

De Kock still on cloud nine

DAVID THISELTON

MIKE de Kock was over the moon after another triumphant night for his yard and for South African racing overall in Dubai at the world's richest racemeeting. "It was massive," said De Kock, a veteran of six World Cup racemeetings as a trainer, "We are so lucky to have had so many highs over the years and I don't want to choose one above the other.

"I get a great kick from seeing others enjoying it. For some of the owners it was their first time here."

De Kock won the US\$2 million UAE Derby with the three-year-old Argentinian-bred colt Honour Devil and won the US\$5 million Dubai Sheema Classic when South African jockey Kevin Shea booted home the four-year-old filly Sun Classique, who is Australian-bred, although her actual breeders, Lionel and Caroline Cohen, are South African as are her owners, the Cohens and Warne and Wendy Rippon respectively.

De Kock, also finished second with Asiatic Boy in the main race on the card, the \$US6 million Dubai World Cup - which was won by the world's best horse, Curlin - while he claimed second-prize with the South African-bred Royal Vintage in the UAE Derby and third prize with the USA-bred Archipenko in the US\$5 million Dubai Duty Free.

His yard bagged an incredible gross of US\$6,3 million in prize money on the night.

All of Honour Devil, Royal Vintage, Asiatic Boy and Archipenko are owned by De Kock's biggest international owner, Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, although Archipenko is part-owned by the chairman of South Africa's Equine Trade Council, veterinarian Dr Ashley Parker, while Royal Vintage is part-owned by a South African ownership syndicate, the Rich Man's Gold syndicate.

SA flavoured

The most South African flavoured victory of the night, though, fell to the yard of KwaZulu-Natal trainer, Herman Brown Jr, when Jay Peg won the Dubai Duty Free.

The four-year-old colt, by the late sire Camden Park, was bred by South African's High Season Stud and was ridden by South African jockey Anton Marcus, who is the brother of one of the owners, Selwyn Marcus. The other owners are South Africans Marsh Shirtliff, Etienne Braun and Paul Loomes.

De Kock was magnanimous in his praise.

"It was wonderful to see the excitement of the connections. This result can only do a world of good for South African racing especially with the National Yearling Sale coming up .

"Try buying a horse in America and such places and you realise just what great value horses from our sales are."

Sun Classique vs Ipi Tombe

De Kock said that it was difficult to compare Sun Classique to the legendary filly he had trained, Ipi Tombe, who, among other big races, had won the Dubai Duty Free.

"Sun Classique lacks the speed of Ipi Tombe but she has the same ability to turn it on and quicken up.



"Ipi Tombe was a filly that showed us everything in work so inspired more confidence as Sun Classique is a sort that saves it for the races. Ipi Tombe did, of course, also win the July.

"Sun Classique has her quirks and doesn't take a great deal of training. She does 70% of her work on the treadmill.

"But the rating she ran to on Saturday might actually put her above Ipi Tombe."

De Kock said that the plan for Sun Classique now is Royal Ascot where she will likely be targeted for the Group 1 Prince Of Wales Stakes over approximately 10 furlongs (2012m).

De Kock was thrilled with Asiatic Boy's run in the World Cup and said, "He ran exactly to his rating and couldn't have done any better.

I thought it was a very courageous run as he was first involved in a three-way speed contest and then had to fight on to keep second place."

De Kock will take the four-year-old colt with him to England and would like to campaign him on dirt in America in races out of Curlin's way before returning next year for another crack at the World Cup.

De Kock revealed after the UAE Derby on Saturday night that jockey Johnny Murtagh had always said that Honour Devil would make a Breeder's Cup horse and he added yesterday that the three-year-old would be aimed at the Breeder's Cup Mile rather than the Classic in order to avoid Curlin.

English flat season

Royal Vintage will be given a break in order to mature before maybe being brought out towards the end of the English flat season.

De Kock said that Archipenko, who will now head for Hong Kong, had run a "massive" race in the Dubai Duty Free.

"He had an interrupted prep and is a top horse in the making."

He was also pleased with the run of Narc, who is South Africa's best sand horse, in the Dubai Golden Shaheen over 1 200m.

The five-year-old gelding by National Assembly arrived in Dubai only nine days before the race but still managed ninth place, one place behind another De Kock-trained South African horse, Drift Ice.

"They must get here way before the time of the race to be at their best.

"He wasn't able to get in sufficient work in Mauritius and France and I didn't have enough time to prepare him here. Murtagh said he gave him a great feel but he blew up late."

Next year's Carnival

Narc will stay in Dubai and be aimed at next year's Carnival.

De Kock added that he and his connections had partied through the night and mentioned how amazing it was to have so many "true blue" South African racing fans there to celebrate with them.

"At almost every turn I'd hear a shout from a voice I recognised," he said.

De Kock will be in South Africa for the National Yearling Sales although he revealed that currently he is leaning more towards buying ready-made horses.

