

Racing News - KZN Season



Graeme Hawkins

Entries for the 2011 Vodacom Durban July fall due at 11:00 on Wednesday 13 April and will be announced at a media "season-opening" function at Greyville on Thursday 14 April.

Betting World will declare their ante-post immediately following the announcement of the first entries and the early favourite is likely to be the Mike de Kock trained Igugu, runaway winner of the SA Fillies Classic at Turffontein on 26 March.

There are two supplementary entry stages for the VDJ, 11:00 on May 10 and 11:00 on 6 June and the weights will be published on Tuesday 7 June. The final field will be announced on 15 June and the Gallops are scheduled to take place on Thursday 23 June.

Our valued sponsors, Vodacom, will be in attendance at the media launch on April 14 and, as you will no doubt by now be aware, their corporate brand has changed remarkably and we can look forward to Greyville being attired in bright red on the first Saturday of July.

On the subject of attire, the theme for the 2011 VDJ is "A Right Royal Affair" – most appropriate given the fact that Charlene Wittstock is marrying Prince Albert of Monaco on the very same day, not forgetting of course the Royal Wedding at the end of this month.

From a racing perspective Champions Season 2011 kicks off officially on Tuesday night 3 May with the running of the Gr2 Drill Hall Stakes and the KZN Classic programme gets under away with the KRA Guineas on Sunday 8 May when once again Gold Circle will play host to an official delegation from the Korean Racing Association.

I have no doubt that KZN racing fans are in for another fantastic three months of championship racing with the best of South African racing talent, both equine and human, on display.

Kings Cup 2011

The KWAZULU-NATAL season will start to unfold in the next month or so and it promises to be one of immense quality and excitement if going by the finish of the Grade 3 Kings Cup over 1600m at Greyville on March 22nd. The Alistair Gordon trained, Lady Magpie, snuck through when it mattered most to put her nose down and win in a blanket finish from Paraguayito and Martial Eagle. The handing over of the trophies followed and this turned into an emotional affair with Mr Gordon breaking down in tears following the praising of his assistant trainer, Nicolette Roscoe.

Roscoe has been instrumental in keeping the yard going after Mr Gordon and his wife had been laid low after a car accident. Lady Magpie, owned by David Coleman, showed that hard work and good

team ethics can prevail in the end.



Babu Nunan and Nicolette Roscoe

South Africa's Flying Champions Win In Dubai

J J The Jet Plane is fast becoming one of the world's most popular horses and he continued to fly the flag for South Africa overseas as he came through to win the Grade 2 \$1 million Al Quoz Sprint over 1000m at Meydan in Dubai yesterday despite having a slight traffic problem towards the business end.

South Africans dominated both sprints on the card.

J J, trained and part-owned by Vaal-based Lucky Houdalakis, ridden by Capetonian Bernard Fayd'herbe and owned by South Africans Coenie Strydom, Thea Booyens and Hennie Du Preez was followed home by a former South African-trained horse War Artist.

Later the Grade 1 US\$2 million Golden Shaheen over 1200m on the tapeta was won by Rocket Man who was bought by Durban bloodstock agent Andy Williams for South African owner Fred Crabbia and is trained in Singapore by South African Pat Shaw. He was ridden by South African Felix Coetzee.

Fayd'herbe had to switch J J for a clear run and the six-year-old Jet Master gelding then had to

pull out all the stops to get the better of War Artist, Better Be The One and Invincible Ash.

War Artist won the Grade 1 Mercury Sprint at Clairwood for Herman Brown in 2007 having begun his career with Tony Rivalland and has gone on to have an outstanding overseas record.

J J has won his last five races on turf including three Grade 1s.

He is the second highest rated turf sprinter in the world behind the unbeaten Australian superstar filly Black Caviar.

He will now be heading for the expensive Grade 1 Krisflyer Sprint in Singapore on May 22, which forms a leg of the Global Sprint Challenge Series.

It was a deserved win for Fayd'herbe who has ridden J J every morning for the last month.

J J started at odds of 9-10 and paid R2,10 a win on the tote.

Rocket Man, who has had his share of bad luck in his career, finally cracked his first Grade 1 win and will meet J J in the Krisflyer Sprint.

