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BREEDERS' WEEKLY

This week we caught up with the breeders of Clifden Clowers (pictured), Sandra and John Mounce, to bring you another edition of Breeder Profiles.

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Collect a Guinness, in the hands of John Dunn wins the Sweet Lou Canterbury Country Cups Final at Methven last Sunday

BREEDER'S WINS COME ALMOST ON TAP

Peter Higginbottom bred two winners on two Islands within the space of three days last week all thanks to his 13-year-old Lislea mare, Charlotte Lea.

Ironically the day after St Patrick's Day her second foal Extra Guinness won on the first night of the Manawatu meeting, and then on Sunday her first foal Collect A Guinness won the \$25,000 Sweet Lou Canterbury Country Cups Final at Methven.

Higginbottom, who also drives tourist buses in his spare time, was in the far north last week showing some Australians our beautiful country.

It was an emotional three days for the North Canterbury-based 70-year-old. In fact the two victories brought back a lot of sad memories.



Extra Guinness wins the Naylor Lawrence Mobile Pace by a nose on day one of the Manawatu meeting held last weekend

"Every time my breed wins I think of my good friend and breeding partner, Milne Jellie. We were 50 per cent in all of the horses we bred. I got into this breed all because of him. He passed away about five or six years ago.

"I always look skyward whenever our horses win. It tears me up a little just thinking of good ole Milne. We had some great memories," Higginbottom said.

In fact when Higginbottom spoke to the NZSBA while touring in Paihia, he paused for a few minutes as he held back his tears.

"He was a good bloke and just talking to you now makes me think of all the wonderful animals we have bred," Higginbottom said.

It hasn't been easy for Higginbottom despite his two successes last week. He spends most of his time caring for his wife Marg who suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

"The driving job gives me a little break from being Marg's carer and it recharges the batteries. But I'll always have time for standardbreds.

"I really enjoy breeding. Not only does it bring a lot of satisfaction and success, but like I said before many great memories as well," Rangiora-based Higginbottom said.

The Higginbottom-Jellie partnership started back in the 1990s with their foundation mare, the daughter of Talk About Class - Classy Charlotte.

"Classy Charlotte is the dam of Charlotte Lea. She left five foals and Charlotte Lea was her third. If you go three generations back beyond Classy Charlotte there are bloodline connections to Highland Fling and Caduceus. So we always thought the mares would produce some nice foals, Higginbottom said.

He said he and his late mate liked 'a drop' and hence the Guinness tag on some of their horses.

"I'm dining out on my Irish heritage. It was great that they both won on the week that St Pat's day was celebrated," Higginbottom said.

Charlotte Lea (Lislea - Classy Charlotte) has so far left three foals - 5yo Gotta Go Collect gelding, Collect A Guinness has won nine of his 21 starts and \$64,075; 3yo Extreme Three gelding, Extra Guinness has recorded two wins from 16 starts and \$13,292; and 2yo Gotta Go Collect filly Got A Guinness qualified 5.2 seconds under the required time at Rangiora on March 2.

All but Extra Guinness are trained by Robert Dunn. He is trained by Brent Weaver.

"The mare missed to A Rocknroll Dance and then to Mach Three but I think she will be okay next season because they discovered that she had a lot of fluid build-up in her uterus.

"The vet cleared that and thinks she will be back breeding again next season. I still haven't decided whether I'll go to A Rocknroll Dance or Mach Three. I'll make my mind up closer to the time," Higginbottom said.

Higginbottom farmed at Banks Peninsula for 30 years but came to Rangiora several years ago to retire and care for his wife.

He has three mares he breeds from and rates Collect A Guinness as the best horse he has bred or owned. He has a 100 per cent share in him.

Duane Ranger

BREEDER'S PROFILE



Sandra Mounce

Sandra and John Mounce are what many would deem little guys in our sport.

