

OWNERS' REPORT

By Simon Quinn, President, Queensland Racehorse Owners' Association

A GOOD START TO 2010

The racing year has begun in grand style for Queensland with local racing identities Hoss and Gillian Heinrich taking out the Magic Millions 2YO Classic with the outstanding filly Military Rose.

Racing these days has a national and international focus, but it is always great to see a hometown victory, and none more richly deserved than this one for the Heinrich stable which has contributed so much to our local industry.

Military Rose is back in work and will now be set for the Golden Slipper. She has shown she is up to the class and what a great result for Queensland if we could win the Slipper in successive years. <<

DISCUSSIONS ON RECENT ISSUES

As previously mentioned, I have been talking to Paul Brennan and Wade Birch, of Queensland Racing, about issues raised by our members and I am most grateful for the opportunity to consult with them.

One of the concerns was what would happen in the likelihood of a failure of the lighting during a race at either Toowoomba or the Sunshine Coast. Paul Brennan has given details of emergency lighting procedures for Clifford Park and Corbould Park. His letter and attached document can be read on the QROA website. <<

THREE CODES TO COME UNDER THE ONE UMBRELLA

By the time this column goes to print the proposed merger of the three racing codes, thoroughbred, harness and greyhounds, may be a reality. There has been a great deal of discussion about the merger, and at the time of writing there are obviously some important details still to be finalised.

One of the biggest challenges in anything like this is to get everyone looking in the same direction and working in a spirit of cooperation for the greater good, but I do believe it this is a very positive initiative and will provide a major boost in funding for all participants.

One of the often-stated objectives of the QROA is increased prizemoney for owners, and should this merger come to fruition, the cash injection promised by the Queensland Government should help this along. <<

THE FUTURE OF QTIS 600

There has been a flurry of harsh words exchanged about the future of the QTIS 600 scheme with the Queensland breeders objecting strongly to the suggestion that they are not upgrading their breeding stock as was the intent of both QTIS and QTIS 600.

Whilst I do not propose to enter into this debate, I should point out that the intention of Queensland Racing to review the QTIS 600 scheme should not be a cause for alarm. It was always going to be the case that the QTIS 600 Yearling Sale and associated race bonuses and series would be reviewed after two years of operation. As we are coming up to the second QTIS 600 Sale in March, I believe it makes good sense to constantly monitor and assess the results of these schemes. <<

ROCKHAMPTON ON TRACK

QROA committeeman Grant Morgan and I attended the opening of the new grass track at Rockhampton at the end of January. Impressive is the first word that comes to mind! The track was superb, the fields were excellent and the competition very strong. We thoroughly enjoyed the day and send congratulations to all concerned. Rockhampton is a very important racing centre and the upgrading of the track is a very positive move for central Queensland. <<

NEW WEBSITE UPGRADE

If you haven't already visited our new look website, we would encourage you to do so to keep informed on all the latest information for owners. Please visit www.qroa.com.au and encourage other racehorse owners to visit the site. <<

SOCIAL CALENDAR

To start the 2010 year, the QROA will be hosting the first of the Owners' raceday functions on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at Doomben racecourse.

The social function will commence at 12pm in the Chief de Beers room, which is an air-conditioned venue offering floor to ceiling glass overlooking the track and the winning post. The function will conclude at 5pm.

To attend the Owners' day function, the cost is \$75 per person and this includes a quality luncheon with beverages and racecourse entry.

The Owners' day function is limited to the first 100 people to book.

To ensure your place at this event please RSVP with payment prior to March 11.

Bookings can be made online at www.qroa.com.au.

We look forward to seeing you there for a

great start to 2010.

The Brisbane Winter Racing Gala Evening and Owners' Awards presented by the Queensland Racehorse Owners' Association

When:

6:30pm-11:30pm Friday, May 14, 2010

Where:

The Grand Windsor Ballroom
The Sebel and Citigate
King George Square, Brisbane

Dress: Formal

Tickets:

\$170 per person or \$1600 per table of 10

RSVP: April 27, 2010

This not-to-be-missed social event is open to all, and especially those who love racing. Tickets will include pre-dinner drinks and canapés, an elegant three course meal with beverages, entertainment, music and dancing, and fantastic prizes to be won.

The QROA Owners of the Year Award will be the feature.

Entertainment will be provided by cabaret act Sugar with on-arrival entertainers, four-piece band Savvy, and special MC John McCoy.

A major door prize to be won, graciously sponsored by Ambassador Travel, is a trip for two people to the 2010 Cox Plate and includes accommodation, airfares, transfers and reserved seating.

In addition there are best dressed male and female prizes to be won along with a number of quality door prizes to be drawn on the night provided by our supporting sponsors Eventageous with Mantra on Salt Beach and the Brisbane Lions.

Book your place now or reserve a table for 10 by visiting www.qroa.com.au or call 07 3869 9705. <<