



ON THE TROT

Bendigo Harness Racing Club News

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Edition: 001

Date: Wednesday, 11 December

Welcome to the first edition of "On The Trot" BHRC monthly Newsletter.

We aim to keep you up to date on what's happening in and around your club.

Contributions are invited by either email to events@bhrc.com.au or in hard copy to the club.



BOOK YOUR 2024 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Group Bookings:

- 2 Course Traditional Christmas roast
- Christmas pudding
- VIP Reserved seating
- Christmas themed table
- Race book



WEDNESDAY
18TH DEC
2024

\$49PP

R1 6:00PM

❄️ BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL ❄️

For bookings call Erik on 0412 758 342.
Email: ehendrix@bhrc.com.au



Around The Stables by Kirsten Graham

'Hector' ready to paint his mark!



Heathcote-trained Inter Dominion finalist Parisian Artiste, winning his third-round heat at Menangle.
Photo courtesy of Club Menangle.

Heathcote couple Alex Ashwood and Tayla French are living out their wildest dreams, whilst getting their pride and joy Parisian Artiste, back to his brilliant best.

The gelding lines up in the TAB Inter Dominion Trotters Final at Club Menangle Saturday night, giving Ashwood and French their second runner in the feature.

Parisian Artiste, affectionately known as 'Hector', ran 6th in the Group 1 Final in 2022 behind champion trotter Just Believe. Since then, Ashwood and French have had a multitude of issues with their six-year-old star.

"He had a neurological issue effecting his back about 18 months ago. He was really sick. The Bendigo Equine Hospital get full credit for pulling him through," said Ashwood.

"We gave him a start after about 12 months in the Swan Hill Cup (2023) and he just wasn't right (6th behind ill-fated Keayang Ignite). It took a while to work out what was wrong, but Werribee Clinic ended up finding he had really bad bone bruising. He needed lots of rehab and corrective shoeing."

It's been a long road to recovery for the son of Love You (FRA), and after a slow but promising build up, he returned to the winner's circle in the King of the North @ Llowalong Farms Swan Hill Trotters Cup at the beginning of November, two years after his first win in the country Cup. The victory brought Ashwood some relief in more ways than one, but the 30-year-old trainer said the writing was on the wall a few starts prior in the Mc Labour Kilmore Trotters Cup.

"He was sensational in the Kilmore Cup, he had a tough handicap and got a good spot in transit. He was coming back into such a hard grade and that was his first effort that really made us think he was close to his best,"

"He was back to his bully-self after the Kilmore Cup. He was full of himself and was giving us every indication he wasn't far off it. He proved that in the start prior to the Swan Hill Cup too when he ran 3rd behind Just Believe in the Maryborough Trotters Cup. He ran the quickest last half there."

With his trip to NSW now cemented after the Swan Hill Cup victory, 'Hector' repaid the faith held by Ashwood, French and his connections with an eye-catching 2nd behind star mare Queen Elida, in the

Around The Stables by Kirsten Graham

first round of Inter Dominion heats at Newcastle, after leaving the gate cleanly and landing the coveted one-out-one-back position.

“We really backed off his workload after Swan Hill and took care of him. That really had him primed for Newcastle,” Ashwood reflected.

“We couldn’t have been happier with him there.”

However, it was a case of chocolates to boiled lollies, after the Bathurst round of heats didn’t quite go to script, with Parisian Artiste galloping shortly after the start.

“It was disappointing for sure, but unfortunately it (galloping out) is something he can do if he gets up too close the gate,” stated Ashwood.

“In saying that though, we were still pretty confident of a forward showing going into the final heat.”

Needing now to finish Top 5 in the third and final round of heats at Menangle just two days later, Parisian Artiste was initially eased off the arm and settled in 3rd behind the Jason Grimson-trained Royal Dan and Queen Elida. An Indian file ensued, allowing French to ease Parisian Artiste into the running-line at the 500m mark and track the path of Queen Elida, with the gelding out-gunning the mare in the concluding stages and thus turning the tables on the first round of heats.