Sandra holds a public trainer's license and tasted success last Sunday when the horse she and husband John bred was successful at Manawatu with Jay Abernathy aboard. It was a complete family affair with Les, John and Tony also being listed as owners.

John has a strong family interest and when quizzed by Sandra, was nominated as the person to be spoken with regarding breeding. His father Trevor trained the 1965 Dominion Handicap winner Mighty Chief.

Currently residing up in sunny Blenheim where they operate their accommodation complex Two Tree Lodge, we caught up with John to bring you another edition of Breeder Profiles.

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN HARNESS RACING?

I was brought up around harness racing with my father training horses called Mighty Chief and Petterson's Pride back in the 70's on the farm at Springston South. So we were always interested from an early age. My brothers both train. Kevin is based at Weedons and has trained a couple of winners and Peter is a trainer and he was foreman for Jack Smolenski, Charlie Hunter and John Langdon in the 70's, 80's and 90's before branching out

on his own and training up in the North Island. All of us have been involved in ownership and also breeding on a smaller scale.

Sandra got involved when we had one of our backpacker businesses right next to Victoria Park in Greymouth. In the morning she would be working the horses there at the track. One of them was Done Deal and she managed to win the 2000 Dave Morris Amberley Cup Memorial beating a number of good horses. We had an ownership interest but at the time the horse was in the name of Russell Latimer, despite Sandra doing a lot of the work with him. He was a wonderful horse and helped in us catching the bug.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BREEDING STANDARDBREDS?

We've been breeding for upwards of the last 15 years.

FIRST HORSE YOU BRED?

I guess it was Gina out of a mare that gave Sandra her first win as trainer in Miss Theegee. Me and Mike Ward who is the trainer of Majestic Time have a lovely Majestic Son foal out of Gina, she's also the mum of Cocktail Waiter and Clifden Clowers who was a winner at Manawatu last Sunday.

The second horse we bred was also out of Miss Theegee by Sundon called the Great Pretender who had a lot of ability. We got a couple of lovely Monarchy's out of her that are showing some promise. With Monarchy recently being put down there obviously won't be many more of them around. The colt has done a couple of preps at Roydon Lodge and looks pretty promising!

FIRST WINNER YOU BRED?

Well it should have been Gina who had some placings and was in all the derbies and classics but from memory our first bred winner would have been The Great Pretender. She won at Timaru and beat the very smart Have Faith as a two-year old in her first race day start!

WHY DO YOU BREED STANDARDBREDS?

We are just passionate about harness racing. We also really love our trotters!

In saying that I've got a pacer called Paul's Verdict who should go close at Hawera on Saturday. But we do have a love of the square-gaiters. It's probably because we were bought up as kids watching Might Chief's career. Dad trained him and he won the Dominion Handicap (to go along with 19 other wins and 16 placings) and he was a grand old horse. We fell in love with them then I think, even though it's harder work with a trotter, there's nothing better than when you get them up and going and trotting all the way.

FAVOURITE HORSE YOU BRED?

We've got a soft spot for wee Clifden Clowers who's been a problem horse. A lot of people had the conversation with us that they thought he was something special early on but he's had his fair share of problems. He's got an old condition called 'stringhalt'. We actually had someone in Australia wanting to buy him but we cut the conversation off straight away because of the stringhalt thing where he walks funny. He gets by, but he also had chronic ulcer problems that we're usually on top of but can sometime get away on us.

He's got a great personality and he's just a wee dude that does everything right. If there was a horse you had to put your life on for trotting all the way and doing everything right he'd be a strong candidate! When he's right he can run quite hot and hopefully he's going through one of them spells now.

FAVOURITE STALLION?

Well while we haven't bred to him but we certainly like the Love You's and were going to send Madisonz Luck to him next year.

HAVE YOU BRED ANYTHING THIS SEASON?

No we gave a big Sundon mare out of Miss Theegee to Anne Marie and Jere-my Best and they've just put Innuendo in foal to Majestic Son. We've given Gina this year off along with the rest of the mares. It's just a personal preference but we never really breed three years in a row, we like to give them a wee spell.





