

GOLD CIRCLE MEMBER'S newsLETTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL 031 314 1630 or email: peterl@goldcircle.co.za

EDITION 30. MARCH 2009



Mr John Bescoby and Mr Vidrik Thurling

GOLD CIRCLE NEW CHAIRMEN

Gold Circle is pleased to announce that Mr John Bescoby and Mr Vidrik Thurling will serve jointly as the company Chairmen.

The decision to have two chairmen, one from each of the company's operating regions, was taken at a meeting of Gold Circle's Board of Directors in Cape Town.

Gold Circle CEO Mr Michel Nairac said the decision reflected the need for co-operation and synergies between the two provinces in view of the current economic climate.

The joint chairmen of Gold Circle will provide a strong platform of mutual understanding and co-operation, enabling the company to make hard decisions that would be of benefit to the long-term sustainability of the horseracing industry.

Mr Thurling said: "I am extremely pleased and proud to be part

of the Gold Circle team that has come together in this unique way to tackle the challenges ahead of us. I look forward to working with all members of the team. We intend to work as one to get us through the extremely trying times that lie ahead, and I know that we have what it takes to do this."

Mr Bescoby said: "The Board's decision to appoint two chairmen jointly demonstrates our commitment to tackling this difficult economic period in a mature and creative manner. It will also have the benefit of greater co-operation between the two operating regions, which will be essential in the future.

"I am very honoured to take on the position. I am convinced that, with the composition of the Board, the depth of management and the skills of our staff, Gold Circle will get through this period successfully."

Derby flop Le Drakkar to step back in trip

South Africa: Cape Guineas winner Le Drakkar, 3-5 favourite when surprisingly beaten into third behind Big City Life in the Cape Derby, will revert to 1m in the KZN Guineas at Greyville in May.

However, trainer Dean Kannemeyer firmly believes that his Australian-bred colt stayed the 1m2f of the Derby and partly blames a poor draw which cost his Classic winner several lengths.

Kannemeyer said: "I told MJ Byleveld to drop the horse out in the hope that it would be a hard-run race like the Guineas, but they went no pace until turning into the straight when they suddenly quickened and that got Le Drakkar off the bit.

"Le Drakkar is quite a big horse so he will need a run before the Greyville race. I have to work out whether to give him a race in Cape Town before we go to Durban or give him one when he gets there.

"After the Guineas, he reverts to ten furlongs in the Daily News at Greyville in early June."

Most of the top Cape Town horses spend April to July in Durban for the so-called 'champion season', when the KZN Guineas is one of the possibilities being considered by Glen Kotzen for Big City Life.

The Paarl-based trainer said: "His objective is the Durban July and there are a whole host of options before that including the Guineas and the seven furlong Drill Hall Stakes two days beforehand."



Le Drakkar (MJ Byleveld): Cape Guineas winner to drop back to a mile

Cape Fillies Guineas winner Sparkling Gem is being aimed at the South African Fillies Sprint at Scottsville on May 30 and trainer Justin Snaith reports that she could also take in the KZN Fillies Guineas three weeks earlier.

Mother Russia, who beat Sparkling Gem in the Fancourt Majorca Stakes last time, has the mile Garden Province Stakes at Greyville on Durban July day as her long-term target.

Trainer Joey Ramsden said: "She will run before that but I don't know about the KZN Fillies Guineas because it is only a Gr 2.

Carnival winner Silver Mist ruled out for season

SILVER MIST, winner of a 71/2f turf handicap on the opening night of the Dubai Carnival before following up in style by winning the Group 3 Al Rashidiya over 1m1f, also on grass, will miss the rest of the campaign and probably year.

The son of Western Winter fractured a cannon bone when working at Nad Al Sheba this week, according to his trainer Mike De Kock: "Obviously it is very unfortunate and a great shame as he has arguably been our star so far, but he has fractured a cannon bone and there is no speedy solution. He will be sidelined, I would imagine, for the rest of the year but, all being well, will be back for next year's carnival."

