

Gawler Races, Wednesday, June 14

Racing returned to Gawler on Wednesday, June 14 after a six-month break following a major track upgrade.

Shane Collins, Chief Executive Officer, said the club was delighted with the work done on the track by Thoroughbred Racing South Australia track officials and looked forward to a positive season of racing.

The return meeting featured the running of the annual Wolf Blass Rascals Club trophy.

Rascals Club organiser Wolf Blass was on course and complimented the Gawler and Barossa Jockey Club on its facility.

Mr Blass also noted the continued development of the Wolf Blass the Man Pavilion which is proving popular with patrons as a place to relax between races.

Here is a raceday roundup.

1. Coca-Cola Colts & Geldings & Entires Maiden

Morphettville trainer Ryan Balfour suggested Red Scimitar was a horse to follow following the four-year-old's initial win in the Coca-Cola Maiden (1200m).

Balfour said Red Scimitar was still learning about racing but could win more races.

A \$4.80 chance, Red Scimitar, ridden by Paul Gatt, railed through to score a three-quarter length win from the heavily backed favourite Familja (\$2.80 into \$1.90) with Holy Trilogy (\$21), 3-1/4 lengths away third.

The winner is owned by husband and wife Grant and Haidee Kinter from Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills.

Mr Kinter also bred Red Scimitar.

Balfour said the four-year-old would be suited in races up to 1600m and was a definite improver.

Familja led but could not hold off the challenge by Red Scimitar.

2. Wolf Blass Wines Maiden

The impressive debut win of Miss Jane in the Wolf Blass Wines Maiden (1200m) would have been a good tonic for part-owner Sue Seater.

Mrs Seater was in hospital having an operation when Miss Jane made her winning debut.

A well backed \$2.90 equal favourite, Miss Jane, ridden by Jamie Kah, crossed to lead and raced away to win by 3-3/4 lengths from My Giddy Aunt (\$2.90 equal favourite) with Lannister Gold (\$41), 3-1/4 lengths away third.

Part-owner and co-trainer Ashton Downing said the three-year-old filly had always shown promise.

Miss Jane was bred and is part-owned by well-known trainer Paul Seater.

“Paul got my partner Niki (O’Shea) to break the filly in and do pre-training and we loved her and luckily Paul allowed us to train her,” Ms Downing said.

“We have given her several preparations but couldn’t get her to the races so we are delighted to get her to the track today.

“We really like her and hope she can go on and win in the city.”

3. Young Guns Day Saturday 8th July

There was strong Gawler connection with Travel Plan, winner of the Young Guns Day Saturday 8th July Handicap (1400m).

Trained at Goolwa by David Jolly, Travel Plan (\$4.20), ridden by Jamie Kah, who bought up a race-to-race double, scored a half neck win from Zaaladd (\$6), with King Tomlola (\$16), $\frac{3}{4}$ length away third.

Travel Plan is owned by Chris and Lisa Cahill from Inspirations Paint, Maxine and Neville Wytkin from Gawler Motor Rewinders, Paul Howett from BP Roseworthy and Wade and Kate Seal, all from Gawler.

The three-year-old was bred by the Cahills and Wytkins who raced the dam, Belle Addiction, a winner of six races when trained at Gawler by Trevor Saltmarsh.

Travel Plan was only having his second run at Gawler after a debut fifth at Strathalbyn on May 31.

Jolly said the gelding had learnt quickly from the run.

“He showed no early pace at Strathalbyn but today settled just behind the leaders,” Jolly said.

“Jamie said when he reached the front he was a bit lost but felt he was an improver.

“I think he will be suited around the 1600m – 2000m mark like his mother,” the trainer said.

4. Goldin Farms Benchmark 60 Handicap

Lightly-raced five-year-old Kingsgrove ran out an easy winner of the Goldin Farms Benchmark 60 Handicap (1400m).

Ridden by Joe Bowditch, Kingsgrove (\$5.50) sprinted away from his rivals to score by 2-1/4 lengths from Raise A Dream (\$5) with Free the Wind (\$4) a head away third.

The winner is part-owned and trained by veteran mentor Brian Mueller from Strathalbyn.

Although five, Kingsgrove was having only its 20th start today and notched his fourth win with four placings earning \$48,840 in stakes.

5. Gawler South Bakery Benchmark 60 Handicap

Late-starting Groove With Me made it two wins in a row with a strong victory in the Gawler South Bakery Benchmark 60 Handicap (1400m).

Trained at Oakbank in the Adelaide Hills by Kirsten Mooney, Groove With Me (\$2.40 favourite), ridden by Shayne Cahill, burst between runners in the home straight to score by 1-3/4 lengths from Social Set (\$6,50) with pacemaker Freedom Road (\$5), a length away third.

The winner, a six-year-old, is part-owned by John Chapple who said the gelding had been left in a paddock to mature.

Mooney said from the time she had put Groove With Me into work he had shown potential.

Today was his second win with four placings from nine starts.

“He didn’t have a lot of luck early on with things going wrong,” Ms Mooney said.

“He is getting better with racing and Shayne understands him and rides him well.”

Connections may now look to the city with Groove With Me.

6. Coopers Benchmark 64 Handicap

Smart mare Patch Hero returned to racing with a strong win in the Coopers Benchmark 64 Handicap (1200m).

The five-year-old mare is co-trained at Strathalbyn by Wayne Francis and Glen Kent who were not surprised by her forward showing.

A \$7 chance, Patch Hero drew clear to win by 1-1/2 lengths from Copernicus (\$4.80) with The Other Guy (\$3.80 fav), 1-3/4 lengths away third.

Glen Kent said he thought the mare would have a very good preparation.

“She was unplaced first up in four previous campaigns but this time she came into work in a lot better condition,” Kent said.

“Previously she has been a bit on the gross side but this time she was a lot tighter and has come to hand a lot quicker.

“Now we just have to look for wet tracks because she loves them.”

7. Wolf Blass Rascals Club Trophy

Staying three-year-old Hippogriff broke through for his first win in the Wolf Blass Rascals Club Trophy (2100m).

Trained by Phillip Stokes at Morphettville and ridden by Ben Claridge, Hippogriff (\$6.50) finished best to score a half-length win from Canonic (\$15), with Treicheln (\$11), 3-4 lengths away third.

Winning jockey Claridge said the three-year-old had been hard work.

“He is still learning,” Claridge said. “He does stick on well but takes a bit of riding. He is fitter than me.”

Today was Hippogriff’s seventh start and Stokes has been keen to step him up in distance.

There is no doubt the gelding has been slow maturing and Claridge said he hoped the victory might trigger continued improvement.

8. McEvoy Mitchell Class One Handicap

Promising three-year-old filly Hidden Fortune sprinted home strongly to take out the McEvoy Mitchell Class One Handicap (1200m).

A \$6 chance, Hidden Fortune sat on the pace before going clear to score by 1-3/4 lengths from the favourite Break Of Chains (\$4 into \$2.90) while Mint Collector (\$4.40) was 1-1/4 lengths away third.

The winner is trained by Richard Jolly who is away on holiday and was ridden by Jake Toeroek.

The jockey said the filly had travelled well and sprinted strongly up the home straight.

"I really didn't have to put her under real pressure, she did it all herself," Toeroek said.

"I think she has a promising future."

Hidden Fortune has now won two races, both at Gawler, with three placings from just six starts.