



Racing: Massive Railway Stakes boilover

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By Mike Dillon

This wasn't the racing upset of this century, this was the upset of the last century. And who better to engage for the riding than the longshot king, comeback jockey Mark Hills. Jacowils became the longest-priced winner of Ellerslie's famous group one Railway Stakes in living memory when he rocked punters off their feet at odds of \$105.80.

Hobby owner and trainer Kristine Stead claimed she didn't agree with the support for her under-rated sprinter.

"I didn't rate him a 100 to 1 chance, I thought around \$40 was the right price for him."

They were not idle words. Stead backed them up on the tote, backing Jacowils each way and, more importantly, taking a 19 per cent share in the mammoth \$179,735 trifecta.

"They were rating Atapi a chance and someone tipped him in the paper, but I thought Jacowils' effort in the Newmarket on Boxing Day was at least as good and probably better than Atapi's."

Mark Hills gave race riding away for three years. "Me heart wasn't in it."

Later it was in it and since coming back to the raceday saddle, Hills has ridden his first three group one wins.

Macavelli Miss in the Thorndon Mile was at odds in excess of \$100 and the second group one, Floydeboy was also at long odds when he won the Easter Stakes at Ellerslie.

Kristine Stead (42) describes herself as a hobby trainer in the Hamilton area and has three horses in work.

"I've got a lifestyle block and racing isn't my source of income."

The \$150,000 winner's cheque yesterday puts the lie to that.

Stead is happy to go the alternative route with Jacowils' training. "I want to thank Robyn and Russell Rogers for the work on their aqua walker."

To eliminate Jacowils' tendency to jar up on firm tracks Stead also takes him to Raglan Beach for work.



The 4am journeys to Raglan all seemed worthwhile as Jacowils gradually got the better of Atapi from the 200m to thrust ahead in the final four strides.

Hills, one of the jockey room's most popular figures, might fit the battler's tag, but he gets his share of decent winners through hard work.

The vigorous flourish of the whip as Jacowils went over the finish line was not created by shock. "When I got to within a neck of Atapi I knew we had him beaten. "At that point I knew we had the race won unless something bombed us late right out wide."