

2010 VODACOM DURBAN JULY

Anthony Delpech gave Vodacom Durban July winner, the Mike de Kock-trained Bold Silvano, a faultless ride in the big race and used the one advantage he knew he had over the only horse he feared, Irish Flame, to perfection.

"Bold Silvano had a fantastic preparation," he said before elaborating to say that from day one until the July there had not been one hitch and everything had gone perfectly.

"I have never in my career had a better association with a horse than I've had with Bold Silvano for the last three months. I was very bullish."

Only two things now stood in Delpech's path, the luck of the draw and the brilliant Irish Flame.

"When Bold Silvano drew two I was so happy I nearly cried," he revealed.

"The only horse I feared was Irish Flame, but there was one advantage I knew I had. I knew that Bold Silvano had a superior turn of foot."

Delpech used Bold Silvano's early speed to outstrip pole-positioned horse Service Ace from the start and secure a perfect position on the rail in about fifth place as one of his six stable companions, Red Rake, tore to the front and set the blistering pace that any good horse appreciates.

Irish Flame, under Kevin Shea, found a position on Bold Silvano's flank and now it was just a case of keeping their horses relaxed and balanced until the 450m of the straight.

Kevin Shea switched his horse outward on the final turn to go around the fading Flying Tristram and struggling Aslan.

Meanwhile Bold Silvano and Delpech were moving supremely well on the rail on the inside of Flying Tristram with the fading Red Rake a few lengths ahead of him.

Love Is In The Air, who made her move before the final turn, had just taken the lead on the outside of Red Rake.

Delpech made his move at about the 400m mark, letting Bold Silvano go and driving him towards the centre of the straight.

The turn of foot was instant and as he had predicted was the crucial factor that won him the race as he stole a length on Irish Flame, who was positioned a number of horse-widths wider.

Kevin Shea responded but it was too late and try as he might he could not make up the ground and was still a length back at the line.

Delpech praised De Kock after the race calling him "a genius" and said that he felt it was a privilege to be the yard's second choice jockey.

Bold Silvano will head for Dubai now and it will be interesting to see whether Delpech keeps the ride over there.

De Kock spoke of South African racing having now surpassed its previous status as "an emerging horseracing country" and said that the world was "watching us".

He reckoned that if the unfair restrictions placed on the travel of our horses were lifted it would see our racing becoming a major force.

He added that the overseas feats of Lizard's Desire had given our racing a huge boost and believed that Bold Silvano might even be a better prospect.

Part owner of Bold Silvano, Gill Thomson, said that she had gone to look at some Al Mufti's at Ascot Stud when she first spotted Bold Silvano.

"There was something about him and I got Gavin (Smith) to bid for him at the sale," she revealed.

Breeder Ashley Parker of Ascot Stud screamed home Bold Silvano and it made up for the narrow defeat of Al Mufti to Flaming Rock in 1991.

Interestingly, Bold Silvano is out of an Al Mufti mare while Irish Flame is out of a Flaming Rock mare.

Raymond Danielson, rider of the Herman Brown-trained Orbison, remained patient near the back of the pack, knowing that a July field tends to fan out coming around the final turn as everybody jockeys for position.

This earned him a length or so, but Orbison still turned for home about four or five lengths behind the winner and did superbly to carve through the field to finish third, 4,5 lengths behind the winner.

Danielson reckoned that Orbison might have found the race a hundred metres too far, but breeder and part-owner Robin Scott disagreed and reckoned his horse must have had the fastest 400 to finish time.

Brown said that Orbison would probably also be heading for Dubai.

The one-time winner Service Ace proved the myriad of people still stuck in the distant past of the race figure system wrong by running fourth.

He did not have the easiest of passages at the top of the straight, having to bump his way between two struggling horses, Flying Tristram and Aslan.

However, it is doubtful it cost him a place as Orbison had his measure in the final stages.

The resolutely galloping white horse, Happy Valley, ran a cracker in fifth, following Bold Silvano without managing to match the latter's finishing speed.

