



THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS WA

Class Prevails **IN SWAN RIVER VASE**

Last month's Swan River Vase wasn't run to suit Material Man and he had to dig deep to nail stablemate Noir De Rue at the end of 2200m at Belmont.

Starting a long odds-on favourite, Material Man responded to a vigorous ride by Paul Harvey to notch his 16th win in 36 starts for owner-breeders Mike and Jill MacDermott. He's a son of Roselee Park sire Vital Equine (Ire) and was coming off a Group 3 victory in the Strickland Stakes.

"They went slow early and made him carry that weight (58.5kg)," trainer Justin Warwick said.

"I had worked him harder than usual to take the edge off so he wouldn't pull but that left him flat-footed when they sprinted.

"Luckily, the margin for error with him is quite large and class came to the top at the finish."

Material Man has earned over \$1.84 million since winning a Narrogin maiden on debut in February 2016 and his black-type credits range in distance from a G3 Belmont Sprint (1400m) to a G2 Perth Cup (2400m).

The rising 9yo veteran has also been Group 1 placed in a Railway Stakes (1600m) and Kingston Town Classic (1800m) and Warwick will give him the chance to have another crack at the feature double later at the summer carnival.

Vital Equine (Ire) sired him from Del Lirio (Hussonet) who was purchased by the MacDermotts as a yearling in 2005.

After two wins in Sydney carrying their black and yellow shamrock silks, Del Lirio transferred to Perth and eventually retired to foal Material Man first-up at stud. Her only other mating in the west produced Geraldton winner Scandalous Miss (Scandal Keeper).

The MacDermotts wound down their racing and breeding interests when Mike was fighting cancer a few years ago and the mare was sold to Queensland breeder Joe Heather who operates River Junction Stud.

Del Lirio is in foal to Spirit Of Boom and Heather also has a Sizzling – De Lirio filly that will be entered for the 2021 Gold Coast QTIS Yearling Sale.

In Victoria, Vital Equine gelding Wild Vitality has found winning form for Ballarat trainer Rodney Foster. After several placings, he landed a Bendigo maiden in May and doubled up at Echuca last month carrying the steadier of 61.5kg.

Foster races Wild Vitality with Garry Goynes. They bred him from Flying Gaga (Flying Pegasus) in partnership with Touchstone Farm and Vern Brockman. His second dam Lady Wild won the 2001 LR Beaufine Stakes for Brockman and apprentice Alana Williams (nee Sansom).

Vital Equine (Danetime) stands at Roselee Park for \$3,300 alongside Jimmy Choux (Thorn Park) at \$4,950. Service fees (inc GST).



PHOTO: Owners Mike and Jill MacDermott with Paul Harvey and Justin Warwick at Belmont



THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS WA

Gingerbread Man

MARE WINS BEAUFINE

Essential Spice launched a withering late burst to bring up her first black-type victory in the LR Beaufine Stakes (1000m) at Belmont last month.

The Gingerbread Man mare landed the lion's share of the \$100,000 purse and boosted her residual value at stud with a career-best performance. She had been beaten a lip first-up last time out but made amends for her connections who were out in force on course.

"I didn't think she was going to get there at the 200m mark but she's a super mare," co-trainer Ben Pearce admitted. "The hot speed suited and it was a top ride by Willie (Pike). He blamed himself for the last-start loss and reckoned he deserved to go back to apprentice's school."

Essential Spice (4m Gingerbread Man – Falls County by Soldier's Tale) claimed her sixth win in 18 starts. She's the final foal of a half-sister to Niagara Falls (G3 MRC Carlyon Cup) and cost Pearce Racing just \$20,000 at the 2017 Yarradale Stud Yearling Sale.

Gingerbread Man (Shamardal) is going from strength-to-strength at Yarradale Stud. Essential Spice was his fourth stakes winner in 2019-20 and that puts him one behind Blackfriars alongside Universal Ruler and Maschino.

Yarradale stands Gingerbread Man for \$5,500 with War Chant (\$11,000), Bradbury's Luck (\$3,300) and Heritage (FOA). All service fees (inc GST).



Albany Stayer

LANDS AQUANITA STAKES

There's a lot of history surrounding the coastal city of Albany. Once famous for its whaling, Albany is the oldest colonial settlement in WA.

Last month at Belmont Park, it was Albany's own – Cousin Ivan – who managed to land a whale by capturing the Listed Aquanita Stakes (2000m).

