

It all started in Perth

Visionary WA pair led push for Australasian championship

In six weeks of flashbacks leading into next month's Perth series, harness racing historian Alan Parker takes a look at the highlights of the WA Inter Dominions

The concept of a championship involving the very best horses from Australia and New Zealand competing in a different city each year was developed by a pair of outstanding Perth harness racing administrators in James Brennan and JP Stratton.

Brennan advocated the idea of a clash of the best horses from the two nations at a meeting in Sydney in 1923. He got little support from his fellow administrators, who lacked the Irishman's imagination and foresight, and Brennan persuaded his fellow WA Trotting Association committeemen to go it alone.

The idea came to fruition in Perth in 1925 with the running of the first Australasian championship.

Two horses from New Zealand were matched against one from NSW, two from Victoria and three locals, competing for total stake money of 2600 pounds.

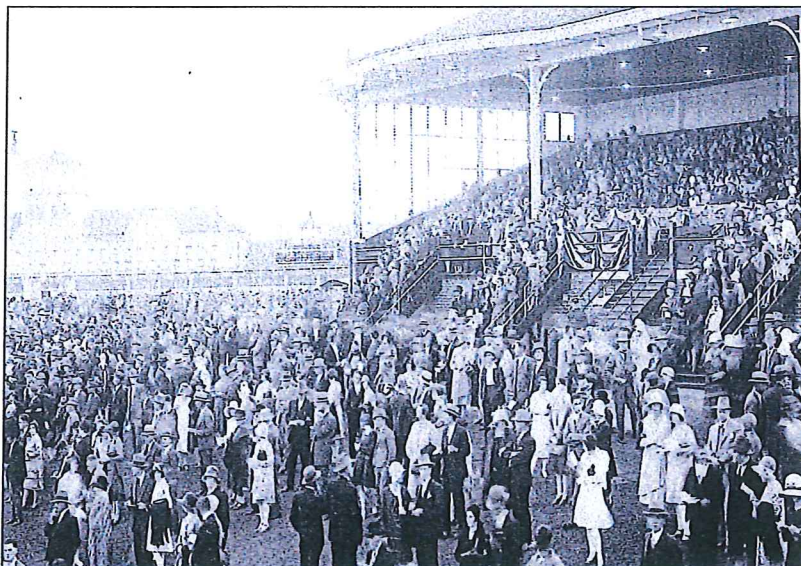
Eight times premier trainer in New Zealand, James "Scotty" Bryce sent his sons James, 20, and Andy, 19, to Perth with the 1923 New Zealand Cup winner Great Hope and the 1924 New Zealand Cup placegetter Taraira.

Great Hope took out the three-night championship with seven points from the Victorian champion Vin Direct (six), with WA's champion Kola Girl (four) finishing third.

Vin Direct was later to play a part in the 1953 Perth Inter Dominion as the sire of the dam of the brilliant West Australian Beau Don.

When mated with his 1925 rival Kola Girl, the pair produced the 1937 WA Pacing Cup winner Kolecot, who JP Stratton shipped to New Zealand for the 1938 Inter Dominion in Christchurch.

Being aware of his sons' propensity to enjoy a good time socially, Scotty Bryce kept a tight rein on their spending money and it was a decision the father would live



Harness racing fans turned out in force for the inaugural Inter Dominion championship in Perth in 1936.

to regret. Young James and Andy decided to sell Taraira to provide much-needed funds to celebrate their win and the roan stallion remained in Perth after Great Hope and the Bryce boys returned home.

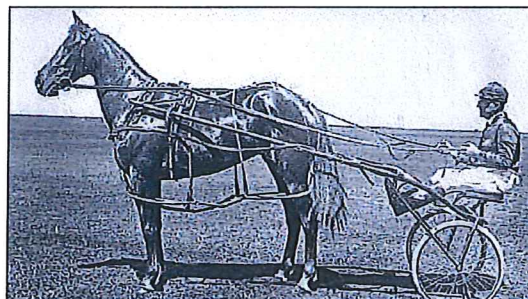
Buoyed by the stable's success in 1925, Scotty Bryce returned in 1926 with another champion in Great Bingen. Although troubled by soreness, Great Bingen won two of the three championship races and finished the three nights on equal points with Scotty Bryce's former charge Taraira, who was now in the care of local trainer James Shaw.

Two days after the final of the three nights of racing a special meeting was held with no betting and featured just one race — a run-off for the title of Australasian champion.

Taraira proved far too good for Great Bingen. Taraira won 13 races in Perth to go with his eight New Zealand successes.

He retired to stud in WA after winning his final Perth race in January 1932 for his then trainer-driver Cliff Clarke.

Great Bingen returned to New Zealand, where he stood at stud and



WA's Kola Girl was third in the first Australasian championship in Perth in 1925.

among his progeny was a mare called Queen Bingen.

She was the dam of the 1949 WA Pacing Cup winner Bintravis, who went on to sire the first WA Inter Dominion winner Binshaw, who took out the Perth series in 1967.

After two successful carnivals in terms of crowds, although less successful financially, the world financial crisis, which culminated in the Great Depression, saw the concept lapse for almost 10 years.

Brennan was replaced as president of the WATA in 1930 and the new head of trotting in Perth, JP Stratton, set about resurrecting the concept at a meeting of industry heads at the Australasian trotting conference in Sydney in 1935.

With the assistance of New Zealand co-convenor HF (Harry) Nicoll, the Inter Dominion was born and the honour of holding the first championship in 1936 was given to Perth in recognition of Stratton's

role in developing the concept.

The 2012 Inter Dominion will be the 13th championship in Perth since the inaugural series in 1936.

The horses, trainers and drivers who have taken part in the 12 finals in Perth read like a who's who of Australian harness racing and, to help people remember those Perth Inter Dominions, over the next six weeks we will take a look at those championships.

The 1936 Inter Dominion gave Perth trotting fans the chance to see one of the Southern Hemisphere's truly great champions, although a shipping strike led to several of the New Zealand contingent withdrawing and the start of the championship put back a week.

