

Sunday 6 September 2020

WALLER GETS HUMIDOR TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK



Humidor resurfaces his racing career with a brilliant win in the Gr.2 Feehan Stakes (1600m). (Pat Scala/Racing Photos)

Humidor (NZ) (Teofilo) underlined Chris Waller's brilliance as a trainer when he turned back the clock to win the Gr.2 Feehan Stakes (1600m) at Moonee Valley and resurrect a career which looked finished.

In taking out Saturday's 1600 metre event, Humidor scored a golden ticket into the Cox Plate, a race in which he finished runner-up to Winx (Street Cry) when he challenged her in the straight in 2017 and then third to her a year later.

The eight-year-old had been in the wilderness since he left Darren Weir's stables after Weir was disqualified.

He spent 2019 with the Ciaron Maher and David Eustace team and did not run a place in seven starts.

He then joined Lindsay Smith's stables and had three unplaced runs during the winter before the trainer moved him on.

Retirement was discussed but his owners sent him to Waller for one last roll of the dice.

Waller said he had always loved the horse and tried to buy him for \$975,000 from New Zealand but was outbid by Weir

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WALLER GETS HUMIDOR TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK

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who grabbed him for \$1 million.

He has followed the horse ever since and that's why he was happy to give him one more chance when the opportunity arose.

"I had a think about it but because of that association I wanted to give him one last chance," Waller said at Randwick.

Humidor arrived at his Flemington stables eight weeks ago and Waller said he had gone back to basics with him.

"Our Melbourne foreman Jo Taylor has done a great job with him. He is a good, tough horse. We never gave him a chance to disappoint us."

Waller said his original plan was to run him in the Chelmsford Stakes at Randwick on

Saturday but as the horse was stuck in Melbourne, they opted for Moonee Valley instead.

Jockey Damian Lane, who used to ride Humidor regularly, said he had been watching him work and trial in great style and was thrilled to be back on board.

He only picked up the ride when Damian Thornton was injured on Monday.

"He gave me a great ride here today. I love being back on him and did a great job," Lane said.

"He's a little superstar and on his day he's as good as any horse."

"I just want to give special thanks to Jo and the Waller team at Flemington who've done a massive job at Flemington to get him here today the way they did."

"It's not often you see eight-year-olds turn their form around."

Paul Preusker was pleased with the effort of fellow New Zealand-bred Surprise Baby (NZ) (Shocking) to run second given the length of time since he had raced.

"There's no plans just yet for the next run but it's been suggested that a Cox Plate wouldn't be out of the question before the Melbourne Cup," Preusker said.

Humidor (\$18) defeated Surprise Baby (\$3 fav) by a long neck with Harbour Views (Le Havre) (\$5.50) a half-head away third.

Race	MVRC John F Feehan S. Gr.2 1600m
Winner	Humidor (NZ) 2012
Owners	Jomara Bloodstock Ltd, Dr P C Goel, Mrs P Adams, Royjohn Racing, Mr T A Ginnane, Walker Racing & Bloodstock, Mr B F Sokolski, Mr M Krauser, Mr H M Bastone, Mrs S L Morgan, Mr P J Morgan
Trainer	Chris Waller (Flemington)
Breeding	by Teofilo (IRE) out of Zalika by Zabeel
Breeder	Jomara Bloodstock Ltd



Humidor earned automatic entry to the Gr.1 Cox Plate (2040m) with his win in the Gr.2 Feehan Stakes (1600m). (Natasha Morello/Racing Photos)

TE AKAU RACING CLAIM TE RAPA FEATURES

Quality galloper **Avantage** (Fastnet Rock) showed she is the horse to beat in the upcoming Hawke's Bay triple crown when she produced a strong fresh-up effort to take out the Gr.2 Valachi Downs Foxbridge Plate (1200m) at Te Rapa.

The Fastnet Rock mare had closed out her four-year-old campaign with three Group One victories in the space of four starts and looked primed to resume her spring campaign with an eye-catching trial win at Taupo last month.

Trainer Jamie Richards was confident he had the horse to beat in a race that oozed class and so it proved as she was too tough for her rivals in the run home after enjoying a cosy run in transit for rider Danielle Johnson.

Taranaki visitor Tavi Mac (NZ) (Tavistock) went the race of his life as he battled with Avantage over the closing stages but was a length in arrears at the post with another Te Akau runner in Prise De Fer (NZ) (Savabeel) holding on for third a nose to the good of the fast finishing Demonetization (All Too Hard).

"It always mapped like she was going to get a good run from the barrier and so it played out," trainer Jamie Richards said.

