



# Newsletter

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8th FEBRUARY 2007 – PAGE 1 OF 14 PAGES

## Fantastic 5 for Mike on Met Day

Mike Bass and Jeff Lloyd teamed up in sublime style on a sweltering hot J&B Met day to bring home five winners including the Grade 1 J&B Metropolitan and the grade 1 Fancourt Majorca Stakes.

It was a dream day for the stable and one which I think could not possibly happen again. The celebrations continued deep into the night and when all was said and done Mike had some time to reflect on the day and compiled this article for his website [www.mikebassracing.com](http://www.mikebassracing.com)

## Reflections and thoughts on a great J&B Met Day

Early morning at stables, start of a long day. Walking around the stables looking at the horses being washed and cleaned, reflecting on their perspective preps and hoping that the job has been properly done because nothing more can be done now. Extremely satisfied with all the runners for the day except for the promising two-year-old Blue Tiger who was a little shin sore, I decided to scratch him.

FANTASTIC 5 TO PAGE 2



PLUS

## 6 of the best for Guv



SEE PAGE 2

A rare achievement for any owner in the King of Sports is to have two Grade 1 winners in a single race meeting. Congratulations to Marsh Shirtliff and partners on this fantastic achievement of winning the J&B Met with Pocket Power and the Investec Cape Derby with Jay Peg.

## FANTASTIC 5 FROM PAGE 1

Before the first race I had a discussion with Jeff about the conditions of the track as I had just walked the new course. After Penfold Park won the first race (dead heat) from a bad draw, even though he raced wide all the way, was confident that the other horses would do well as most were drawn wide. Proves the point that the new course with its long run is very important for the sake of fairness for all the runners in a race.

Sporteska, a little disappointing but the 1200m turned out to be too short for her and she needs 1600m. Secure ran a cracker to win the 4th and then Sun Classique ran an awesome race to win the group 1 Fancourt Majorca. I am very pleased for Lionel. Things were looking good. Could our luck hold for the big one?

All three of our runners saddled up well and looked very relaxed and fit. African Appeal especially looked the best he has ever been and went to post really well.

The delay at the start was worrying especially for Hilgrove as he tends to get a bit uptight. The race itself panned out perfectly for our tactics and all three were well placed. What a dream result as Pocket Power raced over the line in first, African Appeal 3rd and Hilgrove who seemed a little pegged at the weights finished in 5th. All in all a very satisfying result and a job well done by the team. Pocket Power was awesome and never looked in trouble at any stage.

Wonder Gold winning the 9th was an absolute bonus finishing off a fantastic day for the stable. Dunford ran well despite carrying top weight and Lord Of The Mark in the last was perhaps raced a little too handy in a fast run race and weakened late.

Jeff Lloyd, with his confident and professional attitude, was a huge asset to our team and it has been an absolute pleasure working with a jockey of his calibre, which is world class in my opinion, for the summer season.

The day ended with a press conference and then the celebrations started with a lot of very satisfied owners up in the suite. Everybody was especially happy for Marsh who really deserves all the success he got during the season.

Lastly a big thank you to my whole team who have worked so hard to make the season such a success and culminating in such a memorable Met day 2007.

Pocket Power was a bit sore on his foot on Sunday as usual but nothing major wrong. Both will have a good rest now, probably go to the farm for a month and then prepare for the next season. A discussion will be made as to Sun Classique's future which may include racing in Europe.

## 6 of the best for Guv

It was a dream day for the "Guv", the charismatic Jeffrey Lloyd, who booted home six winners including all three Grade 1 races on J&B Met Day at Kenilworth in Cape Town, recording a feature treble that will rate high among the finest performances in

South African racing history.

It was also a momentous occasion for trainers Mike Bass and Basil Marcus who were responsible for the preparation of the three feature winners – Pocket Power in the R2-million J&B Met and Sun Classique in the R400 000 Fancourt Majorca Stakes for Mike Bass, and the gutsy Jay Peg for Basil Marcus in the R500 000 Investec Cape Derby.

For Mike Bass it was a magnificent feat, winning five races on the day including two of the features.

But for Lloyd the winning streak on the day began in the very first race where he rode Penfold Park for Mike Bass to dead heat with Joey Ramsden's Key Castle. He then

drove the Goldkeeper filly Secure to victory in the Schweppes Novice Plate to give punters a good start to the Pick 6. He rode another superb race on Mike Bass's Goldkeeper gelding Wonder Gold later in the day to close the Pick 6 in race nine.

J&B Met day was a resounding success in every way with a crowd of 48 000 basking in a beautiful sunny Cape day and backing their fancies with enthusiasm.

Gold Circle CEO Michel Nairac said after the meeting that the company was "delighted" with the success of the meeting, where Jeff Lloyd recorded his fifth win in the Cape's flagship event and his second in succession.

