

# GOLD TIE, THE STRADBROKE, AND A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

By Ross Prowd

With June upon us already, that means it is Stradbroke time yet again.

The Stradbroke is arguably Queensland's most prestigious race, held over 1400m at Eagle Farm. It is an Open Handicap, and as with most handicaps, is a difficult race to win once, let alone twice.

The race dates back to 1890 when Pyrrhus, a gelding by the Australian bred stallion, Orlando, was successful over six furlongs. The race changed to its current distance in 1953.

In the history of the race, only six horses have ever won the Stradbroke more than once. Rough Habit in 1991 and 1992 was the last, and still the only horse to win twice over the 1400m.

Before Rough Habit we have to go back to 1949 and 1950 when Lucky Ring was successful back to back. Petrol Lager in 1934 and 1935, Highland in 1925 and 1926, Gold Tie, 1918 and 1919, and Babel in 1895 and 1896 are the other dual winners.

While each has their story, probably few match that of Gold Tie whose heritage is really a tale of two branches of the one family, but more on that a little later.

Gold Tie was an exceptional racehorse. He first won the Stradbroke as a three-year-old in 1918, and won again in 1919. He won the 1920 Futurity Stakes the following year, and continued his wonderful career for some time though without winning another principle race. Nevertheless, Gold Tie had been a prolific winner in Brisbane, and did go on to run a gallant second to Laneffe in the Stradbroke in 1922 when carrying nine stone seven pounds, and starting as the five to two favourite. He gave the winner almost a stone and a half, and was beaten only a length after a gallant struggle between the two horses for the final furlong.

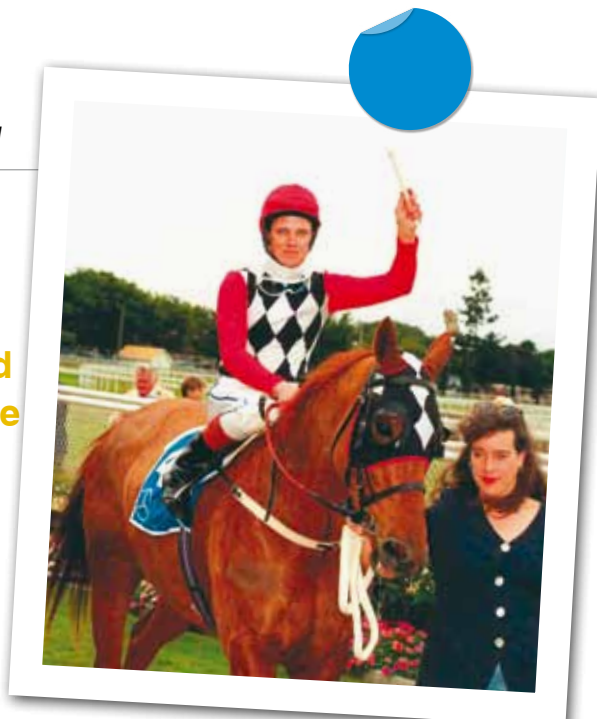
Gold Tie was a son of Malster, who was by the imported Bill Of Portland.

Malster had been a champion racehorse, winning seven stakes races from the six furlongs of the Ascot Vale 2YO Stakes, to the classic distances of both the AJC and VRC Derbies.

He was to prove a champion stallion siring 39 individual stakes winners including Admetus who won six stakes races in Brisbane. Other stakes winning progeny of the stallion include, Alawa who won the VRC Derby as well as three straight C.B. Fisher Plates, Beverage who won both the AJC and VRC

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**RIGHT:** Quality Kingdom, seen after winning the 1998 Tattersall's Stakes, was a member of Gold Ties' lineage that hails from across the Tsman Noel Pascoe photo



Sires' Produces, and a VRC Derby, Malt Mark, the 1914 Stradbroke winner, and Malt King who won 12 stakes races and three All-Aged Stakes. Maltster was to win an incredible five Australian Champion Sires' titles in six seasons between 1909/10 and 1915/16.

