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Proudly South African

On top of Asiatic Boy's impressive win, trainer Mike De Kock also had a 2nd with Oracle West (beaten by Vengeance of Rain – Delpech/Ferraris) a third with Mullins Bay

as well as a notable effort by Kapil. All in all one could feel proudly South African. Well done to Mike, Herman, David, Kevin, Anthony, and Weichong.

Vengeance Of Rain returned to Sha Tin to terrific acclaim after his sensational performance against the finest horses in the world on the richest occasion in racing bar none.

Vengeance Of Rain won the US\$5 million Dubai Sheema Classic (Gr.1), the most valuable turf race over 2400m on the planet.

Wins in the Audemars Piguet QEII Cup and Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Cup gave Vengeance Of Rain the World Racing Championship in 2005.

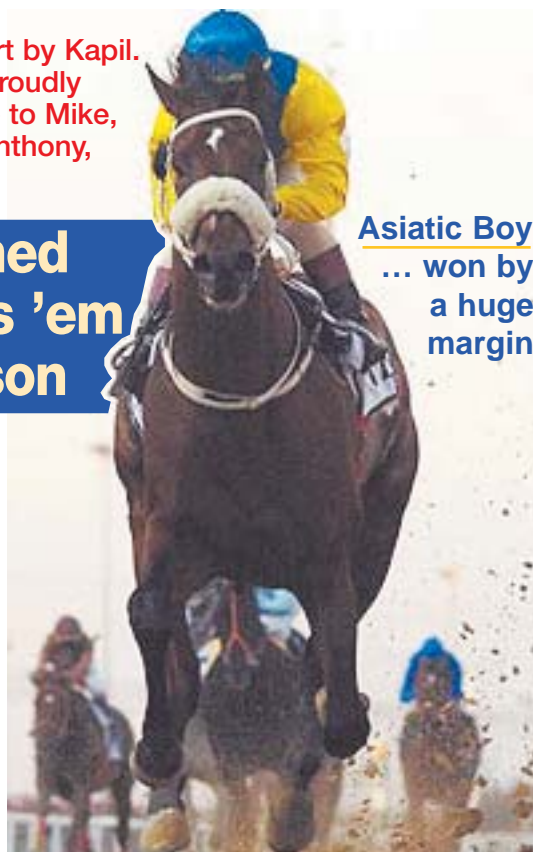
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De Kock-trained Asiatic Boy gives 'em a galloping lesson

The \$2-million United Arab Emirates Derby sponsored by S&M al Naboodah Group (UAE-G2) fell to a horse from the yard of trainer Mike de Kock for the third time, but the decisive 9 1/2-length winning margin by Argentine-bred favourite Asiatic Boy was a bit of a shock.

Asiatic Boy turned in the most memorable performance at the

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Asiatic Boy
... won by a huge margin

Big effort from World Cup night runners

The Atkinson and Walichnowski-owned Linngari led the way for the Herman Brown-trained horses at the Dubai World Cup meet held at Nad Al Sheba in Dubai on Saturday night.

The son of Indian Ridge, who was drawn widest of all at 16, flew home down the Nad Al Sheba stretch only to be denied by half a length by crack Japanese winner, Admire Moon.

Jockey Kevin Shea was hard at work in the race to get over from the worst of draws and settled Linngari in three wide around horses in mid-division. Linngari found an excellent burst past the 400m pole, when Shea asked him to respond. By this time, the winner

had found a good lead and he was well on his way to victory. Linngari fought on until the line with Admire Moon tiring in the last 100m of the race. Had the race been over 9 furlongs instead of 1777m, Linngari was a sure winner.

"This is the best horse I've ridden next to Ipi Tombe," Shea said in a post race interview with *VIP Thoroughbreds*.

"It was a game run and we are thrilled with his effort. Such a pity he couldn't get up on the line. From that draw it was a great performance," said an elated

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Vengeance of Rain

FROM PAGE 1

Shortly afterwards, however, he was spelled in New Zealand for six months to recover his form. The Sheema Classic was the second Gr.1 victory since his return – his sixth in total.

