



NEWSLETTER

Vol 300 May 2023

It's the 300th Newsletter !!!!!

Who would have thought we would have got this far! Who knows how far we can go but it has been a great journey so far and we really appreciate the good comments we receive. Don't forget if you have any comments or questions or feedback about anything harness racing, we welcome them....

2YO, 3YO, MARES and WESTBRED OPPORTUNITIES

2yo	The \$11,000 De Campo Memorials are at Bunbury on 31 May \$30,000 Western Crowns are on 16 June The \$30,000 2YO Westsired Classics are on 30 June
3yo	The \$50,000 3YO Pearl Classic Final is on 26 May
Mares	The \$30,000 Harry Capararo 4YO/5YO Westbred Mares is on 2 June The \$50,000 Kerry Clarke Fillies and Mares is on 23 June The \$30,000 The Lewis is on 30 June

Notice Board

The 2023 WA APG Gold Bullion Finals

The 2YO and 3YO \$50,000 Gold Bullion Finals were all run on 21 April with starters taken from those who ran in the Heats. There will be no Gold Bullion Heats in 2024 for the 2yos, but 3yo and 4yo Sales graduates will have their opportunities next season so make sure you check next year and don't miss out!

The 2YO Finals were won by Heat winners **Xceptional Arma** (American Ideal USA out of Arma Xpress) and **Ten To The Dozen** (Art Major USA out of Nolessthanperfect NZ), both leading and winning with very slick last quarters. Both of these winners come from very strong families.

Xceptional Arma is a daughter of **Arma Xpress** (Artiscape USA) 1:56.5 \$279,890 the 2012 Australian 2YO Filly of the Year. This is the Ar Miss family which has produced standouts like **Excel Stride** (Aces N Sevens USA) 1:50.3 769464, **Spankem** (Bettors Delight USA) 1:47.7 \$1,868,078 and **Honolua Bay** (Somebeachsomewhere USA) 1:49.3 \$887,490.



Xceptional Arma wins for Colin Brown

Nolessthanperfect NZ is from the Nancy lola NZ family which has produced champions and millionaires **Gotta Go Cullen** (Christian Cullen NZ), **Il Vicolo** (Vance Hanover USA), **Stunin Cullen** (Christian Cullen NZ) and a myriad of other winners including **Waltzing With Cullen** (Christian Cullen NZ), recent winner **Middlepage** (Tintin In America NZ) and our very own **Patrickthepiranha** (Four Starzzz Shark USA) 1:48.4 \$497,643.

Running 3rd in his heat, 3yo gelding **Rocket City** (Huntsville USA out of **Gabriella Rocks**) turned the tables on Heat winner Star Lavra in the \$50,000 Colts and Geldings Final to win, and **Between Two Thorns**

(**Downbytheseaside USA** out of **Kiwi Rose USA**) also improved from 2nd in her heat to win the \$50,000 Fillies Gold Bullion Final). Both Rocket City and Between Two Thorns led for their wins.

Rocket City is a half brother to Group 1 winning mare and top juvenile **Red Hot Roxy (Somebeachsomewhere USA)** 1:55.9 \$162,550. Their unraced dam is a half sister to **Grinjaro (Grinfromeartoear USA)** 1:55.2 (\$248,982) and another good winner in **Forty Two Grand (Armbro Operative USA)** \$122,875.

American bred mare Kiwi Rose, the dam of Between Two Thorns, is a daughter of champion NZ mare **Tupelo Rose (In The Pocket USA)** 1:51.2 \$879,867 who raced successfully in the US before returning to New Zealand in foal. This family is producing in the US as well as Australia with top flight horses Mad Max Hanover (Always B Miki USA) 1:47.4 US\$657,163, Machapelo (Mach Three CA) 1:51.3 US\$690,290, Resistance Futile (Real Desire USA) 1:49.1 US\$402,109 and Rockapelo (Rock N Roll Heaven USA) 1:49.1 US\$859,586.



Winners Between Two Thorns and Aiden De Campo

The mixed sex \$50,000 4YO Gold Bullion Final was keenly contested, in the most part to see if they could beat Mares' Heat winner **Wonderful To Fly (Fly Like An Eagle** out of **Not Now Delilah**) - which they couldn't - and to win the extra \$10,000 paid to the first non-winning male or female finisher. That went to Goodfellaz.

Wonderful To Fly has almost single handedly resurrected the family of champion mare Daintys Daughter, winner of the Fremantle Cup, WA Pacing Cup and numerous other top races. Other good winners in the family include Group 1 winner **La Mia Juliette (Jet Laag USA)** and top flight half brothers to the dam of Not Now Delilah in **Jumbo Operator (Armbro Operative USA)** and Group 1 winner **Getaway Plan (Parsons Den USA)**.

2023 WASBA King-Lethbridge

A lovely day had by all, despite the spits of rain, thanks to the great hospitality at the Pinjarra Paceway. Another top field as well, with more than enough nominations to run two races. We are looking at how to further advance our mini feature race series.

This year's winner was here last year and just missed out to another mare also bred by Steve Johnson. Not to be outdone and despite barrier 12, she was back again and did one better. Settling last in running, driver Emily took off to make her 3 wide run just past the top of the straight with a lap to go. Going great down the back straight she was 3 wide but 3rd at the 600m and was just in front at the top of the straight. Fighting on gamely down the straight she went on to win the \$14,000 WASBA 2023 King-Lethbridge Memorial by 1.8m in 1:59.5.

Bettors Destroya is the 6th winner from her non-winning dam **Chemical Romance (Northern Luck CA)** with her other winners including the Group 1 winner **Bettor Reward (Bettors Delight USA)** 15 wins \$244,065, the tough **Destined To Rule (Shadow Play USA)** 1:57.5, 13 wins \$229,787, **Sovrana (Betting Line USA)** 1:56.3 \$118,275, and the very promising **Overly Excited (Betting Line USA)** 1:56.6. Group 1 winner **Ferrari Trunkey (Tarcoola Frost)** 1:56.6 22 wins \$267,527, the dam of Chemical Romance was the outstanding dam of 8 winners including WA Derby winner **Trunkey Maserati**.