FACING EXECUTIVE FOR THE FIRST TIME (PART TWO)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE MANAGER BRAD REID

Following on from last week's report lets' cover a couple more topics from our Executive Meeting this month.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Association is funding the following research projects which will be reported on in the coming months:

- Mare age and percentage chance of race start with emphasis on aged mares – clear evidence exists that breeding aged mares is unproductive. The results will be revealed in the April 2016 Breeders' Weekly.
- Date of birth of Group/Listed race winners, can you be too late in the season – a ten-year overview.
- Updating of wastage data; F&M particularly into training, trialling and racing
- Winning mares v non-winners performance – where do our winners come from and is the performance of the dam important?
- Unregistered foals – why has there been an increase?

TAXATION DEFINITION OF A 'BREEDER' FOR INCOME TAX AND GST

The Inland Revenue initiated a review of the definition of who is a 'breeder' for

income tax and GST purposes. This was the aftermath of a High Court case concerning yearling colts.

The Racing Board is leading these discussions with the IRD. The core issues are who is a 'breeder' and when does a breeding business or a breeding activity commence?

We will update breeders in the Weekly as soon as possible. We also plan to include bloodstock taxation as a topic at our Winter Forums in Pukekohe, Christchurch and Invercargill in May/June.

SALES AGENTS – CODE OF CONDUCT

About a decade ago NZSBA promoted the idea of HRNZ developing a code of conduct for people involved in selling standardbred horses. At that time NZ Thoroughbred Racing engaged Bell Gully Lawyers to draft a code of conduct. The attempt to achieve cross code cooperation went nowhere. Recently the Thoroughbred Sales agents have adopted a Code of Conduct.

In the last few months various people have approached the Chairman with complaints about the behaviour of various sales agents.

Many in our sport do not understand the law of agency and secret commissions. There are instances of a so-called 'agent' ringing an owner

and saying that they have a buyer for a horse and asking for a sale price. Sometimes it is not clear if the agent is the agent of the owner or an anonymous buyer.

If the owner gives a price, and the 'agent' is not the actual agent of the vendor, the law is clear. The so-called agent can buy the horse for himself and on-sell it at whatever price he can get.

The Executive decided:

A. NZSBA submits a Rule proposal for the 2016 HRNZ Conference authorising the Board to introduce a Code of Conduct on the sale of standardbreds as it applies to licence holders, with penalties for unethical behaviour and secret commissions.

B. NZSBA asks HRNZ to:

- Develop a code of practice, endorse it as best practice and circulate it; and
- Encourage and facilitate standardbred agents to establish their own association similar to the thoroughbred association and adopt the code of conduct.

NZSBA has a direct interest under two of our strategic priorities (#2 Advocacy and #4 Revenue for Breeders) in advocating for the fullest protection of breeders and owners when selling horses to ensure that they receive true value in a transparent deal.

Brad Reid

BREED FROM PARADISE

The surprise win at long odds by Bird Of Paradise at Addington again turned the torch on the heroic deeds of Times On My Side.

It was also a reminder that mum and daughter are linked to one of the fastest pacers of all time – Mount Eden.

His speed exploits were incredible.

Barry Ward has the evidence to say Times On My Side has a record that at least has equal merit.

He bred Times On My Side by sending the Out To Win mare Out Of Time (bred by Clem Scott) to Clever Innocence. It was a good match: Times On My Side won 10 races and if that wasn't enough, she did even better at the stud.

She left 10 foals for eight winners – Paint It Black (2 wins), Child In Time (10), Carl Lewis (5), Time After Time (1), After Midnight (4), Wonderful Tonight (6), Free Bird (5) and Bird Of Paradise (4). A sturdy breed, this has come from 552 starts.

