

Sunday 21 July 2019

## HELENA BABY TAKES OPUNAKE CUP



*Helena Baby is out on his own as he takes out the Listed Powerworx Opunake Cup at New Plymouth (Peter Rubery, Race Images Palmerston North)*

**P**rogressive galloper **Helena Baby (NZ)** (Guillotine) took the next step in his burgeoning career in stunning fashion when he simply decimated his rivals in Saturday's Listed Powerworx Opunake Cup (1400m) at New Plymouth.

Most pundits were expecting the four-year-old Guillotine gelding to prove competitive in his first crack in

open company but none could have predicted the dominance he would exert on his well-performed rivals.

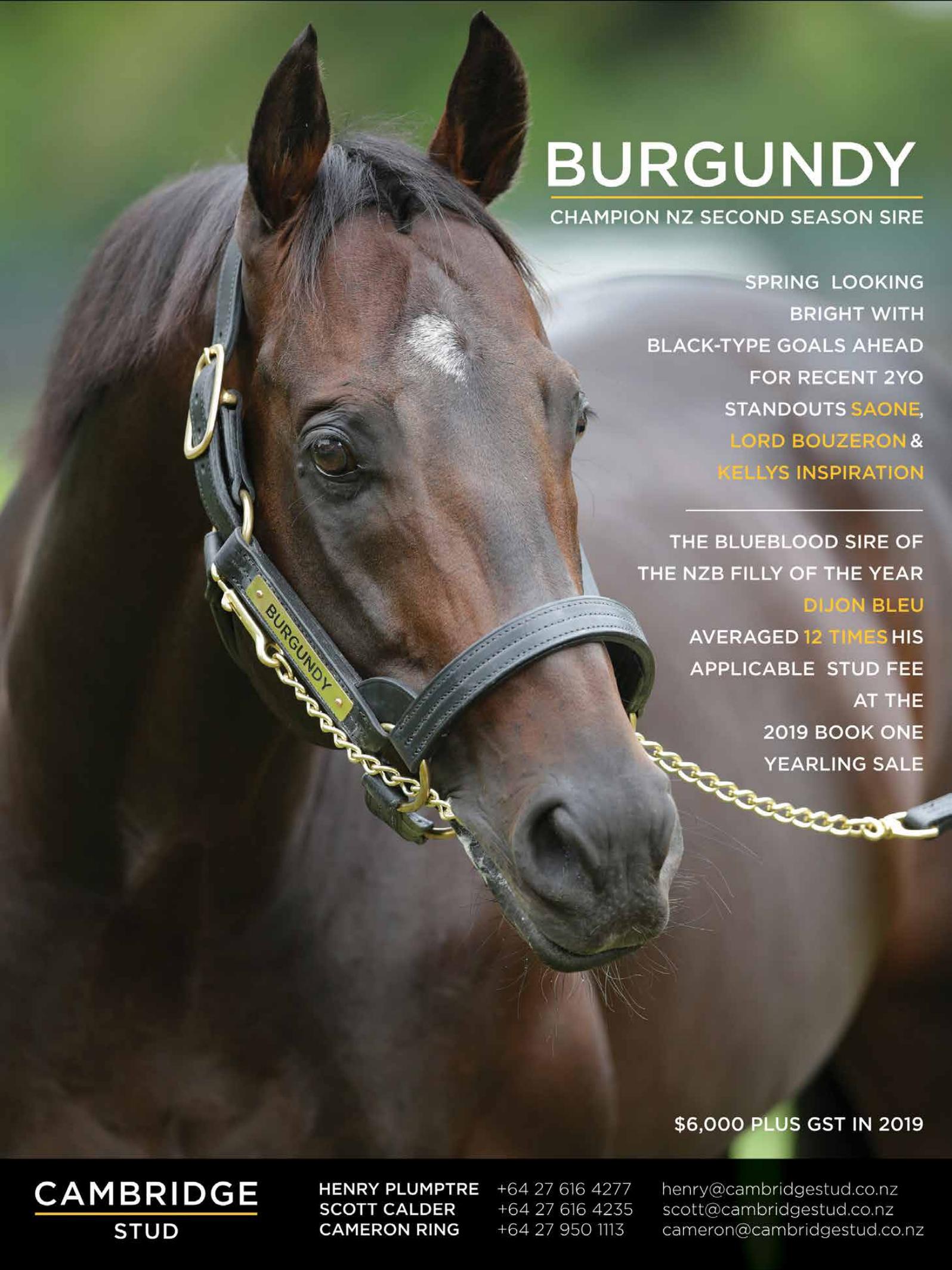
Rider Donovan Mansour, who had been aboard the John Bell-trained runner in all of his six career starts prior to Saturday's effort, made good use of an inside barrier draw to drive Helena Baby to the front in the early stages of the contest.