Written by David Thiselton

Igugu Thunders Home - Now for the Vodacom Durban July

The Mike de Kock-trained Igugu bagged the second leg of the Triple Tiara when romping home in the Grade 1 SA Fillies Classic over 1800m at Turffontein on Saturday 26 March and comparisons with the great Empress Club are realistic now given the sheer brilliance she displayed.

Delpech had supporters worried when he looped the field on Igugu and took her to the front in the rain softened conditions, but it proved an inspired move as she simply sauntered further and further clear to win by 10,25 lengths.

Local Summerveld trainer James Goodman saw an opportunity in this race sometime ago with his filly Las Ramblas and this was also an inspired decision as she ran on to finish second to earn a valuable R200,000 cheque. James has always held this filly in high regard and this was an exceptional training feat for the cigar smoking KZN character.

The de Kock-trained Berry Blaze was third ahead of the Charles Laird-trained Hollywoodboulevard.

Igugu, by Galileo, is owned by Andre Macdonald in partnership with Sheik Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum and was bred in Australia.

Written by David Thiselton



MEDIA RELEASE

THE GOLDEN HORSE CASINO SPRINT RACEDAY

SCOTTSVILLE RACECOURSE, SATURDAY, 28 MAY 2011

A JACKPOT OF SPECTACULAR GRADE 1 SPRINTS

Gold is the symbol of ultimate achievement among the best of the best and the pinnacle of success where quality and character come together.

It is the symbol that epitomises the annual Golden Horse Casino Raceday at Scottsville Racecourse in Pietermaritzburg where the best of South Africa's speed horses gather for the sprinting showdown of the year in four Grade 1 clashes over 1 200m each carrying a stake of approximately R500 000.

From the precocious two-year-olds that are eager to make an early mark in the Gold Reef Resorts Medallion and the Allan Robertson Championship, to the hardened and accomplished campaigners in the South African Fillies Sprint and the country's premier speed event, the Golden Horse Casino Sprint – only the very best are there.

They come from all corners of the country in a bid to prove their worth and lift the coveted titles with the rolls of honour featuring the names of the finest sprinters ever to grace the racing turf.

Golden Horse Casino Sprint Raceday has been the heart of thoroughbred sprinting for almost 50 years with the Golden Horse Casino Sprint first run in 1962. It was the first sponsored race in KwaZulu-Natal when run as the Gilbey's Stakes and soon established itself as the premier sprint handicap in the country.

With the world growing ever smaller South African horses have gone on to achieve world wide recognition. 2010 Golden Horse Casino Sprint winner, JJ The Jet Plane, is one such thoroughbred who is currently flying the South African flag high on the international stage.

Since 2002 this great race has been staged under the banner of the Golden Horse Casino which has embraced the occasion with unstinting support, helping to consolidate the meeting as the most important festival of speed on the African continent.

With the early success of the premier sprint, the inaugural running of the Gold Reef Resorts Medallion, originally the Smirnoff Sprint, followed in 1963 and the Allan Robertson Championship, initially run as the Breeders Champion Fillies Stakes, was staged a year later.

The Natal Fillies Sprint was first run in 1971 and was upgraded in 1984 when it became the South African Fillies Sprint. It sealed the status of the Golden Horse Casino Raceday, the only meeting in the country with an official Jackpot of Grade 1 races, as the ultimate challenge for sprinting thoroughbreds in South Africa.

Saturday, 28 May 2011, is a date to diarise for this year's exciting event. It's a day that the entire family can enjoy. Mom and Dad will be entertained with the horseracing and the extensive fashion line-up, whilst the children will have a full day's programme of entertainment made available just for them.

For restaurant facilities available on the day contact Val on 033 345 3405.