Logan Derby, a five-year-old stallion by the "father" of the Australian standardbred, Globe Derby, made a clean sweep of the inaugural Inter Dominion, beating Evicus and the Frank Kersley-driven Nancywood in the final.

Three heats and an equally effortless win in the grand final should have been enough for Logan Derby to take the title but the iniquitous points system of that period saw the gold cup presented to the connections of the mare Evicus.

Evicus had failed to win a single event during the championship but her fastest-time points she earned from her backmark of 36 yards gave her the title. The first championship attracted eight interstate horses to Perth to battle with 12 locals. The concept of a true Inter Dominion was up and running.

Unlike the present day when the visiting horses are flown to Perth, in 1936 they came either by road, boat or train. Rail transport was to provide a post-championship bonus for trotting fans in Kalgoorlie.

On February 22, 1936, a week after the final, five of the visiting horses raced in Kalgoorlie.

It had been necessary for the horses to change trains in Kalgoorlie and their trainers seized the chance to race with both hands, according to a report from *The West Australian*.

Although Evicus and Emiliafay were on the train they did not start in Kalgoorlie. This pair did, however, compete in a race at Wayville, South Australia, on February 29, 1936, with the five horses who started at Kalgoorlie.

Who says that modern-day standardbreds have it tough?

THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012 RANKING No.8

SMILING SHARD

Date foaled: December 3, 2006
Sex: Stallion
Sire: Grinfromeartoear (US)
Dam: Sly Shard (NZ)
Broodmare sire: Panorama (US)
Colour: Bay
Trainer: Cran Dalgety (NZ)
Driver: Dexter Dunn

LIFETIME RACING
Prize money: \$1.143 million
Starts: 44
Wins: 17
Seconds: 12
Thirds: 6

Best winning mile rate:
 1min. 53.7sec.

Star New Zealand pacer who has excelled at the elite level throughout his brilliant career. Trained and driven by one of the harness racing world's most formidable combinations, Smiling Shard will be an irrepresible force in the series.



THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012 RANKING No.13

DAVID HERCULES

Date foaled: October 25, 2006
Sex: Gelding
Sir: Artesian
Dam: Like A Dame
Broodmare sire: Golden Greek (US)
Colour: Bay
Trainer: Mark Thompson (WA)
Driver: Mark Reed

LIFETIME RACING
Prize money: \$520,564
Starts: 45
Wins: 17
Seconds: 11
Thirds: 5

Best winning mile rate:
 1min.52.7sec.

David Hercules headed across the Nullarbor last season to win the rich Breeders' Crown Series in Melbourne and in the process defeated boom horses Franco Jamar and Mach Wiper. Another of the exceptional "class of 06" who should be reaching his peak for the V75 Inter Dominion championship in Perth.



V75 INTER DOMINION

THE INTERS IN PERTH - THE LEGEND GROWS

TAB

How a shrewd West Australian was denied his place in history

In the second of a six-part series, harness racing historian Alan Parker looks at the highlights of the Inter Dominions run in Perth

Nine-year-old Logan Derby returned to Gloucester Park in 1940 for the second Perth Inter Dominion. His 1936 nemesis Evicus also came back for that year's championship.

The points system, which robbed Logan Derby in 1936, now, ironically, led to the stallion being awarded the grand champion prize.

Unlike Evicus, who had finished second in the 1936 final, Logan Derby failed to finish in the first three in the ultimate race of the championship but the now-ridiculed points system resulted in him being awarded extra points for fastest time after starting off the back marks.

The New Zealand-bred gelding Grand Mogul, narrowly won the final that year from the NSW representative Master Dixie and the local Moreica.

Grand Mogul gave his WA trainer-driver Keith Anderson the honour of becoming the first WA trainer or driver to win an Inter Dominion final.

Grand Mogul was shown in the racebook as being owned by New Zealander GJ Barton and the official records also have the same details.

The winner's cheque, however, went to West Australian WJ Sykes, who had bought Grand Mogul before the series started but was forced to wait until the transfer was verified by the WATA Committee. This did not occur until after the final.

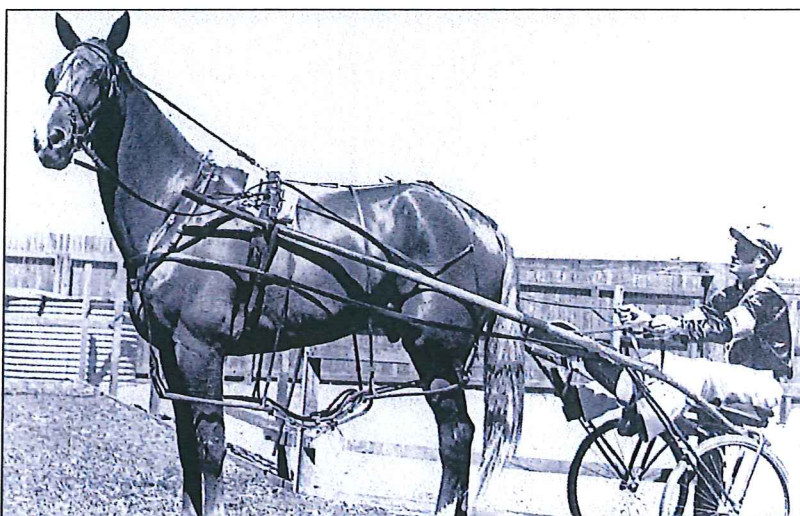
Unfortunately for Sykes, the red tape prevented him from being recognised publicly as the owner of an Inter Dominion champion.

Legendary Sydney horseman Jack Watts wrote his name into the record books when he drove a winning treble on grand final night in 1940.

Former New Zealander Michael Langdon is the only other visiting reinsman to drive a winning treble at Gloucester Park. He was successful with Beefy T, The Suleiman and Advance Tempo on November 10, 1995.

