

SAROA NEWS

All the latest news from the South Australian
Racehorse Association

Richard Stafford - SAROA secretary reports

OWNER OF THE MONTH



River's Lane wins at Morphettville

Our Owner of the Month for June is Tina Fox for River's Lane.

As some of you would know River's Lane, also part owned by former SAROA president Paul Kristoris, has just turned 10 and as such is one of the oldest horses racing on the flat in South Australia. Recently having his 101st start River's won at Morphettville Parks over 2400 metres - since then he has raced twice more for fourth placings at both Morphettville and Flemington.

River's Lane has won 14 times, with 16 seconds and 11 thirds and earnings of \$678,890. He is by this year's Australasian Leading Sire for prizemoney earned in the late, great Street Cry. He is out of an untraced Made of Gold mare Star Maid, who is owned by some of River's Lane's owners.

Star Maid has also mothered To Cry For (also by Street Cry) who has won over \$700,000 and has proved to be nearly as hardy as River's having started 98 times. Star Maid is a full sister to three times stake winner Cosmic Strike who won the Giggal Stakes and over \$340,000 in the early 2000's.

During his long career River's has been the model of consistency winning at least one race every season. His first win was over 1050 metres at Morphettville as a two year old way back in January 2009. Then followed a bit of a drought (albeit with placings in Group Company) until February 2010 when he saluted first up over an unsuitable 1200 metres, again at Morphettville.

Roughly a year later River's really hit his straps winning three metro races in the space of four starts culminating in winning the listed Birthday Cup.

Good performances kept on coming with placings and wins until he won his second listed race in the C.S. Hayes Memorial Cup in March 2014. Even last season as a nine year old, this iron horse was able to win 2 races and a stack of cheques on metro tracks both here and in Victoria. It is quite amazing that since his first win way back in 2009 he has won at least once in every calendar year.

I guess the question remains as to how long he can keep racing but I am sure his connections will only pull the pin on his career when River's tells them to.

So to part owner Tina Fox, Tina has been a strapper with the Balfour stables for many years and had strapped River's Lane since he was a baby. After injuries sustained

in a serious car accident meant that Tina could no longer work as a strapper, she took up a share in her favourite horse and has been along for the ride with him for his more recent successes.

Who knows whether River's can win again but I am sure all associated with him will feel privileged to have been around him. I thought it might be interesting to list the jockeys who have tasted success on the almost black gelding. The story starts with

Amv Hermann; followed by Michelle Payne; Jason Holder; Todd Pannell (who netted 4 wins on Rivers); Paul Gatt; Joe Bowditch (with 3 wins); Scott Westover; Damien Oliver; and Dylan Caboche.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will hold our Annual General Meeting on September 17th, this will incorporate a complementary light lunch for our members. The meeting will be held at Morphettville during the 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 a half an hour, the rest of the day will be available for members to network with fellow race horse owners.

SAROA is in the early planning stages for an information event aimed towards new and prospective 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.

SAROA ON FACEBOOK

As part of our website update we have established a Facebook page for SAROA. To find us on facebook, search SAROA. The Facebook page also features on the home page of the website www.saroa.com.au

One of the features of the Facebook page is an attempt to capture all the winners owned by our members. Unfortunately we are currently not aware of a method that we can use that will guarantee that we do not miss anyone. Similarly if owners have similar names

we cannot always be sure that we credit the right person with the win. We ask that if members feel their winners have been missed, they contact us and advise us accordingly. It is our desire to celebrate the successes of our members whether they be in the bush or in Group races in the city.

As the method used is totally manual and as we are a South Australian body, we do not attempt to pick up winners of interstate races however if members do have wins interstate please let us know. We would love to help broadcast your success to the broader racing community. It is very encouraging to other owners to see that it is really possible to win races and to have success with your horse. For most of us it can be "a long time between drinks" as wins are often few and far between. With all the frustrations that come with owning a race horse it is heartening to see others with wins and it allows us to think that maybe, just maybe, our turn is just around the corner.

So we reiterate - as a SAROA member, if your most recent win does not show up on our Facebook page, please let us know and we will remedy the oversight. Of course if you have a winner, why not nominate either a fellow owner who is a member or yourself as Owner of the Month with a chance to win a \$100 voucher to the Francis Group of hotels. (More details elsewhere in this article).

In recent times we have tried to get each Owner of the Month winner to do an interview on Radio 5 RPH on their Saturday morning Punters' Club session which is usually hosted by Ray Fewings. While some of our winners may be a little nervous about doing this, the listening audience really appreciates hearing about your horses. 5RPH also makes recordings of these sessions available to us for incorporation onto our website in the "News" section of the site. This allows greater access to these interviews and we thank 5RPH very much for allowing us to do this.

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 Elephant and Castle, The Port Noarlunga, the OG and the German Arms hotels.

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