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## Randwick Bloodstock's Fillies and Mare

Wasn't that a magnanimous day's racing at Rosehill last Saturday! Apart from being able to watch our elite horse flesh compete in five Group One races, to me what appealed the most were the various outcomes of each major race.

Firstly we watched the superlative MORE JOYOUS (by MORE THAN READY) romp to victory in the Queen of the Turf Stakes, to notch her fourth Group One win of the season. In any other year she'd be a strong contender for Horse of the Year honours. But you'd have to say, this is no ordinary year. MORE JOYOUS is raced by her breeder, the very colourful John Singleton (Strawberry Hill Stud) and has the pedigree to die for. I don't think they'd be too many breeders that wouldn't mind her in their broodmare band when she retires to stud. Put a value on her please?

Then in the Vinery Stud stakes we saw MIRJULISA LASS (by DANASINGA) score a comfortable win. This is a horse that was twice offered at public auction as a yearling and passed in for \$20,000 the first occasion and then \$3,500 on the second occasion. In the end her breeder Paul Higgins (Baerami Thoroughbreds) leased her out to some clients of Warwick Farm trainer Greg Hickman. Chalk up one for the "battlers". This is the type of result that inspires many "less affluent" people to have a throw at the stumps. Dreams can come true!

In the BMW, CEDARBERG (by HELENUS) scooted alongside the inside grab the honours. This was another horse that was passed in at the yearling sales, the reserve being \$35,000. This time though, the horse's breeders Trevor and Terrie Delroy (Wyadup Valley Farm) fortuitously retained their mare's progeny and the rest as they say is history. Breeders do make up the majority of people that race horses in Australia. If a breeder can't get a result in the sales ring, if they are then prepared to make a further investment in that horse by retaining it to race, it's great to see them then get a result on the racetrack.

Next race up was the George Ryder Stakes. As the field thundered to the 300m mark, more than half the runners looked to have a winning chance, however, it was the NZ bred 6yo gelding RANGIRANGDOO (by PENTIRE) that thrust himself through a gap to get up in the last stride. Despite the fantastic competitiveness of the final stages of this Group One contest, the thing that I will remember the most about this race was Chris Waller's (winning trainer) post race interview. Here was a person brought to tears not just by the grit and determination demonstrated by his "best mate" RANGIRANGDOO, but also he was appreciative of the same attributes produced by his staff to achieve this result. Brought a tear to my eyes as well!

And finally the Golden Slipper. Firstly condolences to both Gooree and the Inghams for the scratchings of SMART MISSILE and FAST 'N' SEXY at the barriers. A terrible end result for two of Australia's greatest industry pillars. They deserve better considering the huge financial commitments they have contributed to our racing and breeding here over the past forty years. However, in the end, no one could begrudge the win by Darley's homebred SEPOY (by ELUSIVE QUALITY). No other person in the history of the thoroughbred breed has invested more money into the game. Sheikh Mohammed absolutely deserves this success. And congratulations must also go to the 340 people that make up the Darley operation in Australia. As John Ferguson and Peter Snowden rightly stated post race, this is a team effort, a bloody big team effort if you ask me. Good onya guys!

Now bring on Randwick this Saturday. Another three Group One races and no doubt another three great stories to watch unfold before our very eyes. I love it!

Until next time,

Best Regards

Brett Howard

P.S. Congratulations must go to Adam and Gary Mackrell (Bell View Park Stud). They have recently purchased two mares off our web site - CATALAN BAY and JAI HO. Two weekends ago they watched CATALAN BAY's 3yo 1/2 sister KIM ANGEL (by ENCOSTA DE LAGO) win a Listed race in Perth and then last weekend JAI HO'S 2yo half brother DO YOU THINK (by STARCRAFT) was an impressive victor at Group 3 level in Sydney.