A useful performer in South Africa for former trainer, Englishman Joey Ramsden, he was one of the new additions to a powerful De Kock team. World Cup night and the Dubai Duty Free, probably via Super Thursday, had appeared on the cards after his Al Rashidiya win. That form was given a big boost by the comfortable victory of Kirklees, third to Silver Mist, in a valuable handicap for Godolphin.

Dubai World Cup fancy Daiwa Scarlet retired



Daiwa Scarlet

JAPANESE racing has been shocked by the retirement of superstar racemare Daiwa Scarlet, who was being primed to run in the Dubai World Cup.

The four-time Group 1 winner, generally 5-1 third favourite for the world's richest race, has suffered a leg injury. Daiwa Scarlet was due to make her first start on dirt on Sunday in the Grade 1 February Stakes in Tokyo.

However, on Monday the Japan Racing Association announced that the hugely talented five-year-old had been diagnosed with superficial flexor tendonitis and she will now become a broodmare. "It's a shame that this great horse has to retire," said trainer Kunihide Matsuda. "I look forward to her children in the future."

News of Daiwa Scarlet's retirement is not just a blow to Japanese racing but to the Dubai World Cup, a race not looking overburdened with star performers this year.

A byword for consistency, she won eight of her 12 career starts and finishing second in the other four. In 2007 she was Japan's champion three-year-old filly, her victories including the Oka Sho (Japanese 1,000 Guineas), Shuka Sho and Queen Elizabeth Cup. In both the Oka Sho and Shuka Sho, she defeated Derby winner Vodka, with whom she developed a celebrated rivalry.

Daiwa Scarlet's 2008 campaign was interrupted with eye and splint injuries but she came back in the autumn and ended the season with her greatest performance in a front-running victory in the end-of-season grand prix, the Arima Kinen.

Having run her rivals ragged, she became the first female in 37 years to win the famed Nakayama finale.

Night racing may start at Turffontein

The first night race meeting at Turffontein could be held as early as October this year following the Racing Association giving the thumbs up to a revised design for the lighting masts. Initially it was intended to have night racing at Turffontein from October last year, but the planned installation of lights was delayed by a trainer's objection to night racing at the venue and the liquidation of the contracted mast supplier.

In the interim the costs of the project spiralled from R35 million to R50 million and, in consultation with the Racing Association, it was agreed to review how best the proceeds arising from the termination of racing's usage agreement at Newmarket could be spent for the benefit of the industry.

This review included an investigation into an all-weather racing surface and reducing the cost of the night racing project through lighting only one of the two tracks at Turffontein and different lighting mast designs.

While this was ongoing, the Phumelela board confirmed that ev-

ery effort should be made to introduce night racing at Turffontein if it could be accomplished within the original budget.

This has proved possible as a result of various factors, notably a drop in the price of materials, lighting only the standside track and a unique lighting mast design.

Given the unique nature of the lighting masts, Phumelela decided that it was important that the Racing Association (RA), which represents racehorse owners in Phumelela racing regions, approve the aesthetics of the new design before proceeding.

To this end a temporary replica of the lighting masts was erected on the Turffontein infield and, after inspecting the mast, the RA has given the green light to the new design.

The generators and luminaires were purchased some time ago and the installation of the lighting masts will now continue. If everything goes according to schedule, it should be possible for the first night race meeting at Turffontein to take place this October.

Cavanough takes on South African Jockey

Experienced South African jockey Nick Roebuck is hoping to begin riding in Australia later this month after striking an agreement with leading NSW country trainer Brett Cavanough.

Roebuck, who has been riding for more than 10 years, will join the Cavanough stable in Albury if his visa application is approved.

"I'm hoping Nick will be here in time to ride for me at the Albury Cup carnival on March 26 and 27," Cavanough said.

Cavanough, who has been seeking a South African jockey to join his stable for the last two months, said he had been impressed by Roebuck's riding style.

"He is a patient style of rider and from what I have seen of him I like the way he gets horses travelling in a race," Cavanough said.

Roebuck has ridden 24 winners and 41 placings over the last two seasons in South Africa.

Cavanough has six boxes booked at Eagle Farm from April 1 and intends to rotate his horses between Albury and Brisbane through the Queensland carnival.

Helideck blossomed a Group winner in Queensland last year when he won the Prime Minister's Cup at the Gold Coast and the BTC Sprint at Doomben.



