

brighthill farm

Perfectly Ready steps up to the plate

Another satisfying season has drawn to a close for Brighthill Farm with an excellent innings from resident stallion Perfectly Ready (AUS) (More Than Ready (USA)-Elle Duccio by Danehill (USA)). His young associate sire Dalghar (FR) (Anabaa (USA)-Daltawa by Miswaki) has also made a bright start in the sale ring, while the stud's graduates have again been prominent at stakes level.

New Zealand's Leading First Season Sire of 2010-2011, Perfectly Ready finished in the top five by winners in 2013-14. "He's had a fantastic year and has stepped up to the plate really well," stud master Nick King said. "He's had 40 individual winners, which is pretty impressive, and apart from Darci Brahma, the other stallions (Keeper, O'Reilly, Pins) ahead of him have got more crops racing."

Perfectly Ready, who retired to Brighthill after a successful racing career that earned him Gr.1 success in the Goodwood Handicap, claimed the Brighthill product Moozoon as his flagship performer. The Stephen McKee-trained filly won the Desert Gold Stakes-Gr.3, finished runner-up in the Sunline Vase-Gr.3 and ran a brave fifth in the New Zealand Oaks-Gr.1. "She probably got the front a little bit early in the Oaks and she's a talented filly," King said.

Moozoon (ex Mizzna by Montjeu) is raced by Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, a part-owner of Perfectly Ready, whose New Zealand bloodstock interests are based at Brighthill. "She was born and raised here and comes back to spell and she looks set for another outstanding season," King said. "It's really satisfying to be able to see these good horses come back here, most of the time they are sold and that's the last you see of them."

Perfectly Ready's son Lord Turbo (ex Sitting on a Hill by City on a Hill (USA)) was another to star and was unbeaten in his first three starts, including the Listed Wanganui Guineas. He then ran fourth in the Hawke's Bay Guineas-Gr.2 and the Wellington Guineas-Gr.2 before Hong Kong interests pounced and he bid farewell to New Zealand. "He was another good spring stakes winner and a progressive horse," King said.

"Perfectly Ready has consistently left two, three, four and five year-old winners and a lot of good ones on feature days. He's established himself as one of the proven stallions in the country so we're delighted with him."

The regally bred French Group winner Dalghar caught the attention of the buying bench with his first crop to go through the Karaka ring



above
Perfectly Ready

below
Flagship performer
and Gr 3 winner
Moozoon

earlier this year. "We took some nice weanlings to the sales and buyers really took to them," King said. "His colt out of Macavelli Miss sold for \$60,000 and that's some result off a \$6000 service fee. They all sold consistently well and he leaves an awesome type."

Brighthill believes the early success of Dalghar is a reflection of the stud's stallion selection criteria. "He's a son of Anabaa, who has done so well in Australasia, and a half-brother to Dalakhani (IRE) (Darshaan), who has now left seven Gr.1 winners in the northern hemisphere," King said. "Dalghar is on the right track and it's quite exciting, he will get good support again and (part-owner) Neven Botica will also be supporting him strongly and he will be racing his stock in Australia as well. We're really looking forward to taking his first yearlings to the sales in 2015."

Another Brighthill graduate to impress during the season was High Chaparral's son Show The World (ex Bazelle by Zabeel). He won the Championship Stakes-Gr.2 for Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman before crossing the Tasman in the autumn. "Unfortunately, the heavy tracks got to him in Australia, but he will get the opportunities to prove what a good horse he is," King said. "He was bred by Lorna Moore and was born and raised here. He's a beautiful horse."

The downside to the year for Brighthill was the premature death of the high class multiple European Group winner Azamour (IRE) (Night Shift (USA)-Asmara by Lear Fan) at his northern hemisphere base in April. He suffered a serious injury at the Aga Khan's Giltown Stud in April and was humanely put down.

Azamour had received strong breeder support when he shuttled to Brighthill for his first season in 2013. "He had a Gr2 winner in France recently and while we are hugely disappointed not to have him anymore, he will have between 70 and 75 foals and he was such an impressive type that he's sure to leave a beautiful line of horses," King said. "He was such a high quality horse and we are really proud to have had him here. It was a great honour to have had the first horse shuttled here from the Aga Khan's studs."