

Sunday 31 March 2019

WALLER PULLS THE RIGHT REIN WITH ELLEEGANT



Verry Elleegant will press on to the Australian Oaks after her impressive Gr.1 Vinery Stud Stakes win (Bradley Photographers)

Chris Waller was quick to quash any thought of **Verry Elleegant (NZ)** (Zed) backing up against the males in the Australian Derby (2400m) after the filly gave him his first Gr.1 Vinery Stud Stakes (2000m) win at Rosehill.

Starting the well-backed \$2.05 favourite, Verry Elleegant was allowed

to find her feet early and, significantly, she settled well for jockey James McDonald before storming down the outside for a dominant 1-3/4 length win over the fast-finishing Frankely Awesome (Frankel).

Waller confirmed Verry Elleegant would press on to the Gr.1 Australian Oaks (2400m) in two weeks and said

he would not entertain an Australian Derby start.

"No. I don't think she likes the seven-day back-up, hence the reason why she didn't run in the Australian Guineas," Waller said.

"The Oaks will do."

Waller inherited the former Darren

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SOUTH ISLAND

/// 2019

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WALLER PULLS THE RIGHT REIN WITH ELLEEGANT

(Continued from page 1)

Weir-trained filly, who was initially prepared by Nick Bishara in New Zealand, this campaign and was happy to see her produce her best after tinkering with her gear.

Verry Elleegant has an unusually high head carriage and has at times brought herself undone by over-racing.

She still wasn't perfect in scoring a last-start Gr.2 Phar Lap Stakes (1500m) win so Waller removed her nose roll and added ear muffs to her racing gear and it paid dividends.

"She's very smart, she obviously just needed a bit of working out," Waller said.

"Having the confidence to take gear off and put extra gear on is easy when you're training winners."

Very Elleegant was the first of two Group One winners for McDonald who also claimed the Tancred Stakes on Godolphin's Avilius (Pivotal).

The jockey had no doubt the gear changes made a difference to Verry Elleegant but felt the addition of blinkers could take her to another level again.

"It was a masterstroke putting the ear muffs on, incredible," McDonald said.

"I could have had her anywhere, she relaxed so well.

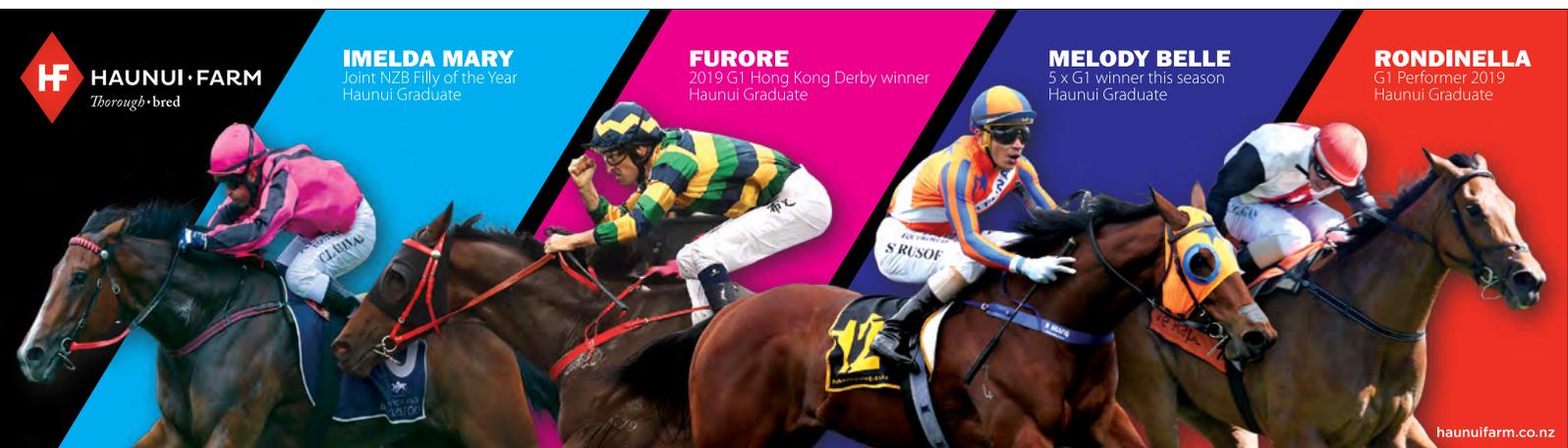
"But she might need blinkers now. She hits the front and goes left, right - she thinks the job is done."