Lloyd said he had ridden multiple winners at other meetings but "the six today were undoubtedly the very best."

The race of the day was the J&B Met itself



SIX OF THE BEST TO PAGE 3

## SIX OF THE BEST from Page 2

where Pocket Power was strongly supported to start as the 16-10 favourite in spite of his wide draw. Elusive Fort and Eyeofthetiger featured in the betting but the punting public had eyes only for the bay Jet Master gelding who looked superb in the parade ring and went to post looking a winner.

When the pens burst open the 14 remaining runners (Badgers Gift scratched at the start) hurled themselves into action to the roar of the huge crowd with Pinero sprinting away to set a strong pace ahead of Lion Tamer and Elusive Fort. Eyeofthetiger and Pocket Power settled back in the field waiting for the home straight to make their moves.

Pinero continued to run strongly in the straight but when Lloyd set Pocket Power alight the four-year-old thundered through to take command and win like a champion.

Lion Tamer, who galloped strongly all the way, put up a great fight but had no answer to Pocket Power who strode past to win by a length.

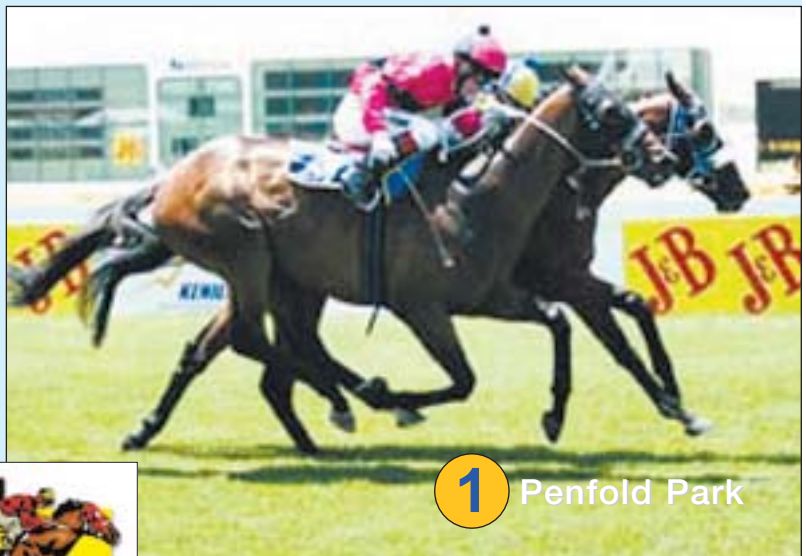
The minor placings went to African Appeal, another Bass runner, and Sean Tarry's Successful Bidder, both outsiders in the race.

The Fancourt Majorca Stakes got the feature programme underway and the flying finish by Bass's Australian import, Sun Classique, gave notice that Lloyd and Bass were blistering hot and greater things were likely to follow.

Lloyd once again had to bring the filly from off the pace to beat Geoff Woodruff's Casey Tibbs filly Festive Occasion who flew up late from the back of the field with Glen Kotzen's Veiled Essence while Mike Azzie's Stratos ran another gallant race for fourth.

The Investec Cape Derby saw Basil Marcus's Camden Park colt, Jay Peg, bidding for his fourth feature race victory and his second Grade 1 event in a row having won the Bloodstock SA Cape Guineas early in January. The opposition was strong but Basil was extremely confident and with the piping hot Jeff Lloyd in the irons everything was looking good.

A good pace was set from the start but when they entered the final 400m Jay Peg looked set for a comfortable win. That was until Anton Marcus got to work on Charles Laird's Rambo Dancer gelding Pick Six who began to close with every stride.



1 Penfold Park



2 Secure

*As a flamboyant participant or a reserved onlooker, it's virtually impossible not to enjoy the unique atmosphere of The Met.*

They went to the line as one horse with the judge giving the race to Jay Peg. Ironically, it was Anton Marcus who steered Jay Peg to victory in the Guineas and it was he who just failed to deny the Basil Marcus runner victory.

The atmosphere down in Cape Town in the week building up to the Met was described as electric with office, pub, and restaurant talk dominated by one question: "Who will win the Met?"

The big race on January 27 had attracted one of the best fields

seen in recent years, with every horse looking to have a chance, and was to be supported by two Grade I features that were also packed with top quality thoroughbreds, the Investec Cape Derby and the Fancourt Majorca Stakes.

The crowds flocked to the course on the day after waking up to a typically glorious Cape summer's day. The fashion theme this year was black, white, and bling, and under blue skies in a gentle breeze, conditions were perfect for the well dressed to be seen at their best, while the thoroughbreds were turned out in superb condition and fulfilled the bling requirement with their shiny coats.