The three-year-olds had filled the first five placings, proving their strength,

The sixth placed River Jetez was the first older horse home.

She had to switch around a labouring Fort Vogue at the top of the straight, which cost her some ground, but she was losing ground to Orbison and Service Ace in the closing stages.

Andrew Fortune had questioned the strength of the J&B Met form in a television panel in the build up and the result appeared to prove him

correct, whilst another top analyst, the former handicapper Vee Moodley was also proved correct in his view that the three-year-olds were well handicapped.

Pocket Power was the disappointment of the race, finishing twelfth, but it should be remembered that, remarkably, this is the first time he has failed to earn a stake cheque since late 2005.

The three-year-old Lizarre was the fancy of many, but had to come from way back due to his draw and couldn't match the finishing kick of the horse he followed into the straight, River Jetez.

He finished ninth, just behind Fabiani who ran a fine race for last year's winning trainer Glen Kotzen.

Kotzen wondered how close Big City Life would have gone as he rated him considerably better than Fabiani, who finished 6,2 lengths back.

SEAN TARRY

Sean Tarry completed a fantastic season by landing two Grade 1 events on Vodacom Durban July day at Greyville.

Tarry finished second on the National Trainers log behind runaway winner, Mike de Kock.

His small filly Happy Archer, winner of Saturday's Durban Thekwini Stakes for two-year-old fillies over 1600m, is by one of the world's emerging boom sires, Dubawi.

She was bred in Australia, a country Dubawi will not be shuttling to from his England base this season.

Anton Marcus, rider of Happy Archer, told of how the chestnut filly was dwarfed in the parade ring by her rivals, but added that what she lacked in size she made up for in ability.

Tarry made Happy Archer his best runner of the day before the event and his only doubt in the build up was that she would not stay the mile at this stage of her career.

He did add though that, "she looks to stay and definitely will do so in time."

He needn't have worried as she showed a devastating turn of foot at the top of the straight and streaked clear to win by 2,5 lengths.

On that showing it would have been an interesting clash if the Mike de Kock-trained Mahbooba had lined up and panellists will have a difficult time separating the two for the Equus Champion two-year-old filly award.

Clairwood-based trainer Deon Visser, the former assistant to Alec Laird, had the best result of his short career since taking out his own license by finishing second with Kahal filly Silent Call.

Glen Kotzen's Qui Danzig filly, Six Blue Notes, ran on well to snatch third from the Gavin van Zyl-trained Strike Smartly filly Cherry On The Cake.

Tarry's New Zealand-bred Black Minnaloushe colt, Gold Onyx, caused a major upset in the Premier's Champion Stakes for two-year-olds over 1600m, coming with a late charge to catch and overtake the favourite, the Mike de Kock-trained Tiger Ridge colt Kavanagh.

Kavanagh had drifted from 13-20 to 14-10 in the market on the grounds

of a flood of money coming for another de Kock horse, Perana, who shortened from 7-1 to 16-10.

Tarry had worried about Gold Onyx's wide draw in the lead up, but added that his last outing could be "confidently ignored."

After the event Tarry mentioned that Felix Coetzee had shown mastery all season in overcoming wide draws so was not surprised the top jockey had done it again.

Kavanagh moved comfortably throughout and looked all over the winner coming around the turn in a handy position near the rail.

Kevin Shea sent him to the front and the horse opened up a big lead but then drifted towards the outside.

It soon became clear that 33-1 shot Gold Onyx would catch him and many Pick 6 tickets went up in smoke as he did so to win by 0,75 lengths.

De Kock's Fort Wood colt, Zanzamar, finished third from the Charles Laird-trained Galileo grey, The Assayer.

Perana, by Rock of Gibraltar, didn't justify the betting support and finished fifth.

The all conquering de Kock-Delpech partnership, who won the July with Bold Silvano, also wrested the Grade 1 Garden Province Stakes over 1600m with the three-year-old Brazilian-bred Roi Normand filly, Here To Win.

Here To Win came from near the back with a sustained run that picked up momentum when a dream gap opened at about the 200m mark.

