

RACING

HOME IS WHERE THINGS GET LUCKY

Plans for overseas races shelved, trainer Cheng's 5YO takes out third Malaysian GI

Sharon Zhang

Trainer Winson Cheng Han Yong has made the right decision to keep Lucky Magic in Malaysia after he drew clear to land the RM300,000 (\$91,400) Group 1 Selangor Gold Cup (1,600m) on Sept 14.

The young Malaysian handler decided to skip the international Group 3 Korea Sprint (1,200m) – which was eventually won by Hong Kong's Self Improvement – at Seoul racecourse on Sept 7 for the second leg of the Malaysian Triple Crown series instead.

Cheng had earlier planned to enter the Happy Baby Stable-owned galloper in South Korea's sprint feature after Lucky Magic took out the Selangor Mile (1,600m) at his last start on July 20.

"On second thought, maybe it's too close, so we decided to target him for the Gold Cup instead," he said.

"I love travelling, and I think he would be good enough to travel overseas some day."

His new plan bore fruit, even if the highlight race at the II-race meeting was marred by the fall of three jockeys shortly after the field of 13 began to make their turn into the bend.

Platinum Emperor (Marc Lerner) – who was sitting in fourth behind leader Pacific Warrior (Jerlyn Seow), Berry Bliss (Clyde Leck) and Raising Sixty-One (Mohd Zakki) – mis-strode and fell, causing Good Star (Khairil Zulkiflee) and Valois (Kaidan Brewer), who were following behind, to lose their balance and fall too.

Luckily, all three jockeys were reported to be conscious after the race. Lucky Magic, who sat one-off the fence behind Platinum Emperor, avoided the accident as Andre da Silva swiftly brought the gelding out wider upon Platinum Emperor's mishap.

The Mendelssohn five-year-old

swung for home with acres of land before him in the straight. While the Jason Ong-trained Pacific Warrior kept going strongly on the rails at the 300m, Lucky Magic (\$16) upped the ante and swept past with 100m to spare.

Berry Bliss finished 3¼ lengths away in second, while Pacific Warrior had to settle for third another half a length away. 2024 Selangor Gold Cup winner Antipodean (Bernardo Pinheiro) flew home for fourth.

The winning time was 1min 35sec for the 1,600m on the long course.

Cheng has two big races in mind for Lucky Magic after his third Group 1 victory on Sunday. The New Zealand-bred has previously claimed the Group 1 Penang Gold Cup (2,000m) in December 2024 and the Group 1 Perak Derby (2,000m) in March.

"We will run him in the NZB Ready To Run Sale Championship in October, and then the Group 1 Piala Emas Sultan Selangor in December," he said.

"Maybe we can look at the international races next year. I feel great after the win. The horse has got a big heart."

"Da Silva rode him very well. The horse has got a bad barrier (13), but he brought the horse in. It was a very good ride from Andre."

"Actually, he told me the horse also almost fell, and I saw that too, so I was a bit worried. But da Silva also said this horse was really 'lucky'. It's in his name!"

The New Zealand Bloodstock (NZB) Ready To Run Sale Championship (1,400m) will be run on Oct 12 while the Piala Emas Sultan Selangor (2,000m) – the third and final leg of the Triple Crown series – will be held on Dec 7.

Leading Brazilian jockey da Silva won on Noah Khan in the first leg, the Group 1 Tunku Gold Cup (1,200m) on March 16, and the Siva Kumar-trained seven-year-old also



The Winson Cheng Han Yong-trained Lucky Magic (Andre da Silva) pulling away to a convincing win in the Group 1 Selangor Gold Cup (1,600m) on Sept 14. That was the Mendelssohn five-year-old galloper's third Group 1 victory after the 2024 Penang Gold Cup (2,000m) and the 2025 Perak Derby (2,000m). PHOTO: SELANGOR TURF CLUB

ran on Sept 14, but finished a neck-second to Thunderous in the RM62,000 Tabcorp Trophy (1,200m) earlier.

Trained by Simon Dunderdale, the son of Written Tycoon was ridden by visiting jockey Brewer when he sprang a \$103 major upset in that Supreme A event.

Brewer, who was at his first Malaysian meeting, got off the mark at his second ride. He finished sixth on Intrepid behind debut winner Irish Goodbye (\$107) in the

RM45,000 Malaysia Day Trophy, a Class 4B event (1,400m) one race earlier.

The young South African, who was booked on five rides from Dunderdale, was grateful to his sponsors, Dunderdale and Peter Lee, owner of Buffalo Stable.

"Thank you to Mr Dunderdale, and also to Peter. They're very supportive of me and made the whole process (of coming over) possible. I really appreciate it," said the Johannesburg-based jockey to race

caller Devon Pretorius.

"This horse has lots of guts today. He was a bit far off, and I could feel him plugging away with every stride and pegging them back. I got them on the line."

"I'm just ecstatic about this one since this is my first day here. Lovely to start off with a bang, and I hope it can grow from here."

