

BREEDING MATTERS

Issue 1 - May 2009
Complimentary Issue

Newsletter from the New Zealand Standardbred Breeders' Association

This Issue...

Chairman's corner
Ministerial brief
Regional round-up
Care of foals' feet
Plus much more...



JARDINE BLOODSTOCK INSURANCE





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Events coming up....

Please visit our website regularly to find confirmed dates and times of events.

National

Annual General Meeting - Late May

Canterbury

Ownership Seminar - 11th April 2009, Twiggers, Addington

Breeders Night - September 2009 (tbc)

Canterbury Awards Dinner - August/September (tbc)

Southland

Annual General Meeting - 27th April 2009

Southland Awards - August 2009

Breeding Expo - September 2009

North Island

North Island Awards* - 5th September 2009

* Co-hosted by NI Standardbred Breeders, Trotting Owners Assn & NI Horseman's Assn

NZ Standardbred Breeders' Association Inc (NZSBA) is an incorporated society under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 registered on 18 July 1973 under No: 220418

The NZSBA has approximately 350 active members nationally from the three Regional Breeder Affiliated Associations:

NZ Standardbred Breeders (Southland Branch) Association Inc.

Canterbury Standardbred Breeders Association Inc.

N.Z. Standardbred Breeders (North Island Branch) Association Inc.



On the cover - Dundee's Dream bred by Lynair O'Connell with 2006 foal Limited Edition.

If you have a picture you would like on the front cover please send it to kiely.buttell@vodafone.co.nz

Photos courtesy of race images (Chch)

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Welcome to our first national newsletter. We have a vision for a strong, independent and vibrant NZ standardbred breeders' organisation. We want to be of value to you and the racing industry as a whole. The next article, a brief we prepared for the Racing Minister, describes our industry, our objectives and the major activities.

We are grateful for the moral, organisational and financial support from HRNZ following their acceptance of our business plan as the basis for three year's of significant funding.

I thank our Executive for their support in reshaping the NZSBA over the last 12 months and I welcome our new Executive Manager, Kiely Buttell - see below.

HRNZ Liaison

For the last 18 months we have met formally each quarter with a sub-committee of the HRNZ Executive to put our views across on major topics. This increased level of formal communication has been positive, with the NZSBA Executive discussing with HRNZ a wide range of matters including our business plan; the recruitment and role of the Executive Manager; the funding of major races from the \$3 million 2008 additional "Winston" money; how we can promote and fund a breeders' bonus scheme; the New Zealand Racing Board (NZRB) "wastage report that analysed the lifetime performance of the 1999 foal crop; reform of the annual national awards especially the two breeders awards; resisting reducing minimum stakes and the impact of the downturn in wagering; and rule changes supporting increased accountability and integrity;

Industry wastage, Awards and Racing pregnant mares

We will continue to use this newsletter and our website to keep you up-to-date with what we are doing on your behalf. All key correspondence, reports, meeting agenda and minutes will be on the website.

On our website now is our letter to HRNZ asking for a change to the rules so that licence holders are suspended when they are charged, as happens in Australian states. We believe that this will encourage the quicker hearing of cases.

We have also included on the web the draft NZRB "supply chain" Report - what happened to the 1998 foal crop? It is extremely fascinating reading. The research shows that one way we can ensure there are horse numbers to race is to give fillies and mares more racing opportunities in their own class. More analysis in our next newsletter.

NZSBA has recommended to HRNZ that the Broodmare of the Year Award is the sole breeding award at the annual awards. NZSBA will itself award the Broodmare Excellence award at one of its annual functions, most probably at the Breeders Cocktail function on the evening before the NZ Trotting Cup.

The NZSBA Executive is recommending to HRNZ that our rules are amended to meet current Australasian industry norms to prohibit a mare being raced 120 days or more after a positive pregnancy test. This will be a remit to this year's Conference.

Meeting with the Minister

On Monday 17 March we met with Hon. John Carter, the Minister for Racing, and Felicity Cuzens, his Principal Private Secretary. For 50 minutes we had an engaging chat and discussion on the major topics affecting racing and our code.

The Minister is a straight talking down-to-earth Kiwi who is keen to learn as much as he can about the racing industry. Mr Carter is taking an holistic view of the racing industry and wagering, rather than looking at any individual code or specific governance issues just now.

He is keen to see solutions and effective strategies for the industry as a whole before dealing with bits and pieces.

His main themes were:

- The need for solutions and answers for the industry as a whole.

- The need to recognize the importance of punters and owners in relation to breeders and the industry as a whole.

- Marketing and communication needs a strategy to market the industry as a whole - ownership, breeding, the sport, the benefits to the economy etc. The 40,000 + employment base needs to be protected and grown.

- A major marketing issue to address the widely held perception in the community that racing is for the rich and the well-to-do, whereas the reality is different. Racing is grass roots New Zealand. The industry needs to get across to policy-makers, politicians and others that racing is important to the NZ economy, employs lots of people, has many, many small part-time and hobby operators, is supported by volunteers and communities etc - but this fact is neither known, nor exploited.

- Codes need to move away from an internalised parochial view and their own problems and contribute to the big picture. The three codes need each other to keep racing as a major NZ sport, wagering as its funding source and to ensure economies of scale throughout the industry.

- He is very interested in the racing industry looking for solutions that are inclusive rather than factional, although he appreciates that within the big picture each code has to do its own part. But no code can solve the key issues by themselves.

- The decline in breeding and ownership over the last ten years for both thoroughbreds and standardbreds is a serious concern. Feasible and comprehensive solutions are needed for this underlying problem to maintain and also increase participation and ownership.

