



PRIME DISPATCH

EDITION 256 – 19/11/2019

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**Flying Jess winning the 2017 \$2 million Magic Millions Guineas
Cost \$65,000 won \$1,421,680 Sold for \$540,000**

The Magic Millions 2020 Carnival commences on 4 January with four races run at the Gold Coast Turf Club followed by the main race day on 11 January. The yearling sale commences on 8 January and concludes on 12 January. This is a major event on the Australian Racing Calendar with 1065 yearlings catalogued to be sold over the five days with 79 studs offering yearlings.

Over the next few weeks I will be busy preparing for the big week. The Magic Millions week starts my busiest and most important time of the year as I put our new team together.

Our aim is to select and purchase yearlings that represent good value to our owners. Anyone can go to the sale and pick out the most expensive lots. Unfortunately, many of these yearlings fail to recoup even a fraction of their purchase price on the track. Once again, I will be looking closely at the new sires.

We have had great success purchasing the progeny of first and second season sires well under the market average. The progeny of the young sires often flies under the radar and are well priced.

Some of our better choices from these first and second season sires include Commands (**Under Command** \$37,500, Group 1 placed), Hinchinbrook (**Flying Jess** \$65,000, Magic Millions Guineas winner and highest stakes earning filly by Hinchinbrook), Husson (**Husson Eagle** \$42,500, Magic Millions Sprint winner and 3rd highest stakes earner by Husson), Danzero (**Zero Drama** \$47,500 stakes winner), Al Maher (**Unchain My Heart** \$45,000, multiple Group winner and ran in 2014 Melbourne Cup), Sizzling (**Zizzis** \$120,000, Adelaide Magic Millions winner and highest stakes earner by Sizzling), Sequalo (**Holding** \$15,000, VRC Hilton On The Park and 9 other races), Hussonet (**Huiskes** \$40,000, 2 yo stakes winner), Stratum (**Eramor** \$30,000 2yo stakes winner as well as Stratum's first winner and a Magic Millions winner **Rose Of Scotland** \$47,500), Thunder Gulch (**Transparent Lass** \$47,500, McDougall Stakes winner) and Rubick (**Rubisaki** \$85,000, winner of two of four races to date and stakes placed).

Normally, we will only target one or perhaps two new sires and look to purchase a nice yearling by them. In any year there are up to 50 new sires on the block with these horses providing up to 25% of the yearlings on offer at the sales. Most of these sires will fail at stud.

Sires we purchased yearlings by in their first that went on to be Champion Sires include General Nediym, More Than Ready, Stratum, Hussonet, Flying Spur, Fastnet Rock, Snitzel, I Am Invincible, Hinchinbrook and Smart Missile.

STAND ALONE MEETINGS AND MORE

I love the stand-alone meetings at our major provincial and country cities and towns. They offer a lot to the communities they are run at, but the timing of these meetings needs to be right so they can have the maximum impact both as race meetings and community social events.

While I commend Racing NSW for introducing 'The Hunter' and 'The Gong' I wonder if they would be better scheduled at the start of the Sydney Autumn Carnival where the races on offer lead into the bigger race meetings over the Carnival. As owners we should never knock administrators trying to offer more stakes money. Timing is the key to these meetings being successful.

The same for 'The Everest'. It should be the Australasian Sprint Championship just as the Melbourne Cup is the Australasian Staying Championship. I believe 'The Everest' meeting should be held at Randwick on Easter Saturday. Personally, I believe Sydney lost a lot when the Easter Saturday meeting was no longer Doncaster Day. Doncaster Day was one of the very best days of racing in Australia and I always made my way to Sydney for Easter to go to the meeting. It was a great day to catch up with friends who I would see each year on that day. There is no better place in Australia to be at Easter than Sydney.

This Saturday sees big meetings at Ballarat and Kembla Grange. Both these meetings should get good support from the local communities. The Ballarat Cup usually draws about 10,000 patrons from a population of about 100,000. It will be interesting to see what Kembla Grange draws with Wollongong's population about 300,000. Good luck to Ian and Helen Halliday with Double You Tee in the Ballarat Cup for Patrick Payne. The horse is in great form heading into this \$500,000 race.

Magic Millions are great supporters of this meeting with two good races on the card for Magic Millions graduates.

ON THE TRACK

I am getting excited as we head into the Summer. The Magic Millions is only a few weeks away and our trainers are preparing some of our horses for the Carnival. At this stage we have several horses on track to head to Queensland. These include Almerheri, Everard, Golden Script and Zizzis. We also have some two and three years old in our system, but it is early days for them.

MAGIC MILLIONS PREPARATIONS

I am in full swing for the Magic Millions January Sale. I will be heading to the Hunter Valley in the first or second week of December to inspect all the big drafts. On paper these look outstanding with some great racehorses likely to come from the sale. I'm really not in a position to discuss the catalogue at this stage but will be in contact prior to the sale.

PRESIDENT'S CUP

I have been watching Royal Melbourne being transformed into a massive sporting stadium over the past six weeks. The President's Cup is only a month away and looms as a massive financial boost for Victoria with 52% of the tickets sold going to overseas visitors. If you are planning to attend this great event, I suggest you purchase your tickets sooner rather than later.



Almerheri is due to trial next week, Magic Millions bound!!!