

## **Jolimont gives galloping identity his first harness winner**

Those familiar with the thoroughbred game will no doubt be aware of the name Tommy Heptinstall, a big-time name as both an owner and breeder through the deeds of Tavistock, Sangster, Werther and Bagalolies among others.

Well now the former Wellingtonian – now based in Melbourne – has dipped his toe in the water as a harness racing owner in New Zealand.

His first horse, Jolimont, was quite impressive winning his second start at Cambridge on Monday for trainer Arna Donnelly, who went to \$31,000 to secure the son of Sweet Lou and former grand mare Running On Faith from the Karaka Yearling Sales in 2021.

Donnelly doesn't know much about Heptinstall. Because he rung her out of the blue after seeing her interviewed on television and they've only met once.

"The only time I met him was really quickly when I was in the winner's bar at Alexandra Park and he popped his head in and shook my hand as he was walking past," said Donnelly.

"He had rung me up and said he wanted to get a horse to race with his family and friends and gave me a budget for the sales, which I went over!"

Heptinstall races Jolimont with Nicki Cruickshank, who manages his business *Tommy's Real Estate* in the Capital, and their families.

Donnelly admits to being caught off guard by Jolimont's determined win, which included a lost lead dig, sitting parked then getting help up on the final bend.

"It really did sort of surprise me. He knocked off halfway up the straight too.

"He's not completely screwed down yet either."

With Alexandra Park out of commission, Jolimont will stick to his home track in the coming weeks and that might include a race on the undercard on Harness Million night on February 17.

"He's not paid up for much apart from the Sires Stakes so we will place him around here and then look to tackle some features as the season wears on, hopefully."

It was a good afternoon for Donnelly, who quinnella'd the race with Mannion then did the same in the day's feature, the \$20,000 Cambridge Gold Cup Final, with Rough And Ready and Bad Medicine.

She also confirmed the retirement of Double Rocket, a winner of more than \$100,000, due to him "losing his mojo" after a very mild case of laminitis a few years ago.

Still an entire, he's likely to head to a trekking station in Gisborne and serve dual purposes as a riding horse and stallion.

### **Imashadowprincess proves trainer wrong**

**There's no doubt Ohaupo trainer Jason Teaz was thrilled to have egg on his face after the win of Imashadowprincess for he and training partner, Megan Teaz, at Cambridge last Thursday night.**

In the lead-up to the race, Teaz tweeted, imploring punters not to back what was then the second favourite saying she was "beaten

a street the week before" and if she finished "anywhere near them I'll be happy".

The compact mare recorded the second win of her career in the hands of Sailesh Abernethy, resisting a late challenge from Berani to lead for most of the race.

"It just goes to show that horses can make liars out of both you and the form," Teaz lamented afterwards.

"The week before she was beaten 30 lengths, never fired a shot, never got past a horse, never got near a horse.

"We changed her training resume to include swimming in the days leading up but the confidence was not high.

"Certainly not as high as what the bookies made her chances out to be.

"We thought her best chance was to lead because she seems to be a horse that needs to be on the pace to show her best.

"It was a great drive from Sailesh."

Imashadowprincess is one of six horses Teaz has taken to Hawera for this week's two-day meeting.

**Majestic Ruby an exciting prospect**  
**Former Southland mare Majestic Ruby recorded what looks like being the first of many race wins at Cambridge last Thursday, capitalising on a perfect trip in the one-one to get over the top of Ultimate Moment in the maiden trot.**

Jolimont in the stables at Cambridge on Monday.