She swept past the Glen Kotzen-trained Imperious Star to deny that yard a repeat of last year's victory in this race.

Imperious Star brushed the rail at about the 700m mark as the leader, the Tarry-trained Captain's Gal, appeared to cramp her for a moment, but it probably had no material effect on the result as she didn't lose her stride.

The Justin Snaith-trained Dance With Al ran on resolutely for third but couldn't match the finishing burst of the front pair.

The Tarry-trained Autumn Gold came wide into the straight in last place

SEAN TARRY (cont)

before flying up for fourth, to deny fifth-placed Geoff Woodruff-trained Mitra, who started second favourite.

Many felt that Here To Win was unlucky not to make the July field, but de Kock said it had worked out better, saying that she would not have won the July.

De Kock and Delpech also won the Grade 2 Gold Vase over 2400m with the Argentinian-bred Editor's Note filly, Equiparada, who was very impressive, romping home by 2,25 lengths and she has a bright future as a stayer.

The other stakes race on the card, the Grade 3 Schweppes 2200, which is a largely a consolation event for those July entries that don't make the final field, went to the Michael de Beer-trained Saluki, who flew up from last place.

An interesting point arising from this race was that the Zimbabwean-based Winter's Night failed to place.

Many felt that he should have been in the July, but his fine Zimbabwean form in which he won their most prestigious race, the Tankard, by 3,25 lengths, proved to be misleading.

JJ THE JET PLANE

J J The Jet Plane stamped himself as one of South Africa's best ever sprinters at Clairwood when annihilating a Grade 1 field as if out on an exercise gallop.

The five-year-old Lucky Houdalakis-trained Jet Master gelding opened at very generous odds of 16-10, probably on the grounds that he had recently missed 10 days of work, and started at 9-10.

However, it was clear almost from the off that he was his usual self, assuming the lead immediately and with a tailwind behind him the only question was whether he would need a parachute to slow down.

He passed the post 5,5 lengths clear of Gaultier and the time was just 0,17 seconds outside the course record.

Strydom confirmed afterwards that he was the best sprinter he had ever ridden.

"I used to think it was Gold Mark," he said. "But Gold Mark gave me a different kind of feel, it was if he was floating. J J has incredible cruising speed. I'm going along and thinking the other horses must be around me but meanwhile he's about three lengths clear. Then he still has a turn of foot at the end."

He added, "I looked at the ground when cantering down and it looked as if the tractor had been on the outside, so I took advantage of it. My only worry was his fitness because of the recent hiccup he had had in work. I thought he'd either win by five lengths or be tailed off last. But I could feel in the race that he still had plenty left."

Lucky Houdalakis spoke of the terrible moment 17 days before the race

when J J returned lame from a workout.

However, such is the class of this horse, that he needn't have had any concerns.

Gaultier's run would have brought much pleasure to the Mike Bass yard, as this horse has been working extremely well all winter at Clairwood, but hasn't been putting it in at the races in his last few starts.

He also came from a favourable high draw, as did the third-placed Joey Ramsden-trained Bush Pirate who ran a cracker considering his relatively low merit rating.

Bush Pirate came from way off them to finish runner up in his last start in the slow run Post Merchants, so his performance here was not as surprising as it might seem.

Ramsden confirmed that a stiff six furlongs is Bush Pirate's best trip and that he always ran well in top class fields.

The Sean Tarry-trained Captain's Gal, winner of the SA Fillies Sprint, was the only filly in the race and ran a good fourth, also from an outside draw, while the Bass-trained Rushing Wind was the first low drawn horse home in fifth.

J J owned by Coenie Strydom, Hennie du Preez, Thea Boyens and Houdalakis himself, won this same race in 2008 by four lengths and this was his fifth Grade 1 win.

The Grade 1 Cape Flying Championship at Kenilworth next January looks his natural next target.

ORBISON

The Herman Brown yard have always thought highly of their three-year gelding Orbison and he proved himself worthy of their regard at Clairwood when running out an impressive winner of the Grade 1 Champions Cup over 1800m against a star-studded field.

