

Dual Code Race Meeting – 24 February 2014



The dual code race meeting revisited a promotion that had been a huge success in March 2001. That year the crowd was three times larger than normal and the on course tote turnover exceeded \$100,000. The stylish flyer for the raceday shown above was produced by: Therese Davis from "Tracksnaps".



This year there were 17 races (10 harness, 7 gallops and 184 horses). The resulting shortage of tie-up stalls didn't worry the harness horses they just tied up to a rail. The horse in the sulky is Shardon's Pearl trained by Kevin Judson at Waiuku, the driver is Zac Butcher. Shardon's Pearl ran third in the Huapai Tavern Mobile Pace.



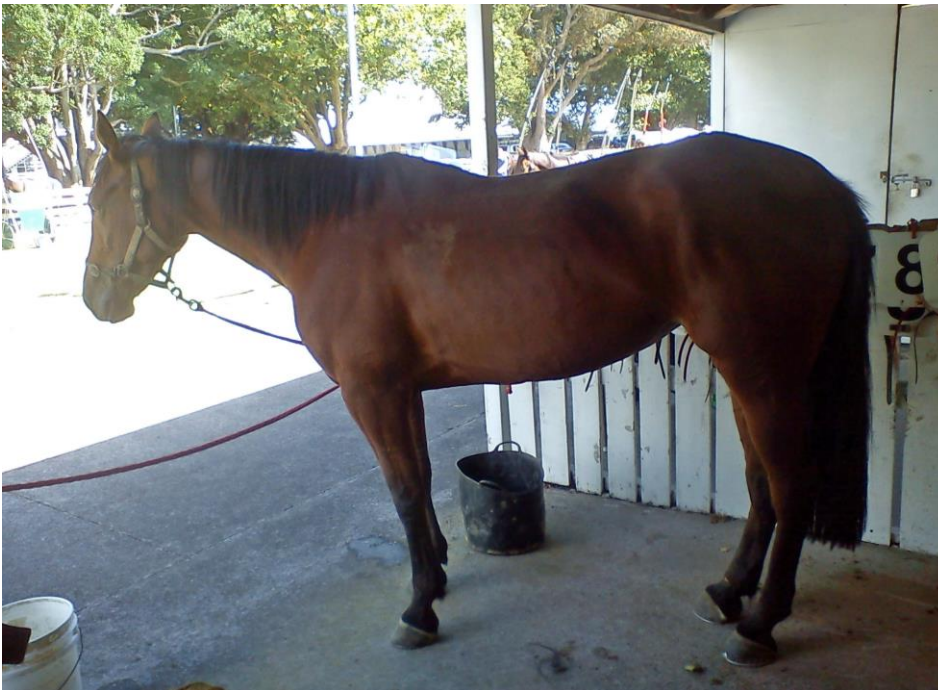
The area by the tie up stalls was used to relax horses by walking them around and giving them a pick on the grass. The sight of sulkies standing up on the concrete was charming. The weather could not have been more perfect.



The horse area was a hive of activity in an almost rural setting just 10km from the Auckland CBD. The horse shown is Flyin Impact driven by Nicky Chilcott and trained by Andrew Bublitz at Cambridge. The small trainers did not have the powerful stables to compete with as happens at Alexandra Park it gave them a chance to win a race and enjoy some success.



The driver in the sulky is the legendary Maurice McKendry who is only the second driver in New Zealand to have driven 3000 winners. He thought it was a great day's racing at Avondale and said that there should be more days like it. The horse in the picture is Real Star who finished fast to win by a neck and give McKendry his second winner for the day. Real Star is trained by Ross Paynter at Karapiro.



This magnificent standardbred mare standing sedately in what is usually the farrier's stall is Sun Belle. She is trained by Hayley Morgan at Muriwai Beach and is by the great trotting sire Sundon. Sun Belle raced to the lead at the 1400m mark, was second into the straight but faded in the last 100m to finish seventh.



Todd Macfarlane trained and drove his smart looking 3 yr old filly Simply Stunning into second place behind Maurice McKendry and Real Star. The large building in the background is the Avondale racehorse sandroll. The owners of the filly are J Champion, A Nicolson and Drove My Chevy 2012 Syndicate.



The cabbage trees and the Avondale Member's stand certainly looks impressive in the background of this photograph. Wearing the blue jeans and bush shirt is Darryl Roberts who is a swabbing official for the standardbreds - a job he has been doing for 25 years. Notice the casual attire of the racegoers on the asphalt. Avondale racing on a Monday doesn't require punters to dress up.



The thoroughbreds went out onto the racetrack through the second parade ring; enabling races to be run at 17 minute intervals. Striding out on the grass is trainer Stephen McKee. It was a great day for taking photographs – the racegoer holding the camera would have had gone home with some superb pictures.



The horse in the familiar Bruce Wallace colours is Exclusive Unicorn. Bruce Wallace stables are great supporters of the Avondale Jockey Club and won the first thoroughbred race with Driving Master. Exclusive Unicorn didn't do so well, finishing in 6th place.



This is a sight that all racing clubs want to see on raceday, the carpark completely full. The total oncourse turnover was \$99,526.03 - just short of the \$100,000 turnover achieved at the first combined meeting in March 2001.