Verry Elleegant was one of two Group winners for Grangewilliam Stud's resident stallion Zed, who also

sired Jackstar (NZ), winner of the Gr.2 City of Palmerston North Awapuni Gold Cup (2000m) earlier in the day.

-AAP

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | ATC Vinery Stud Stakes, Gr.1 2000m |
| Winner | Verry Elleegant (NZ) 2015 |
| Owners | Owners Jomara Bloodstock (Mgr: M Carter), Ellee Syndicate (Mgr: J D Goodwin), Balmerino Racing (Mgr: J Rosham), M Wanzare, T K Barry, B F Sokolski, A Kheir, K M Stocker, Honeycomb Stud (A Whittingham), J O'Neill & V Kheir |
| Trainer | Chris Waller (Rosehill) |
| Breeding | by Zed out of Opulence by Danroad (AUS) |
| Breeder | J D Goodwin |



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YOURDEEL COMPLETES GROUP ONE DOUBLE



Yourdeel and rider Opie Bosson have the situation under control at Awapuni (Peter Rubery, Race Images)

Flashy youngster **Yourdeel (NZ)** (Dundeel) produced a performance that had to be seen to be believed as he stormed home out wide to capture the Gr.1 Courtesy Ford Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes (1400m) at Awapuni.

The Jamie Richards-trained two-year-old had entered Saturday's race as a warm favourite following his gutsy win on a wet track in the Gr.1 Sistema Stakes (1200m) at Ellerslie earlier in the month.

Shooting for a victory that would complete the set of Group One two-year-old events in New Zealand each season, the Dundeel gelding looked a forlorn hope at the top of the Awapuni straight as he spotted pacemaker First Rock (NZ) (El Roca) a conservative eight lengths.

First Rock was still in front with 150m to run but the challengers were coming out wide with Yourdeel and Aretha

(NZ) (Charm Spirit) leading the charge.

Rider Opie Bosson had Yourdeel in full flight at the 50m as he blazed past his rivals to score by just on a half-length with Aretha snatching second from a gallant Bella Mente (NZ) (El Roca) who clung to third from Aalaalune (NZ) (Reliable Man).

Richards was still catching his breath as he reflected on the winning run, admitting he was actually watching stablemate Equinox (NZ) (Exceed and Excel) who was contesting the lead for most of the home straight before weakening in the final stages.

"I was actually watching Equinox halfway down," he said.

"He (Yourdeel) has really stood up and raised the bar this season hasn't he, he's quite an incredible horse.

"The way he worked on Tuesday, I didn't know if we

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YOURDEEL COMPLETES GROUP ONE DOUBLE

(Continued from page 4)

were going to be here or not, but it was a great effort by the team at home and that man on top (Bosson), who is such an important part of our team."

Richards also reflected on the path Yourdeel had taken over his campaign which started with a victory at Te Rapa back in December.

"He's taken a fair bit of making," Richards said.

"He was very colty in the spring then got laid back and started to overdo it.

"He's done a fantastic job though."

Bosson also admitted he had some dark thoughts during the running of the race when he found himself near the rear of the field with just 600m to run.

"We just wobbled around the last corner and even across the top I was thinking 'Jamie is going to kill me,'" he said.

"I'm just so lucky he (Richards) is a champion trainer as he got this horse back on track after his ordinary gallop on Tuesday.

"Once I balanced him up, he changed leg and really charged to the line. I dropped my inside rein, so he did it all on his own.

"He's a top-quality horse who is going to be exciting at three (years old)."

Trained by Jamie Richards at Matamata, Yourdeel was originally bought as a pin-hooking opportunity by Little Avondale Stud out of Dan Myers' draft at the 2017 National Weanling Sale. Presented at the 2018 National Yearling Sale at Karaka by Little Avondale, he was knocked down to the \$100,000 bid of Chris Rutten who shares in his ownership with John Norwood and Rod Preston.