Breeders are excited about the prospects of their first-season stallions

THERE should be a degree of forgiveness for breeders who wax overly lyrical about the crops of their new sires, especially during this season, in which five superbly bred stallions with excellent race records will enter the breeding arena. A large number of their collective offspring will come under the hammer at the Emperor's Palace National Yearling Sale between 4 and 7 April.

The superlatives being branded about for the foals of first-season sires Spectrum, Dynasty, Victory Moon, Var and Toreador have been echoed by several prospective buyers who have seen some of their foals on stud farms. Highlands Farms stands the imported Spectrum (IRE) and former SA Horse Of The Year, Dynasty. Stud manager Mike Sharkey commented: "Spectrum has produced beautiful, athletic and physically correct yearlings. He has had Group winners in the UK, France and Australia and is still 10th on the General Sires List for milers. He had exceptional speed, winning a 1200m by 15 lengths as a two-year-old, so we expect him to produce sprinter-milers."

Sharkey pinpointed Successful Bidder's half-sister Linda My Love (Lot 86, Select Sessions), as his personal favourite by Spectrum and also mentioned Lot 491, Derby Delux, who is from an Irish River mare.

The foals of Dynasty, Sharkey says, "are well-sized and attractive, like their sire". He singled out Lot 308 (filly from Antonia's Law) and Lot 396 (colt from Elda Ribetti) as ones for the notebook and said that Lot 591 (colt consigned by Gary Player Stud Farm) is a must-see.

From the time Var (USA) landed at Avontuur Stud, Pippa Mickleburgh has found it hard to contain her excitement. "Var's foals were well received at our recent Viewing Day," she says. "He is stamping his progeny with the same strong hindquarters and lovely nature. We've been breeding for speed, that's why we bought him, but there is no reason why his runners wouldn't be able to perform well over 1400m-1600m." Mickleburgh believes the young colt Vacherin (Lot 461, from Golden Treat) and the filly Miss Var (Lot 205, from Soho Society) are outstanding.

Victory Moon, whose extraordinary performances heralded trainer Mike de Kock's highly successful entry into the world racing arena in 2003 to put South Africa firmly on the map as an international racing nation, will be represented by 22 foals.

John Slade of Main Chance Farms tells: "Victory Moon's foals are exceptional. He was booked to several small mares, for example some from the National Assembly line, but they have produced normal-sized foals, which is great and proves that he is doing the job."

"Most of Victory Moon's yearlings are born tall and leggy like him, but they get better with age. He throws bay, leggy types and also compact chestnuts. He has created a buzz in the industry and we are most excited about his future." Danehill's son Toreador stands at Philip Kahan's The Alchemy Stud near Robertson and Kahan enthused: "Toreador's foals are truly phenomenal. They're athletic with good legs, they look like racehorses and I believe he is going to take the breeding industry by storm. We're hoping to produce sprinter-milers who possess his brave nature. Mike de Kock named Toreador one of the most courageous horses he has ever trained."

Toreador has three fillies on the Sale. Kahan has a soft spot for Lot 331, a bay daughter of Bush Beauty from the family of She's A Charm.



International Stallions at Emperor's Palace National Yearling Sale

A total of 39 yearlings sired by foreign-based sires will pass through the sales ring during the course of the 2008 Emperor's Palace National Yearling Sale. Eight lots have been drafted into the Select Sessions, Lots 1-90.

Both consigned foals of Pivotal (GB), the Champion Sire of the United Kingdom with 9% stakes winners, made the "Green Pages". From Mary Slack's Wilgerbosdrift Stud comes White Hills (SNL), a chestnut colt from the family of Group winners Cherokee Rose and Bowman. Another colt Pivotal Support (Lot 27, Varsfontein) is the first foal of a mare by Spectrum. Giant's Causeway (USA), the sire of international champions including Aragon, Footstepsinthesand and Our Giant, has a daughter called



Seeking (Lot 18) consigned by Maine Chance Farms. She is from an unraced Woodman mare who has already produced four winners. Another Giant (colt, Lot 41), is the eighth produce of a mare by Lyphard's Wish. Tomacheck (Lot 10) will come under the hammer in the first hour of the Select Session. He is by former champion European sprinter and promising new sire Oasis Dream (GB) from a full-sister to Mutakddim (USA), top stallion in Argentina.

Former Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Smarty Jones is now a first-season stallion and he will be represented by Lot 51, an unnamed chestnut filly from former South African champion racemare Circle Of Life, who hails from one of the most prolific Graded winner-producing families in the stud book.

Grand old sire Royal Academy, who has sired near 130 stakes winners in a star-studded career, has a colt and a filly on the sale. His daughter Romanesque (AUS), Lot 63, made the Select Session. She impeccably bred, being the first foal of an own sister to multiple Group 1 winner and sire, Holy Roman Emperor.

Near the end of the first session, Moniezuma (colt, Lot 88) will get his fair share of attention. He is by Bernstein (USA), already the sire of 28 stakes winners, from a stout and impressive damline.

