

# CHRIS WALLER RACING



Issue 6  
25 November 2011

## CWR Captures The Spring



Group 1 Glory: (L-R) Craig Newitt celebrates the win on The Verminator in the Group 1 Metropolitan Handicap and Mark Zahra coming back to scale after Albert the Fat wins the Group 1 Emirates Stakes at Flemington.

The international Melbourne Cup Carnival is over for another year. As always the Carnival didn't disappoint and cemented the Carnival as a showpiece of Australian racing.

To have runners in any of the events is a wonderful thrill but we were lucky enough to have runners in the major races including the Emirates Melbourne Cup and the Emirates Stakes. Whilst being represented is a huge thrill, it is even better to win one and Chris Waller Racing was delighted to win the million dollar Emirates Stakes with Albert The Fat.

Albert The Fat has only been a recent addition to the stable having already been a Group 1 winner in the BTC Cup over 1200m and many believed that he was best suited to this sprinting distance, however, Chris believed that he would be able to get over further and therefore had him set for the Emirates Stakes over 1600m. This proved to be the master stroke when he was able to fight out the finish for a very narrow but none the less very gutsy win.

Mark Zahra was aboard timed his ride to perfection, however the jockey merry-go-round had been in overdrive prior to the race with suspensions and appeals ruling a number of our regular riders out of contention for the race.

Chris was delighted with the win being his first win at Flemington following a number of tight finishes throughout the week. With the way that tight finishes had gone it was hard to celebrate the win until the number was in the frame but sure enough the dice had rolled our way.

To ensure that the Flemington victory was not by chance Chris came out and won the Matriarch Stakes in the following race with Vintedge. She managed to score a solid victory in the Group 2 event over 2000m. She was ridden by Nash Rawiller who was able to sum up the race perfectly to ensure her victory by two lengths on the line.

Chris Waller Racing was thrilled to also have two runners represent the stable in the Emirates Melbourne Cup with Hawk Island and The Verminator. Whilst the dream of winning was not reached this year, Chris believes that the race has been a big learning curve that will put him in a good position of future success in the race.

Congratulations to all of the owners with winners over the Carnival and also to the owners who had horses participating in the Carnival. It is a feature event in the international racing calendar and having runners is a wonderful achievement.



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## CWR active again at Tattersall's

CWR has once again been busy at the Tattersalls Autumn Horses in Training Sale in the UK, purchasing a total of seven horses to race in Australia. Waller has been extremely successful in recent seasons bringing horses from Europe to strengthen his stable in Australia. Success stories from the 2011 season include horses such as My Kingdom of Fife, bought in the UK in 2010 by Mr Richard Pegum and has won Group races in both the Autumn and Spring, including the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes over 2000m. Among other success stories from the UK sales ring to the Australian track are that of Hawk Island the son of the sensational racehorse Hawk Wing. Hawk Island was purchased by Waller in 2008 as a non winner after 3 starts in the UK. Under the tutelage of Waller, Hawk Island is now a ten time winner, including 3 stakes victories. In the Spring he finished second in the Group 1 Metropolitan Handicap before starting in the 2011 Melbourne Cup. It's safe to say when it comes to buying abroad the Waller team know what they're doing. The 2011 recruits are:

### Emirates Art (Excellent Art – Going to Work)

This 2yo filly has shown a lot of promise and class in the UK for her trainer David Simcock. She was placed first up over 1200m before winning under two weeks later over the same distance. She stepped up in distance to 1400m for her third start where she again won with plenty still left in the tank. After her second victory Simcock said "she did that well tonight and she will stay further" On her final start for the season she was stepped up to Stakes level and finished within four lengths of the winner after giving away a big start. In all her races to date she has shown that she has an excellent turn of foot and will get over a longer trip as a three year old. She looks to be an excellent prospect for the 2012 season.

### Moriarty (Clodovil – Justice System)

Moriarty is a quality racing prospect, he is a dual winner at 2 over 1400m and 1600m and has shown in his three year old year that he has the ability to stay beyond the 1600m trip. His best run coming in the Gallinule Stakes in Ireland over 2000 meters where he finished second in the fastest time for the race in over ten years. His sire Clodovil (Danehill) is a fantastic looking Group 1 winning miler at 3, who was undefeated at 2. He is the sire of Group 1 winner Nahoodh from a small first crop and is a sire on the rise in Europe.

