



BRISBANE
RACING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 41 - JUNE 2020

Photo: Michael McNally



WHAT'S INSIDE

Message from
the Chairman

TAB Stradbroke
Season Review

Member Profile

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The year to date has been frustrating in many ways for the racing industry but at least we have been able to soldier on and the just completed TAB Stradbroke Season of feature racing at the BRC tracks produced some great news.

"Punters were still connected to local racing on the feature days."

This year the BRC had four feature race days compared to five in 2019 and total prizemoney was slashed by Racing Queensland from \$18.5 million to \$3.86 million under the threat of big decline in revenue because of the pandemic.

Despite patron-free racing, the closure of TABs, pubs and clubs, betting turnover was outstanding.

Total prizemoney was down almost 80 percent but total turnover only slipped by about 10 percent. That clearly indicated punters were still connected to local racing on the feature days.

And the number of visiting horses competing on those days (as highlighted in the winter racing summary in this newsletter) illustrated the big interstate stables, particularly NSW, were content

to send horses north despite extremely stringent health protocols.

It was very sad to run black type racing without patrons particularly Members. We missed you as much as you missed the atmosphere of the racetrack.

Attendance restrictions are slowly being lifted and the BRC is exploring every avenue to get all Members back on track as quickly as possible.

The pre-Stradbroke cocktail party was yet another casualty of the pandemic limits and we have initiated plans to hold a special cocktail-style Members' function on the lead up to our Spring Racing Carnival when hopefully there will have been a significant easing of attendance numbers and protocols.

As announced last month the BRC has a new media rights deal with Sky Channel from July 1.

Part of the new contract is an undertaking by Sky to showcase Brisbane and Queensland racing more; including preview shows in the days

before a Saturday meeting and wider coverage on race days.

The BRC has been able to retain a position to negotiate more free-to-air coverage of our meetings. This affords us a broader and more diverse audience which will be attractive to sponsors.

From a racing perspective I think it is fair comment to say the quality of the product was high despite the limits forced on us.

Queensland-trained horses enjoyed excellent success. Vanna Girl and Rothfire two elite runners who deserve the opportunity to compete at top level this spring in Sydney and Melbourne.

And there is a chance two of the successful staying three-year-olds - Ballistic Boy and Supergiant - could take the step up in grade to the Spring.

We look forward to partnering with Racing Queensland to provide a bigger and ritzier Summer Racing Carnival.

Neville Bell
BRC Chairman

TAB STRADBROKE SEASON REVIEW

Although the Brisbane Racing Carnival was savagely ravaged under the threat of the pandemic, the four feature meetings still attracted a pleasing roll up of interstate horses.

A total of 139 horses from NSW and Victoria were acceptors over the 36 races conducted across the four days of the TAB Stradbroke Season.

The breakdown by meeting was:

- May 23 Eagle Farm: 14 horses
- May 30 Doomben: 42 horses
- June 6 Eagle Farm: 42 horses
- June 13 Eagle Farm: 41 horses.

Only Blake Spriggs and James Innes Jnr went into isolation in Queensland for two weeks to ride on TAB Stradbroke Day June 6. This presented some wonderful opportunities for Queensland-based riders and they performed splendidly.

Jim Byrne (XXXX Dry J J Atkins) and Robbie Fradd (TAB Stradbroke Handicap) took out the two Group 1 events.

The rider of the season for most judges was Brad Stewart particularly for his efforts to negate wide barriers for glamour filly Vanna Girl in both the Lexus Gunsynd Classic and Magic Millions The Roses.

Stewart also rode with flair to take out the 7 Racing Rough Habit Plate on Ballistic Boy, the Ascot Green Eagle Farm Mile on Gaulois (for James Cummings) and the TAB Fred Best Classic on Dawn Passage (for Gai Waterhouse/Adrian Bott).

The top trainer performance of the season went to the father-son combination of Toby and Trent Edmonds.

Team Edmonds not only swept the three-year-old fillies calendar with Vanna Girl it also was successful with Tyzone in the TAB Stradbroke Handicap.

Some may argue Vanna Girl and two-year-old star Rothfire simply dominated their divisions because some of the better performed interstate horses did not venture north this year.

But both these young horses clearly were superior and have earned their chances in big races at the Spring Carnivals this year in Sydney and Melbourne.

Likewise Ballistic Boy who looked a shade unlucky in the Lexus Gunsynd Classic but scored a convincing victory in the 7 Racing Rough Habit Plate.

There was no Queensland Derby this year because of the COVID-19 Carnival scaleback by Racing Queensland but Ballistic Boy would have been a serious contender in the classic if run under normal programming.

His young trainer Chris Anderson now has some exciting options with Ballistic Boy in the spring.

Eagle Farm-based trainer Barry Lockwood regularly plays Brisbane host to NSW country horses and he earns special kudos for stepping up as the caretaker trainer for two feature race winners.

