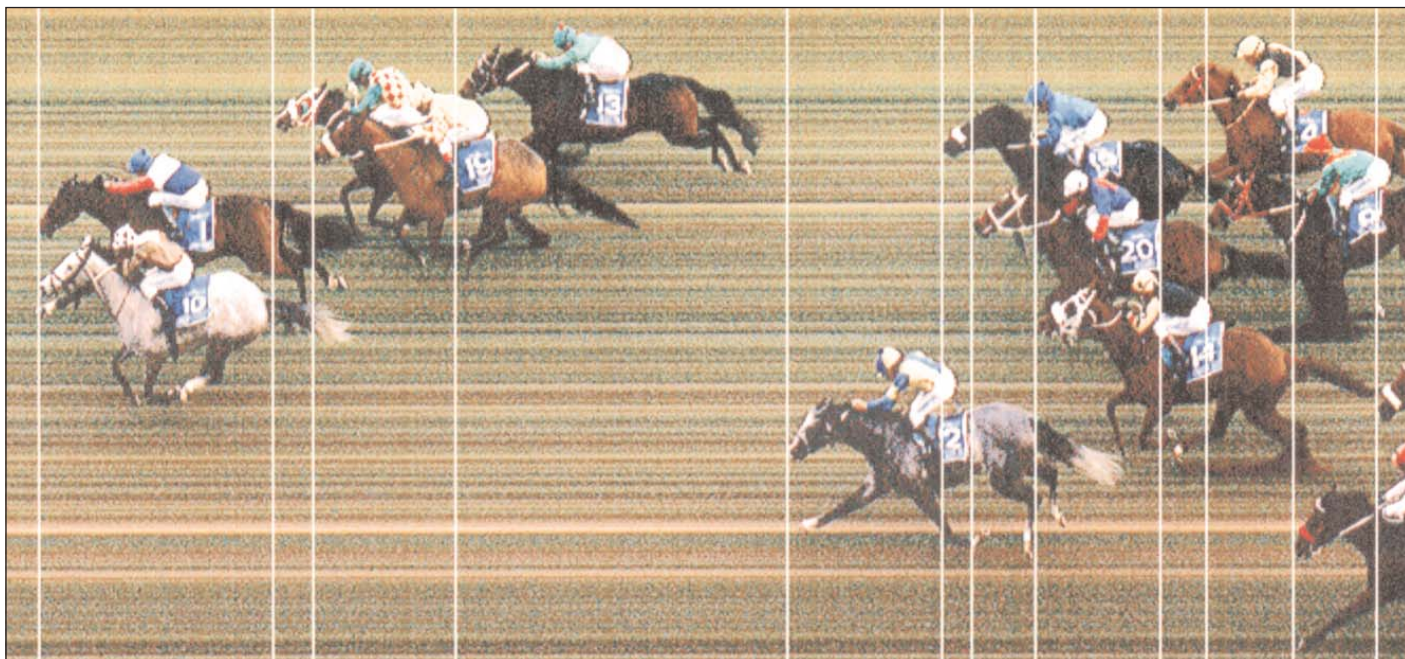


A MEMORABLE SEASON COMES TO AN END



The 2007/2008 horseracing season will go down as a memorable one for many reasons.

As the horse floats rolled in from the Cape and Gauteng at the beginning of the KZN Champions Season in April, the two horses on everybody's lips were the Cape pair, Pocket Power and Dancer's Daughter, winners of four Grade I races between them during the Cape Sizzling Summer Season.

It was quite amazing, therefore, that they should end up dead-heating in South Africa's premier race, the Vodacom Durban July.

The eagerly awaited re-match in the Champions Cup over 1800m at Clairwood didn't work out as well, Dancer's Daughter breaking slowly and trapped wide, although both horses were flying at the finish, Pocket Power a close second and Dancer's Daughter less than a length behind him in fourth.

Mike Bass said magnanimously, "Pocket Power couldn't quite get there conceding 3,5kg but Buy And Sell beat him in last year's July and in the Gold Challenge, so he deserved a big race win."