Please feel free to contact Kiely direct or visit her at our office to discuss matters of concern. If you have topics that you would like NZSBA to raise let us know.

INTRODUCING KIELY BUTTELL

Kiely Buttell has taken on the new role of Executive Manager for the New Zealand Standardbred Breeders' Association. She was in a strong field of 40 applicants and four shortlisted for interview.

Kiely comes from a wide and varied equine background, originally from the UK, Kiely studied horses for three-years at university majoring in breeding and obtaining a Higher National Diploma in Equine Studies.

During university and after graduating, Kiely worked in a number of studs, managing broodmares and youngstock along with yearling preparation for all the major sales in UK/Ireland, Europe and Australia.

In 2002 Kiely emigrated to NZ, taking up the position of Bloodstock Underwriter for Quadrant Insurance Group. Once in NZ Kiely developed a passion for the standardbred industry and in 2007 started with HRNZ in the Marketing and Information Department.

When the NZSBA advertised the position of Executive Manager, Kiely was one of the first to apply and subsequently joined us in November 2008.

In her first five months Kiely has proven to be an asset to our Association and Industry. She has our strong support to continue in the manner she has started. If you would like her to visit a group of breeders in your area please let her know.

John Mooney, Chairman



GENERATING CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

NZSBA's strategy is to grow and we are actively seeking out new sponsorship. We are looking for five or six Key Partners to join with the NZSBA and support our objectives. We are delighted to report that Jardine Bloodstock Insurance and Vetpro have both signed up as the initial NZSBA Key Partners.

We are looking to build long-lasting relationships with our Key Partners to ensure that their support for our industry is rewarded in a value-for-money investment.

If any members have suggestions on who they would like the NZSBA to approach as a Key Partner, please contact Kiely.

Please support those who support us!



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MINISTERIAL BRIEFING



John Mooney, NZSBA Chairman, and Kiely recently visited the new Minister of Racing. John Carter. The article below is the briefing paper NZSBA discussed with the Minister.

STANDARD BRED BREEDING IN NZ

Figures taken from 2007/2008 season:

- 3700 active breeders of a standardbred in NZ (73% South Island, 27% North Island)
- Strong representation throughout NZ, strong volunteer element in our industry and significant number of 'mom and pop' participants with long history and love of standardbreds, this is reflected also in our club structures
- Breeders are the front-line investors and risk takers
- 4,046 mares bred
- 2,783 live foals
- 99 stallions used
- 613 exports estimated value of \$18 million
- 2009 standardbred yearling sales aggregate \$12,709,500
- 12,561 active owners
- Employs approximately 10,000 people

Harness racing in New Zealand has characteristics that significantly differentiate it from the other codes: strong and widely distributed South Island basis; strong and vibrant regional clubs; significant numbers of part-time trainers and participants; a lower cost structure than thoroughbreds.

OUR PRIORITIES

a) NZSBA Activities

The NZSBA is working to achieve a number of objectives, including:

- Establish NZSBA as a credible, independent industry partner
- Increase membership significantly
- Increase fillies and mares racing opportunities
- Provide a comprehensive website for members and industry participants
- Publish quarterly newsletter
- Establish bi-annual breeders conference
- Conduct regional seminars

b) Breeders Bonus Scheme

A medium-term goal of the NZSBA is to lobby for the introduction of a well funded breeders bonus scheme - about \$750,000 initially from New Zealand Racing Board (NZRB) for our code.

In the current economic climate, we understand the probability of such a scheme being funded is low. We believe it to be a positive step that the NZRB should take to maintain and increase industry participation by owners and breeders. This is a time for the NZSBA to research, collate and provide a sound argument for the introduction of such a scheme when the current conditions improve.

STRUCTURE OF THE INDUSTRY

The NZSBA fully supports an effective governance structure for the whole of racing. We are aware the thoroughbred code and others are developing a new industry governance model. However, we need wider consultation and information so that wise and sustainable long term decisions can be made.

The TAB was established by the standardbred and thoroughbred codes jointly. Greyhounds were admitted at a later date. It was and is now a 'not-for-profit' cooperative or trust type business with revenues distributed on the basis of domestic revenue contribution, a sound and 50-year formulae. In our view this is fair and should remain the policy position in Section 16. The codes have financed the industry and shared the returns.

Internationalisation, diversification etc is built on the foundation of the assets and revenues contributed in NZ from the wagering business. No one code 'owns' any particular revenue stream. Such arguments are specious, and selfish.

The licensing of international wagering activities for a fee is for us a far greater priority for the NZRB than some other activities that people are pushing. This leakage of our 'product' with no return to us as owners, breeders and punters, but with profits to off-shore bookmakers, has to stop.

IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS TO GAMING FUNDING

The ability for clubs, many of whom are run by volunteers, to access limited gaming funding for stakes has complimented their effective efforts in raising local sponsorships and paying excellent and competitive stakes e.g. stakes at Summer Racing at regional venues were impressive, drew the good fields and the public. However, access to gaming income is under serious threat from a well organised lobby group.

We need to keep people in our industry, especially in these economic times. The rise in stakes in recent years has been very important. Most of our owners and breeders are ordinary New Zealanders. Our view is that winning a maiden or one win race should make a significant contribution to their costs for a year.

Ministerial briefing continued on page 6...

Ministerial briefing continued...

Harness racing is still very much a community based sport and without the income stream of gaming funding, clubs may struggle to source alternatives leading to their demise. The NZSBA believes that the loss of gaming income to these smaller clubs will leave a large gap in the community. We look forward to the minister's advice on how to move forward and make the use of this funding more widely accepted by the population as a whole.

