



# NEWSLETTER

Vol 299 April 2023

## **\$1 million Nullarbor Results...**

We won't mention The Quokka, with Amelias Jewel starting from the outside barrier and losing by a nose, since everyone except the successful owners and Slot Holders are still bemused. But it was a very successful – and faultless - barrier draw for horses for the \$1 million Nullarbor, which opened up the betting and made it an intriguing race. Let's say here and now we support 10 horse fields across the board for a multiple of reasons, one of which is fairness. Let's hope the powers that be recognize that they themselves chose a 10 horse field size for the biggest harness race in WA - it's time for the rest of the participants to have the same opportunity.

Back to the race. A surprise at the start with **Spirit Of St Louis NZ (Sweet Lou USA)** drawn in 8 going to the lead, but a bigger surprise with eventual winner **Betterzipit NZ (Betterthancheddar USA)** taking over with 2 laps to go. Some might ask why didn't Louis make it harder for Zipit, but when you look at the result, with Jumpingjackmac just 5m away, any further hard work from either of the leading two would have meant a probable win for the local horse. The favourite Magnificent Storm NZ might have been unlucky, but given he didn't start fast enough to contest early and make it his race, and he had a very good racing position, and a 27.2 third quarter, there was little to be achieved by paddling out leading the 3 wide line from the 600m - ask Lavra Joe. Drivers make split second decisions and sometimes you have a crack that might make some feel better, but mostly the result is not what you wanted. Yes, it is disappointing for the connections, but if you have a healthy horse at the end of the race, you get to come back another time. That's far better than some alternatives.



Congratulations to the Slot holders for Spirit of St Louis NZ and Bettorzipit, great drives, and all the starters.

## **March 2023...**

It was a very light month all around for March, with one of the lowest number of races run (163) since September 2021 (159), and the lowest March figure (races run) for at least a decade. Of course, the change in

the racing year - with most major juvenile races in the second half of the calendar year - has significantly impacted the number of juveniles (mostly Westbreds) currently racing, and the number of races and premium runners at this time of year. Many are spelling before their next preparation. So it is not a complete surprise that the results for March are low in most categories.

It does however offer up opportunities for other components of the industry to be encouraged to race at this time of year. If the right races can be provided it can be a successful time of year – even for those just turned 3yos who can still win Bonuses.

## 2YO, 3YO, MARES and WESTBRED OPPORTUNITIES

2yo	The \$50,000 2YO APG Gold Bullion races are on 21 April The \$50,000 Champagne Classic is on 28 April
3yo	The \$50,000 3YO APG Gold Bullion races are on 21 April
Mares	The \$30,000 Race For Roses (Stand) is on 28 April The \$14,000 WASBA King-Lethbridge is on 26 April (Westbred mares HWOE < \$25,000)

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## 2023 APG Gold Bullions

The 2YO and 3YO Gold Bullion Heats were all run on the same night, heading towards the four individual \$50,000 Finals on 21 April. It is always a puzzle why these Heats are not better attended, as only those competing in the Heats can run in the \$50,000 Finals. This is also the last year for the 2YOs, with the Gold Bullion Series not applicable for the 2023 Sales graduates onwards.

The 2YO Heats were won by **Xceptional Arma** (American Ideal USA out of Arma Xpress) and a Team Bond purchase **Ten To The Dozen** (Art Major USA out of Nolessthanperfect NZ), both winning by good margins and looking the ones to beat in the 2YO Finals.

Two very promising 3yos were successful in the 3YO Heats, with Lavra Joe's half brother **Star Lavra** (Captaintreacherous USA out of Lavra Florence NZ) winning his heat stylishly, making it two wins from 2 starts this time in, and **Flametree** (Huntsville USA out of Party Date) was just short of \$100,000 in earnings when she won her Heat. All 4 winners were favourites so punters were happy with the results, as were the connections.

The Heats for the 4YO Gold Bullion were run in early April, with another Team Bond purchase **Noted** (Mach Three CA out of Leilani Lombo) taking out the Heat for males and making it 3 wins from 5 starts (including two places) this time in. He defeated WA Derby winner and favourite Tricky Miki who breezed outside of Noted. The mares' Heat was won by **Wonderful To Fly** (Fly Like An Eagle out of Not Now Delilah), who has returned to racing in brilliant style. There was a reason to run in the Heats – the mixed sex \$50,000 final (PBD/Sex) will be run on 12 May. It is restricted to horses who ran in the Heats AND \$10,000 will be additionally paid to the first non winning male or female finisher.