The rangy Mogok bay booked his place in the Vodacom Durban July as a result and Brown drew a few parallels between him and the July 2006 runner-up Sushisan, who was only overtaken late by the winner

Eyeofthetiger that year.

"Like Sushisan he's been an awkward, gangly type of a three-year-old who is improving all the time," said Brown. "We've always thought he was good but he is of the type you have to do some waiting with and hope they prove themselves. I was particularly impressed with the way he finished off the race on Saturday. He made up the ground to get to Galileo's Galaxy but then there was a question whether he would find extra.

ORBISON (cont)

But when Raymond gave him a crack of the whip he just took off and ran away from them. I don't think he will have a problem staying the 2200m of the July. He's won well over 2000m at Greyville before. He's very fit and hard at the moment and we will just need to keep him ticking over. He's had a similar July route to Sushisan as like him there was always a question whether he would actually get into the race. We had a few options, but we took the Clairwood route and thankfully it's worked out. He ran disappointingly in the Cup Trial but he was drawn wide and was a bit free in the running. On Saturday we didn't want to waste his good draw. We knew there would be a good pace and we planned to have him up there. Raymond carried out the plan perfectly."

Paul Rhodes, a loyal supporter of the Brown yard, was having his first Grade 1 win and was over the moon in the winner's enclosure.

Rhodes said later, "Raymond has always rated him. He dismounted after his maiden win on debut and said to me 'Orbison for the July.' I didn't believe him at the time. Then after he ran sixth in the SA Classic he told me he hadn't been himself, hadn't enjoyed the travel and got tired. Then he said to me, 'He will win a Group 1 race this season.'"

Danielson, having joined the Brown yard earlier this season, was asked in passing by the press one ordinary morning at Summerveld early this

year, which horse he rated the best in the yard.

His reply, "Orbison by far," said a lot, with some good other horses emerging at the time.

Orbison was bred by Scotts Brothers, run by Robin Scott, who owns the stud together with his brother Des.

Robin also owns a share in Orbison, who was sold at the National Yearling Sales for R400, 000.

The Scott Brothers bred one of the July's most famous winners, the great Politician, who won in 1978.

Robin has also owned a July winner, having had a share in 1984 winner Devon Air, who was one of two winners of the big race that Des owned, the other being Illustrador (1990).

Robin said yesterday, "It will be very exciting to have another runner in the July. He was an outsider on Saturday but not according to Herman's assistant, Frank Robinson, who was confident that he could win."

Robin didn't go down to the course and also revealed why Herman Brown himself wasn't at the track.

"Herman told me that whenever he's not at the course, the horse wins, so I've told him to make sure he stays away for the July too!" he joked.

Brown is himself a shareholder in Orbison.

WORKFORCE WINS GR1 ENGLISH DERBY 5

Mike de Beer's six-month training career came to an end at Greyville on Saturday and Saluki sent him out in a blaze of glory by winning the Schweppes 2200.

His first Grade winner should have been a cause for celebration but de Beer wasn't even there. He stayed at home in Cape Town and watched the race on television, his emotions churning.

"The last two months have been a difficult and emotional time for me," he explained. "I have been in the game since I was 14 – I used to be a jockey – but now I've decided to join my wife in her catering business."

De Beer signified that he has what it takes to train well. In the Woolavington in June Tassie Belle took him a tantalising half length away from Grade 1 glory and his six months with a licence have seen him notch up 14 winners.

The reason that it has all come to an end is that his old boss Basil Marcus, from whom he took over his Milnerton stables at the beginning of February, has found that his aim of using South Africa as a nursery for his Singapore operation is not practical.

Adam Marcus, Basil's son, who has been looking after the Durban-based horses, explained: "The original plan was to buy 20-30 babies a year here and then send the handy ones to Singapore, but their export and import is not as easy as we thought.

"They have to go into quarantine in Kenilworth and then again in Europe

before they can be sent on to Singapore. Also we are having tremendous support out there.

"I am returning to Cape Town to wrap things up and then I go to Singapore to assist my father and broaden my knowledge."