Their connection with Mount Eden comes from Shepherds Brook, whose foals included Blankets to Aksarben. She also left Blue Brook, the dam of New Zealand Cup winner Camelot and Forenoon to U Scott. To Lumber Dream, Forenoon left Wee Ann, the one-eyed dam of Out Of Time, and grand-dam of Bird Of Paradise.

After being first sent to Cappi, Blankets went to Morris Eden to leave Mount Eden, and he was sold for \$600 to Bernie Ogden and Jack Miles, in Western Australia.

Closely related to smart trotters Wallacetown and Antemeridian, Mount Eden would trot off, break into a gallop and then, usually quite some distance from the field, start pacing. With no mobile starts in WA during his career, this would always be the pattern.

His first win was at his third start, and he won a further five in succession, each after giving away massive starts.

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DON'T FORGET TO CLAIM YOUR BREEDER BONUS!!

Any financial member of the New Zealand Standardbred Breeders Association (as of 31st of August 2015) who breeds the winner of a totalisator race at a New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club (Met) meeting (excludes premier days, see T's & C's) held at Addington Raceway will be eligible for a \$500 bonuspayment. Bonus also applies to meetings held by the Akaroa, Amberley and Cheviot Trotting Club meetings who pay a Breeder Bonus on their own accord.

Click [here](#) for full terms and conditions.



MARES FOR SALE

QUALITY IN FOAL BROODMARES & WEANLINGS FOR SALE

The NZSBA currently has multiple listings of well-bred mares for sale/lease/free.

To find out more information and to see what is available, please **click here**. This will direct you to our website, and then click the For Sale/Lease heading in the navigation bar.



Barry Ward and his friends are greeted in the birdcage by the victorious Bird of Paradise and the Met Multiplier Cheque won last Friday night at Addington



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After winning a heat and the final of the Sires' Produce Stakes, an offer was made – and rejected – from American interests for \$150,000.

He won his first two starts back as a 4-year-old and when he came to Gloucester Park for the Christmas Handicap, 35,000 turned up – ten times the normal crowd. Starting from 24 yards, he lost 80 and bolted in.

In February, 1971, he was sent to Addington for the Inter-Dominions. He had won seven straight and 13 of his last 14; his appearance was to be a highlight. And it was, but not for competitive reasons.

Plagued with his problems at the barrier, Mount Eden finished 7th, 2nd and 6th in the heats, each time losing up to 100 yards. He missed a place in the Grand Final by one point, and on the final night time trialled in an NZ record 1.56.5.

Back to Australia, Mount Eden was invited to compete in the Miracle Mile at Harold Park. It would be his first – and only – start from the mobile gate. The opposition was good; eventual Inter-Dom Grand Final winner Stella Frost (after the disqualification of Junior's Image), Manaroa, Bay Foyle – who would win a Miracle Mile, but not this year – Deep Court and Netrodyne.

In the run-up, Mount Eden is pulling fiercely and gallops. There is no interference but the starter calls it a false start and they pull up. It's a record tote turnover on the race and Mount Eden is favourite. They go again and Mount Eden is just as keen and gallops. This time the starter lets them go. By this time the favourite is pacing but 12 lengths behind the others. He tags on.

In the back straight for the final time, Miles sends him three-wide. He sprints with astonishing speed and overtakes them all. By the time he turns for home, he's four lengths clear and by the time he's at the post, he's clear by six lengths. His time of 1.58.8 is only .2 of a second outside the race record held by Halwes.

That race was the end of Mount Eden's racing career in Australia; 14 wins from just 20 starts. He was only four but Miles decided chasing fields from terrifying handicaps was too tough on him. The future, he said, would be paid time trials from behind the mobile.

Off he went.

At the first of them, a week after the Mile, he broke Halwes national time trial record by over half a second, running 1.56.7, and that time held for more than a decade until it was lowered by Popular Alm.

He then went to the Melbourne Showgrounds, a tiny three-furlong saucer, where he became the first horse to break 2.00.

Returning to his home state, he broke the WA mile record, taking 1.57.8, which stood until Pure Steel broke it in 1978.