### Russian Rocker (Acclamation – Russian Ruby)

Russian Rocker is a lightly raced son of sensational sire Acclamation. He was placed on his first start over 1200m. After running greenly at first he was doing all his best work late, showing clear signs of ability. It is expected that in Sydney he will be taken through his grades and stepped up in class. His sire puts a lot of speed into his horses which was evident with Russian Rocker in the way he finished his only race to date. It is expected based on his pedigree and type that he will stay 2000m and looks a very interesting prospect for 2012.

### Sour Mash (Danehill Dancer – Landmark)

In the UK, Sour Mash has shown some very promising form over 2000m. He has won twice over the distance in eight starts in competitive Handicaps at Newmarket and Newbury. He is a highly rated and tremendously good looking horse, having sold for 140,000 gns as a yearling. He is a tough horse that will be able to adapt to the Australian style of racing and should perform in Open company.

### Thubiaan (Dynaformer – Barzah)

Thubiaan is a horse with great potential; he is a lightly raced three year old who won his Maiden over 2400m by four lengths. He is by leading American sire Dynaformer (Roberto) who has sired multiple Group and Grade 1 winners worldwide including Melbourne Cup winner Americain and Lucarno who won the 2007 English St. Leger. Thubiaan will make a very interesting staying horse and will be one to have a lot of fun with in the 2012 season.

# Praise Be Makes It Back To Back

Irish bred filly Praise Be showed patience is a virtue in racing after recording two solid victories in her last two outings. Having been a part of the CWR imported crop of 2010 purchases, Praise Be had initially been on a QLD Oaks campaign last Winter but following a few sub-par performances she was spelled to allow her to grow and develop and has come back with a vengeance this campaign. Praise Be was dropped back in grade two starts ago and headed west to Hawkesbury for a midweek Provincial affair over the suitable trip of 2000m. She toyed with her rivals on this occasion when dominating the field from the outset to record a two and a half length victory. She then headed to Warwick Farm for a 2200m event and again dominated to win by one and a half lengths after leading throughout. Based on the fact she was bred in the northern hemisphere and is only still a 3YO it is a courageous effort to be able not only beat the older horses but the opposite sex as well. We are sure there is more in store for this up and coming staying prospect.

# Sacred Pins Shows Plenty On Debut

Raffles Farm Thoroughbreds look to have a promising 3yo on the way following an impressive win by Sacred Pins on debut last month. The son of Pins had trialled impressively leading into the race and after opening up favourite drifted considerably in the market with other well fancied runners in the race. After beginning well he bounced to the front and settled on the pace throughout before giving a kick in the straight and holding on to score by just under a length. Although only a midweek race it was a dominant win from a horse only having had only the one trial and a lot to learn from the outing. Glyn Schofield was full of praise following the race and commented on the horse's natural ability and professionalism and said there is certainly more in store for him. With his first start over 1200m Schofield said he felt the gelding would certainly cover more ground as a more mature horse. Sacred Pins was purchased by Guy Mulcaster at the Karaka Yearling Sales in New Zealand in 2010 out of the Select Yearling Sales for 130K. (Since won in Saturday grade at Rosehill).

## 60 Seconds with

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**Cath Goode**

**(CWR Office Manager)**



**How long have you worked in racing?**

Racing Secretary since 1995

**Who is your favourite race-horse?**

Double Elle with Triple Honour a close second, In the UK it was Dubai Millennium.

**What is your best racing moment?**

Watching my husband, Paul, win the Inglis Classic at Flemington in 2005.

**What are your hobbies outside of racing?**

Gardening, cooking, walking Dotty the dog and watching Midsomer Murders and Miss Marple.

**If you were down to your last \$10 what would you spend it on?**

I'm smart enough not to get down to my last \$10!!



## A Word from the Trainer

**The Spring Carnival has now wrapped up and you can get back to some sort of normality. You had a terrific Melbourne carnival with a double on the final day, what were your thoughts on the stables performances?**

It was a terrific thrill and very satisfying knowing all of the work that our staff had put in. All of the horses that we took to Melbourne ran very well and I think that all of the horses that we took to Melbourne deserved to win their various races, even The Verminator and Hawk Island in the Melbourne Cup both ran creditable races. Coming into the last day of the Melbourne Carnival, despite having a number of close finishes including photo finishes go against us we still had not been able to break through. To get a Group 1 and Group 2 win on that final day was certainly very satisfying and a reflection of the hard work that the staff put in and the people that I have behind me.



