

## **The Racing Scene By Ken Gentles**

### **30 July 2008**

The record breaking feat of Robert Thompson dominated last Monday's Port Macquarie race meeting but there were plenty of other highlights as well. Below we take a look at some of them and try and steer you into some future winners.

#### **The track**

A heavy 10. On pacers dominated early in the program and up in the leading four or five as they reached the 600m was the place to be.

#### **Apprentice's title**

Robert Agnew saw the 2007-2008 Mid North Coast racing season out in style. The apprentice, who has been riding without his country claim since May, won the last race on the program aboard his master Tas Morton's three year old **Eireplay** \$5.50. The very consistent gelding stepped up to open company and won the 1206m race in convincing style. "I was going to run him at Canterbury on Wednesday but elected to stay at home – he has won 4 and been placed 6 times from 12 starts at his home track, so it was not a hard decision to make- he loves it here." Morton said. Agnew admitted "He was thrilled to win the apprentices title and had no immediate plans to leave Port Macquarie and was very happy in his current environment – but would seek as many rides as he could get around the provincial areas and the city where he still claims 3kgs". **Eireplay** beat a very handy group of sprinters including **Barons Court** \$6 which loomed large on the rail and ran second and the very fast finishing **So The Cat Said** \$5 which made more ground than any runner all day in taking third money.

#### **Trainers Title**

Neil Godbolt grabbed a share of the trainer's premiership when the \$31 shot **Cullen's Shadow** led all of the way to win race 2 an 1106m maiden. The winner paid \$60 on the tote and Godbolt and a few and I mean few, very close stable confidants did not forget to back it. "He worked better than any maiden horse in my stable the other morning and if the track was not a heavy 10 I would have declared him nearly unbeatable - \$60 you beauty!" Godbolt exclaimed. A \$3,000 yearling **Cullen's Shadow** has "great gate speed but was a little bit of a handful down the straight." Apprentice Luke Cumberland said. "He has a good future." Godbolt tied for the trainer's title with Bob Milligan on 31 wins a piece.

#### **Perry leaves his mark again.**

Newcastle mentor Paul Perry continued his good run on the Mid North Coast when he led in a winning double. **Logically** \$4.60 into \$3 looked to be a real horse of the future when he bounded away to score one of the easiest wins seen at the Port track in years, when he took out the first race on the card the open 2 year old 1206m. "They told me to hunt him out of the gates as he had been a bit field shy at his first few runs and not to let up on him." Jockey Linda Meech said. "I gave him a few with the whip as we left the barriers and a dig in the ribs with the spurs and that got him going – but he is such a quiet horse." **Logically** bounded away from the rest of the field to win by nine lengths and had they gone any further it would have been eighteen lengths I reckon. The stable have a good opinion of this fellow -I suggest follow.

The second leg of the stable double went to **Hillstand** \$8.00. The 4 year old rounded up an average field of stayers with ease to win race 5 the ratings 62 1806m. The stayer tracked a wide course by design from jockey Allan Robinson and coming from well back at the 700m, he had them covered well before heads were turned for home. He really appreciated the drop from provincial class back to country grade. Follow the horse that ran sixth in this race **Fuji Star** he hates wet tracks and was still there until the last 100m. Needs it dry but is getting back some form.

### **Jessie “The kid” gets a double**

Jessie “The kid” Riley is really starting to make and impact on the Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers, he landed a double for his boss Ken Lantry. The 3kg apprentice landed his eighth career winner on **Mr Officer** \$5.50 which kicked on strongly to make it two wins in a row in race 7 on the card. The lightly raced 4 year old battled back well when it seemed certain the Gordon Yorke trained **French Arena** \$5 would go straight past him at the 200m mark. “Not quite fit enough.” Gordon Yorke said of his charge. “He hasn’t had a start for six weeks.” **Valdemar** \$26 who loves the Port Macquarie wet tracks ran on along the fence and took third place.

Riley then saved quite a few bookmakers a packet when he just lasted on the \$9 shot **Chief Solano** to beat the \$2.10 favorite **Clinton** in race 8 the Equalis Training Handicap 1206m. **Chief Solano** fell in to win by a nose from the favorite who really made a lunge on the line but just missed. “It was \$6500 difference to me- thank heavens for **Chief Solano**.” Bookie Graham Cook said.

**Horse to Follow:** I think we should follow the jockey Riley- he is starting to really hit his straps.

### **Farewell to Meech and Chau**

Linda Meech rode at her last Port Macquarie race meeting before she heads off to Melbourne to continue her career. Meech made it winning double for the day when she gave her usual polished display to lead all of the way on **Plum Crazy** for Wyong trainer Bob Law in race 4 a ratings 57 handicap. She will be sorely missed by her followers in these parts. Allan Chau has had his indentures transferred from Pat Quinn to Quinn’s son Marc at Hawkesbury. Chau has done a fantastic job to continue to ride winners despite being without his country claim and he finished second in the apprentices title race behind Robert Agnew. “It will be great for Allan as he has a full 3kg claim in the city and at the provincials.” Pat Quinn said. “He rides as good as any of them and has still 18 months to go before he finishes his time.” Chau will be on the lookout for as many rides as possible from city trainers and everybody in local racing wishes him the very best – he was an extremely popular member of the local racing industry.

### **Run Of the Day: Logically**

**Ride of The Day:** Dare I say **R. Thompson- Promised.**

**Days Disappointment: Inflated Ego** -Led under a good hold in the last and was run over pretty easily to finish fourth to **Eireplay**