After that he was sold to American interests for US\$300,000. But the greatness didn't follow him there. He was injured, eventually went to the stud, and near the end of his life returned to Western Australia where he was emotionally reunited with Jack Miles.

Only a few months later, Jack passed away, and soon after Mount Eden did, too.

Times On My Side is still with us, living the good life and leaving the breeding to

her numerous daughters, though from four mares the only foal they've got is a filly by A Rocknroll Dance from Wonderful Tonight.

This season Child In Time has gone to Sunshine Beach, Paradise City to Mach Three and Alright Now to Changeover.

Ward's first horse was Lobell Star, a pacing-bred trotter by Nat Lobell from a mare owned by Bill Bagrie. His next horse was Out Of Time.

"I was working for Clem Scott and I wanted to buy the foal and I kept pestering him until he sold it to me and she won three."

Her second foal, her first filly and by far her best was Times On My Side. "When I asked Murray Steel what she was like as a foal, he said you'll have no trouble finding her in the dark. That's because she had a white blaze and four white socks.

"She was speedy ... just a great mare," said Ward.

While Bird Of Paradise paid a dividend worth having at Addington, she is not the biggest Ward has sprung on the track.

At a Reefton meeting at Addington, he won with Champagne Supernova who paid \$100.20. To be on the safe side, he produced Sweet Emotion to run second.

After selling a Bettor's Delight colt from Wonderful Tonight (by Red River Hanover) at the Premier last month for \$41,000, Ward has the belief another top horse will soon emerge from this line. It will be something special if it has the best qualities of Mount Eden.

Mike Grainger

SOUTHERN TROTTER MONSTERS THEM ON AND OFF THE TRACK!

Michelle Caig said her late broodmare Bred A Monster basically bred a monster.

"That's what Mortician was to me. He was a rogue and we never got on, but he was a strong horse and I always knew he could trot.

"I couldn't even give him away at the Yearling Sales," Caig said.

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"I later got \$4,000 for him at the Mixed Age Sale just before the Jewels last year," she added.

Mortician qualified 6.7 seconds under the required time when first presented to a racetrack at Alexandra Park on February 26. That was a \$2,000 non-tote event.

Then last Thursday night at the Harness Racing Waikato meeting at Cambridge Raceway the 2-year-old Monarchy gelding won the \$5,000 non-tote event. He strolled it winning easily by one-and-three-quarter lengths.

The promising chestnut is trained by Jason and Megan Teaz at Ohaupo and driven by Stewart Cruickshank.

"He's going to get better with each race because he has great strength and I know Jason and Megan will get the best out of him. He is sadly the only one out of the mare. He just didn't want to be my friend," Winton-based Caig said.

Bred A Monster (by Sundon) was out of the maiden Roydon Boy mare,

Callumny. She won one of her 15 starts and that was for Invercargill trainer Ray Faithful at Wyndham on November 15, 2009.

"Her first foal by Simon Roydon died and a year after Mortician she missed to The Pres," Caig said.

Caig has culled her numbers but still has several mares she breeds from.

She is a renowned Southland breeder who received \$31,000 for a Monarchy colt out of the champion mare Merinai at last year's Sales. He is 2-year-old named Master Merlin.

"He was Mortician's good mate. I think they both have very good futures," said Caig.

Four years ago her Gotta Go Collect – Equus Franco colt named Haymaker fetched \$34,000.

Cambridge's Arna Donnelly bought Master Merlin. He is the 10th foal out of Merinai. Donnelly also has foal number eight – the five win Pegasus Spur gelding, Wingsonhai, who has won seven of his 21 starts and \$69,187.

"Merinai is so precious. She is here for life. I'm still considering whether or not to breed from her again. She and Sun Mist (un-raced) are my special breeding girls," Caig said.

Merinai (Tuff Choice –Meriden), who is now 24, was a champion Group One winning mare who notched up 19 victories from 27 starts. She also netted \$244,155 in stakes.