Trainer of Buy And Sell, Sean Tarry, described it as "a good end to a disappointing season", an indication of the high standards he sets himself as he did finish fifth in the Trainer's Championships and provided another major seasonal talking point with his three-year-old filly, Wendywood, who won the Woolavington in her second career start and found herself in the July less than two months after her debut.

Pocket Power not only sealed his place among the greats of the South African turf, emulating Politician in twice doing the

Queens Plate and J&B Met double and winning the July with topweight, but he helped Jet Master become the first South African-bred horse in history to win the Champion Sire's title twice. He was also the first progeny of Jet Master to win the July, and yet another of his progeny, J J The Jet Plane, ended the season as one of South Africa's best ever sprinters. The Lucky Houdalakis-trained three-year-old gelding won three Grade I sprints in succession.

Dancer's Daughter ended the season with four Grade I wins, adding not only the July but the Gold Challenge to her Cape Grade I tally, and her trainer Justin Snaith emerged as a force to be reckoned with, finishing third on the trainer's log and bagging seven Grade I victories.

The season maintained interest for fans right up until the last minor meeting at the Vaal on July 31, for with just three races left Charles Laird was less than R5,000 ahead of Mike de Kock in the race for the Trainer's Championship.

De Kock won the next two races to clinch the title.

De Kock had said days before, "If it happens, it happens, but, no matter what, it has been an incredible season."

Indeed de Kock's extraordinary international achievements reached new heights this year and he was joined in that regard by Herman Brown.

In Dubai de Kock's Sun Classique, formerly trained by Bass, won the US\$5million Dubai Sheema Classic, his Honour Devil won the \$US2million UAE Derby and his Asiatic Boy finished second in the US\$6million Dubai World Cup while Brown's Jay Peg, formerly trained by Basil Marcus, won the \$US5 million Dubai Duty Free.

Jay Peg, a South African-bred by Camden Park, went on to win the Grade I S\$3 million Singapore Airlines Cup, while de Kock's Archipenko, 40% of whom is owned by Ashley and Rose Parker's Port Elizabeth Ascot Stud, won the Grade I HK\$14million QEII Cup in Hong Kong followed by the Group II Summer Mile at Ascot, the latter race giving de Kock his first win in the U.K.

Kevin Shea partnered Sun Classique and Archipenko while Jay Peg was ridden by Anton Marcus and is part-owned by a third brother Selwyn Marcus.

Basil Marcus sealed a fine year for the family by winning the first Grade I of the new season on Saturday, the Canon Gold Cup, with Desert Links.

Mark Khan became champion jockey for the fifth time with 192 wins but the rider of the season locally was undoubtedly Andrew Fortune.

Fortune finally sort help in early 2007 in his battle with drug addiction and was given another chance by the National Horseracing Authority, returning to the saddle in February this year, exactly half-way through the season.

Incredibly, especially considering he is a heavy-weight jockey, he finished the season in seventh place on the jockey's log, although he was comfortably ahead on strike rate on nearly 27%, his 102 wins coming in just 383 rides.

The two dead-heating July jockeys, Kevin Shea and Bernard Fayd'herbe, almost a generation apart, also enjoyed the best seasons of their careers.

Shea rode Dancer's Daughter at short notice and his feat of settling the notoriously headstrong grey filly and winning the race made it probably the ride of the season.

A week later his win at Ascot on Archipenko surely earned him a place among the world's top riders, for winning on the familiar flat tracks of Dubai and Hong Kong is one thing, but the undulating nature and variable going of the U.K tracks make riding over there a different ball game altogether.

On a sadder note all of jockeys Jeff Lloyd, Glynn Schofield and Sean Cormack emigrated to Australia, but the former pair took the country by storm and had established their names in the space of a few months, while the latter has made a good start.

The Breeders' Championships was once again dominated by Mick and Cheryl Goss's Summerhill Stud, ending more than R5million clear.

The top owners will officially be Markus and Ingrid Jooste but it would be hard to top the year of Marsh Shirliff, part-owner of both Jay Peg and Pocket Power among others.

