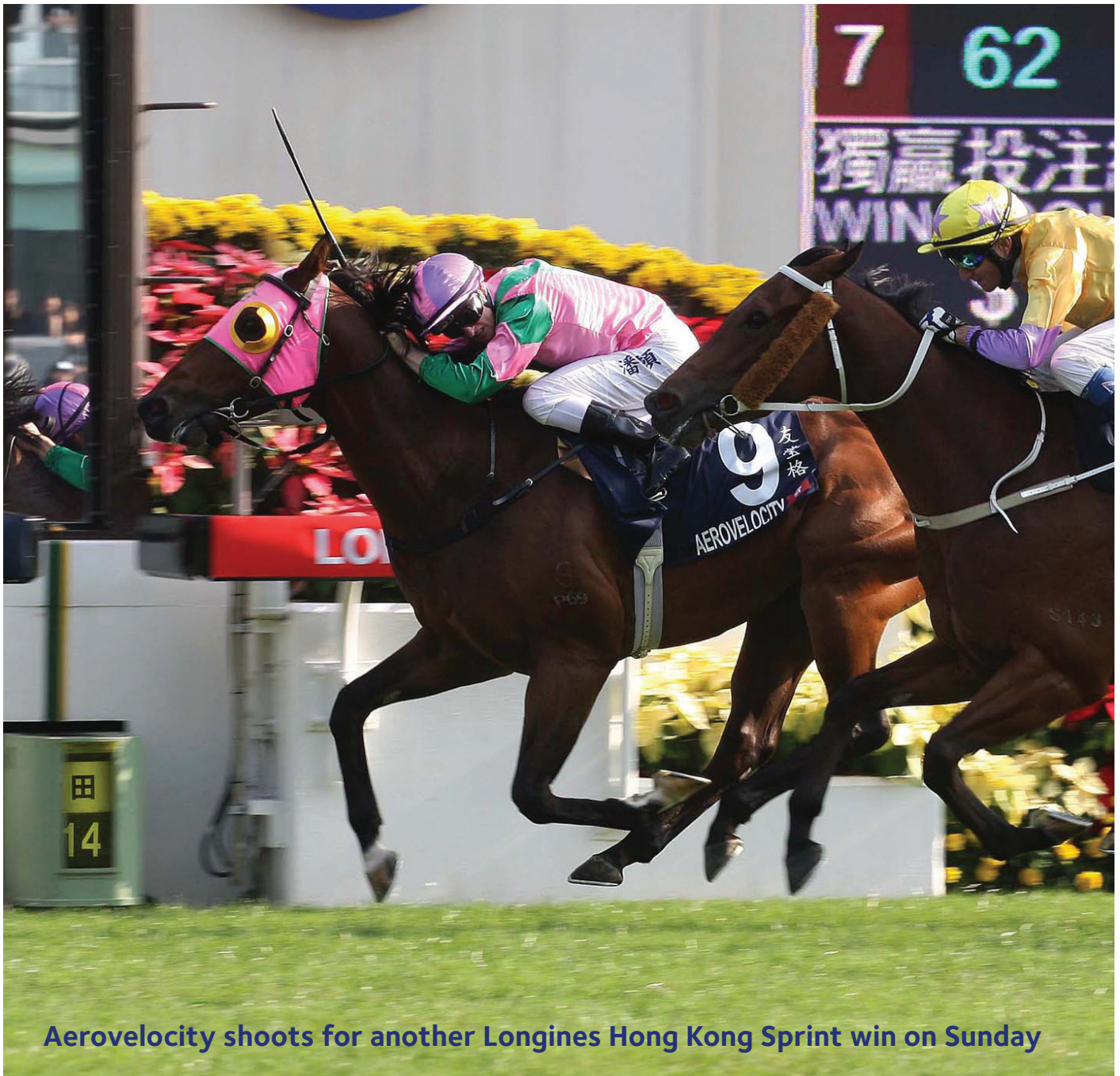


Weekend @ Waikato

9 DECEMBER 2016



Aerovelocity shoots for another Longines Hong Kong Sprint win on Sunday

HONG KONG
INTERNATIONAL
MEETING
SPOTLIGHT

THIS WEEK'S WS
SIRED BLACK - TYPE
BRIGADE

SAVABEEL'S
SUPERB SEASON

POINTS OF
INTEREST THIS
WEEK

BLACK-TYPE RUNNERS

SATURDAY



SIERRA BEEL 08f
Savabeel – Rosie
Listed J Swap Sprint, 1400m
Te Rapa, 3:12pm



SEIZE THE MOMENT 10g
Savabeel – Dancing Mistress
Listed J Swap Sprint, 1400m
Te Rapa, 3:12pm