Allowed to dictate proceedings throughout, Helena Baby was traveling easily as he quickly established a three-length break around the home corner.

Mansour never had to draw the whip as he eased his mount down in the final 100m as they cruised to the line over five lengths clear of runner-

*Continued on page 3*





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# HELENA BABY TAKES OPUNAKE CUP

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up Rosewood (NZ) (Redwood), who made up good ground from last, with Herengawe (NZ) (Zed) out-finishing Red Sierra (NZ) (Redwood) for third.

“It is such a pleasure to ride something like this,” Mansour said.

“He is a special boy.

“I was doing rain dances all week as the wetter the better for him. He won on the heavy at Rotorua, which was pretty heavy that day, so he has proved himself on this type of track.

“He had to win well today as Mr Bell

has a nice programme mapped out for him.”

Owned by the Hong Kong-based duo of C Y Lee & Tang Hoi Lun, Helena Baby has now won five races in a row after finishing runner-up at his first two starts.

Bell has an ambitious plan for his charge with a start in the Gr.2 US Navy Flag Foxbridge Plate (1200m) at Te Rapa his next likely target.

Helena Baby is also nominated for the Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy (1400m) on

August 31 but would likely have to win or finish runner-up in the Foxbridge Plate in order to make the Hastings field.

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>TRI Powerworx Opunake Cup OPN L 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Helena Baby (NZ) 2014</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>C Y Lee &amp; Tang Hoi Lun</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>John Bell (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Guillotine out of Hot Stash (AUS) by Secret Savings (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Windsor Park Stud Ltd</b>





# MARSH CONFIRMS STAKES TARGET FOR TE RAPA WINNER

Speedy two-year-old **Sai Fah (NZ)** (Rios) booked himself a tilt at next weekend's Listed Ryder Stakes (1200m) with an effortless victory over 1100m at Te Rapa on Saturday.

The Rios gelding, sporting blinkers for the first time, settled just off the speed in the six-horse field before issuing his challenge for rider Michael Coleman shortly after commencing the run home.

Despite a tendency to lug in over the closing stages Sai Fah dashed well clear of the opposition as he won untouched by a conservative five length margin.

Trainer Stephen Marsh was pleased with the effort as he looks to back his charge up in the final black type race for the season at Otaki next Saturday.

"He's a tough little bugger as he won the first two-year-old

race of the season and is still going strong," Marsh said.

"His last couple of runs have been good but he lacked focus so we put the blinkers on.

"He sat nicely in third then took over and won very well.

"We'll back him up in a week now and run him in the Ryder."

The win also provided Michael Coleman with a belated birthday present after the well-respected horseman turned 50 on Friday.

"It was nice of Stevie to give me a birthday present," he said.

