

Sunday 12 January 2020

TRAVELLING LIGHT BEATS THE BOYS IN ELITE BATTLE OF THE SEXES



Sam Collett celebrates as she guides Travelling Light to success in the Gr.1 Woodridge Homes Levin Classic (1600m) (Race Images – Grant Matthew)

Class filly **Travelling Light (NZ)** (El Roca) displayed a brilliant turn of foot to down her male rivals as she left no excuses for the beaten brigade in the Gr.1 Woodridge Homes Levin Classic (1600m) at Trentham.

The El Roca three-year-old had gone close to Group One glory when finishing third in the New Zealand One Thousand Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton in November after being thrust into the unfamiliar role of pacemaker that day.

Trainer Ben Foote and co-owner Col MacRury felt their charge was disadvantaged that day by not being able to show her dazzling acceleration so a plan was hatched to trail in behind in Saturday's contest.

Rider Sam Collett, who had to make the difficult decision to give up the mount of race rival Riodini (NZ) (Proisir), followed the blueprint to perfection as she sat back on the fence on a muddling speed before tracking

up behind race favourite Harlech (NZ) (Darci Brahma) approaching the home bend.

Harlech took over with 300m to run and looked to be travelling comfortably however Collett was biding her time on her mount who was idling along behind Harlech and ready to pounce. Collett pushed the go button and the response was immediate as Travelling Light dashed to the front before easing

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Rich Hill looks forward to presenting an outstanding line of his **first crop Karaka yearlings**

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Champion Jockey - **Damien Oliver**

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TRAVELLING LIGHT BEATS THE BOYS IN ELITE BATTLE OF THE SEXES

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to a comfortable one length victory over a game Harlech with Riadini battling resolutely out wide for third.

The victory was the first for Foote at Group One level and the former top jumps jockey was trying to take it all in as he was swamped by well-wishers in the Trentham birdcage.

"It was a great ride by Sam as it was what we had talked about doing," Foote said.

"When she ended up there (back on the fence) I was pretty happy.

"I was confident she could run him (Harlech) down but I was surprised at how slow they had gone early on.

"I thought she ran it out strong (1600m), so we'll go back and talk it out as we have a few different options with her now."

It was the second Group One prize for Collett who took out the 2019 edition of the Auckland Cup (3200m) on Glory Days (NZ) (Red Giant) and she was glowing in her praise for Travelling Light who she has ridden in four of her five career victories.

"It couldn't have gone any better than if I had asked," she said.

"I really wanted to be the one doing the chasing and it's full credit to Ben as she looks absolutely amazing and she is something special.

"When I got out, she gave me about four strides before she got herself organised but then she locks in on where she's off to and she does the rest herself.

"She's just got amazing tenacity and is a riders dream. She never overtaxes herself and she feels as though she has got an endless gas tank."

Bred by MacRury and his father Ian who shares in the ownership of the filly with his son, Travelling Light is the first Group One winner for her sire El Roca who stands at Westbury Stud. El Roca is well represented at the upcoming

National Yearling Sale at Karaka where a total of twenty-four individuals will go under the hammer during the six days of selling including five during the Book 1 session that starts on Sunday January 26.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	WRC Levin Classic Gr.1 1600m
Winner	Travelling Light (NZ) 2016
Owners	C R & I MacRury
Trainer	Ben Foote (Cambridge)
Breeding	by El Roca (AUS) out of Cissy Bowen by Colombia
Breeder	C R & I MacRury



Ben Foote and Sam Collett display the spoils of war with their Group One trophies at Trentham (Race Images – Grant Matthew)



GUY AT IT AGAIN WITH TRENTHAM FEATURE VICTORY



Germanicus (middle) stretches gamely to take out the Gr.3 Bluestar Anniversary Handicap (1600m) (Race Images – Grant Matthew)

On a day where she tasted Group One success with Gaultier (NZ) (Rios) in the Levin Classic (1600m) in 2017, Matamata trainer Danica Guy was at it again when she produced **Germanicus (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) to take out Gr.3 Bluestar Anniversary Handicap (1600m).

