

Sunday 1 September 2019

MELODY BELLE REIGNS SUPREME AT HASTINGS



Michael McNab signals his delight as Melody Belle captures the Gr.1 Tazino Trophy at Hastings (Trish Dunell)

New Zealand's best mare, **Melody Belle (NZ)** (Commands), provided racegoers with another display of her undoubted class when she defended her Gr.1 Tazino Trophy (1400m) crown with an amazing performance to win on Saturday.

The five-year-old Commands mare, who kicked off a stunning haul of five Group One victories in the 2018/19 racing season with her win in the race twelve months ago,

showed she would be just as competitive at the highest level again this year with another sparkling effort.

An indifferent run first up in the Gr.2 Foxbridge Plate (1200m) at Te Rapa to open her campaign, combined with an outside barrier draw, saw punters tread warily with the Jamie Richards-trained mare, installing her as a loose second favourite behind her Te Rapa conqueror Endless Drama (Lope de Vega).

Continued on page 3





HAUNUI · FARM

Thorough · bred

IFFRAAJ

PROVEN G1 SIRE

- ◆ Karaka Million 2YO's
- ◆ Classic winning fillies
- ◆ Derby winning colts
- ◆ Sprinters, Milers & WFA performers
- ◆ G1 Broodmare sire

Service Fee \$25,000 + GST

BELARDO

CHAMPION 2YO OF EUROPE

- ◆ Dual G1 winner
- ◆ G1 performer at 2YO, 3YO & 4YO
- ◆ Rated 126 by Timeform
- ◆ The only son of LOPE DE VEGA at stud in Australasia

Service Fee \$12,000 + GST





MELODY BELLE REIGNS SUPREME AT HASTINGS

(Continued from page 1)

Expected to race in a handy position, that plan went out the window when she dwelt slightly at the start. Rider Michael McNab was forced to bide his time near last in a strung-out field as rank outsider Deerfield set up a hectic speed out in front.

McNab didn't panic as he eased his charge to the outside to track up Endless Drama and Wyndspelle (NZ) (Iffraaj) around the home bend before angling for clear running at the 350m. Melody Belle let down with a devastating sprint to collar Wyndspelle and Helena Baby (NZ) (Guillotine) with 50m to run as McNab rose high in the irons to celebrate the victory.

"This is just unreal," McNab said.

"With the work that has been put in by the whole Te Akau team, I had a good feeling.

"We stepped slow and I thought that was Plan A definitely gone as I was going to go forward.

"So, I went back and got in and across the top I saw Endless Drama out posted and I thought he would take me far enough (into the race).

"We chased him and then sucked up and sucked up and when she got out, she let rip – just an amazing horse.

"She's a no-frills type of horse and just a real warhorse."

Richards praised the effort by McNab, who Te Akau Racing boss David Ellis had taken under his wing after the jockey returned from an unhappy stint of riding in Australia.

"It was a no panic ride," Richards said.

"She stepped half a stride slow, but they went really good tempo which probably worked in our favour.

"A big thank you to Dave (Ellis) for taking Michael under his wing and getting his weight right, helping him with his attitude and keeping positive and I think you can see that in the way he rode today."

Richards admitted he had been second guessing himself after Melody Belle had been beaten first up at Te Rapa.

"I just kicked myself first-up as we needed to do a little more in her trial at Te Rapa," he said.

"She was beaten fair and square (in the Foxbridge) but I knew the 1400m was really going to suit her and she has done a terrific job.

"She's always been a poor eater but, as she has gotten older, she can handle a bit more racing. She came through that last race well, ate well and did everything right.

"She's just a champion."

Richards confirmed the mare would return to Hastings for the Gr.1 Windsor Park Plate (1600m) in three weeks before tackling the Gr.1 Livamol Classic (2040m) on October 5.

Bred by Marie Leicester, Melody Belle was a \$57,500 purchase by Ellis from the Haunui Farm draft at the 2016 Premier session at the National Yearling Sale.

