

## **TAMWORTH MEETING JUNE 4 COMPILED BY JULIE MAUGHAN**

**Stacey Weidemann** is making her name in the harness racing industry both in Queensland and NSW but last Thursday was the best day so far after gaining her licence last August.

Weidemann drove her first winning double at the Tamworth HRC meeting with Mac Sweet the first to greet the judge followed by Jacks A Smarty.

"This win was special as the filly belongs to my grandfather Ross who passed away recently" said Weidemann of Mac Sweet who had just won the Peter Jackson Bookmaker Jackpot \$2,100 Pacing Pick Pace (1980m).

After following her Aunts Julie and Lola Weidemann into the industry Stacey is part of the day to day running operations at their Clifton property and more so with Lola being on the sidelines with injury after a recent race fall.

Mac Sweet who is trained by Julie Weidemann led all the way to have a 2.4 metre win over Fivestar Wally (Peter Missen) and Gannicus (Sam Ison) 3.4 metres away third.

"It was good to get to the front. That was the place to be for her (Mac Sweet) so we had to have a go" added Weidemann.

Mac Sweet, a 3yo Mach Three-Sweet Shania filly has only had 14 career starts and broke through for her first win back in March at Armidale and followed that up with another win at Redcliffe in April before the win at Tamworth.

The win of Jacks A Smarty in the TAB Rewards Winter Warmer Heat 3 was even more encouraging for Stacey as she owns the Badlands Hanover-Solataire gelding and he also brought about her first winning double as a reinswoman.

"This is the first one I have owned that has won a race" said Weidemann after the win "it was a pretty good accomplishment"

Stacey Weidemann always has a smile on her face, regardless of a win or loss and her passion for the sport shines through when she hops out of the cart and gets ready for the next dual on the track and was in her element at Tamworth.

"That was a sweet little victory" said Weidemann of Jacks a Smarty who had his last win back in March at Armidale.

With Wake up Quinn (David Munsie) looking the likely race winner as the field rounded the final turn, after leading from the outset, Wake Up Quinn was swamped from both sides with Elboron (Peter Missen) racing to the outside and Weidemann taking the opportunity to fly home on the pegs.

"I wasn't sure which way they were going but I was hoping it was wide" joked Weidemann after the win. "He goes a whole lot better when he can go up the fence"

Weidemann pushed Jacks A Smarty through on the inside and took the race by 1 metre over Elboron (Peter Missen) and Wake Up Quinn 2.1 metres away third.

"I like winning races down here" added Weidemann "if you win down here it makes the trip shorter home. This is my first winner as an owner and my first winning double"

There was no rest for Jacks A Smarty as he was to line up again on Sunday at the Caboolture Show.

**Blucolla Moon** was back in the winners circle last Thursday at Tamworth and the connections were confident when they saw the barrier draw and were hoping for a change of luck for the stables.

With regular reinsman Scotty-Jon Welsh on the sidelines awaiting a third operation on his wrist which was broken in a race fall at Tamworth back in May, he watched as fellow junior reinsman Tom Ison took the reins.

"I was confident she could win when I saw the draw" said Welsh

Blucolla Moon had the luxury of drawing the one barrier in the Sky Racing Pace (1980m)

"On her last start form I thought she would have won" added Welsh with Blucolla Moon having a second to Strathlachlan Matt (James Harding) at her last outing.

Blucolla Moon is trained at Tamworth by Dwayne Brown who elected to place 16 yo Tom Ison in the spider.

"I was confident when they offered me the drive" said Ison "I'm pleased they put me on".

Ison, who will represent the North West in the Rising Star Series later this month is looking for plenty of drives before the series commences.

"There is another meeting here at Tamworth and then I head to Sydney three days later for the Series" said Ison.

"I'm very happy with how things are going" added Ison "I'm wrapped as I am getting a lot of drives and have been getting a bit of luck. Things are going good"

"I am definitely looking forward to the Rising Star series. There is a couple of tracks I haven't driven on before so it should be good"

With Northmove Hanover (Anthony Varga) leading the field and Rosie O'Rourke (Peter Missen) racing out in the breeze Ison placed Blucolla Moon in on the leaders back.

In a drive of perfection, Ison moved Blucolla Moon off the pegs in the back straight on the final occasion, raced three wide around the final turn and came away for a 6.4 metre win over The Artful Dodger (David Munsie) and Northmove Hanover (Anthony Varga) 3.4 metres away third.

Meanwhile for Scotty-Jon Welsh he will just have to play the waiting game.

"I just want to get back out there amongst it" said Welsh who is concentrating on his Year 12 studies at the moment as he awaits cartilage to grow before operation number three.

**The Tony Missen** trained Cookavich is now into the Final of the Winter Warmer series at Tamworth after a win in the TAB App. Winter Warmer Heat 2 with a handy front running drive by his brother Peter.

"I knew she had some gate speed" said Peter Missen "I thought the danger was behind me (The Muse) and I thought the key to winning was to keep him there. It's good to get a winner"

Cookavich led the field with Tayspastime racing in the breeze and The Muse in behind the leader.

Cookavich had a 4.6 metre win over The Muse (James Harding) and 10 yo Tayspastime (John Glover) 1.2 metres away third.

“The barrier draw helped” said trainer Tony Missen who has had the Browning Blue Chip-The Grattai Cook mare for her last three race starts. “We will have to see what she draws in the final now”

Cookavich had her last win at Tamworth back in April this year when the 8 yo mare was with the Mark Callaghan stables.