The Kwazulu Natal yards enjoyed a good season, the highlights being Mike Miller and Duncan Howells' Grade I victories in July with Outcome and Gypsy's Warning respectively.

Port Elizabeth also continued their upward trend, their highlight being "Oom Nic" Claasen's grade I win in KZN with juvenile filly Gee Pee S.

In Gauteng, apart from Charles Laird and Lucky Houdalakis, Mike Azzie, Robbie Sage and Lance Wiid enjoyed memorable seasons, all winning two Grade I races apiece.



ARCHIPENKO BREAKS UK DUCK



ARCHIPENKO gave Mike de Kock his first win in the U.K when putting up a superb display under Kevin Shea to win the Group II Summer Mile Stakes at Ascot recently, despite carrying a 5lb Group I penalty.

Dr. Ashley Parker of Ascot Stud, who are part-owners of the four-year-old Kingmambo colt together with Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, said that he had never expected to win a Group race at Ascot in his life and described the excitement as Kevin Shea drove the blinkered bay up the straight, holding on to his lead in courageous fashion.

De Kock had wanted to choose a quiet Group II race for Archipenko to win and thought this was the right one.

However, as Parker said, "With the likes of Ramonti, Cesare and Pressing in the field it turned into probably the best Group II race of the year. But Mike, Trevor Brown and Kevin were quietly confident going into the race."

The race attracted three Group I winners and the other four were all Group II, Group III or Listed winners

Archipenko drifted out to the generous odds of 11-1, as support came for all the English horses, but, after sitting handy throughout, Kevin Shea drove him to the front at the 400m mark and never looked like being caught by the hard-chasing pack.

"Kevin said afterwards that he thought he might have gone too early but the horse just kept on rolling," said Parker. "He was not at 100% so this was a very exciting win."

Parker and the connections, together with supporters that included Paul Lafferty, had been provided a box by the sponsors, Plymouth Gin, from which to spend the day and were invited to the sponsors' box after the horse had been led in behind the stands.

The outsider in the seven horse field, 50-1 shot Barshiba,

finished second.

Ramonti, who has won five Group I races and has an official rating of 123 was beaten into fifth, over five lengths back. The other Group I winner, Pressing, finished fourth behind Group II winner Cesare.

De Kock said that he was "not at all surprised by the win, as he has been very well", adding that although "he is a 9 and 10 furlong horse, he has a lot of speed too and is very gutsy."

He said that he was not one to "feel pressure" and said that to win his first race in the U.K. had just been "a great experience, one of those highs in racing, especially after the bad news about Sun Classique".

Sun Classique, rated the best filly in the world, strained a tendon in work and will be out of racing indefinitely.

De Kock had said at the time that he "was beyond devastated", but said that he was "quietly confident that she would come back."

She is undergoing treatment at a tendon rehabilitation centre.

De Kock said that Archipenko would still probably head for Chicago to run in the Arlington Million on August 9, although he still had the option of the Group I Sussex Stakes over a mile on July 30.

Prospects for Archipenko in the Arlington Million took an upturn on Saturday when the world's highest rated horse, Curlin, originally earmarked for the Million, was defeated over 2200m on his turf debut.

Archipenko had been put through his paces for Saturday's race partly by Gavin Howes, who had actually been thrown off by the horse recently, breaking his collar-bone. He has recovered and is now back workriding.

De Kock's Arlington Million bid to be live on Tellytrack

SOUTH AFRICAN punters will be able to watch Mike de Kock's runner Archipenko take on some of the best horses in the world when he contests \$2 million Arlington Million at Arlington Park in Chicago on Saturday night.

In fact Tellytrack will be covering all three Grade 1 races on the evening, starting with the \$400 000 Secretariat Stakes (10.12pm) the \$750 000 Beverly D (10.50pm) and the Arlington Million (11.44pm)

Ten of the world's best turf horses – including three star-quality European invaders – were nominated last Friday for the Arlington Million. The 2000m turf test – centrepiece event of the Chicago Thoroughbred racing season – will be run along with the Grade I Beverly D for fillies and mares and the Grade I Secretariat Stakes for three-year-olds of international calibre on grass to make up Arlington Park's one-day International Festival of Racing.