## Yearling Sales all done

The Nutrien Sales are now complete with lots of disappointed vendors on the east coast. Pacing fillies fared terribly, which is not a surprise with Victoria's vendors in particular pushing trotting stock to increase visibility on the European trotting scene. Unless you increase your market - which hasn't happened – all that does happen is the same amount of available money is spent differently. With trotting incentives through Sales races etc being offered, the result was that the fillies in both gaits suffered. With twice the number available, pacing fillies were the most neglected, selling for half the price of the colts. Significantly greater incentives to purchase fillies

from these Sales need to be provided to address this, or Vendors need to understand that you can't divide the pie into 4 and expect the same return from each quarter that you used to get from the half pie.

In comparison to the east coast, the WA APG Sale produced good results for vendors and buyers. We continue to support a stand-alone Sale in WA, with Sales companies and sustaining payments providing most of the money for the Sales Classics without being to the detriment of stakes available for non-sale WA bred horses.

## ***Snippets from the USA and Canada..***

✓ Harness racing at The Meadowlands has the lowest percentage of winning favorites of any track currently racing in North America and in fact the world, regardless of breed. Aqueduct, Gulfstream and Oaklawn have 35% favourites winning, followed by Santa Anita (37%) and Keeneland (38%). Meadowlands is sitting on 34%. The median percentage of winning favorites in harness racing (as quoted in the US) is 44%.

✓ Another win for the Big M – Meadowlands – for the first 3 months of the year \$85 million has been invested on harness racing, compared to \$59 million last year. They have already had over \$4 million invested on a single night – great news for harness fans that the sport is rebounding in the US.

✓ Australia's **Lochinvar Art (Modern Art)** has lost just two races in his northern hemisphere career so far and is heading for the \$511,000 Final of the MGM Borgata Series at Yonkers on 24 April. Unfortunately he has drawn 7 in the final out of 8 starters. He has hot competition from Adios winner Hellabalou (Sweet Lou) drawn in 5, \$1.4 million earner Backstreet Shadow (Shadow Play) drawn in 8 and defending champion Funatthebeach NZ (Somebeachsomewhere) who has drawn 6. Backstreet Shadow jointly holds the all age track record at Yonkers. Some Aussie runners in Leonidas (drawn 4) and Idealsomemagic (drawn 3) have also been competing successfully in the Series and have a great chance.

✓ Nominations for the 2023 Little Brown Jug are up 30% compared to 2022, with 80 3yo fillies nominated for the 2023 Juggette. Dan Patch Award winning colt **Stockade Seelster (State Treasurer)** leads the nominations for the boys, while **Sylvia Hanover (Always B Miki)** leads the nominations for the fillies.

✓ 10yo **Let It Ride NZ (Rock N Roll Heaven)**, in winning his fourth straight Open Handicap at Miami Valley, Ohio in 1:48.4, became the fastest harness racing horse in the ten-year history of Miami Valley. He has since won his 5<sup>th</sup> straight race and 7<sup>th</sup> for the season.

✓ 6yo mare **Racine Bell (So Surreal)** became the newest harness millionaire when she forged to the front to win one of the \$40,000 legs of the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series at Yonkers in 1:52.3. She also won all final Heat, defeating defending champion mare Drama Act. She has drawn 2 in the \$328,000 Matchmaker Final.

✓ 7yo **Amazing Dream NZ (Bettors Delight)** was the only mare to win her first two Heats of the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series for open pacing mares, defeating defending champion Drama Act in the process. However, she had to lower her colours in her 3<sup>rd</sup> heat to Australian mare **Dougs Babe (Western Terror)** who won her second straight heat in the process. Dougs Babe scored a win in her final heat making it 3 from 3 and finishing top pointscorer in the series, followed by Amazing Dream NZ and Australian mare **Lucky Artist (Artistic Fella)**. Luckily, Amazing Dream NZ drew 1 in the Final on 24 April, and Dougs Babe and Lucky Artist are in 3 and 4.

✓ **C Is For Cookie (Betting Line)** is the 13th and final foal from retired Hall of Fame broodmare **Sweet Future**, dam of 2014 Pacer of the Year **Sweet Lou (Yankee Cruiser)** 1:47 \$3.5M, two-time Breeders Crown champion **Bettor Sweet (Bettors Delight)** 1:47.2 \$2.8M and the dams of Dan Patch Award winners **Captain Crunch (Captaintreacherous)** 1:47.2 \$1.7M and **Youaremycandygirl (American Ideal)** 1:48.2 \$1.5M.



Unraced as a 2-year-old because of an injury, C Is For Cookie has posted 2 wins and a second from 3 starts this season at 3. Her owner/breeder is excited to be looking forward to breeding her, commenting "Anything she accomplishes on the racetrack is pretty much gravy as far as I'm concerned."