Port Macquarie trainer Jenny Graham was unable to travel to Queensland but sent her stable star Victorem to Lockwood. The country sprinter landed the TAB Victory Stakes at Eagle Farm on May 23.

Photo: Michael McNally

TAB STRADBROKE SEASON FROM HOME

Thank you to our Members who engaged with the 2020 TAB Stradbroke Season from home.

We were grateful to continue racing during this time and appreciate the ongoing support of our Members. While we weren't able to be together on course, it was wonderful to see all of the unique ways that racing fans celebrated the season with their family and friends in living rooms around the nation.

#RaceAtYourPlace



@raceqlld



@carolyn.mclaren



@staceyhemeraroberts



@sandymaywill

YOUR TRACK AWAITS

Brisbane Racing Club is delighted to welcome even more Members and Owners back to the track under Racing Queensland's industry COVID Safe Plan.

We are permitted to have a restricted number of Members and Owners to the racecourse with one person per 4 square meters per designated space. We have identified up to 25 designated spaces that we can host patrons. The general public are unable to attend at this time.

As part of the plan, Members and Owners must apply for ticketing if you wish to attend a raceday. Only those with booking confirmations are permitted to attend the raceday.

We encourage you to register your interest through our website or by phone. Please see below for details.

We look forward to welcoming you back to your track soon to experience the thrill and exhilaration of live racing!



ONLINE

Visit the www.brc.com.au website select the day you wish to attend, then complete the form.



PHONE

If you are unable to register online, please contact the membership team on (07) 3268 2171.

WE ARE NOW DIGITAL

From this edition, the Members Newsletter has moved to online. This will be distributed via email to Members. If you would still like a printed copy, please contact the membership team on membership@brc.com.au or 07 3268 2171.

JENNY REED



Brisbane Racing Club is saddened to report the passing of Jenny Reed on Saturday 6 June.

Jenny was the loving wife to BRC Ambassador Russell Reed and was a proud Member of the Club for many years with a passion for horse racing.

We offer our deepest sympathies to Russell and the family.



MEMBER PROFILE SUSAN BUCKLEY

Perhaps a long-running involvement in racing has been a factor in Susan Buckley's calm head in her high profile position in the world of finance.

As managing director of Queensland Investment Corporation's Liquid Markets Group, Susan and her team of nearly 30 based in Brisbane and London are responsible for the management of a portfolio of tens of millions of dollars.

In a world rocked by the COVID-19 which has spectacularly impacted on financial markets, she has been forced to offer some settling advice to counter panic within her clientele.

Like all BRC Members Susan has been forced to watch the racing action away from the racecourse. But her enthusiasm remains and she is very keen to watch the races live again.

Susan grew up on a farm at Oakey and her father Noel's strong interest in horse racing meant she had an early introduction to racecourses and horses.

"My father had a lot of horses before he struck a very good one in Buck's Pride. He gave the family a lot of enjoyment," Susan said.

For 20 years Susan lived in the Brisbane suburb of Hamilton, close to Eagle Farm, but in recent times she and husband Darryl Dunk, a retired fire fighter, relocated to Bridgeman Downs "for a bit more space".

Darryl has been a BRC member for the past ten years and Susan took out membership herself in 2018. "I was sick of being the handbag," she joked.

"Darryl has a bit more time to manage our breeding and racing interests. He is a very keen owner."

The couple race a few horses with Sunshine Coast trainer Darry Hansen. Their best horse has been the Easy Rocking mare Pennino who has won six of 27 to date and just over \$575,000 in stakes.

Prior to her QIC appointment Susan who is a regular racegoer at BRC meetings, worked as an Interest Rate Strategist at NAB, the Head of Strategy for NRMA Asset Management, Senior Vice-President at Bankers Trust Fund Management and Manager of Fixed Interest at Suncorp Investment Management.



BRISBANE
RACING CLUB

FOR BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES PLEASE VISIT
WWW.BRC.COM.AU OR PHONE 07 3268 2171

THE BRISBANE RACING CLUB PROUDLY ACKNOWLEDGES
THE OUTSTANDING SUPPORT OF ITS PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



VEHICLE PARTNER



PARTNERS & SUPPLIERS

ADSS
AICLA
Alcyone Hotel Residences
Ambassador Travel
Bouquet Boutique
Channel Seven
Clayfield College
Diageo
Eureka Stud
Garrards Pty Ltd
Hampton Event Hire
Innovative Hiring
IPG Marketing Solutions
Lendlease

Magic Millions
Mirvac
Mitavite / Hygain
Mitty's
Mullins Lawyers
National Jockeys Trust
NECA
Nuturf
Padua College
Pages Event Hire
Priceline Pharmacy Ascot
Qld Country Life
Qld Hotels Association
Queensland Chinese Jockey Club

Racecourse Road Business Group
RadioTAB
Samuel Smith & Son
SUEZ
Sporting Chance Cancer Foundation
St Margaret's Anglican Girls School
St Rita's College
Triequithon
Thoroughbred Breeders Qld Association
Valiant Hire
Westfield Chermside
Westpac