Despite being left without a stable – the horses are being dispersed and Saluki joins Stephen Page – de Beer has nothing but respect for the Marcus family, particularly for Adam who has been his assistant.

De Beer said: "Adam has learned a lot from his Dad and he has all the attributes of a man who is going to be a top trainer one day. Indeed he has the whole package."

De Beer insists that he has no plans to return to the training ranks - or at least he wouldn't have were it not for the heartstrings persistently tugging at him.

His five-year-old son is already determined to become a jockey and he keeps saying to his father: "Daddy, how am I going to do it if you are not training any horses?"

SAMPSON WINS GROUP 2 IN INDIA

SOUTH African jockey Deon Sampson is riding the crest of the wave in India. He picked up the Group 2 HDIL BTC Anniversary Cup aboard Celestial Way (photo) at Bangalore racecourse on, the first leg of a double on the day.

One Indian racing scribe reported: "In one of the best races ever witnessed on the local track, the small-made Celestial Way confirmed that she has a big heart. She ran her guts out and grabbed an impossible victory from the jaws of a certain defeat.

"Celestial Way was produced on the outer strip of the track and asked to accelerate. Sampson touched her with the whip and she bounded forward. She made up acres of ground to come alongside the leader.

Both Suraj Narre3du (Sprint Star) and Sampson delighted their fans with some brilliant riding as the two runners began their fight to the finish.

Amidst thunderous cheering from the crowds, they seemed inseparable at the wire, but the Digital Camera confirmed that Celestial Way had won on the post."

Sampson, who has ridden 14 winners from 40 rides in a spell of roughly two months, told Racingweb: "I'm having a great time and the Group 2 win brought me a lot of joy. I'm only allowed four rides per meeting, so I'm delighted with my strike rate."

He said that the quality of thoroughbreds competing in Indian group races was good and that a number of top riders from other countries visit regularly. "Richard Hughes was here today, he won the Indian Derby."

Sampson is third on the Jockeys' Log in Bangalore.

PAYNE'S THE WINTER KING AT RANDWICK

SYDNEY - Former South African trainer David Payne is finishing the 2009-2010 season with a terrific rattle, writes JEFF ZERBST. He trained a winner midweek at Canterbury (Flaming Rock, 33-10), and then nailed a double at Randwick with Winter King (17-20 fav) and Kimberley Kid (15-2).

Winter King's win in the opener was the day's standout performance. Coming back from a five-month layoff, the 3yo gelding pulverised his field in a 1000m handicap.

Nash Rawiller parked the One Cool Cat (US) gelding in second spot after a sluggish start, and then tackled the frontrunner, Eripsni (25-1) with 300m to run. Winter King claimed the lead with 250m to go and responded well when Rawiller gave him a few cracks with the whip. He shot clear of the pack and cruised to the line with 2 ¾ lengths to spare over strong-finishing Sarge in Charge (7-1). Winter King's time of 59.65 seconds on a heavy track was a class record.

"He's a rising four-year-old that has benefited from gelding," said Payne. "He was a lot calmer in the parade ring today. I think there might be a couple of good races in him."

His record of six wins from 16 starts is impressive and Winter King has now banked \$265,000 for owners Les Samba and Ron Medich. He's a carnival horse for sure.

Kimberley Kid, Payne's other winner, is more of a battling type but the Johannesburg (US) gelding lived up to his breed's penchant for mud-larking in a 3yo handicap over 1200m.

Settled in the rear division by Nash Rawiller, the 3yo accelerated smartly in the straight to hit the lead with a furlong to go. After that it was easy

street, and Payne's charge romped in by 1½ lengths. It was only the Kid's second win in 21 starts but he should get a few more on that effort.

The week's wins took Payne to 39 Sydney metropolitan winners for the season, and he's shading Gerald Ryan for fifth spot on the table. Ryan had a winner to get to the 39-winner mark, but Payne's had many more horses in the No. 2 box.

"It's been a good season and I've got no complaints," said Payne. "It helps to have good owners like I've got."

Another trainer who scored a double at Randwick was Chris Waller, and it was SA jockey Glyn Schofield who booted home both of them.

