

Sunday 16 June 2019

GILLIES CLAIMS FEATURE RACE DOUBLE AT AWAPUNI



Gallante in full flight on his way to victory at Awapuni (Race Images - Peter Rubery)

Former top-class flat performer **Gallante** (Montjeu) demonstrated his undoubted jumping ability when he ploughed through the Awapuni mud to capture the Manawatu ITM Awapuni Hurdles (2900m) on Saturday.

The 2016 Gr.1 Sydney Cup (3200m) winner joined Graeme, Debbie and

grand-daughter Bailey's Team Rogerson training partnership in late 2017 after being purchased from former owner Lloyd Williams.

The Montjeu gelding showed his prowess over the fences when winning his hurdle debut at Te Aroha last August before finishing fourth in the Great Northern Hurdles (4200m) in just his

second jumping start.

This season the eight-year-old was expected to play a major role in the hurdle features and demonstrated he will be a force to be reckoned with as he led throughout to score a hollow victory in the hands of Matthew Gillies.

Despite being taken on by fellow

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GILLIES CLAIMS FEATURE RACE DOUBLE AT AWAPUNI

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open-class flat performer Jochen Rindt (NZ) (Ishiguru) for most of the contest, Gillies was in no doubt he had his rivals well-covered the further the race went.

"It was effortless really," Gillies said.

"Emily (Farr on Jochen Rindt) keep kicking up and taking me on but he wasn't having any of that.

"He kept pulling himself up there and I didn't want to get stuck back on the fence.

"He's done a great job to finish off and I didn't really ask him to be fair, so it was a really really good effort.

"He was doing his own thing and I didn't need to push him as he was travelling that well."

Gillies made it a memorable double for the day when he claimed the second of the day's jumping features aboard the Kevin Myers-trained **Gagarin (NZ)** (Pentire) in the LJ Hooker Manawatu Steeplechase (4200m).

Gillies bided his time on the Pentire gelding who has been in good form this winter including a runner-up finish in the Waikato Steeplechase (3900m) back in May.

Sent forward to join issue with the leaders at the 1000m, Gagarin found plenty in the run home as he out-stayed a brave Zedace (NZ) (Zed) who had been in or near the lead throughout the contest.

"He was outstanding as I just thought I would bide my time out the back," Gillies said.

"I thought I'd ride him like Jo Rathbone or Isaac (Lupton) would (although) I've never actually ridden a race like that so Kevin (Myers) should be impressed as I think that is the best ride I've ever ridden for him.

"He's just a gutsy horse as he didn't quite like the ground but it was just his heart and fitness as he dug in that last 200m."

Gagarin, who was successful in the 2015 Great Northern Hurdle (4900m), has now won nine races and over \$257,000 in prizemoney from his 59 career starts.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	MRC Manawatu ITM Awapuni Hurdles 2900m
Winner	Gallante 2011
Owners	G A Rogerson, Butterworth Racing Syndicate, G R Wilson, T Lovejoy, J Tolley, C A Leishman, R R Ratcliffe, L Gurney & T Morrison
Trainer	Team Rogerson (Tuhikaramea)
Breeding	by Montjeu (IRE) out of Crazy Volume (IRE) by Machiavellian (USA)
Breeder	Lynch Bages Ltd & Camas Park Stud

Race	MRC LJ Hooker Manawatu Steeplechase 4200m
Winner	Gagarin (NZ) 2008
Owners	C J B Norwood & A S Trotter
Trainer	Kevin Myers (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Pentire (GB) out of Flying Chance by Centaine (AUS)
Breeder	C J B Norwood & A S Trotter



Gagarin (right) and Zedace are locked together as they jump the last fence in the Manawatu Steeplechase at Awapuni (Race Images - Peter Rubery)





HANGER BACK TO WINNING FORM AT RUAKAKA

An inch-perfect ride from Ryan Elliot has seen progressive galloper **Hanger (NZ)** (O'Reilly) return to the winner's enclosure when successful over 1400m at Ruakaka.

The O'Reilly gelding had been in indifferent form since winning first-up over 1200m at Awapuni back in January. A disappointing last start-performance at Te Rapa back in April saw trainers Roger James and Robert Wellwood give him time to get over that run and some impressive trackwork during the week had them confident of a bold showing.

