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Damsel Fly Fails!

Monash Flyer she wasn't but plenty of genuine excuses she had as our brilliant little 3YO filly Damsel Fly unfortunately failed in the \$100,000 Sir John Monash recently. Starting from a middle gate Damsel Fly was checked some 400m after the start by giant galloper Mind Your Head who put the filly off-balance to such an extent that rider Damien Oliver thought the filly had struck herself. He reported that she never felt right throughout and consequently didn't ride her to the line. She trotted back to scale and a subsequent veterinary examination revealed no abnormalities however the following day she had a raging temperature and a lung infection indicating that all was not well on the day. Subsequently she has been treated and sent to the paddock placing in jeopardy a Spring campaign however that pales into insignificance as the welfare of the horse is paramount as she is such a valuable future mare. We will allow her to fully recover at her own steam ensuring that she will not move unless 100% ready to do so. Summary of the Sir John Monash — FORGET SHE EVER RAN!

The same can also be said about **Rossa Antico** who made her debut at Seymour recently. The 2YO filly was trapped very wide all of the way before making a little ground in the straight but overall disappointed her syndicate. Her performance should be forgotten as she has shown ability in her work and trials at Caulfield and still has plenty of physical maturing to do which will be aided by the spring grass just around the corner. She appears a 1400—1600m type and look for significant improvement next prep.

Bellestroem has also joined **Rossa Antico** at Fenton Hill Downs for a spell and this leggy Elvestroem filly made good improvement this prep. A filly that was hard to get going last time in got to the trial stage this time and got her barrier certificate in the process. A slow maturing staying type of filly

who has gone shin sore twice now is expected to step up to the plate next time in and will grow into those long legs over Spring. She is a lovely type physically — time is the key for her!

Problem child **Comic Composer** is that no longer as this son of Stravinsky got all of the way through pretraining and two trials only to go very shin sore at the end. Making up for lost time and only on his first prep **Comic Composer** did an outstanding job and showed that the patience the syndicate have given him will be rewarded in the future. Sound horse that shows good ability.

Our spellers **Bella's Bro** and **Royal Charades** are not too far away from the pretrainers. **Bella's Bro** is expected to have August out before resuming while **Royal Charades** should return in a couple of weeks. Both horses have done the job and it is hoped that **Royal Charades** in particular can progress through to black type company in the Spring, while **Bella's Bro** a sound and durable horse will no doubt again pay his way in the hope of getting to the \$200,000 market the end of his next prep.

All of our 2009 yearling purchases are currently in pretraining with John Ledger at Wangaratta and it is far too early to be giving any updates ability wise. John will take them all through the process and continue on with their respective educations before we make any decisions as to which 2YO goes to Mick's for a look-see and which needs further time Names received for each 2YO are as follows:

Choisir/La Bella Dame (colt)	Le Bonsir
Show a Heart/Seventh Heaven (filly)	Show of Heaven
Starcraft/Miss Lamoo (colt)	Jupitertwo
Exceed and Excel/Love and Emotion (filly)	to be named



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Rossa Antico being walked by her strapper Steve

Our final update is on our Pentire gelding **Our Gold Bullion** who does look a very nice stayer of the future. Dogged with immaturity issues in the past he has just arrived into Mick's stables and looks very well. It is hoped that this guy can stand up as he is a future winner of our stable and go on and get some race experience, as if he can he should be able to graduate to city class over distance such is the opinion that we have of him.

Price's Fantastic Year!

It would be remiss of me not to congratulate and acknowledge the outstanding year of our syndicate trainer's success in what is no doubt Mick's best ever year as a trainer. Saturday's Moonee Valley double with True Persuasion and Running Riot brought Mick's metropolitan tally to 51 winners, 12 winners more than last season and his year included no fewer than six Group 1 winners! His Group 1's came via Gallica (2), Heart of Dreams, Bel Mer and Pompeii Ruler, and Saturday 21/3/09 saw Mick train two Group 1 winners and a Group 2 on the same day in different states — an outstanding achievement.

Mick's 50 winners came from 31 different horses including Running Riot, Lucidly, Light Fantastic, Bel Mer, Lord Tavistock, Inkster, Rightfully Yours, Vivacious Spirit, Gallica, Alamosa, Heart of Dreams, Pre-Eminence, De Ja View, Corsaire, El Mandon, Pricked, Nine Tales, Tango's Choice, Miss Maren, Das Machen, About Ready, Agarkar, Sir Soprano, Porsched, Shrewd Rhythm, Morning Swim, Orbiting Belle, I Need To Fly, True Persuasion, and our own syndicated horses Damselfly and Royal Charades—WELL DONE MICK!

Ready Made Family—All Good!

Our broodmare Ready Made Family appears in the clear from a recent trip mishap on the way from Scone where she contracted a mild case of the potentially fatal Salmonella. Promptly treated the mare is recovering with pending foal appearing all well. She is in foal to exciting Northern Hemisphere stallion Oratorio and is booked in ready to serve boom stallion Bel Esprit this breeding season. She will continue the trip down from Euroa to Romsey in a couple of weeks time — the longest trip from Scone to Romsey known to mankind — taking in all three weeks. Let's hope she finally gets there!



Rossa Antico in her box just before Seymour run



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