

WALLER WEEKLY NEWS

FEBRUARY 28, 2014



Vilanova and Craig Newitt salute the judge in the Group 2 Autumn Classic on Saturday

The team at CWR recorded a Group 2 win at Caulfield and a bounce back to form for the aptly renamed Vilanova, named after the famous Spanish footballer Tito Vilanova. Vilanova's previous name when racing in New Zealand was "Catalonia", also known as the village in Barcelona where Tito was born.

Falago recorded his maiden win when racing out of his grade on Friday night at Canterbury over 1900m. Coming off the back of 3 consecutive placing's, the addition of blinkers and a masterful ride by Jimmy "Pumper" Cassidy saw the son of Fastnet Rock record a dominant win against some better performed opposition.

CWR also applauded a new addition to the team with proud as punch parents David Murtagh and Haylie Martin becoming parents for the first time and welcoming in a gorgeous little baby girl. Both Mum and Bub are both healthy and well.

Click here for our weekly video update and for a full list of horses entered to race for Chris Waller Racing in the coming days visit www.cwallerracing.com

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Charlie Duckworth, a new addition to the CWR stable, will feature each week with a column on all things racing. Charlie will become a familiar face at the races so please be sure to introduce yourself!

Dear Newsreaders,

I would like to give myself a quick introduction, my name is Charlie Duckworth and I have been assistant trainer in England to Ralph Beckett for the last three years. Whilst I was there we had some top class horses and without a doubt the highlight was finishing first and second in this year's Oaks with Talent and Secret Gesture. Mr Beckett is a relatively young trainer and is expanding all the time with a phenomenal strike rate and an expert when it comes to training fillies in particular.

I have come to Australia to gain experience and knowledge of yet another way on how to train a racehorse, as the dream for me is to do exactly that. I was lucky to win the Alex Scott Assistant Trainers Travel Scholarship which enabled me to do this. This is an award for assistants who want to broaden their knowledge abroad and it is named in memory of an English trainer who was shot dead by his foreman long before he reached his full potential.



I will be writing a weekly column with various opinions and differences between the training regime here at the mighty Chris Waller stable and the trainers I have worked for in England. I shall also include post-race analysis and previews of exciting runners for the following weekend. If anyone has anything they would particularly like to know about the ins and outs of racing in the UK then please don't hesitate to contact me on charlieduckworth@hotmail.co.uk and I'd be happy to answer them in the following week's article.

PARRAMATTA CUP PREVIEW

The time honored Parramatta Cup supports a blockbuster card at Rosehill on Saturday. Charlie gives his preview below on the form of the field, plus the English influence on another feature staying event.

The Parramatta Cup is a listed race over 1900 metres worth \$125,000 for 3 year olds and upwards. The majority of runners in this year's Parramatta Cup are European imports which is absolutely extraordinary. Of the CWR runners, I have provided an assessment based on their international form.

Bayrir is a very versatile horse winning a group race in France and another in America. He hasn't quite reached those dizzy heights in Australia yet, however this should be his sort of trip being the winner of two group races over 2000metres.

Junoob is on a hat trick bid and won very impressively on his last start over this course and distance will clearly be a force to be with reckoned with. This race is a step up in grade but going by the way he won his past two outings you'd expect it to be within his capability.

Royal Ascot winning **Opinion** is next on the list. In England his optimum distance was slightly further than this but he was certainly of this calibre. He hasn't had the most amount of luck in Australia so far, having the saddle slip on his second start as well as finding it difficult to break out of the barriers as quickly as the Australian horses. He is going the right way and is still learning how to race Australian style.

Finally we have **Permit** who is dropping back in distance for his hat trick bid. He is having his first run since New Years Day so may just lack a little bit of race fitness but you simply cannot knock his recent form.

The fifth European horse is Gai Waterhouse's **Carlton House** who was 3rd in the Derby and would certainly be the most high profile horse out of the five. In my opinion this trip would be a little bit short for him.

My pick is Junoob, he looks to be the most progressive and is certainly in flying form.

FALAGO

Breaking his maiden status in fine style, this son of Fastnet Rock has started to build an imposing race record with 4 starts for 1 win and 3 minor placings. On debut mid-January at Cranbourne, Falago returned to Sydney to string together two second placings before coming away with a dominant win in a benchmark race at Canterbury last Friday night.