Impressive among the European invaders is Derrick Smith, John Magnier and Michael Tabor's Mount Nelson, who won the Group I Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown in his last start on 5 July. The British-bred horse captured France's Group I Criterium International at Saint-Cloud two years ago. Johnny Murtagh, aboard for the Coral-Eclipse tally, is slated for the saddle once again.

Kamel Chehboub's Spirit One, an improving French-bred, French-campaigned runner who raced extremely well against Duke of Marmalade, Europe's top 2000m runner, is an improving colt who will be ridden by Ioritz Mendizabal in the Million.

Midnight Cry Stable's Einstein, winner of the Grade I Woodford

Reserve Turf Classic at Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby Day, heads the list of American-based Million contestants, with Arlington's 1996 jockey champion Robby Albarado up.

Fab Oak Stable, Robert Hurley and John Goldthorpe's Stream Cat, hero of the Grade 3 Arlington Handicap, and Chrysalis Stables' Silverfoot, who took down the Grade 3 Stars and Stripes at Arlington on 4 July, are also strong Arlington Million threats based in the Midwest. Stream Cat has Julien Leparoux – the nation's Eclipse Award-winning apprentice jockey two years ago – named aboard for the Million, while Silverfoot gets the riding services of Arlington's defending champion jockey Rene Douglas.

T N T Stud's Out Of Control, second by a nose in Belmont's Grade 1 Manhattan Handicap on Belmont Stakes Day, and Gary Tanaka's Sudan, fourth in Belmont's Grade 1 Man O' War on 12 July, have John Velazquez and Garrett Gomez respectively named to ride. Velazquez was the Eclipse Award-winning jockey three years ago and Gomez captured the Award last year. Both Out Of Control and Sudan are conditioned by Hall of Fame trainer Bobby Frankel, who will be trying to saddle his third Arlington Million winner next weekend.

Also entered for the Arlington Million is Flying Zee Stable's Cosmonaut, who was entered without a rider named, but is also entered in Sunday's Grade 2 Fourstardave Handicap at Saratoga.



Night Racing goes ahead!

THE Board of Phumelela Gaming and Leisure has given the green light for night racing to go ahead in Gauteng after reservations were expressed several weeks ago. The management of Phumelela has been instructed to implement all plans to get night racing on track as soon as possible. RA Chairman Larry Wainstein (left) said on Tellytrack that the authorities would be aiming at staging a few races under lights on Summer Cup Day, when an international jockeys' challenge will be taking place at Turffontein.



Lloyd Lands \$357,000 Coup for Mystery Punter



SOUTH Africa's Jeff Lloyd made an overseas punter \$357,000 richer when booting home 14-1 outsider Art Success in the \$160,000 Grafton Cup (2350m) in a country NSW meeting. It was Lloyd's first visit to the northern NSW track and a record crowd of 14,500 saw him fly home on the John Collins-trained top weight, who beat 4-1 favourite Belmonte by two lengths.

"He needed a good track and a rider who would make sure he didn't get cramped in the running," said Collins. "I thought Jeff suited the horse and I was able to book him. The plan certainly worked."

The win bloodied the nose of 26-year-old bookie Tom Waterhouse, son of leading trainer Gai. He had to settle a whopping winning payout of \$357,000 to a punter he described as an

"overseas stockbroker".

Investing in Jeff Lloyd is probably the smartest thing this speculator has done all year!

"Art Success winning was my worst result by far," said Waterhouse, a fourth generation bookie who turns over \$100 million per year. Ouch!

It was Art Success's first "real" win since his triumph in the 2006 Brisbane Cup. He finished first in a subsequent outing, but was found to have a steroid-related drug in his system.

Lloyd placed Art Success midfield on the fence. He then got away from the rail 1000m out and got his mount into rhythm for a strong late push.