Raced by the Fortuna Bloodstock Melody Belle Syndicate, the mare is the hot favourite to be crowned New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Horse of the Year at the annual award ceremony that will be held at Ellerslie racecourse on September 8.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Tarzino Trophy WFA Gr.1 1400m
Winner	Melody Belle (NZ) 2014
Owners	Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate (Mgr: John Galvin)
Trainer	Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Commands (AUS) out of Meleka Belle by Iffraaj (GB)
Breeder	Mrs N M Leicester
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sales – Premier Sale; V: Haunui Farm, P: Mr DC Ellis: \$57,500





QUICK THINKER WINS MING DYNASTY QUALITY

Nine years after combining to win the Gr.3 Ming Dynasty Quality (1400m) with Lion Tamer (NZ) (Storming Home), jockey Hugh Bowman and master Kiwi trainer Murray Baker were at it again with **Quick Thinker** (So You Think), who has surprised the stable to win his Australian debut.

Andrew Forsman, who now trains in partnership with Baker, said he expected Saturday's heavy Rosehill track to be against the three-year-old who was a betting ring drifter from \$7.50 to \$11.

But the son of So You Think showed his quality, digging deep to round up Curraghmore's New Zealand Bloodstock graduate Aspect Ratio (Declaration of War) and scoot away to score by two lengths.

"Hughie won this race for us on Lion Tamer a few years ago and he went on to do good things so hopefully this guy can do the same," Forsman said.

"We had no idea how he'd handle that (track). He'd had three trials leading into today at home on very similar conditions and hadn't really

gone that well

"He looked in a bit of trouble at the top of the straight, he still had a lot to do but he won with authority and that's the sign of a good horse."

Owned by OTI Racing, Quick Thinker's short-term goal is the Gr.1 Spring Champion Stakes (2000m) at Randwick on October 12, possibly via the Dulcify Quality (1500m) at Rosehill on September 14 and the Gloaming Stakes (1800m) at the same track two weeks later.

Bowman came away from his

Continued on page 5



Quick Thinker kicked off his Australian campaign with a Group Three win (Bradleyphotos.com.au)





QUICK THINKER WINS MING DYNASTY QUALITY

(Continued from page 4)

first race ride on the three-year-old impressed but stopped short of predicting he could reach similar heights to Lion Tamer, who went on to claim the 2010 Victoria Derby and Gr.1 Underwood Stakes the following year.

"I couldn't say no, but he's got a long way to go to be Lion Tamer," Bowman said.

"It was a really decent win by him. I don't think the stable was all that confident in the conditions but it's nice to have them proven wrong and he's a progressive horse."

Riding for the first time since a

heavy race fall at Randwick in April, Andrew Adkins was rapt with the performance of Aspect Ratio and said the John Sargent filly had a bright future.

Sargent has a knack for producing smart staying fillies and Adkins reckons Aspect Ratio could be his next.

"She didn't feel like she handled the track at all but she kept surging," Adkins said.

"It's good to be back and hopefully I can stick with her, she might be an Oaks horse in the future."

-AAP

Race	ATC Ming Dynasty Quality Gr.3 1400m
Winner	Quick Thinker 2016
Owners	OTI Racing (Mgrs: T Henderson & S Driscoll), D Honiss, J Boyd, A Boyd, L Webb, Ms D McKeown, Ms M Webb, C Hall, J Gleeson, M Gleeson, P Goodwin, R Koch, P Williams, J Spence, J & Mrs D Gurrieri, Sibling Rivalry, Maverick Racing, Centsless Synd & Cross Tasman Synd
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by So You Think out of Acouplamas (AUS) by Al Maher (AUS)
Breeder	Bowcock Bloodstock





Sunday 1 September 2019

CATALYST ALL CLASS AT HASTINGS



Catalyst is well clear as he hit the line at Hastings (Trish Dunell)

Flashy three-year-old **Catalyst (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) contributed to a huge day for The Oaks Stud owner Dick Karreman and his resident sire Darci Brahma, when he captured the Listed El Roca-Sir Colin Meads Trophy (1200m) at Hastings in emphatic fashion.

The Oaks Stud bred and raced three-year-old gelding Double Impact (NZ) (Darci Brahma) had opened his account in style with a dashing debut performance to win over 1000m at Ruakaka less than thirty minutes before Catalyst destroyed his three-year-old opposition at his first attempt at stakes company.

Exciting three-year-old filly Kali (NZ) (Darci Brahma), who is part-owned by Karreman, had kicked things off for the Oaks Stud supremo when winning the second race at Hastings, albeit in the inquiry room, after being second past the post following a rocky run in the home straight.

All three horses look certain to feature in the upcoming three-year-old spring features with Catalyst advancing his claim to start favourite in the Gr.2 Sacred Falls Hawke's Bay Guineas (1400m) on the last day of the Hastings carnival on October 5.

