

Norris dashes to victory

KNOCKA Norris showed that his win by default at Moruya last month was no fluke when he recorded a dominant win in the Eden Fishermen's Club Eden Cup on Sunday.

Knocka Norris (\$9), trained by Grant Bobbin at Tarraganda, stepped up a grade to secure victory in the benchmark 50 handicap over 1400 metres at the Sapphire Coast Turf Club.

The horse was awarded the win at Moruya on July 13 after being second past the post in the maiden handicap over 1425m, when the "winner" was disqualified after weighing in light.

Not too many horses are able to progress from their maiden win to victory in a higher grade at their next start, but Knocka Norris did it in style.

Knocka Norris worked hard to get to the lead and then held off a wall of horses over the last 100m to score by a long neck from Setta Rocks (\$13), with a short-head to another local galloper Looksgoodinblack (\$7.50) third.

A great day out for local trainers was completed when Gelderbelle defied all chargers in the All New D-Max Isuzu Ute Cup.

Benny Wynen, the Wolumla owner-trainer of Gelderbelle, was elated with the result, praising the horse's win after a light preparation and running from the outside barrier.

Ridden by apprentice rider Tash Burleigh, Gelderbelle won by a half-length from Moral Magic, with a further length-and-a-half to Mr Ellavel.

Gelderbelle has been thriving on light preparation and overall she has won 12 races, including eight at her home track, with 24 placings from 92 starts.

In other news on Sunday, Bega Cup-winning trainer Steve Stephens looks to have unearthed another stayer of promise.

Stephens' maiden galloper Olympian (\$26) set a new class record in winning the Rankin Builders Class One and Maiden Plate over 1600m.

Having only his fourth start for the Moruya based trainer, Olympian (\$26) – the "omen" tip of the year – unleashed a powerful burst from midfield to dash clear over the last 200m for a three lengths victory.

The favourite Mycuprunnethover (\$3.60) from the Matthew Dale stable was second with a half-length to Jayko (\$6.50) third.

Stephens said the five-year-old gelding, formerly trained by Clarrie Connors in Sydney, was stepping up to a suitable distance for the first time this preparation.

He was purchased by his son Matthew at the Inglis Sydney sales and had more than a year off the scene to recover from "some slight problems" before beginning his current campaign in June.

Olympian took more than a second off the class record on a dead track running the metric mile in 1 minute and 38.35 seconds.



• Knocka Norris scores an impressive win in the Eden Fishermen's Club Eden Cup on Sunday, winning by a long-neck from Setta Rocks, while Looksgoodinblack finishes third. Photos: Bradley Photographers.



• Bega horse trainer Grant Bobbin is all smiles while being interviewed by Sapphire Coast Turf Club president Robyn Bain on Sunday.



• Jockey Tash Burleigh is delighted after she recorded victory with local galloper Gelderbelle in the All New D-Max Isuzu Ute Cup.

Bobbin's hot streak

YOUNG Bega trainer Grant Bobbin was a happy man after his horse Knocka Norris recorded victory in the Eden Fishermen's Club Maggie Brown Eden Cup at the Sapphire Coast Turf Club on Sunday.

It was Knocka Norris's second successive win on the horse racing circuit.

Bobbin attributed his success since joining the local training ranks to the variety of work he gives his horses on his property at Tarraganda.

"We do something different every day," he said.

"We try to mix it up so they don't get bored or fall into a routine.

"We like to keep them interested."

Bobbin said he does all of the slow work with his horses at home and on the roads near his property.

"We trot them up on the dirt roads," he said.

"They don't go shin sore."

He also has a 900 metre training track set out on the property, which includes an uphill section.

"We only take them to the [Sapphire Coast Turf Club] track for fast work," Bobbin said.

"[Trackwork rider] Haley [Jessop] is out here every day to ride them."

His father Brad Bobbin is also an integral part of the team feeding up and cleaning out most days.

Bobbin is gradually building up his team, expanding from two to five horses in work, but said there was always room for more.

He said he believed that Knocka Norris might prove to be "a pretty fair horse".

"There were some decent horses in that field," he said.

"He is a natural leader and always wants to be up on the pace."

Bobbin said for the horse to come back and win on Sunday after claiming the Moruya race by default was "the icing on the cake".

The winning owners Rob Grant, Henry Lucas and Peggy Norris have given him his first two winners.

Peggy Norris owns the broodmare Miss Majakit, which raced successfully locally, while Grant and Lucas breed the foals, the first of which he trained to win was Minnie Marj.

Class act prepares for visit to Bega

THE BEGA Showjumping Club has secured another world-class instructor to come to Bega.

Maree Hewitt will be conducting a school on August 25 and 26 at the Bega Showground.

Hewitt is the coach of current Australian showjumping champion Paul Athanassoff and his stallion Warragulla Nicholas.

She has just returned from Europe after Athanassoff competed in the Olympic qualifying events in an attempt to make the Australian team. Unfortunately, their campaign didn't end with the result they had hoped.

Places for the school filled quickly and members who nominated will be notified of their lesson times next week.

Spectators and club members are more than welcome to head along and watch and are encouraged to listen in on the lessons and help out where possible. There will be a second training ring set up over the weekend where members who are not part of the school can go for training.

For further information on this school, contact organiser Kirsty McPaul on 0421 902 438.

In other news, the club has been enjoying a bumper year, with above

average attendances to its training days.

Although the competitions at these days are unofficial, a friendly and informal highest point-score competition is run over all jump club days to keep the competitive spirit alive.

The Charlie Smith memorial highest point-score award is presented at the end of the year to the junior and senior rider with the highest points scored at jump club days throughout the year.

Since its inception, the quality of competitors has continued to improve. The current leaders in the 2012 Charlie Smith memorial point-score are listed below:

Junior division:

1. Caitlin Reid and Ebony (59 points), equal 2. Jessica Clarke and Tammy, and Samara George and Who Me (25), equal 4. Esther Black and Troubadour, and Alex Smith and Athena (22).

Senior division:

2. Brett Clarke and Duke (34 points), 2. Anne Farr and Buster (22), 3. Emma Donnelly and Blossom (19), 4. Brett Clarke and Donut (18), Sarah Dreverman and Charlie (17).

For more information on the Bega Showjumping Club, visit www.begashowjumpingclub.weebly.com.

Learning about harness driving

THE Bega Harness Society held a come and try day at the Cobargo Showground recently.

The club hosted a good roll up of around 36 visitors and their eight horses or ponies came along to try harness driving.

Members of the society helped newcomers to put their ponies into harness, some for the first time ever.

Others had been in the harness years ago with former owners, but their new owners wanted to try driving.

A sausage sizzle, cup of tea and delicious cakes were provided by the society.

The kitchen was run by Len Brown and Heather Jones.

By the afternoon, six ponies were put to the test and the owners drove them around the showgrounds.

Instructing and supervising for the day were Nola Robertson, Angela Elliott, Len Brown and



• Belinda Peel (left) steers her pony Maisey with Sara Lambert as passenger, while Nola Robertson keeps an eye on proceedings.

Lisa Harrington.

Harness and vehicles were lent by members to fit all sizes of horses and ponies.

In other news, the Bega Harness Society held its annual general meeting recently and the club has new members very keen

to enjoy the sport.

The society plans to have activity days and pleasure drives in the near future.