Other offspring from top international stallions include Lot 109, a colt by Catenus, Champion Two-Year-Old Sire of New York; Lot 321, a colt by Cape Cross, the sire of Oujja Board and Lot 364, a colt by Galileo, who has already sired 22 stakes winners including Teofilio and Soldier Of Fortune.

Good news for Summerhill is that there is an update to the pedigree of Lot 312, the 05 filly foal by Exceed and Excel, Believe'n'succeed, won the Blue Diamond Prelude Stakes (Gr. 3) on 9 February at Caulfield in Australia. They bring to the sale the half sister by Fantastic Light.

Team Valor has its eye on fillies at the 2008 Emperor's Palace National Yearling Sale



TEAM Valor International's Barry Irwin, one of the main protagonists in the South African racing industry's emergence in the international market, will make his regular trip from Kentucky to Johannesburg, to buy bloodstock at the 2008 Emperor's Palace National Yearling Sale. Irwin says he will be looking to purchase mainly fillies at this year's Sale.

He comments: "So far, of horses that are at least aged three, Team Valor has bought nine fillies in South Africa of which eight have raced, seven have won (one of them won and was disqualified). They include four Graded stakes winners in Little Miss Magic, Captain's Lover, Stately and Sally Bowles. Little Miss Magic and Captain's Lover are also Grade 1 winners.

He added: "I like the National Yearling Sale because it offers me a chance to look at a lot of horses over a short period of time. Dollar for dollar, this sale offer tremendous value. The pedigrees may not be the most fashionable or deep, which fits into my plans, because I buy individuals, not paper, and this sale has put up excellent individuals over the years.

"I thought last year's sale was a vast improvement over the two previous ones I attended and wound up buying twice as many fillies as I had planned on getting. I hope this year's group is just as promising."

Green light for night racing at Turffontein

The appeal against environmental approval for the installation of floodlights at Turffontein has been dismissed by the Gauteng MEC for Agriculture, Conservation & Environment and it is hoped to hold the first night meeting at the track as early as October this year. Phumelela CEO Jim Tennant said the green light for night racing at Turffontein was "great news all round" for the horseracing industry.

"Night racing at Turffontein means more races, more prize money and many exciting marketing opportunities," said Tennant.

"Installation of the lights will begin as soon as possible. The project team will have to be reassembled and the project will have to be costed again.

"Construction should begin in the next six to eight weeks and it might be possible to have night racing by October. Obviously this will depend on the availability of the various contractors."

Larry Wainstein, chairman of the Racing Association that represents racehorse owners in Phumelela regions, also reacted enthusiastically to the news that night racing at Turffontein is back on track.

"It's fantastic news for rac-

ing," he said. "Nearly 20 race meetings have been lost as a result of the delay in introducing night racing at Turffontein, which has cost the industry tens of millions of rand. Night racing has always been popular with racegoers and the investment Phumelela has made in improving facilities at Turffontein will enhance the entire experience of racing under lights."

Horseracing and tote betting company Phumelela had hoped to launch night racing at Turffontein last October, but the installation of lights had to be put on ice following the appeal against Phumelela being authorised to hold night races at the venue.



Turffontein has been the home of horseracing in Johannesburg virtually since the city's birth back in 1886 and is ideally suited to night racing because of its combination of private boxes and numerous trackside venues.

Major races run at the venue include the R3.5-million Gomma Gomma Challenge, Africa's richest race, the R2-million Steinhoff International Summer Cup and the R1.2-million SA Classic, Africa's richest events for three-year-olds.

All of the big guns stood their ground and all three Grade 1 races on Classic Day look to be strongly contested events. The R1.2 million SA Classic, the R1 million SA Fillies Classic and the R1 million H F Oppenheimer Horse Chestnut Stakes take place at Turffontein on Saturday 5 April 2008.

Included on the card are two races for juveniles, the Grade 3 Protea Stakes and Pretty Polly Stakes. All races will be run on the standside track.

The first four past the post in both the Dingaans and the Gauteng Guineas will take their places in the SA Classic over 1800m. Dingaans champion Lion's Blood will be reunited with winning rider Karl Neisius on the day, while second-placed Eddington will have the services of Piere Strydom. Both, however, will have to jump from the outside of the field as they are drawn at No 13 and No 18 respectively.

Third-placed Kilcoy Castle and fourth-placed Hamlool will have no problems though as they are drawn at barrier Nos 3 and 2 respectively. Kilcoy Castle, who also ran second to Imbongi in the Gauteng Guineas, will be ridden by Brett Smith, while Mike de Kock's Imbongi will once

again have Anthony Delpech in the irons. Stable companion Rudra, fourth in the Guineas, will have Francois Herholdt in the saddle.

Charles Laird holds a strong hand in the race with Causation, Solar Symbol, Cashel and Smart Banker, but with stable jockey Anton Marcus having chosen Causation over the unbeaten Smart Banker, the son of Giant's Causeway looks to be the stable elect.