A lightning beginning from an outside gate saw rider Troy Harris settle Catalyst in behind pacemaker The Fugitive (NZ) (Wanted) within 100m of the start, where he travelled easily to the home turn. Harris sent his mount to the front at the top of the straight and he easily put three lengths on his rivals, a margin he maintained to the winning post, winning with a fair bit in hand from Equinox (NZ) (Exceed and Excel) and the late-closing Loire (NZ) (Redoute's Choice).

Trainer Clayton Chipperfield admitted he had been confident of a winning run until he saw the barrier draw on Wednesday.

Continued on page 7





CATALYST ALL CLASS **AT HASTINGS**

(Continued from page 5)

“Up until the barrier came out, I was very confident,” Chipperfield said.

“Once we got that draw, I thought typical as the last eight runners of ours have drawn outside.

“He’s a class horse though and he (Harris) bounced him out and had him handy which was perfect.”

The winner of two races from three attempts, Catalyst finished a well-beaten seventh on debut at Te Rapa, a run that Chipperfield was prepared to forgive after he turned that form around with a five-length victory at New Plymouth at his next start.

“I don’t think he liked the kickback at Te Rapa, as he was slow out, copped it in the face and just gave up,” he said.

“We knew he had a lot of ability, even though he flopped at Te Rapa, but when he won at New Plymouth, we knew we had something special then.

“We will come back here for the (Hawke’s Bay) Guineas and then we’ll throw a nomination in for the 2000 Guineas (Gr.1, 1600m) at Riccarton as well.”

Rider Troy Harris, who had won the previous race on impressive Matamata visitor Germanicus (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle), was thrilled with the performance by Catalyst who

did everything asked of him during the race.

“He just has a lot of untapped ability,” he said.

“I drew wide and was positive on him. He got there (the trail) and put himself to sleep and as soon as I asked him for a turn of foot, he gave it to me.

“I rode him early on in his two trials and I’ve always rated him. It’s a pleasure to get back on at the races.

“He reminds me of his old man, Darci Brahma, who I rode at the track and he is the spitting image.

“It’s scary to think how good he could be.”

The Oaks Stud and Darci Brahma continued their winning run just one race later when lightly raced mare Spring Bouquet (NZ) was successful over 1400m to register her second career victory.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	El Roca - Sir Colin Meads Trophy L. 1200m
Winner	Catalyst (NZ) 2016
Owners	D Karreman
Trainer	Clayton Chipperfield (Te Awamutu)
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of Evana by Entrepreneur (GB)
Breeder	The Oaks Stud





FLYING FIRST CLASS

NZB Airfreight provide a first class service with frequent and regular flights for your horse's that reach all corners of the globe, from Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Macau, Malaysia, Korea, Philippines, Japan, South Africa, USA and China.

You name the place, we'll get your horse there!



Flyers of Group One winners Bostonian, Humidor, Ladies First, Grunt, Savvy Coup, Shillelagh, Unforgotten and more! For first class service at economy rates, book your horse's flight with NZB Airfreight.

Contact the NZB Airfreight team today:

www.nzb.co.nz | sharon.mcdowell@nzb.co.nz | +64 9 298 0055



CLASS RISE FOR PENDANT AFTER CAULFIELD WIN

Danny O'Brien will test **My Pendant (NZ)** (Pins) at stakes level after the mare staged a last-to-first victory at Caulfield.

Under a cool ride by Damien Oliver, My Pendant was last on the home turn before overpowering her rivals to win Saturday's Clanbrooke Racing Handicap (1400m).

Race	MRC Clanbrooke Racing Handicap 1400m
Winner	My Pendant (NZ) 2015
Owners	M J Chittick, RKH Thoroughbreds (Mgr: R K Hamer), D A & Mrs D E M Monson, R N Harris, R H Hitt, S W Bruhn, A W Bruhn, M K Ashton, Dr J G Morgan, A J Doyle, Eagles Tigers And Hawks Syndicate (Mgr: W Huntly), C Harrington & B M Moloney
Trainer	Danny O'Brien Flemington
Breeding	by Pins (AUS) out of My Locket (AUS) by Any Suggestion (AUS)
Breeder	Miss K Fawcett, Waikato Stud Ltd & E S Wright
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sales – Premier Sale; V: Waikato Stud, P: Phill Cataldo Bloodstock; \$100,000

Sent off the \$2.30 favourite, My Pendant scored by a length victory from \$101 shot Camelle (NZ) (Camelot).