We understand that the total gaming contribution to all racing as a whole from gaming revenues is around seven percent (ie. \$22 million per annum). In our view this is neither excessive nor unreasonable. We acknowledge community concerns, but perceptions of large shares of gaming revenue going to rich racehorse owners do not match reality in harness racing.

Yes, there are a few big prizes with big rewards for a few - but that promise, hope and dream is what keeps investment in racing flowing, it keeps racing as a New Zealand sporting and cultural icon vibrant, provides entertainment and maintains employment throughout Heartland and rural New Zealand. We need champions, winners and success. Racing has provided many people's champions and with government support and industry leadership will do so for many generations.

HRNZ EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT

The NZSBA is required to notify HRNZ of the name of the NZSBA representative to the HRNZ Executive no later than 20 June 2009.

We have asked our three regional affiliates to nominate one candidate to be this Association's representative on the HRNZ Executive.

The outcome of this nomination will be made public after the 20th June 2009.

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FROM KIELY'S DESK



I hope you are enjoying reading the first of four newsletters. We have printed 4000 copies so every breeder and public trainer will receive one.

This page is designed to let, you, the member, know what is going on behind the scenes at the national office.

Our modern office-space is located in the Canterbury Master Builders offices in Riccarton. In the office is a library, access to a boardroom and a teaching facility. We also have computer access for out-of-town members to use. I welcome visitors to pop in and have a chat about breeding matters.

We will be building up an extensive library. There are stud and horsemanship books along with harness racing magazines from around the world to browse. Initial publications are kindly donated by Noel Kennard and Sally Copeland.

After setting up the office, I set about visiting Southland, Auckland, Waikato and Canterbury regions.

I am keen for further visits to Nelson, Blenheim, the West Coast and the southern North Island.

I am very impressed with the dedication and passion of our volunteers. Our committees give their time generously to improve the industry, bring new ideas and organise events around the country. Without our volunteers I truly believe we wouldn't have such a strong and vibrant industry.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed meeting the committee members from the three regional associations and look forward to working with many of them over the coming months and years. They certainly are an inspiration to me.

Feedback is generally positive. Many people expressed the need for the NZSBA to grow and become more vocal on topics of importance to 'breeders'.

The trip to visit the Minister of Racing was a step in this direction. Opening up the channels of communication to address the major issues affecting our industry is a key activity.

The website is enjoying a facelift. It is still a work in progress but we are adding new articles of interest and features each week.

Please take the time to have a look (www.harnessracing.co.nz) and again I welcome your feedback on what you would like to see on the site.

For the next couple of months we are opening up the member's only section to everyone - to log in use the following username and password:

User Name: harness
Password: cardigan

What would you like to see on the website?

I am working with Kristie Hill from HRNZ to set-up a stud groom industry training scheme for all grooms employed by standardbred studs in New Zealand.

If you would like further information on the course please contact me, I will be visiting the major studs in the

coming months to talk about the qualification and what is required to enroll.

There are a couple of major projects that I am working on at present. Firstly, securing key partners/sponsors so that we can continue to grow and develop industry relationships.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jardine Bloodstock Insurance and Vetpro for coming onboard as Key Partners. Again I believe the fact that we are attracting and securing financial sponsors in this time of economic uncertainty, shows just what a strong industry and organisation we have.

The other important project is developing a comprehensive membership package - see the back page for more details.

One of the key goals the NZSBA have is to increase the profile of standardbred breeders.

This is being done in a number of ways: the website, this newsletter, signwritten vehicle and also being present at various industry events.

This month we are jointly-hosting an ownership seminar with HRNZ and CSBA on the 11th April at Addington Raceway to coincide with their Easter Cup racemeeting.

As you can read in this newsletter the last four-months have been a hive of activity. I am really enjoying my position and look forward to positively contributing to this wonderful industry.



Courtesy of Trish Dunell

Regional round-up



North Island Standardbred Breeders

The spring and summer have been a busy time for the North Island Breeders.

On the initiative of one of our committee members, Karen Breckon, our group organised a most successful owners seminar at Alexandra Park on the 15th October.

With some financial assistance from the Auckland Trotting Club (ATC) and the four other clubs that race at Alexandra Park over 80 people attended to hear a selection of speakers advocate the fun and excitement and even the financial rewards of owning and racing a standardbred.

Food and refreshments were provided courtesy of the Alexandra Park Function Centre and Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ) - Andrew Morris and Kiely Buttell are to be thanked for their hard work in organising literature in support of the seminar. Andrew and Kiely are also to be thanked for their attendance.

Behind the scenes Karen Breckon and our secretary Cathie Shaw did a considerable amount of work to get people there and to Cathie and Jill Smolenski also did a lot of work on the an "Owners Guide" and produced goodie bags for all attendees.

We experimented with advertising in the National Business Review but our research shows that most of the attendees came via our advertising and interviews on Trackside. Thanks must go to the New Zealand Racing Board and the Trackside team for assisting.

Over 32 people registered as perspective owners and Karen Breckon reports Tony Herlihy who was present on the night has already had one new client spending over \$20,000 at the yearling sales.

We understand that the North Island Ownership seminar is going to be used as a blueprint for future seminars that will be held every year by HRNZ in conjunction with the breeders and owners groups around the country.

Having just got over the owners seminar our group moved on to preparation for the Australasian classic yearling sale. Cathie Shaw as usual made a great job of helping organise the sale together with PGG, and her innovative suggestions and attention to detail in terms of organising the bus trip, the parade day, the sales day and the "Young Guns" dinner are really appreciated by our group and the industry as a whole.

