

7<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Mr Andrew Speedy  
Racetrack Magazine

Dear Andrew

I hope this letter finds you well.

Thank you for your recent communication.

The Takeover Target story entered its final chapter with this year's overseas trip.

Fresh off an emphatic win in the T.J. Smith at Randwick and a courageous win in the S.A. Goodwood Handicap, Target headed to Singapore, to defend last years win in the Kris Flyer International Sprint.

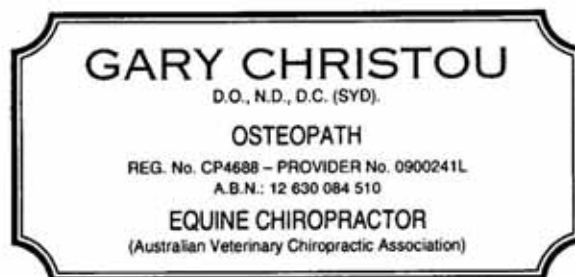
Sadly, luck was not with him. He finished down the track in the Group 1 event, as he was tormented by niggling feet issues and a post-race colic issue. Target was out sped by some exciting younger opponents. He did his best under the circumstances.

With that race behind him, Joe and Team Target set off to England for Target's 4<sup>th</sup> attempt to win the coveted Golden Jubilee at Royal Ascot. In Target's previous 3 English visits he had run a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in this race.

Last year, we were very confident heading into this same race. His times were exciting and even Dom (his part-time trackwork rider at Newmarket) went to Royal Ascot to invest his hard earned. We wouldn't hear of defeat. However, when in a winning position 300 meters before the post, Target faltered. Jay Ford knew there was a problem and nursed him home into 4<sup>th</sup> place. History shows that he finished with multiple suspensory tears.

This year, Target was heading towards another attempt at the Golden Jubilee. He met a good field of sprinters including Sacred Kingdom, who won this year's Kris Flyer in Singapore.

48 hours before the Golden Jubilee, Target was withdrawn because of an elevated temperature. Team Target still attended the Ascot meeting and we were left wondering what may have been?! The favourites didn't fire a shot, a 20/1 outsider won the race and what about the time - 1 minute 14.9 seconds! Could this be a misprint? It wasn't even a wet track!



We had to move on, so Joe implemented “Plan B”. Onwards toward the July Cup at Newmarket. Newmarket’s July course is quite a unique. The track with its rises and dips, resembles a rollercoaster ride rather than a normal racecourse. It is quite unusual and a testing track. Target, after racing in a forward position faded to finish mid field.

After the race, he cooled down lame. Subsequent x-rays revealed a fractured Near Side Hind Canon bone. After surgery when 5 screws were inserted, Targets career as a racehorse was over. Dr Ian Wright (U.K.) supposedly told Dr John Crowley (Australia), that Target may well have travelled for 2 or 3 furlongs in the race to damage his leg so much. What a heart! He still beat half the field home. Target will recover, and we all look forward to the day his feet touch Aussie soil again and he smells the gum trees.

Takeover Target may not have been the best horse to grace the turf in the history of Australian Racing, but what a wonderful trail of memories he left us. From a Queanbeyan maiden to the Ramornie Handicap where he stamped himself. To the Salinger Stakes where Roy Higgins thought he looked “too fat” to be serious – he still won! To the Global Challenge Series including his King’s Stand Stakes win in the UK where he won the hearts of the Poms. To Japan where he trounced a world class field of sprinters. To Royal Randwick after E.I. where he helped to boost Sydney Racing again. His memorable win in W.A. over Apache Cat, where people came from miles around to see these 2 great horses clash. To his emphatic win in the T.J. Smith and gutsy win in the S.A. Goodwood. And so much more!

The one outstanding feature in this story of a truly great horse was that in this day and age, is that great horses come and go. They blaze a trail of glory and mostly disappear in 2 or 3 seasons. The unique part of Target’s story is that he raced in “elite” company from 4yrs of age to 9 ½ yrs! He did this season in and out, not only in Australia but around the world. To my recollection of recent years, no other horse has done this for so many years. Furthermore, we may never see this feat again!

Target started out racing as a “crock” but from 4 to 9 ½ yrs of age he raced at the top level and made all Australian Racing fans proud.

What a champion!

Regards

Dr Gary Christou