Allowed to drift back from a wide barrier by Elliot, Hanger was giving the leaders a healthy start with 500m to run as the

field fanned wide approaching the home bend. Elliot hugged the rails with Hanger who produced a sustained finishing burst to snatch victory from local galloper Spider (NZ) Buffalo Man) by a bare nose as the pair hit the finish line locked together.

"It's great to see him back to winning form as on his day he has any amount of ability but he can do things wrong," Wellwood said.

"I wanted Ryan to let him find his feet early on and come with one run and he handled him perfectly.

"To be fair, where I was standing, I thought we were going

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Hanger (inner) is about to claim Spider as he surges to victory at Ruakaka (Trish Dunell)





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HANGER BACK TO WINNING FORM AT RUAKAKA

(Continued from page 4)

home with the consolation prize so to get the win was a surprise and a very pleasing one at that."

Wellwood will sit down with James to plan a schedule for Hanger over the winter months although they do have in mind a feature event in the South Island as a possible target.

"Now that he has found some form, I'm hopeful he can maintain that level," Wellwood said.

"He doesn't mind some cut in the track so we can pick and choose where we take him over the next couple of months.

"We have talked about the possibility of tackling the Winter Cup (Gr.3 1600m) at Riccarton in early August so we may look at a plan that can get him there as long as he is doing everything right."

Wellwood was philosophical with the performance of stablemate Killarney (NZ) (O'Reilly) who dropped away in the

home straight after giving plenty of cheek up until then.

"He (Killarney) has had his issues but we thought we had him somewhere near his best for today," he said.

"Obviously there is something not quite right with him so we will take him home and have him checked out as when he is at his peak, he would have been very competitive in a race like that."

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	WRC Northland Veterinary Group 1400m
Winner	Hanger (NZ) 2014
Owners	B J Lindsay Mnzm and Mrs J E A Lindsay and Waikato Stud Ltd
Trainer	Roger James & Robert Wellwood (Cambridge)
Breeding	by O'Reilly out of Do Ra Mi by Savabeel (AUS)
Breeder	Waikato Stud Ltd



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LONG TREK NORTH PAYS OFF FOR LITTLE AND LUCYINRIO



Lucyinrio strides away from Rikki Tikki Tavi at Ruakaka (Trish Dunell)

Central Districts raider **Lucyinrio (NZ)** (Captain Rio) produced a gritty effort at Ruakaka on Saturday to take out the main race of the day, the Trigg Construction sponsored open 1200m.

The stakes placed seven-year-old mare produced her usual trademark gutsy effort as she raced away in the closing stages of the contest after sitting outside the pace in the five-

horse field for most of the journey.

Rider Trudy Thornton punched Lucyinrio to a clear advantage with 200m to run and she maintained that break on her rivals as she cruised to the line just on two-lengths clear of local mare Rikki Tikki Tavi (NZ) (Tavistock), who started a warm favourite for the contest.

Effervescent trainer Kylie Little was all smiles as she waited for her

pride and joy to return to the Ruakaka birdcage.

"It's a long long way from home but today was worthwhile alright," Little said.

"We left her (Lucyinrio) up here with Denise Jeffcoat after her last start at Ellerslie so thank you to her as she has done a huge job with her.

"It was a super ride by Trudy as well,

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LONG TREK NORTH PAYS OFF FOR LITTLE AND LUCYINRIO

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just outstanding.”

Little intends to make the most of the winter meetings scheduled for Ruakaka over the coming months with plans for Lucyinrio to have her next start at the venue later in June.

“She will come back here in two weeks’ time (June 29),” she said.

Lucyinrio has now won five of her 38 career starts and has been placed on a further eight occasions including finishing runner-up in the Gr.3 Red Badge Spring Sprint (1400m) at Hastings and third in the Gr.2 Westbury Classic (1400m) at Ellerslie.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	WRC Trigg Construction 1200m
Winner	Lucyinrio (NZ) 2011
Owners	J R Griffith
Trainer	Kylie Little (Opaki)
Breeding	by Captain Rio (GB) out Forever Tango by Sound Reason (CAN)
Breeder	J R Griffith



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