Lloyd asked Art Success for a strong effort 300m out and the pair exploded in the stretch to win with ease.

"They told me he doesn't like being crowded or bumped," said Lloyd. "I gave him room and it worked out beautifully."

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RUSSIAN SAGE TO JOIN DE KOCK FOR DUBAI 2009

MIKE Kock will train Russian Sage in the United Arab Emirates next season with the \$5-million Dubai Duty Free as his main object at the Dubai Winter Carnival, it was announced recently.

Prior to an unplaced finish last time out in the Grade 1 Vodacom Durban July, when he set the pace in a field of 20 after breaking from post position 19, the son of Leading Sire Jallad had 5 wins and 2 seconds in his previous 7 starts this season, numbering Grade 1 wins in the Cape of Good Hope Derby and the Daily News 2000, the latter under new ownership.

Barry Irwin, whose Team Valor International formed a partnership to buy Russian Sage that includes National Horse Racing Authority Chairman Larry Nestadt and Hollywood motion picture

producer Gary Barber, said "We discussed the options going forward and decided to patch things up with Mike, because he has always done the best job for us and we want the best for this colt." Irwin and de Kock had a blow up the year before last, in which they parted ways, but Russian Sage has served to bring them together again.

"Mike and the colt's trainer Justin Snaith have a good relationship, so we expect the transition to be a smooth one," Irwin said. "I know that our team is really excited to be back with Mike and we really look forward to racing this colt not only in Dubai, but internationally as well."

"Team Valor tried to buy both Jay Peg and Sun Classique last year and failed in both instances.

They went on to Dubai to win the \$5 million Sheema Classic and Dubai Duty Free, which served only to further whet our appetite for more international glory.

"We hope that we are giving Mike a tool that he can employ to make an impression in the Duty Free."

At the 2008 DWC, de Kock dominated on World Cup night, winning the Sheema Classic, running 1-2 in the U. A. E. Derby and running second in the World Cup.

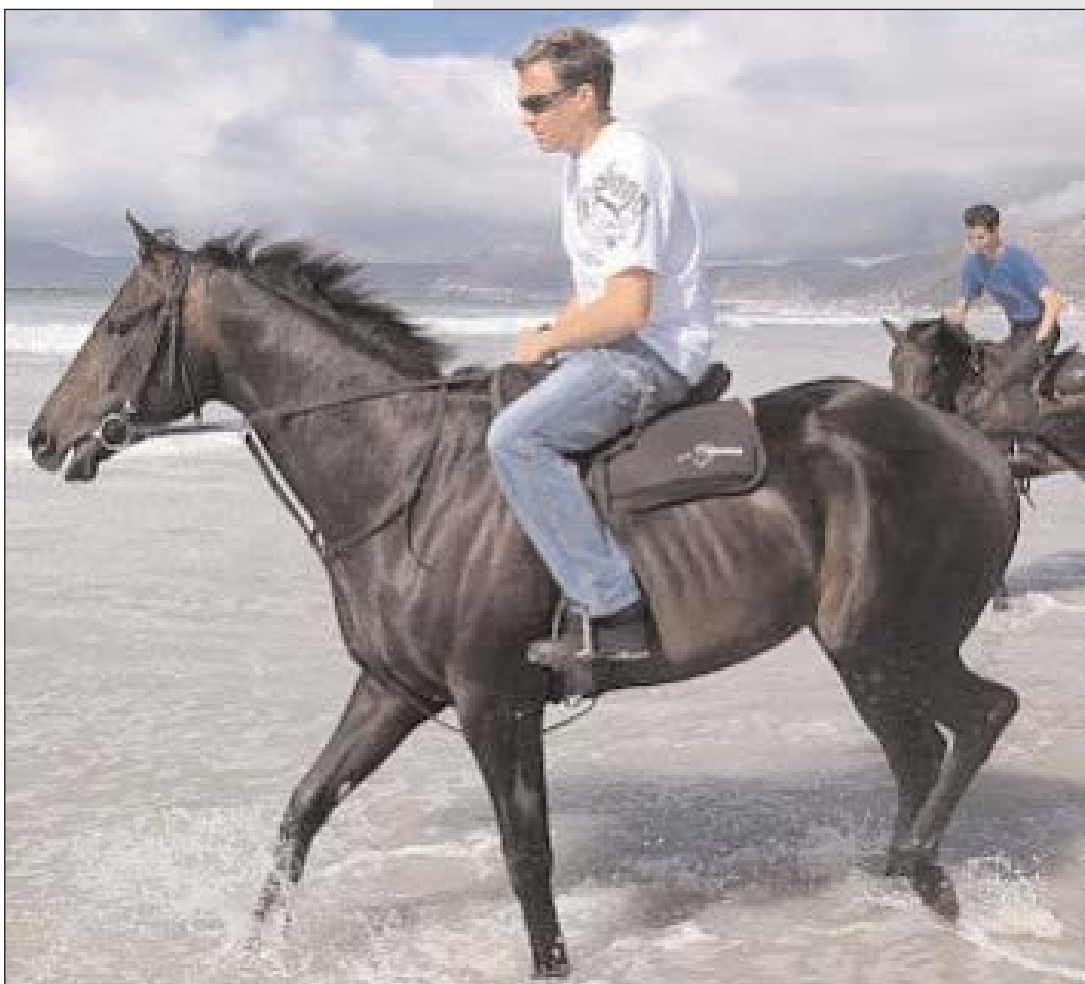
Mike de Kock has won two Dubai Duty Free races, one with Ipi Tombe, whom he trained to win the race in the colors of Team Valor in 2003. He might have won the same race a couple of seasons ago with Irridescence, but