Thundering Jet made a winning debut for Alec Laird earlier this month and he is another who is certain to be high up on the bookies' boards.

De Kock only put Rat Burana into the SA Fillies Classic as a supplementary entry but the Brazilian-bred filly is sure to be chalked up favourite for the race. She was narrowly beaten by Stratos in the Grade 1 Empress Club Stakes this month and back to her own age group in this 1800m event, she is sure to take a lot of beating.

Stable mate Gilded Minaret as well as Fillies Guineas winner and runner-up, Glenrossal and Urabamba respectively, will be among her market rivals.

Final fields of the Graded races to be run on the Turffontein standside track on Saturday April 5.

SA CLASSIC (Grade 1)(For 3-year-olds) R1.2 million 1800m

- 1 - 13 LION'S BLOOD (T Zackey) K Neisius 57.0 - 105
 - 2 - 18 EDDINGTON (D Zaki) P Strydom 57.0 - 103
 - 3 - 17 IMBONGI (M F De Kock) A Delpech 57.0 - 101
 - 4 - 4 CAUSATION (C Laird) A Marcus 57.0 - 100
 - 5 - 3 KILCOY CASTLE (S G Tarry) B Smith 57.0 - 100
 - 6 - 2 HAMLOOL (M F De Kock) K Shea 57.0 - 99
 - 7 - 5 SOLAR SYMBOL (C Laird) A Fortune 57.0 - 98
 - 8 - 7 THUNDERING JET (A G Laird) J Geroudis 57.0 - 98
 - 9 - 14 HORATIO (S G Tarry) B Fayd'Herbe 57.0 - 96
 - 10 - 8 KINGDOM COME (G V Woodruff) M Khan 57.0 - 95
 - 11 - 15 RUDRA (M F De Kock) F Herholdt 57.0 - 94
 - 12 - 10 CASHEL (C Laird) G Wrogemann 57.0 - 93
 - 13 - 9 KINGS GAMBIT (L Wiid) G Lerena 57.0 - 93
 - 14 - 16 LUBRICATOR (W H Marwing) W Marwing 57.0 - 93
 - 15 - 12 CLOSE AS OAK (R R Magner) M Mienie 57.0 - 92
 - 16 - 11 SMART BANKER (C Laird) B Nyawo 57.0 - 92
- Reserve Runners
- 17 - 6 FULL POWER (G V Woodruff) Reserve 1 57.0 - 94
 - 18 - 1 ALUMINIUM (G V Woodruff) Reserve 2 57.0 - 89
- Same Trainer: (3,6,11) (4,7,12,16) (5,9) (10,17,18)

SA FILLIES CLASSIC (Grade 1)(3-year-old Fillies) R1 million 1800m

- 1 - 10 GILDED MINARET (M F De Kock) A Delpech 57.0 - 103
 - 2 - 12 RAT BURANA (M F De Kock) K Shea 57.0 - 103
 - 3 - 7 GLENROSSAL (D N Stenger) F Naude 57.0 - 98
 - 4 - 9 MONEYCANTBUYMELOVE (G V Woodruff) R Danielson 57.0 - 95
 - 5 - 5 URABAMBA (R R Sage) P Strydom 57.0 - 95
 - 6 - 4 LASER FAN (G H Van Zyl) B Fayd'Herbe 57.0 - 94
 - 7 - 8 ALBIZIA (G V Woodruff) M Khan 57.0 - 91
 - 8 - 3 MISS TURBULENCE (W H Marwing) W Marwing 57.0 - 91
 - 9 - 1 ACOUSTICAL (C Laird) A Fortune 57.0 - 90
 - 10 - 2 BLUE SWIFT (C Laird) A Marcus 57.0 - 90
 - 11 - 11 FLIGHT QUEEN (D R Drier) S Cormack 57.0 - 88
 - 12 - 13 GRANDALEA (WGC Miller) S Swanepoel 57.0 - 84
 - 13 - 6 MAT GOLD (P F Matchett) M Mienie 57.0 - 83
- Same Trainer: (1,2) (4,7) (9,10)

H F OPPENHEIMER HORSE CHESTNUT STAKES (Grade 1)(Weight for Age) R1 million 1600m

- 1 - 13 SUCCESSFUL BIDDER (S G Tarry) B Smith 60.0 - 115
 - 2 - 6 HUNTING TOWER (C Laird) G Wrogemann 60.0 - 112
 - 3 - 3 PICK SIX (C Laird) J Geroudis 60.0 - 111
 - 4 - 9 EMPEROR NAPOLEON (M F De Kock) K Shea 60.0 - 110
 - 5 - 2 OUR GIANT (C Laird) A Marcus 60.0 - 109
 - 6 - 8 STRATEGIC NEWS (D Cunha) W Marwing 60.0 - 107
 - 7 - 5 DYNAMITE MIKE (M G Azzie) G Figueroa 60.0 - 105
 - 8 - 1 JAROSLAW (C Spies) F Naude 60.0 - 100
 - 9 - 4 CATMANDU (A Kirsten) S Randolph 60.0 - 99
 - 10 - 7 BUSCADOR (G V Woodruff) M Khan 60.0 - 96
 - 11 - 12 BRAGGADACIO (M F De Kock) A Delpech 60.0 - 92
 - 12 - 10 FORK LIGHTENING (S G Tarry) K Neisius 60.0 - 91
 - 13 - 11 STRATOS (M G Azzie) G Lerena 57.5 - 105
- Same Trainer: (1,12) (2,3,5) (4,11) (7,13)

