



Mighty Moab Centenary Gold Cup Winner

Moab, the local “toast of Towong” won the Centenary Gold Cup at Towong in 1971, in front of a jubilant crowd.



Image 1. Centenary Cup Finish, Towong, 1971, Towong. Source: Private collection of Les Cottam

The following day, Cameron Forbes, an Age newspaper reporter, visited Moab at home with owner/trainer Les Cottam at Maragle.



Les Cottam works Moab up the slopes of the Snowy Mountains the morning after winning the Centenary Cup.

Forbes likened Les to the Man From Snowy River and his inspired article and photo had the headline:

“Peace, Banjo, all’s not lost.”

The article continued:

“With more and more stockmen motorised there’s little scope for racing down mountains....it was all right for Banjo 76 years ago but who can be romantic about a Honda? The Man himself has moved to the other side of the Snowy Mountains. Now he’s from the Tooma River.”

Age Newspaper, 22 February 1971

Moab was bred by the Paton family at Tooma and leased as an unbroken three – year -old to noted Upper Murray horseman, Les Cottam, who was on the Committee of the Towong Turf Club for several years.

Image 2. Les Cottam works Moab. Source: The Age Newspaper 22 February 1971
Towong Turf Club: Moab



Moab won the Maiden Plate at Towong in 1968.

Injury kept Moab off the track for 12 months before he won at a Tumut Picnic race meeting, with owner Les Cottam in the saddle. The pair's success continued, and as a five year old Moab won 11 of his 15 starts.

In February 1969 the Corryong Courier published the following article chronicling Moab's rapid rise to fame (image 3).

In 1970 Moab was voted Champion Sprinter for both the Southern District Racing Association (SDRA) and North East District Racing Association (NEDRA).

Just before the Towong Centenary Gold Cup meeting of 1971 the Border Morning Mail published an article, *Rarin' To Go*, with accompanying picture (image 4).

Moab looks a picture and the Border District's top sprinter will try to make the Towong Cup look easy tomorrow. Moab was bred by Towong Turf Club committeeman Steve Paton.

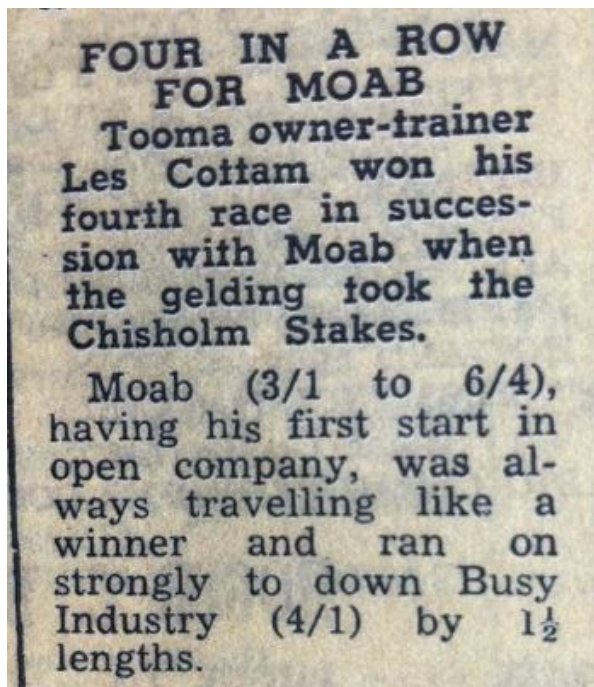


Image 3. 'Four in a row for Moab'.
Source: Corryong Courier 5 February 1969

Border Morning Mail 19 February 1971



Image 4. 'Rarin' to Go'. Source: Border Morning Mail 19 February 1971

Moab's win in the 1971 Towong Cup proved how versatile he was, for the race was run over 10 furlongs plus 30 yards (approximately 2000m), and some tipsters had predicted that, as a sprinter, he would not last the distance.

Moab was seven years old when he claimed victory in the Centenary Gold Cup, defeating a full field of horses which included metropolitan hopefuls.

Dixie Coutts

With assistance from Les Cottam and the Paton family

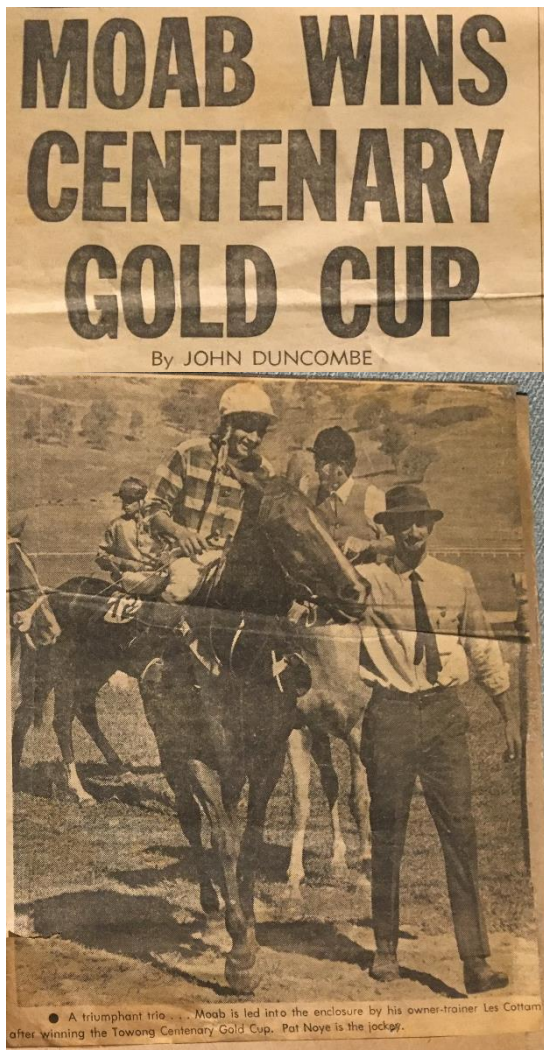


Image 5. (above left) Les leads Moab, 'Moab Wins Centenary Gold Cup'. Border Morning Mail 22 February 1971

Image 6. (above top right) Victory for Moab. Source: Private collection of Les Cottam

Image 7. (above bottom right) The Toast of Towong, Moab wins the Centenary Gold Cup at Towong 1971. Source: Corryong Courier 22 February 1971