she impaled herself on the paddock fence and had to be scratched. In her next race, she won the Group 1 Audemars Piguet Queen Elizabeth II Cup in Hong Kong to underline how well meant she had been at Nad al Sheba.

Grade 1 winners trained by Mike de Kock for Team Valor include the aforementioned Irridescence and Ipi Tombe, as well as South African-based Little Miss Magic and Champion juvenile Carnadore.

De Kock, speaking from the UK, said: "Russian Sage is an exciting prospect that will strengthen our already formidable Dubai team for 2009."

Justin Snaith commented: "We have decided to keep



Dancer's Daughter in South Africa for now so it doesn't make sense for me to go to Dubai with a single runner, although Russian Sage is a fantastic horse. I have things going the way I want to here in South Africa and can plan a Dubai campaign at a later stage, perhaps when my father returns from his stint in Saudi Arabia."

www.mikedekockracing.com

SCHOFIELD SCORES MIRACLE WIN ON 25-1 OUTSIDER

Glyn Schofield turned a certain loser into a winner with a miraculous piece of horsemanship in the day's first event, a juvenile handicap over 1400m.

Hot favourite was Gai Waterhouse-trained gelding Academy Magic, who started at 7-10 and went straight to the lead from a wide draw. Schofield sat back on filly Lavished (25-1), prepared by trainer Bede Murray.

The favourite kicked at the top of the straight but raced greenly and looked vulnerable when Lavished made up ground rapidly in the straight. But 200m out near-disaster struck! Lavished, a skittish young thing, suddenly ducked left sharply. Quicker than an angel threads a needle, Schofield switched whip hands and got Lavished back on an even keel with a few smacks down her left flank. She responded gamely and powered towards the grass-green favourite.

Lavished now shifted in instead of out as she and the "toppie" eyeballed each other all the way to the wire. Schofield got the

better of Nash Rawiller in the final strides, with Lavished scoring a sensational short-head victory.

"That was a gun ride!" enthused TVN Racing's Richard Callander.

"She's a timid, nervous filly who does a lot wrong," said the winning jockey. "She's got fight, though, and all credit to her for this gutsy win."

David Payne had three expensive and beautifully bred first-timers in the field - Naval Escort (200-1), Buccaneers Prize (60-1) and Top Gallant (80-1). None are bred to be precocious types and they'll benefit from this pipe-opener in which they finished 8th, 10th and 12th respectively.



