

TAMWORTH MEETING 10 FEB COMPILED BY JULIE MAUGHAN

Joan Bullock Memorial

Feature race at last week's Tamworth HRC meeting was the running of the Joan Bullock Memorial with Artsu from the Ron Neal stables shining through for a 2.3 metre win over Courage Underwater and Alyeska Dream 3.8 metres away third.

With Courage Underwater (Cameron Davies) leading the field and Artistic Double (David Munsie) racing out in the breeze, reinsman Jason Proctor found the one by one with Artsu.

"I thought it was a good spot but all my dangers were in front of me" said Proctor of Courage Underwater and Artistic Double.

"The horse (Artsu) went really good, she was perfect. It's always hard when you dash home a quick half and you are stuck out wide at Tamworth so she showed her toughness to keep going".

As the field turned the final bend for home Proctor found himself racing three wide with the Elsu NZ-Holly Holmes 5yo mare who was looking at her ninth career win.

"She did well to be wide for the last 600 so her ability shone through" said Proctor who was having his first drive for trainer Ron Neal who is based at Quirindi.

"In the last 100 I didn't have to whip her she just knew to go on with it".

Artsu clocked 2.03.0 for the 1980 metre event.

Joan Bullock was a tireless worker for the Ladies Auxiliary at Tamworth and each year since her passing husband Peter along with sons Cameron and Travis ensure the feature is part of the Tamworth race calendar.

"I have won the race twice" said Bullock after the running "It's great the Tamworth HRC allows us to put the race on the program and on paper Artsu looked the better horse to beat"

Peter Bullock, who was domiciled at Tamworth for many a year is now based at Bathurst with a huge team of 40 horses to take care of as a trainer and reinsman, with a big work team to back him up.

This year saw the sixth running of the Joan Bullock Memorial, with Peter ensuring he has a runner each year, with Taylor Shannon who finished fifth, being Peter's charge this year.

"A lot of family and friends come here each year for the race and we will do it again next year" said Bullock.

Meanwhile Peter Bullock did pick up a winner as a trainer in the Bearing Accessories Pty Ltd Pace (1609m) when Smack Dab Shannon had a 13.4 metre win over Cockys Fancy (Lola Weidemann) and Franco Seville (Sam Ison) 3.3 metres away third.

Bullock offered the drive to Hunter Valley junior reinsman Brad Elder who took the reins behind the Major In Art 4yo for an all the way win.

"That's my first winner at Tamworth" said Elder "first time I have driven here actually"

"I had a handful of horse at the bell and I let him run up the back so I thought it was pretty impressive" said Elder with Smack Dab Shannon clocked 1.58.9 for 1609metres.

Rosie ORourke was resuming from a spell in the Thanks Everyone for Successful 2015 Carnival of Cups Competitive Stakes (1609m) and made light work of the event with an all the way win.

Raced and part owned by trainer and reinswoman Sally Torrens, the 3yo Art Major-As It Is In Heaven filly is now in the stables of Tony Missen at Tamworth as Torrens has her hands full dabbling with the thoroughbreds with great success.

“She (Rosie ORourke) is a nice filly” said Peter Missen who was taking the reins for his brother. “We are lucky to have the opportunity to train her as she is a nice horse and we are taking her with both hands” added Missen.

“She run a bit of time today so maybe we should have put her into the Joan Bullock Memorial but winning a race today is a good thing” added Missen.

Rosie ORourke contested a heat of the Gold Tiara last year at Bathurst and Missen is heading back to Bathurst again with the filly.

“We will look at Bathurst for her and then Armidale as they have got a good three year old race up there as well” added Missen.

Utilising the number one barrier, Rosie ORourke went straight to the lead before going on for a 2.4 metre win over Ride On A Rainbow (Nathan Carroll) and Jacks A Smarty (Lola Weidemann) 5.9 metres away third.

Rosie ORourke was collecting her third career win from ten starts and clocked her best career mile rate of 1.59 in the 1609 metre event.

For sister’s Julie and Lola Weidemann it was a good day at the office when the stable collected a winning double with Dreamy Nukes and Long Term Fella.

Both horses are trained by Julie Weidemann.

Dreamy Nukes was the first to collect a cheque in taking out the Easters Landscaping Supplies Pace (1980 metres) with an all the way win.

“I wasn’t confident at all” said Julie Weidemann after the win “it was just a battle but it has made the trip down worthwhile”

Dreamy Nukes had a 3.2metre win over Shantung (Cameron Davies) and Pass It To Billy (Sarah Rushbrook) 9.5 metres away third.

Lola Weidemann then collected the second cheque for the stables when Long Term Fella won the TAB App Pace (1980m), also an all the way win.

The lightly raced Armbro Operative-Armaella 4 year old is showing plenty of potential.

“He’s got raw ability and will make the grade. Let’s see what he brings in 12 months” said Weidemann.

Long Term Fella has had four starts for two wins, one at Albion Park on debut and one at Tamworth.

“He went pretty good today” said Lola Weidemann “He’s got a motor but we just have to harness the motor”

Long Term Fella had a 6.6metre win over Corbin Lee (Len Simon) and Halfway Holme (Cameron Davies) 11.4 metres away third.

Reinswoman Sarah Rushbrook has had two drives behind the Ken Natty trained Leighmont for two wins.

With Leighmont sitting in behind race leader Im A Player (Cameron Davies) Rushbrook gained a split as the field turned into the home straight on the final occasion, and made the most of the home straight.

“Huge run by the horse” said Rushbrook “Ken (Natty) does a great job with the horses and he told me he would win straight up”

Leighmont was resuming from a spell.

“All I needed was a gap to get out and I was lucky when they kicked on the turn. That was enough for us” said Rushbrook.

“I haven’t had too many drives of late so it’s good to be back in the winners circle again. I have had two drives for two wins on this horse so it’s a good strike rate” said Rushbrook.

Leighmont had 4.7 metre win over Idle Hands (Brendan James) and Im A Player 2.6 metres away third in taking out the TAB Rewards Pace (1609m) with a mile rate of 2.00.0

Glebe Island made the most of an outing at the recent Glen Innes show when he took out the Tamworth Trophy Supplies Pace paying a whopping \$96.50 for the win for trainer/driver Tony Leffler.