“It really is a marvellous achievement to take on the world’s best away from home with just two horses and come home with a winner and a third,” Mr Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, said in tribute.

“Vengeance Of Rain has defeated a top class field in Dubai that included a Breeders’ Cup Turf winner in Red Rocks, and Sir Percy, an Epsom Derby champion – he truly is the ‘Comeback King’.”

Reallocated an international rating of 122 to match his previous high, Vengeance Of Rain’s US\$3 million first prize for victory in Dubai has lifted him to the top of the all-time local stakes earners on HK\$70.3 million, eclipsing the great Silent Witness’s record of HK\$62.49 million.

Vengeance Of Rain’s Dubai windfall also places him within the top ten of the all-time money-spinners. The six-year-old gelding stands in ninth place behind the leading trio of T M Opera O, Deep Impact, and Makybe Diva – but ahead of former world champions Fantastic Light, Dubai Millennium, and Daylami.

Owner Raymond Gianco Chow Hon Man said: “We went to Dubai believing he could run well. It’s all down to the trainer, really. David [Ferraris] was very convincing in getting us to travel. He has been proven right with this horse so many times now and has given us six Gr.1 wins and the best times of our lives.”

Ferraris added Vengeance Of Rain would next strive for a second victory in the Audemars Piguet QEII Cup (Gr.1-



Vengeance of Rain ... won the US\$5 million Dubai Sheema Classic (Gr.1), the most valuable turf race over 2400m on the planet.

Boy, a real galloping lesson!

ASIATIC BOY from Page 1

Dubai World Cup meeting.

Kept three wide by leader Rallying Cry and Eu Tambem, Asiatic Boy was forced to go the widest route around Nad al Sheba racecourse in the 1 800-metre (8.95-furlong) race. But as soon as he could break loose, Asiatic Boy did so while urged on under a strong hand ride by jockey Weichong Marwing.

A few swats in the lane and the bay Not for Sale colt took off amid loud cheers for Asiatic Boy’s owner, Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al Maktoum.

“He’s an absolute superstar,” de Kock said. “This is a [Dubai] World Cup (UAE-G1) horse next year. I will most certainly take him abroad, and he is likely for the Breeders’ Cup (World Championships).”

Marwing called the Southern Hemisphere three-year-old, who is ineligible for the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1), the best horse he has ever ridden. Nevertheless, being forced out to the middle of the track around the turn was not what he wanted.

“It was concerning to me, because you want everything to work well for you in such a big race,” Marwing said. “But he

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Big effort from night runners

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trainer Herman Brown.

Meanwhile in an earlier race, the top notch Sushisan could not have found more trouble in the Dubai Sheema Classic, a race in which he finished 5th beaten just three lengths.

"The German horse took about five of us out just after the start, it was terrible. I had to check. Then we encountered problems all the way from there. I tell

you what, he is a man of a horse to have taken all that," said big race rider Shea.

Sushisan found himself at the middle to back end of the field in the race but found a nice "kick" in the final 300m. "We were unlucky in the running here. It was still a great run with all the problems," mentioned his trainer Herman Brown.

Brown said the Sushisan will accompany Linngari to Hong Kong and he will compete in the QE II Cup at Sha Tin.



Unlucky loser

Unlucky loser Linngari finished second in the Dubai Duty Free.

ASIATIC BOY from Page 2

was so much the best."

Asiatic Boy improved his record to five wins from seven starts as he completed the distance in 1:48.82 on a fast main track.

Jack Junior, trained by Brian Meehan and a possible for the American classics, finished second, 2 3/4 lengths ahead of third-place finisher Adil.

"For a horse that is still a maiden, mine has run a great race," said jockey Richard Hills, who rode Jack Junior in the UAE Derby. "He is a horse with a future but the winner today was a very good horse."

Bred in Argentina by Haras

Arroyo de Luna, Asiatic Boy is out of the winning Polish Navy mare SS Asiatic.

