

At Stud

Bernborough - At Stud

Even after his premature retirement Bernborough managed to make headlines. The first concerned a claim Bernborough had sired a brace of foals during a period when he was effectively banned from racing in Queensland. The second was the shock when Azzalin Romano announced he had sold the horse for a record amount to the prominent American movie mogul Louis B. Mayer.

Bernborough left Australia for the United States and his first 'official' foal, a filly, was born in late February 1948. Over the years some of Bernborough's offspring went as far afield as England, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and the West Indies. A few even made it back to Australia. Getting Closer, his great-great-grandson won the 1984 Doomben Ten Thousand (then known as the Rothman's Hundred Thousand).

In England, Hook Money won the 1955 Ayr Gold Cup in track record time. The great horse also had a hand in the pedigree of Jay Trump, the winner of the 1965 Grand National Steeplechase, run over four and a half miles at Aintree. Foaled in 1957, Jay Trump was by Tonga Prince out of Be Trump. Bernborough was the sire of Be Trump.

In the United States, Bernborough sired 268 foals; so much for the belief expressed by one major American columnist prior to his sale that the horse would not be a good proposition because he would not take any notice of mares.

Twenty-one of his progeny won stakes races. His best product was Berseem, crowned sprint champion in 1955. Berseem won twenty-one races, set a six-furlong track record at Santa Anita and equalled two other track marks. Others of note were Brush Bern who won fifteen races and was second in the 1954 Arlington Handicap and Bernwood who ran a one-mile track record at Washington Park in the Sheridan Handicap and was third in the 1951 American Derby.