Along the way we helped fund the Young Guns two-year-old racing series, another innovation of the Auckland Trotting Club which was a huge success. To see so many two-year-olds racing over the summer can only have helped the cause of the breeders to sell their yearlings.

Almost 90% of the horses that raced in the Young Guns series have gone through the yearling sales. Graeme Rogerson and his clients won the \$20,000 draw enabling them to spend that money at the Australasian Classic Yearling sale.

I'm sure "Rogie" and his clients were tickled pink to be spending some more industry money. The Young Gun series can only get better.

Lastly, our group must claim the initiative for having Ross Pike do his two free seminars on the early education of foals prior to their weaning. Ross is a friend of Greg and Tina Tilden the managers of Woodlands Stud and he was pleased to do a seminar in each island showing us his fantastic horsemanship.

All breeders must aspire to good horsemanship and I for one got a lot out of a couple of hours watching Ross taking foals through their early education. Thank you to Greg, Tina and Ross for organising the seminar and Cathie Shaw for her behind the scenes work.

Under my leadership I would like to think that we have formed a cohesive group in the North Island who enjoy their committee work and with Cathie Shaw's organisational skills and innovation we have certainly achieved a great deal over the last few months.

We look forward to working with Kiely Buttell to move this great sport of ours along.

The current North Island Group consists of:

Peter Smith, President
Tony Dickenson, Vice President
Dennis Smolenski, NZSPA Rep
Cathie Shaw, Secretary
Karen Breckon
Linda Hamilton
Ray Kennedy
Jill Smolenski
Greg Tilden
Tina Tilden

Courtesy of Peter Smith, President
N I Breeders' Association

Regional round-up



The Canterbury Standardbred Breeders Association has been involved in a number of events over the last couple of months.

At the start of the year we worked with the NZSBA holding an information stand at Addington on their United Fisheries Summer Cup day. We were positioned in the new stable block and capitalised on the numerous tours that were happening throughout the day.

Thanks to Hugh Foster, Neil Rich and Brian Aitchison for working on the stand alongside Kiely. Also a big thank-you to Alabar, Nevele R, Wai-Eyre Farm and Woodlands Stud for providing us with giveaways that proved hugely popular.

A number of people took away membership forms for all regions and the aim of raising the profile for all regions and the NZSBA was achieved.

We are currently working with HRNZ and the NZSBA organising an ownership seminar following on from the successful event held by the North Island Standardbred Breeders last October.

It is great to see so many people give up their time (for free) to contribute to this seminar. We have secured some interesting guest speakers covering topics such as buying a standardbred, what to expect from your trainer, owner stories and much more.

The event will be held on Easter Cup night to give potential owners a glimpse of the entertainment and atmosphere that only a night at the races can bring - hopefully inspiring a whole new group of owners. Lastly, a seminar held by Ross Pike on handling foals was very well received in Canterbury, it was encouraging to see a large group of breeders attend both days. I'm sure many got much out of the experience of Ross's gentle approach to handling foals.

This stress-free method gives the foals a positive first experience of the handler, snowballing into producing a well-mannered youngster ready to go on and have further education, whether that be at weaning time or being prepared as a yearling.

Thanks go to Wendy and Noel Kennard for hosting Ross and we look forward to holding more seminars such as these, advocating the improvement of horsemanship and as we all know you never stop learning with horses!

Congratulations to Bevin and Keith Grice on breeding the winner of the NZ Trotting Derby, Ima Gold Digger a Sundon colt out of Janetta's Pride.

The current Canterbury committee consists of:

Kypros Kotzikas, President
John Mooney, Vice President
Colin Hair, Secretary/Treasurer
Brian Aitchison
Hugh Foster
Bevan Grice
Noel Kennard
Jackie McMaster
Neil Rich



NZSBA MERCHANDISE

There are a limited number of stylish NZSBA polo shirts available for sale in mens and womens styles.

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Regional round-up



Southland Standardbred Breeders

Southern Bred - Southern Reared continue to deliver sought after yearlings

Sixty quality Southern Bred Southern Reared (SB-SR) yearlings were offered at the 2009 Yearling Sales in Christchurch, the majority of which passed through the ring in the NZ Premier Sale section of the 3 day sale. The SB-SR lots on Days 1 & 2 produced a very respectable average of \$29,600 (compared to the sale average of \$25,700) and generated almost \$1 million in turnover.

Setting the pace for Southern Bred - Southern Reared were lots 225 (CC colt ex Shards A Flyin) and 240 (Rocknroll Hanover ex She's Mighty) offered by Shard Farm and selling for a combined total of \$185,000.

Other superior lots offered under the SB-SR banner and fetching more than \$50,000 included:

Lot 347 Eلسu filly ex Baptism of Fire - sold by Baptism Breeding for \$72,000 - a half sister to Highview Tommy bought by Cran Dalgety

Lot 90 CC colt ex Lassiter Franco - sold by Dave & Dawn Kennedy for \$70,000 - returning to Southland after being bought by Kirk Larsen

Lot 70 CC colt ex Janet Blue Chip - sold by Silverstream Standardbreds for \$52,500 - a half brother to Jack Cade bought by G Rogerson

Also registering as the top price colt sold on the 3rd day was Arden Hansen, a Bettors Delight colt out of Ardens Queen, offered by Arden Lodge and selling for \$28,000. Aside from the vendors mentioned above Glenbrook Park also had a strong sale featuring prominently on the vendor averages table.

Several other lots sold in the \$40,000 - \$50,000 range and ensured the SB-SR group again punched above their weight.

It is hardly surprising the Southern yearlings were strongly sought after when you consider in recent seasons this breeding nursery has produced *Arden's Darlin*, *Highview Tommy*, *Beaudene Bad Babe*, *Arden Banner* and *Springbank Richard*.