New apprentice Farhan Ghazali also got off to a flying start in Selangor when he opened his account on his first ride in the

RM62,000 UK Stable (Thailand) Trophy (1,200m).

The 25-year-old Kelantan-born hoop, cousin of 2023 champion apprentice jockey Nuqman Rozi, was astride debutant Banker's Princess (\$60), trained by his master trainer Johnny Lim Boon Thong.

"First ride, first winner, good for him. He's a hard-working boy," Lim said of Farhan, who came under him since 2022.

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O'Brien's Scandinavia all class in English St Leger

DONCASTER – Scandinavia turned out to be the best of Aidan O'Brien's trio in the £700,000 (\$1.22 million) Group 1 English St Leger (2,900m) at Doncaster on Sept 13, demonstrating the strength and depth of his stamina in the gruelling final Classic of the season.

A winner of his maiden at his three-year-old reappearance at Navan, Ireland on May 17, Scandinavia found the re-opposing Carners – trained by Paddy Twomey – too strong at his next start in the Group 2 Queen's Vase (2,800m) at Ascot on June 18.

With cheekpieces applied for the

first time, the four-year-old son of Justify was an easy 8½-length winner at Newmarket's Group 3 Bahrain Trophy (2,600m) on July 10, before defeating more experienced runners in the Group 1 Goodwood Cup (3,200m) on July 29 at his second-last start.

Irish master trainer O'Brien also saddled two other runners, dual Derby hero Lambourn and one-time winner Stay True, in the Doncaster feature, but it was Scandinavia who had proven stamina over his six rivals.

Ridden by Tom Marquand, Scandinavia was always prominent behind leader Lambourn (Sean Lev-

ey) and began to excel in the stamina test during the closing two furlongs.

Both the Roger Varian-trained Rahiebb (Ray Dawson) and Stay True (Mickael Barzalona) came with a strong late run, but Scandinavia (\$17) always remained in control. Eventually, he scored a neck win over Rahiebb, while stablemate Stay True came in third.

The British jockey, who finished second on Scandinavia in a Maiden Stakes (1,600m) in August 2024, was ecstatic after the win.

"He's got the most beautiful temperament. Chatting to Aidan, Ryan (Moore) and Wayne (Lordan), it



The Aidan O'Brien-trained four-year-old Scandinavia (Tom Marquand) holding off Rahiebb (Ray Dawson, yellow cap) by a neck to capture the Group 1 English St Leger (2,900m) in an exciting finish at Doncaster on Sept 13. PHOTO: RACING AND SPORTS

was reiterated that he was just so straightforward," said Marquand to ITV Racing.

"He was tough there, the ground's hard work. He fended all his rivals off and I'm so lucky to be

aboard today. To be aboard for Baldydoyle and Coolmore is special.

"I thought he'd be a lovely staying type when I rode him at two, and we got beat on that day. He's an extremely special horse and it's a

privilege to ride him today.

"Doncaster is fantastic, it's nice to win a St Leger with a few people here, it was a bit quiet last time!"

O'Brien was pleased with Scandinavia after he secured his second Group 1 victory.

"We're delighted. He's hardy, Tom gave him a great ride," said the winning trainer.

"He stays very well, we were a little worried when the ground came on the slower side. He's a lovely horse that is going to stay well."

"He's a typical Justify; He's very genuine, has big strides, the better the ground, the better you'll see him. He'd have no problem coming back to a mile and a half."

"He's in the Melbourne Cup, so it's a possibility. He needs to get scanned to see if he's eligible then we'll see."

Scandinavia is entered in the Group 1 Melbourne Cup (3,200m) at Flemington on Nov 4, and could be punted down to favouritism in "the race that stops a nation" on the back of his St Leger triumph.