✓ Showing the value of local Sires series, Ontario's finest from last season are prepping to start their 2023 campaign. Last season's 2YO colt of the Year **Stockade Seelster (State Treasurer)** with \$900,000 in earnings,

2yo filly **Cheesy Smile** (\$300,000 earnings), 3yo **Cold Creek Queso** ((\$180,000 plus) and 3yo Bettors Delight filly **Silver Label** (\$500,000) are all close to racing. Of note, Cheesy Smile and Cold Creek Queso are both by **Betterthancheddar**, sire of \$1 million Nullarbor winner **Betterzipit**.

☑ Successful race careers for older horses is not limited to the Southern hemisphere. Veteran **Ideal Jet (Jeremes Jet)** won his 50th race from 302 starts, and took his earnings to \$660,000. And elsewhere, 7yo mare **Blue Ivy (Captaintreacherous)** won her 50th race, taking her stakes to \$750,000, while 7yo mare **So Much More (Big Jim)** brought up another win to make it 61 wins and \$1.3 million in stakes. Also in the older bracket and returning to racing, and both stallions, are the Ron Burke trained **Lous Pearlman (Sweet Lou)** winner of the 2021 Little Brown Jug, and \$1.1 million earning 7yo **Workin Ona Mystery (Captaintreacherous)**

☑ Another one to return to racing during his stallion career – **Stag Party (Bettors Delight)** continued his return to the racetrack with a win in a lifetime best 1:50.3. His new best time as a 7yo eclipsed his previous best at age 2, when he won the O'Brien award as Canada's top pacing colt. His first crop races this year.

☑ The ten-year-old Maczaffair NZ, an earner of over a half million dollars in her career, won in 1:54.1 at Saratoga, New York, making it 4 wins from 7 starts this year.

## And elsewhere....

☑ Champion **Copy That NZ (American Ideal USA)** went to the front from the outset and added the 2023 Race By Grins to his outstanding resume. Australian starters Better Eclipse did well to finish 4<sup>th</sup> behind Old Town Road and Self Assured, with Table Eight retired from the race with broken gear. Copy That is a 6yo stallion who has overcome some significant issues to achieve the status that he has. His earnings are now \$2 million and he should be a great addition to the stallion ranks when he retires from racing. His half sister Toni Street NZ (Bettors Delight USA) is currently racing in WA.



☑ There are 123 weanlings nominated for the 2023 National Weanling Sale at Karaka New Zealand, to be held on May 25. The catalogue is available [here](#)

☑ **Lennytheshark** sired the quinella in the \$50,000 3YO Fillies Vicbred Platinum Home Grown Classic at Melton. For an Inter Dominion winner with a wonderful temperament he deserves more attention. He stands at the new Wingate Farm (formerly Yirribee) in NSW.

☑ If you haven't already booked to Sweet Lou USA for the 2023 season you are much too late – booked out in January and a very long wait list. You can always add your name though...

✝ Another loss to the industry, with Peter Craig passing suddenly at home in New Zealand. Peter has been a major contributor to both Harnesslink and Classic Families with his articles and countless hours updating pedigrees. He was an owner, breeder, club member and supporter at every level of harness racing. A very rare diamond, one that will be very difficult to replace.

☑ New Zealand 3yo **Merlin (Art Major USA)** has been invited by Racing Queensland to compete in their \$350,000 Rising Sun on 8 July. Merlin has won 11 of 14 starts including the Group 1 Northern Derby over 2700m. He joins another star in Queensland Horse of the Year **Leap To Fame (Bettors Delight USA)** as the first two into the race. The race carries a \$100,000 incentive if a 3yo wins.

☑ Champion driver Natalie Rasmussen will only drive occasionally from now, having made the decision to step back from driving to enjoy other activities. She took her first drive for 2023 on Self Assured in early April.

## RECENT MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- ♣ Some scintillating form from Lavra Joe, but you cant win every race without a little luck;
- ♣ Writers should not rubbish the beaten brigade in a race – they all have owners
- ♣ A champion Derby and feature race winner – thanks and congratulations Handsandwheels for his wonderful career, and his connections for making the early decision about retirement.



## BREEDER OF THE MONTH – March 2023

The Breeder of the Month award goes to a different WA bred horse each month. Previous (horse) winners are not eligible for later WA Breeder of the Month awards. You must be a WASBA member to win a Breeder of the Month Award. All other breeding awards are open to all WA breeders.

Some very impressive performances all around from both older and new. Several worthy winners, but one that has caught the eye of most people with an impressive 5 from 5 is one of the new racing fillies. It's **congratulations** to our **Breeder of the Month for March 2023**, the combined talents of the Charles family as the breeders of 2yo filly **Water Lou (Sweet Lou USA** out of Living Hei by **Live Or Die USA**).