Punters had a good lead into the prospects of My Pendant with Oliver wasting to ride the mare at 54kg.

"Ollie was keen to ride her," O'Brien said.

"Craig Williams rides this mare as well, but Ollie rode her very well last time and it was hard to take him off.

"Going forward to the spring, I'm sure Craig will get back on her at some stage."

O'Brien said My Pendant was a galloper that doesn't like to be hustled early and Oliver had her travelling comfortably.

"That's five wins and three seconds from nine starts and she's ready to step into stakes grade now, the Let's Elope at Flemington in two weeks time," O'Brien said.

"But she's got to step to another grade after being on the minimum today.

"You look at the mares in the Cockram today, some of those

will be going to the Let's Elope, so we'll get a better guide when she gets to Flemington."

My Pendant races in the silks of co-breeder Waikato Stud who retained a share after selling the daughter of Pins through their 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Premier draft.

-AAP



My Pendant will step up to black-type level after her Caulfield win on Saturday (Bruno Cannatelli)





AGE OF CHIVALRY CONTINUES WINNING RUN

Age of Chivalry (NZ) (He's Remarkable) delivered a brave front running performance at Caulfield on Saturday notching up two wins from as many starts on the Melbourne track.

The Mathew Ellerton and Simon Zahra-trained four-year-old was backing up from his last-start win a fortnight ago and had undergone an interrupted preparation due to an injury after being kicked by the interview pony after his last success.

"He hasn't had a plain-sailing fortnight coming into today either courtesy of the pony here two weeks ago, the bloody thing kicked him on the way back," Ellerton said.

"He's missed a bit of work so hopefully we can have plain-sailing into a better race sometime soon.

"It was probably on a day when leaders found it a little difficult with the wind, it's picked back up again and we were certainly a big mindful of that before the race.

"His style is his style and Damian rode him well.

"He was here to get his rating up and he beat some well-qualified horses, he did it from the front with the wind and I'm sure he has a better win in store for him."

Age of Chivalry was initially sold as a yearling through Mapperley Stud's 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Festival draft. He returned as a Ready To Run



Age of Chivalry scores back-to-back wins (Bruno Cannatelli)

two-year-old later that year and was knocked down to Henry Plumtre for \$50,000.

"Simon was under bidder on him at the Ready To Runs and he just went and saw Henry and threw his name in the hat," Ellerton said.

"We were lucky enough to be sent the horse on Henry's recommendation with his partners."

Age of Chivalry has now had nine starts for four wins and three placings and over A\$254,000 in stakes earnings.

-NZ Racing Desk

Race	MRC Ladbrokes Odds Boost Hcp 1400m
Winner	Age of Chivalry (NZ) 2015
Owners	H J Mackley, Mrs E M Mackley, J B Parncutt & B N Singer
Trainer	Mathew Ellerton & Simon Zahra (Flemington)
Breeding	y He's Remarkable out of Onyx by Kaapstad
Breeder	Mapperley Stud Ltd
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Festival Sale; V: Mapperley Stud, P: Suncroft Bloodstock; \$4,000 - 2017 Ready To Run Sale of 2YOs; V: Curraghmore, P: Henry Plumtre; \$50,000



MAKDANIFE LEADS HOME KIWI-BRED QUINELLA

New Zealand-bred stayer **Makdanife (NZ)** (Makfi) had his connections scratching their heads after he went from a dismal last seven days ago on the Gold Coast, to a tough win at Eagle Farm on Saturday.

The Chris Waller trained Makdanife won a slogging battle with fellow kiwi-bred Ocean Addict (NZ) (Ocean Park) to score by a short neck in the Country Music Raceday Handicap (2400m).

Waller's Gold Coast manager Paul Shailer said he was at a loss to explain Makdanife's poor run at the Gold Coast.

