

MEDIA RELEASE : BATHURST HARNESS RACING CLUB



T 61 2 6333 5000  
F 61 2 6331 4397  
E [contact@goldcrown.com.au](mailto:contact@goldcrown.com.au)

**Race Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016**

Group One Feeds Paceway last Wednesday night was not the venue for any birthday celebrations, but it was a night of "many happy returns".

Jimmy Douglass returned from the disappointment of three second placings a fortnight earlier to record his first win on the new Bathurst track, courtesy of Be Nice Huther.

Artistic Flite returned for the first time since taking out the 2015 Gold Chalice, extending his unbeaten record at the two Bathurst tracks to five, with Shane and Lauren Tritton making their first trip to the west since their recent marriage.

Nathan Turnbull, who spent the previous meeting chasing sister Amanda all night, returned fire with a double in successive races with His A Tease and Lap Dancer, after successfully "putting the mock" on her prospects in the latter race.

And just as Ashlee Grives had suggested after its successful debut one week earlier, diminutive filly Smoke N Fire returned a little trimmer and sharper this week to score another impressive win.

Be Nice Huther enjoyed the strong pace set by Kirra Kid in the opening C0/C1 sprint, gained a three-wide tag into the race over the last lap and gained the upper hand over that mare close to the line to record a 1:57.2 rate, very good for a track drenched during the previous two days.

The Ian Wilson-trained filly, winner of two of her three starts since joining the stable - the other was one of Jimmy's seconds a fortnight earlier - impressed Douglass, who believes she is "ready to go to Menangle now."

Nathan Turnbull's drive on His A Tease in the C0/C1 second race was instinctive and canny. When the field opened up nearing the turn, he left his possie in the running line and sought out the sprint lane, coming clear of Wrangler Duke and brother-in-law Trent Rue for a clear win.

His post-race quip that he could only win when his little sister wasn't in the field, certainly put the mock on her in the C2/C3 third.

Her runner, the short-priced favourite Ucanttakeitwithu, galloped out from the pole, allowing Nathan to settle Lap Dancer in the lead, from which he was never headed. The Steve Turnbull-trained four-year-old got home in 57.9 seconds, for an easy win.

Amanda was able to get her sole winner for the meeting (ironically, in Nathan's absence ) in the 2260 metres C2 fourth. Gentleman Red, trained by Steve, came with a strong sprint from mid-field to hit the front close to the line, from favourite Idunknow which had opened up the field with a 28.0 seconds third quarter.

Artistic Flite looked every inch the class performer that he is, in leading throughout the 2260 metres fast-class fifth. After keeping the tempo solid with a 59.5 seconds first half, Lauren Tritton left the pack well astern with a 27.6 thirdquarter, then merely coasted home at what looked three-quarter pace. It was a very happy return to the track for both horse and connections.

In the final stages of this race, most eyes were trained on the "ghostly grey" I'm Blue Double Dee, spectators willing him into a placing at his final start (see accompanying story ). There'll be no returns for this grand performer, but his third was a fitting goodbye.

Steve Turnbull's outstanding run of success continued when he steered Sportygal to an easy win in the sixth, a 3YO sprint, to bring up a training treble at the meeting. The unhooped filly - "we gave her a canter one day, and all she did was pace " - remained near the tail of the field during a frantic first half, and came with a strong sprint over the final stages, Turnbull commenting afterwards that she "probably reached the front too soon".

All three of Turnbull's winners were sired by Sportswriter, extending that horse's lead in the sires premiership at Bathurst, while his own training tally now sits at 84. With four meetings to go before the season finishes, it's unrealistic to think that he could bring up the century, but it's been a fantastic season nevertheless.

Bernie Hewitt has had a highly successful year with his "babies", his wins including the Breeders Challenge Blue and Regional Finals, and that form continued at home when he reined Espyrante to its maiden win in the 2YO for state bred eligible youngsters.

It was start number four for the Always A Virgin gelding, Hewitt believing " he's just starting to grow into himself, and should be a nice horse next season."

The winning drive was vintage Hewitt, reminiscent of his style on the old Showgrounds track : lead, steady the pace, then slip in a fast third quarter - 28 seconds flat in this case - and they won't be able to get near you. Espyrante's winning margin was 20 metres, the biggest of the night.

Smoke N Fire, Ash Grives' all-the-way winner of the C0/C1 final race, provides a stark contrast to the hulking Espyrante, measuring probably less than fourteen hands, but like her sire Courage Under Fire, she's got a pretty good motor inside that frame. She ran her older rivals along in a very fast first quarter, and finished off with a 59.2 half with seemingly plenty in reserve.

There's not a lot of her, but a lot to like about her. Her trainer- driver is eyeing off a 3YO fillies race at Menangle on Saturday week for her next assignment.

By  
Terry Neil