Bred by KTC Bloodstock, Kevin and Annette Charles, Water Lou was selected by Swandoo Racing Syndicate's Jim and Wilma Giumelli from the 2022 KTC draft for \$65,000 and she has already won over \$110,000, including Westbred Bonuses, in just 5 starts. She is the 8<sup>th</sup> foal and 7<sup>th</sup> winner from her non winning dam Living Hei.

Water Lou is a half sister to **.Erskine Range (Four Starzzz Shark CA)** 1:54.0 (\$255,480), **Im Living The Dream (Art Major USA)** 1:57.4 (\$103,431) and 5 other winners.

Water Lou's dam **Living Hei (Live or Die USA)** is a half sister to **Bali Mystic (Mystical Shark USA)** 1:53.4 \$158,027. Most of the family is New Zealand based with quite a few high stakes winners, but horses that belong

Water Lou (2) in a determined finish winning from the tenacious Xceptional Arma (3) in the Gold Bracelet



to the family and are familiar to WA are **Courage Tells (Courage Under Fire NZ)** 1:54.1 \$433,861, **Pinny Tiger (Mach Three CA)** 1:51.2 \$218,638, **The Dali Express NZ (Dali USA)** 1:53.3 \$103,200, **The Perfect Storm NZ (Live Or Die USA)** 1:53.8 \$227,128, and **Kimani NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:52.4 4 301,212 who is a son of Great Northern Oaks, Harness Jewels winner **Lizzie Maguire NZ (Christian Cullen NZ)** 1:55.1 \$465,579.

Congratulations Water Lou, trainer Mike Reed and her connections.

## WINNERS - WA BASED SIRES MARCH 2023

There were 7 sires represented by Westsired winners in March, producing 15 winners of 16 races. **Follow The Stars** continues to dominate, with 6 winners of 7 races for March and 23 winners of 30 races for the first 3 months of the year.

There was 1 multiple Westsired winner in March – 3yo filly **Gliding Star** (Follow The Stars) won at Pinjarra and followed up with a metropolitan level win 4 days later.

There were 3 winners in March 2023 taking home their first career win and First Win Bonus – 2yo **Remarkable Rock** (Rock N Roll World USA), 3yo **Brodie Boy** (Follow The Stars) and 6yo **Heart Of The Arts** (Renaissance Man). Benefiting from the new Westbred Bonus levels, Remarkable Rock received \$13,750 on top of stakes, for her win.

Westsired progeny received \$74,000 in Westbred, First Win and First Start Bonuses for March 2023. Seven first time starters received \$500 for reaching that milestone.

Amazingly for such a low month, there were 4 Westsired winners at premium metropolitan meetings. Two of the winners were fillies/mares with the remaining winners being:

- ♠ 6yo **Adda Spoilt Major** – **Rich And Spoilt** o/o **Arconite NZ (Art Major USA)**, breeder Harry Capararo 3<sup>rd</sup> in a similar race the previous week then started at 18/1 outside the back line in a 1730m sprint - not an optimistic start. Third last in the moving line before a great move to go forward 3 wide after a lap to get to the breeze with just over a lap to go. Sprinted forward at the 400 to lead by just under a length, entered the straight in front on the pegs, held out the challenger to go on to win the \$20,250 Pace by 2.4m in lifetime best 1:55.8, last half 59.3;



- ♠ 5yo **Arma Einstein** (**Renaissance Man** o/o **Arma Fifty Five (Bettors Delight USA)**) owner breeders Montague, Currie Farrant and Brown, always runs a good race, \$130,000 earnings last season. Started on the 3<sup>rd</sup> line of betting in 5 after a scratching, settled one out 3 back and second last before starting a 3 wide move at the 600m, midfield at the 400m, 3 wide and 3<sup>rd</sup> off the back, a nose in front at the top of the straight and broke clear to win the \$18,500 Pace by 1.4m in !.56.6, last qtrs 28.7 and 28.6

## WESTBRED WINNERS – MARCH 2023

There were 73 individual Westbred winners in March 2023, winning 82 (50.3%) of the 163 races run. Coming off such a high in February, this is disappointing and hopefully just an aberration due to the changed racing calendar, which many trainers and owners are still trying to come to grips with.

In percentage terms that's the lowest value since September 2020 in the midst of Covid arrangements. We would certainly encourage you to continue looking at racing options for your juveniles because they still earn bonus money. We will talk to the RWWA racing office to see what can be done to encourage the various groups to race at this time of year, while the weather is still good.

The best performing stallion standing outside WA from a Westbred perspective was a triple dead-heat between **American Ideal USA**, **Mach Three USA** and **Sweet Lou USA**, each with 4 winners of 6 races. There were 40 sires represented by Westbred winners.