Sun Mist (Sundon) is Merinai's first foal and each one of her progeny has won a race. Caig said she had made more than \$60,000 for her.

"I used to buy and sell show ponies which later led to breeding them. I sold my best pony to pay my first standard-bred service fee. I soon learnt it isn't so much the sale price that's important – it's the profit margin.

"I got into breeding initially through Dave and Dawn Kennedy. I bred a Beach Towel through them, but Merinai's first foal was my first love. That of course was Sun Mist," Caig said.

Duane Ranger

THE CURIOUS CASE OF GOTTA GO CULLET

*Editor's Note: This story was written prior to Gotta Go Collect being scratched from his Thursday, Cambridge engagement.

How hard is it to make it as a colonial stallion these days?

Stallions are ultimately (albeit unfairly) judged on their ability to leave a Group race winner.

At a time when a number of his progeny look set for bigger and better things,

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In partnership with Primary ITO the NZSBA is seeking applications for those interested in obtaining a Primary ITO National Certificate in Equine Breeding.

NZSBA will be funding the fees for people who are passionate about breeding standardbreds, and are keen to grow their skills and knowledge.

A charitable trust is under development that will also give participants in the scholarship programme the opportunity to seek funded travel for organised work experience in overseas studs.

If you would like to further your education and obtain a formal and nationally recognised qualification at the same time, we can't wait to hear from you.

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- Your background with Standardbreds/Breeding
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one stallion is about to resurrect his racing career as a rising ten year old this Thursday night.

His name, Gotta Go Collect.

GGC was bred to be good being out of one of the best performing race mares in Australasia over the last 20 years in Elect to Live.

For those who have forgotten the front running deeds of the ultra-tough Live or Die mare and her regular pilot, Neil Brady, her resume reads quite well.

One Derby. Three Oaks. 2yo filly pacer of the year. 3yo filly pacer of the year. And in the same season as a filly, she won Pacer of the Year and Horse of the Year!

We all know how good his dad was. And the resulting foal was one of the coolest and most talented dudes New Zealand never saw the best of on our race tracks.

"He use to pick up a tennis ball in his mouth and throw it across the paddock for himself, he certainly knew he was good alright and had plenty of character about him," said his breeder and former trainer/owner Sue Martin.

On the track, he was the perfect hybrid of his dam and sire.

He could fly the gate and get to the top with ease, leading in every race he contested bar his last.

Although many tried, only Tin Tin in America (passing lane over a mile) and Stunnin Cullen ever ran him down after turning for home in front.

Given his unsoundness with his legs, he showed an enormous amount of heart each and every time he stepped out on the track.

Bought outright by Alabar (NZ) Ltd for stud duties when injury brought his racing career to a premature end, Gotta GoCollect was given every chance by breeders in his six years at stud.

He has served 550 mares (albeit not the best of the bunch) in those six seasons which has resulted in 399 live foals on the ground.



Jay Abernathy and Gotta Go Collect at Alexandra Park nearly eight years ago!

As of today he has produced 50 winners including such smart types as Al Raza 1:52.1 (H) (\$149,977), the Southland Oaks winner Royal Counsel, 1:54.2 (\$88,202), and Harrysul 1:57.1 (\$45,056) but overall his numbers have fallen short of what is required in today's hugely competitive stallion market and the numbers of mares he served each season has dropped accordingly.

Due to dwindling support from breeders last year, the decision was made by Alabar to lease him to Jay Abernathy who had enquired about his availability to return as a race horse.

Given Jay's excellent track record in keeping older horses going, the decision was made to send him back to the man who had driven him throughout his two-year-old career.

"I'd previously had a couple of approaches from Jay Abernathy to lease the horse and when I weighed it all up that looked to be the best option for Gotta Go Collect going forward," said Graeme Henley of Alabar.

"Especially with Jay having a water treadmill to get him fit without having to put pressure on his legs."