STORYTIME 13f
Savabeel – Authoress
Gr.3 Eulogy Stakes, 1600m
Manawatu, 3:38pm



SAVE THE DATE 13f
Savabeel – More To Love
Gr.3 Eulogy Stakes, 1600m
Manawatu, 3:38pm



BIG DREAMER 11f
No Excuse Needed – War Bride
Gr.2 Cal Isuzu Stakes, 1600m
Te Rapa, 4:24pm



COLDPLAY 12f
Savabeel – Forty Two Below
Gr.2 Cal Isuzu Stakes, 1600m
Te Rapa, 4:24pm



SEWREEL 12f
Savabeel – Haberdashery
Gr.2 Cal Isuzu Stakes, 1600m
Te Rapa, 4:24pm



CRUISING SPEED 12f
Savabeel – Vanilla Sky
Listed Just Now Hcp, 1300m
BRC, 7:48pm

SUNDAY



LINCOLN BLUE 13c
Savabeel – Prickle
Listed 3YO Salver, 2100m
Ellerslie, 4:51pm



SMILING TOUCH 13g
O'Reilly – Salkantay
Listed 3YO Salver, 2100m
Ellerslie, 4:51pm



FLAME HERO 09g
Savabeel – Rhysess
Longines Hong Kong Vase, 2400m
Hong Kong, 7:00pm



AEROVELOCITY 08g
Pins – Exodus
Longines Hong Kong Sprint, 1200m
Hong Kong, 7:40pm



PACKING PINS 10g
Pins – Splashing Out
Longines Hong Kong Mile, 1600m
Hong Kong, 8:50pm

HONG KONG SPOTLIGHT



AEROVELOCITY

THE LONGINES HONG KONG SPRINT Group One 1200m HK\$18,500,000 7:40pm (NZT)

Champion sprinter Aerovelocity (Pins) will line up in the Gr.1 Hong Kong Sprint, a race he won in 2014.

The Paul O'Sullivan trained 8yo has been placed in both starts this season, both at Group two level.

"I think his preparation has gone very well. he should be peaking for this run, but he's not peaking as a six-year-old this time, he's peaking as an eight-year-old and that's always tough," said o'Sullivan. "I'm really happy with how he's going, he's taken a bit of time but now he's there, he won't want for fitness on Sunday, he'll be right at his top."

FLAME HERO

THE LONGINES HONG KONG VASE Group One 2400m HK\$16,500,000 7:00pm (NZT)



Flame Hero (Savabeel) is a seven time winner, who burst into Hong Kong's spotlight with a win in January's HK-3 National Day Cup (1800m).

The Peter Ho-trained 7yo enters with strong recent form having finished second at his last start in the Longines Jockey Club Cup over 2000m.

PACKING PINS

THE LONGINES HONG KONG MILE Group One 1600m HK\$23,000,000 8:50pm (NZT)



Packing Pins (Pins) enters the Longines Hong Kong Mile with 6 wins to his name under the guidance of trainer Ricky Yiu.

The 6YO son of Pins showed his class with a third placing in Hong Kong's Gr.1 Champions Mile in May.



SAVABEEL

CRUISING SPEED

Talented mare to take aim for first stakes win on Saturday.



SAVABEEL

ROYAL SUCCESS

Took record to four wins from five starts last Saturday.



O'REILLY

SYMPHONIC

Last five starts have netted two wins and three seconds.



SAVABEEL

DATE NIGHT

Dating's 3yo daughter showed great promise with maiden win this week



SAVABEEL

SPLURGE

Notched up 3 wins from his last 4 starts on Thursday.



PINS

BARBARIC

Course specialist back to Te Rapa on Saturday



I have just read Tony Pikes commentary on the direction or lack of direction our current leaders are taking us. Tony is not only a successful horse trainer but a qualified accountant, so for him to express the strong views he has suggests a lot of thought has gone into the need for him to go public.

I think our Board fails to grasp the situation in the industry, with the long term effects, which are difficult to recover from. It is acknowledged the number of mares mated is declining, the investment in new stallions on offer is abysmal, this leads inevitably to less horses racing. Our Graded Stakes Board has increasing difficulty in justifying our level of Group Races. Less stakes races makes marketing our product harder, it is a slippery slope, hence Tony's concern.