"Danielle was able to sneak her up on the inside of Julius on the home

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Rider Danielle Johnson drives Avantage clear in the Gr.2 Valachi Downs Foxbridge Plate (1200m) (Trish Dunell)



Need I Say More cruises to the winning post well clear of his rivals at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)



TE AKAU RACING CLAIM TE RAPA FEATURES

(Continued from page 4)

corner and once she was clear she found a good kick.

"In saying that, the second horse took some running down and she was probably on empty the last 50m, but she is a really good mare who is a real winner."

Richards and the Te Akau team have their sights on the Hawke's Bay triple crown for Avantage with the first leg, the Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy (1400m) on September 19 her next assignment.

"The plan is to go to Hastings in a fortnight for the Tarzino," he said.

"She should take good benefit out of today's run and the two weeks between races will be ideal."

Earlier in the day a powerful display of front-running paved the way for exciting three-year-old **Need I Say More** (No Nay Never) to maintain his unbeaten career record as he dominated his age group rivals in the Gr.3 WRC Northland Breeders' Stakes (1200m) at Te Rapa.

The Jamie Richards-trained galloper had scored twice from just the two starts as a two-year-old which included a victory over his highly-rated stablemate Cool Aza Beel (NZ) (Savabeel) in the Gr.3 Waikato Stud Slipper (1200m) at his last start back in February.

First up on Saturday, Need I Say More was sent straight to the front by rider Craig Grylls to control the tempo of the race throughout and had his rivals struggling to make up ground on him as he shot clear rounding the home bend.

Grylls rated his charge perfectly as he cruised clear from De La Terre (NZ) (Reliable Man), who chased gamely in the straight, with Autobahn (NZ) (Charm Spirit) and Taroni (NZ) (Showcasing) closing off strongly to finish third and fourth, respectively.

"It was a really good win by a promising sort of horse," Richards said.

"He's a little bit hard to get a line on at home, but his work has improved and he's obviously a horse that saves his best for race day. There's no doubt about that."

"He'd had a good, strong build up. A couple of nice trials, done everything well, and kicked on with a good job today to remain unbeaten which is never easy to do."

"There is further improvement to come. He's not there in the coat just yet, so we'll potter around with him now."

"I don't think we'll rush, probably three or four weeks until we find another suitable race."

Raced by the Te Akau Avantage syndicate, Avantage was a \$210,000 purchase by David Ellis CNZM from the Oaks Stud 2017 Premier Yearling sale draft. She has now won eleven of her 18 starts and over \$1.47m in prizemoney.

Ellis also purchased Need I Say More for the Te Akau Never Say Die Syndicate, securing him for \$130,000, from the draft of Kilgravin Lodge, at the 2019 Karaka Book 1 Sale.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC Foxbridge P. Gr.2 1200m
Winner	Avantage (AUS) 2015
Owners	Te Akau Avantage Syndicate (Mgr: K W Fenton-Ellis MNZM)
Trainer	Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Fastnet Rock (AUS) out of Asavant by Zabeel
Breeder	Mr W Calder & Mrs K N Calder
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Premier V: The Oaks Stud \$210000 P: Mr D C Ellis

Race	Waikato RC Northland Breeders S. Gr.3 1200m
Winner	Need I Say More (AUS) 2017
Owners	Te Akau Neves Say Die Syndicate (Mgr: K W Fenton-Ellis MNZM)
Trainer	Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by No Nay Never (USA) out of Bo Bardi (AUS) by Fastnet Rock (AUS)
Breeder	Burnewang North Pastoral
Sales	2019 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Kilgravin Lodge \$130000 P: Mr D C Ellis



Sunday 6 September 2020

SHOWMANSHIP PUTS ON ANOTHER WINNING ACT

Rising Perth star **Showmanship (NZ)** (Showcasing), with the help of a masterful ride from Willie Pike, took his record to seven wins from eight starts with an easy victory at The Valley.

Pike had the 1200 metre Listed event under control throughout as he stalked the other fancied runner, **Age Of Chivalry (NZ)** (He's Remarkable), and sailed past him on turning for home.

Co-trainer Grant Williams was effusive in his praise of Showmanship and also Pike's ride.

Williams said Showmanship was "an absolute ripper" who was an easy horse to train.

"He's pretty easy to do anything with. He's come over here and settled in really well," Williams said.

Williams said he would speak to the horse's owner Bob Peters about his next start, although they had brought him across to tackle the Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes (1400m) at Caulfield.

"Winning today keeps our options open," Williams said.

Williams described Pike's ride as "a peach", giving the horse every chance.

Pike said he was slightly concerned that Showmanship was dropping back to 1200 metres after winning at Caulfield over 1400 metres first up, only because he was riding at an unfamiliar track.

"That's because I'm a fish out of water here. If I was at home I'd probably have thought, 'nah, no worries,'" Pike said.