– NZ Racing Desk

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Race | MRC Courtesy Ford Manawatu Sires Produce Stakes, Gr.1 1400m |
| Winner | Yourdeel (NZ) 2016 |
| Owners | C A Rutten, C J B Norwood & R N Preston |
| Trainer | Jamie Richards (Matamata) |
| Breeding | by Dundeel out of Miss Zapper (AUS) by Red Ransom (USA) |
| Breeder | D J Myers |
| Sales | 2017 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Bloodstock Sale; V: D. J. Myers, P: Little Avondale Stud; \$30,000 – 2018 National Yearling Sales – Book 1; V: Little Avondale Stud, P: Chris Rutten Bloodstock; \$100,000 |



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JACKSSTAR BACK TO WINNING FORM ON HOME SURFACE

Former Wellington and Auckland Cup placegetter **Jacksstar (NZ)** (Zed) made an emotional return to the winner's enclosure when he out-stayed his rivals to capture the Gr.2 City Of Palmerston North Awapuni Gold Cup (2000m) on his home turf on Saturday.

The Awapuni-trained galloper has had nothing but bad luck since finishing a gallant third in the 2018 Gr.1 Auckland Cup (3200m), in the process sustaining a serious tendon injury.

Off the scene for over eighteen months the Zed gelding resumed in November last year, with a steady build-up aimed at the 2019 Gr.2 Wellington Cup (3200m) in January. Bad luck struck once again with a pulled shoe during the running accounting for a lack-lustre effort in the two-mile feature whilst he also missed a run in the Gr.1 Auckland Cup (3200m) after suffering another niggling injury when finishing fifth in the Gr.2 Avondale Cup (2400m) in February.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | MRC City of Palmerston North Awapuni Gold Cup, Gr.2 2000m |
| Winner | Jacksstar (NZ) 2011 |
| Owners | Mrs C A & P M Algie, Mrs C & R Wilkie |
| Trainer | Gary Vile (Awapuni) |
| Breeding | by Zed out of Star Guest by Pentire (GB) |
| Breeder | Mrs C A & P M Algie |

Unsung since that Avondale Cup run, Jacksstar wasn't amongst the favoured brigade for Saturday's contest despite his liking for his home track and the Good3 surface on offer.

Handled superbly by rider Chris Johnson the hardy son of Zed capitalised on a perfect run in transit to outstay his main challenger, Sampson (NZ) (Dubai Destination), over the final 200m to rack up his seventh career victory.

Trainer Gary Vile was struggling to keep his emotions in check as he outlined what the horse had been through over the last two years.

"That's as good as it comes," Vile said.

"To get this horse back after where he was two-years ago is unbelievable.

"He was spot on for the Auckland Cup (March 2019) after pulling a shoe in the Wellington Cup, where he pulled up sore.

"The Avondale Cup run was terrific but then he got a bit of a knee complaint.

"Through my vets, Vivienne (partner Vivienne Kaye) and my staff, we got him here."

Vile candidly admits there is no love lost with his charge, who can prove a handful around the stable.

"He's not really (a stable favourite), he's a horrible horse," he said.

"He's a really hard horse to train but he's one of the better ones.

"His work had been great and he's a true-blue stayer who likes a good track.

"He will go to the Hawke's Bay Cup now and that will be his lot."

The Listed Hawke's Bay Cup (2200m) is the feature event at Hastings on April 13.

The victory has taken Jacksstar's career record to seven wins from 39 starts and over \$332,000 in stakes earnings.

- NZ Racing Desk



Injury-prone galloper Jacksstar snares the Gr.2 City Of Palmerston North Awapuni Gold Cup for his biggest career victory (Peter Rubery, Race Images)



The *anatomy* of a
GROUP ONE WINNING
SON OF FASTNET ROCK

Rock 'n' Pop

SERVICE FEE: TBC

Million dollar looks

A \$1 million Karaka Sale topper, he was one good looking yearling and has let down into a magnificent stallion

Strong, well-rounded back end

A prominent feature seen in his multiple Stakes performers, including dual Group winner Surely Sacred as well as Gold Spice, Go Dixie, Rock 'n' Affair and The Lord Mayor