Being the critic is easy, finding a way out requires both courage and cooperation, all possible options need to be scrutinised if I was Chairman right now I would be in a relationship with the codes that cemented our collective decision making. I would not express the view that my Board and executive have been given the the right to make decisions without the Codes, if need be. Right now, my understanding of their position is there may be a better option than the SOI, if so it would be an irresponsible Board that would not table all options for scrutiny.

I would hope the SOI comes up trumps, if not, so be it, get on with the best option collectively. Never forget it is the sport and industry of the people. A number of leaders have recently, we all know where they are today. Hiding around some corner.

G

WITH GARETH DOWNEY

THE STELLA SAVABEEL SEASON – AS USUAL

So, just how well is Savabeel's season going this year? At this time every year, as we start heading into the next round of annual yearling sales, we are all trying to figure out who are the stallions that are going to give us the best chance of success from their progeny. Every year, we hear all the promotional talk about the unproven stallions, the semi-proven stallions with young racing crops, and then the various thoughts on just how good are the proven brigade. There is often not a lot of room for fact in these discussions, so let's just stop for a moment and look at the facts of the racing season to date, to try and help focus our selection efforts during the sales season ahead.

If we look at all stallions who have had southern-hemisphere conceived progeny racing in Australasia this season, and we look for those having the best season in terms of production of stakes winners, and at a superior rate of % stakes winners/runners – we might want to identify those who have had at least eight stakes winners so far this season, and at a rate of better than 3.5% SW/Rnrs for the season under review. This is a very demanding set of selection criteria, and it does indeed highlight the absolute superstars of the stallion ranks. There are just three stallions who meet these criteria, and that list does of course include Savabeel. His eight stakes winners so far this season have been:

Kawi	Gr.1 Makfi Challenge Stakes, Gr.1 Windsor Park Plate
Nurse Kitchen	Gr.2 Moonee Valley Fillies' Classic
Pump Up The Volume	Gr.3 New Zealand Cup, Listed Feilding Gold Cup
Samovare	Gr.3 WATC Champion Fillies Stakes
Coldplay	Gr.3 Eagle Technology Stakes
Lincoln Blue	Gr.3 Wellington Stakes
Spirit Bird	Gr.3 Newcastle JC Tibbie Stakes
Hall Of Fame	Listed Canterbury Stakes



That is indeed very good going to have already sired eight individual stakes winners when we are early in December, but that is just what these superstar stallions do – year in, year out.

When using the above criteria, the one thing to be careful of is that it does bias against the young up and coming stallions who don't yet have enough runners to have any realistic chance of appearing on these tables. So, the best approach to take there is to look at the current season results for just 3yo's. It then doesn't matter whether you are a stallion represented by your 1st crop of 3yo's, or whether you have your 20th crop running – it is a level playing field because we are only looking at that one single crop. In the current season, there are just three stallions who have so far sired four or more individual 3yo stakes winners in Australasia. These three stallions are all actually represented by at least their 7th Southern Hemisphere crop in this 3yo season, so there are actually not yet any young up and comers making an appearance at the top of this table. In fact, all of the stallions with three stakes winners are also represented by at least their 6th crop in this 3yo season, so the "rising stars" are actually well off the pace at this stage.

Interestingly, there is only one stallion who appears on the initial list of those who have had at least eight stakes winners at the rate of at least 3.5% SW/Rnrs this season, and also on the list of stallions who have sired at least four individual 3yo stakes winners this season. Of course, that is Savabeel.

If you want facts to play a key role in your yearling selection process when considering which sires to pursue, make sure you have all progeny of Savabeel clearly on your radar. There are 9 Savabeel yearlings on offer at the Magic Millions Gold Coast Sale, and 67 at the NZB Karaka Sale. Make sure you seek these out when doing your inspections.



MARK'S MAIL

Short and sweet newsletter this week.

Hong Kong's international meeting takes centre stage this weekend and it's great to see Pins continuing to have a dominant impact up there.

He is the sire of two Gr.1 contenders in Aerovelocity and Packing Pins and beyond this, is also the damsire of Savabeel's Gr.1 hope at the meeting, Flame Hero.

While Pins is well established as a two-time Champion Sire in Hong Kong, Savabeel is increasingly making his mark. Over the last fortnight alone, he's had the three winners Unicron Jewellery, World Record and Almaybaby.

Let's hope both of these sires add to their smart record for New Zealand on Sunday!

Mark.