

SAROA NEWS

All the latest news from the South Australian
Racehorse Association

Richard Stafford - SAROA secretary reports

OWNER OF THE MONTH



Autumn Sunset

Our Owner of the Month for May is Bob McKay for his two horses Autumn Sunset and Autumn Street which both won races during the Mt Gambier Cup carnival. Bob was kind enough to share these details with us.

Thank you for the selecting me as owner of the month for May.

Autumn Sunset by Reset/Autumn Jeune has worked her way through the grades to win the 1200m Open Hcp on Mt. Gambier Cup day, giving her a total of 6 wins, 3 seconds and 1 third from 15 Starts (and prizemoney of almost \$72,000). She is a small lightly

framed mare with a big heart and loves her home track at Mt. Gambier where all of her 6 wins have taken place, thanks mainly to her trainer Michael O'Leary and her favourite jockey Emily Finnegan.

Autumn Street by Street Sense/Autumn Jeune is a promising mare who is lightly raced due to injuries sustained while being broken in as a yearling. She has had 12 starts, 3 wins 2 seconds and 3 thirds (and earnings of over \$30,000).

Both these Mares are daughters of Autumn Jeune (Jeune - Autumn

Moments by At Talaq) who I purchased on the Gold Coast as a weanling. She won 2 Group 3 races, a Listed race and was Group 2 placed and I am still breeding from her.

In fact Autumn Jeune - who won a touch over \$320,000 carries the blood of two of Colin Hayes' Melbourne Cup

winner in Jeune and At Talaq both of whom have proved to be very good broodmare sires. Unfortunately Autumn Jeune, after her two promising initial progeny Autumn Sunset and Autumn Street, has been unlucky losing three sets of foals including twin foals.

Bob McKay has had a long and successful association with that wily old conditioner Michael O'Leary and we wish them both further success with these two promising mares.

**OWNER OF
THE MONTH**

**APRIL
WINNER:
BOB MCKAY**

**OWNER OF
AUTUMN SUNSET &
AUTUMN STREET**

UPCOMING EVENTS

August sees our SAROA raceday which will be held at

Morphettville racecourse on August 20th. At the time of writing this, we still have naming rights available for one or two races, so if anyone is interested please contact us for details.

This years' event includes a Gourmet Buffet lunch for our guests and tickets are available at \$65 per head. SAROA is hoping to introduce one or two new features for our race day. One being that SAROA has registered a set of racing colours featuring our new logo. We will

be requesting that the connections of the top weight in each race allow the jockey to wear these colours as part of the event. We believe this will further promote SAROA and will add some colour to the day. Bookings will be available via our website (www.saroa.com.au) and credit card payments for tickets can also be made directly via the site.

Following our Raceday, on September 17 we will hold our Annual General Meeting which will incorporate a complementary light lunch for our members. The meeting will be held at Morphettville during a race day and members attending the meeting will be admitted to the course free of charge. While the meeting itself will be formal it would be expected to last for only about half an hour, with the rest of the day available to members to network with fellow race horse owners.

SAROA's annual Horses' Birthday lunch was held on Friday 29 July. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the studs who have donated stallion services – these being Cornerstone (for Valentia), Sun Stud (for Fiorente) and Swettenham (for Trust in a Gust). This incredible support allows us to raise money for SAROA and we will donate a proportion of the proceeds to the National Jockeys' Trust.

Thanks also go to our speakers Ray Murrphy and Emily Finnegan for giving us their time, to Rob Popplestone for acting as MC and to Adrian Hancock his usual able conduct of the auction of stallion nominations and the framed signed Jockey breeches.

SAROA is delighted with the manner in which this event has grown since its inception three years ago and we now believe it has become a significant event on the SA racing calendar.

SAROA is in the early planning stages for an information event aimed towards new and prospective new race horse owners and we will advise more details as they come to hand. It is our intention to provide a broad overview of race horse ownership in terms of the requirements, the various ownership

options available and give some idea of the indicative costs of owning a racehorse. It is our experience that people who are interested in owning a horse often have little or no idea of how to get started and also often have misconceptions regarding the likely costs involved. We would be looking to obtain support for this event from a cross section of industry.

AND IT STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN

With the horses' birthday over and the new racing season commencing, the debut of a new crop of horses is imminent. Those of us who bought yearlings at this year's sales wait with baited breath to see how our new babies will turn out. For many the rigors of breaking in and training and the blood line may mean that getting a start as a two year old will prove too difficult and we may have to wait until next year. For some however the initial trials and then the first two year old races are just weeks away and the build-up of excitement is palpable.

I always say to my friends that my about to be raced horses are champions until proven otherwise. Even though I have been around racing for quite a few years, that thrill as a newbie has its first jumpout and trial is compelling. The more potential one of our charges show in these initial hit outs, the more nervous one becomes as race day approaches. The beauty of owning an early two year old is that there is little or no disclosed form, with trials giving only an indication of what might lie ahead. A good run first up in Adelaide can trigger dreams of Blue Diamonds and Golden Slippers and these are of course possible, though of course extremely elusive.

It is just such an exciting time in the racing where one is still able to dream of scaling racing's lofty heights. Rest assured though whether it be Rosehill or Flemington or somewhere out in the bush, when that horse finally salutes, the buzz will remind us very clearly of why we got into the racing game in the first place.

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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