Consensus

The consensus among Melvin Day, of the Emirates Racing Authority, Singapore's Mark Webbey and former BHB head of handicapping Nigel Gray, who now works for the Hong Kong Jockey Club, is that Asiatic Boy bettered Discreet Cat's 2006 Derby victory by 1lb.

"The Derby is difficult to rate accurately, because you have to decide how you call an impressive victory. Even a rating of 119

might not do justice to Saturday's run, and I'm sure he will go on progressing.

"But you have to look at the previous form of the horses he beat, which might not be outstanding.

"Jack Junior, the runner-up, hasn't won a race, yet, and hadn't run on dirt before, and it's very difficult to be certain about the Saudi Arabian form of the third horse, Adil.

"Nevertheless, you couldn't fail to be impressed by Asiatic Boy, and I'm happy to put him in front of the rating we gave Discreet Cat after last year's Derby."

Vengeance of Rain: sensational

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2000m) on April 29, and he also pencilled in a longer-term objective: the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot on July 28.

Confident

"We were very confident beforehand and I think that was his best ever performance. The overhead camera angle of the finish was great – you could see that once Anthony [Delpech, jockey] pushed the button on him, he settled the race there and then," Ferraris recalled.

"Knowing now that we can travel him and beat the best, we would like to try it again and the King George could enter calculations as long as he is giving us the same feeling."

Best moment

Delpech described the Dubai victory as "the best moment in my career".

"That was the best he's ever been. He travelled beautifully and towed me into the race and I couldn't believe the way he quickened. That 2400-metre distance on a 600-metre long home stretch suited him perfectly.

"If he goes to England for the King George, it would also suit him. In Europe, they like to kick on a bit further out than we do here and the stiffer track like Ascot would also be in his favour."

PDI Horse Ownership



The new members of the Formula 1 PDI horse ownership syndicate went on a visit to the stables to see the two horses, the filly Nantucket (at the Basil Marcus stable) and Jack is Back at the Mike Bass yard.

For many of them it was a first experience of visiting a stable. Both horses are showing potential in training and so everyone is looking forward to exciting times ahead. The first run is likely to be in September which will surely test the nerves of all involved. We wish the new owners every success with their charges.

Conservation Area



Since 1 February, Maya Stauch has been working at Kenilworth conservation area. Her job includes fauna and flora census, clearing of alien plants, setting up friends groups.

She recently did a "test burn" of an area at Kenilworth and depending on the recovery of the area and particular vegetation, may burn again next year. Two particular Erica plants which are extinct in the wild have been reintroduced to Kenilworth. These plants are not found anywhere else

Kenilworth is a very important area from a conservation point of view, and Maya is helping to drive the process of putting Kenilworth on the conservation map. Very soon Kenilworth will be listed on all Cape Nature maps as a conservation site, which will attract worldwide interest in the area because of preserved flora.





ON THE TROT!

El Gloriosa (Aus), the first Standardbred trotting horse to set foot in South Africa, was paraded and worked in harness to race-bike on the hallowed home straight of Greyville Racecourse in mid-March – a first ever.

The primary reason for the exercise was for Gold Circle track specialist Ralph Smout to evaluate the effects, if any, of sulky and trotter on turf.

In New Zealand and Holland 16% of all harness racing is conducted on turf.

Driven at speed by Garth Puller, veteran winner of three Durban Julys and three Cape Metropolitan Handicaps, and under the gaze of amazed onlookers, Gold Circle staff and Department of Sport and

Recreation Officials, “Glory” raised a cheer as well as eyebrows as he slid effortlessly past the winning post at close to 60kph.

Said Garth Puller after pulling up: “Driving a trotter at full tilt is certainly an exhilarating experience. This little horse can certainly move.”

The 15.1hh bay gelding was recently imported from Australia and is now happily resident at the verdant South African Jockeys Academy at Summerveld.

He started 17 times for 2 wins and 5 places, all at the Western Australian Perth Raceway.

The first live harness races are scheduled to commence in KZN in the third quarter of this year.

Swedish Foundation raises R1m for trotting in SA

THE SYDAFRIKA Insamlingen foundation, recently established in Sweden to raise funds for sulkies, harness equipment, and trotting horses to send to South Africa, was expected to top R1m in value over the Easter weekend.