With the gate reaching over 50 000, top Cape jockey Karl Neisius, celebrating his 50th birthday, commented light-heartedly after winning the third race on Los Kop Doll: "It's great to have so many people at my party."

Indeed anybody watching the excellent TV presentation put on by SABC would have been envious of those who were there. As a flamboyant participant or a reserved onlooker, it's virtually impossible not to enjoy the unique atmosphere of The Met.

Neisius was hoping for the ideal birthday present, his first win in the



**3** Sun Classique

*The crowds flocked to the course on the day after waking up to a typically glorious Cape summer's day.*



**4** Pocket Power

**TO PAGE 5**

**FROM PAGE 4**

Met, and not many would have begrudged him it.

However a bigger Met question revolved around one of his senior weighing room contemporaries, the top KZN jockey, Jeff Lloyd.

Could he bag a Grade I treble?

When he produced the brilliant filly, Sun Classique, with a flying finish from the back to win the Majorca Stakes the odds on this happening shortened considerably, as Lloyd's Met ride, the favourite Pocket Power, also likes to come from behind.

In fact most pundits viewed the many talked-about horses in the build up to the Met as merely an attempt to deny the obvious; no matter how good the field was, as it undoubtedly was, on handicap terms Pocket Power had to win The Met.

So to the start and this, unfortunately, was marred by the second sad incident of the day.

Badger's Gift, the only mare in the race, burst through the stalls, dislodging and injuring jockey MJ Byleveld. Byleveld was concussed in the accident and was taken away in an ambulance while the race

**Moving best amongst those late arrivals was Pocket Power himself under the brilliant Lloyd, who in the context of big-match-temperament gives the word 'cool' a new meaning.**



**WELL DONE!**

Well done to Ashraf Mohamed, Vidrik Thurling, and all the management and staff of Gold Circle Western Cape for a truly spectacular J&B Met.

The success of the day was in no small part due to the momentous efforts of all concerned.

had to be delayed by at least 25 minutes as a replacement ambulance was waited for.

Badger's Gift had to be scratched and for owner

Juan van Heerden and trainer Glen Kotzen this would have come as a serious blow.

Earlier in the day, the Mike de Kock stable jockey, Weichong Marwing, was kicked by a horse and had

to be stood down for the day. His Met ride on the only three-year-old contestant, Emperor Napoleon, was taken up by apprentice Keegan Latham.

When they finally got away it was the only KZN horse in the race, Pinero, who immediately took up the running from another strong front-runner Lion Tamer.

The pace was as expected, a good one. The top Gauteng hope, the Geoff Woodruff-trained Elusive Fort, lay in third, ahead of Majestic Sun, Likeithot, Successful Bidder and



**5** Jay Peg

**TO PAGE 6**

**FROM PAGE 5**

Pocket Power, who was about ten lengths off the lead.

When they swung for home Pinero shot away from the field under the masterful Pierre Strydom. Trainer Paul Lafferty, his trademark one-liners far from the surface as the nerves took their toll, made his oft-quoted statement about this being the dream industry when interviewed in the parade ring beforehand. And for a long while in the straight the popular former footballer's dream was within grasping distance as Pinero left the field in his wake and was galloping like a winner down the inside.

Strydom said afterwards he thought at one stage he might win it. Later on this changed to hopes of a place, as the horses began to arrive on his outside. He ultimately ran unplaced but what a terrific thrill he gave his connections.

Moving best amongst those late arrivals was Pocket Power himself under the brilliant Lloyd, who in the context of big-match-temperament gives the word "cool" a new meaning.

Lloyd said the delay had probably served in their favour as the horse often has one foot in the air after being loaded but on this occasion had time to relax before the off.

He said the horse felt a bit sluggish at the top of the straight, so he decided to follow Likeithot until he found his stride. This he did and the son of boom sire, Jet Master, then began eating up the ground.

He lugged in after taking the lead but Lloyd straightened him and won by one length from a brave Lion Tamer, with outsiders African Appeal, also trained by Bass, and Successful Bidder next best.

Lloyd commented afterwards that Pocket Power is a very big and strong horse so is very difficult to pass.

Relieved trainer Mike Bass explained that Pocket Power lugged in probably as he was feeling a bothersome foot.



**6 Wonder Gold**



**Jeffrey Lloyd, the Guv**

Bass had to build into his preparation special consideration for this foot, ensuring that it didn't take a lot of pounding.

This makes the fact that Pocket Power arrived at the big race with a handy weight and in perfect condition even a better training feat.

It was all down to the Derby now.

Could Lloyd do it on the Basil Marcus-trained Jay Peg? Could Marsh Shirtliff, who owns both Pocket Power and Jay Peg, do the double?