“He took us a bit by surprise the way he finished off to top Queen Elida, particularly given the way she’s been going,” Ashwood said.

“We mapped Queen Elida leading, but Tayla adapted well when that didn’t occur. She’s a really patient driver, even here (in Victoria). I think a lot of drivers can get a rush of blood to their heads with the long straight at Menangle, but Tayla was prepared to wait.”

French echoed Ashwood’s thoughts post-race with Harness Racing NSW media.

“I thought Queen Elida would be the early leader and sort of roll us along, but turns out Royal Dan rolled us along anyway, so it didn’t really matter. The tempo was good and I was close enough.” said French.

The dream of having a horse in an Inter Dominion can’t be dulled, even with a nightmare draw (12), for the young couple.

“It’s not ideal but if the tempo of the race is good, we’ll be in with a chance,” said Ashwood.

“The Locomotive will probably lead, it’s just a matter of if someone sits up and keeps him honest.”

Also racing Saturday night at Menangle is the former Ashwood-trained Tay Tay, whom Ashwood still owns a share of.

“She’s been going well and loves racing up there. There’s just not enough mares’ races for her here in Victoria, which is why we sent her up.”

The TAB Inter Dominion Trotters Final will be run at 8:55pm Saturday night. The pacing final will be held at 9:45pm, with 2024 Garrard’s Horse & Hound Bendigo Pacing Cup winner Max Delight, starting from barrier 10.

All the action can be seen on Sky Channel, with extensive coverage on Sky Thoroughbred Central.



Photo courtesy of Club Menangle.

TRAINER OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2024

Trainer of the Month is awarded to a local trainer who achieves training feats during the month deemed by the Committee as admirable and/or noteworthy.

In October the winner was Gary Donaldson with Salski & Zarski

Congratulations Gary!



2025 Bendigo Equine Expo & Trade Fair

GEAR SALE

SELL YOUR PRE-LOVED GEAR

Trainers, Members & friends on, Saturday 1 March 2025, Bendigo Harness Racing Club Inc are hosting the first "Bendigo Equine Expo & Trade Fair".

Registered BHRC track users who want to sell some excess gear, we have reserved 3 sites **free of charge for you to get together and make a dollar.**

Anyone else registered with HRV or an affiliated harness racing club, train-owners etc your insurance cover is sufficient .

Booking now, New Traders indoor and used traders on the lawn area.

Something for everyone.

Anyone who is not affiliated with a club, stall insurance will be required. Generally insurance will cost about \$40. We recommend you combine with friends to reduce cost

Free Entry for BHRC Members. Show you members card to gain entry.

You can reserve your space by emailing events@bhrc.com.au, phone Andrea on 0402 940 805 or drop into the club to book.

HARNESS RACING MUSEUM

The Bendigo Harness Racing Club, Racing Museum is a great place to get a feel for the history of Harness Racing in general.

Established and managed by members, Norm and Steve with the help of other volunteers, it has developed from a mere thought some years ago to become THE Harness Racing Museum.

See your racing idols, equine and human, their gear, whips, photos, books and memorabilia all in one beautifully displayed location.

The museum are certainly open to Sponsorship if you feel you would like to support this illustrious initiative.

Thanks should be extended to all those who got this off the ground.

Contact : Norm or Steve via club.



CAN YOU HELP?

The club is seeking volunteers to assist in areas such as Trials, Events, Gardening, Maintenance, Painting, Cleaning or anything else that you feel you could bring to the club.

Also required are volunteers for the Bendigo Equine Expo & Trade Fair on Saturday, 1 March 2025. Help is required for car parking, coordinating horses and float parking, set-up/pack-up of exhibitors, gate entry staff, BBQ, drink sales and generally anything else that comes up.

And, we will feed you!

Email events@bhrc.com.au or call Andrea on 0402 940 805



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PACING CUP
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SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY 2025



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Merry Christmas

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