The ultimate blueblood

By champion sire Fastnet Rock, his dam Popsy, by Sir Tristram was a dual Group One winner

Muscular, athletic frame

The perfect asset for stamina and speed. As a three-year-old, he won the Group One NZ 2000 Guineas and Listed Karaka Mile over 1600m and was runner-up in the Group One NZ Derby over 2400m

Correct and well balanced

A trait so frequently seen in his beautifully put together progeny which have sold for up to \$220,000



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BAKER/FORSMAN QUINELLA IN MANAWATU CLASSIC

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman stable's four-pronged attack on Saturday's Gr.3 Higgins Concrete Manawatu Classic (2000m) at Awapuni paid a handsome dividend when they emerged with the quinella in the event.

Punters were of the opinion that the Cambridge operation would provide the winner of the race as they installed royally-bred Tavistock filly Spring Delight (NZ) as favourite ahead of her stablemate, **The Chosen One (NZ)** (Savabeel).

As it panned out that judgement proved spot on with Spring Delight hitting the front halfway down the Awapuni straight before succumbing to the powerful late burst of The Chosen One who finished strongly from a mid-field position in the hands of rider Troy Harris.

The Chosen One was having his first start since copping a battering during the running of the Gr.1 New Zealand Derby (2400m), with the performance giving his connections food for thought about a lightning raid across the Tasman to contest next weekend's Gr.1 Australian Derby (2400m) at Royal Randwick.

"We will have to have a think about that (contesting the Australian Derby)," Murray Baker said.

"If he was to go to Randwick, we would have to fly him over on Tuesday.

"I was confident of a big run today (though).

"I thought they all had a show as they were fit horses and had run well



The Chosen One defeats stablemate Spring Delight at Awapuni (Peter Rubery, Race Images)

with their previous form.

"It's always good to come back and race (and win) here."

Baker was also delighted with the performance of Spring Delight who was backing up from an impressive victory against the older horses over 2100m at Tauranga last weekend.

"She (Spring Delight) had won well at her last start," he said.

"She had a good draw and got a nice run.

"It was a good effort, especially for a filly.

"We'll have to have a think about where we go next with her."

Owned by a large group that includes his breeders, Joe, Martin, Ray and Tony Dennis, The Chosen One is by Savabeel and is the first foal of outstanding South Island racemare,

The Glitzy One (Flying Spur), who won eight races and was stakes placed on multiple occasions.

– NZ Racing Desk

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | MRC Higgins Concrete Manawatu Classic, Gr.3 2000m |
| Winner | The Chosen One (NZ) 2015 |
| Owners | R L Bonnington, A G, C P, G, K J, Mrs P A & P R Dennis, Miss J L Dunlop, D G Forde, P M Jeffares, P Johnstone, G R Miller, G J Popham, Ravelston Stud Ltd, G R Redington, T V Rider, Mrs N C Robertson & N Van Schaik |
| Trainer | Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge) |
| Breeding | by Savabeel (AUS) out of The Glitzy One (AUS) by Flying Spur (AUS) |
| Breeder | A G, K J, M C & P R Dennis |





THE BANDITO UPSETS IN FLYING HANDICAP

Free-goer **The Bandito** (Pins) delivered an all-the-way victory when he upset predictions in Saturday's Listed Bramco Granite & Marble Flying Handicap (1400m) at Awapuni.

Allowed to set the terms throughout over the 1400m journey, the Pins seven-year-old travelled sweetly for rider Samantha Collett. Collett had The Bandito humming with a full head of steam at the 200m mark and despite being challenged hard by a wall of runners in the final few strides, he clung tenaciously to the lead to hit the line a head in front of Beefeater (NZ) (Alamosa) with Magnum (NZ) (Per Incanto) close up in third.

"He was (defiant) wasn't he," trainer John Bary said.

"He gets in that mood and you have to ride him that way.

"It was a 12 out of 10 ride by Sam Collett as she didn't hustle him, just let him slide to the front and dictate terms with the light weight."

Bary was pleased to get the win after his charge had

proven his consistency throughout his current campaign.

"He's been good all season, strong and tough" he said.

