

KZN Champions Season Update

The Mercury Sprint took place at Clairwood race course on Saturday, July 16, and this turned out to be another great day on the brilliant Champions Season calendar with the Neil Bruss trained, August Rush, landing the spoils in a pulsating finish. Ridden by Bernard Fayd’herbe, August Rush shifted outwards in the latter stages preventing the luckless Rushing Wind from making a serious challenge up the outside running rail. No objection was forthcoming but Fayd’Herbe did receive a suspension for the ride. Take nothing away from the win though, it was great to see all the connections hugging and shedding a tear in the winner’s enclosure – that is what racing is all about and hopefully we have more of these scenes in the not too distant future.

The finale of the Champions Season took place at Greyville on Sunday, July 31, with the staging of the branded “Super Saturday” event. However, rain forced the meeting to be postponed from the Saturday to the Sunday. The day included four Gr1 races including the flagship event, the Canon Gold Cup, run over 3200m. Sean Tarry scored a major achievement by saddling a one-two in the race with Aslan taking the honours from stable companion and every improving, Kolkata. The race was a sedate affair with Anton Marcus trying to dictate on his mount Predestination, but as the field turned for home it was clear to see that a number of horses had chances. Aslan ran on the stronger from Kolkata with a game Knight To Remember and tote favourite Ilsanpietro finishing third and fourth respectively.

The race of the day turned out to be the KZN Champions Cup which also featured a trainer one and two where local horseman, Gavin Van Zyl achieved the feat with The Apache and Bulsara. There were a few anxious moments however after an objection was lodged by the jockey on Bulsara, Donovan Mansour, against the winner on the grounds of interference in the latter stages. The objection was overruled. The Apache is a horse worth following but whether he stays in SA or finally goes overseas remains to be seen. Super Storm and the unlucky horse of the race, Buy And Sell, finished back in third and fourth respectively.

Other winners on the day included Amanee (Thekwini Stakes GR1), Potala Palace (Premier’s Champion Stakes GR1), Beach Beauty (Gold Bracelet GR2), Jet Jamboree (Darley Arabian Listed) and Tetelestai (Umgeni Handicap Listed).

Well done to all concerned and a special thank you to Canon for their continued sponsorship of our country’s top staying race.



Racing Masters

The Racing Masters took place down at the Wild Coast Sun and attracted a final field of 66 golfers. The early leader was Alan Mellor on 42 points on day one, but he was closely followed by Keith Williamson (38 points), Neil Andrews and Gary Harris, both on 36 points. The second day turned into a blustery affair with the steady Williamson pulling away early and managing to hold on to win the event with a second round 36 points. Harris finished second with Blaine Hamilton making up the top three. It was great to see people mixing in this social environment and all involved in the racing industry. This was the first time the event had been held in KZN and must be penciled into the calendar for 2012 where it will again take place at the Wild Coast Sun more than likely straight after Canon Gold Cup weekend. Well done to Graeme Hawkins, Phil Georgeiou and Desiree Heine on making this event a tremendous racing success.

Members

Members are reminded that new subscriptions are now due and if you have had any problems receiving your invoices please contact Dale (031-3141639) or Janice (031-3141994). Once payment has been made your new 2011/2012 pendant can be collected.

South African Jockey Academy

Golf Day - Durban Country Club on Friday 30 September 2011

FORMAT OF PLAY: 4 Ball Alliance

ENTRY FEE: R2 600.00 per four ball

Email: halloffame@telkomsa.net or

should you require any additional information please contact

Gilah on either

031 262 3363 or

073 211 7421.



Dundee July

Dean Latimer and I led a team which included members of the Coastal Horse Care Unit, Tellytrack, Harness Racing SA and Gold Circle promotions up to the town of Dundee to be part of the Dundee Racing Festival which takes the form of the Dundee July on July 23.

Mike Mthembu, Director of the Department of Sport and Recreation, in conjunction with stakeholders from Gold Circle, Harness Racing South Africa, Orange Grove Dairies and others provide many hours of insight to ensure a successful event. KZN Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize, who led the parade on a horse led by Harness Racing South Africa's Dean Latimer, various MEC's, newly inaugurated ANC mayors from both the Endumeni and Umzinyathi Districts and other dignitaries gave the VIP area a touch of class throughout

the day and into the night.

The final race of on the seven-race card was the KZN Premier's Gold Circle Cup carrying an overall purse of just under R25 000 out of total prize money of R110 000 on the day. This race produced a fantastic display of horsemanship and after a mad dash for the finish 2010 winner Shalazile ridden by Khaya from the Umzinyathi district was once again crowned the champ and pocketed the R10 000 first prize.

The town of Dundee can be proud of what they have managed to achieve and we at Gold Circle are delighted to be part of this wonderful festival. It just goes to show if people work together for a common cause just how powerful and positive things can be.

Soccer 6

The Gold Circle Soccer 6 Promotions team was at the prestigious and classy venue at Umlazi Township in the south of Durban for the Max's Lifestyle Soccer 6 day. They were later joined by Clive Barker who was well received by the crowds and Ex-Mayor Honorable Obed Mlaba who received a hamper and answered a few questions about the bet. It was a fun day for all patrons at Max's and they are eager for the PSL League to start so they can make some millions.