There was also 17 First Time winners in March including the 3 previously covered under Westsired. The remaining first time winners were:

- 2yos **Xceptional Arma** (American Ideal USA), **Ten To The Dozen** (Art Major USA), **Manhattan Moon** (Control The Moment USA), **San Remo Beach** (Downbytheseaside USA);
- 3yo **Classical Ellie** (A Rocknroll Dance USA), **Thorium Energy** (Auckland Reactor NZ) **Flyin Disco** and **Rising Spirit** (Betting Line USA), **Star Lavra** (Captaintreacherous USA), **Slamma Alabama** (Huntsville USA) and **Spinner Of Yarns** (Tintin In America NZ); and
- 4yo **Candillo** (Captaintreacherous USA) and 5yo **Abbee Bee** (Highview Tommy NZ) and **Beershebas Shadow** (Shadow Play USA).

There were 9 multiple winners for March 2023 including First Time winners Ten To The Dozen and Gliding Star. Those not mentioned under Westsired were:

**Taking The Miki** (Always B Miki USA) won at Bunbury and a Gloucester Park metro, **Caliente** (American Ideal USA) won a Pinjarra double, **Ideal Secret** (American Ideal USA) won at Gloucester Park mid week and Narrogin, **Ten To The Dozen** (Art Major USA) won a Pinjarra double, **Aussie Scooter** and **Noted** (Mach Three CA) won a metro double and a Gloucester Park midweek double respectively, **Magnus Victor** (Sweet Lou USA) won a GP midweek and a Bunbury RWWA feature, and **Water Lou** (Sweet Lou USA) won two Gloucester Park features. Water Lou also featured last month with a winning double.

Total Bonus payments in March 2023 were understandably down at just under \$232,000, with Bonus payments for the first 3 months of the season totalling \$826,000.

Total Bonus payments for 2yos were \$79,000, 3yos \$114,000, with both of these values higher than March 2022. Bonus payments to Westbreds older than 3yos were \$39,000. Of the total Bonus payments, payments direct to breeders was \$64,000 on top of payments to breeders that came from their racing ownership.

Westbreds won 14 races at Community level, 46 \$9,000 level, 4 mini feature \$11,000 races and 18 metropolitan level races. Total stakes earned by Westbreds was \$1.3 million - marginally higher than February.

Two year old starters (46) in March 2023, while substantially down on the previous month, was encouragingly higher than March 2022 (39). There were 11 2yo races run which was the same result as March 2022. Westbreds won 9 of these races and contributed all but one of the 2yo starters.

Racing numbers for 3yos (72) did pick up to be just 6 less than in 2022. While this is well down on the old racing year figures, it is still a valuable time of year to be collecting Westbred Bonuses. There were 16 races (5 maidens) provided for this age group. WA bred 3yos won 13 3yo races, as well as 4 of the 8 3yo and over races won by 3yos. Westbred 3yos contributed 86% of 3yo starters.

The number of 4yo and over starters in March 2023 (502) showed a marginal decline compared to the previous month (512) and March last year (505). Given the reduced number of races run, this is a reasonable result. There were 13 races overall (including 2 maidens) for this age group, with 7 races won by WA bred horses. We are always pleased to see races specifically for this age group and certainly support increasing races for this age group and increasing the number of maiden opportunities.

Wins by Westbreds older than 3yo (56) were 4yos (19), 5yos (18), 6yos (8) and 11 older than 6 years. The oldest winner was 10yo Star Armbr (Armbr Operative) who won a Friday night event!

As well as winning the \$50,000 Bunbury Cup, WA bred horses won 19 of the 49 races run at prime Gloucester Park meetings in March 2023.

Seven of the wins were by fillies or mares, and another two winners were Westsired. The remaining 9 winners of 10 races were:

- ◆ 5yo **Aussie Scooter** – **Mach Three CA** o/o **Jasmin Amal (Sportswriter USA)**, breeder Steve Johnson. Another Stand, another win. Two in fact. Won a stand in January and February then 2 starts later started from the inside of the 10m line, steady out to be 3<sup>rd</sup> last before moving up to sit in the breeze with 2 laps to go, flat out down the back the last time, edged to be a half length ahead at the 400m, clear into the straight and too good overall to win the \$20,250 2503m Stand by 2.2m in 2:02.3, last qtrs 27.7 and 28.7. Off the 20m the following week, started well and settled one out one back in the second half of the field. With a lap to go the breeze horse moved up outside the leader, with Aussie Scooter having the perfect run in the one by one position. Three wide and outside the leading pair at the 400m, 3 wide and leading at the top of the straight, tiring towards the end but won the \$20250 2503m Stand by 1.2m in 2:00.2, last qtrs 28.8 and 29.4;



