



NEW SOUTH WALES HARNESS RACING CLUB LTD.

PRESS RELEASE

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FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST 2008

BONNET CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

TONIGHT'S RUNNING OF THE NEVELE R STUD PINK BONNET AT HAROLD PARK WILL BE THE 30TH RUNNING OF THE TIME-HONOURED EVENT.

The race, which is conducted for two-year-old fillies, is unique in that it presents the winning connections with two 'trophies'.

While a traditional winners' trophy is presented, a Pink Bonnet is also given to connections and is placed on the winner's head at the presentation.

Up until 10 years ago, Mrs Ivy Fitzpatrick, mother of leading trainer Paul Fitzpatrick, hand-made every single Pink Bonnet. Since then, Carol Eva has taken over and continued the impressive work.

Prominent owner Mick Lombardo, who has captured four Pink Bonnets, will be represented in this year's edition by Ima Spicey Lombo.

He said it wasn't the win that mattered, but the prestige of winning the race which is what counted the most.

"Winning the Pink Bonnet has been one of the most pleasing things for me as an owner," he said.

"I have won a few in the past but the feeling you get when you see the Pink Bonnet placed on your horse is something special – it never goes away."

"My wife Freda treasures the bonnetts among a multitude of trophies we have collected over the years," he said.

Mr Lombardo may have difficulty adding to his collection tonight, as the outstanding Wayne Honan filly For Dear Life is a raging hot favourite.

For Dear Life recently took out the NSW Breeders Challenge at Menangle Park in a slick 1:55.8 mile rate.

Honan has been closely connected to three Pink Bonnets previously, one with Express Post, the dam of For Dear Life, and will be out to equal Lombardo's record in tonight's event.

He was also the driver of Precise for Jack Honan in 1981 and trained the outstanding Maudie in 2006.

The race is timed to go at 8:30pm.



Stallion Station
Chariots of Fire
Friday 29th August



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