

Inter Dominion Day sire breakdown

By Shannon Nixon

A nervous flyer, I decided to occupy my mind on my return flight from the Inters by scratching out some numbers on the breeding of the Inter Dominion Grand Final day runners. Whether you are a convert like me, or in the majority of howling enemy of the new Inter Dominion format, there can be no arguing that this day has established itself, in its short life, as Australasia's Premier racing day.

I am not ignoring the trackside experiences of the New Zealand Cup or Bathurst Gold Crown Carnival or the juvenile showcases of the Australasian Breeders Crown or Harness Jewels. Simply, I am aware that Inter Dominion Grand Final day puts up seven Group 1 races open to allcomers. No futurity payments necessary and almost all of them with the highest stake available for their class in the southern hemisphere.

In examining the breeding of the horseflesh competing at Menangle on March 2, I focused simply on the pacing sires and their representation in number and earnings on the day. However, according to statistics, I have more arms than the average man, so I am always careful to consider the folly of judging performance on raw numbers, as it is the interpretation of statistics which really determines their value, and raw numbers rarely tell the true story. Nonetheless, I will present these two elements of data and leave you to make your own judgement.

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Table A illustrates the representations of pacing sires' progeny competing at Menangle Park on Inter Dominion Grand Final Day according to the number of starters. (3 or more starters)

TABLE A

Bettor's Delight	20
Art Major	11
Christian Cullen	7
Western Terror	5
Courage Under Fire	4
McArdle	4
Live Or Die	4
Mach Three	4
Armbro Operative	3

TABLE B presents the top 10 sires according to progeny earnings on Inter Dominion Grand Final day.

TABLE B

Bettor's Delight	\$615,000
Art Major	\$231,000
Jereme's Jet	\$125,000
Artsplace	\$120,000
Village Jasper	\$120,000
Falcon Seelster	\$100,000
Christian Cullen	\$57,000
Courage Under Fire	\$50,000
American Ideal	\$50,000
Mach Three	\$46,000

As I stated earlier in this article, I will always look deeper into data to draw conclusions which may influence my breeding decisions. I will carefully examine foal numbers, to balance opportunities sires have had to compete at the highest level and access to quality mares and thus, top trainers. However, I personally don't know that any cause, other than sheer siring superiority can explain the dominance of Bettor's Delight on the 2014 Inter Dominion Grand Final day.

On the measures of competitors on the day (and every owner wants to be in those races) and prizemoney earned, Bettor's Delight stands above allcomers. Take out the Inter Dominion Grand Final, where the champ Beautide boosted his coffers by \$425,000, and his dominance of the day is still emphatic.

I know there will be readers who scoff and suggest that Bettor's Delight's unprecedented breeding numbers are the sole cause of his status at the top of the Australasian siring measures. I too, rely heavily assessing a sire's performance relative to mares bred however, on my 'back of the envelope' calculations, this little bull is punching well above his weight. Unfortunately, to prove that, I will need a longer flight than the terror that Sydney to Melbourne presents to me and that is not something I am in any hurry for!

As a breeder selling to the commercial market, I should declare that I currently have seven pregnant mares and sadly, none of them are in foal to Bettor's Delight.

For now, all the best with your recipe for reproduction.