Schofield produced copybook rides on Patrician's Glory and Hawk Island (both 11-10 favourites) in staying races to be the toast of punters and Waller himself.

"Glyn produced two perfect rides," said Waller. "He didn't make my horses cover an inch more ground than they had to."

Chuffed as Schofield was, his thoughts kept straying to Newcastle where son, Chad, who is apprenticed to David Payne, was having his first race ride.

"I'm so nervous for him," said dad.

Chad did well, finishing third aboard the Payne-trained gelding, Sir Gwynn (12-1). He then finished out of the placings on Oenophilia (11-1) and Hemem (10-1).

PAYNE AIMS SHEIK'S RAIHANA AT COX PLATE

Trainer David Payne confirmed he is "hopeful of providing one of the most powerful thoroughbred owners in the world with a runner in the Gr1 Cox Plate" in October, reported The Daily Telegraph. Dubai royal Sheik Mohammed bin Khalifa Saeed Al Maktoum sent his Australian-bred 3YO filly Raihana (Elusive Quality-Esubooh, by Sunday Silence) to Payne after she finished 2nd in the UAE Derby (after winning the UAE 1000 Guineas) with the major races at the Melbourne Spring Carnival as her goal. The Sheikh originally purchased her unraced dam Esubooh (Sunday

Silence-Felicitatation, by Danehill) at the 2003 Inglis Easter Yearling Sale in Sydney for \$350,000. Payne said Raihana "will trial in about 2 or 3 weeks & then she will head the same way to the Cox Plate or Caulfield Cup. She has only had 6 starts, she won their Oaks, she ran 2nd in the Derby. She is definitely top-shelf." Raihana is likely to kick off her Australian career in the Warwick Stakes (1400m) at Warwick Farm in Sydney on August 21 & Payne (who controls 10 horses for the Sheikh) noted: "That should get her going & then we will map out her program from there."

MUSIR

The Mike de Kock-trained superstar Musir, after initially being sent to Australia to further his racing career, is now back in the UK.

Musir, the Equus Champion two-year-old in South Africa last season, had a fantastic Dubai Carnival this year, winning the UAE 2000 Guineas Trial, the UAE 2000 Guineas and the UAE Derby. That extended his career to five wins in six starts.

It was subsequently decided that Musir, owned and bred by Sheik Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, would enhance his stallion potential if able to win Group 1 races in Australia so he was sent there to be trained

by David Payne.

However, he was a horse that failed his fetlock x-rays as a yearling, which was why the Sheik never sold him, and he failed the x-rays once again in Australia.

DeKock said, "We felt that to keep him in Australia would be unfair on David Payne in case something went wrong. He is currently in England working on Jane Chapple-Hyam's treadmill. He will then be sent to campaign in Dubai where the World Cup will be his main target."

BUSINESS TYCOON AND HORSEMAN GRAHAM BECK DIES

BUSINESS tycoon Graham Beck, one of the most active racehorse owners and breeders in the history of South African racing, has died in London, aged 80. He suffered from lung cancer and passed away in the early hours of Tuesday morning, 27 July.

Legendary for his business deals and investments, Beck was a self-made multi-millionaire with interests stretching from coal mines to wines, yachts, stud farms and property all over the world.

His huge influence in the South African racing industry stretched over four decades and his Highlands Farm Stud near Robertson has been among the country's top five breeders for a generation.

While Beck was as tough as they come in the business world, he was known as a kind and generous man and Mike Sharkey of Highlands com-

mented to Racing Express: "Mr Beck did things for others that nobody knew about. In business nobody will ever say they made a bad deal with him. He stuck by his word. He was as sharp as 40 razor blades."

Beck's familiar brown-and-white silks were seen in the winner's box hundreds of times and his host of top racehorses included champions Zatopek, The Rutland Arms, Bush Telegraph, Free My Heart and more recently National Currency, Overarching and Dancer's Daughter.

Beck is survived by his wife Rhona, son Antony, daughter-in-law Angela and five grandchildren.