Congratulations to owners Michael Radley and Rob Gartrell who were on course to receive the trophy, which is the second WASBA trophy they have received. Bettors Destroya, also won the 2022 Harry Capararo \$30,000 4YO/5YO Westbred Mares. It's fantastic to be giving appreciative owners the trophy, rug and garland.

What we can learn from Perfect Sting?

It looks like **Perfect Sting** (Always B Miki USA out of Shebestingin USA 2,1:49.2; 3,1:48.1 (\$1,808,147) will be available to Australian and New Zealand breeders this coming season. Another one of those incredible race horses, but with his dam Shebestingin p,3,1:47 not only being by one of the greatest sires of all time (**Bettors Delight USA**), but she was/is the fastest 3-year-old pacing filly of all time. Only Somebeachsomewhere USA (1:46.4) had done better at the time (He has since been joined by Hes Watching USA and Cattlewash USA).

World champion Shebestingin won 18 races all up from age 2 to 4. Most of the race names aren't recognisable in the southern hemisphere but needless to say, winning \$759,000 10 years ago should say enough. She has 3 foals of racing age for 3 winners, and was wisely returned to Always B Miki for her 2022 and 2023 foals.



Perfect Sting winning his 2nd Breeders Crown as a 3yo

Of note is that Shebestingin's dam **Armbro Tussle (Abercrombie USA)** won a modest \$51,175, and her dam **Vivian Lobell (Slapstick USA)** won only \$110. If breeders had given up on some of these mares, look what we would have missed?

Shebestingin (pronounced she-be-stingin) belongs to a strong winning producing family along with some notable stars and apart from some of the modest racing performers in the direct maternal line, there is some gold to be found.

Vivian Lobell is a daughter of **Viking Princess (Albatross USA)** who also produced full siblings Vignette Childer (the dam of **Washington VC**) and millionaire and sire Dexter Nukes USA (No Nukes USA). They may not have set the track on fire but Viking Princess produced 13 winners from 17 foals, while Vivian Lobell produced 8 winners from 11 foals. Armbro Tussle produced 7 winners from 13 foals including 3 with earnings over \$500,000.

Washington VC was 15.1 hands and the winner of the Adios and \$561,000. His crowning glory as a sire was in siring triple Inter Dominion winner Im Themightyquinn, as well as Im Victorious, Foreal, Dasher VC and Hokonui Ben, all winners of over \$600,000. Washington VC himself was by an unfashionably bred but impeccable race horse in **Presidential Ball USA**, earner of \$3 million. Although he was by the great Cam Fella USA, Presidential Ball USA was out of a tough and fast mare who won over \$500,000 with a lifetime best 1:55.4, but she did not have a pedigree that most would look at twice in a yearling sale.

See what you can do with a little luck, pluck and faith?

You can watch Shebestingin in her 2013 1:47 record at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzJk6yulfOM&t=2s>

Snippets from the USA and Canada..

☑ WA bred **Patrickthepiranha (Four Starzzz Shark)** is going great guns in the US this season, winning his second straight race for his ownership Thestable. The win, in 1:50 flat, is the fastest for the season at the track.



☑ Other local winners in the US and Canada include Alta Engen and Alta Blues (Alta Christiano), Bettor B Oscar (Bettors Delight), Give Us A Wave (Mach Three), Its Rock And Roll (A Rocknroll Dance), Kasey John (Bettors Delight), Lord Willoughby (Mach Three) Mister Spot (Village Jolt), Persistent Threat (Advance Attack), Poisedtopounce (Bettors Delight), Slick Artist (Art Major) and Our Zak Whitby (Mach Three)

☑ It doesn't matter what the stakes are, winning 11 races in a row is phenomenal. **Outlaw C My Shadow (Shadow Play)** has just completed 11 straight wins after his latest win at Fraser Downs in British Columbia. His winning streak began in November. His lifetime earnings are \$180,322

☑ Canada's 2022 Aged Pacing Mare of the Year, the 7yo **So Much More (Big Jim)**, again had to race against the boys and won at Mohawk Park in 1:51.3. It was her second successive win and she has 5 wins this year to give her 62 career victories and \$1,351,095 in earnings in 136 starts.

☑ Unfortunately, Australia's **Lochinvar Art (Modern Art)** couldn't overcome his outside barrier in the \$511,000 Borgata Final at Yonkers, with the eventual winner being 5yo stallion **Hellabalou (Sweet Lou)** at 47/1 – the longest priced winner in the history of the race. Hellabalou bolted out from 5 to take the lead before surrendering the lead during the 1st quarter, then towards the finish got the "rails run" to scoot up on the inside and win by a length from another Australian in millionaire **Leonidas (Mach Three)**. Driver Ron Bourke changed his race plan at the gate when no one was going forward and benefited greatly from that split second decision.

☑ Following her win in the \$328,000 Blue Chip Matchmaker Series, 7yo **Amazing Dream NZ (Bettors Delight)** has been sold to breeding interests. Her career earnings across 4 countries is just shy of \$2 million. Her (now) previous owners have since purchased lightly raced gelding **Anything Goes NZ (American Ideal)** for a high price, and will continue to race him in New Zealand. The ownership group are big fans of American Ideal

Running in the mares \$75,000 Matchmaker Consolation, NZ mare **Delitfulcatherin (Bettors Delight)** outclassed the field to score in 1:52.4, to take her earnings to \$468,199.

☑ **C Is For Cookie (Betting Line)** is in the news again. The 13th and final foal from retired Hall of Fame broodmare **Sweet Future**, dam of 2014 Pacer of the Year **Sweet Lou (Yankee Cruiser)**, dual Breeders Crown champion **Bettor Sweet (Bettors Delight)** and the dams of Dan Patch Award winners **Captain Crunch (Captaintreacherous)** and **Youaremycandygirl (American Ideal)** won all her 3 heats and the \$50,000 Bobby Weiss Series Final. The winning time was 1:52.4 on an officially sloppy track. In the boys division **I Was Tricked (Huntsville)** was the winner in 1:50.4. Like C is For Cookie, I was tricked was unraced as a 2yo.