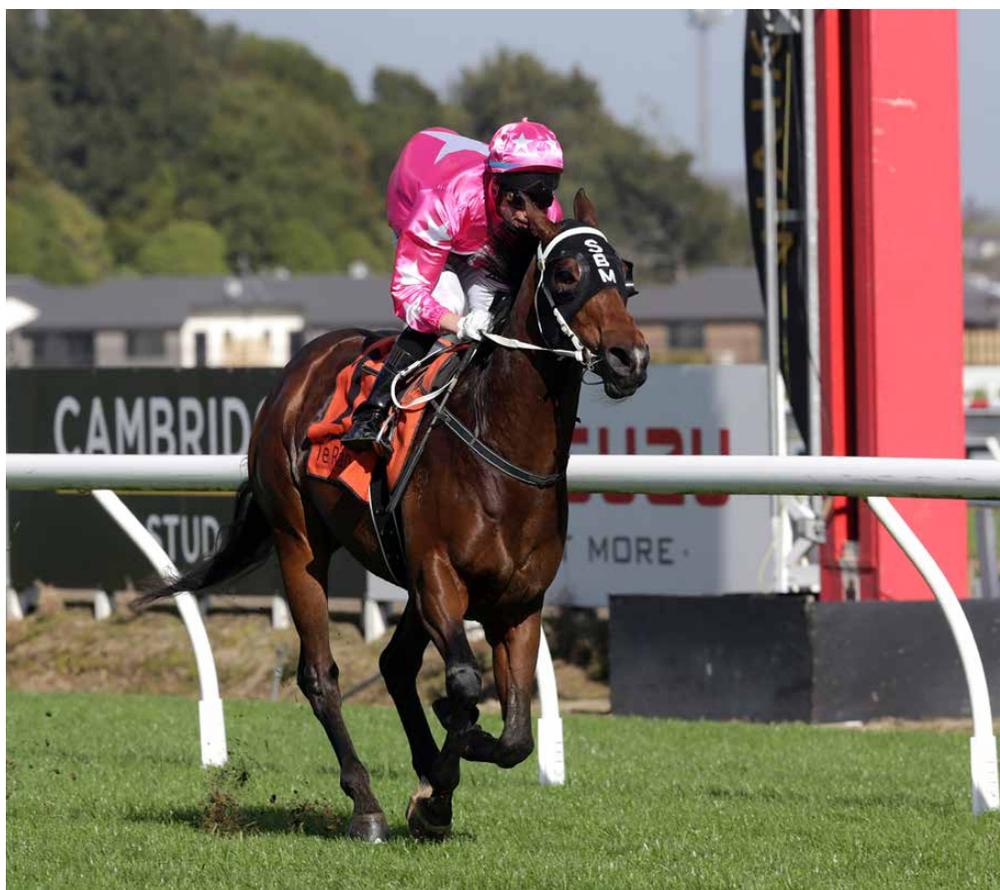
"They say you get better every year so now that I'm 50 I will be at my peak form.

"He (Sai Fah) improved with the blinkers on this time so it was excellent."

The victory took Marsh to just five short of the magical 100-

win mark for the season with another five northern meetings available to reach the milestone.

- NZ Racing Desk



<b>Race</b>	<b>WRC NZB Insurance Pearl Series Race 2YO 1100m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Sai Fah (NZ) 2016</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mission Downs Trust (Mngr: Geoff Brown)</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Rios out of Rongonui by Fast 'n' Famous (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Waikato Stud Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2017 National Broodmare, Weanling and Mixed Bloodstock Sale; V: Waikato Stud, P: Mission Downs Trust; \$6,000</b>

Sai Fah and Michael Coleman cruise to a comfortable victory at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)



## *Sweynesse is a chip off the old block*

**Darren Beadman**

*Sweynesse, is a son of former champion racehorse and super sire Lonhro. Beadman rode Lonhro in most of his 26 wins and he gets to work with many of that horse's sons and daughters at Godolphin.*

- A multiple Group One performer (2nd G1 Randwick Guineas, 3rd G1 Spring Champion) beating some of the best 3YO Group One winners in Australia including Kermedec, Preferment, Hampton Court, Shooting To Win, First Seal.
- Winner of first four starts including dual Group 3 wins in the Spring Stakes and Gloaming Stakes.
- A winner at only start as a 2YO.
- A top 3YO Timeform rating of 122 makes Sweynesse one of the top Australian 3YO colts of his year.
- By Lonhro -The Champion 3YO, the Champion miler, the Horse of the Year, and now a Champion sire. Lonhro set a new Australian record of 160 individual winners in a season. His son Pierro, unbeaten juvenile Triple Crown winner, was rated the best juvenile colt in Australia since 1977.
- Out of the multiple winning mare Swansea by Champion Sire Singspiel (5xG1 Winner and sire of 98SW).
- Sweynesse is a magnificent individual. He stands 16.2 hh. He has a powerful hind quarter, a strong shoulder and a great athletic walk. He is very correct.
- Sweynesse is syndicated amongst many of New Zealand's top breeders who are strongly supporting him at stud.