Could Marcus, who won the Met twice as a jockey, make it a Cape Summer Grade I double with Jay Peg, the horse having won the Guineas with brother Anton aboard?

Ironically the main danger was Anton's mount, Pick Six, the highly impressive Charles Laird-trained winner of his last three.

Half-an-hour later the question was answered and the script couldn't have been written better.

Lloyd drove Jay Peg to the line with Pick Six bearing down on him and the pair flashed past the post together. A stride or two before the line Lloyd thought he would be beaten and Basil Marcus thought they were beaten.

But the photo-finish showed otherwise. The dream treble and dream doubles were complete.

## DAVID THISELTON

**N**ewmarket racecourse in Alberton hosted its last night race meeting on January 30.

It was a poignant moment when the contestants for the last race cantered down to the start and a good time to reminisce about some of the fine moments in the 69-year history of the track.

Night racing began there on September 28, 1996, with a horse trained by Patrick Shaw and ridden by Sherman Brown winning the first ever event.

The celebratory feature race that night was the R250 000 Grade II Premiers Handicap run over 1 600m and was contested by some top horses, including former July winner Teal, but the 17-10 favourite Irish Ranger, trained by Mike de Kock, was booted home by Greg Cheyne to win from Tourisimo.

Newmarket was opened as a midweek racing club in 1938 shortly after the Millside racecourse in Krugersdorp had been closed.

Len Oates sold a large tract of land that he owned in Alberton to the Owners' and Trainers' Association, upon which the new course was built. The land around it became known as Newmarket Small Holdings and was allocated for the sole use of training race-horses.

The great Home Guard, who still holds the record of being unbeaten for his first 11 races, was trained there by the late Henry Eatwell.

Although the racing at Newmarket was generally of a bread and butter nature there have been some fine achievements posted at the course, among the biggest of them being landed by the Ormonde Ferraris-trained Fine Regent and the James Maree-trained Hidden Fortune, who both won the Stayers Triple Crown, a series of three races ranging from 2000-2850m, in 1992 and 1993

# End of an era

respectively.

Fine Regent was owned by the former Newmarket steward Paddy Hinton, and upon his death last year, his wife, Moira, listed the Triple Crown as his best moment in horseracing alongside his win in the July in 1997 with Super Quality.

## **Distressing day**

Ferraris regards the closure of Newmarket as a very distressing day. He was one of the people against the Owners' and Trainers' losing control of the course in the 1980s.

However, the relinquishment couldn't be avoided due to some new legislation brought in by the provincial authorities and one of the clubs that held racing at Newmarket at the time, the Rand Turf Club, took over control.

One of the popular features of the Newmarket track was the 1 300m dog-leg course. This was originally a 1 400m course but the

ground tended to be a bit boggy at the start so the distance was reduced.

The Java Handicap, named after one of Len Oates's best horses, was run over this distance and was used by many Summer Cup contestants as a preparation race.

In the 1990s corporatisation was seen as a necessary step to take racing forward and to counter competition from other legalised forms of gambling like casinos and the lottery. The racing clubs were united into one under Phumelela Gaming and Leisure Ltd (PGL) which came into being in 1999 and later became a listed company.

After Phumelela decided to sell Gosforth Park and Newmarket racecourses, an AGM vote saw Gosforth Park as the first to go in February 2002.

The Newmarket training facilities were closed in 2002 with the state-of-the-art Randjesfontein having become the major training centre in Gauteng.

Shareholders were advised on 1 June 2005 that Phumelela had sold Newmarket racecourse to a developer for R20 million and had entered into a Use Agreement in terms of which Phumelela would be entitled to use the racing facilities for a period of seven years.

Shareholders were later advised, however, that it had been agreed to terminate the Use Agreement in return for a payment of R40m.

The floodlights will be dismantled and moved to Turffontein where night-racing is expected to commence in October, although the moving of some of the scheduled afternoon Turffontein meetings to Newmarket in February through to April is being looked into.

So to the last ever race under lights at Newmarket on Tuesday night and Sherman Brown made a bold bid for a rare double, his mount Fernandas First being touched off by Lady Major, who was ridden by Anton Marcus and is trained by Charles Laird.

## Tracy jumps at a new chance

**T**racy Woolard, a former junior South African show-jumping champion, has taken out her own training licence after a long and exciting career as an assistant trainer that started in her home town of Port Elizabeth and ended at her current abode, Summerveld, but saw her in the exotic places of Cape Town, Singapore, and Malaysia in between.

At present she shares a yard with Craig Eudey at Summerveld and forms a team with her partner, Patrick Wynne, a jockey who was associated with great horses like Destroyer and Model Man and who rode Jamaican Rhumba to victory in the 1982 July and North Island to victory in the 1983 Sun International, today known as The Summer Cup.

