit on a horse like Mach Dan, who is yet to prove himself at the absolute elite level?

**MAJESTIC CRUISER:** He might have been a late and somewhat surprising call-up for The Race, but make no mistake ... he's absolutely flying.

I have no doubt he is going as well as any of the four Aussies in this race.

I don't mind this draw for him. Outstanding young driver Cam Hart can cuddle him everywhere then wait/hope for gaps at the right time.

Although he won "tough" from the breeze against Alta Orlando last time, he is most lethal coming off a sit.

**MY VERDICT:** It might surprise a few, but I'm going with MAJESTIC CRUISER as the best Aussie winning hope.

Sure he'll need luck, but so too will most others in the race, including Kiwi big guns like Self Assured and South Coast Arden.

STYLISH MEMPHIS will be super competitive from the draw, but will she be leader's back or three pegs?

ALTA ORLANDO has the draw he so badly needed. He should find the pegs then take a trail and he can come off any tempo and challenge strongly. MACH DAN would need to find the front to be a winning hope, which is not out of the question.



# HOT AND TREACHEROUS ON SONG

BY JOSHUA SMITH

It's not every day you get a chance to contest a \$900,000 race and trainer Gareth Hughes is hoping to make the most of it this week.

The Ardmore trainer prepares Hot And Treacherous with his father Brian, and the pair are looking forward to be lining up the exciting four-year-old in the Listed The Race by Grins (2200m) at Cambridge Raceway on Thursday.

The Race is the inaugural slot race in Australasia and follows the highly successful concept of the A\$15 million The Everest in the thoroughbred code.

Off the back of Hot And Treacherous' strong form line the owners of Hot And Treacherous were approached by The Race slot holders Honey Bros and duly accepted their offer of a place in The Race.

"We were fortunate enough that the Honey Bros came to us and offered us a slot," Gareth Hughes said.

"It is a great concept and it is awesome that we have got a horse in the first running of it. It is pretty exciting and it is great for the owners."

Hot And Treacherous has been in good form this preparation, twice taking out the Gr.3 Summer Cup (2200m) and placing in the Listed Harness Sprint Classic FFA (1700m) and Gr.2 City Of Auckland FFA (2200m).

The son of Captaintreacherous heads into The Race in a fresh state and his trainers were pleased with his lead-in trial where he finished fourth over 2200m earlier this month.

"It was a nice trial. It was just what he needed before that race," Hughes said.

"We are happy with him; we are just looking forward to getting there on Thursday with him now."

Hot And Treacherous has drawn barrier six, and while he isn't overjoyed with the draw, Hughes said he is just happy to be in the race.

"He has been really good to us. It is going to be an exciting race with the way the draws have come out," he said.

"It (six) is not terrible, but it's not great. At least we are in it, that's the main thing.

"There is a fair bit of speed inside with a couple of those Aussie ones. It will be interesting to see what happens.

"It is quite good to have a good representation from both sides of the Tasman in the race. That is what you want in the inaugural race."

# 1 STYLISH MEMPHIS

BETTOR'S DELIGHT-MEMPHIS MELODY



111125

**SLOT HOLDER: BARRETT HOMES**

**TRAINER: JACK TRAINOR**

**DRIVER: JACK TRAINOR**

**OWNER: WAYNE HIGGS**

15 wins from 37 starts, \$670,983.

Best mile rate 1:49.2

5YO - the only mare in the race which guaranteed her a start from 1 - expected to use gate speed to take trail or at worse be three back the fence.

A huge finish from near last to finish fifth in last start at Menangle, won by race rival Majestic Cruiser.

Three Group One victories in Australia - the Queen Elizabeth/Ladyship in 2021 and 2022, and 2021 NSW oaks.

6th in 2021 Miracle Mile.



# 2 ALTA ORLANDO

COURAGE UNDER FIRE-LA JOCONDE



**531142**

**SLOT HOLDER: SUMMIT BLOODSTOCK,  
AARON BAIN RACING, RICHARD COLE,  
GLENN HOLLAND, STEPHEN  
HUNT & TREVOR CASEY**

**TRAINER: BELINDA MCCARTHY**

**DRIVER: JACK CALLAGHAN**

**OWNERS: MRS J A DUNN, R J DUNN, MRS  
M D TAYLOR, DR M J EVANS**

23 wins from 109 starts, stakes \$1,010,437.

Best mile rate 1:49.9 - a sit and sprint type.

10YO the oldest horse in the race, trained by the powerful Team McCarthy in New South Wales.

Second to Majestic Cruiser at Menangle last start.

One Group 1 success in Australia - Schweppes Sprint 2020 at Menangle.

Second to The Black Prince in Group 1 Len Smith Mike October 2021, 3rd in 2020 Miracle Mile, 5th in 2021 Miracle Mile, 2nd in 2021 Hunter Cup behind Lochinvar Art, and 3rd in 2020 Miracle Mile.