**Ray Knight**

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# ADMIRAL PROVES HARD TO CATCH AT TE RAPA

Free-going seven-year-old **Admiral (NZ)** (Align) bounced back to winning form with an all-the-way victory in open company at Te Rapa on Saturday.

The Stephen Ralph-trained gelding thrives on winter tracks and found the Heavy10 surface just to his liking as he set his race rivals a merry chase in the 1600m contest.

Rider Trudy Thornton had Admiral pinging along nicely in front throughout before applying the pressure with 600m to run. Thornton turned up the heat turning for home as Admiral slipped three lengths from his nearest rival.

Despite peaking in the final 50m, Admiral had done enough to stave off the challenge of hot favourite Sultan

Of Swing (NZ) (Bachelor Duke) with Crafty Jess (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) battling on gamely for third.

Ralph had been confident of a good performance from his charge but had his work cut out keeping co-owner Michael Hislop's enthusiasm in check during the mid-stages of the event.

"We thought he would go well

*Continued on page 7*



Admiral (black cap) leads throughout to win nicely at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)





# ADMIRAL PROVES HARD TO CATCH AT TE RAPA

*(Continued from page 6)*

last time but things didn't pan out with him running midfield but he was bright and ready to turn his form around today," Ralph said.

"I was watching the race with Michael (Hislop) and he started to get pretty excited when he was out by three lengths coming to the home turn.

"I kept telling him there was still 600m to run but we were both shouting pretty hard as they got closer to home.

"When I saw him prick his ears

at the 100m I knew the other horse wasn't going to get past him and he held him nicely."

Ralph will now look for a similar race in the next two weeks for his charge although he admitted he was a hard horse to place.

"He really needs the wet tracks and with so much racing at Ruakaka and here at Te Rapa he often doesn't get that at this time of the year," he said.

"We will take a look at the programmes and we could send him down the island if we can find

something suitable for him."

Ralph also reported stable stars Santa Monica (NZ) (Per Incanto) and Speedy Meady (NZ) (Swiss Ace) were coming to hand nicely as the pair prepared for their spring campaigns.

"Santa Monica and Speedy Meady had their first jump-outs at home on Friday," he said.

"They have both come up well and the hit-out will bring them along nicely.

"Santa Monica has thrived during her break and we are pretty excited about the prospects for both of them in the new season."

Santa Monica provided Ralph with his first Group One victory when she took out the Sistema Railway (1200m) at Ellerslie while Speedy Meady signed off his three-year-old campaign by dead-heating for first in the Gr.3 Cambridge Breeders Stakes (1200m).

– NZ Racing Desk



<b>Race</b>	<b>WRC Become A Waikato Racing Club Member 1600</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Admiral (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Michael Hislop, Stephen Ralph and Melanie Sutton</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Stephen Ralph (Te Awamutu)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Align (AUS) out of Pirate Queen by Smuggler (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>S A Seath</b>

*Te Rapa winner Admiral (Trish Dunell)*





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# INFERNO BLAZES HIS WAY TO AUSHORSE GOLDEN HORSESHOE WIN



*Inferno powers home to claim the Aushorse Golden Horseshoe. (STC)*

Exciting two-year-old **Inferno** (Holy Roman Emperor) lived up to his pre-race top billing to saunter to an authoritative win in the fifth and final Leg of the Singapore Golden Horseshoe series, the S\$250,000 Aushorse Golden Horseshoe (1200m) on Friday.

An impressive debut winner in the fourth leg, the Magic Millions 2YOs In Training Sale Stakes (1200m) 12 days ago, the Cliff Brown-trained and Michael Rodd-ridden son of Holy Roman Emperor made winning look academic after defying a wide trip without cover to still make light work of his 15 juvenile rivals with consummate ease inside the last 300m.

While some enthusiastic quarters might be accused of jumping to hasty conclusions, but the way Inferno obliterated the field in those familiar pink silks did bring echoes of

Brown's semi-retired superstar Debt Collector (NZ) (Thorn Park).