☑ 2019 Breeders Crown winner **American History (American Ideal)** paced the fastest mile so far this Canadian harness racing season in winning at Mohawk Park in May. The win in 1:48.2 added to his credentials which include 38 wins for \$1.63 million in stakes. He has a 1:49.3 record on the Yonkers half mile track. And a 1:47 lifetime best as a 3yo. American History stood his first season in 2020, and raced and bred in 2021.

☑ Nice looking 4yo grey mare **Ocean Music (Racing Hill)** won an Open Mares Pace in 1:50.1, breaking a 10yo record for the Miami Valley track in Ohio. The record of 1:50.4 was held by **Shebestingin (Bettors Delight)**

☑ Who's a pretty boy? A brilliant looking pinto, the Irish bred **Tkemetothebeach Ir (White Flame)** won at Flambora Downs after doing a last to first effort for his win. His sire is a noted producer of pintos and set the world record for a pacer of that coat colour in 2015.

☑ In a nice turn of fortune, the Red Shores Racetrack in Charlottetown Canada had to add another race date to their calendar because they had too many horses! And Fraser Downs is also on a high.

☑ The (thoroughbred) Kentucky Derby winner was owned by a group of nearly 400 people. That's 400 people on course and 400 people betting. Think about that and how it gives every one of those owners that winning feeling and adds to those people participating in the sport.

☑ After an impressive win the previous week, 3yo **Voukefalas (Lazarus NZ)** strode out to win another division of the New Jersey Sire Stakes. If fact Lazarus sired the first 3 past the post on both weeks in the colts/geldings division. In the fillies, another "Laz" in **Two Pistol Annie** won her second Sire Stakes race, and **Alexas Fantasy**, also by Lazarus, won the other fillies division.

☑ It might be a long way off but the contenders for the Meadowlands Pace are already showing up to state their case. A variety of sires are represented in the top picks -Stockade Seelster (State Treasurer), Ammo and Confederate (Sweet Lou), Fulton (Heston Blue Chip) Voukefalas and Handlelikeaporsche (Lazarus NZ), Combustion, Save America and El Rey (Captaintreacherous) and Ants Marching (Downbytheseaside). Some interesting names in there. The Meadowlands Pace will be run on 15 July.

☑ Last season's Breeders Crown Mares Pace winner, 5yo **Grace Hill (Always B Miki)**, was successful at her first start back this season. Grace has \$1.18 million in earnings and is one of 4 millionaires by Always B Miki.

☑ Yes it can be done as an aged mare. Last year's Matchmaker winner 6yo **Drama Act (Well Said)** is just shy of \$1 million in stakes, following her latest victory, the 6th of the season, at Yonkers.

And elsewhere....

☑ \$2 million earner **Self Assured NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** at the ripe old age of 7 is as good as ever. Third to Copy That in the \$1 million The Race by Grins, nosed out by Akuta next and then a winner at his next Group 1 start, defeating Copy That on a track officially described as "slushy". Very honest. The race was the delayed version of the 2020 4YO Group 1 feature that was cancelled due to Covid. Self Assured has won the New Zealand Cup, 2 Auckland Cups the first Race by Grins and continues on.

Not to miss out, Natalie Rasmussen, the regular driver for Self Assured and on board for the Group 1 victory, has just passed \$13 million in stakes earnings. What an achievement. She now drives part time when it suits.



Natalie Rasmussen
on wonder filly
Millwood Nike, a
winner on any track

☑ New Zealand 3yo filly **Millwood Nike NZ (Captaintreacherous)** is proving to be something special. She has won all 13 of her race starts in NZ including 8 as a 2yo. She has a lifetime best of 1:52.7 and over \$500,000 in earnings. You have to feel sorry for the fillies born in her year.

☑ **South Coast Arden NZ (Somebeachsomewhere USA)** has a new home – with Paul Fitzpatrick in NSW. The 6yo gelding is yet to race, but has won 3 trials at Menangle in readiness for a race start. He is the winner of the Group 1 4YO Emerald and the Group 1 NZ Metro defeating Self Assured and Krug.

☑ Great to see **A Gs White Socks NZ (Rock N Roll Heaven USA)** back to his top self, with a recent win in his new home since mid 2022, Australia. A Gs White Socks has spent most of his life racing in the top echelon of harness racing in the southern hemisphere, against horses like Chase Auckland, Spankem, Self Assured, Amazing Dream and Cruz Bromac,. With new trainer Jess Tubbs since December 2022 he has turned the corner and has now won 4 from 5. A Gs White Socks won his 2 Heats of the 2019 Inter Dominion, before being unplaced to Ultimate Sniper in the final. On a visit to Australia He brilliantly win the 2020 Ballarat Cup ahead of Self Assured, and ran 4th to King Of Swing in the 2020 Miracle Mile. He is from a beautiful maternal line and is a half brother to **Power Of Tara** and Tara Gold, who is the dam of **Tiger Tara**. This is also the family of NSW Derby winner **Better Be The Best (Shoobees Place USA)**

☑ A lovely way to break your maiden – 3yo colt **Staroftheshow (Vincent)** won his first race in the \$100,000 3YO Colts and Geldings Gold Bullion Final at Melton. Staroftheshow is another one of the Stewart/Gath success stories. The Menangle \$100,000 3YO Colts and Geldings Gold Bullion Final was won by **Sweetheart Bart (Sweet Lou USA)**.

☑ A nice one for Vincent in New Zealand is 2yo **Vessem**. Vincent is Australian bred, out of champion mare **Kept For Pleasure (Safely Kept USA)**. He was purchased as a yearling by NZ interests. Vincent is currently 7th on the Australian 2yo sire list, led by **Art Major USA**, and 8th on the 3yo list, led by **Sweet Lou USA**.

