

SAROA NEWS

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
RACEHORSE ASSOCIATION

RICHARD STAFFORD - SAROA SECRETARY REPORTS

OWNER OF THE MONTH



Redeem Bounty wins
at Morphettville Parks

Nominated this month was Gary Gifford part owner of three winners during May. These were Dark Image, Redeem Bounty and Loqueteux. Gary told this about his horses and his involvement in racing:

Dark Image (Dane Shadow-Brown Eyed Girl) is a lightly raced 3yo gelding, trained by Mark Minervini – 4 starts, 1 win, 2 seconds and 1 third breaking his maiden at Gawler on the 7th May. He certainly looks to be a young horse on the rise.

Redeem Bounty (Nadeem-Sparkling Bounty) 4yo gelding, trained by Richard

Jolly – 21 starts, 5 wins, 4 seconds and 3 thirds is rarely too far away from the placings, especially when racing at his preferred track Morphettville Parks, over 1400m. His win was particularly pleasing as we had targeted that race. It's always nice when a plan results in success as it did with his win on the 23rd May over 1400m at Morphettville Parks.

Loqueteux (Al Maher-Joyful Glow) 3yo gelding, trained by Richard Jolly – 12 starts, 1 win, 3 seconds and 2 thirds. It's fair to say he has taken a

OWNER OF THE MONTH

**APRIL WINNER:
GARY GIFFORD**

**PART OWNER OF
DARK IMAGE
REDEEM BOUNTY
LOQUETEUX**

while to work out and I think Richard has found the key to his success with his 5 length maiden win on the 27th May at Gawler. He has been more than a little frustrating as he has started close to favourite at many of his starts and has taken 12 races to break his maiden status. Hopefully he will now transfer that success through to Saturday grade racing.

I have had an interest in racing since my early teenage years commencing with riding track work for Brian Searle at Cheltenham and getting into trouble with his son Gary around the Picnic racing circuit.

I have had an interest in the odd galloper over the years however in the past 5 years it has become a major interest for my wife (Julie) and myself.

We currently have active interests in a number of horses and have been fortunate enough to enjoy a fair degree of success.

As a side note both Dark Image and Loqueteux raced against each other, along with Julie's horse Alcobre at Morphettville on June 20th.

Unfortunately the trifecta was not forthcoming with Dark Image doing best running second. We wish Gary and Julie all the best with these horses and others in which they have shareholdings.



Eliza Jane

IS SHE THE OLDEST BROODMARE IN AUSTRALIA

We were contacted by Wendy Lightbody recently wishing to see if we could help track down the race record of her broodmare Eliza Jane. Wendy believes she is one of the oldest off the track thoroughbreds in Australia.

Wendy told us: Eliza Jane was born on 21/11/80, by Zooming Zone out of Twinning, a Holborn mare. She is a full sister to Nicholas John who won 2 Group races and 3 Listed races. He won the Metropolitan in 1982, beating Gurner's Lane, who went on to win the Melbourne Cup that year.

At that stage Nicholas John's race record made her a fairly valuable broodmare. Unfortunately her race career was very inglorious and is so far back in antiquity I can't even find it! She was retired to stud duties in 1987 and went on to produce 7 live foals, some were handy, but none brilliant.

The decision was made by the Stud to put her in the sales at the old ABCOS auctions. That's when my story starts with her. My husband and I were at the sales with friends and I liked her and the Real Cash filly that she had at foot when she came into the ring. Unbeknown to him, I was bidding on her with my off side hand and the deed was done by the time David knew what was happening! This was about 18/20 years ago - I think by now David realises she is a "keeper".

We bred a Prince Echo filly from her, Liza Dear Liza, who didn't make it as a racehorse, but turned out to be a brilliant polo pony! Eliza Jane came into her own however as my babysitter for the other foals we bred. As she got older and the teeth got longer, the foals became even better behaved!

Even now rising 35, she can still be difficult to lead, mind you, not for long, but the fire is still there. It's probably that attitude that has seen her outlive her peers. Our last 2 foals were by Blevic, and I could see they were going to be too much for her, so I retired her undefeated.

She lives in a paddock full of feed and trees, is rugged like a show horse and I have found the only feed to keep her happy is Prydes Old Timer and Speedi Beet, she's got a bit querulous in her old age.

Honestly, it is like looking after an elderly relly. I had her bloods done at Christmas and everything is great, but she has next to no bottom teeth and I know that's where my problem will be with her. I know her time is now limited, but till the time comes, she will be loved and looked after as she deserves.

We were, with difficulty, able to locate Eliza Jane's racing record but out of respect to the old matriarch we feel it is better left as Wendy states as "inglorious".

We thought Eliza Jane's story was worth sharing again as an example of the care given to older horses by their owners long after they have an economic use. In Eliza Jane's case her last foal Liza Dear Liza was born 17 years ago.

To put some context to Eliza Jane's longevity - the oldest of the "Living Legends" horses is Better Loosen Up, a sprightly 5 years younger than the old girl. It is not really possible to verify whether she is the oldest living thoroughbred in Australia. As Wendy says the Stud Book does not hold these details but it is fair to say that very few of her contemporaries are still around.

OWNER OF THE MONTH

Owner of the month nominations can be made by email or letter or even by a phone call to me; nominations should be received by 10th day of the following month. Nominations can come from the owner or a friend, acquaintance or family member but the nominee must be a SAROA member. We also prefer that the application is combined with a good story about the horse involved, as this award is just as applicable to lowly maiden winners as it is to winners of feature races. Our committee review all nominations then select the monthly winner, who will receive a \$100 voucher, kindly donated by SAROA members Jenny and Wayne Francis to be used at any of the Francis group of hotels - namely the Elephant and Castle, The Port Noarlunga, the OG and the German Arms hotels.

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