"It was more something to think about but after the race I'm not sure what I was worried about."

He said although he hadn't ridden at Moonee Valley for a while he didn't have to worry about that in the run as the horse travelled so well.

Showmanship wins for the seventh time from just eight starts. (Natasha Morello/Racing Photos)

Showmanship (\$2.35 fav) defeated Felicia (Unencumbered) (\$6.50) by 1-1/4 lengths with Age Of Chivalry (\$3.20) another length away third.

Peters sent six horses to Melbourne for the spring carnival but one of his stars, Regal Power, had to return home this week after he suffered a lung infection.

Bred by Haunui Farm, Showmanship was sold through their 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Select yearling draft to bloodstock agent John Chalmers for \$145,000.

-AAP

Race	MVRC Bendigo Bank H. L 1200m
Winner	Showmanship (NZ) 2015
Owners	Peters Investments Pty Ltd
Trainer	Grant & Alana Williams (Karnup)
Breeding	by Showcasing (GB) out of Khales by Don Eduardo
Breeder	Haunui Bloodstock Ltd
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Select V: Haunui Farm \$145000 P: John Chalmers B/stock



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ONLY WORDS TAKES WANGANUI GUINEAS



Shaun McKay guides Only Words to victory at Wanganui (Race Images – Grant Matthew)

Sweynesse filly **Only Words (NZ)** has provided her Te Awamutu trainer Clint Isdale with the biggest victory of his fledgling training career after taking out the Listed HS Dyke Wanganui Guineas (1200m) on Saturday.

Isdale has long had a good opinion of the Sweynesse filly, who raced in strong company as a two-year-old and kicked off her latest campaign with a fresh-up victory at Taupo recently.

Despite the ease of that win Only

Words was unwanted in the betting on Saturday's contest, drifting to greater than \$10 in the TAB Fixed Odds market when the barriers opened.

Suited by an outside draw on the Heavy10 Wanganui surface, rider Shaun McKay had Only Words idling along nicely in midfield before making a sharp move forward approaching the home corner.

Only Words sprinted quickly to strike the front and despite showing some wayward tendencies in the run

home she held out a late charge from fellow northern raider Atishu (NZ) (Savabeel) to win by a neck.

McKay was having his first ride on the filly and was suitably impressed with her effort.

"She seems to be getting better every race and is a filly with a lot of ability," he said.

"Ashvin Goindasamy has been riding her but when he stayed up north to ride at Te Rapa I got the call

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ONLY WORDS TAKES WANGANUI GUINEAS

(Continued from page 8)

and I was really pleased to take the mount.

"Clint said to me before the race to make sure I got her some cover but to take her wider for her run as she doesn't like going between horses.

"She relaxed really nicely and when I got her to the middle of the track in the straight, she really showed a turn of foot.

"I'm not sure where she will be going next but Clint told me I could keep the ride so I'm thrilled about that."

Only Words holds a nomination for the Gr.1 Barneswood Farm New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton on November 14 although Isdale, who shares in her ownership, has yet to decide on how he will place her on the way to that target.

"She's come along way in a short time and has now had two very tough runs back to back," he said.

"We were using today's race as a measure against what we might be up against going forward so to win like she did is very encouraging.

"I think the best thing is to put her in the paddock for ten days and let her get over the run and the trip away and then look at what is available to us.

"There are some nice races down south we could go to before the 1000 Guineas but until she has had a little break, I won't really know what I want to do."

Isdale was also delighted with the way his charge handled the testing Wanganui track as he believes she will be just as effective on firmer ground.

"She won a trial on a heavy track and it was getting pretty wet at Taupo when she won but you're not sure how they will cope until they race on a surface like we had today," he said.

"She likes it on the better going as she relaxes well and when you give her one around the bum she just goes through her gears in an instant.

"That is pretty exciting to know as the better tracks start to come around as we have a lot to work with."

The victory also provided Novara Park based stallion Sweynesse with his second stakes winner after Bonita Aurelia took out the Gr.3 Woburn Farm 2YO Classic (1200m) last season.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Wanganui JC Wanganui Guineas L 1200m
Winner	Only Words (NZ) 2017
Owners	Asian World Racing Ltd & C R J Isdale
Trainer	Clinton Isdale (Te Awamutu)
Breeding	by Sweynesse (AUS) out of Jungle Pago by Darci Brahma
Breeder	Explosive Breeding Ltd

AUDIO

Sam Weatherley

Andrew Bensley speaks to Te Akau Racing trainer Jamie Richards about his successful day at Te Rapa



CLICK TO PLAY



NOBLE IN WINNER'S CIRCLE AFTER LENGTHY ABSENCE

The distinctive black and gold chequered colours of Cambridge couple Brendan and Jo Lindsay were to the fore at Te Rapa on Saturday when their quality mare **Bavella** (Snitzel) showed she could be in for a bumper season with a comfortable first-up victory.