The SB-SR group will be conducting a de-brief meeting with PGG Wrightson personnel and welcome any feedback or suggestions on promotional activities or the sale itself.

Southland branch news and events

Getting the 2008/2009 season underway was the now firmly established Breeders Seminar held in Gore in early September.

This event is well supported by all prominent stud farms and provides an excellent opportunity for breeders to be informed about new sires as well as receiving updates on established stallions.

Southland Standardbred Breeders actively supports a range of racing activities including:

Providing the fastest winning filly or mare in the South with \$1,000 cash plus a trophy donated by Shard Farm - to date this title is held by **SUPREME BELLE** who recorded a 1.55.6 victory at Wyndham in late February.

Sponsoring a 2 year old fillies race at the Wyndham Kindergarten Stakes race day won by the Kirk Larsen trained and Marty Fairburn owned Deal On The Day.

Providing 1.59 pins to recognise the SSBA members whose horses record winning times in below that recognised speed mark.

The SSBA Annual Meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm Monday 27th April and is to be held at the Woodlands Tavern.

With a current membership of 100 breeders the branch encourages as many of these individuals to attend this event for a general catch up.

The Southland Committee consists of:

Ailsa Smaill, President
Mark O'Connor, Vice President
Jason Broad, Secretary/Treasurer
Murray Brown
Bruce Campbell
Graeme Cooney
Ian Davis
Brendan Fahy
Murray Gray
Jan Holmes
Ian Hunter
Malcolm Hunter
Dave Kennedy
Brendon McLellan
Alex Milne
Cleland Murdoch
Roger Price
Debbie Smith

2009 Sales Wrap up

The PGG Wrightson yearling sales are over again for another year, leaving many breeders around New Zealand enjoying a better than expected sale.

Thanks needs to go to PGG Wrightson for paying out vendors within 14 days after the sale, this is a much needed boost to our breeders. PGG Wrightson lead the Australasian yearling sales industry for both thoroughbred and standardbred with their commitment.

The majority of horses were turned out immaculately this year once again. Many vendors really raised the bar in the preparation of these potential equine stars.

Sales topper, over the four days, was The Muskeg Express, a Christian Cullen colt out of Black Maire consigned by long-time successful breeders Sandy and Jan Yarndley. The Muskeg Express sold for \$155,000 to Tim Butt, not a surprising figure as he is a full brother to sensational pacing filly Lauraella who is leaving all of her peers in her wake.

Congratulations to the following members who bred Group winners

Rob Carr - Changeover - Group 1, 2 x Group 2 (Australia)

Carville Ward Syndicate - Ohoka Rebel - Group 3

D T Carville, B T Mackie, M W Hamilton - Ohoka Nevada - Group 3

Champagne Syndicate - Gotta Go Cullen - Group 3

I A Dobson - Yankee Dream - Listed

K Ford & A Tomlinson - Midnight Invasion - Group 3

K R Grice & B R Grice - Ima Gold Digger - Group 1, El Nino - Group 3, Tennis Ball - Group 3

S Hooper & D Butt - Tribute - Group 3

S A Matthews, R Faulkner & C A Faulkner - Trigirl Brigade - Group 3

A R McDonald & C J Barron - Joyfuljoy - Group 1

Mrs D J Musso, K F Musso - Rocket Reign - Listed

Dr A J Parker - Auckland Reactor - 2 x Group 1, 2 x Group 2, 2 x Group 3, Listed

Total sale aggregate over the four days was just shy of \$13 million, again much needed capital being put back into our industry for future stock to be bred and nurtured.

John Mooney said, "Overall vendors and buyers should be satisfied with the outcome of the sales in the present economic environment. The results show confidence in our industry and sport with people prepared to reinvest in new racing stock".

"The Auckland sale averages and median sale price, while down on 2008, were higher than the 2007 results. In Christchurch the two-day Premier sale was identical to 2007 for the averages and the median.".

Sales comparisons

Auckland			
Year	Average	Median	Clearance
2009	32280	21500	74%
2008	35000	25000	78%
2007	30000	18000	80%

Christchurch - Day 1 & 2			
Year	Average	Median	Clearance
2009	25300	18000	80%
2008	28500	20000	82%
2007	25700	18000	82%

Christchurch - Day 3			
Year	Average	Median	Clearance
2009	8641	6000	87%
2008	10843	8750	84%



Courtesy of Trish Dunell

Mrs J M Sharples - Monkey King - Group 1, Group 2, Group 3

Spreydon Lodge Ltd - Nearea Franco - Group 1

Stonewall Stud Ltd - Anvils Best Ever - Group 2

L E Williams & H E Williams - Flying Pocketlands - Group 1

P F B Williams - Idid It Myway - Listed

Sandy & Jan Yarndley - Lauraella - Group 1, Group 2 & Listed, Stunin Cullen - 2 x Group 1, Group 2 & 2 x Listed

*Group winners for the 2008/09 season as at 17th April 2009.

Pictured Above: The Muskeg Express, lot 168 bred by Sandy and Jan Yarndley.

CARE OF THE NEWBORN FOALS' FEET

We can't put enough importance on the prompt attention to the newly born foals' feet. With so many adjustments possible in the first days of a foal's life, it's vital to assess and take action soon after birth.

Upon birth, the growth plates associated with the lower limbs begin the process of turning cartilage to bone. These growth plates close at different times depending whereabouts they are located - some of them within days, others weeks and some over months.