- ◆ 7yo **Cordero – Western Terror USA** o/o **Innoncent Eyes (Safely Kept USA)**, breeder Tarsao Investments P/L, a quiet performer with \$150,000 in earnings. 12 starts already this season then started second favourite from 1, surrendered the lead but well back initially, solid pace early, no change up front and still second at the 400m, got the opening coming off the back and chased down the leader to move away and win the 2536m \$20,375 Pace by 4.5m in 1:57.0, last qtrs 28 and 28.4;
- ◆ 4yo Horse **Dardy Boy – Bettors Delight** o/o **Isabella Jane (Sportswriter USA)**, breeder Jeneen Johnson, lightly raced 4yo resuming from an 8 month break. Started favourite from 2, beaten for speed but persevered to go to the lead before coming off the back the first time. Steady first half and quicker down the back, a length clear at the 400m scooted clear at the top of the straight, withstood a strong challenge to hang on and win the \$9,000 Pace by a half neck in 1:59.5, last qtrs 29.2 and 28.5;
- ★ 7yo **Know When To Run - Roll With Joe USA** o/o **Heather Mary (Modern Art USA)**, breeder Steve Johnson, a metro double last month and lining up for his 3<sup>rd</sup> in a row. Started at 10/1 from 5 off the front after 2 scratchings, settled well back but leading the one wide line and gradually moved up with a lap to go to be outside the leader and favourite. Slightly quicker down the back, still second at the 400m, a nose in front at the top of the straight and a hard fought battle down the straight before a last minute burst to cement the win in the \$30,000 FFA by a head in 2:00.4, last qtrs 29.3 and a very slick 26.9;
- ◆ 5yo **Lavra Joe – Roll With Joe** o/o **Lavra Florence NZ (Live Or Die USA)**, breeders Kevin and Annette Charles. A mini break in February before resuming for a 4<sup>th</sup> in the Governors Cup. Then started outside the front line in 7 at Bunbury, had a look first before going forward to lead with 2 laps to go, even time first half, kept the pressure on down the back, in charge at the top of the straight and hands only driving down the straight to win the 2569m \$50,000 Bunbury Cup by 3.3m from the breeze horse and favourite Magnificent Storm NZ in 1:56.8, last qtrs 28.8 and 27.6;
- ★ 3yo **Lucapelo – Sweet Lou** o/o **Glenferrie Clan (Rock N Roll Heaven USA)**, breeder Kevin and Annette Charles, a win in January and February including a metro win from his previous 3 starts with new trainer Michael Young. Then started favourite from 3, pinged to the lead from the barrier, easy first half, stepped stepped up the pace down the back, just in front into the straight, a mighty challenge by the breeze horse down the straight but held on well enough to win the \$50,000 3YO Colts and Geldings Sales Classic by 1.6m in 2:00.7, last qtrs 28.1 and 28.5;



- ◆ 7yo **Pierre Whitby – Mach Three CA** o/o **Party Date (Panorama USA)**, breeders Ed Dewar and Geoff Groenenberg, 2536m \$18,500 Pace by 2.1m in 1:58.1, last half 59.2. Last win was in January and not much luck with the barrier since, but started from 1 this time at 11/1. Not quick enough to hold the lead but settled behind the race leader, a good length and a half behind the leader down the back but picked up speed to be outside the leader at the 400m, had the leader beaten on the home turn, had the win in hand despite some late challengers and won the \$18,500 Pace by 2.1m in 1:58.1, last half 59.2;
- ◆ 10yo **Star Armbr – Armbr Operative** o/o **Kin Of Queens (Kinney Hanover USA)**, breeder David Bushell. Won midweek in January. Placed two starts back. Started as a drifter but second favourite from 1, wasn't going to give up that spot over the sprint distance, even time first half, still looked fresh down the back, pricked the ears at the top of the straight and got home very well to win the \$9,000 Pace by 2.8m in 1:56.9, last half 57.1;
- ◆ 3yo **Star Lavra - Captaintreacherous** o/o **Lavra Florence (Live Or Die USA)**, breeders Kevin and Annette Charles, half brother to Lavra Joe. Resumed in March for a second, then started favourite from

1 in a similar race, stepped out well to hold the lead, slow lead and first qtr – no reason to hurry. Even time 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr before stepping up the pace down the back, under challenge off the back but responded well to win the \$20,250 Pace by 2m in 1:58.4, last qtrs 28.5 and 27.6. Nicely put together horse;

★ 2yo colt **Waverider – Downbytheseaside** o/o **Premium Copper (Major In Art USA)**, breeder Mike and Sharon Howie. Had to wait an extra week but worth it. Won his Heat of the Sales Classic then started favourite from the same barrier 3 in the re-run. Set a solid pace, still with the field at the 400m but that was the last they saw of him as he accelerated down the straight to win the \$100,000 APG Sales Classic in dominant fashion by 25.2m in 1:55.4, last qtrs 28.3 and 28.4.

Good to see a mix of old and new, with some young horses showing a lot of promise for the future.