The couple have 11 horses, seven of whom came over with them from Malaysia, and four beautifully bred three-year-olds purchased at South African sales. They have also been looking after one of Gauteng trainer Dean Maroun's horses, Dora's Case, which Woolard saddled to win at Clairwood a couple of weeks back.

Wynne still has his jockey's licence but is unable to race or even ride work at present as he has a broken arm after a fall at Summerveld.

Woolard's career in showjumping started as a very young schoolgirl in Port Elizabeth and her involvement with the horseracing fraternity began when, as a riding instructor, she taught the children of stewards and trainers and also rode their horses in shows.

She began riding a bit of work at the same time and became a regular work-rider when Vaughan Marshall opened a satellite yard in Port Elizabeth that was run by Joey Ramsden.

Later she became full-time assistant trainer to Dumas Coetzee, with whom she stayed for nearly eight years.

She then went down to Cape Town and worked for Glen Puller, where she met Wynne, and at the end of 1997, after a stint with Joey Ramsden, she joined Wynne in Singapore for what was to be a one-year



Tracy Woolard

working holiday with trainer Bernard Ang, Woolard as assistant trainer and Wynne as a track-rider.

However, the former Zimbabwean champion trainer, Mike Clements, arrived in 1998 and after their contract with Ang had ended they worked for Clements before extending their stay for a third year.

In this year Wynne attained a riding licence and was retained by Clements, for whom he rode ten winners, while Woolard moved to the yard of a new Zimbabwean arrival, Peter Muscutt.

It was also during this year that their relationship with one of the top owners in the Far East blossomed. He is Singapore-based businessman, P Sampoerna, who races under the name Agasam Racing.

He offered the couple a position in Malaysia which they took up. Sampoerna moved 29 of his horses from Singapore to Malaysia which Woolard and Wynne virtually trained themselves under a licence holder's name for the next four years.

The couple returned to South Africa two years ago with nine of Sampoerna's horses, two of

which have since retired. One of these horses is the magnificent looking R3 million Australian bred, Cool Azz, who has won two races in South Africa.

Before getting her licence in November last year, Woolard kept the Malaysian horses with Mike Miller.

The four three-year-olds she has fit into the category of horse she and Wynne like, ie, big, strapping, muscular types. They include a Captain AI, a Jallad, a Kahal, and a National Emblem for whom Sampoerna spent about R600 000 in total. They are particularly excited about these young charges which should all be coming out soon.

The couple regard Summerveld as one of the best training centres in the world and with their love of horses and wealth of experience in the game are definitely an outfit to look out for.

## Derby hero Barbaro put down



KENTUCKY Derby winner Barbaro was put down on January 29 after losing his long battle to regain fitness following the injuries he suffered in the Preakness Stakes.

The Michael Matz-trained colt was pulled up at Pimlico last May after breaking three bones around his ankle in the early stages of the extended nine-furlong contest, which was won by Sheikh Mohammed's Bernardini.

He underwent numerous operations over the

month and then everything went.

"Dean (Richardson, chief surgeon at the University of Pennsylvania's veterinary school) wanted to think about the options, you know you can always go on.

"But it's when to get out that's hard and it was agreed upon to let him go."

Barbaro, a son of Dynaformer, won four of his five career starts and over £1million in prize money, with his scintillating success at Churchill Downs seeing him slam Bluegrass Cat by six and a half lengths.

months that followed and hopes rose at various stages that he could be saved, although he met with a serious setback in July when he was diagnosed with laminitis, a potentially fatal hoof condition.

Co-owner Gretchen Jackson told [www.bloodhorse.com](http://www.bloodhorse.com): "He had been good up to the beginning of this

## Threewitt, 95, sends out his final starter before retirement

ARCADIA, Calif. (AP) – Noble Threewitt, North America's oldest thoroughbred trainer at 95, sent out the final starter of his 75-year career with Threeatonce finishing third at Santa Anita.

Threewitt and his wife of 73 years, Beryl, were in the paddock before the fifth race to oversee preparations for 18-1 shot Threeatonce, a four-year-old gelding who provided the last of Threewitt's more than 2 000 winners on April 22, 2006, at Santa Anita.

Threeatonce, with Martin Garcia aboard, was beaten by 2 1/4 lengths and paid \$5.60 to show.

The gelding, owned by Threewitt's grandson, was saddled by fellow trainer Bob Bean since Threewitt has been bothered by a right eye ailment that has limited his activities and hastened his retirement.

"I've been working on it for at least a year now," Threewitt said of the eye that has required several surgeries.

"I'm half-crazy fooling with it, but Beryl wants me to retire. I told her, 'What am I going to do?' but she's set on it."