RACING AND SPORTS

15-9-25 MONDAY - AUSTRALIA RACE CARD

AUSTRALIA FEED: MUSWELLBROOK (MARK CODE 5)									
11:35AM Race 1 (A\$30,000)									
1	5767	Hot Chestnut	S Llewellyn	[2]	59	10	6690	Luna Cruiser	--
2	7700	Justick	A Bullock	[1]	59	11	7	Encampment	A Layt
3	3	Sir Herriadah	C Reith	[10]	59	12	5453	Pinol Nero	O A Dalton (20)
4	0	Think Pi	Siena Grima	[13]	59	13	84	Power Cruise	G Buckley
5	0392	Tuncurry	Shae Wilkes (15)	[6]	59	14	6	Big Mix	Ms L Day
6	6902	Avonlee	Billy Cray	[4]	57	15	9776	Alchemena	--
7	3246	Flying Molly	J P-Holmes	[3]	57	16	5	Dragon Girl	R Bayliss
8	8408	Little Bubbles	A Gibbons	[7]	57				
9	67	Mic Drop	R Bayliss	[11]	57				
10	5858	No Pockets	D Northey	[5]	57				
11	6602	Varazze	--	[14]	57				
12	7	Hot Fantasy	Anna Roper	[9]	55				
13	30	Leica Queen	G Buckley	[8]	55				
14	2	Shenandoah River	M Bell	[12]	55				
12:10PM Race 2 (A\$27,000)									
1	7095	Irish Accolade	S Lisnyy	[2]	59	8	5338	Dash By	L Small (20)
2	8630	Purple Prince	L Rolls	[7]	59	9	0471	Lily Darling	G Buckley
3	5457	Ropewalker	Siena Grima	[4]	59	10	5015	Counterpart	M Bell
4	5272	Xerxes	M Bell	[8]	59	11	7786	Kaval	--
5	6784	Zainstar	A Bullock	[1]	59				
6	0647	Airwalker	Ms W Costin	[15]	57				
7	7048	Diablo Dancer	Ms M Owen	[6]	57				
8	7786	Fighting Daughter	Ms M Owen	[13]	57				
12:50PM Race 3 (A\$27,000)									
1	57	1	1286	Nature Boy	--				
2	57	3	2323	Green Run	[11]	67			
3	57	2	1787	Swexan	[4]	60			
4	57	3	2323	Green Run	[1]	59.5			
5	57	4	4751	Just On Fire	[2]	59.5			
6	57	5	6725	Sweet Bubbles	[9]	59.5			
7	57	6	0540	Down The Kooka	[8]	57.5			
8	57	7	2098	Coastal Groove	[6]	56.5			
9	57	8	5338	Dash By	[10]	56.5			
10	57	9	0471	Lily Darling	[3]	56			
11	57	10	5015	Counterpart	[7]	55.5			
12	57	11	7786	Kaval	[5]	55			
1:25PM Race 4 (A\$27,000)									
1	57	1	7	Moonlight Odyssey	[18]	59			
2	57	2	4823	Speed Of Gold	[4]	59			
3	57	3	5	Koritsi	[16]	58			
2:05PM Race 5 (A\$27,000)									
1	57	1	31	Third Base	[8]	60			
2	57	2	216	Rebelious Patriot	[9]	59			
3	57	3	4184	Sweet Redot	[1]	59			
4	57	4	31	Bullion Hunter	[13]	58			
5	57	5	5866	Lady Memphis	[12]	58			
6	57	6	2120	Go Isla Go	[4]	57.5			
7	57	7	4230	Shoutaboutit	[7]	57.5			
8	57	8	2451	Brea Ex	[10]	56.5			
9	57	9	4150	Hoku	[15]	56.5			

2:40PM Race 6 (A\$30,000)									
1	57	1	0479	Ensign Parker	[9]	62			
2	57	2	2168	Jason Darren	[17]	61.5			
3	57	3	2264	Toomuchinformation	[7]	61.5			
4	57	4	1569	Wandjad	[16]	61			
5	57	5	1836	City Gold Speed	[2]	60.5			
6	57	6	2099	Magic Shot	[14]	60.5			
7	57	7	2168	Mrs Bull	[3]	60.5			
8	57	8	6160	Wild Flash	[15]	60.5			
9	57	9	0827	Smari Jazz	[18]	60			
10	57	10	1	Ode So Much	[11]	59.5			
11	57	11	6231	Akuaewheo	[12]	59			
12	57	12	6077	Laisvas	[10]	58			
13	57	13	512	Salvato	[5]	58			
14	57	14	167	Lighthouse Lass	[11]	57			
15	57	15	6776	Tough Case	[4]	59.5			
16	57	16	0301	Sashabella	[13]	57			
17	57	17	1876	Fox Reign	[6]	59			
18	57	18	3221	Prince Rupert	[20]	58.5			
19	57	19	0523	Arambys	[8]	58			
20	57	20	4251	Dreymon	[19]	57.5			
3:15PM Race 7 (A\$27,000)									
1	57	1	1309	Gogmagog	--				
2	57	2	1173	Manage The Cycle	Siena Grima	[11]	61.5		
3	57	3	1950	Island Legend	A Gibbons	[9]	60		
4	57	4	1397	Saratoga Power	M Bell	[13]	59.5		
5	57	5	1398	Apic Run	Shae Wilkes (15)	[8]	59		
6	57	6	3331	Singing Star	O A Dalton (20)	[6]	56		
7	57	7	2806	Mr Bingo	A Bullock	[12]	58.5		
8	57	8	3868	Cupid's Kiss	L Small (20)	[4]	58		
9	57	9	3075	Dehero	Ms J Duggan	[5]	57.5		
10	57	10	3646	Kantishna	C Reith	[1]	57.5		
11	57	11	4205	Catchy Tunes	Anna Roper	[15]	56.5		
12	57	12	4660	Super Freds	S Llewellyn	[14]	56		
13	57	13	1680	Pelette	J Overmeire	[3]	55.5		
14	57	14	4554	Sammiballerina	G Buckley	[7]	55		
15	57	15	6699	Withstand	Ms W Costin	[2]	56		
16	57	16	5179	Devoted Deputy	L Rolls	[16]	55		
17	57	17	4488	Parmenio	J P-Holmes	[17]	55		

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