“Tony has this mare in good order today and it was a pleasure to drive her. If she can get a good draw and lead she will be hard to beat in the final” added Peter Missen “She felt fantastic”

**Meanwhile** Julie Weidemann had already placed Cockys Fancy into the final after taking out the TAB Sportsbet Winter Warmer Heat 1, with an all the way win.

With sister Lola still on the sidelines Julie Weidemann has had to increase her work load in the driving ranks.

“I’m just looking for someone to take the reins so I can retire” joked Julie Weidemann after the win “Lola went back to the Doctor last week and they have told her she is out for another month”

Cockys Fancy held on for a half neck win over fast finishing Alyeska Dream (Tom Ison) and Who Killed Kenny (3.2m) away third in taking out the 1980 metre event.

“It was only her (Cockys Fancy) second run back so she will benefit from the run” said Weidemann.

After a win at Armidale back in March the Blissfull Hall-Kobnko mare resumed at Albion Park on May 30 for no luck.

The Weidemann stables had two heat winners of the series with Jacks A Smarty taking out the TAB Rewards Winter Warmer Heat 3 with Stacey Weidemann in the spider.

**“Once he got out he hit the line nice”** said Anthony Varga “in small fields you have to pray for luck”

That is how reinsman Anthony Varga summed up the win of Itsa History Maker in the Australian Training and Consulting Pace (1980m).

“He had a few problems at the start but he is on his game now” added Varga with Itsa History Maker having back to back wins at Tamworth.

Sitting at the tail of the field Varga weaved Itsa History Maker through the field to race four wide and just grabbed Mr Armageddon on the line.

It’s a History Maker had a head win over Mister Armageddon (Julie Weidemann) and the second runner from the Ernie Mabbott stables in Ride On A Rainbow (Mitch Chapple) 6.3 metres away third.

**Daniel Morgan** is about to represent the Hunter Valley in the upcoming NSW Rising Star Series but is keeping his fingers crossed over the coming days that things play into his favour after seeing both the highs and lows of harness racing this week.

Morgan kicked home a winner for the Michael Osborn stables when Justaglamour won at Tamworth last Thursday and then “hit the deck” at the Newcastle Paceway on Friday evening when he was tipped from the spider behind Lucky Ned Pepper.

"I'm pretty keen for the Rising Star series so I don't want anything to happen" said Morgan. "There was nothing I could do to avoid being tipped out."

Dan Morgan, along with fellow junior reinsman Brad Elder were angled out of the gig following a race incident in the Coca Cola Pace at Newcastle with Elder being conveyed to Hospital.

"I was lucky as I rolled when I was tipped out and nothing hit me from behind" said Dan Morgan "Brad was taken to Hospital for observation but he is out now"

With only three horses completing the race, another junior reinsman in James Harding piloted the winner in Charming Joseph whilst Morgan's father, Paul finished second with Blackjack Shannon.

"I think he looked back to see what went wrong" added Dan Morgan of his father.

Following his father Paul into the sport Dan Morgan at the age of 18 has had 35 winning drives all up "and I think about 20 this season"

"I have been in the mini trots and then the maxi trots and they were a great experience" added Morgan.

"I will just keep going and keep my fingers crossed and try and stay out of trouble" joked the Sheet Metal apprentice.

Even though Morgan did see the surface of the Newcastle Paceway in a different light it was easy to go back to the win of Justaglamour at Tamworth the previous night when the Santastic Pan-Chevette Bay 5yo mare won the National Trotguide Pace (1980m).

For Dan Morgan, who was having his fourth drive at the Tamworth Paceway, another highlight was his first registered win there.

"It's pretty exciting" said Morgan of the Tamworth win "That was my first winning drive here (Tamworth) so that's good"

Justaglamour is trained by Michael Osborn.

"Michael always does a good job with his horses and she (Justaglamour) always tries her hardest so I knew she would be a good chance"

"She has got a pretty good record" added Morgan who drove Justaglamour to a win at Newcastle back in May.

With Justaglamour tucked back on the inside running line Morgan had to place the mare so as to race out three wide to come home for a 1.8 metre win over Franco Seville (Tom Ison) and Leighmont (Peter Hedges) a half neck away third.

"I was concerned when they crossed me but she is pretty smart and can run some time"

**Mondo Sports** broke through for his first career win in taking out the Northern Daily Leader Pace at Tamworth last Thursday with local owners Maurie and Wendy Mondolo trackside to see the victory.

Trained by Michael Formosa, who is based at Ellalong in the Hunter Valley, Formosa elected to travel the Sportswriter-She Aint Fakin 3 yo gelding to the Tamworth meeting.

“Maurice has got three horses with me now and I thought it was better to bring them up here to race than him travel down to Newcastle. The horse has performed well up here”

Going 1.59.9 for the 1609 metre journey was also impressive for the win.

“He has got lots of ability, just has to find the confidence in himself” said Formosa “He is happy to run along with the horses but doesn’t want to go past them so hopefully now that he has won a race he will go on with it”

Mondo Sports has had 15 career starts for a win and two placings.

The small field of six, who were ready to shape up to the barrier, then became five as Lugg, who was about to have his first race start in NSW, was scratched under Vets advice.

“The smaller the field got the more chance I had” said Formosa, not taking anything away from the win of Mondo Sports who had quarters of 30, 31.4, 29.2 and 29.3.

Mondo Sports was leading field as the bell sounded but increased the distance with every stride and came away for a 19.2 metre win over Shadow River (Peter Hedges) and Dash Doll (David Munsie) 9.1 metres away third.