The stable did well in the third race, a three-year-old handicap over 1400m. Stable entrant Seraphino (25-1) ran on well from last to finish a 2 ¼-length second to Bart Cummings-trained gelding Xavier (11-2).

The South African duo was desperately unlucky in the 4th and 7th races.

Champion apprentice elect Peter Wells was aboard 20-1 chance Fashion Street, who raced very keenly in a 1400m handicap for fillies. The "appie" let her have her way, and she built up a strong lead. Unfortunately for her chasers, she wouldn't lie down in the straight.

Lloyd had Payne's Sequinella (10-1) well off the pace, but she started eating up the ground once the field had cornered.

Sequinella really motored over the final furlong while Fashion Street hacked away up front. Wells, who claims 1.5kg, had judged things perfectly, though, and his mount fell across the line to beat Sequinella by a rapidly diminishing half-neck.

The runner-up covered the last 400m in 22.97 sec, considerably faster than the winner's 23.91 sec. One more bound and the South Africans would have done it!

The 7th was even closer. Trainer John O'Shea's 11-4 favourite At My Command raced outside the leader while Lloyd sat mid-field on Payne's 13-2 chance Festus Hagen. The latter came with a determined run along the paint and wouldn't stop whacking away at the favourite's lead in the latter stages.

Even with 50m to run, At My Command looked unbeatable, but

Lloyd kept the faith and Festus Hagen lunged furiously on the line. The commentator wasn't sure who'd won, but the photo gave the verdict to At My Command by a short half-head.

These near-misses didn't discourage punters from backing Payne's three-year-old gelding Kettledrum to 7-2 favourite for the day's final event, an 1800m handicap.

Lloyd's mount couldn't find extra in the straight, but was impeded late and should have finished closer than his 1 ¼-length fourth behind Bart Cummings' 7-2 shot King's First (Peter Robl), a useful four-year-old.

No luck, then, for Payne and Jeffrey-Come-Lately, but the yard is clearly on form and - as a true believer - I'll keep following the team.

Lloyd, incidentally, was given a roasting this week by veteran scribe Ken Callander in The Daily Telegraph.

"Jeff Lloyd, the South African jockey, has been in town for five minutes and now he is telling us how we should run our racing," wrote Callander.

"Jeff, for your benefit, we tried the cutaway rail in Sydney many years ago and it was a total and complete disaster that took the pace out of our races.

"Mate, if you want to ride like they do in South Africa, go and ride in South Africa."

On Saturday, Sean Cormack - another SA rider - finished third on a 10-1 shot in Brisbane.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Plan To Scrap Training At Flemington & Caulfield

A "radical plan to establish 3 super training centres - akin to Newmarket in England & Chantilly in France - supported by about 20 minor regional training outposts would force more than 100 trainers out of Melbourne's Flemington & Caulfield metropolitan tracks," reported anzbloodstocknews.com. "Health & safety concerns in residential areas, increasing costs to the clubs & the opportunity to sell off lucrative land in affluent suburbs are key factors." Caulfield's 40 trainers "occupy land along Kambrook, Booran & Neerim roads that has been valued at \$32 million", while the Melbourne Racing Club "outlays \$1 million annually to subsidise training facilities at Caulfield". Flemington "has spent \$20 million over the past decade on facilities & is out of pocket \$1.6 million annually". The proposed 3 super training centres "are expected to be at Cranbourne, outside Seymour & between Werribee-Geelong". With council & Victorian State Government help, the racing industry "hopes to build villages with the training tracks supported by housing, shops & transport to support a thriving community; each centre "would cater for more than 800 horses". Caulfield & Flemington trainers "would relocate to one of the centres or to private country properties". The industry "wants all clubs to share the financial burden of training, instead of only those with training facilities being out of pocket". (Jul 22)