"Jay had driven Gotta Go Collect in his first five starts for four wins and a second and has a genuine fondness for the horse and was keen to be reunited with him."

Reunited they are and they attempt to achieve the unthinkable at Cambridge this Thursday when the former stallion lines up in the seventh race of the night. Remarkably, drawn outside of him is his six time race winning son in Stand Sure.

Even more remarkable is the current run of his other progeny Nek Time and Collect A Guinness.

The former has been unbelievable of late and looks set to follow in the footsteps of former Southland Oaks' winner Royal Counsel when she tackles Southland's biggest race for fillies in that race on April 16.

Nek Time has raced 11 times out of the Chmiel barn this year and won four races, finishing in the money on five other occasions with her worst finish being a pair of fourth placings.

She won the \$40,000 Listed Sires Stakes 'Harness 5000' race at Addington in February and last Saturday turned in the performance of her career winning the McMillan Feeds Mobile Pace at Winton.

She not only won the race, but broke the all comers record for 2400m (AS A FILLY!!) previously held by Rider On The Storm on the same track.

All up she shaved 1.5 seconds off the New Zealand record when stopping the clock in a staggering 2:53. It wasn't as if she was sitting pretty on the back of a hot pace, with the daughter of GGC working hard and eventually holding all challengers at bay in a performance that would have made her grand-dam proud.

Collect A Guinness continued a golden weekend for his sire when he held out the challenge of Seel the Deal to win the Sweet Lou Canterbury Country Cups final at Methven. The best performed son of GGC has this season won eight of his races, and finished in the money a further eight times for

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\$81,000 in stakes.

This weekend Collect a Guinness will contest a hot field in the Group 1 Easter Cup over two miles, an incredible achievement for a horse who started the year as a C1 pacer.

While Gotta Go Collect's immediate future looks to be on the race track, don't be surprised to see him tried again as a stallion given the continual improvement of his progeny.

Fingers crossed the old boy lines up Thursday, and best of luck to Jay Abernathy and connections.

What a wonderful story it would be!

Brad Reid

SIoux WEST'S MULTIPLE WINS THRILLS OWNERS



Sioux West and Matt Purvis salute the judge at Addington fresh off the back of his Methven victory

The maiden victory of Sioux West at the Hororata club's annual meeting at Methven's Mt Harding racecourse was greeted with great enthusiasm by Sioux West's loyal band of owners Sue Bird, breeder Neil Timms, Brian Gosling (not on course) and Margaret Read. Over the past forty five years, based on information provided by HRNZ, Neil Timms has had interests in eighty horses. This has included a share of the ownership of Van Washing Man (7 wins, Winton Cup) and trotter Sunny Stone (8 NZ/7 AUS wins, T1:56.7). Margaret Read has interests in several horses while Sue Bird has had interests in other horses over the past couple of decades.

The five year old gelded son of Elsu and Son Of Afella mare Ali's Fella took out the Seelite Windows and Doors/SBA Accounting Pace over 2400m stand leading all the way for Robbie Close, winning by 2¼ lengths in a time of 3:08.6/2:06.4/58.0/28.7. Principal of Seelite Windows (aluminium joinery company) Michael Taranto of Hallam, is a keen supporter of Bruce Hutton's Greendale stable. Taranto's interest in standardbreds goes much further than racing and breeding them. He is Vice President of Cranbourne HRC, Chairman of Breeders Crown Committee and a member of Harness Racing Victoria's committee.



Gotta Go Collects fastest daughter, Nek Time, pictured with the Chmiel family at Addington stables

Sioux West immediately backed up his Methven effort winning a penalty free junior drivers 2600m C1 stand at Addington in the hands of Matt Purvis. Settling nicely in the one out trail, out at the top of the straight powering home to win comfortably by 1¼ lengths in 3:23.5/2:05.9/56.9/28.0, he was again impressive in his work.