For more information regarding the Soccer 6, kindly contact Nosi Dlamini on 031-3141541/ 071 3180525.



Brought to you by Soccer 6, your best soccer bet

KZN Horse Fair

The South African Jockey Academy, Harness Racing SA, Coastal Horse Care Unit and Gold Circle joined forces and put on two demos at the KZN Horse Fair held at the Lions River Polo grounds on Tuesday, August 9. The charismatic Charles Grey (SAJA) controlled the microphone while an apprentice put on a stellar demonstration showcasing jockeyship and racing in general. I grabbed the microphone for the Harness Racing demonstration where the hard working Vanessa Beets drove Quickness Brew around the

polo grounds showing off the skill involved in Harness Racing. The crowd was educated more about Harness Racing and some very interesting facts were forthcoming. After the demo members of the crowd took the opportunity to drive the salkie and enjoyed a once in a lifetime experience. I then informed the crowd of Gold Circle's involvement with Harness Racing and told them to diarize August 25 for the next official race. Well done to all concerned.

Equus Awards – Prize Winners

CHAMPION TWO YEAR OLD FILLY:

Princess Victoria

BREEDER OF THE YEAR: Graystone Stud

CHAMPION TWO YEAR OLD COLT/GELDING:

Delago Deluxe

BREEDER AWARD: EXCEPTIONAL

INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

and EQUUS AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT:

JJ The Jet Plane and Gypsey's Warning

CHAMPION THREE YEAR OLD FILLY: Igugu

CHAMPION THREE YEAR OLD COLT/GELDING:

The Apache

CHAMPION BREEDER: Summerhill Stud

CHAMPION OLDER FILLY/MARE:

Dancewiththedevil

WORK RIDER AWARDS: Abraham Makhubo and

Bizu Mjokwa

CHAMPION OLDER MALE: Past Master

MEDIA AWARD : Robyn Louw

CHAMPION SPRINTER: Val de Ra

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT : Ronny Napier

CHAMPION MIDDLE DISTANCE HORSE: Igugu

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR: JP Van Der Merwe

CHAMPION STAYER: Aslan

CHAMPION JOCKEY: Anton Marcus

CHAMPION STALLION AWARD: Jet Master

CHAMPION TRAINER: Mike De Kock

OUTSTANDING STALLION ACHIEVEMENT

AWARD: Captain Al

OWNER OF THE YEAR: Markus Jooste

HORSE OF THE YEAR: Igugu

BROODMARE OF THE YEAR: Sunshine Lover

Harness Racing

The next harness race takes place on August 25 at Clairwood and it will be great to see our drivers back in action after a brief break. The horses have been preparing and will go through their final race preps in the next week or so. The drivers themselves have been itching to get back on the track and it's great to see such enthusiasm from Dean Latimer, Vanessa Beets and the entire team. So make sure you get down to Clairwood and watch our country's top trotters in action. If anyone would like to get more involved with harness racing please drop me a mail and I'm happy to pass your details on. jasond@goldcircle.co.za

Bart Rice was recently chosen to travel to Italy to participate in a World Drivers Series Challenge – judging by the pictures on Facebook he had a very successful trip. Dean Latimer is in the US at present attending the World Trotting Conference in New York and will also be visiting a stud farm that works closely with artificial insemination. There is talk of exciting prospects on the horizon and Latimer (who is extremely well versed in every aspect of the horse) will be hoping to bring back some important ideas for the future of the harness racing industry.

Coastal Horse Care Unit

Once again Gill and her team have been busy keeping the unit in check up in Cato Ridge. The team receives call outs during the week about horses that need to be looked at or taken away. They will be having a golf day and a race day later in the year so watch this space for details to pledge your support. Alternatively pop onto the website and have a look.

<http://www.coastalhorsecareunit.org.za/page.php?4>

Achievers of the month – July

Jockey	Trainer	Owner
Anthony Delpech	Sean Tarry	Raymond and Paula Deacon

Jokes

George said to Fred, 'I put R100 on a horse last week and he came in at twenty five to one.', 'Wow! you must be loaded', said Fred. 'Not really' said George, 'the rest of the field came in at twelve thirty.'

A horse was looking over a fence watching a game of cricket. "Any chance of a game?" he asked the captain. At first the captain was taken aback by the talking horse, but when it insisted it was keen to play the skipper thought it might be a bit of a laugh if he sent the horse out as opening bat. The horse shaped up to the first ball and slammed it over the boundary for six. He did the same with the second and third, indeed every ball he hit for six until the over ended. He had been partnered by the captain, and when the bowler ran in from the other end and the captain managed his first hit for a meagre single he called for the horse to run. But the horse just stood there. Frantic calls by the captain to run were ignored and in the confusion the skipper was run out. "Why didn't you run?" roared the captain. "Listen mate," said the horse. "If I could run I would be at the racetrack today, not messing around with this cricket game."