

# SAROA NEWS

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
RACEHORSE ASSOCIATION

RICHARD STAFFORD - SAROA SECRETARY REPORTS

## OWNER OF THE MONTH



Wicked Tycoon wins  
at Morphettville

This month's successful nomination for Owner of the Month was Ross and Jill Bourne for Wicked Tycoon. Ross wrote:

"After a promising start to his racing career, winning his first start at Murray Bridge and a few country placings his form tailed off and the decision was made to sell him for what was a fairly modest amount.

Negotiations with interested parties in Port Lincoln and Queensland fell through and he was sent to country trainer Kym Healy. His first run for

Kym was a fast finishing third over 1200m at Port Augusta, which was followed by a convincing win over 1400m at the same track two weeks later.

Wicked Tycoon had always been considered a sprinting type, but as he ran over more ground he kept improving and proved he could stay by winning at Morphettville over 1800m on Melbourne Cup Day 2014, ridden by Siggy Carr.

During his next preparation it was decided to take him to Darwin as he had handled the dirt track at Port

Augusta very well.

He exceeded expectations by winning over 1900m by 3 lengths on Darwin Cup Day.

The Darwin trip definitely improved him, he came back a different horse and won over 1600 m (leading all the

way) and was then a close second over 1800m at Morphettville in October. On both occasions he was ridden by Caitlin Jones who has a perfect understanding of the horse having a record of 5 rides for 3 wins and a second. Caitlin then rode him in his best win so far at Morphettville on the 7th November over 2038m.

Wicked Tycoon has now had 8 wins and won nearly \$150,000 in prize money for the lucky owners."

A good story for owners not to give up on a horse.

As the name suggests Wicked Tycoon is by Written Tycoon and is out of a Roi Danzig mare Heroic Dance. She is the dam of Mavross who was also a city winner for Ross and Jill. Ross and Jill, who race their horses in their distinctive orange colours, also had recent success with Wicked Promise. SAROA wishes Ross and Jill continue success with their "Wicked" horses.

## OWNER OF THE MONTH

### DECEMBER WINNERS: ROSS AND JILL BOURNE

### OWNERS OF WICKED TYCOON

## ADELAIDE CUP: MARCH OR MAY?

Times change and actions that were taken for valid reasons in the past will not always stand the test of time. When the Adelaide Cup was moved to March the main justification was mainly based on weather conditions. At the time, March in Adelaide was not a busy event packed month that it has become in recent years. Now in "Mad March" we have so many events competing for consumer attendance and dollars that the Adelaide Cup tends to get lost in the pack.

It has been the stated view of SAROA for several years that the Cup should revert to May for a number of reasons.

A March Adelaide Cup does not really fit into any logical program for an up and coming staying proposition hence the horses coming to Adelaide in recent years have not, in general, been top class stayers. This view can be validated to some extent by examining the records of Adelaide Cup starters in major races in the Eastern states.

Our main carnival has become rather disjointed with the Cup in March and all four of our Group One races, namely the Goodwood, the Derby, the Sangster and the Oaks being run in May. It seems to us that moving the Cup to May would allow us to consolidate our best races in a May based carnival culminating in the Cup.

For these reasons we suggest that the Cup should be run on the Monday following the Goodwood, with perhaps the Derby being run a little earlier to allow owners of the more promising Derby horses to consider a start in the Cup.

SAROA does not favour running the Cup on a Saturday as that would effectively mean that South Australia would lose a race day. We also believe that the March holiday should stay (obviously rebranded as say "Mad March Day") and that this date remains the logical day for running the Magic Millions races and we suggest the day be bolstered with more racing series

finals. For example there could be a series for milers with most of the heats run on provincial tracks. Consideration could also be given to a series for country based horses again culminating in a final on the March holiday.

We are certain that there will continue to be more debate about the timing of our main Cup event but we trust that there will be some constructive thinking outside of the box to ensure that racing has the best result possible.

## INDUSTRY BRIEFING

Representatives of both SAROA and SARIG were amongst industry participants in a briefing session held by TRSA in December. We welcome the opportunity to be involved in discussions about various issues affecting the future of racing in this state.

In particular while there may be some debate about the quantum of reserves held by TRSA, we strongly support TRSA's stance that financial budgeting for South Australian racing should maintain sustainable expenditure levels involving both prize money and infrastructure. Of course owners will always look for increases in prize money but it is imperative for confidence in the local industry that the situation observed in some other racing states, where reductions in prize money have either taken place or are being discussed, does not happen here in South Australia.

## 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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