KZN ACHIEVERS FOR MARCH 2011

Owner	Jockey	Trainer
Keith Young	Anthony Delpech	Nicolette Roscoe

MULTI-SPONSORED CHARITY/ SPONSORED RACEDAYS - April & May 2011 – KZN

April	5	Scottsville	
	9	Scottsville	INDEPENDENT ON SATURDAY Raceday
	12	Clairwood	
	17	Clairwood	REVOLUTION MOTOR CYCLE CLUB Raceday
	19	Greyville (N)	
	24	Clairwood	
	26	Greyville (N)	UMVOTI MOUNTED RIFLES Race meeting
	27	Scottsville	
May	1	Scottsville	KHARINA SECONDARY SCHOOL Race day
	3	Greyville (N)	INSURANCE INSTITUTE KWAZULU-NATAL Racemeeting
	5	Scottsville	
	8	Greyville (D)	KRA GUINEAS Raceday
	10	Clairwood	
	15	Clairwood	FRIENDS OF R.K. KHAN HOSPITAL Raceday
	17	Greyville (N)	BETTING WORLD 1900 Racemeeting
	22	Clairwood	CHESHIRE HOMES Raceday
	24	Greyville (N)	CHATSWORTH COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE Racemeeting
	28	Scottsville	GOLDEN HORSE CASINO SPRINT Raceday

Seen at the course



Seen at the Rotary Club of Westville Multi-Sponsored race meeting enjoying a glass of champagne in the Parade Ring at Greyville Racecourse were the stunning Claire Jones, Lisa Foster, Nelga Stewart and Marie-Louise Steyn representing Compendium.

Members

MEMBERS are please reminded of the dress codes that are in place for all members and their guests on race days. If you are unsure of the dress code and would like to avoid being embarrassed when refused entry to a members facility, please call Dale Brereton-Stiles on 031-314 1639 or Janice Corsar on 031-314 1994. Members are also requested to wear their badges at all times when on course. We will also be sending out a Correspondence Questionnaire next week – PLEASE take the time to go through it and fill your answers in. Remember, your OPINION counts!

Joke

One day a man passed by a farm and saw a beautiful horse. Hoping to buy the animal, he said to the farmer: "I think your horse looks pretty good, so I'll give you R1000 for him." "He doesn't look so good, and he's not for sale," the farmer said. The man insisted, "I think he looks just fine and I'll up the price to R3000." "He doesn't look so good," the farmer said, "but if you want him that much, he's yours." The next day the man came back raging mad. He went up to the farmer and screamed, "You sold me a blind horse. You cheated me!" The farmer calmly replied, "I told you he didn't look so good, didn't I?"

KZN Staff Social Club

The KZN Staff Social Club held its first event of the year last Friday 01 April which was a bring-and-braai at Greyville racecourse. The theme of the event was 'Leave your Hat on or Show off your Funky Hair Do' and was enjoyed by the team that participated. The goal of the Social Club is to build team spirit amongst all staff in KZN and the effort that was made by the HR and Commercial Divisions in particular was very much appreciated. A good healthy team spirit is key to uplifting and building a quality working environment and this will be the goal of the Social Club going forward. Well done to all concerned.



















Graeme Hawkins, Shirley Pillay, Pam Wright and Patrick Loker



Shanita, Shirley, Olivia and Nirvana

Racing Diary

Day	GC	Rest of SA	Some International	Day	GC	Rest of SA
Mon 4		Flamingo Park	 Warwick	Wed 20		Arlington
Tue 5	Scottsville	Turffontein (N)	 Southwell	Thu 21		Vaal
Wed 6	Durbanville		 Hong Kong	Fri 22		Arlington
Thu 7		Vaal	 Aintree	Sat 23	Kenilworth	
Fri 8		Fairview	 Aintree	Sun 24	Clairwood	
Sat 9	Scottsville		 Mauritius	Mon 25	Kenilworth	
	Kenilworth			Tues 26	Greyville (N)	Vaal
Sun 10		Turffontein	 Borrowdale	Wed 27	Scottsville	
Mon 11		Flamingo Park	 Windsor	Thu 28		Vaal
Tues 12	Clairwood	Turffontein (N)	 Pontefract	Fri 29		Arlington
Wed 13	Durbanville		 Cheltenham	Sat 30		Turffontein
Thu 14		Vaal	 Cheltenham	Sun 01	Scottsville	
Fri 15		Fairview	 Singapore	Mon 02		Turffontein
Sat 16	Kenilworth	Turffontein	 Mauritius	Tues 03	Greyville (N)	Vaal
Sun 17	Clairwood		 Kenya	Wed 04	Kenilworth	
Mon 18		Flamingo Park	 Plumpton	Thu 05	Scottsville	
Tues 19	Greyville (N)	Vaal	 Kempton	Fri 06		Fairview

Leading VDJ Contender - Run For It