The Rip Van Winkle gelding had looked a promising type when scoring twice over the distance at his most recent starts but Saturday's black type challenge looked a significant step up

for the four-year-old who was having just his thirteenth career start.

With ex-pat kiwi Mick Dee aboard, Germanicus settled beautifully on the fence beyond midfield as La Bella Rosa (NZ) (Tavistock) and Hinerangi (Fastnet Rock) set up a solid speed in front.

Dee angled Germanicus off the fence approaching the home corner but was desperate for room in the straight as eventual runner-up Cutting Up Rough (NZ) (Per Incanto) held him in a pocket. Dee and Germanicus saw clear air at the 150m and charged

home to get in the deciding stride over Cutting Up Rough with Scott Base (NZ) (Dalghar) just a neck away in third.

Despite throwing her charge in at the deep end, Guy was confident he had what it took to rise to a new level.

"He's just kept stepping up and as he's got more tractable in his racing manners, he's showing us what he can be," Guy said.

"I definitely think that there is more to come.

"I thought after his last race he had

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GUY AT IT AGAIN WITH TRENTHAM FEATURE VICTORY

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proved that he would be competitive at this level.

"It's good for him to have an away trip against the better competition to see where he's at.

"Where we go to from here is another story as we will just consolidate now and wait for next season.

"I think next season he is going to be really special."

Dee, who had finished second aboard Harlech in the Gr.1 Levin Classic a race earlier, was pleased to

take out the victory.

"It was a little bit of disappointment in the last race but I'm happy to pick this one up as it was a good effort by the horse," Dee said.

"We got back in the ruck and were able to find a way to the outside.

"When I came off the fence and tracked through behind them, I certainly thought I was going to be the winner from then on.

"It was a good, tough effort to hold out the challengers."

Germanicus is the second foal of

high quality racemare St Germaine (NZ) (Keeper), who won the Gr.3 Gold Trail Stakes (1200m) and was placed in seven black type races including twice at Group One level during a 35-start career. – NZ Racing Desk

Race	WRC Anniversary H. Gr.3 1600m
Winner	Germanicus (NZ) 2015
Owners	St Germaine Syndicate
Trainer	Danica Guy (Matamata)
Breeding	by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out of St Germaine by Keeper (AUS)
Breeder	St Germaine Syndicate

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beauty Generation's 'enthusiasm' excites Zac Purton ahead of champion's Group One return

Many have been quick to label **Beauty Generation (NZ)** (Road To Rock) a has-been after his disappointing finish to 2019 but Zac Purton is confident the reigning Horse of the Year can still have a big say at the top level after a promising trial at Sha Tin on Friday morning.

John Moore's seven-year-old moved well ahead of next weekend's Group One Stewards' Cup (1600m), where he will tackle just six rivals.

"I actually thought he was pretty good, he's nice and fresh, bouncing around and he showed a little bit more enthusiasm," Purton said.

"In the straight his problem has been that he's just been putting the flag up, saying he's had enough and just dwindling out of it a little bit.

"But after they went past him he wanted to grab the bit and work to the line, which was nice to feel and good to see. Hopefully he can take that to the races."

After his winning streak was ended at 10 in October, Beauty Generation could only manage third in December's Hong Kong Mile but Purton knows the champion doesn't have to improve much to return to the winner's circle.

"He's been getting beaten a length and a half or two lengths and he hasn't been having a crack so he's just got to want to hit the line, that's all it's going to take," he said.

"I'm not going into the race expecting anything, I'm just going to give him his chance to show us he's still got that will to win. We'll see what we get on the day."

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HEADSTRONG SOUTHERNER TOO SWIFT IN TRENTHAM STAKES

Free-going southern galloper **Camino Rocos** (NZ) (Shocking) led his rivals a merry chase when he dominated proceedings from the front to take out the first of the Trentham features on Saturday, the Gr.3 Barneswood Farm Trentham Stakes (2100m).

Rider Chris Johnson was struggling to keep his mount in check in the initial stages of the contest as the Shocking six-year-old shot away to a ten-length lead and was keen to go even faster.