PROTEA STAKES (Grade 3)(2-year-olds) R200 000 1100m

- 1 - 2 CERISE CHERRY (P F Matchett) M Mienie 57.0 - 92
 - 2 - 5 DAL PIERO (J A Soma) A Fortune 57.0 - 93
 - 3 - 6 MOUNT HOOD (P F Matchett) M Khan 57.0 - 92
 - 4 - 3 QUI HARBOUR (P F Matchett) D L Habib 57.0 - 88
 - 5 - 7 SECRET LIFE (P F Matchett) R Simons 57.0 - 90
 - 6 - 4 SPORTING BOY (A G Laird) F Herholdt 57.0 - 89
 - 7 - 1 WAR OF CONQUEST (A G Laird) J Geroudis 57.0 - 90
 - 8 - 9 DANVIDA (C Spies) F Naude 54.0 - 0
 - 9 - 8 WARM WHITE NIGHT (C Laird) A Marcus 54.0 - 0
- Same Trainer: (1,3,4,5) (6,7)

PRETTY POLLY STAKES (Grade 3)(2-year-old fillies) R165 000 1100m

- 1 - 8 BIG SMILE (L Lotz) S Nhlapo 57.0 - 0
 - 2 - 2 KESHA (D J Burger) M Khan 57.0 - 86
 - 3 - 1 MERLENE DE LAGO (C Laird) A Marcus 57.0 - 92
 - 4 - 3 SWEET THERESA (O A Ferraris) B Fayd'Herbe 57.0 - 88
 - 5 - 7 THEKKADY (M G Azzie) G Lerena 57.0 - 88
 - 6 - 6 ASIAN LECTURE (C Spies) F Naude 54.0 - 75
 - 7 - 4 DRAGON LILY (C Laird) W Marwing 54.0 - 84
 - 8 - 5 RESOUNDING SPIRIT (A Kirsten) S Randolph 54.0 - 83
- Same Trainer: (3,7)



The Gold Circle Trainer Achiever Award for the month of March has been bestowed jointly on Mike de Kock and Herman Brown

Racing in South Africa will be swamping Mike de Kock and Herman Brown with praise for their fantastic successes in Dubai. They have taken on the best in the world and beaten them and carried the South African flag high and with great pride.

It was a month where the training spoils were widely spread and all of Alistair Gordon, Paul Lafferty, Wendy Whitehead and Pat Lunn had multiple wins.

Each would have been worthy of the monthly award in their own right but the enormous success of Herman and Mike, whose local stables also continued to produce winners, are achievements too great to ignore.

Well done Mike and Herman!

Loss of lightweight heavyweights a big blow

The Hong Kong Jockey Club now has a mini crisis on its hands, with lightweight riders Anthony Delpech and Shane Dye throwing in the towel within days of each other and heading "back to the future" to their homelands.

Each rider departed in style, saying all the right things and maintaining a diplomatic tone about their great time in Hong Kong. But two top-class senior jockeys who could each ride at the 113-pound (51kg) minimum weight are collectively a heavy loss, and not easy to replace.

Officialdom at Sports Road needs to come to grips with the hard reality of the situation, that excessive penalties for failing to ride horses right to the line put each of these jockeys in a situation where they found their position untenable.

Delpech was banned for five days for failing to ride his mount, Super, right to the line, to the satisfaction of stewards, on February 2. Super finished on the outside rail, in fourth place and beaten only a neck by the third horse closer to the inside. The four-time champion and record-holding South African jockey almost resigned his club contract on the spot, but took a deep breath and held his tongue, considered his position for a couple of weeks and then pulled the pin anyway.

Dye got 10 days for his ride on Sohna at Happy Valley on January 9. It was double Delpech's penalty because Dye arguably should have finished second, and that means the result of the quinella - the biggest betting pool - was affected.

In other races, jockeys finishing a close-up sixth or seventh found guilty of the same offence have only been fined HK\$20,000 because they are rightly deemed to have committed a less serious breach. Or more accurately, the same breach with less serious consequences.

Firstly, let's agree the stewards have done their job. Each jockey pleaded guilty to the offence as charged. And let's also agree there's no way we want jockeys taking it easy on their mounts in the closing stages of a race. The integrity of racing is one of its great selling points as a wagering product of international repute and must be protected.

But has the price of that protection become needlessly high and might not the policing have been done a better way?