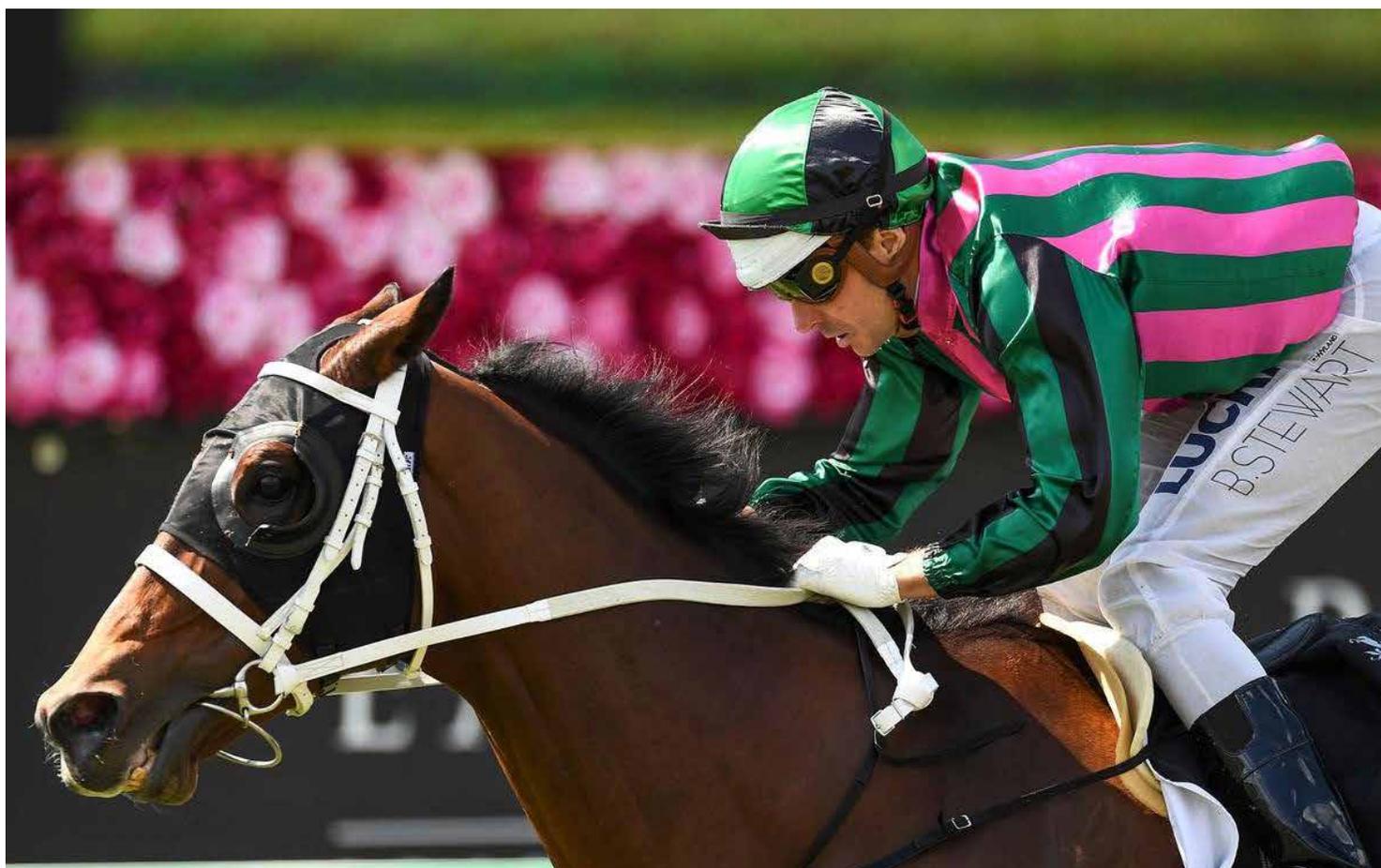
"We had the vets go right over him and monitored him closely. We couldn't find anything wrong at all," Shailer said.

"Maybe it was the fact he travelled up on the Wednesday before the Gold Coast run. It is what we usually do but maybe he didn't like it.

Makdanife will stay in Queensland to chase more distance races in coming weeks.

-AAP

Race	BRC Country Music Raceday Handicap 2400m
Winner	Makdanife (NZ) 2012
Owners	G Bell
Trainer	Chris Waller (Gold Coast)
Breeding	by Makfi (GB) out of Priorities by Zabeel
Breeder	Marthas Kitchen Ltd



Makdanife was back in form at Eagle Farm (AAP)



KALI REMAINS UNBEATEN AT HASTINGS

Progressive three-year-old **Kali (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) maintained her unbeaten record at Hastings on Saturday but not without high drama as the Tony Pike-trained filly secured her second victory courtesy of a successful protest against fellow Cambridge visitor Jennifer Eccles in the Taupo Pak'nSave Fillies 1100.