Sent out favourite in a rating 82 1200m contest despite a tricky wide barrier, the Snitzel four-year-old was too classy for her rivals despite having to sit three-wide on the pace throughout.

Rider Leith Innes had Bavella away nicely from an outside barrier and once she shot to the front at the top of the straight it was all but over as she maintained a strong gallop to the line to win by just over a length from the well fancied Romantic Lady (NZ) (Power).

Trainer Lance Noble was delighted with the performance as it was only the second runner he had lined up on raceday after more than 150 days away from the track.

"It's been a long time since we have been to the races with our team so it's nice to get a winner first day back," he said.

"I think it's been something like 156 days since we lined one up so it's a long time between drinks, not that I was counting.

"We were confident of a good run as she had trialled well and had developed nicely from three to four and she was pretty competitive as a three-year-old.

"She is also very good when fresh and comes up well in the spring.

"We had her entered for the Foxbridge Plate (Gr.2, 1200m) and would have run her in that if she had made the field off the ballot."

Noble was pleased with the ride by Innes as he had given Bavella the softest possible time once he had the race under control.

"It was a nice ride by Leith from a tricky barrier and he didn't knock her around in the run home," he said.

"She is more mature now and far more settled in the stable so we think she could be in for a very good campaign.

"We are still hopeful of getting into the Tarzino Trophy (Gr.1, 1400m) field so, as long as she pulls up well, that will be our immediate goal.



Bavella is well clear approaching the winning post at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)

"We don't really want to stretch her out any further than that as she goes well on the fresh side so races like the Railway (Gr.1, 1200m) on New Year's Day could be an option looking further ahead."

Noble was also pleased by the run of three-year-old stablemate Taroni (NZ) (Showcasing) who finished on nicely into fourth in the Gr.3 WRC Northland Breeders Stakes earlier in the day, despite making the last bend awkwardly.

"They were chopping the corner up a little bit and Leith (Innes) said she just got a little unbalanced for a few strides," he said.

"It was her first run going left-handed so she will improve with that experience under her belt."

"We are looking at the Gold Trail Stakes (Gr.3, 1200m) down at Hastings for her next start and back against her own sex she should be pretty competitive with some natural improvement from today."

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC Ten Sovereigns H. 1200m
Winner	Bavella (AUS) 2016
Owners	Brendan Lindsay MNZM & Mrs J E A Lindsay
Trainer	Lance Noble (Karaka)
Breeding	by Snitzel (AUS) out of Zonza by Zabeel
Breeder	Mr B Lindsay

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BOOMBA ANOTHER BOCK SPECIAL FOR BARREE

When Boomba (NZ) (Showcasing) first walked into his stable, trainer Cliff Brown for the first time looked at his racing manager Chris Bock with raised eyebrows.

The Australian handler had always credited the purchase of many of his good horses, most notably the two Barree Stable superstars Debt Collector (NZ) (Thorn Park) and Inferno (Holy Roman Emperor) (recent Singapore Classic winner), to Bock, his right-hand man from Day 1.

But this time round, Brown buried his face in his hands after he laid eyes on that son of Showcasing. To him, such an "ugly duckling" could not be worth the NZ\$100,000 Bock coughed

up for the Barree Stable again at last year's New Zealand Yearling Sale.

One and a half years later, Boomba won at his very first start in the \$75,000 Jupiter Gold 2018 Stakes Restricted Maiden race over 1200m on Saturday.

Brown ate humble pie, again deferring to Bock as the supreme authority (at least at the yard) when it came to choosing horses.

"When he first walked into the stable, I saw this dumpy fat little thing," recalled Brown, almost reeling at the image etched in his mind.

"I told Chris what have you done? What do you like about this one?

"Chris just told me not to worry, he's a nice horse, and to give him more time. You know what, he was 100% right.

"At the end of the day, Chris just has a magnificent eye for young horses."

After holding down the advantage from his barrier No 1, Boomba led throughout, never looking in danger of getting run down the whole length of the home straight.

Lim's Dreamwalker (Dream Ahead) did try to wear him down, but could not quite keep up. In the end, it was another one of Brown's newcomers, Zermatt (Swiss Ace), who had to come around horses to see daylight, who pinched second place by a nose from Lim's Dreamwalker for a Brown quinella.

Boomba (\$21) ran the 1200m on the Long Course on a yielding track in 1min 11.96secs.



Boomba (Ruan Maia) extends nicely enroute to his debut win. (Singapore Turf Club)