



STABLE CONTINUES ITS HOT RUN THROUGH DECEMBER AND JANUARY



HUGO THE BOSS 1ST 9/12/2018

CHAMPAGNE BRIDE 1ST 12/12/2018

THE FUGITIVE 1ST 22/12/2018



MISS LABASA 1ST 5/1/2019

HUGO THE BOSS 1ST 12/1/2019

THE BANDITO 1ST 12/1/2019



KING LOUIS 1ST 26/1/2019

HUGO THE BOSS 1ST 26/1/2019

What a great two months for the stable with 8 winners since the beginning of December. I'm very pleased to currently sit 16th on the Trainers Premiership and have the second best strike rate to runners in the country of 5.69....16 wins from 91 starts.

HUGO THE BOSS

Hugo The Boss has been the star of the show over the last two months with three wins from four starts and he got the ball rolling at Waipukurau early December. As we'd discussed pre-race, apprentice Madan Singh quickly got him out of the barriers and pushed him to the lead. This has always been the place Hugo's been most happy in his runs and he bowled along contentedly with the field in pursuit. At the top of the straight Madan slipped him a bit more rein and he slipped ahead by a couple of lengths with the challengers closing. But with a furlong to go the winning of the race wasn't in doubt and he stopped the clock in 1.10.07 for the 1200m trip.

The best thing about this run was how well he pulled up after the race, and although a little tired over the next couple of days it wasn't long before he was hooning around the paddock again in a way only Hugo can.

Win number two came at Trentham, a course with mixed memories for his syndicate. In his second race there as a two year old the barrier gates swung back after opening, knocking him fair square on the side of the head. Most likely a little concussed he didn't race well and he was declared a non-starter by the Stipendiary Stewards.

But on the 12th of January no such problems happened and Hugo showed he's finally figuring this racing game out. Chris Johnson was riding him for the first time and his experience and 2350 career wins were clearly evident where from his wide barrier draw he got him outside the leader, but more importantly had him relaxed in the running. Over the crossing the pressure went on and the leader gained a length advantage with 300m to go. But Chris and Hugo weren't about to lie down and it ended up being a ding dong go up the straight with Hugo prevailing in the last strides to gain his first Trentham win.

Fast forward to last Saturday 26 January. I'm in Auckland with Miss Labasa and King Louis and two of my team, Graham Wainwright and Tayla Hall are back at Wellington with Hugo. With Chris riding at Riccarton I was fortunate to gain the services of Craig Grylls who has recently returned from Singapore. In what could have been a carbon copy of a fortnight ago Craig had Hugo in virtually the same position and again challenging up the straight. And like the previous race the leader was no pushover, but watching it from my vantage point at Ellerslie it was immensely satisfying to watch a horse I've been spruiking for so long, dig deep and really stretch for the line.

A big thank you to his syndicate members....it's been an interesting ride so far and lets hope there are bigger and better things to come.

CHAMPAGNE BRIDE

Champagne Bride was bred by current Hawke's Bay Racing Chairman Eliot Cooper and he is racing her with a number of friends and friends of friends under the banner "Sasanof Syndicate". By Roc De Cambes out of a Traditionally mare she looks like a stayer and last year, with high hopes she embarked on her three year old career. But as they say "the best laid schemes of mice and men often go awry" and after five starts and not closer than 8th in her races it was clear she simply lacked the strength.

What a difference six months makes...bigger, stronger and with race day experience, on her return she ran two very good 4ths, followed by a 2nd and at Hastings on December 12th she converted this good form into her maiden win over 2000m.

Watching the looped replay in the "Winners Circle" with a glass of bubbles after the race, it was great to watch her syndicate members, some of them first timers, reliving the race again and again. Each time eyes glued to the screen, each time noticing something different in the race... and one thing was constant....the big smiles and laughter with friends. Tell me this isn't what racing a horse is about.

THE FUGITIVE & KING LOUIS

Both of these horses deserve their own write up, but as they're both owned by Richard & Liz Wood (Chouxmaani Investments) and wear the colours made famous by the champion Jimmy Choux I think it's apt to talk about them both together. Ownership in The Fugitive is also shared with their good friends Andrew and Lauren Scott of Havelock North.

The Fugitive arrived on the farm December 2017. Although well proportioned he was a little small, a bit slabby and looked like he'd need a bit of time in the paddock before he was broken in...let alone race. But quality time and quality feed here and back at Richard and Liz's farm after he was broken in saw a totally different horse arrive back at the end of June 2018.

The moment he got out on our track you could see he was moving well and it wasn't long before he was having a quiet run up. And then he was galloping with the other two year olds....and then the three year olds. His only trial at Foxton in September showed he was better than average winning by 3 ½ lengths over 600m.