In 1932, Threewitt obtained his trainer's licence at

Caliente racetrack in Tijuana, Mexico, at 21, becoming the youngest trainer in North America. He saddled his first winner, Crackerjack, at Caliente that year.

He was at Santa Anita when the track opened on Christmas Day 1934.

Threewitt's most notable horse was Correlation, who won both the Florida Derby and Wood Memorial as a three-year-old in 1954. Correlation was favoured in the 1954 Kentucky Derby, but finished sixth before finishing second in the Preakness.

### Unpaid president

Threewitt continues to serve as unpaid president of the California Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation, which aims to improve the quality of life for backstretch workers.

"Noble is a great horseman, but I'll remember him most for what he's done for the backside workers," Bean said.

Threewitt plans to make his retirement official on February 24, his 96th birthday, when Santa Anita will host a ceremony in the winner's circle.

## J&B Outlet Display Competition



THIS year's J&B Outlet Display Competition was well received.

Both supervisors and staff went to town dressing up their respective branches using decor provided as well as their own initiatives.

There were numerous displays that caught the attention of the panel of judges. However it was Pinetown TattTAB Branch (Mrs Vera Moolman – Supervisor) with

the colourful theme "J&B 30 Years of Magic" that impressed the most.

Congratulations to ALL who participated and well done to the winner. Blue Heights TAB came a close second, while Greyville Tatts filled the trifecta. We look forward to some more terrific displays as the Vodacom Durban July looms around the corner.

**J**ason Heylen, who in November became Gauteng's newest licensed trainer, made a cracking start to his career when saddling a winner with his second ever runner, Brite Blue.

## Heylen makes a cracking start to career as a trainer

This three-year-old filly by Casey's Tibbs was having only her second career start when winning at Newmarket last month and is one of thirty horses in Heylen's yard at Randjesfontein.

Heylen has lived all 33 years of his life in Turffontein and owes his love of horseracing to his father who is crazy about the game.

One of Heylen's earliest memories was of the great racehorse, Elevation, who won the Holiday Inns three times. His father idolized this brilliant chestnut and used to travel around the country to watch him.

Heylen matriculated in 1991 and then studied Equine Science. He did his practical with Patrick Shaw, for whom he worked for two-and-a-half years. He secured his stabling employer's licence and his assistant trainer's licence while with Shaw.

He still regards Shaw as having had the biggest influence on his training methods and during his time with him was associated with the 1995 July winner, Teal, as well as other good horses like Tickets and Tax and the Australian bred Race Master, who won the First National Bank 1600.

When Shaw left for Singapore, Heylen chose not to join him. Instead he took up a position with Dean Maroun's spare parts business but was still actively involved with horseracing as Maroun and his twin brothers, Grant and the late Guy, were prolific racehorse owners then. Heylen helped them with such things as pedigree and conformation analysis at the various sales they attended.

Then in 2005 Dean Maroun renewed his trainer's licence. Guy had all his horses with Turffontein trainer, Tony Nassif, at this stage and the three brothers

persuaded Heylen to leave the spares shop and help out with the training of the horses instead. Heylen consequently renewed his assistant's licence under Nassif.

When Guy passed away last year, Grant took over all of his horses. Heylen then took out his trainer's licence and the horses were moved from Turffontein to Heylen's new yard in Randjesfontein.

Among the thirty horses are 15 two-year-olds, who are only just beginning their training, while most of the others are three-year-olds.

Besides the promising Brite Blue, Heylen mentions two babies, one by Sportsworld and another by Model Man, as having good prospects.

He rates Randjesfontein as a superb training centre, with its grass track, three sand tracks, and American style barns. A downside, however, is the travelling he now has to do to and from his home in Turffontein.

Marco van Rensburg, Gavin Lerena, and Raymond Danielson are his chief helpers in morning work-riding whilst his grooms consist of some who came over from Nassif's yard and others who have done their training at Randjesfontein.

He uses Dr Coby Tadmor as a vet and Renier van Rooyen as a farrier.

Heylen would ideally like to have 50 horses, a figure he reckons will allow him to maintain an adequate degree of individual attention as well as having a nice flow of runners.

Apart from his obvious enthusiasm, Heylen's association with Shaw and family Maroun have given him a fine grounding, and it would be no surprise to see him build on his early success.

# A BIG OCCASION FOR MELLIFONT'S PROGENY

IMPORTED stallion Mellifont (USA), a son of Woodman, is proving to be versatile indeed. Mellifont, who stands at Graham Koster's Rosedean Stud near Beaufort West, at the weekend sired the winners of a 2000m Open Handicap and a Class 4 sprint over 1200m on the same night.

Laurie Laxton's Big Occasion put in a super effort at Kranji when winning the \$125 000 Open 2000m.