☑ Coming from a very recognizable family that included the very courageous **Two Eye See (Armbo Operative USA)** 1:52.4, who actually only had one eye, 2yo filly **Eye Believe (Captaintreacherous USA)** carried on the outstanding family tradition by winning the \$400,000 APG Gold Final at her 4th race start. Family members are usually recognizable by the word “Eye” in their name. Note that Grace Robinson, the granddam of Eye Believe, was unraced but was the last foal from **Jasmarilla (Tarport Low USA)** one of our great racemares with over \$500,000 and 50 wins to her name.



☑ The 2YO Colts and Geldings \$400,000 Gold Bullion was won by **War Dan Buddy (Art Major USA)**. He was bred by Redbank Lodge Standardbreds who also bred Leap To Fame. The dam of Leap To Fame is Lettucereason, a full sister to millionaire race horse and sire **For A Reason (Art Major USA)**

☑ 3yo filly **Peaceful (Sweet Lou USA)** won the Menangle \$100,000 3YO Fillies Gold Bullion, turning the tables on Jewel Melody who won the Heat. Peaceful has won 6 of her 13 starts with 6 places, following on from her super mum **Frith (Four Starzzz Shark CA)** 1:50.1 \$1,180,345. The family is the very successful Miss Paula mare **Jackie Kelly (Albert Albert USA)**. Frith made a successful raid to WA to win the 2013 Group 1 WA Oaks.

☑ The 2023 National Weanling Sale at Karaka New Zealand is on 25 May at Karaka New Zealand. If you are chasing a young horse that you can race and perhaps breed from, the catalogue is available [here](#)

☑ Starters are coming on board for the \$2 million TAB Eureka in September. **Captain Ravishing (Captaintreacherous)** has returned to where he started his career under trainer and owner Ahmed Taiba He will race for Team Zav under Geelong based Danny Zavitsanos. Cordina Racing are looking good, having acquired 4yo gelding **Catch A Wave (Captaintreacherous)** for their slot. John and Daniel Cordina, with Steve Lester, had finalised the deal before Catch A Wave won the Chariots of Fire/Miracle Mile double. The Cordinas have put a huge amount into harness racing and no one would begrudge them a win in The Eureka. Kevin and Kaye Seymour are competing with their own horse, 4yo stallion **Leap To Fame (Bettors Delight)** In great promotion of their local horses, Racing Queensland's slot will go to the winner of the inaugural The Hayden, a race restricted to Qbred 3yo and 4yo pacers, at Albion Park on 15 July. And Tasracing will conduct a race in August for either Tasbred or pacers wholly owned in Tasmania, for their slot.

Remember that the race is for “Australian served and bred” 3yo and 4yos. Good luck to those who have a slot if you are busy promoting our sport. Let's hope the Slot holders remember that over \$900,000 of the prizemoney has come from breeders.

RECENT MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- ♣ The Western Trilogy, with RWWA looking to extend this initiative;
- ♣ Racing Victoria turnover down 4%, who would have thought;
- ♣ Return of stallion **Shockwave (Mach Three CA)** to racing, and as a winner;
- ♣ Strong possibility of Magnificent Storm (yes I got the name right this time) and **Wonderful To Fly (Fly Like An Eagle)** racing in the east and/or the Queensland carnival.



BREEDER OF THE MONTH – April 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.

We have had, and are still seeing, some exciting youngsters. However, they are not the only ones lighting up the track for their owners and this month's breeder of the month was a toss up between the breeder of a son of American Ideal USA and a son of the sire of American Ideal. It's *congratulations* to our *Breeder of the Month* for *April 2023*, Debra Lewis as the breeder of 4yo gelding **Goodfellaz (American Ideal USA** out of Innocent Eyes by **Art Major USA**).

Goodfellaz did not race until May of his 3yo year and won his first 3 races on end. Before his 3yo racing finished he had won 3 more races and finished 4th in the Group 1 3YO Colts and Geldings Westbred Classic in September 2022. Resuming in March 2023 he was placed at his first 2 starts before winning two 3YO races in town. He then fronted for the Heat of the APG Gold Bullion to run 2nd, before being unfortunate enough to have to run against the sensational Wonderful To Fly in the \$50,000 Final. A brilliant drive and he gave it his best trying to run her down in a 26.5 last qtr. To date he has 8 wins, 6 places and over \$75,000 from 16 starts.



Dual winner Goodfellaz with Chris Lewis on board

His dam **Shes Innocent (D M Dilinger CA)** won 1 race and just over \$12,000 in stakes. She has however excelled as a broodmare, being the dam of champion **Restrepo (Art Major USA)** 1:52.4 \$527,118, Innocent Artist 1:57.3 and Innocent Affair 1:55.5 Restrepo beat the likes of Christen Me, For A Reason, Caribbean Blaster and Smoken Up to win the Ballarat Cup and he is one of a number of sires who deserves more of a chance at stud than he will get.

Shes Innocent is a daughter of famed broodmare **Cerebrano (Lordship NZ)** the dam of 11 winners including Chariots of Fire winning mare **Innocent Eyes (Safely Kept USA)** \$421,875. There are multiple top winners from this family including multiple Group 1 winner **Bondi Lockdown (Somebeachsomewhere USA)** 1:50.3 \$444,140, **Intheskyrocket (American Ideal USA)** 1:51.2 and **Major Rush (Art Major USA)**. This is a great family stemming from Bonnie Averil (U Scott), with the extended family including New Zealand Cup winner True Averil (Fallacy) but more currently champion mare Jasmarilla (Tarport Low USA) 1:55.1 \$503,000 and her "Eye family, WA Pacing Cup winner **Wildwest (Raging Bull NZ)** 1:52.8 \$503,490, 2017 Broodmare of the Year Amarillen (Village Jasper USA) and her son **Villagem (Village Jolt USA)** 1:52.1 \$626,585, 2018 Broodmare of the Year Pixel Perfect (Art Major USA) and her son **Soho Tribeca (American Ideal USA)** 1:53.8 \$1,103,854

and daughter **Carlas Pixel (Courage Under Fire NZ)** 1:49.5 \$480,128 and 2023 \$100,000 3YO Gold Bullion winner **Sweetheart Bart (Sweet Lou USA)** 1:53.6.