His maiden start was at Awapuni on 22 December and he jumped quickly from the gates setting a quick pace to the 400m before kicking clear down the straight to win by 2 ½ lengths in a time of 1.06 for the 1100m trip. He's got a fantastic action and this was mentioned by commentator Tony Lee following the race, and he's seen a few in his time. Following this race he went to Trentham where he ran a courageous 2nd placing....courageous because when he got home that night he was very shin sore. He's having a 4 to 6 week break now but plan is to get him up for the Group 1 Manawatu Sires Produce Stakes 1400m.

King Louis on the other hand arrived here as a two year old looking like a three year old. Even now he's the heaviest horse in the stable at 552kgs. But if you saw him weaving his way through the field last Saturday in the Group 3 Mongolian Khan Trophy at Ellerslie you knew you were looking at an athlete. He reminded me of one of those good running backs in American Football....a blend of agility and speed who knows where the touchdown line is...in his case the winning post.

As some of you may have noticed watching the replay after he'd won I don't think I've been so excited with a win since Jimmy days. Exciting that a plan came to fruition, exciting that Jason finally got him to relax in the running, exciting for Richard and Liz and their son Michael who was there with us to experience this thrill.

Richard and Liz have been solid gold owners for us. They understand racing and it's ups and downs, they know how to read a race and they take it on the chin when things don't go right. To be frank, they've had their share of good ones and Liz told me the other day Richard has now won 19 Group races and 2 Listed since 1993. They deserve every one of them, as Richard has spent hours poring over pedigrees working out which stallions suit which mares...and he loves it. As Liz said "not bad for a hobby breeder"



THE BANDITO

3rd – 3rd – 4th – 2nd – 3rd – 2nd – 5th – 2nd – 2nd – 4th – 1st

I know I've written about The Bandito on numerous occasions in these newsletters....but his win at Trentham on the 12th of January was very special. Special because of the placings written above..... he finally got a win on his favourite racecourse, Trentham, at his 11th attempt.

He did it in his own inimitable style. Uncharacteristically slow out of the gates, jockey Sam Collett slowly worked him up outside the leader and tried to take a sit. But Smurf (as he's known at the stable) wasn't having it and pulled her to the lead where he relaxed and continued a nice rhythm. With 600m to go the pressure's coming on and he's travelling. Into the straight and the challengers are mounting and Smurf keeps up that rhythm. With 200m to go Sam gives him a couple behind the saddle and he finds another gear, accelerates and goes on to win by half a length from the fast finishing Henree Winkler.

His owner Heath Newton lives in Wagga Wagga, Australia and he's thoroughly enjoying the ride.... how could you not with such an honest horse who tries his heart out each and every time he goes racing. He may not be a champion....but he's a champion horse!

MISS LABASA

Miss Labasa came into her race at Awapuni on January 5th with two wins from two starts and couldn't have been more impressive in both of them. But with Sir Nate in the field who had run 3rd in the Group 1 2000 Guineas it hardly looked like a "lay down misere".

When we arrived she almost went to sleep in her box and come race time Johnathan Parkes went down to the gates early so she could relax away from the crowds. When the gates opened Parksey tried to get to the front quickly from her draw but two others had other ideas and kicked up underneath leaving him three wide. He elected to push forward and eventually got the lead after 450m. Once in front she settled into a good rhythm and around the corner Johnathan slipped her some rein and she put them to bed going away like a good one. Very smart time for 1400m of 1.22.08.

It's well documented she had a hoof issue after her Hastings win and I want to take this opportunity to thank my staff who spent so much time with her getting it right. It turned out to be a very deep seated stone bruise which with soaking and medication finally came right.

Last Saturday we took her to Ellerslie for the Three Year Old \$1,000,000 race. She jumped the gates and the plan went perfectly right up to the point where the horses that wrapped around her put on the brakes. Unfortunately she didn't settle and stayed on the bit. She made a brief dab at them at the top of the straight but the energy expended left her running on empty and she finish 4 lengths off the winner. Looking at the positives, she came through the race unscathed, she's seen Ellerslie and race right handed and she's still a very very good filly. Will be heading to the Lowland Stakes at Hastings on February 27th and all going well on to the Group 1 New Zealand Oaks in March.

A big welcome to the stable to Adrian and Takako Donaldson who live in Japan, David Wallace of the famed Wairarapa Wallace racing clan and Rob Kent and Vicki McLean from Tikokino who have all entrusted their horses to our care.

Last but not least....a big thank you to Peter Rubery of Race Images Palmerston North. If you've been to the races in the Central Districts you'll have seen Peter with a couple of cameras around his neck, standing by the winning post taking the shots for owners and connections which he kindly supplies for our newsletter.

All the best and I'll see you in the winner's circle.

JB

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