A racing suit donated by former top driver Thomas Nilsson was auctioned for R30 000 and sulkies in batches of up to 5 at a time are being received at each of

Sweden’s 32 harness racing tracks for onward shipment to South Africa later this month.

“The concept of bringing harness racing to South Africa for the first time has definitely caught the imagination of the Swedish racing public, and we have been overwhelmed by their strong levels of interest and support,” says local HRSA chairperson Dean Latimer.

“One trainer alone last week

donated 5 brand new Custom race-bikes, each costing approximately R20 000.”

A farriery firm has also donated 300 sets of steel racing-plates.

It is anticipated that the first container load of equipment will be arriving in Durban in mid-May, and that the first live trotting races will be held in the third quarter of this year.



Pictured with Gold Circle CEO Michel Nairac (right) are the winners of the Gold Circle Golf Day (from left) Tom de Charmoy, Lance Whiteford, Andy Williams, and Mark Cousins.

GOLF DAY

Gold Circle recently hosted a golf day in aid of the KZN Horse Care Unit. With the US Masters teeing off later that evening it was a showcase for the racing pundits to put their skills to the test. A field of 22 teams (4 ball alliance) took to the tees, greens, bush, water, rough and roads of Royal Durban Golf Club.

It was a great day and with near perfect conditions the competition was going to be tough. Although teeing off near the back end of the field the new-look Club Tab team (Mark Cousins, Lance Whiteford, Tommy de Charmoy and Andy Williams) set about demolishing the course and made amends for their dismal last place in 2006.

Hot on their heels were the team from ABSA but they found it one bridge too far. After starting the day as hot favourites, the KZN Bookmakers team failed to fire and finished out of the placings.

A special mention must go to the sponsors without whom this would not have been possible:

- ABSA Corporate
- Avis Fleet Services
- Destinations Unlimited
- Fidelity Cash Management Services
- First National Bank Corporate
- KZN Bookmakers Society
- McCarthy Toyota Durban – Kingsmead
- SAP Africa
- Van der Vyver Racing

A day well organised by Brian Hodge and his team who raised R11 640 for the KZN Horse Care Unit.

Kenilworth to host MyCokeFest

From the beating of hooves to the banging of drums. Kenilworth racecourse is to be transformed on May 1 into a Big Concert venue.

There won't be a parade of horses, but rather a parade of bands as five local and five international bands strut their stuff. The commentator's voice will be replaced by the lead singers who will whip the massive crowds expected into a Rock Frenzy.

The line-up is headed by none other than Guns and Roses with a strong supporting cast of Evanescence, Hoobastank, 3 Doors Down, Stained, Springbok Nude Girls, The Parlotones, The Dirty Skirts, Love Jones, Taxi Violence.

MyCokeFest, sponsored by CocaCola, has been advertised in the media and 5FM. It is the first event of its kind at Kenilworth. This is an exciting opportunity for Gold Circle with massive exposure in the media. Just the thought of people hearing about Kenilworth racecourse and coming to the racecourse for the first time will put us on the map!

The exposure for Kenilworth, getting the name out there, along with the association of younger people with Kenilworth, provides a new audience and hopefully once they've had a fantastic time, they'll be back!

This event has the full support of the ward councillors and the City of Cape Town. It is a landmark event and hopefully the first of many!

The gates open at 10am on Tuesday May 1, a public holiday, and the music kicks off at midday and ends at midnight!

This is sure to be a bumper experience for everyone who attends the concert.