Within this period, it is possible to make some positive improvements to the posture of the newborn. If tackled correctly, deviations of the lower limbs can be corrected with impressive results through corrective trimming, remedial farriery methods and careful management. In certain cases, veterinary involvement is necessary to provide their expertise and assistance.

Of course, in the ideal situation, we are looking for the standardbred foal to be suitably straight. Assessing that limbs are in line relative to the others where appropriate, there are no rotations of the joints and the foal in motion is landing level and limbs moving in a straight line is crucial.

A foal who is considered to be straight and level has a better chance of growing into a mature racehorse with increased performance and a longer, more successful competitive life than one who has a deviation of a limb.

An initial assessment for straightness should be done soon after birth by a suitably experienced professional. In the majority of cases, the balance and angles will be considered acceptable and no immediate further action required.

Regular further assessments should not be overlooked regardless of the outcome of the initial checks.

What appears to be a straight foal can sometimes alter to become less perfect over a matter of a few days. Weekly or fortnightly assessment of new born foals can take just minutes but make the difference of many thousands of dollars when it comes to sale price and/or racing success at a later date.

When a problem or deviation is identified, the sooner action is taken, the greater the chances of improvement will be.

When born, the hoof of a foal has softer horn. This is nature's way of reducing damage to the mare before and during birth. This foal hoof grows out and is replaced with harder hoof.

A growth ring or line is usually noticeable at the point where the foal hoof is being replaced with the new strong horn. This is a normal and natural process. The foal hoof can be trimmed with the same care and attention to balance as a mature horse's hoof.

A foal's hoof cannot be assessed (and trimmed when necessary) too often in the initial period after birth.

Courtesy of David Hankin Dip.WCF.
Contact 0800 211212



STRESS FREE FOAL HANDLING

By Ross Pike

Easy Lead Foals is a pre-weaning procedure, designed to create trust between the foals and humans, dramatically reducing the amount of stress experienced by the foal at weaning.

In most instances, foals receive very little, if any handling from birth to weaning. Then, upon taking the mother away, we (humans) place them in unfamiliar surroundings (usually boxes) and then attempt to make initial contact with them while they are in an extremely agitated and nervous state. This can create a volatile situation, sometimes ending in incident or injury to horse or human.

Easy Lead Foals is all about making the initial interactions with humans, gentle and stress free. This is why the process must take place prior to weaning, so that the mare can

be used to keep the foal calm as well as encouraging forward movement when weight is introduced to the halter of the foal for the first few times.

In less than an hour on the first day, the foal will progress from untouched and frightened, to leading around the yard without the assistance of the mare and allowing it to be patted from head to tail (not legs).

The second day will see the foal taken into a separate yard to the mare and being led away some distance. When content to do this willingly, the foal is returned to the mothers side where it will have its' feet picked up for the first time. The process is then complete. The foal can then be weaned, using any chosen method.

Weaning is the single most traumatic experience in a horses' life. If we can already have gained the trust of the foal prior to weaning, we have

a greater chance of helping them get through this period unscathed physically and mentally.

This process does not have to be done the day prior to weaning. It can be implemented at any age; they do not forget it.

There are several different ways to go about weaning and weanling education, some less stressful than others. I am more than happy to discuss and advise people on these matters upon request.

Ross has just completed working throughout the country. He will return next year and we will let you know when.

Contact Ross on: 0061 417 623 949 or 0061 3 5829 9237



Jardine Bloodstock are pleased to announce they have recently become a sponsor of the New Zealand Standardbred Breeders' Association.

Sally Copeland, manager of Jardine Bloodstock, confirmed the sponsorship and stated that it was a sign of the commitment the company has for standardbred breeders in New Zealand.

Copeland also said that in addition to the sponsorship, Jardine Bloodstock will pay a commission back to the association from business received from its members. This applies to new and existing business.

"We are fully aware of the vital role breeders play in the harness racing code and want to support them in any way we can," Sally said.

Sally recognized that in the recessionary period the economy is currently experiencing all forms of insurance premiums will come under scrutiny, and bloodstock is no exception.

However, she stressed the importance of bloodstock insurance in these difficult times. "It is just as important as ever for people to insure their horses. After all should a horse die they will need the insurance pay-out in order to afford a replacement and this is important for anyone who treats it as a business," she said.

One of the aspects of insuring horses with Jardine Bloodstock which standardbred breeders should be aware of is the fact that the mortality policy also includes cover for up to \$10,000 of major medical vet fees.

Ross Johnson - the owner of No No Yankee - was particularly pleased that he had this vet fee cover.

"Unfortunately, my horse suffered an injury and surgery was required. It was reassuring to know that I was able to claim for the majority of the vet fees," said Johnson.

"Lodging my claim was easy. My claim was agreed and settled within seven days of Jardines receiving my documentation," he said.

Sally said Jardine Bloodstock Insurance offered people the best in customer service and also had strong backing.



The team (from left): Carlene Jones, Sally Copeland, Jane Low, Tracey Wilson and Liz Jenkins.

"We have a global business behind Jardine Bloodstock which gives our clients much needed added protection and confidence in dealing with us," she said.

Jardine Bloodstock Insurance is a division of Jardine Lloyd Thompson Ltd. "We are proud to be part of the JLT Group and as part of this international company we have internal processes that ensure our business is carried out to the highest standard," said Copeland.

"We are one of New Zealand's largest providers of bloodstock insurance products and have been operating out of the Waikato for 12 years," she said.

"Our Cambridge-based team provides specialist insurance services to all parts of the equine sector and at all times we are available to discuss a client's insurance needs," she said.

The JBI team comprises Sally Copeland, Carlene Jones, Jane Low, Tracey Wilson and Liz Jenkins.

