

**Media Release**

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**Monkey King disappoints Hill first-up**

In his first public appearance since retiring last season Monkey King underwhelmed his trainer Brendon Hill. In the fast-class heat at Saturday's Rangiora workouts Monkey King didn't fire.

Hill reports, "It was below par really. I wanted a bit more from him. He pulled up good, seems fine and he did have a really good blow though. We'll play around with things this week and assess him before maybe going to the workouts again this Saturday. He would need to improve to continue on with him. We'll just see."

While the curtain may be coming down on Monkey King's stellar career for a second time, as fate often does it provides a replacement. Bettor Rock On has a wee way to go to get to the Monkey King stage but in the words of trainer Brendon Hill "he is the real deal" and will now be set for a Sires Stakes heat after his classy maiden win last Friday night.

"He's a big dummy so we're really looking forward to the day he switches on. We'll give him a wee freshen-up before deciding which Sires Stakes heat to attack."

In other Brendon Hill stable news; Carabella's rehabilitation is taking longer than first expected and while the stable is taking it slowly with her in an elongated and gradual process the odds are stacking against her of making it back to her former glory.

Another high-ranking Hill runner Harley Early has met with tendon trouble again and will spell until the end of the year before the team try him again.