UK Govt Prepares To Auction Tote

In the UK overnight, the government announced "it is preparing to put the Tote up for sale on the open market this autumn," reported racingpost.co.uk. The Department for Culture Media & Sport confirmed it has "already taken steps towards an auction, even though the price tag is likely to be far less than the £400 million (A\$840m) it could once have fetched". However Sports Minister Gerry Sutcliffe stressed in a written statement to parliament that no final decision had been made on whether a sale should go ahead, adding the government needed to be certain it was right to offload Tote "in the light of current market conditions". Reports suggest investment bank Goldman Sachs (which was hired in April to advise on the sale) "has valued the 529 betting shops & pools business at between £260-290 million (A\$546-609m) amid the current economic climate". The price "is a fraction of the £400m (A\$840m) bid submitted last year by a consortium of racetrack owners, which was turned down by the government because it was backed heavily by private equity"; the consortium's 2nd attempt at securing the Tote without support from private equity "was then rejected for being too low, at a reported £320 million (A\$672m)". In the latest statement, the government said that "while it was working towards an autumn sale, it would review the plans after completing further 'detailed work' on the company over the summer". (Jul 22)



LEADING BREEDER DIES

South African horseracing has bid farewell to yet another leading light of the twentieth century with the passing of multiple award winning breeder Wilfred Koster on Sunday, August 3 after a long and courageous battle against cancer.

Koster was born in 1941 and went to Western Province Preparatory School before joining his brothers at Bishops College - he was an inaugural member of the new boarding facility "White House". He graduated in 1959 and joined his father on the farm. He served an apprenticeship in UK at Cheveley Park Stud, Wetherby's and at the British Bloodstock Agency. He married Shirley in 1968 and they produced 3 lovely daughters, Tanya, Nikki and Tessa and in 1981 he said he felt blessed when son Vaughan was born to succeed him. His late father Ralph, also a doyen of the industry, died in 1982. Wilfred and Shirley moved to Ceres in 1980 where they established what was to become one of South Africa's foremost thoroughbred horse breeding operations - Cheveley Stud. The reputation and success of their operation was such that a visit to Cheveley was an important port of call for racing dignitaries from across the globe.

Leading Bloodstock Consultant John Freeman said that the loss was a great blow to the industry: "He was first and foremost a gentleman, a loyal friend, a fantastic husband, a superb father, uncle and brother and a great contributor to his industry - internationally respected as a breeder of numerous champions over four decades. He served on the Council of the Thoroughbred Breeders Association for many years and retired from that body as its Chairman in 1990. So many of his admirers have attested that:- "he was the best horseman in South Africa", "simply the best", "without doubt the most astute horseman one could wish to meet". He was a mentor to many in racing and breeding and always willing to share his vast wisdom and experience. ""

Freeman went on to point out that Koster produced the best progeny of the stallions that he chose to support and that he set trends in hugely successful mating patterns that others followed. "He bred the best Bush Telegraph - London News who became South Africa's first internationally significant champion, the best Golden Thatch - Goldmark, the best National Assembly - National Emblem, Rabiya (a top son of Jallad), one of Badger Land's best - Badger's Drift, the best Divine King - Divine Act. Many of them went on to become successful sires. Last year, with Vaughan at the helm of Cheveley, The Equus Award panel acknowledged their National Champion Two Year old Colt Argonaut. It breally is impossible to list all of the top horses that Wilfred and Shirley have been associated with in their forty years together. Grade One winners include; Angelina (the only Grade1 win-



ning daughter of Rakeen), Vesta (the best Best By Test), Finest View and the best Qui Danzig filly, Gr1 winner Legally Blonde. In his early years with his father, who started breeding racehorses in 1930, they bred many more champions including Mazarin, Jerez, Majorca, Met winner Polar Bear and "the champion no-one wanted to buy" Savanarola. The name Koster was always at the top of the breeders list or thereabouts for over 35 years. Koster Bros, as they were in those days, celebrated being South Africa's foremost breeders no less than 11 times," said Freeman.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, August 12 at 3.30pm in The Bishops Chapel in Rondebosch. His wife Shirley said it was intended to be a joyous celebration of the life of a wonderful man.