*In March 2023 WA bred horses provided 69% of individual starters, earning \$1.6 million in stakes and bonuses.* ★

## How did the FILLIES AND MARES GO (March 2023)

Fillies and mares won 42 (25.8%) of the 163 races run in March 2023, quite a disappointing result coming off the February high - although February was the highest result in percentage terms for the last 10 years. We have to go back to September 2019 to find a lower percentage result than March 2023.

There were 24 fillies/mares races provided in March 2023 (the same as March 2022) but the comparison ends there. The remaining 18 wins (11.0%) were in open races (compared to 27 in March 2022). The wins included 7 (all Westbred) at Community level, 21 (14 Westbred) wins in \$9,000 level races, 2 (both Westbred) mini feature races and 12 (7 Westbred) wins in standard metropolitan, or FFA or Group level races. Westbred fillies and mares won 71% of the races won by fillies and mares and 70% of their stakes.

There were 38 individual filly or mare winners, from 29 sires. In a low month, **Follow The Stars** and **American Ideal (USA)** - each with 3 winners of 4 races - led the results. ★

There were 3 dual winning Westbred fillies/mares in March – 4yo **Taking The Miki** (Always B Miki USA), 3yo **Gliding Star** (Follow The Stars), and 2yo **Water Lou** (Sweet Lou USA) followed on from her dual winning success last month.

There were 7 fillies/mares who took their first career win bonus home for their connections in March – 2yos **Xceptional Arma** (American Ideal USA), **San Remo Beach** (Downbytheseaside USA) and **Remarkable Rock** (Rock N Roll World USA), 3yos **Classical Ellie** (A Rocknroll Dance USA) and **Thorium Energy** (Auckland Reactor NZ), 5yo **Abbee Bee** (Highview Tommy NZ) and 6yo **Heart Of The Arts** (Renaissance Man).

Excluding "Fillies Preferred" races, there were 4 races for 2yo fillies – including the \$100,000 Sales Classic and \$30,000 Gold Bracelet. There were 3 (1 last year) races for 3yo fillies, including the \$50,000 Sales Classic. Another 17 races were provided for 3yo+ fillies and mares including 3 feature races, and 4 of these races were for mares only. There are opportunities available if your mare is in training at this time of year.

Outside of those restricted races, fillies won an open 2yo and 3yo race and 3 3yo and over races including one for fillies and mares. Mares won 24 3yo and over races (12 open) and 6 (including 2 open) 4yo and over races.

Amongst the 30 wins by mares there were 9 wins by 4yos, 14 by 5yos and 5 by 6yos. There were 2 7yo winners. Eighty percent of the wins were at the \$9,000 level and above, including 5 FFAs or feature races.

There were 11 wins by fillies and mares (22.4%) at the prime Gloucester Park meetings as well as a feature win at Pinjarra in the \$30,000 Golden Girls. This is an improved result over February, but well short of the metropolitan target of 30% winners to races.

Feature and city race winning mares were all 5yos - **Three Rumours NZ (Mach Three CA)** who won the \$30,000 Pinjarra Golden Girls, **The Amber Hare (For A Reason)** won the \$50,000 The Lombard Fillies and Mares Pace, **Simply Shaz NZ (American Ideal USA)** won a \$20,250 Fillies and Mares and was the lucky winner of the Group 2 \$75,000 Empress Stakes, and trotting mare **Luvafair (Love You FR)**, won the \$30,000 Trotters Sprint. The remaining 6 WA bred winners of 7 races were:

★ 3yo **August Moon – Captaintreacherous** o/o **My Samantha Jane NZ (Extreme Three CA)**, breeder Harry Capararo. Looking for her 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive win and 3<sup>rd</sup> metropolitan level win in a row. Started favourite from 3 in the small but accomplished field, went straight to the lead, easy first half like the boys,

quicken down the back, held to the field at the top of the straight then released the brakes down the straight to win the \$50,000 3YO Fillies Sales Classic by 6.5m in 2:00.3, last qtrs 28.7 and 28.3. Fourth win in a row on the night for Gary Hall Jnr;

- ♥ 3yo **Gliding Star – Follow The Stars** o/o **Waterslide (Pacific Fella USA)**, breeder Allwood Stud Farm, 2 wins and a place from her 4 previous lifetime starts. Then started from 1 at 14/1, started well but happy to settle behind the leader in running, 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 400m but just getting clear, looking dangerous coming off the back, outside the leader at the top of the straight, got to the lead at the 100m and fought off a strong challenge down the outside to win the \$20,250 3YO Fillies Pace by a head in 1:58.9, last qtrs 28.8 and 29.4;