The Shaune Ritchie-trained Jennifer Eccles (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle) was first past the post after producing a barnstorming late run from near last in the eight-horse field to down Kali and local runner On Show (NZ) (On Show) in a blanket finish to the contest.

A bumping duel with Kali at the 250m mark, which saw the race favourite denied momentum and clear racing room, resulted in the placings being reversed in the inquiry room with Jennifer Eccles relegated to second place.

Had the protest proved unsuccessful punters would have felt rightly aggrieved after Kali and rider Leith Innes became a victim of circumstances when trapped on the fence as the pace slackened approaching the home turn. Desperate to extricate his mount from the position, Innes finally found room four places off the fence where shortly afterwards the interference occurred.

Pike was philosophical about the final result but pleased with how his charge had fought back when hampered in the closing stages.

"It's nice to get the win but not really the way you want to achieve it,"



Kali (middle) battles with Jennifer Eccles (left) and On Show as the trio near the finish at Hastings (Trish Dunell)

Pike said.

"She was a little fresh and over-raced a bit which didn't help when she got trapped as the pace eased coming to the corner.

"She copped a bump at the 250m and again at the 100m, while she also got struck over the head by a whip, so to pick herself up and try so hard was very pleasing to see."

Pike, who had taken out the opening event with promising stayer Beauty Star (Northern Meteor), will now set Kali for the Gr.3 Hawke's Bay Breeders' Gold Trail Stakes (1200m) back at Hastings on September 21.

"She will take a lot from today and will strip fitter for her next run," he said.

"Provided all goes to plan she will

be back here in the three weeks for the Group Three where I think she will be tough to beat."

Eventual runner-up Jennifer Eccles lost no admirers with her brave effort whilst third-placed runner On Show showed plenty of heart to fight on well for third in her first run of a new campaign.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	HBRI Taupo Pak'nSave Fillies 1100
Winner	Kali (NZ) 2016
Owners	Frontier Bloodstock and The Oaks Stud
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of Race Empress (AUS) by St Petersburg (AUS)
Breeder	E M C Hwang





LORD OF LIGHT FIRST, DAYLIGHT BEHIND AT MAIDEN WIN

Favourite **Lord Of Light (NZ)** (Power) ran his rivals ragged in the S\$20,000 Open Maiden race over 1200m on Friday night.

The five-year-old son of Power was previously placed three times over 1200m in seven starts, including a close second in a Maiden race at his second-last start three weeks ago.

But how he came into his own at his very first success, an emphatic win that even took his trainer Mark Walker a little off-guard.

After breaking from barrier two, Lord Of Light was kept out of the early tussle, to settle right behind the leaders, but as Be Humble (Golden Archer) dropped back, jockey Zawari Razali elected to tack onto Orient Express (NZ) (Pour Moi) as they approached the home turn.

With Make U Famous (Tale of the Cat) and Orient Express rolling off on the turn, Zawari did not need any second invitation to send the odds-on favourite through the rails gap. The rest turned into a procession.

Lord Of Light romped in by five-and-a-quarter lengths with the winning time of 1min 11.87secs for the 1200m on the Polytrack.

Walker said he was confident of a forward run, but maybe not in such a dominant style.

"I didn't expect him to win by five, but I guess he found the right race," said the two-time Singapore champion trainer.

"It was a lovely ride. Zawari rode him a bit off that hectic early speed and he got a dream run.

"Putting on the tongue-tie this time was really clutching at straws. I thought I'd try something different.

"He showed a bit (of ability) early, but he did a tendon, so he's taken a while to come back, so perhaps he's just fit enough now after a long layoff.

"The owners are lovely people, and hopefully he can go on with it."

Zawari was at his second win of the season after he opened his account on Sunday with Spokesman, another ward trained by his former master, Walker.



Lord of Light made easy work of his rivals at the Singapore Turf Club on Friday (STC)

"I'm very happy with my second winner this year," said the Malaysian jockey, who, however, begins a three-day suspension on Saturday following a careless riding charge on Atlantic Fox.

"We just tried to follow the second and third horse in front, and when I pressed the button in the straight, he knew what to do next."

With a record standing at one win and three placings, Lord Of Light has brought home more than S\$30,000 in prizemoney for the Light Stable.

-STC

Race	STC Open Maiden 1200m
Winner	Lord of Light (NZ) 2014
Owners	Light Stable
Trainer	Mark Walker (Singapore)
Breeding	by Power (GB) out of Danwood (AUS) by Woodman (USA)
Breeder	J Czerpak

