

IT'S DEXTER

BY THE LENGTH OF THE STRAIGHT

By **MICHAEL COURT**

IF the Kiwis are on top of the world given recent successes by Adore Me and their cricket team, than Dexter Dunn must be King of the world.

He is, after all, a world champion after his success in last week's World Driving Championship which concluded at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday.

Not content with holding an unbeatable lead going into the final race on Inter Dominion Grand Final day, Dunn came out and blew them off the park, again, in the final race with an outstanding win with Global View from the Darren Hancock barn.

That gave Dunn the title of 2015 World Driving Champion

after competing in 20 heats against nine of the best harness racing drivers from all around the world.

From the 20 heats held at Tabcorp Park Menangle, Newcastle, Wagga, Bathurst and Penrith, Dunn won five, had six seconds and three thirds.

He won the series with a record 200 points, an amount that has never been reached in a World Driving Championship before.

Dunn, who is just 25, joins fellow Kiwi horsemen Kevin Holmes, Robert Cameron, Maurice McKendry, Tony Herlihy and Mark Jones as winners of this series since it was first contested in 1970.

"It is only just sinking in because this is the sort of thing you don't expect to happen so

early in your career," Dunn said.

Dunn returned home on Monday night and will now settle back into the swing of things in New Zealand as he looks to wind up what will be his eighth consecutive national drivers' premiership.

With 125 New Zealand wins next to his name, Dunn has a 60 win buffer on his nearest rival, Blair Orange.

The final race wasn't exactly expected to go Dunn's way, but what the heck – let's finish it in style, must have been what this wonder reinsman figures.

France's Tony Le Beller drove the favourite Our Hi Jinx and was expected to be involved in the battle for the early lead but with a lot of speed coming from horses drawn wider on the track he got shuffled back early.

Heza Thrill driven by Spain's Guillermo Adrover worked from the widest draw to find the front and led turning for home

but after a strong tempo it was a horse racing just off the pace that proved too strong.

Dunn brought Global View with a well-timed run to break the track record for 2400m, recording a mile rate of 1:53.4.

Second was Heza Thrill and Guillermo Adrover, El Rama finished third with Norway's Vidar Hop while Im Blue Double Dee was fourth with Pierre Vercrusse in the sulky.

It was a remarkable performance by Dunn made even more remarkable when you consider he was in ninth position after five heats before a strong performance at Wagga Wagga on the Tuesday night saw him soar up the leaderboard.

... And there he stayed – showing the poise and magic that has already made him a revered figure in his homeland.

He'll now head for Canada in two years' time to defend his title.



Dexter Dunn was crowned the champion after a hectic week.

The full results of the 2015 World Driving Championships were:

1. Dexter Dunn (NZL) 200
2. Tony Le Beller (FRA) 146
3. Tim Tetrick (USA) 142
4. Mika Forss (FIN) 139
5. Jody Jamieson (CAN) 132
6. Knud Mönster (DEN) 122
7. Chris Alford (AUS) 119
8. Pierre Vercrusse (FRA) 119
9. Guillermo Adrover (ESP) 101
10. Vidar Hop (NOR) 100.

DEXTER'S A FREAK ... and Dad agrees.

By **MICHAEL COURT**

HE was just 10-years-old and weighed about 35 kilos wringing wet.

And all a little guy named Dexter Dunn wanted to do was help his father Robert out working a couple of horses on the beach.

"No, I don't think so son, I was hoping your mother might come and help me out," said Robert, best known as the trainer driver of former champion pacer Master Musician.

At 5am the next day though, there was Dexter all suited up in his overalls and ready to go.

So Dad took him to work two horses on the beach – two horses Robert now admits were not that easy to handle.

So when they returned, Mum was keen to know how the young bloke fared.

Robert summed it up quickly – he's a freak," he said.

Now we all know the truth – Dexter Dunn is a freak – and the equal of any reinsman in the world when it comes to driving horses.

And he showed the world his class when he easily

won the World Driving Championship, sealing the series with a trademark win at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday after superlative performances at Newcastle, Wagga, Bathurst and Penrith during a hectic week for the best reinsmen in the world.

Star trainer Cran Dalgety agreed.

"He's in the right place at the right time, he's definitely got some talent," says Cran.

"I'm thrilled with the way he handles my horses."

There were no prouder parents on track than Robert and Rose when Dexter accepted his trophy and thanked everyone for their support over the week.

"Special mention to Mum who came along and has led the cheer squad for me all week," grinned Dexter.

"They've been great and these drivers are the greatest bunch of fellows you could ever meet.

"We've had an absolute ball this week and although I've won the series, I couldn't be happier with making so many friends along the way while we've been travelling."



Dexter Dunn brings Global View with a perfectly timed run to win the final heat of the World Driving Championship at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday.



What a line-up ... the best reinsmen in the world have been busy boys for the past week, driving winners all over New South Wales.