**Following the win of Albert the Fat, you did toss up the idea of travelling a few horses including him to Dubai. Is this something you have thought about for some time?**

Yes we have floated the idea of sending some horses to Dubai as I believe that this is a good opportunity to showcase our stable and what we are capable of on an international stage. Unfortunately the downside of travelling horses is that you miss out on your local racing and fortunately in Australia we race for good prizemoney in our own backyard. The appealing part of going to Dubai was that it allows us to run in three or four races rather than going to somewhere like Hong Kong or the UK and only be able to race in one target race. I have relaxed my emphasis on Dubai however, as I believe that we still have got a big job left here in Sydney to finish off but certainly floating the idea has allowed us to have a plan in place so that when we do decide to head over there it will just be a matter of tidying up the loose ends and making it happen.

**There was a lot of talk of you also establishing stabling at Flemington in a satellite stable type role. Is this correct and if so what are the plans moving forward?**

A satellite stable no, however, a base that we can travel horses to and race from throughout the year is certainly on the horizon. Travelling to Melbourne this year saw us run into difficulty in trying to find accommodation for the horses and we don't want to be having to overcome the adversity of this in the future. This year things were looking very dire but fortunately Nathan Tinkler and his team at Patinack Farm were able to support us which was great but things like this are no guarantee for the future. By having a 10 - 12 horse stable in Melbourne would certainly benefit us in this scenario. If we were to set up like this, it would predominately mean that we would be able to travel a horse down on a Wednesday and then run in a specific target race and then return to the spelling paddock or back to Sydney to continue the racing preparation.

**You have completed your purchases from the Tattersalls Horse's In Training Sale. It has been noted the numbers aren't as big as last year but the quality of the crop is higher. What are your comments?**

The prices of the English horses have increased as has our criteria for our selection process. We are trying to eliminate the midweek level class horse that we have purchased in the past and instead concentrate on horses that we believe to be competitive at a high Saturday, Listed and Group level. Due to these factors prices were higher and as a result we bought less. We are going to be looking at a few private sales through the year and in particular trying to identify a Melbourne Cup type horse over the next few months to add to our recent purchases.

**You have jumped to an early lead in this season's premierships. Are you happy with how the team is progressing along so far?**

Things are coming along okay, I am a hard marker and I always think that there is room for improvement. I said last year that we still could improve and I believe that we still can now. Even though we hold a slender lead in the premierships I think that it will get very close in the next few months but in the latter part of the season I believe that we will be able to step up again and hopefully win our second title. We have travelled a few more horses this year and we have been rewarded but it does take them away from our Sydney base. We also have a high percentage of younger horses this year and we are concentrating more on 2yo racing which takes away the room for older horses. This makes winning the Premiership hard but certainly allows some promising horses the chance to reach their targets a little bit earlier than we have in the past.

## Horse of the Month—Albert the Fat



Congratulations to owners Brad Wood, Jamie Stumer, Mark Stumer, Michael Virgo, Jason White, John White, Paul Schimke, Daniel Schimke, John Moynahan and Steve Elliot on the terrific results throughout the Spring!

### Recent Performances:

17.9.11—2nd in the Shorts Handicap over 1200m at Rosehill (G2)

1.10.11—4th in the Premiere Stakes over 1200m at Randwick (G2)

15.10.11—2nd in the Betfair Stakes over 1400m at Caulfield (G3)

**5.11.11—1st in the Emirates Stakes over 1600m (G1)**

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## Owner Business Profile— Grand National Hotel

Grand National was launched in 1999 with the acquisition of The Grand National Hotel in Paddington, NSW and has evolved over the past 12 years into a full-service hospitality and leisure group. The company is establishing itself nationally with a firm outlook to expand globally and is committed to introducing international best practices across the board. Operationally the business is aligned to maximize resources, use efficiency and assure customers receive a distinctive and high quality hospitality experience.



The Grand National's philosophy and aspiration is to combine simplicity and innovation to deliver perfection while serving our customers. The power of the Grand National brand prevails when its logo is placed in a positive and relevant environment that reflects the company's philosophy and vision.

In 2006, The Grand National Restaurant was presented with Australia's most prestigious hospitality award - a chef's hat, representing the successful implementation of the company's philosophy. A philosophy that is at the heart of the business and continues to pay dividends - the prestigious chef's hat was retained by the business in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

In 2009, The Grand National Hotel was successful in its bid to gain development consent to enhance and create a hospitality concept on its current premise that will further reflect the company's philosophy and pillars of success.

The Grand National Hotel is located at 161 Underwood Street, PADDINGTON, NSW 2021