After the 1940 Inter Dominion, Logan Derby stayed in WA and stood at JP Stratton's Jane Brook Stud. After producing just a handful of foals in this State, Stratton sold Logan Derby to New Zealand,

Robbed by red tape



WA trainer-driver Keith Anderson won the 1940 Inter Dominion final in Perth with the New Zealand-bred Grand Mogul.

where the stallion sired the champion racehorse and equally famous sire Johnny Globe.

Johnny Globe was to achieve fame years later as the sire of WA champion Royal Force, who won a heat of the 1976 Inter Dominion.

FIRST AFTER THE WAR
World War II interrupted the Inter Dominion and there was a seven-year break after the running of the 1940 series. As the country's leading harness racing State, WA again played host when the Inters restarted in 1947.

Tasmanian-bred mare Bandbox was bought to Perth via Adelaide by her trainer-driver Len Moriarty.

At the saucer-like Wayville circuit she won three races, including the 1947 SA Trotting Club Cup from a massive 72-yard handicap.

After winning her heat on the

opening night, Bandbox finished second to WA champion Stormy Weather on the second and third nights. Trained by his owner Cliff Clarke and driven by Alex Mclean, Stormy Weather was unbeaten in the heats and, as the lone front-marker, the gelded son of the imported stallion Peter Stretta was sent out a 6/4 favourite for the final.

However, the anomalous points system saw Bandbox the leading qualifier for the final, one point clear of Stormy Weather, as a result of bonus points being awarded for the fastest runner in each heat.

The mare proved to be superior in the final when she finished six yards clear of Dixie Stretta and Para Derby, rating a smart 2:10.8 for the 13 furlongs.

Bandbox failed to produce anything of note at stud but her 1965 daughter Pure Band achieved

broodmare immortality as the dam of arguably the greatest pacer never to win an Inter Dominion.

Pure Band produced Pure Steel in 1971 and the Toledo Hanover stallion was runner-up to Carclew in the 1976 Adelaide final and third in Sydney in 1980 behind Koala King and Locarno on his way to more than \$900,000 in stakes.

RUNNERS ARRIVE BY AIR
Avian Derby, the defending Inter Dominion champion, was the first horse to set foot on the tarmac at Guildford Aerodrome when a Bristol freighter arrived in Perth at 5:30pm on January 29, 1953. Also on that plane were his stablemates Avondale and Star Music and the champion New Zealand mare Blue Mist.

Also in Perth in 1953 was the 1950 winner Captain Sandy, now a 10-year-old and in the care of Dinny

Nolan in SA. Nolan had bought Captain Sandy at a time when most thought the gelding was well past his prime. Nolan then further confounded the experts when he headed west on an 2900km road trip in a single float to take on the best horses in the southern hemisphere.

Nolan earlier had floated the gelding from Sydney to Adelaide via Melbourne.

The Adelaide-Perth section took a week in searing summer temperatures on a "road" that was little more than a couple of wheel ruts through the dirt.

Captain Sandy's early development as one of the best pacers in New Zealand had been under the guiding hand of the same James Bryce, who had come to Perth for the Australasian Championship in 1925 with Great Hope and Taraire for his father.

WA fans were eagerly awaiting the clash between the local four-year-old champion and public idol Beau Don and the star Sydney four-year-old Ribands.

Beau Don had started just 18 times for 13 wins and three seconds. His lack of experience was notable when compared to the 37 races won by Ribands to that point.

Beau Don was a brilliant winner on the opening night, as was Ribands, who also won on the second night. Beau Don fell in a tangle of gear shortly after passing the post in a pocket hard on the back of Ribands' driver Perc Hall.

A near riot followed as local fans vented their fury, which was misguidedly directed at Hall and fellow New South Welshman Harry Mazouder.

Captain Sandy had been driven by legendary New Zealand horseman Freeman Holmes in the three rounds of heats.

However, Holmes decided to drive the champion mare Blue Mist in the final after qualifying both horses.

A hesitant and youthful West Australian in Bob Pollock approached Nolan and was given a trial drive behind Captain Sandy.

It is history now that Pollock became the youngest driver of an Inter Dominion winner, piloting the 33/1 chance to a narrow victory over Ribands and Kellett in front of a crowd of 57,000.

Ribands had been sent out as a 6/4 favourite and it took a track record from Captain Sandy for him to beat the Sydney champion.

Captain Sandy's win took his earnings to £35,000 and the honour of Australasia's richest standardbred.

Nolan then loaded his champion into his single float and headed back across the Nullarbor.

THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012 RANKING No.7

RAGLAN

Date foaled: December 2, 2005

Sex: Gelding

Sire: Sands A Flyin (US)

Dam: Welfare Woman (NZ)

Broodmare sire: Equitable (US)

Colour: Bay

Trainer: Tim Butt (NZ)

Driver: Anthony Butt

LIFETIME RACING

Prize money: \$306,689

Starts: 57

Wins: 12

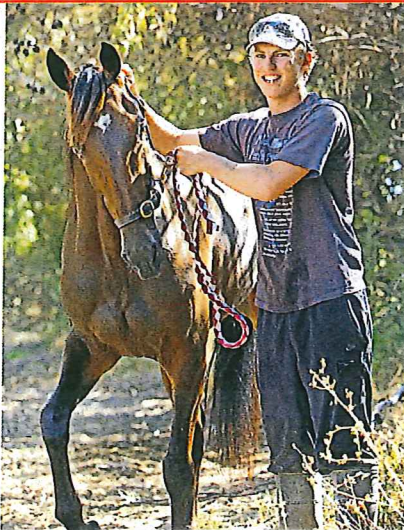
Seconds: 10

Thirds: 7

Best winning mile rate:

1min.53sec.

Raglan won the prestigious Newcastle Mile to force his way into the select Group 1 Miracle Mile field, and in doing so achieved a rare feat in harness racing, running down champion pacer Mr Feelgood. The New Zealander will be one of the main chances in this year's Inter Dominion.



THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012 RANKING No.12

CROMBIE

Date foaled: October 25, 2006

Sex: Gelding

Sire: Life Sign (US)

Dam: Medea Me

Broodmare sire: Walton Hanover (US)

Colour: Bay

Trainer: Peter Tilbrook

Driver: Chris Lewis

LIFETIME RACING

Prize money: \$380,238

Starts: 42

Wins: 17

Seconds: 7

Thirds: 5

Best winning mile rate:

1min.54.7sec.

An exciting local who possesses exceptional high speed and is developing physically with each preparation. Despite being a Group 1 winner in his own right, he has raced in the shadow of his stablemate and fellow Inter Dominion aspirant, Dasher VC. Crombie is ready to step into the limelight this season.



V75 **INTER DOMINION**

THE INTERS IN PERTH - RAIDS FROM INTERSTATE

TAB

Year of the giant

Punters in dark as a South Australian milko gets the cream

In the third of a six-part series, harness racing historian Alan Parker delves into the Inter Dominions run in Perth

Massive South Australian pacer Radiant Venture came to Perth for the 1957 Inter Dominion with a record of 29 wins from 39 starts. He was trained in the evenings by his owner Max Stephens, who ran a morning milk round. After disappointing in a workout, Stephens changed Radiant Venture's gear so that the gelding, who stood 16.1 hands, could stretch out fully on the Gloucester Park track. The Perth track was significantly bigger than the South Australian tracks the champion had been accustomed to. Radiant Venture was bought for £150 as a two-year-old and he came to Perth having won 23 of his previous 25 starts.

Driven by Frank Connor, Radiant Venture was heavily supported into 6/4 when he recorded an easy win over local champions Beau Don and Magic Flute on the opening night.

Radiant Venture, at odds-on, attempted an all-the-way win on the second night but could not match the finishing sprint of New Zealand champion Caduceus.

At the time, Caduceus was trained by the doyen of Australian reinsman in Frank Kersley, who trained and drove the WA-owned Tennessee Sky to victory in the 1954 Inter Dominion final in Adelaide.

Further changes were made to Radiant Venture's gear and he won a second heat on the third night, beating Robert Sheen and Mineral Spring. A 7/4 favourite in the final, Radiant Venture coasted home eight yards clear of locally trained duo Robert Sheen and Precipitation.

Radiant Venture's 1957 carnival earnings of £8930 was more than his



New Zealand part owner Audrey Dean with Cardigan Bay in Perth in 1962.

entire career. WATA officials caused a stir that year when, in their fight against illegal SP bookmakers, they placed an Australia-wide ban on broadcasts of the Inters heats.

The only live broadcast on ABC radio each night was the final event on the program, which, incidentally, was a heat of the series. The WATA did allow the ABC to broadcast the final.

WATA president JP Stratton's fight against SP betting eventually led to the 1961 introduction of the Totalisator Agency Board in WA.

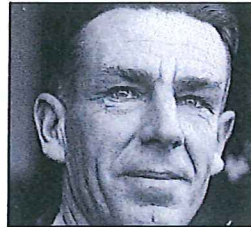
While champion Sydney pacer James Scott went through the 1962 carnival undefeated, and started an odds-on favourite when he won the

final from Lew's Hope and local Super Paddy, the biggest story was the shock scratching of star Kiwi pacer Cardigan Bay.

At the time, well-known trotting journalist Arthur Thornton was working for Perth's Daily News and, thanks to a phone call from the late Leo Keys, he got the trotting scoop of the decade.

Thornton's report of the injury to Cardigan Bay made front-page headlines that afternoon in Perth after the paper stopped the presses to wait for Thornton's copy.

Some years later, Thornton recalled that fateful morning. "I had just finished my copy for the day when Leo Keys rang me and told me



Doyen: Frank Kersley



Radiant Venture, who won the 1957 Inters final, with driver Frank Connor.

to grab a photographer and get out to Cannington in a hurry. Naturally enough, I asked what all the fuss was about. He said: 'Cardigan Bay will have to come out of the final as he's been hurt'.

"I remember telling Leo to stop telling tall stories but he insisted that I get a photographer and get out to the stables local trainer Ted Greig rented from Bert Cushing.

"When we got out to Grieg's I could hardly believe what I was seeing. Cardigan Bay was standing there with his near hind hip knocked down and a lot of skin missing from his leg. He had been jogging on the track next door, owned by Bernie Cushing, when the highly sprung jog

struck hit a bump, dislodging the gelding's driver. Cardigan Bay took fright and went hurtling down the road, into the stabling area where the cart got caught and flung Cardigan Bay on to a concrete apron.

"There was almost total disbelief at the time and genuine concern that the horse may never race again.

"I got my story and it filled the front page of that night's paper in Perth, as well as being a major story across Australia and New Zealand."

Cardigan Bay's injury robbed the final of the biggest danger to James Scott.

Cardigan Bay's regular trainer-driver Peter Wolfenden felt the gelding would not be able to handle the trip to Perth, despite having won his previous 10 starts in New Zealand, and his owners then entrusted their champion to Sydney horseman Bill Wilkins.

James Scott, trained and driven by Sydney legend Perc Hall, had shattered the State record for 12 furlongs in his opening-night heat win and failed by just 0.25sec. to better Apmat's 13-furlong track record on the second night.

Cardigan Bay's two heat wins were effortless and the build-up to the third night was intense, with James Scott and Cardigan Bay scheduled to face off before disaster struck.

James Scott won his third-night heat in yet another track record before again breaking the track record for 13 furlongs when he coasted home in the final.

While James Scott returned to NSW to accolades, Cardigan Bay spent a month in Perth in a sling before it was decided to retire him to a paddock in NSW.

Cardigan Bay recovered so well he returned to Wolfenden's stables for a campaign that culminated with a remarkable win in the 1963 Inter Dominion in Adelaide.

He was later sold to the US, where he went on to become harness racing's first millionaire.

THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012 RANKING No.4

WASHAKIE

Date foaled: November 11, 2003
Sex: Gelding
Sire: Badlands Hanover (US)
Dam: Shoshoni Sunrise (NZ)
Broodmare sire: OK Bye (US)
Colour: Bay
Trainer: John McCarthy (Qld)
Driver: John McCarthy

LIFETIME RACING

Prize money: \$1,296,545
Starts: 109
Wins: 40
Seconds: 16
Thirds: 11
Best winning mile rate: 1min.50.5sec

A grand old campaigner who recently made history by winning the Group 1 Treuer Memorial in Sydney for a record third time. The WA-owned Washakie loves Gloucester Park and will relish the extra workload of four runs in two weeks. With more than \$1 million in prize money, he is sure to be one of the favourites throughout the series.



THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012 RANKING No.7



DASHER VC

Date foaled: December 12, 2006
Sex: Gelding
Sire: Washington VC (US)
Dam: Innocent Bird (NZ)
Broodmare sire: Sumo Hanover (US)
Colour: Bay
Trainer: Peter Tilbrook
Driver: Chris Lewis
LIFETIME RACING
Prize money: \$318,942
Starts: 26

Wins: 15
Seconds: 3
Thirds: 0
Best winning mile rate: 1min.55.2sec

The rising star of WA harness racing, Dasher VC set the standard last season in a year full of quality four-year-olds. A year older, he should be hitting his peak and prove one of the big guns of this year's series. A huge run to finish second to Im Themightyquinn in the star studded WA Pacing Cup only enhances his claims.

V75 **INTER DOMINION**

THE INTERS IN PERTH - LOCAL CHAMPIONS

TA Form

The night Binshaw did WA proud and left bookies reeling

In the fourth of a six-part series, harness racing historian Alan Parker looks at the 1967 and 1974 Inter Dominions run at Gloucester Park

Cool Coulson lands plunge

The Inter Dominion returned to Perth in 1967 and produced a locally trained quinella when five-year-old gelding Binshaw became the first WA-bred pacer to win the country's premier harness race.

Binshaw was by the 1949 WA Pacing Cup winner Bintravis from the Panthers Pal mare Panminton.

Binshaw started favourite in a wide-open race and crushed his rivals, winning by 16 yards from outsider Conecda and Victorian mare Goulburn View.

Conecda had won the Fremantle Cup the month before the Inter Dominion for trainer Joe Petricevich and driver Fred Kersley Jr and provided some consolation for Petricevich after his best horse, Rising Scott, had to be withdrawn because of a leg injury.

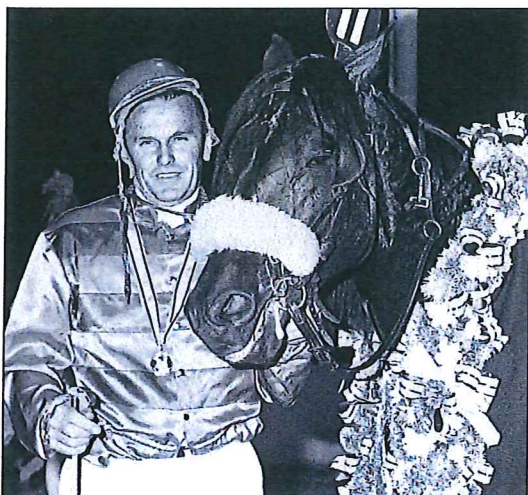
The champion New Zealand mare Robin Dundee finished fourth after having dead-heated for first in the 1965 final and finished second to Chamfer Star in Sydney in 1966.

Binshaw landed a massive betting plunge, having been backed in from 33/1 to start a 7/2 favourite in the final. He was having just his seventh start for trainer-driver Phil Coulson and the Inter Dominion was his sixth win for the Wembley horseman and came at Binshaw's 20th start.

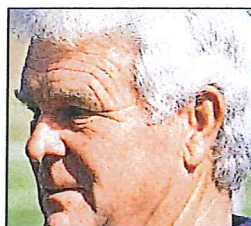
Bred by Brian Cook and foaled on the Waroona property of farmer Tighe Fitzpatrick, Binshaw was raced by the pair before being spotted by Frank Melvin as a three-year-old and he bought the gelding for \$4000 on behalf of a syndicate.

Fitzpatrick's Waroona-based nephew Jerome Fitzpatrick has been the official freeze-brander of pacers in WA for the past 30 years.

Although only the names of Bill Bradshaw, Les Dillon and champion footballer Tom Everett appeared in the race book, Binshaw was owned by a syndicate of six, with the others being Frank Bonney, Bruce Curran



Tony Turnbull and Hondo Grattan after their second successive Inters victory.



Crushed rivals: The late Phil Coulson



Final trainer: Fred Kersley

and Melvin. The gelding originally was trained and driven by Bob Pollock, who had won the 1953 Inter Dominion behind Captain Sandy. Pollock won two races in Perth with Binshaw in the autumn of 1966 before the pacer was sent for a spell.

When Binshaw resumed in the summer of 1966 he was in the stables of Coulson and in the lead-up to the 1967 Inter Dominion he won a heat and final of the Christmas Gift.

Binshaw lived out his retirement in a paddock owned by Kersley, his final trainer. The pacer died in 1997 at 35. His ashes were laid to rest at the Gloucester Park winning post by Coulson 30 years to the day of their historic victory. Binshaw's last

official duty had been to lead the field on to the track for the 1989 Inter Dominion final at Gloucester Park.

Such was the domination of the 1974 Inter Dominion by interstate horses, only the Laurie Robinson-trained Haddock and the Kersley-trained Local Product were able to win heats and they were the only WA-trained horses in that year's final. Not since the 1940 series had WA had such a small representation in a Perth final and those two series remain the least successful for WA-trained horses.

Inexperienced four-year-old Haddock had finished second to champion mare Wee Cent in the

1974 Fremantle Cup. He stunned fans when he won a heat on the second night, flashing past Victorian Royal Gaze in the shadows of the post.

