

Media Release

1 November 2012

More Branches than a bank at Cambridge tonight

The eighth race at Cambridge tonight has several discussion points. The bookies aren't too keen on the race from a market point of view, punters may struggle to find a winner for the fifth leg of Pick 6 and ooh, Murray, Susan and David Branch will all be driving in the race.

In a unique occurrence husband and wife harness racing hobbyists Murray and Susan Branch will be joined by their son David in competition. Never before have two parents driven in a race with any sons or daughters. In fact Murray has kept his race day licence just for the chance to drive with his wife and son. Tonight the planets have aligned.

When assessing the various merits of the drivers it is Susan who has the best numbers. Susan has driven a healthy 68 winners and trained 46. Murray's driving tally is more modest with just eight but he's mixed his involvement with a successful law career.

David will most likely be the most successful, one day. He is currently mixing work at the Auckland Trotting Club, studies and a small team of his own horses. His 13 driving and three training wins should be added to many times over in what appears to be a promising career in harness racing.

In catching up with Susan we realise that it is her whole team that's racing tonight in Race 8 and that she is probably on the least fancied of the group. Murray jumps on the talented but green Itsnowornever. She qualified 12 seconds under the standard so obviously goes well but Susan accepts that's she's still very much at the learning stage and will be happy if she gets around safely.

David drives a horse that he part owns, A Night In Paris. She is going out for a break after this run and trots along okay. Susan's drive, Burt Munro, has had the most practice (29 starts) but doesn't have the potential of the other two, according to her.

The bookies suggest Murray's drive Itsnowornever is the pick of them. The Monarchy debutante is rated a \$9 chance. Susan's drive Burt Munro who has the exposed form of nine placings is a \$10 shot. While A Night In Paris, David's drive, currently stands at \$16 in the Fixed Odds market. He'll be hoping to follow in the footsteps of promising former New Zealand Elsu trotter Who Else. Interestingly, A Night In Paris also stems from the same family of 2002 New Zealand Cup winner Gracious Knight.

Regardless of the result the Branch family will create a slice of history in Race 8 at Cambridge tonight at 9.10pm and will have a lot of fun doing it.

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