The timely addition of blinkers on Friday night saw Falago drop back in the early stages of the race but a surging finish saw him win with a bit in hand and put away some valuable prize money and BOBS for the owners. Falago will race again at Canterbury next Wednesday where another 1900m affair awaits.



VILANOVA

With 2YO form to rival that of any other top liner in the country, it has taken time and patience to see this son of Commands bounce back and show the ability he displayed as a juvenile. After being gelded for this preparation he returned with a pleasing first and second up run before his form tapered and his manners became unresponsive.

Coming from the rear of the field at Caulfield over the 1800m, Vilanova went from last to first and picked the field up in a matter of two strides before letting down strongly to win dominantly in the Group 2 event.



**RACE PHOTOS COURTESY OF
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Chris Waller's ambitions include assault on Royal Ascot

The Chris Waller yard has developed a reputation as the United Nations of stables as it has grown to become not only the premier outfit in Sydney but in the country.

[Read more...](#)

Waller wary of Junoob form for Listed Cup

Chris Waller's assessment of Junoob has raised doubts over the import's right to favouritism in Saturday's Parramatta Cup.

[Read more...](#)

[READ MORE NEWS DAILY AND VIEW ALL OF OUR RUNNERS
ON THE CHRIS WALLER RACING WEBSITE](#)

STAR THOROUGHBREDS & CHRIS WALLER RACING YEARLING PARADE

Sunday 9th March from 12pm at the Inglis Newmarket Complex, Sydney.

Contact the team at Star to register your interest in attending the yearling parade:

admin@starthoroughbreds.com.au | www.starthoroughbreds.com.au | 02 9760 2410

Inglis's Premier Yearling Sale kicks off on Sunday with our team having completed the first round of yearling inspections. The four days of buying should see the addition of some new members at CWR.

The Inglis Premier yearling sales in Melbourne commence on Sunday and run for four days with 775 lots on offer. Our bloodstock expert in Guy Mulcaster has already completed his first round of inspections and as a whole he felt the sale was of a very high standard. "I have been impressed with quite a few first season sires, especially at this sale, however our leading sires such as High Chaparral, Northern Meteor, Exceed and Excel and Street Cry have really shone through here in Melbourne". Dr Tim Roberts will commence his examination of the shortlist compiled by Guy and Chris and then following the reading of X Rays a final list will be completed by Saturday afternoon having our team well prepared ahead of the commencement of Auctions on Sunday.

The Melbourne sales offers horses with VOBIS which is an owners bonus incentive, very similar to the BOBS system in NSW. VOBIS offers owners bonus prize money with horses that are eligible for the scheme. In years gone by it has made these horses more marketable to our southern counterparts, however with the acquisition of an additional 16 boxes in Melbourne from April 1 it has certainly made these horses more attractive to be the foundation of our Melbourne stable in the coming years.

If anyone is interested in a yearling please feel free to get in touch with Liam – liam@cwalleracing.com.

GETTING TO KNOW THE TEAM JUSTINE HALES

Growing up on a sheep and beef farm near Dannevirke in NZ, Justine rode horses from a young age and followed racing with her Grandfather breeding How Now. After taking a holiday job during her Uni break at Dave and Paul O'Sullivan's the racing bug well and truly bit and Justine worked for many trainers in NZ, most notably Laurie Laxon (where she traveled to Australia with Champagne as a 3yo), Lance Noble and Richard Otto. In addition she spent time in the UK working for Andrew Balding and jumps trainer Nicky Henderson. Justine has now spent the best part of 5 1/2 years across the ditch with the team at CWR.

Favourite Quote?

There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing.

Favourite part of the job?

Seeing the excitement on an owners face when their horse wins whether it be a maiden or a Group One

Favourite horses?

Danleigh, Albert the Fat, Foreteller, Old Belvedere

Best horse ever seen?

Sunline and Black Caviar

Favourite food?

Lambs chops from my parents farm

Favourite jockey?

As a child it was Jim Cassidy, now I don't really have a favourite.

If you weren't in racing, what would you have done?

Finished my science degree

If you could invite three people for dinner, who would you invite?

My two brothers and sister as we are nowadays very rarely in the same place together and our dinners are a guaranteed night full of laughter and lots of wine!

Role model?

Chris Waller

Event in the world that you would most like to attend?

The Monaco F1 Grand Prix

What would you do with your last \$5?

Buy an ice cream

Tip for the weekend?

Red Tracer