Johnson knew what he had under him and turned for home still six lengths clear of his nearest pursuer as the rest of the field started to get motivated to try and hunt him down. Camino Rocos never looked like flinching despite the chasers whittling away at the margin and went to the line a length to the good of race favourite Fiscal Fantasy (Skilled) with fellow North Island raider Masetto (NZ) (Cape Blanco) in third.

Co-trainer Karen Parsons, who prepares Camino Rocos in partnership with husband John, admitted the stable had been confident of that type of performance despite taking on some highly touted northern rivals.

"That's what he does down south as that's how he likes to run," Parsons said.

"We just hoped he could keep going as we all thought he could do it but when we (South Island representatives) come up here they rubbish us.

"He (Camino Rocos) can keep going at a hang of a quick tempo and he (Chris) is magic, he is the magic man.



Chris Johnson has Camino Rocos travelling sweetly as he heads for home at Trentham (Race Images – Grant Matthew)

"We'll go home now and have a think about what next."

Formerly prepared by Cambridge conditioners Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman, Camino Rocos won four races and was stakes placed on two occasions before transferring to the Parsons operation where he has won another five times to take his tally to nine victories from 41 career starts.

The win was the second North Island prize taken out by the Parsons stable in recent weeks after Kiwi Ida (Squamosa) scored in the Gr.2 Manawatu Challenge Stakes (1400m) at Awapuni last month.

Kiwi Ida will tackle the Gr.2 Westbury Classic (1400m) at Ellerslie on Karaka Million night (January 25) after consideration had been given to bring her to Trentham to contest another

of today's features, the Gr.3 Bluestar Anniversary Handicap (1600m).

"She (Kiwi Ida) is well," Parsons said.

"I wanted to come here for the Anniversary but we're going to Ellerslie instead." - NZ Racing Desk

Race	WRC Trentham S. Gr.3 2100m
Winner	Camino Rocos (NZ) 2013
Owners	JW Bradshaw, GP Coffe, AR Cookson, GN Glogoski, MJ Prendergast & LA Skinner
Trainer	John & Karen Parsons (Balcrain)
Breeding	by Shocking (AUS) out of Our Centasea (AUS) by Centaine (AUS)
Breeder	A R Cookson; G N Glogoski; M J & P Prendergast & L A Skinner

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LUVALUVA WINS AGAIN TO EARN GROUP ONE SHOT

Rejuvenated mare **Luvaluva (NZ)** (Mastercraftsman) will be given a Group One opportunity across the Tasman after landing back-to-back stakes wins with a classy performance in the Listed January Cup (2000m).

In a race that did not go to plan, Luvaluva was flushed out into a three-wide position when the speed slowed but rather than panic, jockey Koby Jennings used it as a chance to creep closer to the leaders.

He kept the \$2.10 favourite under a hold, waiting until Luvaluva balanced up in the straight before giving her rein and she quickly put Saturday's 2000-metre race in the bag.

She scored by three quarters of a length over pacesetter Taikomochi (Snitzel), who edged out Mr Garcia (Paco Boy) by a half-head.

A triple Group winner as a filly, Luvaluva broke a 20-month drought when she claimed the Gr.3 Summer Cup on Boxing Day.

After overcoming a muddling tempo to add Saturday's Listed feature, trainer John Sargent is adamant the mare has regained her confidence.

"We didn't get the suck into the race and had to go a bit earlier but I thought that might happen the way tactics were in the race because it was so slow early," Sargent said.

"She is now in form and she's got a bit of confidence.

"We thought if she went well today we might try to get a

Group One in New Zealand."

The race Sargent has in mind is the weight-for-age Herbie Dyke Stakes (2000m) at Te Rapa on February 8.

"She will drop two kilos and the 2000 metres will be ideal," he said.

"This will probably do her good against this type of company and she can have one more run then have a break and hopefully in the spring she will be back to her normal self."

Luvaluva's return to form has coincided with the booking of Jennings, who Sargent sought out in the belief he would suit the mare.

It has proven to be a winning partnership and one Jennings hopes to maintain in New Zealand.