Congratulations trainer and breeder Debra Lewis, driver Chris Lewis, Goodfellaz and his connections.

WINNERS - WA BASED SIRES APRIL 2023

There were 10 sires represented by Westsired winners in April, producing 28 winners of 31 races. **Fly Like An Eagle** was on top this month with 10 winners of 11 races, followed by **Follow The Stars** who again produced 6 winners of 7 races.

There were 3 multiple Westsired winner in April – **Alta Queen** (Alta Christiano NZ) won at Bridgetown and Narrogin, **Extraordinary Mary** (Fly Like An Eagle) won at Northam and Bunbury, and **Follow The Dragon** (Follow The Stars) won a Northam double.

There were 6 winners in April 2023 taking home their first career win and First Win Bonus – 2yos **Lord Bhutan** and **Manea** (Fly Like An Eagle, 2yos **Arion Rock** and **Rocknroll Train** (Rock N Roll World USA), 3YO **Starlight Song** (Follow The Stars), and 4yo **Alta Ego** (Alta Christiano NZ) – all receiving at least \$11,700 in bonuses for that first win. Lord Bhutan and Rocknroll Train also received \$500 for their first career start!

Westsired progeny received \$110,000 in Westbred, First Win and First Start Bonuses for April 2023, with 7 first time starters received \$500 each on top of any stakes or other bonuses.

There was 1 Westsired winner at premium metropolitan meetings, repeating his efforts from last month:

- ★ 5yo **Arma Einstein (Renaissance Man o/o Arma Fifty Five (Bettors Delight USA)** owner breeders Montague, Currie Farrant and Brown, another good start to the season, won last month then started from 5 as second favourite, wide early before going to the lead in the front straight the first time, slow lead and first quarter, quicker down the back and almost a length clear at the 400m, skipped clear into the straight and on to a good win in the \$30,000 4YO and 5YO Autumn Restricted Classic by 2.6m in 1:59.0, last qtrs 28.6 and 27.9.

WESTBRED WINNERS – APRIL 2023

There were 90 individual Westbred winners in April 2023, winning 105 (60.0%) of the 175 races run. A very nice result and 23 more wins than in March, although didn't quite pip the results for April 2022 (61.8%).

The best performing stallion standing outside WA from a Westbred perspective was **American Ideal USA** with 5 winners of 7 races, followed by **Mach Three CA** (5 of 5) and **Betting Line USA** (4 winners of 5 races). There were 37 sires represented by Westbred winners.

There was 16 First Time winners in April. Excluding the 6 Westsired winners already listed they were:

- 2yos **Bet The House** (Betting Line USA) and **Liquidator** (Foreclosure NZ);
- 3yo **Overly Excited** (Betting Line USA), **Mister Kopa** (Highview Tommy NZ), **Leni Rose** (Lennytheshark) and **Spudmeister** (Well Said USA); and
- 4yos **Radar Reef** (Sportswriter USA), **Syncopation** (Sunshine Beach USA) and **Pointoprove** (Pet Rock USA); and 5yo **Mata Ole Le Afa** (Allamerican Ingot USA).

There were 15 multiple winners for April 2023 including 3 listed under Westsired and First Time winners **Overly Excited** who won at Pinjarra and Northam. The remaining dual winners (lovely for connections!):

Taking The Miki (Always B Miki USA) appeared again this month, winning a metro double including a feature, **Goodfellaz (American Ideal USA)** won a metro double, **Xceptional Arma (American Ideal USA)** won a mid week and metro feature, **Ten To The Dozen** (Art Major USA) also appeared again, this time with wins midweek and a metro feature, **Star Lavra** (Captaintreacherous USA) won a mid week and metro Gloucester Park, **Seeryanfly** (Heston Blue Chip USA) won a double at Northam, **Tommy Carta** (Huntsville USA) won at Wagin and Bunbury, **The Watch Maker** (Lombo Pocket Watch) won at Narrogin and midweek Gloucester Park, **Alfredi** (Shadyshark Hanover USA) won at Wagin and midweek Gloucester Park, **Make Your Mark**

(Somebeachsomewhere USA) won at Bridgetown and Bunbury, and **Middlepage** (Tintin In America NZ) won a metro double.

Total Bonus payments in April 2023 were just over \$252,000. Of that amount, 2yos received \$98,000, 3yos received \$107,000, and 4yo and over received \$47,000. Total Bonus payments paid directly to breeders, excluding any payments received as part of racing ownership, were \$65,000.

Bonus payments for the first 4 months of the season totals \$1,078,000.

Westbreds won 29 races at Community level, 50 at \$8,000 to \$10,000 level, 4 mini feature \$11,000 races and 21 metropolitan level races including 8 features. There was also the \$14,000 WASBA King-Lethbridge. Total stakes earned by Westbreds was \$1.34 million, which is higher than each of the previous 2 months.

Two year old starters (31) in April 2023 dropped off substantially from the previous month and was still 7 short of April 2022 runners. Trainers are finding it difficult to work out when best to have their 2yos in training given the season ending features, but bonuses are still out there at this time of year. There were 11 2yo races run – the same as the previous month – and this included the Heat and final of the APG Gold Bullion which required a run in the Heat to be eligible for the \$50,000 final. Some must have overlooked this condition. Westbreds won all 2yo races in April, and contributed 28 of the 31 2yo starters.

Racing numbers for 3yos (84) in April 2023 did pick up to be just 7 less than in 2022, but the surprise was the significant downturn in Westbred 3yos compared to April 2022. Again, those Westbred Bonuses are waiting to be earned. It does appear though, that numbers will pick up around 20% in May as the target races of Pearl, Diamond and Westsired approach. We are of the view that the calendar needs to provide more guidance to owners and trainers and extend beyond 6 weeks. We are also unsure if the program is meeting the need of 3yos, and would like to hear from you.