Sally moved to New Zealand from the United Kingdom in 2001 where she worked in various hands-on roles throughout the equine industry. These skills led to a career as a specialist bloodstock insurance broker and underwriter.

She has insurance qualifications from the UK and Australian/New Zealand Institutes. She also has a Higher National Diploma in Equine Studies.

Carlene has been part of the Jardine Bloodstock Insurance team since 2004 having previously worked with International Racehorse Transport.

Her bloodstock insurance knowledge is extensive and she has a keen interest in all equine sectors and also owns horses.

Jane joined the Jardine Bloodstock Insurance team in 2006. She has been a competitor in show jumping, eventing and dressage for 20 years.

Outside of her insurance work Tracey also has a great love of horses. She grew up in a racing family, completed a jockeys' apprenticeship and now holds her racehorse trainers license.

Liz is the newest member of the team and is passionate about horses having been a horse owner herself.

"The team prides itself on exceeding customer expectation by providing excellent service along with listening and responding to our customers needs at all times," Copeland said.

"We understand insurance jargon can be confusing, so to help counteract this we do our best to ensure our customers understand the terms and conditions of their policies. We are always more than happy to answer any questions.

"People enjoy insuring their horses with Jardine Bloodstock because we offer the best personal service and are fully reliable with a reputation built on trust and integrity. Our premiums are always very competitive and people realise they are getting the best in the field," Copeland said.

Contact details:

P: 0800 383 071

E: sally.copeland@jlt.co.nz

W: www.horseinsurance.co.nz

Cnr Queen & Dick Street, Cambridge

"NZSBA receives a small commission from all insurance placed with Jardines - give them a chance to quote"

BREEDER PROFILE - BEVAN & KEITH GRICE

Nestled amongst the lush pastures in mid-Canterbury, lives farmers and brothers Keith and Bevan Grice. In the first of the breeder profiles to be featured in our newsletters and on the website, we find out a bit more about the secret to the Grice's success.

Keith and Bevan were born into the industry, their father, uncles and grandfather all owning or training standardbreds. Their grandfather won the first wagered race from Tinwald to Winslow Railway stations in the late 1800's.

Their foundation broodmare was Mavis Wood who left daughters Agent and Lady Dimp. From these two mares countless generations of winning horses have been produced. Recent 2009 NZ Trotting Derby winner Ima Gold Digger traces back to Agent and promising two-year-old pacer El Nino traces back to Lady Dimp.

It is with Ima Gold Diggers' dam Janetta's Pride that the brothers have enjoyed much recent success. She is also the dam of 2001 & 2007 NZ Trotting Derby winners Shirley Temple and Dependable (14 wins) respectively plus is the granddam of another Derby winner, Doctor Mickey through the twelve time winning mare Jo Anne.

When quizzed about their amazing success with the mare, Keith and Bevan put it down to "luck, never owning their own stallion and large fertile paddocks". They usually have 25 acre paddocks for two broodmares to graze.

Bevan and Keith currently have around 100 horses, foals, yearlings, racehorses and broodmares.



Keith (left) and Bevan Grice with Janetta's Pride

The majority of the horses they breed are leased out around the country. The good mares come back to them in retirement for breeding.

In the 64 years the brothers have been breeding horses they jovially stated that "They've never had an argument but had a million laughs".

Bevan is a committee member on the Canterbury Standardbred Breeders' Association and makes the trip up from Ashburton to attend the meetings. He is quite happy with the way the industry is progressing. Having lived through a number of economic downturns, he is not too worried about the current economic climate and how it will affect our industry.

One thing Bevan would like to see change in the breeding industry is for stallions that have raced overseas on drugs such as Lasix to be declared to breeders. The brothers both believe that "bleeders breed bleeders" and therefore one should know the exact history of the stallion you are sending your mare to.

Keith and Bevan praised the success of the New Zealand-bred stallions such as Christian Cullen, Sundon, Courage Under Fire and more recently Elsu. They believe our home-grown stallions can compete with the best in the world and we should be proud that our NZ-bred horses race drug-free.

When asked what advice they could give new breeders, Keith said:

"never be afraid to ask questions and keep an open mind on everything, when you are wrong and make a mistake, admit it".

The one bit of advice that they received as youngsters was:

"there is something about a good horse you just can't see". A truer word has never been spoken.

NZSBA congratulate Bevan and Keith for their contribution to the industry and the success they have achieved.



Where it all began, Shiann great, great, grand-dam of Janetta's Pride, winning at Gore in 1952. Look at the crowds!

PITFALLS OF FEEDING FOR PERFORMANCE

To meet the demands of training and racing, performance horses need access to a concentrated energy source.

Grains such as oats, barley and maize are ideally suited because of their high starch content. Because these grains are not part of their natural diet, horses are limited in the amount of starch they are able to digest at one time.

If the passage of ingested grain through the small intestine is too rapid, undigested starch will pass into the large intestine where it will undergo bacterial fermentation. Hindgut fermentation of starch, especially with a reduced fibre intake, can lead to a condition known as hindgut acidosis.

Ingestion of pasture grasses rich in fructans results in the production of acids in a similar way to cereal grains, so horses on a mix of rich pasture and grain feed can be very susceptible to this condition.

The acids produced by the fermentation process can affect performance, causing problems like stressful behaviour, over-excitability, muscle tye-up and importantly for trainers and owners - produce poor results.

Essentially the excessive acid level causes a horse to lose the efficiency of its own microbial flora to digest the feed, thus reducing the effectiveness of the feed in the production of energy.