Nick Roebuck

Giant's Causeway Colt For Gr1 Star Ipi Tombe



Ipi Tombe

Multiple Gr1-winning mare & 2002 South African champion 3YO filly Ipi Tombe (Manshood-Carnet De Danse, by Dance In Time) who topped the 2004 UK Tattersalls December Sale when selling to James Delahooke for 850,000 guineas (A\$1.87m) has foaled a colt by former Coolmore shuttler Giant's Causeway in Kentucky, reported racingpost.com. Ipi Tombe boards at Denali Stud & is booked to visit Kingmambo. On the track, Ipi Tombe won 12 of her 14 starts in South Africa, USA, UAE & Zimbabwe including the Gr1 South African Fillies Guineas, Gr1 Durban July Handicap & Gr1 Dubai Duty Free

Korean Riders visit Western Cape



KRA DELEGATION: Seen at Kenilworth on Saturday: Back row; from L to R: Vidrik Thurling(Chairman Gold Circle), Rodney Dunn (Chairman WPOTA), Vincent Curtis(Apprentice Manager SAJA Cape Town) and Jinkap Kim (Team Leader KRA Riding Academy) Front: Apprentice Jockeys Sangwoo Park, Geewoong Lee and Hyesun Kim.

The growing relationship between the Korea Racing Association and Gold Circle gained further impetus with the arrival in Cape Town last week of three Korean apprentice jockeys and their riding master. The visiting delegation were hosted at a luncheon at Kenilworth on Saturday by Gold Circle Chairman Vidrik Thurling. The three young riders will be training alongside the South Africa apprentices at their Milnerton base under the guidance of vastly experienced local riding master Vincent Curtis. The historic twinning agreement signed in July 2008 between Gold Circle and the KRA was an important step in strengthening Gold Circle's bridge of friendship and co-operation into the global village and the current visit was described as exciting by Chairman Thurling: "South Africa is an acknowledged world

leader in training outstanding jockeys and the KRA's step of sending three apprentices to learn from us should be viewed as an endorsement of and a show of faith in our standing internationally," he said.

Thurling went on to add that there were other exciting mutually beneficial projects in the pipeline, including possible work opportunities for South African work riders in Korea, and said that he was looking forward to the inaugural running of the Grade 2 KRA Guineas at Greyville during the KwaZulu-Natal Champions Season. He said that this would be followed by a reciprocal race, the Gold Circle Cup, which would be run at Busan Racecourse in Korea, during September of this year.

Trainer Gavin van Zyl



Gavin van Zyl

Gavin van Zyl has had an incredible February, saddling a four-timer on two separate occasions, a rare feat normally associated with a major stable and not with someone who had just four horses two years ago when first taking out his license.

“Not in your wildest dreams would you expect to have four winners twice in a month,” he said from his Summerveld yard yesterday. “It is not something you plan, although I am certainly not surprised that our horses are running well.”

Van Zyl, who now has about 70 horses, had a very good start to this season, but ran into a problem before the new year.

“My favourite training track was temporarily closed for renovation and after it was relaid I made the cardinal error of using it too soon,” he said. “The track hadn’t settled and the horses went completely flat. I decided to stop the bus and start again and gave them all a rest, knowing that it would take the whole of December and January to get them back to where they were. Whatever we did has worked very well and fortunately I have fantastic owners, who have been very patient.”

Van Zyl approached apprentice Karis Teetan with an offer in January.

“I had been struggling to find someone prepared to ride three strings work everyday,” he said. “Karis was the first to accept the offer and we have now formed a wonderful partnership.”

Teetan has ridden twelve winners this month, eight for van Zyl, and has consequently swept into the lead on the national apprentice log.

“Without a good jockey, you are not a complete team,” said van Zyl. “Karis is very talented and is getting to the point where he can read a race well.”

Van Zyl also reserved high praise for his assistant, Opensea Mlamvu.

“He was with David Payne when David first started and is a brilliant horseman. He is an invaluable part of the team.”

Other important cogs in the wheel are bookkeeper Haley McKinnon, horse physiotherapist, Elaine Chapman, and Bloodstock Agent, Mark Tarry, whom he relies on heavily for pedigree advice.