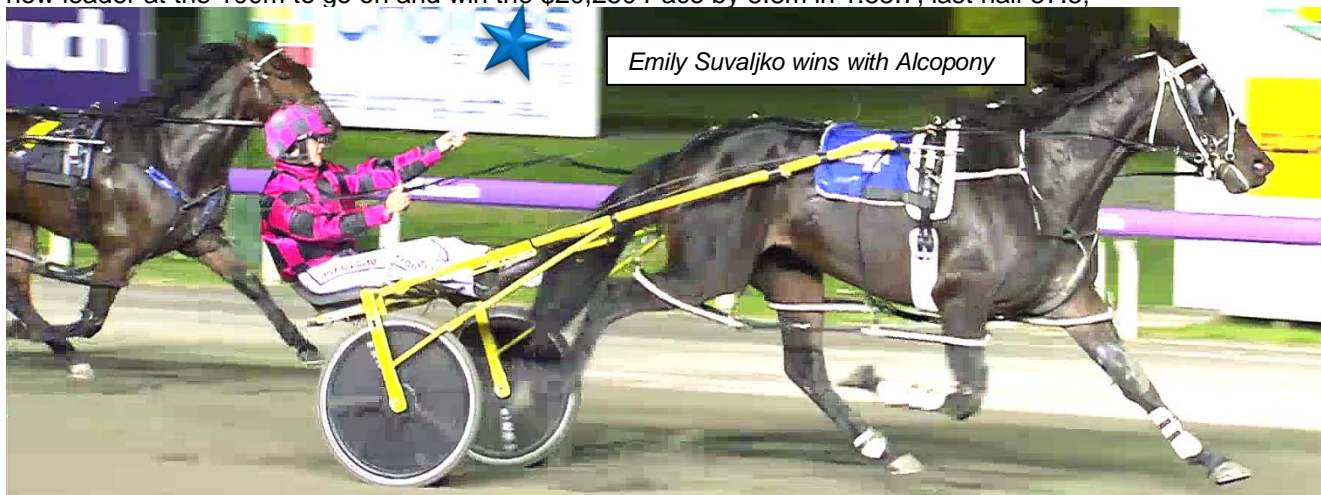
There were 18 races (5 maidens) provided for 3yos, with WA bred 3yos winning 17 of these - an excellent result for those 3yos and their connections. 3yos also won 16 3yo and over races with 2 of these winners being Westbred, Westbred 3yos contributed 82% of 3yo starters.

The number of 4yo and over starters in April 2023 (486) declined compared to the previous month (502) and April last year (525). Westbred starters in this age group declined similarly. There were 15 races overall (including 2 maidens) for this age group, with 12 of these races won by WA bred horses.

There were 130 wins (75 Westbred) by horses older than 3yo - 40 (30 Westbred) 4yos, 37 (16 Westbred) 5yos, 26 (14 Westbred) 6yos, 11(7 Westbred) 7yos and 16 (8 Westbred) older than 7. The oldest Westbred winner was 10yo Disco Under Fire (Courage Under Fire), who proved you are never too old to win a metro race!

Westbreds won 22 of the 38 races run at prime meetings at Gloucester Park in April 2023. One of the wins was by a Westsired gelding, 6 wins were by fillies or mares and the remaining 13 winners of 15 races were:

- ◆ **4yo Alcopony – Betting Line USA o/o Kurious (Sportswriter USA)** breeder part owner Kevin Keys, won the \$30,000 The Warwick in February, 5 starts on started from 4 over the 1730m sprint journey, beaten for speed from the barrier but well driven to get the spot behind the leader, steady first half, still behind the leaders but with clear running at the 400m, 3 wide at the top of the straight, raced past the new leader at the 100m to go on and win the \$20,250 Pace by 5.8m in 1:55.7, last half 57.5;



- ◆ **5yo American Bullitt – Tintin In America NZ o/o Just Visiting (Barnett Hanover USA)** breeders Kevin and Annette Charles, a solid performer with over \$110,000 in stakes before starting from 4 on the front in the stand, got away well to be 3rd on the pegs over the 2503m journey, slowish first half, got a break in the field at the 500m to move off the pegs, 3 wide at the top of the straight, got the nose in front near the 50m and went on to win the \$20,250 Pace by 1.1m in 2:02.3, last half 57.7;

- ◆ **2yo Bet The House – Betting Line o/o Katesplace NZ (Artsplace USA)**, breeder Karnup Racing Pty Ltd, 4th at his first lifetime start then started from 1 in the Group 3 2130m Champagne Classic, not fast enough out to hold the lead but got the sit behind his stablemate, restrained at the 400m to go wide and around the leading pair, 4 wide off the back, 3 wide into the straight and finished solidly, holding off a strong challenge to win the \$50,000 Champagne Classic by a half neck in 2:00.1, last half 60.1;



- ◆ **10yo Disco Under Fire – Courage Under Fire o/o Midnight Disco (Pacific Rocket USA)** breeders John and Sue Awcock, a real war horse with over 180 starts. Placed last start then started from the awkward 4 barrier over 2536m, settled 3 on the pegs after an early burn by the leaders. Off the pegs and 3 wide at the 400m, 3rd off the back and 2nd into the straight, raced past the leader down the straight to win the \$18,500 Pace by 7.4m in 1:58.2, with all the speed early;

- ◆ **5yo Faster Than Dad – Alta Christiano o/o Slick Bird NZ (Bettors Delight USA)**, owner breeders Beth Richardson, Karen Hall, G Ralston, Neville Pinner, Falsify Syndicate, returned to racing in March after a short let up, placed at his first start then 3 weeks later started favourite from 3, straight to the front from the barrier in a super quick 35.8 lead, better than even time first half, still a cracking pace at the 400m, a clear leader into the straight and went on to easily win the 20,250 Pace by 6m in 1:55.5, last half 57.8;



