JB'S JOURNAL



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BUSY TIME AHEAD WITH



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR RACING

The festive season racing always throws up winners for the stable and I think this year will be no exception. With racing at Rotorua, Taupo, Hastings, Tauherenikau, Otaki & Wellington late December and early January in the Central District, there are plenty of opportunities for the stable runners.

At Rotorua on the 27th we have Knight's Princess and The Bandito. Knight's Princess has run two very good 2nd placings last two starts and has continued to impress in her training. The Bandito ran 4th in a blanket finish at Trentham last start in a strong field and we're looking forward to seeing him run more than 1400m for the first time.

Taupo on Friday the 30th sees another from the stable getting over more ground. **Tiger Tim** has 4 wins from 14 starts and being out of a Zabeel mare has always looked like time and more ground may be his friend. He's running over 1950m for the first time in the Taupo Cup.

Xcuses Xcuses won at this very meeting last year and will contest the Rating 75 1200m. Although not big in size she's big in heart and I expect her to be giving them a shake-up at the business end.

I've mentioned **Steppenwolf** in previous newsletters and think he's a very good horse in the making. Good tracks are his friend and they've been a bit sparse until the last couple of weeks...but he's ready to race and Taupo will suit.

With nine horses at **Hastings on New Year's Day** it's going to be a busy one... but it's always fun being here with a big crowd on this family day supported by Russell Roads and the Russell Family.

Headlining the team is **Mae West.** Looking at her past record we're coming into her time of the year and she'll run in the Open Hcp 1300. Her main aims this prep being the Group 3 Thompson Hcp at Trentham on 14 January and the Listed WFA Wairarapa Breeders Stakes at Tauherenikau on Waitangi Day. She finished 3rd in both of these races last year earning Black Type for her pedigree page.

Notionannagins will run in the Rating 75 1600m....with two 3rd placings in her last two outings she's hitting form at the right time. With two previous wins over this distance there will be no one cheering louder on the course than her syndicate if she gets up. They love their racing and love even more the celebrations afterwards.

High Spirits didn't have the best of luck in her last race getting well and truly boxed in at the top of the straight when everything else was moving. But this is racing and you have to take that on the chin. But if she gets the run on New Year's day I think we might see something out of the box. Out of a Montjeu mare she will as they say, "stay longer than the Mother-In-Law"... the 2100m trip holds no concerns.

O'Reilly's Choice is back after freshening up and will run in the Rating 65 1400m. Disregard his last start at Otaki as following blood tests he was found to have an infection. I still have the Group 1 Levin Classic at Trentham in sight for him. Raced by Chris and Ken Russell, the sponsors of this raceday, it would be brilliant to see him first across the line.

Bob'sthejob ran on strongly for 2nd placing at the last Hastings meeting and I'm looking forward to seeing him over 1600m for the first time. He's got a good finish and has shown he needs to be ridden cold to show his best.

Shezachoux looked like she sprouted wings over the last 75 metres to finish 4th at Waipukurau earlier this month. As with a lot of horses, raceday experience has helped her relax...and conserve that energy she has for the right end of the race. **Mocca** is another three year old filly in a similar situation. With just two raceday starts it looked like the penny dropped in the final 200m of her last race and she made up good ground after being last on the turn. Both in the Maiden Fillies and Mares 1400m

Chouxperb's last three race commentaries read: 8th 3 wide cvr, 7th 3 wide open and 3rd 3 wide open with barrier draws 11, 12 & 7. If Santa's reading, all he wants for Christmas is a good barrier draw and a good ride in the Maiden Three Year Old 1200m. By the way....he's been a good horse this year! It would be great to see him win here at Hastings where his Daddy performed with such distinction for us.



This lets me segue nicely into the next thing....for those who have been with the stable a while you may remember this photo from Christmas a few years ago....and you'll definitely remember the horse...JIMMY CHOUX. He's now embarked on what is looking like a successful stud career... and we're looking for another just like him......aren't we all! ©

Unfortunately horses like him aren't lying around on the ground saying "pick me...pick me" but every year there are horses bred in New Zealand who go on to win major Group races here and in Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong....many of them purchased at the Karaka Yearling Sales in January.

I've been to a number of yearling parades over the last month in preparation for these sales and have seen some fantastic types catalogued in the Premier and Select books.

If you're interested in purchasing or being involved in a syndicate please contact me prior to the sales and we can discuss the options...John 021 405 723 or phone Mike Sanders 021 273 4269

Thanks to everyone who responded to the chance to be in the syndicate for the O'Reilly/Princessabeel filly. The Waterford Syndicate is now fully subscribed! She's already showing a desire to be in front on the training track and I'm looking forward to seeing it on the racetrack next year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to you and yours over the festive season, eat well, <u>drive</u> <u>safely</u> and I look forward to catching up with you in the Winner's Circle.



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JB



STOP PRESS!

HUGO THE BOSS WINS

Yesterday afternoon Hugo showed on the racetrack what we've seen on the training track; winning over 1400m at Tauranga. Although he received a couple of checks early in the running jockey Cameron Lammas settled him at the rear of the field. Third last at the top of the straight the horse to his inside makes contact and he's pushed out. Not deterred Cameron plots and inside path, spots the gap and Hugo accelerates up the straight sustaining a strong gallop to the line winning by a long head. His syndicate members quietly show their appreciation....YEAH RIGHT. Congratulations everyone \odot

Planning to head to the Group 1 Levin Classic at Trentham - Saturday 14 January