- ♥ 4yo **Taking The Miki – Always B Miki** o/o **All American Dream (Bettors Delight USA)**, breeder John Coffey's Patrician Park. Last season's WA Oaks winner has come back in great style. Won first up at Bunbury then started 2<sup>nd</sup> favourite from 3 in the 2503m stand, quickly out and withstood a challenge to hold the lead, solid pace throughout, 2 lengths clear at the 400m and into the straight, going on to an easy win in the \$20,250 Stand by 5.3m in 1:59.4, last qtrs 28.9 and 28.2;



*Taking The Miki going easy to the line for Chris Voak*

- ♥ 2yo **Water Lou – Sweet Lou** o/o **Living Hei (Live Or Die USA)**, breeder KTC Bloodstock, Kevin and Annette Charles, Unbeaten filly in trails and races. Won her first 2 starts before a 17.2m Heat win, then started favourite from barrier 8 after the important scratching of the favourite in 2. Very fast out and after avoiding some early incidents, moved to the front after half a lap. In control with a lap to go, accelerated down the back to race away to be 2 lengths clear at the 400m, racing strongly down the straight before easing to win the \$100,000 2YO Fillies Sales Classic by 4.1m in 1:57.5, last half 57.9. Four weeks later started from 2 in the \$30,000 Gold Bracelet, straight to the lead as the short priced favourite, tackled over the last lap and just held on to win by a head in 2:01.7, last qtrs 28.4 and 30.3 over the 2130m;

- ♥ 4yo **Wonderful To Fly – Fly Like An Eagle** o/o **Not Now Delilah (Allamerican Ingot USA)**, breeders Kevin and Annette Charles, well if there were any doubts about this mare, her first start back in racing after a 23 week absence has certainly dispelled that. Started favourite from 4, quick out and led, solid lead time and surrendered the lead to the challenger after a lap, a clear second down the back after an increase in speed, off the pegs just after the 400m, outside the leader at the top of the straight, wore down the leader in the straight to move away and win the \$26,000 Fillies and Mares FFA by 1.4m in 1:54.8, last qtrs 28.5 and 28 flat. Good drive trainer driver Shane Young; and

- ♥ 2yo **Xceptional Arma – American Ideal** o/o **Arma Xpress (Artiscape USA)**, owner breeders Liam O'Connor and Jim Currie (Kemprust P/L), another nice filly from this family. Second in her Heat of the Sales Classic and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Final, then started favourite from 1, apparently a bit tipsy in the score-up but got away well and held the lead, going strongly down the back, a half length clear at the 400m, a length clear at the top of the straight and raced away to win the \$20,250 2YO Fillies Pace by 10.1m in 2:00.0, last qtrs 30.1 and 28.3.

Some very nice performers here, and no doubt that Wonderful To Fly has returned to racing at the top of her game. And a training double with Westbred fillies for Jemma Hayman.

Total stakes paid to fillies and mares in March 2023 was \$753,000, an increase on the previous month and a substantial increase on March 2022. This year the Sales Classics were run in March instead of February, providing an explanation for the different results.

The number of fillies and mares who raced in March 2023 (217) was a reduction of 12 compared to the previous month, but a slight increase over March 2022. Eighty percent of those fillies and mares were Westbred. Westbreds contributed 84% of the 3yo fillies and 100% of 2yo fillies. Westbred fillies and mares won \$529,000 in stakes and \$103,000 in bonuses.

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All our sponsors, including those who assisted us on our Breeders Stakes Night are shown next. For website information and more contact details, go to the Breeding News Page of our website [www.wasba.com.au](http://www.wasba.com.au) :

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## YOUR COMMITTEE

If you have a genuine interest in promoting breeding and harness racing in WA, have been a financial member for at least one full calendar year and have relevant experience and time to contribute to a Committee position involving meetings and undertaking various projects, please forward a brief profile to the WASBA Secretary.

President	Jeanine Diederich	M: 0407 383 256	Committee	Pat Borg	M: 0433 331 087
Vice President and Treasurer	Howard King	M: 0418 207 079	Committee	Joe Schaper	M: 0409 101 540
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Don't forget to check out the facebook page and website from time to time for news, breeding information, links to various items of interest and contact information. The WASBA website is [www.wasba.com.au](http://www.wasba.com.au)

**And Facebook** [https://www.facebook.com/WesternAustralianStandardbred BreedersAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/WesternAustralianStandardbredBreedersAssociation)

The last WASBA AGM (for the 12 months ending 31 August) was held on Friday 25 November 2022

The **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING** has been scheduled for **26 April 2023**. Meetings are scheduled monthly on the last Wednesday of each month, except on specific occasions and over the Christmas New Year period. If you would like to raise any issues or make comment, contact a Committee member or:

- Send an email to [info@wasba.com.au](mailto:info@wasba.com.au) .
- Write to WASBA at PO Box 3237 EAST PERTH WA 6892.
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