Sioux West followed this with his third victory in a row at Invercargill. Forced three wide early, he surged to the lead two laps out and strode to the finish although heavily challenged by Hank Bromac who broke just short of the line. He won by a neck in 3:24.4/2:01.8/59.7/30.1, driven by Terry Chmiel.

For these two recent wins and an earlier close-up fourth at Timaru, Sioux West had undergone a stable change moving from Ben Waldron's Ashburton location to Regan Todd's headquarters at Woodend Beach. His overall record now reads 21 : 3 - 3 - 1. 2:01.8, \$20,884.

Sire Elsu (Falcon Seelster/Interchange) was a champion racehorse, the winner of over \$2m in stakes, 1:53.6 and multiple Group one races - Interdominion, Auckland Cup twice, Hunter Cup, GN/NZ/NSW Derbies at three, Chariots of Fire/Taylor Mile/Messenger at four, among 27 victories from 47 appearances. He has to date sired over 270 NZ bred winners of over 600 races with a further 180+ AUS winners and recently notched up his first broodmare sire credits. The fastest of Elsu's progeny is current boom Australian 4yo mare Arms of An Angel (1:50.3) while Chilli Palmer has earned the most with \$260,318 in winnings.

Sioux West's dam Ali's Fella (2000f Son Of Afella) was the fourth foal of her dam Alioro bred and raced by Neil Timms. She recorded a solitary victory in the third of her fourteen start career at Invercargill (3yo 2:02.5, 2200mM). She was trained throughout by Murray Brown with Peter Ferguson being the successful reinsman. In the breeding barn, Ali's Fella has left seven live foals (including an unregistered 2yo filly and weanling colt) to date.

Aside from Sioux West, the only foal to have raced or been successfully bred from is six-win Western Terror gelding and half-brother to Sioux West, Ted West - four wins at three (Invercargill, first start; Forbury Park twice, Winton;

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for trainers Ray Faithful and Tracey Sherborne; owners Ray Faithful and BBC Syndicate; driver Matty Williamson); one at Winton at four over a mile in 1:55.6 and his final NZ victory at Invercargill at five in the hands of Tim Williams. He finished second in the Invercargill Summer Cup. Exported after 22 starts in late 2015, (\$36,694), he won first up at Penrith, his only success in nine Australian starts to date.

Grand dam, Alioro (Paulsboro/Keyanau), a two minute mare, was bred by Neil Timms and raced by the Mitre Peak Syndicate which from 23 starts obtained four wins from her, \$13,575 (Winton, trained by Alan Devery; Wyndham 1:59.0, Timaru and Omakau, trained by Ali Malcolmson). She was the dam of five foals for breeder Neil Timms, all of whom raced with three winning:

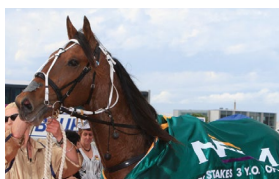
- Fella I Know (g Son Of Afella), 3 wins all at Wyndham, 1:57.7, 1:54.2US, \$14,156
- Ali's Home (f Holmes Hanover), 2 wins, 2:02.1, \$11,169
- Ali's Fella - see above

Sioux West is a descendant from the family of Ruahine (N49), via her Rothschild daughter Innsfail (Dunedin Cup) initially with other maternal line influences through a series of unraced mares including Keyanau his third dam. Keyanau in addition to Sioux West's grand dam Alioro, left 12 foals for breeder Neil Timms, for 8 winners, four in two minutes including Keyafella (1:55.1US; \$200,022 NZ/AUS; 30 Aus/1 NZ win; several Victorian Country Cups); Keyali (Winton Cup, 7 wins, dam of three winners for Charlie Smaill and third dam of Mossdale Conner, 1:51.7, Taylor Mile).

A number of other good performers from the Ruahine family in recent years trace to Otago/Southland stables - the likes of Lord Hillas, Carefree Princess, Noble Fella, Lovers Wish and Russlands.

Peter Craig

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