



## **Brosnan has two good chances in Gr II features**

By [AIDAN RODLEY](#) - Waikato Times | Friday, 12 December 2008

**Mark Brosnan is the type of guy happy to blend into the background.**

But with genuine contenders in both Gr II features at Te Rapa tomorrow, the likeable Matamata trainer could yet be thrust into the limelight.

Brosnan will saddle honest toiler Valley Chief in the \$135,000 Waikato Times Gold Cup (2400m) and smart mare Veloce Bella in the \$120,000 CAL Isuzu 1600 Stakes.

"It's always great to have horses good enough to run in these types of races," Brosnan said yesterday.

"Valley Chief is just one those horses not a world beater but he gives 110 per cent every time he goes to the races. He's a good old grinder, while the mare has got that bit of class."

Veloce Bella, the mount of Michael Coleman, opened as a \$4.80 second favourite for the CAL Isuzu 1600 Stakes behind Culminate at \$3.80. Ruud Van Slaats and Katy Keen were at \$8.50.

Veloce Bella produced one of the runs of the race in the Gr II Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes (1400m) at Pukekohe, coming from last to run seventh at her last start.

But Brosnan warned she still may not be at her peak.

"She had a bit of a hiccup on Tuesday when the track wasn't suitable for her so we worked her yesterday instead and she did need the gallop.

"It wasn't an ideal gallop she had and I might have her a fraction underdone. She's probably still not at peak fitness."

Tomorrow's race will be Veloce Bella's third run back from a tendon injury suffered in last year's Rotorua Plate. Connections opted to allow the injury to repair naturally and once she was sound again, Veloce Bella spent six weeks building up fitness and strength in Russell and Robyn Rogers' aqua walker at their new Kendayla Park property in Cambridge before she mare returned to Brosnan. She resumed from a 12-month break with a fast-finishing third at Awapuni last month before her Pukekohe run.



"They weren't winning coming from behind that day. She did make up a lot of ground but without ever being a chance.

"It's been a long, slow process but so far, so good.

"You always have reservations when they have so long off but she's back to her grumpy old self and she still wants to get back out there and compete.

"I would have liked to have had one more gallop under her belt. She could be one run short but hopefully she will still should go well."

Brosnan will have two further starters at Te Rapa tomorrow with last-start maiden winner Regal Post contesting the \$40,000 Curraghmore Stud Premier special conditions race for Jones, while Don Rossini contests the \$20,000 Rating 70 2000m contest for apprentice Samantha Collett.