



Clockwise from top: Absolute Champ (Champion Hong Kong Sprinter) bred by Newhaven Park, John Kelly, Newhaven Park Stud, John and Richard Kelly with Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum.

Newhaven Park

Q&A WITH JOHN KELLY



'If our clients succeed, we succeed'

Q&A

Newhaven Park is one of Australia's oldest family owned breeding operations. The stud's history and longevity are legendary from its remarkable beginning in 1896 to producing 4 Golden Slipper winners. The following Q&A is with John Kelly who is the 4th generation Kelly at Newhaven Park.

Newhaven Park had very 'lucky' beginnings, tell us about how the property began and was named?

Newhaven Park was named by its original owner, Jack Cassidy, who drew the 1896 Melbourne Cup winner 'Newhaven' in an Australian-wide sweep. The winnings of £5,000 enabled Jack to purchase the property. In the 1920's my great grandfather Richard Kelly bought Newhaven Park and his son purchased his first thoroughbred for 250 guineas on the way home from the war.

Newhaven imported many stallions that shaped the Australian breeding industry, does any one stallion stand out for you?

My grandfather imported French-bred stallion *Wilkes*, who provided the foundation for Newhaven Park to become a world-class stud. We stood other imports such as *Agricola*, *Boucher*, *Bold Minstrel* and *Imperial Prince* along with Australian-bred stallions *Marauding*, *Luskin Star* and *Zeditave*. *Zeditave* was the last stallion to stand at Newhaven Park. *Marauding* stands out for me, as he has been influential in so many pedigrees for example; the female bloodline of *Fastnet Rock*, who is so dominant at the moment with horses such as *Atlantic Jewel* and *Mosheen*.

What advice and knowledge has been passed down through the generations to you?

To be patient as it takes time to see the results of your labour. Also the age old saying of 'prevention is better than cure' – it is the small things that make the difference between success and failure.

What are some of Newhaven Parks' proudest moments over the years?

The Golden Slipper is not only the world's richest race for 2 year olds, it is a breed shaping race in Australia in terms of producing top stallions. Having bred 4 and raced 3 Golden Slipper Winners (*Johns Hope*, *Vivarchi*, *Marauding*, *Burst* and *Prowl*) obviously stands out as a proud moment. Other highlights would be breeding and /or selling *Assertive Lass* a Group 1 winner and dam of *Reset*, *Shogun Lodge*, *Grand Arnee*, *Magic Albert* who sired recent Group 1 winner *Albert the Fat*, *Courtroom Sweetie* (dam of Hong Kong Champion Sacred Kingdom) *Research* who is the only filly

to win the AJC Derby and Oaks double and also *Burst* (by *Marauding*) who won the 2 year old Triple Crown, the only filly ever to do so.

I am sure a great moment for my grandfather would have been breeding and selling *Wenona Girl*, who won fifteen races now classified as Group 1 – a record unmatched by any other mare in Australian racing history.

How does Newhaven Park do business? What are the most important aspects you focus on?

Our key focus at Newhaven Park is breeding and selling horses to race at the elite level. We give our clients independent, unbiased and brutally honest advice. For us it is not a numbers game – our success is based on our client's success. We also breed and sell our own horses, so our experience of what is happening in the market is first hand.

What do you love most about this industry?

Personally it is the challenge of breeding a champion horse. This industry is unique – even though it is a business, you develop wonderful friendships with those you deal with. Newhaven Park is very much a family business and our clients form part of that.

What are your thoughts on the breeding and racing industry today and its future?

It is imperative that the racing industry wins the High Court appeal against the corporate bookmakers, so that the correct fee can be charged for our product and therefore the industry can be properly funded.

The merger between the STC and the AJC is a very positive move. The Spring Carnival in Melbourne constantly reminds us that racing is a part of the Australian culture. Besides Hong Kong, Australia would be the only country in the world where racing is a part of the mainstream media.

It is imperative however that racing continues to evolve and modernise itself whilst remembering its traditions. We must be prepared to move with the times.

For more information about Newhaven Park, visit the website: www.newhavenpark.com.au