It's not because both are raced by the same combination of Brown, Rodd and Barree Stable of Glenn Whittenbury, but that electric turn of foot as they whip around their rivals from the point of the turn was just uncannily identical.

Held in midfield coursing out three to four deep, Inferno was a picture of absolute professional when he let down on cue at the top of the straight, never mind his inclination to hang in a touch – antics forgiven when you are a raw two-year-old who can't quite tutor the raw power and engine underneath.

Hotshots Slam (NZ) (Swiss Ace), who actually pinched

*Continued on page 10*





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# INFERNO BLAZES HIS WAY TO AUSHORSE GOLDEN HORSESHOE WIN

*(Continued from page 9)*

the \$16 favourite tag late from Inferno, was thereabouts from the get-go after breaking from a much handier barrier (three compared to Inferno's 17), and tried to muster a counteroffensive when Inferno came on terms on his outside at the 300m.

But as hard as Shane Baertschiger's No 1 hope from his quartet of runners tried for about 150m, there was just no stopping that fireball of Inferno.

After getting a cart from behind Inferno, Rocket Star (Star Witness) kept whacking away when peeled to the outside, but had to again play second fiddle to Inferno, and beaten by the same two-length margin (they finished in that order in the fourth Leg).

Hotshots Slam gave his all but wilted late to finish third another head away, a neck ahead of Count Me In (NZ) (Showcasing), who was ridden for luck from the awkward draw to run a creditable fourth.

Inferno, who was sold as a yearling through Westbury Stud's 2018 New Zealand Book 1 yearling draft, clocked 1min 10.76secs for the 1200m on the Short Course.

Brown was as usual not all that effusive in his post-race declarations even if that sense of anticipation and trepidation at Inferno's future endeavours was palpable.

"There was always a concern he was on a 12-day back-up. He had a lot against him going into the race," said the Australian trainer.

"You always get a bit swept in by the emotions after the win, but it was a great win today. I'll have to have another look at the race, there were a lot of horses who had bad luck in the run.

"It was also a tough win and he will go for a break now. I may bring him back for the Saas Fee Stakes (1200m) at the end of the year (November 10). It's a race for three-year-olds now."

Clearly blessed with the Midas touch on Friday, red-hot Rodd was at his fourth winner in a row. The affable jockey was

just gobsmacked by the way Inferno pulled his way into the race from the get-go to the line.

"I just wanted to keep him out of trouble early. There were a lot of quick horses on my inside," said the Australian jockey.

"I was three and a half wide, but he switched off so easy for me. He just rested out there and just travelled, he was never under pressure.

"Straightening up, I just wanted to get closer to JP's (John Powell) horse (Hotshots Slam) to see what he's got. We came next to him, and I thought we got there a bit too early, but he just went past him so easily.

"I just gave him a backhand. He laid in a little again, but he was better than at his last start.

"He's a remarkable horse, he's got such long big strides."

With that second win from as many starts, Inferno has already pocketed close to S\$175,000 in stakes earnings for the Barree Stable.

-STC

Race	STC Aushorse Golden Horseshoe 1200m
Winner	Inferno 2016
Owners	Barree Stable
Trainer	Clifford Brown (Singapore)
Breeding	by Holy Roman Emperor (IRE) out of Spina Rosa (AUS) by Redoute's Choice (AUS)
Breeder	Westbury Stud Ltd
Sales	2018 National Yearling Sales – Book 1; V: Westbury Stud, P: Cliff Brown Racing; \$140,000





# RIVER RADIANCE HANDS MOK WIN NO 200

**M**ok Zhan Lun seldom makes the headlines, but the soft-spoken trainer was for once basking in the limelight on Friday night after he brought up his 200th winner with New Zealand-bred gelding **River Radiance (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle).

While it's been a long and sometimes grueling journey to reach that milestone, the Singaporean handler was delighted it was behind him and he could now aim for other targets.

"I hope I can achieve more after tonight," said the former Foreign Exchange banker.

"I gave this horse a pretty good chance. It all depended on luck.

"He had the best jockey (Michael Rodd) on him. Michael told me after his trial that he was pretty confident the horse was in a good shape.