"I put him on and people asked me why, but I just thought he reminds me a lot of Blake Shinn who had good success on this horse," Sargent said.

"He's tall, he's got good hands and he's a very relaxed type of person."

Jennings admitted it wasn't ideal having to pop out early on Luvaluva but the mare had a class edge on her rivals.

"When I got lobbed out three deep, it was a train-wreck for a couple of strides," Jennings said.

"But then she tracked forward and I was always confident.

"I just had to give her a couple of smacks to keep her going

and get past the other horse (Taikomochi) but after that she cruised home." -AAP



Race	ATC January Cup L 2000m
Winner	Luvaluva (NZ) 2014
Owners	Seymour Bloodstock, Mr ML Connaghan, Mr BJ Creith, Mr MB Trevaskis, Mr SC O'Brien, Mr A Gennusa, Mr SW Kennelly
Trainer	John Sargent (Randwick)
Breeding	by Mastercraftsman (IRE) out of Wansesingyee (AUS) by Galileo (IRE)
Breeder	C R Grace
Sales	2016 Ready to Run Sale V: Surrey Farm \$55000 P: JG Sargent

Luvaluva easily accounts for her rivals in the Listed January Cup (2000m) (bradleyphotos.com.au)



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NO DENYING OPALESCENCE AT TRENTHAM

Nuggety northern two-year-old **Opalescence (NZ)** (Showcasing) gave punters another display of her never-say-die attitude when she fought back strongly to down her age-group rivals over 1200m at Trentham on Saturday.

The Showcasing filly was narrowly beaten on debut when going down to the Karaka Million 2YO (1200m) candidate Preakness (NZ) (Darci Brahma) at Otaki back in November.

Byerley Park-based trainer Jenna Mahoney trekked back to the Central Districts with her charge for her second raceday appointment at Awapuni just prior to Christmas where Opalescence dashed home against the fence for rider Sam Collett to open her winning account.

Collett was aboard again on Saturday and made full use of an inside barrier draw to position Opalescence on the pace after she jumped smartly from gate one. Fellow Byerley Park visitor Boomer Hall (Spirit Of Boom) sat beside her and the pair set the terms out in front throughout.

Although both wobbled around across the tricky Trentham junction at the top of the straight, it was obvious they were going better than their rivals and were going to fight out the finish. Opalescence was clearly headed at the 200m but fought back doggedly to take the win from a brave Boomer Hall with Piaggio (NZ) (Vespa) running on stoutly for third.

Mahoney, who also part owns the filly, was all smiles in the Trentham birdcage as she spoke about how she had come to be training her.

"I saw her on gavelhouse.com and I'm a big fan of Showcasing so I ended up buying her for cheap, as she was a \$1,000 filly.

"We're having a bit of fun with her and these Showcasing's they just keep lifting."

Mahoney was pleased with the initiative shown by Collett to take control of the race when nothing else looked like they wanted to lead.

"We weren't expecting to lead and were happy to be crossed but no one wanted to," she said.

"Sam held her there and she found the line nicely.

Sam Collett pushes game filly Opalescence right to the line to defeat Boomer Hall at Trentham (Race Images – Peter Rubery)

"She will come back up north next week and will have a bit of a spell then we might set her for something decent in the autumn.

"It might be Matamata (Breeders' Stakes Gr.2, 1200m) but we will wait and see as it's one step at a time with these two-year-olds."

Collett admitted she didn't have a set tactical plan before the race but was happy to lead once she had the filly in a settled rhythm.

"I would have ideally liked to trail but I didn't have a set plan as such," she said.

"I just wanted to make sure wherever she travelled, that she was comfortable.

"She got a little bit lost across the junction but she was really tough to the line.

"She's got a super little racehorse brain where she wants to get on with the job and is willing, so it makes it easy for me."

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	WRC William the Protector 2YO S. 1200m
Winner	Opalescence (NZ) 2017
Owners	J Mahoney & C Brown
Trainer	Jenna Mahoney (Byerley Park)
Breeding	by Showcasing (GB) out of Fairy Story by Pentire (GB)
Breeder	Haunui Farm LP