"I think he ran 1.22 when he won down at Wellington (January 12) so we know he can do it.

"He's had a long season so he can go to the spelling paddock now."

Bary was also pleased with the performance of two-year-old The Fugitive (NZ) (Wanted) in the Gr.1 Courtesy Ford Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes (1200m) one race earlier despite the Wanted gelding finishing near the rear of the field.

"I was thrilled," Bary said.

The Bandito (inner) clings gamely to victory at Awapuni (Peter Rubery, Race Images)

"He went back (from a wide draw) and he (rider Chris Johnson) said he just blew out. He was only three and half lengths off them so you can follow him next year as he will be running in the big ones."

The victory by The Bandito continued the fantastic run of former Waikato Stud sire Pins, who passed away last year, with The Bandito becoming his ninth individual stakes winner this season.

– NZ Racing Desk

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | MRC Bramco Granite & Marble Flying Handicap, L. 1400m |
| Winner | The Bandito (NZ) 2011 |
| Owners | H Newton |
| Trainer | John Bary (Hastings) |
| Breeding | by Pins (AUS) out of Reputedly (AUS) by Quest for Fame (GB) |
| Breeder | Waikato Stud 2001 Ltd |
| Sales | 2013 National Yearling Sale – Premier Sale; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Mr JGG Bary; \$50,000 |





KIWI-BRED STARS AT ROSEHILL

Race fitness gave **Star of the Seas (NZ)** (Ocean Park) the edge over his rivals in The Championships On Sale (1400m) at Rosehill on Saturday.

The Chris Waller-trained four-year-old put in another honest performance and finished strongly to collect his fourth career win and is yet to run out of the money in eight starts to date.

The Trelawney Stud-bred gelding was destined for the sales as a yearling before the Cambridge based farm were forced to withdraw him due to issues on his pre-sale x-rays. He was sold off the back of a trial win when prepared by Clayton Chipperfield through bloodstock agent Phil Cataldo to Sydney based Tony Muollo.

"He's a good handy horse and owned by some good people," Waller said.

"He's a three-quarter brother to Spieth and we hoped he might be as fast as Spieth, he's not but he fights and that's

what we saw when he picked himself off the canvas today to win.

"You can't replicate that race fitness."

Jockey Kerrin McEvoy was equally impressed by the performance of the progressive galloper.

"It was a good effort," McEvoy said. "He had a nice run and handled the ground and is improving all the time."

-NZ Racing Desk

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | ATC The Championships On Sale 1400m |
| Winner | Star of the Seas (NZ) 2014 |
| Owners | A M Muollo, Three Hooks Seafood & D Sergi |
| Trainer | Chris Waller (Rosehill) |
| Breeding | by Ocean Park out of Stella Livia (GB) by Titus Livius (FR) |
| Breeder | Trelawney Thoroughbreds Ltd |



Star of the Seas continued his great run of form with a win at Rosehill on Saturday (Bradley Photographers)





Sunday 31 March 2019

RIGHT FORMULA UNLOCKS ATHLETICA'S TRUE WORTH

Athletica (NZ) (Tavistock) franked the improved form and mannerisms displayed over a trip at his last start to come away with a rousing win in the S\$50,000 Class 4 race over 1600m in Singapore on Friday night.

After the Tavistock four-year-old's flying second to Centenary Diamond (Kitten's Joy) at his last start when risen to the mile in similar Class 4 company on March 3, trainer Shane Baertschiger was right in sticking to the same journey.

Coupled with his instructions to jockey John Powell to avoid going around the outside, given his tendency to get a little above himself when exposed, the well-laid battle plan paid off when Athletica drove through the pack to emerge a one-length winner at the business end.

Storm Ryker (Proud Citizen) did seem to have the race all stitched up when he charged to the front at the top of the straight, but the move proved to be a fraction too soon.

Backed down to \$12 favouritism, Athletica held sway inside the last furlong to go and open his account for his owner, New Zealand real estate entrepreneur Tommy Heptinstall of Hong Kong champion Werther (NZ) (Tavistock) fame.

"This was the right race for him even if he gave the second

horse six kilos," said Baertschiger.

