



MITHEN HAPPY WITH ONLINE RESULTS



Lot 40, Gold Rush | Magic Millions

By Paul Vettise

Rosemont Stud principal Anthony Mithen admitted his head was still spinning at the end of his farm's Exclusive Online Sale successfully staged on the Magic Millions Platform. With a top price of \$295,000 achieved during Rosemont's Unreserved Sale, Mithen was more than happy with the outcome of Tuesday's auction and the results would be celebrated accordingly.

Not surprisingly, the sale-topper was the stakes-winning mare **Gold Rush (NZ)** (So You Think {NZ}), who was purchased by Auckland bloodstock agent Paul Willetts on behalf of an undisclosed overseas breeder.

"I've never put 93 horses through a sale ring through the course of a full day let alone a few hours. It was like speed dating on steroids. The activity was really good and plenty of bidders from all over country," Mithen said.

The Rosemont auction rounded out with a gross of over \$2.5 million with an average price of \$30,945.

"It was pleasing to see horses sold right around the country and indeed a number to international clients," Magic Millions Managing Director Barry Bowditch said. "The team from Rosemont Stud showcased their draft incredibly well and we received so much positive feedback from winning bidders and prospective buyers alike.

"The new Magic Millions Online Platform worked well again for our second auction and we look forward to our next internet-based sale from June 2 to 4."

United Approach

Mithen paid tribute to the efforts of his staff and to the team at Magic Millions.

"Overall, I'm really pleased and proud of the team effort--everyone from the truck driver here at Rosemont to our causal staff who came in and gave us a hand through to Magic Millions, who made it all happen in really quick time," he said.

The top-sellers in both the broodmare and weanling divisions came as no surprise to Mithen.

"They were quality mares and quality weanlings and they made their money. They were at their valuations and no great surprises where that top end sat," he said. "It was interesting. I thought in that market with that amount of horses you might find a couple of people over-valued some and there might be a nice surprise, but there wasn't that moment in the sale.

"Maybe that's a reflection of where we're headed in these economic times. Still, there was healthy competition and I've got no complaints.

"Congratulations to Magic Millions for running such a seamless exercise, a big pat on the back to them. We'll have a few beers around the camp fire, with social distancing rules in play of course, to celebrate everyone's efforts."

With the help of an obliging client prepared to dig a little deeper, Willetts secured the top offering when he went to \$295,000 for Gold Rush, Lot 40.



Anthony Mithen | Bronwen Healy



Lot 12, a colt by Zoustar | Magic Millions

The mare, who won the G2 Matamata Breeders S. as a 2-year-old, was sold in foal to the multiple champion sire Savabeel. Gold Rush is a sister to Gold Rocks (NZ), who also won an edition of the Breeders' S., and a pedigree update was recently provided when her half-brother Tommy Gold (NZ) (Sacred Falls {NZ}) won a juvenile race in Sydney last week for trainer John O'Shea.

"I thought it was a very attractive package deal. She obviously had a few little issues going into the sale with colic and what have you and that might have put a few people off," Willetts said. "Savabeel stands at NZ\$100,000 + GST and I thought anything under \$250,000 was good buying. Luckily, my client decided to go a little bit over that to get her."

Gold Rush's immediate future has yet to be determined but there is a possibility she will remain in New Zealand.

"We'll wait for the dust to settle, but we may possibly keep her here for one more year and cover her by a New Zealand stallion and then maybe shoot her back to Australia. That's still up in the air at this stage."

While online sales were borne out of the restrictions of COVID-19, Willetts said there was a plus side.

"I said to my partner that this is quite good--we can go down to the coffee shop every now and again and then come home to try and buy a horse."

The second-highest price in the broodmare division was the \$245,000 paid by Grand Parkview Stud for **Split Lip** (Your Song), Lot 69, sold in foal to Zoustar.

The mare won the Listed Dequetteville S. as a juvenile and is a multiple stakes placegetter out of a three-quarter sister to the G1 Fruit 'n' Veg S. winner Blevvo (Blevic {Ire}) and the Singapore black type winner Oneninefiftyfive.

Yarramalong Park went to \$95,000 to secure **Goldie River** (I Am Invincible), Lot 41, an unraced half-sister to the black type winner Ragged Rascal (Denman) in foal to Russian Revolution. They are out of a sister to the G1 Queen of the Turf S. winner and G1 Coolmore Classic placegetter Diamond Drille (Al Maher) and the family of the influential sire I Am Invincible.

Zoustar Colt Shines

The top-priced weanling was a son of Zoustar, Lot 12, who sold to FT Racing for \$125,000. He is out of the winning Forestry (USA) mare Nobody Gets, whose three foals to race have all been successful. The dam is a half-sister to the G3 Vanity S. winner Musidora (Rock Of Gibraltar {Ire}), whose daughter Tulip (Pierro) was a dual Group 3 winner and her half-sister Sacred Eye (High Chaparral {Ire}) also won once at that level. Significantly, it is also the family of the Group 1 winners and champion stallions Encosta De Lago and Flying Spur.

A son of Deep Field, Lot 22, had his share of admirers before he was knocked down for \$85,000 to Matt Laurie Racing. He is out of the unraced Sorpesee (Exceed And Excel), who is a daughter of the G2 South African Oaks winner Candy Critic (Arg) (Candy Stripes {USA}) and a family littered with Argentinian Group winners.

The \$85,000 price paid for the Deep Field was matched by OTI Racing for Lot 29, an Exceed And Excel colt, who is a half-brother to the G3 Carbine Club S. winner Acatour (Sebring). Their dam is the unraced Adonia Queen (USA) (Cherokee Run {USA}), a daughter of the dual Group 1 winner Queens Court Queen (USA) (Lyphard {USA}) with the G1 Santa Anita H. winner and sire Mr Purple (USA) also featuring in the pedigree.

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