The 2012 Inter Dominion will have a touch of deja vu when the New Zealand pacer Raglan takes his place in the heats next month. Raglan finished second to Im Themightyquinn in last week's Fremantle Cup and his fourth dam is a full-sister to the dam of Haddock.

When Bathurst trainer-driver Tony Turnbull made the long trip from NSW to Perth in 1974, he was attempting what was seen as nigh on impossible at the time — winning successive Inter Dominions. A

winner from the front mark in 1973 in Sydney, Hondo Grattan had been handicapped on the 15-yard back mark with 1972 Inter Dominion winner Welcome Advice.

What was in Turnbull's favour was the toughness of Hondo Grattan and the horse had not earned his Bathurst Bulldog tag by being covered up waiting for a final sprint.

After being unbeaten the year before in Sydney, Hondo Grattan won a heat on the opening night in 1974. A dead-heat for fourth with Paleface Adios in the final heat enabled him to scrape into the final.

Hondo Grattan went on to win the 1974 Inter Dominion. However, some of the gloss in becoming the first horse to win the race in successive years was wrongly taken away because of a massive pile-up on the first corner.

The crowd of more than 30,000 was stunned when the 5/2 favourite Just Too Good, also from NSW, broke into a gallop and crashed to the track soon after the start.

Paleface Adios, Welcome Advice and Local Product all crashed into the fallen Just Too Good and the rest of the field were strung out like the proverbial Brown's cows.

Victorian Bret Armagh finished third behind Hondo Grattan and Adios Victor but subsequently was disqualified when he returned a positive swab. Royal Gaze was promoted to third.

The 1974 final also was noteworthy for the achievement of the NSW son of Adios in Deep Adios. Imported to Australia by legendary breeder Noel Simpson, Deep Adios sired three of the 10 finalists in Adios Victor, Just Too Good and the immortal Paleface Adios. Between them this trio won five of the nine heats in 1974.

Just Too Good and Paleface Adios were not just by the same sire, they were trained by brothers Keith and Colin Pyke, from the NSW town of Temora.

Paleface Adios set a WA record for 2400m from a standing start on the second night of the series, rating 2:02.2 in an amazing display. His time was more than 3sec. faster than the other two heats that night.

Paleface Adios retired with a career tally of 108 wins and 69 placings in 240 starts before beginning a successful stud career in which he sired 282 winners.

THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012 RANKING No.2



SMOKEN UP

Date foaled: November 7, 2002
Sex: Gelding
Sire: Tinted Cloud (US)
Dam: Carnlough Bay (NZ)
Broodmare sire: Camtastic (US)
Colour: Bay
Trainer: Lance Justice (Vic)
Driver: Lance Justice

LIFETIME RACING
Prize money: \$2,896,368
Starts: 104
Wins: 56
Seconds: 23
Thirds: 11
Best winning mile rate: 1min.48.5sec.

A true superstar, Smoken Up is the Australasian record holder for a mile and has been the

benchmark in harness racing for the past two seasons. Smoken Up dominated the best pacers in the land to win his second successive Miracle Mile in November. His battle with arch rival Im Themightyquinn will be a highlight of the 2012 series at Gloucester Park.

THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012 RANKING No.20



LOMBO POCKET WATCH

Date foaled: October 16, 2003
Sex: Stallion
Sire: Jet Laag (US)
Dam: Misty Maiden
Broodmare sire: Windshield Wiper (US)
Colour: Grey
Trainer: Greg and Skye Bond
Driver: Colin Brown
LIFETIME RACING
Prize money: \$1,458,458

Starts: 65
Wins: 42
Seconds: 9
Thirds: 2
Best winning mile rate: 1min.53.6sec.

Champion pacer who spent time at stud after a serious injury looked to have ended his brilliant racetrack career. Lurking under the radar as a danger after a successful return to racing last week, a fit Lombo Pocket Watch could win any race he contests against any opposition.

V75 **INTER DOMINION**

THE INTERS IN PERTH - BIG DREAMS

TA Form

Pure persistence

Roberts finally gets his hands on harness racing's holy grail

In the fifth of a six-part series, harness racing historian Alan Parker looks at the 1982 and 1989 Inter Dominions run at Gloucester Park

After six years of trying to win Australasia's biggest harness race with outstanding champion Pure Steel, owner Russell Roberts finally was rewarded for his persistence when Rhett's Law scored a brilliant all-the-way victory in 1982.

Pure Steel was a multiple winner of practically every Grand Circuit race in Australia and won five Inter Dominion heats and qualified for four finals. He is regarded by many as the greatest pacer ever to win an Inter Dominion.

Trained by Roberts' son Mark, Rhett's Law had been bought in South Australia, despite the gelding having a heart-score which showed some irregularities.

Heat wins on the first two nights followed by a third to Society Guy and Popular Alm on the third night had Rhett's Law at the top of the points tally and he started second favourite in the final behind the Bob Knight-trained sensation Popular Alm.

Rhett's Law was never seriously threatened in the final after Popular Alm lost 40m when he galloped as the tapes were released. With Colin Warwick in the sulky, Rhett's Law won the final by six metres from Sydney pacer Lehigh Lad. Popular Alm, who made up enormous ground, was third.

Lehigh Lad was trained by Sydneysider Fran Donohue, who entered the record books as the first woman to train an Inter Dominion placegetter.

Popular Alm, champion pacer that he was, hated aircraft. He had been scratched from the 1982 Miracle Mile when he hurt himself while being unloaded from an aircraft at Tullamarine Airport.



Phil Coulson behind the mighty Pure Steel, regarded by many as the best pacer ever to win an Inter Dominion.

He originally had been booked to fly to Perth with his great rival Gammatite but both went crazy while being loaded. Popular Alm savaged Bob Knight and his son, Vin.

Eventually, Popular Alm made it to Perth, courtesy of a \$30,000 Ansett charter flight, which landed at 11am on the day of the opening round of heats.