"He needs further. I've been a bit hard on him, putting him over the wrong distances. When we stepped him up to the mile at his last start, he ran super.

"That proves he is not as ungenue as most people think. He can only improve further.

"Tonight, I told JP not to go to the outside. He did the right thing by having that horse on his outside in the backstraight."

Powell echoed Baertschiger's opinion that the New Zealand-bred had been a tricky commodity to weigh up, but he was certainly not without some potential.

"He was probably a bit unlucky at his previous runs, even inconsistent," said the Australian rider.

"We were a bit worried he would go hard, but he settled nicely tonight. His mannerisms have been a fraction better with each start.

"After he was gelded, as it's often the case for horses who are gelded, he just needed three or four runs to get his confidence back."

A one-time winner over 1200m in New Zealand, Athletica now boasts a local record of one win and two seconds from

five starts for stakes earnings closing in on the S\$50,000 mark for Heptinstall.

In a rare combination with trainer Saimee Jumaat, Powell went on to ring up a riding double aboard \$130 longshot Red Riding Wood (NZ) (Redwood) two races later in the S\$38,000 Kranji Stakes D race over 1600m. -STC



| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | STC C4 1600m |
| Winner | Athletica (NZ) 2014 |
| Owners | Thomas Heptinstall |
| Trainer | Shane Baertschiger (Singapore) |
| Breeding | by Tavistock out of Limbea by Zabeel |
| Breeder | G Harvey |
| Sales | 2016 National Yearling Sales – Select Sale; V: Westbury Stud, P: Mr A R Campbell; \$150,000 |

Athletica broke his Singapore maiden on Friday night (STC)





Sunday 31 March 2019

HARDCORE BOUNCES BACK AFTER QUICK REGROUP

An upfront candid admission of a “stuff-up” can often help make amends in racing as trainer Cliff Brown and jockey Michael Rodd found out on Friday night.

Both men graciously put their hands up after the New Zealand-bred **Hardcore (NZ)** (All Too Hard) was an expensive failure at his Kranji debut in a Restricted Maiden race over 1400m on February 22, beating one home.

That night, the blinkered son of All Too Hard was posted in a prominent spot throughout, but was clearly a spent force when Rodd popped the question, ending up beaten more than 15 lengths.

Brown and Rodd took stock of the tactics behind the dismal run, regrouped and five weeks later, changed tack – and dropped the blinkers - in the S\$75,000 Restricted Maiden race over 1600m.

The results were like night and day with Hardcore winning on Friday by just a little under five lengths.

Backed at lukewarm odds of \$76, Hardcore is unlikely to carry such odds at his next start after such a rousing victory, even if Brown was his usual guarded self at the winner’s box.

“We rode him badly at his first run. He’s a horse who needs to find his feet and get home, but we made him go forward, just put him in it and it was a disaster,” said the Australian handler.

A change of gear and distance worked a treat with Singapore winner Hardcore (STC)

“He has always shown ability, but he took some time to mature. We put him in, put him out, put him in.

“He was a good chance tonight, but I never expected him to win this way. The field was okay without being outstanding, so we should be guarded.”

Rodd said that the step-up to the mile proved to be right up Hardcore’s alley, but he couldn’t be as certain before barrier rise.

“We stuffed up at his first-up run. We were probably thinking he might be too good,” said Rodd who rode him to an emphatic four-length barrier trial win before his Kranji debut.

“He did a bit of work to get up there, and it was ugly in the end. Tonight, the blinkers were off, he was back in the field and we let him rip

home.

“The 1600m was a query but it was a query for all the other horses as well, except maybe for one.

“He was strong to the line, and I think he has a nice future here.”

With that first win, Hardcore has already returned around S\$50,000 in prizemoney for his connections, the Hardcore Stable. -STC

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | STC Maiden 1600m |
| Winner | Hardcore (NZ) 2015 |
| Owners | Hardcore Stable |
| Trainer | Clifford Brown (Singapore) |
| Breeding | by All Too Hard (AUS) out of Lychee (AUS) by More Than Ready (USA) |
| Breeder | G Harvey |
| Sales | 2017 National Yearling Sales – Premier Sale; V: Westbury Stud, P: Spirit Bloodstock; \$60,000 |