Gold Tie was to stand at stud in Queensland at the property of Mr C.E.B. Barnes at Canning Downs near Warwick. He was advertised as probably the fastest horse to ever go to stud in the State at this time, but unfortunately was not to live up to the high expectations. While he never sired any horses of note, his progeny were successful on the local tracks of Warwick and Stanthorpe in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

It is Gold Tie's female family though that is of the most interest. He was a son of the Haut Brion mare, Dependant. Haut Brion was a son of St Simon, just as Bill Of Portland, Gold Tie's grandsire was.

In fact, Malster and Dependant shared a number of similarities in their pedigrees, and no doubt this was an important factor in the success of Gold Tie. The stallions West Australian and Stockwell appeared in the fourth generations of both sire and dam, and the fifth generation saw a number of lines of Stockwell, his dam Pocahontas, West Australia's sire, Melbourne, and the great stallion, Birdcatcher.

Perhaps however it was this dominance of a relatively few lines that saw Gold Tie underperform at stud, given the general local broodmare population at the time. Then again, given the dominance of Malster at the time, his sons in general failed to live up to their expectations at stud.

Dependant's dam was a New Zealand mare

called Necklet. Necklet was brought to Australia where she won the Maribyrnong Plate. At stud she produced the stakes winning Pendant, by Far Niente, who won an Oakleigh Plate and VRC Newmarket.

The family has been a very productive one, without ever really hitting the greatest heights. Nevertheless, the family has had some wonderful runners. Bengal Tiger, by Nullabor, won a Craven 'A' Stakes and Eclipse Stakes in the early 1960s. Nepal, by Manitoba, was to win a Tasmanian Newmarket in the 1940s, while a close relation, also by Manitoba in Lincoln was to win the 1949 Caulfield Cup.

Around the same time, Counsel by Law Maker was also to highlight this side of the family by his victories in the Toorak Handicap, Futurity Stakes, and Caulfield Cup.

In more recent times, Macbyrne won the 1985 Hobart Cup, but the family here is best known currently for the branch that gave us the speedy two-year-old She Flies by Nuclear Power. She Flies won four stakes races up to 1000m including the Maribyrnong Trial, the Debutante Stakes and the Merson Cooper. At stud, She Flies gave us another speedy filly in the stakes placed Alice Blue Gown, while only this season another descendant in Miss Bindi, by Don Eduardo rather interestingly ran third in a two-year-old stakes race in New Zealand.

Necklet's dam, Locket remained in New Zealand where she produced two further stakes winners in Bangle and Medallion. From a breeding perspective though, it was Necklet's full sister Necklace that was to found a dynasty of her own in her native country, and one that also returned to Australia with considerable impact.

With such a family, it is literally difficult

to know where to start. In the late 1940s and early 1950s a wonderful New Zealand horse called Grey Boots came to Australia hailing from this family. He won eight stakes races including the Doncaster and Toorak Handicaps, Rawson, Caulfield and Orr Stakes, and the 1950 Caulfield Cup.

During the 1970s, Star Shower was to win the Blue Diamond as well as the Merson Cooper and Maribymong Trial and Plate. He was to stand at stud where he produced the wonderful galloper, Drawn who also had his own stud career, as well as the 1988 Tatt's Mile winner, My Blue Kingdom.

By the 1980s the family had produced a wonderful mare called Empire Rose who was to win a New Zealand Oaks and Cup, as well as venturing to Australia to claim the Mackinnon Stakes and the Melbourne Cup. Her grandson, Empires Choice, by Redoute's Choice won the 2007 Queensland Derby and Rough Habit Plate. Another family member, Chill Factor was to win the Prime Minister's

Cup and Easter Cup in 1990.