The rushed trip initially had little effect on Popular Alm. He was a brilliant winner on the opening night, however, that was to be his best performance in Perth.

WA-trained pacers won seven of the nine heats in 1982, with the Fred Kearsley-trained Indian Chant and Mister Moriarty emulating Rhett's Law with wins in two heats and the Jim Schnader-trained Society Guy also winning a heat.

Mister Moriarty provided the rags-to-riches story of 1982. He had

been bought as a birthday present for his wife by trainer driver Mike McCaffrey. He and his wife Anne had been on holiday in Tasmania, spending the money won on a successful novelty bet when they met an old man breaking in a striking black colt.

The octogenarian was Len Moriarty, who had won the 1947 Perth Inter Dominion with a mare called Bandbox, who was later to figure as the grandam of Pure Steel.

Because it was Anne McCaffrey's birthday, the colt was bought as a present and when he showed above-average ability he was named in honour of the man who had broken him in.

Mister Moriarty had been quoted at 5000/1 in pre-post markets on the Inters final and was at 10/1 after heat wins on the second and third nights of the carnival.

Flamboyant Victorian driver Vin



Village Kid with trainer Bill Horn and driver Chris Lewis. In 1989 the Kid won three heats but was fourth in the final.

Knight, who took his own life in April 1991, will be remembered as one of the country's most successful big-race drivers.

For all his success he missed out on an Inter Dominion final winner despite his father Bob training the 1988 and 1989 winners Our Maestro and Jodie's Babe.

Going into the 1989 Inter Dominion, the Knight stable star Sinbad Bay was pre-post favourite for the final after initially being ranked 89 of the 93 entries in the first set of rankings that year.

A pair of Group 1 wins in the WA Golden Nugget Championship and Victorian Winfield Cup saw his ranking tumble and he was seen as the horse to beat after a brilliant heat win on the opening night.

A tendon injury resulted in Sinbad Bay being scratched from the rest of the series and the Knight stable had to look to its second and third-string

runners Our Maestro and Jodie's Babe for a repeat Inters win.

In 1988 in Sydney, Vin Knight elected to drive his favourite horse Bag Limit. Our Maestro won the final impressively for veteran reinsman John Binskin.

A year later Knight, perhaps working on the theory that a good colt would always beat a good filly, opted to drive the five-year-old stallion Our Maestro. The drive on the four-year-old mare Jodie's Babe went to 21-year-old stable foreman Scott Stewart. Our Maestro made a remarkable recovery to make the final. He had pulled up distressed after a failure in the second round of heats.

Perth's hot weather had taken its toll and at one point it appeared Our Maestro would have to be scratched from the series.

Our Maestro came back from his second-night scare to win a third-night heat and led until the shadows of the post in the final but was unable to hold the finishing sprint of Jodie's Babe.

Stewart had driven the perfect race on the daughter of Shadow Star, having positioned her on the back of the WA champion Village Kid before easing wider on the home turn to issue a challenge.

Third home was the New Zealand representative KYLIES HERO. Village Kid was just centimetres away in fourth place.

Village Kid had been unbeaten in the three heats in 1989 with a series of brilliant performances against opposition who were three and four years his junior. In the process, he became the first horse to go through two Inter Dominion series undefeated in the heats.

He had first achieved the feat at Brisbane's Albion Park in 1986 on his way to winning the final.

Heading into the 2012 championship at Gloucester Park, the 31-year-old Village Kid is the oldest surviving Inter Dominion champion. He still occupies the same stall at trainer Bill Horn's Mandogalup stables that was his home for the 1989 series.

THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012 RANKING No.5

AUCKLAND REACTOR

Date foaled: November 3, 2004
Sex: Stallion
Sire: Mach Three
Dam: Atomic Lass (NZ)
Broodmare sire: Sokys Atom (US)
Colour: Bay
Trainer: Mark Purdon (NZ)
Driver: Mark Purdon
LIFETIME RACING
Prize money: \$1,547,928
Starts: 41
Wins: 29
Seconds: 2
Thirds: 0
Best winning mile rate: 1min.52.9sec.

A prodigiously talented pacer who was being compared to the greats of harness racing early in his career when he was unbeaten in his first 17 starts. Bought for a record price to race in the US, Auckland Reactor has returned to the care of champion NZ mentor Mark Purdon and is the X-factor of the series.



THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012 RANKING No.18

MYSTA MAGICAL MACH

Date foaled: December 13, 2004
Sex: Gelding
Sire: Mach Three
Dam: Magical Monie (NZ)
Broodmare sire: Camtastic (US)
Colour: Bay
Trainer: Tony Sivilich (WA)
Driver: Morgan Woodley
LIFETIME RACING
Prize money: \$761,891
Starts: 88
Wins: 22
Seconds: 28
Thirds: 6
Best winning mile rate: 1min.57.2sec.

A local pacer who has a knack of upstaging more celebrated visiting horses trying to invade his home turf. Mysta Magical Mach is proved at Group 1 level and has the speed and toughness to play a leading role in the 2012 V75 Inter Dominion series.



V75 **INTER DOMINION**

THE INTERS IN PERTH - MODERN DAY INTERS

TA Form

20-year friendship reaps ultimate reward in the west

In the final of a six-part series, harness racing historian Alan Parker looks at the 1996 and the 2004 Inter Dominions run at Gloucester Park

Last in but first home

Trainer Garry Hancock and reinsman Peter Morris had been the best of mates for almost 20 years when Hancock was given the chance to train the New Zealand-bred gelding Young Mister Charles for owner Frank Scaravilli.

Their friendship had begun as teenagers when Hancock met Morris at Sydney's Fairfield track after the 15-year-old Hancock came looking for the opportunity to learn about harness racing, hoping one day to emulate the deeds of his second cousins Brian and Richard Hancock.

Three years after they met, Hancock was attacked by a rare spinal disorder which badly affected his back, but not his sense of humour or love of horses.