Hindgut Acidosis can manifest itself in simple indicators such as wood chewing, paddock or box walking, soft stools, loss of appetite and irritated attitude. If left uncorrected the condition can not only reduce performance in the short term, but can lead to the more career ending condition of Laminitis.

Scientific tests have shown that the feeding of α -amylase and β glucanase enhanced starch digestion and reduced the risk of hindgut acidosis and laminitis in horses. It makes sense then, that feeding a product that can slow the passage of feed through the gut and that contains the

two α and β enzymes, plus a pre-biotic that will help maintain a functional gut wall, can only result in reduction of the problem of hindgut acidosis and therefore improved performance!

Digest-Rite contains pre-biotics (mannan oligosaccharides), digestive enzymes (α amylase and β glucanase), rice bran oil and silicated oxides.

Its four-way action:

- 1.Slows the passage of food through the small intestine, allowing more time for the horse's own digestive enzymes to work.
- 2.Enhances digestion through the inclusion of enzymes (α - amylase and β glucanase) that break down sugar and starch.
- 3.Uses a pre-biotic which helps ensures that nutrients are absorbed efficiently.
- 4.Finally it contains a toxin binder in the form of silicated oxides which bind harmful toxins, preventing them from being absorbed and so are passed out in the horse's faeces. This binding also helps to prevent the absorption of the harmful by-products of hindgut fermentation.

Digest-Rite contains no prohibited substances so can be safely fed before racing.

Contact the team at Vetpro on:

0800 864 00

or visit

www.vetpro.co.nz

Winning may be only one product away.
DIET PROBLEMS DO INFLUENCE PERFORMANCE

digest-rite
PERFORMANCE

For horses on diets which can pre-dispose them to problems including Tye-Up, Hindgut Acidosis, Staggers and cranky behaviour.

CONTAINS

- Enzymes to assist breakdown of feed preventing fermentation.
- Pre-biotics to maintain a healthy gut and efficient absorption.
- Silicated Oxides to bind the mycotoxins in grains and endophyte grasses.
- Rice Bran to slow the passage of food.

MUCH MORE THAN JUST A YEAST

Available from feed merchants, equine stores and veterinarians. For your nearest stockist contact:

Veterinary Professional Services Ltd
Your equine healthcare specialists.
Freephone 0800 864 000
www.vetpro.co.nz

MEMBERSHIP RE-LAUNCH

Part of the new look NZSBA will be a fresh approach to membership. We want to provide members with tangible benefits, way exceeding the value of the subscription paid. We want NZ standardbred breeders to value our contribution to their industry, hobby and sport.

The NZSBA will roll out a comprehensive membership package in June/July 2009.

We are developing a package that provides benefits for our members.

We seek feedback from members and non-members on the plans below:

- **Industry Representation** - The NZSBA lobbies the government, HRNZ and other industry organisations. We have a representative on the HRNZ Executive. Representatives of the NZSBA sit on all equine health boards and forums. The core purpose of the NZSBA is to:

“Actively promote the best interests of breeders and owners in all matters of Harness Racing”.

- **Breeding Matters** - a comprehensive quarterly publication consisting of breeding articles, news, governance issues and other current topics.

- **Annual Stallion Register** - the popular Sires Register is available to members free of charge in early September. It is your breeding “bible”.

- **Gold & Diamond Pins/Group Certificates** - Gold (1.59.0 or under) and Diamond (1.55.0 or under) pins awarded to member-bred winning horses. Group certificates are awarded to any member breeding a Group or Listed race winner.

- **Annual Diary & Wallplanner** - Free to members this useful diary is based on the racing season and provides race dates and other important industry information.

- **Member's Only Area on website** - www.harnessracing.co.nz has been re-designed with the member in mind. There is a member's only area which will continually develop over time. Currently features include:

- Breeding articles
- Breeding statistics
- Marketplace to list horses for sale/lease etc
- Sire comparison chart
- Breeding history of Group race winner's for the last three years.

- **Social Functions** - There are a number of social functions including breeder and award night's held around the country. Details can be found on the website and in the newsletter.

We want your views!

What do you want for your membership fee?

- **Breeding Conference** - national event to be organised every two-years.

- **Library** - The National Office has a well stocked library consisting of stud books dating back to 1905 along with HRNZ's year books and other racing publications. All kindly on permanent loan from Noel Kennard. There are also a number of general equine knowledge and breeding books, kindly donated by Sally Copeland, along with harness magazines from around the world. Further contributions are welcome - but no junk please, our office is small!

- **Free Racing! Magazine** - Upon joining the NZSBA, members receive a free Racing! Magazine full of informative articles pertaining to all things racing in New Zealand

- **Free Business Listing** - The Pacing & Trotting Guide offer members a free three-line business listing in the annual Industry Directory

- **Discount Card/Voucher Book** - over the coming weeks I will be approaching businesses both nationally and regionally to ask for support with a voucher or discount for our members. Other organisations do this successfully and with little cost to the business or NZSBA. (valued at over \$200 with popular establishments)

- **Discount HRNZ** - we are seeking a discount on the cost to subscribe to the Harness Racing Weekly for new members who currently do not subscribe.

- **Education** - Level 3 and 4 Equine Breeding Qualification introduced for Stud Grooms and other interested parties. Provided in association with HRNZ and the Equine Industry Training Organisation. A.I Technicians courses arranged throughout the country.

The NZSBA proposes the following changes on which we and your local association seeks your view:

- NZSBA will process membership from national office on behalf of the three regional associations.

- You will be able to join and pay online.

- We are proposing to raise subscriptions to \$89.95 for individuals and couples, with the above benefits.

The increase in subscriptions will be used to market the breeding industry more effectively, lobby on behalf of breeders and increase the number of member functions.