Quality Kingdom, by Kingdom Bay was another family member to come to Australia and venture to Queensland for the 1998 Winter Carnival where he took out the Tatt's Mercedes Benz Stakes, and the Ipswich Eye Liner Stakes.

Dalmacia had previously been another who had won in Australia, being victorious in six stakes races. At stud, he gave us Flotilla who won 1987 Sires' Produce and Castlemaine Stakes at Eagle Farm, before going on to claim the Australian Guineas and Chipping Norton. A daughter of Dalmacia, Surrender Now was to win the Tatt's City Cup

Even more importantly though was a filly called Gay Poss, by Le Filou, who was to win the AJC Oaks among her five stakes victories in 1970. Her branch of the family was to give us a wonderful racehorse and stallion in Grosvenor. Grosvenor won a VRC Sires' Produce, Caulfield Guineas and VRC Derby before going on to a successful stud career.

Among his 53 stakes winners were the likes of Ipswich Cup winners, Fine Spy and Forest Jim, Grafton Cup winners Cross Swords and Abstraction, Derby winners like Ornicorp and Ebony Grove, and Oaks winners in Alacrity and Richfield Lady. One son, Greig went on to a moderate stud career that was highlighted by the win of his son, Landsighting in the 2000 Stradbroke Handicap. This family is also the one that has given us the recent champion, and emerging sire in Lonhro. Given his family's affinity with Queensland, it should have come as little surprise that one of his first stakes winners was Black Mirx who won the McDougall Stakes and Sir Douglas Wadley Handicap in 2005.

While Gold Tie was to stamp himself as one of Queensland's best sprinters, his stud career failed to continue his influence. His family though has more than made up for this, and his New Zealand relatives in particular will ensure that those with an eye to history will remember this wonderful racehorse come Stradbroke Day. ■

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## BREEDERS PLAY ROLE IN RACEHORSE OWNERSHIP

By Bob Frappell, President, Thoroughbred Breeders Queensland Association

Thoroughbred breeders across Australia have committed in excess of \$500 million in the past two years in training fees for racehorses.

The astounding figures have been released in a report by Thoroughbred Breeders Australia (TBA), following their commission of an independent study into racehorse ownership in Australia. That's over \$250 million per annum that breeders pay for training racehorses.

This figure does not include the purchase price of racehorses or the cost of breaking them in. Nor the added expense of vets, farriers and other costs incurred in the upkeep of racehorses.

The report establishes that breeders wholly or partly own 63 per cent of racehorses in training.

When you add together all the percentages of racehorses owned by breeders, it equates to owning the equivalent of 45 per cent of all racehorses in Australia.

"The study demonstrates conclusively that

breeders largely underwrite racing and make a massive contribution to the income and well-being of industry participants," TBA president Trevor Lobb said.

"Breeders underpin racehorse ownership in this country and seek to play a constructive role in resolving the many issues affecting the viability and future of racing."

The report was compiled using figures supplied by the Australian Stud Book and Racing Information Services Australia (RISA).

In real numbers, 7177 of Australia's 8500 thoroughbred breeders share in the ownership of more than 35,000 racehorses.

I think many people will be surprised by the extent of breeders' ownership. People just take it for granted that breeders simply sell their stock.

Most of us breed to sell, but if we can't sell then we keep them to race. Unlike other segments, breeders don't see breeding as separate to ownership or to racing to us it's all one.

I believe this study proves that one part of the industry can't exist without the other. If one section of the industry is thriving, we all are, and vice versa.

The racing industry is one whole product made up of many elements, but all those elements need each other for the product to be a success.

"Breeders are determined to work with other industry participants to support and promote racing in these rapidly changing times," Mr Lobb said.

"We are all in this together and recognition for the role of breeders as owners and contributors to racing is long overdue."

I certainly agree with Mr Lobb and I hope breeders are now taken more seriously and can have a greater impact on the industry.

It's time the other players realise we all need to represent the industry as a whole. It can't be fragmented if it's to be a success. «

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