Firming from \$20 to \$14, Cousin Ivan wasn't expected to trouble hot favourite Uncle Dick but after hitting the front with 200m to go, he showed plenty of fight...much to the delight of breeder Grant Gibbs and trainer Holly Taylor who was celebrating her first win in town.

"I took out my trainers' licence two years ago and currently have eight in work at Forrestdale," Taylor said.

"To win a black type with him is just a huge thrill. Amazing!"

Although Cousin Ivan only 'officially' joined the stable at the start of his current prep, both Taylor and the son of Fiorente have a history.

"Cousin Ivan was bred by Grant Gibbs and his partner Annette Crump and they're based at Albany," Taylor explained.

"I spent a bit of time down there when the horse was having his early education and then they contacted me about taking the horse for a short prep last year.

"He went back to Albany and I thought that was that, but then they phoned me in May about taking Cousin Ivan on full-time. It couldn't have worked out better!"

While the journey has barely started for Taylor, the road for Gibbs – conversely – has been a fairly lengthy one.

"I started out as an apprentice jockey in New Zealand the day after I turned 14," Gibbs revealed.

"I was a jockey over there for around eight years before shifting to WA. I rode quite a few winners in the bush and also won the 1988 Albany and Bunbury Cups on Muromoon. She ran third in a Perth Cup, too.

"I gave riding away at 43 due to arthritis, which resulted in a double hip replacement, but I still manage to ride trackwork. My wife is a licenced trainer but we've scaled right back and these days we only race what we breed."

Gibbs's actual journey getting to Cousin Ivan has had some twists and turns, too.

"I was sitting in a pub one day back in the 1990s and chatting to a bloke who asked me if I remembered a horse called Spring

Moss, who was a Group winner of 13 races in New Zealand," Gibbs recalls.

"Long story short, he said he had the full sister (Miss Trapani) and I could buy her for \$500.

"Miss Trapani produced Waxed Lyrical for me, who didn't race due to a bowed tendon, but Waxed Lyrical's second foal was Chong Nonsi, who won 6 of her first 9 starts.

"Chong Nonsi's first runner is Cousin Ivan. You've got to be patient in this game.

"Cousin Ivan has been tipped out for a few months and we will bring him back for the Pinjarra and Bunbury Cups...he could be our retirement fund.

"All things being equal, I would like to give him a shot of winning the Perth Cup as a 5yo...who knows, I might just win a Perth Cup yet!"

HOOFFNOTE:

Cousin Ivan is not only the toast of Albany but has something of a fan base in Walpole, some 120 kilometres west.

"My partner in the horse is Darren White and is named him after his actual cousin, Ivan, who is local hairdresser in Walpole and something of a legend around town," Gibbs reveals.

"We're sticking with the theme though because Cousin Ivan's full brother – an unraced 2yo – has the stable name Boris."





THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS WA

Westbury Park

TARGET FOALS AT INGLIS SALE



Westbury Park's Phil and Lindy Ibbotson led WA buyers at last month's Inglis Australian Weanling Sale with colts by Impending and Capitalist.

The Impending – Swiftly Red colt (Lot 349) sold for \$50,000 from Lauriston Thoroughbred Farm. He is from a Testa Rossa winning half-sister to G3 Maribyrnong Plate winners General Truce and Arctic Command.

Impending (Lonhro) was a Group 1 winner of the 2017 Stradbroke Hcp before retiring to Darley. His first-crop are foals and Darley stands him for a \$19,800 (inc GST) fee at its Northwood Farm facility in Victoria.

The Capitalist – Satirical Lass colt (Lot 33) made \$35,000 and was one of 28 foals presented by Fairhill Farm. His dam is by Flying Spur and she won five races in Brisbane for Tony Gollan.

Capitalist (Written Tycoon) won a G1 Golden Slipper and his first-crop yearlings averaged \$205,625 at the Inglis Easter Sale in April. If Westbury bought that colt with the 2021 yearling sales in mind, he could turn out to be a profitable pin-hook at the Perth Magic Millions next February.

Westbury Park stands My Admiration (Encosta De Lago) for a \$4,400 service fee and he has sired the winners of 63 races from his first two crops. He won a G2 Chairman's Trophy (1600m) at Sha Tin and his Magic Millions 3YO Trophy winner Cryptic Wonder transferred to Hong Kong earlier this year.