Ridden by Ronnie Stewart, the five-year-old sat outside and just behind the leader Seacucumber (Barend Vorster).

These two controlled the pace in front and while they were very close together all the way there were no cut-throat tactics being employed.

As they turned for home the two leaders headed for the cen-



Destiny's Day nosing out Who Is Jimmy for third place.

"Ronnie knows how to ride this fellow," assistant trainer Theo Kieser said.

"He hasn't got a sprint at all, he's just a grinder, so where he was positioned (2nd) he was always going to be in with a very good chance.

tre of the track in driving rain and the gap on the fence opened up for Anandan and Takino Big.

Anandan scooted along and took over in front as it looked like Big Occasion had had enough and was dropping back.

Big Occasion however had other ideas and motored home to regain the lead 100m out.

It was a good tough effort by the son of Mellifont to win by a neck from Takino Big with

"Laurie will have a look at all the feature staying races that are coming up over the next few months and he'll find the right one for him."

Big Occasion seems to have been around forever but this win was only his 21st start and with five wins and five placings for more than \$340 000 in earnings he's certainly paying his way for his owners, the Champagne Stables.

**"He's mad but I can put up with him!"**

THOSE were trainer Brian Dean's words after a sound win by Mellifont three-year-old Joe And Jayzeeca in the \$55 000 Class 4 over 1200m at Kranji.

Ridden by Barend Vorster the young horse settled behind the leaders, King Towkay (Andrew Calder) and Kittyhawk (S John), and was quite content to relax in the run.

"I said to Barend just sit him behind the leaders and get going in the straight, he'll keep on giving. That's exactly what he did and Barend rode him a treat," Dean added.

"He's getting better mentally but he had a few problems earlier on but I'm lucky I've got good staff who were there to help him.

"I do think he'll be better over 1400m to 1600m, so I'm pleased for the owners (Empire Stables) that he's starting to go well finally."

Joe And Jayzeeca won by a neck from Billy-O (Matthew Kellady) with King Towkay (Andre Calder) hanging on for third a further length and a half away.

By Mellifont from Ocean Princess, the win gave Joe And Jayzeeca his second win from nine starts for just over \$64 000 in earnings.

## MAGIC MILLIONS

**Sydney's Gai Waterhouse the biggest spender, but...**

# Charles Laird heads foreign buyers

LOCAL Sydney trainer Gai Waterhouse was the biggest spender outlaying A\$7.55m (R42,730,304) for 26 yearlings, including the sales record price of AUD\$2m (R11.308m) for a son of Sadlers Wells out of the Grade 1 Oaks winner Sunday Joy.

Charles Laird, buying for major stable client Marcus Jooste, was the second highest buyer at the sale, and was the leading international buyer.

### 18 yearlings

He outlaid A\$6.485 (R36.65m) for 18 yearlings including 7 fillies and 11 colts. His highest purchase was the A\$775,000 (R4.38m) paid for the beautifully bred daughter of Encosta de Lago out of the multiple Grade 1 winning Danehill mare Merlene.

The considerable marketing efforts of Magic Millions, plus the glamour injected into the January sale courtesy of the combined efforts of the Sales company itself, the Gold Coast Council, and Queensland Tourism can rightly be credited with attracting a large proportion of interest in the sale from both the media and the buyers who attended the two-week extravaganza.

Summerhill's Mick Goss accredits much of the sales success to AUSHORSE, a national body consisting of major commercial breeders that oversee an International Inwards Buyers Scheme.

"John Messara has assembled a remarkable team for Aushorse," Goss says. "They do a greater job than any other agency I know in promoting an industry and it is a revelation to see them at work. There is no



Charles Laird leading in another winner for Marcus Jooste. Laird was the top international buyer at the Magic Millions sale in Australia.

doubt that the huge international buying bench is substantially attributable to the work of these people and now that they have representatives in most of the major racing regions they have leapfrogged the rest of the world. As a result competition for horses at this sale has been extremely tough."

Whilst Laird's spending spree certainly kept him the media spotlight during his Australian visit, he was not alone in attracting the auctioneers' attention. A number of other yearlings were knocked down to South African bids with Basil Marcus, Denis Drier, Andy Williams, Chris Snaith, Dave Goss, Cyril Naidoo, Paul du Preez, Ian Van Schalkwyk, Mick Goss, and Rob Knuppe all active.

### Commitment to SA

Laird considers his bloodstock investments as benefiting South Africa in the longer term. He stated: "All horses bought will hopefully end up at Klawervlei for commercial selling through all South African sales. The

commitment to South African Bloodstock is unquestionable to improve our industry's pedigrees. At this level of financial investment we believe it is an investment in South Africa."

