



New Zealand Standardbred Breeders Association

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North Island Breeders Association kick off yearling sales in style

Breeders from all around the country, even some from overseas, enjoyed the hospitality of the Franklin Trotting Club and North Island Breeders' Association at Auckland's Alexandra Park last Friday night.

The sponsors' room was packed to overflowing for what turned out to be an entertaining and fun filled evening indoors and an action packed racing programme outdoors, highlighted by the two heats of the Euroglass Young Gun Series.

Gotta Go Cullen, by Christian Cullen from former crack race filly Elect To Live, made it two wins from an many starts with a crushing victory over the fillies. She is owned and trained by Sue Martin, who is based at Pakiri Beach.

The stablemates Devil Dodger and Courage To Rule fought out a close finish to the heat for colts and geldings with the former getting in the deciding stride. The favourite, Eridanus, was third.

Devil Dodger, a gelding by Mach Three from Bishops Blessing, had been runner-up to Eridanus in his previous start. Both Devil Dodger and Courage To Rule are trained at Ardmore by the partnership of John Green and Brian Hughes.

A draw was made following the running of the two heats, with the lucky winner receiving \$20,000 to go towards the purchase of a yearling at the Australasian Sale at Karaka the following day.

The names of all horses who had participated in the Euroglass Young Gun Series went into the entry box and it was Graeme Rogerson who was the lucky recipient.

Ironically, Graeme had predicted his win when talking with the night's master of ceremonies, Leo George, only minutes before. John Carter, the new Racing Minister, made the draw.

John Carter had been introduced to the gathering by Peter Smith, the president of the North Island branch of the New Zealand Standardbred Breeders' Association. Earlier both had been welcomed by the president of the Franklin Trotting Club, Ross Wilson.

Top northern driver Peter Ferguson was interviewed with 'Fergie' giving a rundown on his drives for the night.

Other interviews carried out by Leo George involved Auckland veterinarian Tony Parker, the man who bred our latest pacing champ, Auckland Reactor; Pyne Gould Guinness Wrightson representative Peter Lagan; Breckon Bloodstock Ltd director Ken Breckon, who has now taken over ownership of the noted Waikato breeding establishment Yandley Farms, and Bob McArdle, chief of the famed Christchurch Nevele R Stud.

Courtesy of Leo George

National Executive: John Mooney (Chairman), Colin Hair (Treasurer), Tony Dickinson, Kypros Kotzikas, Cleland Murdoch, Ailsa Smail, Peter Smith, Dennis Smolenski

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