Fifteen minutes before the deadline for the close of nominations for the 1996 Inter Dominion, Scaravilli received a call from the WATA racing manager inquiring as to the whereabouts of a nomination for Scaravilli's 1996 South Australian Cup winner Young Mister Charles.

He was the only notable omission from across Australia among the entries for that year's championship, and a fear that something had gone astray in the mail prompted the last-minute call.

"It is too hot in Perth, so I haven't nominated him," was Scaravilli's initial response.

After being told it was no hotter in Perth than the 41C it had been in Adelaide, when Young Mister Charles had nosed out fellow NSW star Sunshine Band in SA's Grand Circuit event, Scaravilli had a change of heart and faxed through a nomination form just minutes before the deadline.

Young Mister Charles won a heat on the second night of the championship to secure his place in the final. A cut sustained in his opening-round heat caused angst for Hancock and Morris. They spent hours in the ensuing fortnight



Darren Hancock gets Jofess home to win the 2004 Inter Dominion from local star The Falcon Strike and Sokyola.

wading the gelding in the ocean near the Rockingham stables of gallops trainer Len Pike, where Young Mister Charles was stabled.

Despite drifting from 16/1 to 20/1 because of an awkward draw in barrier six, and the weight of money for New Zealand champion Master Musician, Young Mister Charles, aided by a superb drive from Morris, held off Sunshine Band and Master Musician in a desperately tight finish.

Morris and Hancock had planned to lead early and to then hand up to Sunshine Band and exploit that horse's tendency to drift off the

fence under pressure in the last lap and to then take an inside run.

Morris did not need to rely on Sunshine Band drifting out because WA champion Norm's Daughter, who had raced on the outside of Sunshine Band, began to tire turning for home, allowing Morris to take her and his best mate into the record books.

The final word on Garry Hancock belongs to Morris. "He came into my stable as a boy who loved horses," he said. "Today he is a man who horses love".

The 1996 championship provided a remarkable insight into future

Inter Dominions.

Knocked out of the 1996 final in a scrimmage was inexperienced five-year-old Our Sir Vancelot, who was to win the 1997, 1998 and 1999 Inter Dominions for Brian Hancock.

In the race before the 1996 final was a young Queensland woman competing in the final leg of that year's Australasian Young Drivers' Championship.

Natalie Rasmussen didn't win that title but she did make the Inter Dominion her own through the deeds of Blacks A Fake, who she trained and drove to win four Inter Dominions. Brian Hancock came to

Perth for the 2004 Inter Dominion with four of what could, at best, be called nice horses.

He wrote his name into the Perth Inter Dominion record books when three of the four, Country Ways, Peggy Dale and Selby Bromac, qualified for the final.

His fourth runner just missed the final but was placed in the consolation.

Also in Perth in 2004 was fellow NSW horseman Graeme Watts, whose grandfather, Jack Watts, had qualified Minton Ribbons for the final of the inaugural Inter Dominion in Perth in 1936 after winning a heat on the second night. Watts emulated his grandfather in 2004, winning a second-round heat with Te Kanarama.

While Brian Hancock's horses made up 25 per cent of the 2004 final, it was his nephew Darren Hancock who took out harness racing's ultimate prize with the underrated Jofess, who took the maximum advantage of his pole draw to lead throughout.

Racing on the outside of Jofess throughout the 2544m of the \$500,000 final was star WA pacer The Falcon Strike, who had been sent out a warm favourite.

When Jofess drew barrier one for the final, his part-owner Bruce Trevaskis made the long trip from his farm near Wagga with his sons Adam and Leigh. Trevaskis had lost his wife Libby to leukaemia 12 months earlier and had not seen Jofess race since her death.

Driven by Gary Hall Jr and trained by his father Gary Hall Sr, The Falcon Strike went down by the smallest-possible margin, a nose, with Victorian champion Sokyola a further nose away in third place.

Two months before the Inter Dominion, The Falcon Strike had totally dominated the Perth summer carnival, winning the Fremantle Cup, the Australian Pacing Championship and WA Pacing Cup in successive starts before being given a brief let-up and being prepared for the Inter Dominion.

Hall has given his current stable star Im Themightyquinn a similar preparation leading into the 2012 Inter Dominion, and the champion goes into this year's series coming off standout wins in the WA Pacing Cup and the Fremantle Cup.

Hall will be hoping that history is not repeated in 2012.

THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012

RANKING No.1

IM THEMIGHTYQUINN

Date foaled: November 8, 2004
Sex: Gelding
Sire: Washington VC (US)
Dam: Love Sign (NZ)
Broodmare sire: Sokys Atom (US)
Colour: Brown
Trainer: Gary Hall Sr
Driver: Gary Hall Jr

LIFETIME RACING
Prize money: \$2,584,506
Starts: 80
Wins: 35
Seconds: 15
Thirds: 12
Best winning mile rate:
1min.53.5sec.

WA's glamour horse who ascended to the top of Australasian pacing with Group 1 success in NZ, Victoria and Gloucester Park last season to claim the title of Grand Circuit champion ahead of the likes of Smoken Up and Mr Feelgood. Sensational recent wins in the WA Pacing and Fremantle Pacing cups, plus the home-track advantage, have Quinny the outright favourite for the series.



THE STARS OF INTER DOMINION 2012

RANKING No.16

HAS THE ANSWERS

Date foaled: October 7, 2002
Sex: Gelding
Sire: Legacy Of Power (US)
Dam: No Questions
Broodmare sire: Maple Lanes Strike (US)
Colour: Brown
Trainer: Tony Sivillich
Driver: Morgan Woodley

LIFETIME RACING
Prize money: \$1,163,194
Starts: 199
Wins: 69
Seconds: 34
Thirds: 20
Best winning mile rate:
1min.53sec.

The first locally owned, trained and bred pacer to win \$1 million in stakes. Has The Answers has gained "cult-hero" status for his speed and durability and is one horse who will relish the punishing four runs over two weeks. He holds the track record over 1700m, the distance for next Friday's opening heats.