Delpech and Dye each decided they'd had enough because these long holidays are a death knell - it was Delpech's second long stretch for the season and he hadn't yet recovered from the effects of the first. If there was what we might call "truth in sentencing", and a jockey could resume after his time was served, otherwise unaffected, it wouldn't be so bad.

But that's not the reality of the situation. Big stretches on the bench like these are career killers in an ultra-competitive environment. Opportunities dry up, other jockeys win on horses the suspended jockey would otherwise have been riding and those winning riders are then retained. And when a jockey resumes from a long suspension, he's at a clear disadvantage for quite a few meetings compared to his race-fit rivals and gets fewer chances anyway as he starts almost from scratch, building his base again.

Delpech had his first day back riding in South Africa recently and landed a Group Two winner at Turffontein. He'll carve them up at domestic level after his period on the international stage, his skills further honed riding alongside the best of his compatriots here as well as Brett Prebble, Christophe Soumillon, Gerald Mosse, Darren Beadman, Olivier Doleuze and Eric Saint-Martin, etc.

So what then should be done? In cases like Dye and Delpech, where the stewards are comfortable that the offence was one of carelessness rather than any deliberate integrity breach, surely a hefty fine would suffice.

A withdrawal of, say, HK\$100,000 from a jockey's bank account might have them flinching, complaining and even cursing, but at least they'd be back next week hungry to earn the money back and put things right.

The current policy has inflicted a level of punishment far beyond what might have been intended, brought legitimate careers grinding to a standstill and, perversely, ended up punishing the Jockey Club almost as much as the riders themselves. - *South China Morning Post*

Laird confirms move to Melbourne

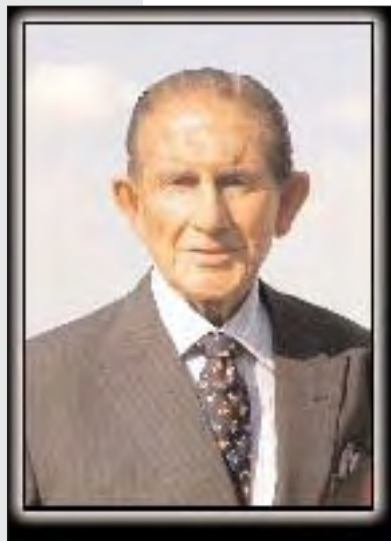
Leading South African trainer Charles Laird confirmed in an interview on TVN that he is in negotiations to secure stabling at Flemington or Caulfield in Melbourne & is ready to relocate to Australia "towards the end of this year". Laird said he had been "planning the move for some time" & noted the 30-40 yearlings he intends to buy at the upcoming Magic Millions Gold Coast Sale & Inglis Easter Sale in Sydney "will stay here for me to train." Over the last 3 years, Laird has purchased 57 horses for almost \$20 million on behalf of his major South African client Markus Jooste. Laird added: "We've spent a fortune on Australian horses over the last few years & many of them are fillies & mares that we will look to bring back to Australia with a view to starting a breeding operation as well."



Lawrence Jaffee, 8 November 1922 - 27 March 2008

South African horseracing is mourning the sudden passing of one of its elder statesmen in Laurie Jaffee who passed away Thursday 27 March at 16h50 at the Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg at the age of 85, after a brief tussle with cancer. One of the country's most powerful owners and influential racing administrators of bygone years, Jaffee was a highly successful industrialist in his own right. He registered his colours in 1959 and contributed tremendously to the game through his generous investment in thoroughbred horses which he purchased all over the world. A past Chairman of both the Johannesburg Turf Club and the Transvaal Racing Clubs, he was also a Life Vice President of both of these clubs. A Head Executive Steward of the Jockey Club of South Africa, as it was then called, and a member of every racing club in the country, he owned and had interests in many great horses including Illustrador, Bush Telegraph, Empress Club and current successful stallions Jallad and London News. There is not a major race in this country that does not have the Jaffee name on the role of honour. His red, white and black silks were carried to victory in many famous wins. Racing enthusiasts will have fond memories of London News' stunning start to finish win in the 1996 Vodacom Durban July and then Hong Kong in 1997 when Douglas Whyte steered the roman-nosed chestnut to a victory in the Queen Elizabeth 11 Stakes that effectively signaled the re-emergence of South Africa as a global horseracing power.

Lawrence Jaffee was known as an entrepreneur and businessman with a razor-sharp mind and had an uncanny ability to get the very best out of people. His father started Premier Milling and the young Jaffee was instrumental in the growth of this industry giant before moving on to pursue his own trading interests in later years. Evidence of his energy and zest for life was the fact that he never retired and in fact returned from a horse buying trip to New Zealand only weeks before his passing away. A clean-living and moral man, who enjoyed the occasional Johnnie Walker Black Label and who gave up smoking cigars about ten years ago, he was a father figure and mentor to countless people in the industry. He and his loving wife Jean celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary only two years ago. A mark of his generosity and love for horseracing was his gesture in donat-



ing his entire and expansive collection of silverware and racing memorabilia to the Gosforth Park racing museum.