"Tonight, I left it to Michael to ride him the way he wanted. There is no definite position he has to be in."

Mok was given a champagne bottle of Moët by Association of Racehorse Trainers Singapore (ARTS) operations manager Debbie Hawkins for his well-earned achievement.

A three-year-old by Rip Van Winkle who was sold as yearling through Seaton Park's 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock draft, River Radiance ran an eye-catching second to Surpass Natural (Elvstroem) on debut in a Restricted Maiden race over 1000m.

In a change of tactics, Rodd took him straight to the head of affairs from Golden Kid (NZ) (Per Incanto) in the S\$75,000 Lim's Racer 2016 Stakes, a Restricted Maiden-1 race over 1100m.

Always travelling on the bit, River Radiance never gave his connections any anxious moments from the jump.

The Macau-owned River Radiance never showed any signs of letting up as he strolled in by three lengths.



*River Radiance scoots clear to an easy first win on Friday night. (STC)*

"River Radiance was probably my best chance (of a win)," Rodd said.

"I went forward just to keep him out of trouble.

"He's a nice horse, even if he can be a bit unsound, but he won a nice race tonight."

In two starts, River Radiance has already picked up prize cheques worth around S\$55,000 for Mr Ho Pui Kim.

-STC

<b>Race</b>	<b>STC MDN 1100m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>River Radiance (NZ) 2015</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mr Ho Pui Kim</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Zhan Lun Mok (Singapore)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out of Options by Casual Lies (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>J Newman Family Trust</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2017 National Yearling Sales – Select Sale; V: Seaton Park Pty Ltd, P: Mr Ho; \$35,000</b>





# DURIC CAUSES A REVOLUTION AND SAVES HIS NIGHT

**C**hampion jockey Vlad Duric rode **Revolution** (Unencumbered) like the best horse in the field and that was how he finished in the S\$70,000 Class 3 Super One 2015 Stakes, a Class 3 race over 1200m in Singapore on Friday night.

Whilst he was not the most fleet-footed customer out of barrier No 1, Revolution was allowed to settle worse than midfield on the rails before switching out three lanes to improve around runners as they neared the home turn.

Wassergeist (Fastnet Rock) loomed on the outside with what looked like a winning burst, but the much-hyped debut winner peaked on his run. It was at that very instant that Duric pushed Revolution through a gap from under the favourite for that decisive move.

The Unencumbered colt, who was sold through Kilgravin Lodge's 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready To Run draft, poked his head in front as he got a few tastes of the persuader from Duric. Dragon Duke (NZ) (Bachelor Duke) was still sticking around after he collared leader Burkaan (NZ) (Burgundy), but Revolution went a shade better before staving off a sizzling finish from Elite Conquest on his outside to prevail narrowly.

"This horse was unlucky at his last start when he ran third to Pennywise. Michael Rodd rode Pennywise

beautifully that day," said Duric.

"We got held up in behind, but tonight we got the breaks at the right time. He was the best horse in the race and he had fair luck in the race."

Winning trainer Alwin Tan was pleased he had not returned empty-handed this time around.

"He carried the topweight tonight. I told Duric he had to be patient, luckily, we won the race," said the Singaporean handler.

"Vlad is a top jockey as is Michael Rodd on my other horse, Robin Hood, but Revolution is a slightly better horse."

The smart three-year-old has turned into a handy moneyspinner for his Thai owners Falcon Racing No 7 Stable,

having now brought his total earnings past the S\$260,000 mark from his haul of five wins and five placings in 15 outings. -STC

<b>Race</b>	<b>STC C3 Super One 2015 Stakes 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Revolution 2015</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Falcon Racing No7 Stable</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Alwin Tan (Singapore)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Unencumbered (AUS) out of Sadler's Wish (AUS) by Not A Single Doubt (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Bell River Thoroughbreds, B Hogno, L Walker</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2017 Ready To Run Sale of 2YOs; V: Kilgravin Lodge, P: Mr K Chittaseni/ Waterford Bloodstock; \$150,000</b>



*Revolution outsprints his rivals to take out Race 7. (STC)*



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