# 3 SPANKEM

BETTOR'S DELIGHT-CRUSHEM



L134X4

**SLOT HOLDER: HYDROFLOW**

**TRAINERS: MARK PURDON & HAYDEN CULLEN**

**DRIVER: NATALIE RASMUSSEN**

**OWNERS: Mrs G J Kennard, P I Kennard, Breckon Racing Syndicate, J A Gibbs MNZM, Mrs A Gibbs, G A Woodham, Mrs K J Woodham**

20 wins from 55 starts and \$1,605,104.

Best mile rate 1:47.7

7YO on comeback from injury, trained by Mark Purdon and Hayden Cullen.

Four-time Group One winner in this country and twice New Zealand Cup runner-up behind Self Assured (2020) and Cruz Bromac (2019)

6 Group Ones overall including 2019 Miracle Mile.

Ran encouraging second to Self Assured at Alexandra Park trial



# 4 KRUG

BETTOR'S DELIGHT-CHAMPAGNE PRINCESS



110256

**SLOT HOLDER: AUSSIE LADS**

**TRAINER: CRAN & CHRISSIE DALGETY**

**DRIVER: BLAIR ORANGE**

**OWNERS: MRS C M DALGETY, M P HANNING, MCKERROW BLOODSTOCK LIMITED, G P MERLO, P J CREIGHTON, MRS M C CREIGHTON, G E DICKEY, K J CUMMINGS**

17 wins from 36 starts and \$654,753.

Best mile rate 1:49.9

4YO, trained by Cran Dalgety, driver Blair Orange.

One of only two 4YOs in race along with Hot And Treacherous.

Three Group One victories - but not at best in Australia of late with sixth and fifth finishes

Also won Listed Harness Million.



# 5 MACH DAN

MACH THREE-BETTOR GIVE IT



213416

**SLOT HOLDER: CULLEN BREEDING LTD**

**TRAINERS: MARK PURDON & HAYDEN CULLEN**

**DRIVER: RICKY MAY**

**OWNERS: D ZAVITSANOS, MRS J ZAVITSANOS, W R VINEY**

17 wins from 41 starts and \$507,422.

Best mile rate 1:50.3

Australian visitor has had two Group One successes, the 2022 Newcastle Mile and the 3YO Colts and Geldings final at Menangle in 2020.

6th in 2022 Miracle Mile

Noted for gate speed but was beaten for early speed at recent trial at Alexandra park won by Self Assured.



# 6 HOT AND TREACHEROUS

CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS-HOTHOOVES



623134

**SLOT HOLDER: HONEY BROS**

**TRAINER: BRIAN & GARETH HUGHES**

**DRIVER: MAURICE MCKENDRY**

**OWNERS: MISS B J TWOMEY, MRS K M BROWN, FOUR FOUR TWO SYNDICATE**

9 wins from 27 starts and \$142,940

Best mile rate : 1:52.8

No Group One wins but has been very competitive against the country's top pacers, and has won two Group 3s at Alexandra Park including the 2022 Summer Cup.



# 7 SOUTH COAST ARDEN

SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE-SOUTHWIND ARDEN



**SLOT HOLDER: PI & GJ KENNARD  
BLOODSTOCK LTD**

**TRAINER: BRENT MANGOS**

**DRIVER: BRENT MANGOS**

**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**

13 wins from 30 starts and \$413,748

Best mile rate 1:51.3

Two-time Group 1 winner, edging out Self Assured in NZ Pacing FFA at Addington Show Day 2021, and also winning Harness Jewels 4YO Emerald 2021.

Big strong front running type who beat Self Assured two starts ago at Alexandra park.



# 8 SELF ASSURED

BETTOR'S DELIGHT-STAR OF VENUS



211121

**SLOT HOLDER: SENZ**

**TRAINERS: MARK PURDON & HAYDEN CULLEN**

**DRIVER: MARK PURDON**

**OWNER: MRS J L FEISS**

23 wins from 38 starts and \$1,087,831

Best mile rate 1:50.3

Five-time Group One winner in this country including 2020 New Zealand Cup.

Four wins from five starts in 2022, and second in other race to race rival South Coast Arden at Alexandra park.

Three length winner in recent Auckland trial beating Spankem.



# 9 MAJESTIC CRUISER

ART MAJOR-TIZ HERSELF



617241

**SLOT HOLDER: HOLE IN THE WALL GANG**

**TRAINER: JASON GRIMSON**

**DRIVER: CAMERON HART**

**OWNERS: D S GLYNN, MRS H R GLYNN**

21 wins from 106 starts, and stakes of \$361,759.

Best mile rate 1:51.9

A late call up for the injured Spellbound.

A 7YO Art Major he won at Menangle last start in 54.6, last 400 in 26.9.

No Group One victories but fourth in Miracle Mile and sixth in Inter Dominion final and second to Spirit Of St Louis in Grp 1 Schweppes Sprint.





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