Faster Than Dad steps out for Stewie McDonald

- ◆ **4yo Goodfellaz - American Ideal USA o/o Shes Innocent (D M Dilinger CA)**, breeder Debra Lewis, 6 wins 2 places last season and resumed in March with two places. Then started favourite from 1, fast out and held the lead, very solid pace, cruising well clear down the back, tiring towards the end but held on to win the \$20,250 Pace by 1.9m in 1:54.9, last half 58.2. Next start favourite again after drawing 2 over the shorter 1730m journey, straight to the front, close to even time first half, just in front down the back, fought off the challengers down the straight and won the \$20,375 Pace by 1.6m in 1:55.1, last qtrs 27.8 and 28 flat;



- ◆ **5yo Lavra Joe – Roll With Joe o/o Lavra Florence NZ (Live Or Die USA)**, breeders Kevin and Annette Charles. Resumed in March for a 4th in the Governors Cup, followed that with a win in the \$50,000 Bunbury Cup. Next up started from 2 in the \$30,000 FFA over 2536m, began brilliantly to lead, solid lead and close to even time first half, still in charge at the 400m, well clear down the straight and eased down to win the feature by 1.7m in 1:57.0, last qtrs 28.5 and 27.3;



- ◆ **6yo Middlepage - Tintin In America NZ o/o That's The Spirit NZ (Pacific Rocket USA)**, breeders Kevin and Annette Charles, Getting better with age. A midweek winner in March then unplaced. Next up started from 1 over the 2536m stayers journey, did enough to lead easily, almost even time first half before stepping up the pace down the back, in charge on the bend and still under a hold to win the \$18,500 Pace by 4.9m in 1:59.1, last qtrs 28.5 and 28.2. Well back next start then started from 7 on the front again over the 2536m journey, a bit of jostling before settling one out and two back, same position coming off the back, now in the clear before moving 4 wide at the top of the straight, rocketed home to run down the leaders to win the \$20,375 Pace by a head in 1:59.5, last half 57.8;



- ◆ **3yo Rocket City – Huntsville o/o Gabriella Rocks (Four Starzzz Shark USA)** breeder Steve Johnson, won mid week in March then 3rd in the Gold Bullion Heat to Star Lavra. Next up started 2nd favourite from 5 in the 1730m \$50,000 APG 3YO Gold Bullion Final, rocketed out to lead with Star Lavra in the breeze, fast pace throughout, half length clear at the 400m, clear into the straight, under pressure over the last 50m but held on to win by 1.5m in 1:55.2, last qtrs 28.9 and 28.7;



- ◆ **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 win and a second. Then won his Heat of the Gold Bullion before another 2nd in the Final. Next up started from 3 as 2nd favourite to his

stablemate in the small but high quality field, not quick enough out to lead so settled last, slow first half, followed a move to be one by one with a lap to go, no change at the 400m but a slick third qtr, 3 wide at the top of the straight and 4th, finished fast over the top of them to win the \$20,250 3YO Pace by a half neck in 1:58.5, last qtrs 27.6 and 28.3

- ◆ **5yo Talks Up A Storm – Artspeak o/o Typhoon Tan NZ (Live Or Die USA)**, breeder Harry Capararo, a small field but if you cross the line first you are still the winner. Won in February, placed in March then started from 4 at 21/1, beat the favourite out to lead, slow 1st qtr, fast 3rd qtr and in control, led into the straight and not under any pressure to win the \$22,000 Pace by 4.6m in 1:56.6, last qtrs 28.1 and 28.5;



- ◆ **2yo Ten To The Dozen – Art Major USA o/o Nolessthanperfect NZ (Bettors Delight USA)**, breeders Solid Gold Standardbreds, won twice at Pinjarra in March including his first career win at his 4th start, easily won his Gold Bullion Heat then started favourite from 4 in the \$50,000 APG 2YO Gold Bullion Final, scooted out to lead, led comfortably to the 400m, stepped up the pace considerably in the final qtr and made it 4 in a row, easing slightly to win the 1730m Pace by 4.4m in 1:58.6, last qtrs 30.6 and 27.1;
- ◆ **5yo Wait For The Bell – Hurrikane Kingcole USA o/o Jossies Belle (Orleans)**, breeder John Bell, quietly won \$47,000 last season after starting that season as a L3. Won a midweek in March then 4 starts later started from 3 at 23/1, got away fast to lead over the short course 1730m, fast 1st qtr, still in charge but under challenge at the 400m, going strongly at the top of the straight and had just enough in the tank to hang on and win the \$20,250 Pace by a head in a lifetime best 1:55.0, last half 57.5.

Another mix of old and new and great to see success at both ends of the spectrum for the higher stakes.

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

How did the FILLIES AND MARES GO (April 2023)

Fillies and mares won 53 (30.3%) of the 175 races run in April 2023, which thankfully is a turnaround from the disappointing result for March. It is a reasonable result but below that of April last year (33.5%) which is the most relevant value given the change in racing pattern – April was previously a lead up month to the WA Oaks.

There were 26 fillies/mares races provided in April 2023 (one less than April 2022), with the majority of wins (27 wins, 15.4% of races) in open races. Wins included 11 (10 Westbred) at Community level, 31 (19 Westbred) wins in \$9,000 level races, 2 (both Westbred) mini features or Heats and 8 (5 Westbred) standard metropolitan, or FFA or Group level races. April also featured the \$14,000 WASBA King-Lethbridge for Westbred Mares. Westbred fillies and mares won 70% of the races won by fillies and mares and 74% of their stakes.

There were 44 individual filly/ mare winners, from 25 sires. A good spread of sires represented by winners, with **Fly Like An Eagle** on top with 6 winners of 7 races, followed by **Sweet Lou USA** with of 4 winners of 6 races. For the first 4 months of the season Follow The Stars has produced 14 winners of 18 races, followed by American Ideal USA and Sweet Lou USA both with 7 winners of 15 races, Sportswriter USA (7 of 12), Betterthancheddar USA (9 of 11) and Mach Three CA and Fly Like an Eagle (each with 7 winners of 11 races).

