



Hills -- Group One King Of Upsets

Friday, 02 January 2009 NZ Racing News by Wally O'Hearn

Mark Hills has a habit of really making punters take notice when he kicks home a Gr I winner.

A delighted Mark Hills leans down to congratulate Kristine Stead as she leads Jacowils back to the winner's enclosure after yesterday's major upset. Photo: NZ Racing News.

The likeable Cambridge jockey recorded his third Gr I success when he shocked punters at Ellerslie yesterday aboard the Kristine Stead owned, bred and trained Jacowils.

Slicing his way through the field after being fourth-last across the top, Hills got Jacowils home first by a long neck in the Gr I Waiwera Railway Stakes at a win dividend of \$105.80.

It was a similar outcome when Hills registered his first Gr I success, which came aboard Macavelli Miss in the 2006 Thorndon Mile at Trentham at a price of \$121.80.

Hills' other Gr I win was aboard Floydeboy in the 2007 First Sovereign Trust Champions Mile at Ellerslie, though the odds were more realistic (just over 9/1).

Hills (32) was full of praise for Stead after his latest Gr I thrill.

"Kristine is a lovely person and she's stuck by me," said Hills.

"She's done a great job with this horse.

"It's such a great thrill to win another Group One race and especially good because it's for her."

Though Jacowils was neglected by punters, Hills felt a tinge of confidence in the early stages of yesterday's race.

"Three strides into the race he got back but was going nicely," said Hills.

"Then when we came to the straight the horses in front of us started peeling out and gave us room to come through.

"Once he was in full flight I thought he'd win."

The win was the first for Jacowils on good footing, but both Stead and Hills weren't concerned about that fact going into the race.

"Often even wet trackers can get away with a run or two on top of the ground," said Hills.

Stead also believes the use of Robyn and Russell Rogers' aqua walker at Cambridge helped Jacowils. "It helped keep the weight off his feet and he also had a bit of beach work," said Stead.