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Damselfly in full flight

## Damselfly/Royal Charades — Flying the Flag!

Two city winners in nearly as many days is a great reward for all of the owners of both Damselfly and Royal Charades and all will be pleased to know that the fun may not be over.

**Damselfly** resumed in devastating fashion at Caulfield on February 21 to record her fourth consecutive win and she will most likely now tackle a listed race over 1100 metres at Flemington on Newmarket Handicap Day. All going well after that it will be our intention to strive for Group 1 glory in the Robert Sangster at Morphettville on Saturday, March 21 in what is always an extremely hard race to win. Nevertheless, this daughter of Flying Spur is ticking all the boxes at the moment and looks to have improved from last prep which culminated in a Group 3 win. Damselfly pulled up extremely well after the race and is certainly a horse for all United Syndications owners to follow. Let's hope that she can continue to add to the \$130,000 already earned over the next few runs.

Lovely Royal Academy mare **Royal Charades** is also starting to build up a nice record and added city success to her résumé at Sandown on Wednesday, February 25. She is now 3 from 3 this time in having recorded comfortable wins at Bairnsdale and Pakenham at her previous two runs. She had definitely earned a trip to town and apprentice jockey Nick Mehmet wasn't going to miss out on the party. Nick does a lot of riding at the track for United Syndications and he was given an opportunity at Bairnsdale, didn't let us down and has been on her since. His ride at Sandown was again perfect to the instructions given and showed good vigour to the line even having the cheek to give G Boss (who rode the second horse Choisism) a serve as they crossed the line. In hindsight that was probably not a great move as I am sure that G Boss might have asked

Nick how many Group ones he had ridden — to which there would have been a very silent response! However Nick is an extremely likeable character and to have given him three winning rides is terrific. I doubt he will easily sacrifice any future rides on the horse. Royal Charades has now had 10 starts for 5 wins and 2 thirds and just over \$46,000 in stakes.

In other stable news **Bella's Bro** keeps on adding prize money to his account in so far very consistent performances. In 5 runs this time in Bella's Bro has run second 3 times and a third and has earned \$16,000 so far for total prize money approaching \$130,000. While a win would be nice Bella's Bro is racing very well and is genuine and his effort last start in running second in the Gawler Cup when looking the likely winner at the top of the straight was very good. His next run will be at Morphettville on Saturday, March 7 over 1600 m in what will be an attempt to win (with Damselfly) a two state city double!



Happy owners including Australian Idol Jessica Mauboy

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Royal Charades with Nick Mehmet working hard

Our **Gold Bullion's** promising run at Kyneton early February unfortunately goes no further at the moment due to him contracting a severe cold, which almost led to pneumonia. He showed good ability in that race coming from about 12 lengths off the speed at the 600 to go under around 2 and made good ground in the run home. He is suffering from immaturity (not uncommon in Pentire's) and will be given about six weeks before returning to pretraining and to resume the promise already shown, but looks a very nice stayer for the future and is still maturing as a horse.

Our two-year-olds of this season are going through an education process apart from **Rossa Antico** who was very close to racing but for an infection. Mick thought it best to give her a break rather than push on which is in the best interests of the horse. Nice little filly who seems to have some ability so any break now will be of great benefit to her and would

also give her the ability to grow and strengthen which should enable her to fight off any future bugs and infections. Our Elvstroem filly **Bellestroem** has completed an education at Mick's and will spell at Adrian Park Wangaratta under John Ledger's control. Physically a lovely filly who is currently a bit "revy" but with another prep under her belt she would be expected to go close to getting to at least the trial stage. Our forgotten **Comic Composer** (x Stravinsky) is currently OK and we seem to be getting a handle on his hock complaints originally received on the flight over from New Zealand. He has been a constant source of frustration for us all but if we can get him to the paddock fully healed he will not take long to get going as he has been broken in and handled more than the normal so progress will be quick with him when he does commence his pretraining next.



Royal Charades winning in a tight finish



Damsselfly winning at Caulfield