Gold Circle CEO Michel Nairac said that the news of his passing was a great shock and tremendous loss to the SA Horseracing industry: "He was a true gentleman and a stalwart of the game. Replacing great men of his ilk is virtually impossible and it can be said that he represented everything that is good in our industry. A sad day for all connected with the sport and we extend our sincerest condolences to Jean and their entire family."

Jaffee, a popular and charismatic figure believed in spreading his horses

amongst some of the top training establishments and one of his most successful trainers, Dean Kannemeyer said that he was shocked to hear the sad news of his passing: "Straightforward and a man of absolute integrity, he was the owner that all racehorse trainers dream of. His passing leaves a gigantic hole in all of our lives and men of his character are irreplaceable. He loved his racing and lived life to the fullest. A true member of the old school and somebody that I respected greatly."

His youngest son Lloyd thanked all connected with horseracing for the overwhelming showing of condolences and good wishes. He said that his Dad loved life, horses and people and that he would be missed by his family, for whom he was a shining light and source of inspiration right to the end. Lloyd said that he was thankful that his Dad had not suffered and died with his dignity intact. He said that Laurie

would not have wanted people to grieve and rather to celebrate his memory and enjoy his contribution in whatever form, to his favourite pastime.

To his wife Jean, daughter Georgina, and sons Mark, Richard and Lloyd, as well as their eight grandchildren, we extend our sincerest condolences and share your grief and sad loss. We are all richer for having had the honour and privilege of benefiting from the wisdom and guidance of a man of Laurie Jaffee's intellect and stature. We will miss him.

Amateur Racing

Racegoers around the country have all seen the likes of Disprin and Palmolive racing in the Gold Circle Amateur Sprint Challenge, a series of four races a season held at Scottsville that began in 2005.

However, few are aware of the logistics involved in putting these races together or of the upliftment in standards that has been achieved in a short space of time.

Sterling work is being done behind the scenes by Jay Harrielall, Gold Circle's Racing Manager.

Harrielall took on the project to involve Gold Circle in rural racing after a request was made by the amateur racing community via trainer Doug Campbell.

He began attending rural flat race meetings that take place in the regions of Transkei, Kokstad and Pietermaritzburg and involve races for ex-thoroughbred racehorses and Basuto ponies.

The racetracks are laid out in the veld and, with no railings, the horses simply stick to the mown grass. Flag starts are used and the finish line consists of two poles lined up with a bakkie where the judges sit.

There is no formal betting while prizes, which often consist of such things as horse blankets or a sheep, are provided by certain affluent people in the community.

There are no weight considerations meaning that a horse like Disprin, who has dominated the Scottsville events held under level weight conditions, is often beaten simply because his regular rider, Nkosihiya Nqumase, is a lot heavier than many of the others.

Harrielall discovered that none of the horses were registered and, even worse, few of them had passports.

He had microchips inserted in the necks of those that didn't already have them and Centre Pages, which provide proof of the markings of the horse, were filled in for all of the horses. The barcodes and centre page details are now held by the National Horseracing Authority

"Ringers", of which there had been isolated cases, are consequently a thing of the past.

Red-coloured passports were provided for all those horses that did not already have the standard green thoroughbred passports and vaccinations for all known diseases are now done by Gold Circle with the help of Dr. John Fleming.

Harrielall and Fleming attend all the rural race meetings and veterinary checks and treatments are done before and after racing while the condition of the track is also checked, making sure all holes are filled and plentiful water is available for the horses.

A track has in fact been built by Gold Circle at Elandskop.

Equipment was another big problem and Gold Circle provide 15 sets of saddles, reins and fittings for the Scottsville meetings while Doug Campbell provides the colours. Gold Circle have also bought riding boots for all of the jockeys, who are no longer permitted to ride barefoot or with inadequate shoes at rural race-meetings. Body protectors and skull caps must also be worn.

Harrielall, with the help of professionals, has also uplifted standards in such areas as train-

ing methods, feeding practises, general horse care - particularly regarding foot care, shoeing and leg problems and deworming - and jockeyship.

Recently, during the school holidays, a number of the young rural riders attended a two week course at the Summerveld groom school where they were put through their paces by jockey Lawrence O'Donoghue.

There was initially opposition and negativity to the Amateur series from the professional trainers, worried about their horses being exposed to unvaccinated horses, but the attitude is changing with the standards and the condition of the horses and quality of jockeyship improving all the time.

Transport is still a huge headache for the Scottsville series, as horses are coming from farafield, but Gold Circle have provided an appearance fee that covers petrol costs, accommodation and meals while R10 000 prize money per race is also put up. Harrielall, who has become something of a revered figure among the rural racers, envisions something similar to the Australian system developing, with rural racing initially running at provincial level - he is travelling to consult in Mpumalanga in the near future - before a national infrastructure is established with the possibility of advancement into the main professional centres.