There were 8 multiple winning fillies/mares in April 2023 – Westbred 4yos **Alta Queen** (Alta Christiano NZ), **Taking The Miki** (Always B Miki USA), **Extraordinary Mary** (Fly Like An Eagle) and **Make Your Mark** (Somebeachsomewhere USA). 2yo **Xceptional Arma** (American Ideal USA) also features as a dual winner, while NZ bred Eighteen Carat (Mach Three CA), Sista Sammy (Lincoln Royal NZ) and Sweet Ivy (Sweet Lou USA) also won more than 1 race.

There were 5 fillies/mares who took their first career win bonus home for their connections in April – 2yos **Liquidator** (Foreclosure NZ) won an open 2yo, **Manea** (Fly Like An Eagle) won a 2yo fillies, **Leni Rose** (Lennytheshark) won an open 3yo and 4yos **Pointprove** (Pet Rock USA) and **Syncopation** (Sunshine Beach USA) were successful.

Excluding “Fillies Preferred” races, 3 of the 11 2yo races were for fillies, including the WA \$50,000 2YO Fillies Gold Bullion Final. Four of the 18 3yo races were for fillies, including the WA \$50,000 3YO Fillies Gold Bullion Final. Another 19 races were provided for 3yo+ fillies and mares (5 of these for mares only) including 2 FFAs and 1 feature, as well as the \$14,000 King-Lethbridge at Pinjarra. If there are not enough, or not the right opportunities for your fillies or mares, please let us know so that we can take it forward.

Overall fillies won 12 races. Outside of races restricted to them, fillies won an open 2yo and 3yo race and 3 3yo and over races including an open race. Mares won 35 3yo and over races (23 open) and 6 (including 1 open) races for mares only.

Amongst the 41 wins by mares there were 18 wins by 4yos, 13 by 5yos, 6 by 6yos and 4 7yo winners. Seventy five percent of the wins were at the \$9,000 level and above.

There were 9 wins by fillies and mares (23.7%) at the prime Gloucester Park meetings as well as the mini feature win at Pinjarra in the WASBA sponsored \$14,000 King-Lethbridge. This is less than our metropolitan target of 3 wins per night.

Winners included 5yo Miss Boudica (Mach Three CA) in a \$26,000 Fillies and Mares FFA, and 6yo Eighteen Carat (Mach Three CA) in an open \$23,750 Pace and a \$26,000 Fillies and Mares FFA. The 5 WA bred winners of 6 races were:

♥ 3yo **Between Two Thorns – Downbytheseaside USA** o/o **Kiwi Rose USA (Western Hanover USA)**, breeders Kevin and Annette Charles, resumed in April to be 2nd in her heat of the Gold Bullion, then started favourite from 4, showed good gate speed to go straight to the lead, a length clear at the 400m and going nicely, in the clear into the straight and raced away to win the 1730m \$50,000 APG 3YO Fillies Gold Bullion Final by 3.2m in 1:57.8, last qtrs 29.6 and 28.1;

♥ 6yo **Run For Mercy – Pet Rock** o/o **Arousing (Western Terror USA)** breeder Jemma Hayman, another consistent season from this mare. Fourth at her previous start in the mares FFA then started from 4 as favourite over the 1730m sprint journey, settled neatly into the one out two back position, first to move 3 wide with a lap to go, stormed up to be a nose in front at the 400m, a half length clear at the top of the straight and eased down to win the \$9,000 Pace by 6.4m in 1:57.1, last half 57.8;

♥ 3YO **Sweet Vivienne – Sweet Lou** o/o **Quite A Sensation (Yankee Sensation USA)** breeder part owner Paula Petricevich. Third start for the season after a productive 2yo season. Started 2nd favourite from 4 in an open race. Deftly driven to be 3rd on the pegs after half a lap, another good move to be one out one back in the back straight the last time, into the clear coming off the back, 3rd and 3 wide into the straight and raced past the leader to win the 1730m \$20,250 3YO Fillies Pace by 6.8m in 1:56.8;

♥ 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, won her first two races this time in before a good 3rd in the Easter Cup, then started from 7 as favourite, restrained early before making a move to take the breeze position with 1400m to go, solid first half, under urging at the 400m to lead from the breeze, led into the straight and eased towards the end to win the \$20,250 Fillies and Mares Pace by 4.7m in 1:58.0, last half 58.3. Next up started from 1 on the 10m line in the 2503m \$30,000 Race For Roses Stand, got away brilliantly to be leading after 500m, led easily down the back the last time to record a dominant win by 8.4m in 2:00.9, last half 58.1;





- ♥ 2yo **Xceptional Arma – American Ideal** o/o **Arma Xpress (Artiscape USA)**, owner breeders Liam O'Connor and Jim Currie (Kemprust P/L), Second in the \$100,000 Sales Classic Final, won at her next start then 2nd in the Gold Bracelet, won her Heat of the 2YO Fillies Gold Bullion, then started a very short favourite from 2, raced to the lead with the field in single file, well in control down the back, clear into the straight and kept up the pressure to win the 1730m \$50,000 APG 2YO Fillies Gold Bullion Final by 6.5m in 2:01.0, under a good hold, last qtrs 30.2 and 27.8.

Ages spread from 2yo to 6yo for metropolitan winners is great for connections.

Total stakes paid to fillies and mares in April 2023 was \$624,000, which unfortunately was \$100,000 less than the same month last year. By way of explanation, April 2022 produced one of the best results ever for fillies and mares, and there were 15 more races run in the month. Westbred fillies and mares did not suffer the same decline – just \$30,000 less than the same month last year. With the Nullarbor included in April results it does throw all the percentage statistics for dollars earned so looking at them is not relevant.

The number of fillies and mares who raced in April 2023 (205) was a reduction of 12 compared to the previous month, and 8 less than April 2022.

The good news is the Westbred fillies and mares only dropped by 1 compared to April last year. Westbreds contributed 93% of 2yo fillies, 85% of the 3yo fillies and 77% of mares. Westbred fillies and mares won \$624,000 in stakes and \$80,000 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 :

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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
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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

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 31 **May 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 .
- Write to WASBA at PO Box 3237 EAST PERTH WA 6892.
- OR you can **PM us on facebook** or use **Messenger** to get in touch.

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