In all, close to 50 Australian yearlings from this sale will be imported to South Africa in coming months. As a group they represent some of the finest thoroughbred bloodlines in the world. A number are half or own relations to stakes winners, or sons/daughters of Graded stakes winners or Champions of their respective year, or have South African connections.

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**NATIONAL LOGS AT 26 JANUARY 2007**

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**TRAINERS**

	Name	Runs	Wins	Win %	2nd	3rd	Other	Place %	Win Stakes	Total Stakes
1	MW Bass	369	50	13.55	42	58	66	58.54	4 554 580	5 921 585
2	MF de Kock	344	80	23.26	37	42	62	64.24	3 274 710	4 735 530
3	CS Laird	243	50	20.58	34	25	50	65.43	2 326 525	4 201 725
4	GV Woodruff	310	57	18.39	41	38	46	58.71	2 713 210	4 173 865
5	J Ramsden	416	56	13.46	58	43	68	54.09	1 987 975	3 380 335
6	GD Smith	602	81	13.46	61	73	111	54.15	2 171 940	3 174 188
7	SG Tarry	293	38	12.97	34	34	50	53.24	2 069 640	3 116 610
8	D Zaki	322	46	14.29	33	29	58	51.55	2 194 165	3 037 565
9	B Marcus	201	35	17.41	32	20	39	62.69	2 232 180	2 834 800
10	GS Kotzen	357	43	12.04	36	38	57	48.74	1 829 755	2 765 900

**BREEDERS**

	Name	Runs	Wins	Win %	2nd	3rd	Other	Place %	Win Stakes	Total Stakes
1	Summerhill Stud	822	87	10.58	79	85	166	50.73	3 279 505	5 462 483
2	High Season Stud	676	54	7.99	60	70	104	42.60	2 860 245	4 076 080
3	D Cohen and Sons	485	49	10.10	59	59	94	53.81	1 708 795	3 416 767
4	Highlands Farms Stud	324	54	16.67	37	29	70	58.64	2 237 300	3 214 215
5	Lammerskraal Stud	234	33	14.10	36	22	46	58.55	1 266 516	2 796 441
6	Maine Chance Farms	333	43	12.91	29	35	63	51.05	1 535 275	2 350 040
7	Mrs BD Oppenheimer	179	41	22.91	26	17	41	69.83	1 636 885	2 273 630
8	Zandvliet Stud	101	8	7.92	11	15	15	48.51	1 816 390	2 072 380
9	The Alchemy	222	27	12.16	20	19	62	57.66	1 495 830	1 993 791
10	Scott Bros	402	37	9.20	39	49	72	49.01	1 159 000	1 972 102

## JOCKEYS

Name	Rides	Wins	Win %	2nd	3rd	Other	Place %	Win Stakes	Total Stakes
1 MT Khan	533	107	20.08	79	73	112	69.42	4 188 910	6 181 263
2 PJ Strydom	340	89	26.18	54	41	53	69.71	3 984 250	5 200 610
3 JB Lloyd	383	77	20.10	69	55	61	68.41	6 102 050	7 544 805
4 GD Schofield	352	70	19.89	53	41	53	61.65	2 905 955	4 196 690
5 A Marcus	283	66	23.32	50	32	56	72.08	3 293 315	4 999 700
6 GJ Schlechter	634	64	10.09	55	67	117	47.79	1 806 160	2 886 355
7 KW Neisius	308	60	19.48	49	38	66	69.16	2 364 740	3 336 875
8 GM Hatt	368	58	15.76	69	33	72	63.04	2 001 376	3 285 009
9 SN Cormack	331	51	15.41	36	41	60	56.80	1 946 470	2 983 510
10 GM Cheyne	469	48	10.23	60	64	108	59.70	1 406 920	2 807 490

## APPRENTICE JOCKEYS

Name	Rides	Wins	Win %	2nd	3rd	Other	Place %	Win Stakes	Total Stakes
1 GJ Lerena	385	37	9.61	54	50	77	56.62	1 521 955	2 826 904
2 R Danielson	457	34	7.44	35	41	91	43.98	1 241 115	2 085 136
3 KS Latham	298	34	11.41	29	28	52	47.99	1 309 035	2 066 245
4 B Lerena	252	19	7.54	11	25	46	40.08	740 690	1 194 255
5 Miss J Goslett	158	18	11.39	16	14	22	44.30	614 000	937 700
6 EW Webber	158	18	11.39	19	10	30	48.73	492 769	739 212
7 T Pretorius	278	17	6.12	17	27	58	42.81	592 555	988 996
8 L Africa	279	15	5.38	14	29	39	34.77	653 140	1 087 310
9 O Noach	210	13	6.19	20	8	42	39.52	421 980	757 620
10 KG Steyn	219	13	5.94	11	20	37	36.99	247 550	425 165