"The enthusiasm is snowballing and owners are now looking to buy horses to beat Disprin," said Harrielall. "I think this could be a wonderful springboard for black owners to join mainstream racing."

Harrielall has planned a two day Amateur Racing Workshop to which 35 trainers and owners will be invited. They will attend a day's racing at Scottsville and be shown what is involved in running a race meeting smoothly from every aspect and then spend a day at Doug Campbell's training establishment where they will be given an all encompassing lesson on the training of racehorses.

At the conclusion, 15 sets of colours kindly provided by trainer Ron Phillips will be handed over.

Another exciting event on the cards is a match race between Disprin and a two-time winning thoroughbred in training, to be named, that Harrielall hopes to hold on the big Golden Horse Casino sprint day.

Harrielall speaks highly of the love for horses and racing that already exists in the rural community and when this is truly embraced the sky will be the limit.



The youngest licensed trainer in SA

Yadav Singh recently became the youngest licensed trainer in the country and had his first runner, Wendy House, in the first race at Clairwood recently.

Singh has come a long way since the days he used to bunk school to go to the racetrack. He grew up in Merebank - where he still lives - two minutes from Clairwood racecourse, and never missed a meeting, while his father also owned racehorses.

Horseracing gave the twenty-one year old direction from a young age and he spent two years at the Summerveld Jockey's Academy where he did an equine course and learnt about horses, grooming, stable management and stud management.

He spent two years as assistant to Noeleen Peech, two years with Tony Rivalland and six months with Weiho Marwing before taking out his own license.

At the moment he only has three horses although he was underbidder to seven horses at the recent Shongweni Horses in Training Sale.

Singh will also attend the National Yearling Sales, feeling that it is important to be at the big racing events of the year and also to gain experience.

All three of his horses are two-year-olds, two Opera King colts which came from George Rowles' Ivanhoe Stud farm and the filly Wendy House, a daughter of Manaloj who came from David Southey's Southford Stud.

Singh is a good horseman, having been active in showjumping and dressage, and he broke in Wendy House himself.

Singh admires the two trainers who taught him the ropes, Tony Rivalland and Weiho Marwing, and among his favourite jockeys are Robbie Fradd, Kevin Shea, Weichong Marwing, Anton Marcus and Jeff Lloyd, whom he believes could all compete with the best anywhere in the world.

"I like the long rein riders who can settle a horse and then leave it alone to stride out comfortably on it's own. The five I have mentioned also have great judgement of pace," he said.

The best horse Singh has been associated with so far has been War Artist, the Grade I winning sprinter who was initially with Tony Rivalland, and he has hopes of training many such stalwarts as his ambition is to one day be champion trainer.

If enthusiasm and an affinity for horses is the yardstick, we might be hearing a lot more of him in the future.



Introduction of "Trade Development Levy"

The Import Levy was introduced to support the work of the SA Horse Import & Export Council when income from export quarantines stopped as a result of African horse sickness (AHS) outbreaks in the Controlled Area of the Western Cape. The Council in turn supported organizations such as the SA Equine Trade Council, Kenilworth Quarantine Station and the Equine Research Centre.

No quarantine income was, therefore, earned for 35 months following the 2004 AHS outbreak and it was not until the formation of Racing South Africa in August 2005 that allowed a more stable funding structure to be introduced.

A key objective of Racing South Africa is to develop improved export protocols and through its association with the South African Veterinary Services, assist with the State-managed import process. Apart from lessening the financial burden on its equal third shareholders, the Breeders, the Operators and the Owners shareholders, the Import Levy was retained to help fund this process whilst income from Kenilworth Quarantine Station remained unreliable.

Internationally, the movement of horses is a complex and potentially unstable business. Apart from the restraints imposed by AHS, South African importers and exporters face an additional burden by having to provide support structures to the South African Veterinary Services which are severely under-resourced. In this regard, the Import Export Working Group was formed and a Veterinary Consultant employed.

Building scientific and veterinary capacity is, therefore, a key

objective behind the funding of Equine Research Centre. Through ongoing research functions and services to the horseracing industry, the Centre has played and will continue to play a significant role in the process of moving horses.

It was recognized that the Import Levy has excluded the exporters who also benefit from the work of Racing South Africa and the organizations' it funds. Therefore, a number of discussions took place with representatives of Racing South Africa's stakeholders and the National Horseracing Authority (NHA) to explore alternatives to the existing Levy.

Based on those discussions, the following principles were recently accepted by the Boards of Racing South Africa and the National Horseracing Authority:

" That a Levy on all imports and exports be incorporated into the NHA rules

" That the NHA will continue to collect the Import Levy

" That the seller be liable for the Export Levy

" That the new levy be called the "Trade Development Levy"

" That income derived from the Trade Development Levy supports the work of the Import Export Working Group and the Equine Research Centre.

The Trade Development Levy of R5000 was written into NHA rules on 1 August 2007 and the decision was published in the August 2007 edition of Parade Magazine to inform those likely to be impacted by this decision.