NATIONAL LOGS AT 2 APRIL 2007

TRAINERS

	Name	Runs	Wins	Win %	2nd	3rd	Other	Place %	Win Stakes	Total Stakes
1	GV Woodruff	428	85	19.86	57	51	65	60.28	5 218 510	7 302 840
2	MW Bass	446	59	13.23	52	71	76	57.85	4 925 800	6 508 090
3	MF de Kock	460	90	19.57	49	60	79	60.43	3 986 900	6 366 980
4	CS Laird	349	63	18.05	50	42	69	64.18	2 916 230	5 385 328
5	J Ramsden	557	84	15.08	77	61	90	56.01	3 086 955	4 886 895
6	D Zaki	455	59	12.97	53	42	89	53.41	2 767 300	4 362 000
7	SG Tarry	387	51	13.18	48	43	69	54.52	2 705 260	4 291 155
8	GD Smith	850	103	12.12	84	98	164	52.82	2 824 430	4 253 763
9	GS Kotzen	488	66	13.52	53	55	85	53.07	2 724 535	4 082 830
10	Mrs Al Harris	282	57	20.21	48	35	134	97.16	2 658 769	3 974 254

BREEDERS

	Name	Runs	Wins	Win %	2nd	3rd	Other	Place %	Win Stakes	Total Stakes
1	Summerhill Stud	1110	116	10.45	107	115	223	50.54	4 585 020	7 872 132
2	Highlands Farms Stud	458	79	17.25	53	39	93	57.64	4 406 495	5 819 440
3	High Season Stud	865	71	8.21	76	89	142	43.70	3 385 840	4 970 820
4	D Cohen and Sons	628	67	10.67	77	74	124	54.46	2 373 010	4 477 893
5	Lammerskraal Stud	324	42	12.96	51	35	62	58.64	1 627 656	3 513 293
6	Maine Chance Farms	471	53	11.25	45	51	87	50.11	1 936 090	3 114 845
7	Mrs BD Oppenheimer	249	50	20.08	33	24	53	64.26	2 053 445	2 904 430
8	Scott Bros	561	53	9.45	52	62	111	49.55	1 669 205	2 821 980
9	Ascot Stud	373	41	10.99	48	32	58	47.99	1 663 340	2 727 552
10	The Alchemy	297	38	12.79	26	31	74	56.90	1 943 020	2 627 226

JOCKEYS										
	Name	Rides	Wins	Win %	2nd	3rd	Other	Place %	Win Stakes	Total Stakes
1	MT Khan	702	144	20.51	102	94	149	69.66	6 927 345	9 580 615
2	PJ Strydom	468	116	24.79	75	55	84	70.51	5 653 325	7 669 225
3	A Marcus	383	96	25.07	69	50	68	73.89	4 674 890	7 010 258
4	JB Lloyd	487	95	19.51	93	71	79	69.40	7 611 080	9 692 634
5	GJ Schlechter	867	94	10.84	87	94	157	49.83	2 697 675	4 281 400
6	GD Schofield	476	88	18.49	70	56	83	62.40	3 576 005	5 319 260
7	KW Neisius	409	82	20.05	60	59	85	69.93	3 110 910	4 382 540
8	GM Hatt	464	79	17.03	80	43	93	63.58	2 794 145	4 303 245
9	GM Cheyne	625	75	12.00	86	81	138	60.80	2 339 115	4 187 720
10	SN Cormack	455	65	14.29	48	57	82	55.38	2 453 035	3 784 685

APPRENTICE JOCKEYS										
	Name	Rides	Wins	Win %	2nd	3rd	Other	Place %	Win Stakes	Total Stakes
1	GJ Lerena	568	54	9.51	83	72	121	58.10	2 376 040	4 374 429
2	KS Latham	436	43	9.86	47	39	79	47.71	1 812 037	2 939 258
3	R Danielson	591	41	6.94	48	56	119	44.67	1 472 985	2 724 937
4	B Lerena	369	31	8.40	19	40	73	44.17	1 204 099	1 937 492
5	L Africa	421	23	5.46	25	41	65	36.58	950 025	1 724 005
6	T Pretorius	345	22	6.38	20	34	71	42.61	737 245	1 221 226
7	EW Webber	221	22	9.95	22	14	44	46.15	598 389	943 741
8	Miss J Goslett	233	20	8.58	23	18	38	42.49	686 500	1 169 110
9	KH Zechner	198	20	10.10	10	5	39	37.37	781 935	1 021 975
10	Miss VG Minott	113	20	17.70	11	14	20	57.52	698 180	946 705