Van Zyl has always been a driven, focused and determined man and his goals have remained the same since the day he took his license out in December 2006.

“I dream of winning the July, the Summer Cup and the Met and competing at the highest level,” he said. “Training racehorses is the school of hard knocks. From A to Z there is nothing easy about it. But fortunately I have been blessed with a talent and have a natural affinity with racehorses. I was not too proud to seek advice when I started and have spoken extensively to established trainers. Herman Brown Senior, Frank Robinson, Chris Snaith, Ormond Ferraris, Mike Azzie, Mike Miller, Wendy Whitehead, Frikkie Greyling, Glen and Nathan Kotzen and many others have given me advice when I’ve asked. I’m deeply indebted to them.”

Van Zyl tasted success early in his training career.

Saddling his first runner in April 2007, he had his first winner the same month with Laser Fan. He bagged his first Graded winner nine months later, when the same horse won the Grade 3 Flamboyant Stakes.

He has since won another Grade 3 with the Bridgett Oppenheimer-owned Prestic, who won the Yellowwood Handicap at Turffontein.

During his thirty year career in the saddle he rode top horses like Smackeroo, Moccasin, Serena, Eliza, Extra Cover, Mill Hill, Roland’s Song, Count Du Barry and Special Preview but what he terms “the big four”, the July, the Met, the Summer Cup and the Gold Cup, all eluded him.

“I finished third on Double Reef in the 2001 July after a slow start and then in 2005 Night Watch pulled throughout in a slow run race yet finished less than two lengths back.”

His love of horses, fundamental to his success, was a seed sown very early. “I grew up near Turffontein and as a ten-year-old used to help out at the yard of the late Michael Roberts.”

He joined the South African Jockey Academy at Summerveld in 1975 and went on to ride roundabout 2000 career winners, finishing second in the South African Championships twice, winning the Macau Championships once and also riding winners in Mauritius and America.

Van Zyl hoped his yard would now go from strength to strength and when asked on any advice for punters, resorted to an old adage, “As they say, when the stable cat wins, follow the stable!”

Jockeys to Carry Padded Whips



Jockeys “will carry padded whips from August, against the wishes of the Australian Jockeys’ Association,” reported The Herald-Sun. AJA chairman Ross Inglis said he was “resigned to the rule being ratified by the Australian Racing Board on March 19.” Inglis noted state jockeys’ associations “had made a detailed submission to show there was no evidence current whips inflicted lasting injury or pain” & emphasised “perceptions needed to change, not whips”. But Inglis confirmed: “It’s going to happen. We’ll tolerate it, but there are a few issues with it. It’s

a perception thing. If the public thinks a padded whip lessens the impact, then I think that’s going to win out.” Inglis added the “size & length of the padded whip remained an issue” & said the “interpretation of the use of the whip, particularly in the final 200m of a race, would cause continued debate. . . . In a desperate finish a jockey is expected to pull the whip. Imagine the uproar if a jockey stopped using the whip in a close finish in a Golden Slipper because he had used up his allotted number of times he used the whip. It’s unworkable.” (Feb 23)

Trainer Cyril Naidoo



Cyril Naidoo

Trainer Cyril Naidoo had his warning-off by the National Horse Racing Authority (NHRA) confirmed by High Court Judges of Appeal in Pietermaritzburg yesterday. This ruling effectively ends his training career. While differing on some legal issues, KZN Deputy Judge President Phillip

Levinsohn and Judge Malcolm Wallis agreed in reserved judgments handed down that the sanction imposed on Naidoo by the NHA in September 2007 was correct in all the circumstances and should be reinstated. In doing so they over-ruled an earlier finding by Judge Kate Pillay who had confirmed Naidoo's convictions on two charges relating to his possession of an unusually large quantity of prohibited drugs and attempting to mislead the Board of Enquiry, but set aside his "warning off" by the Board.

World Class Hospital Opens

South Africa now boasts one of the world's top veterinary care facilities with the official opening on Saturday of the Drakenstein Veterinary Centre which is situated on the R301 near the beautiful Boland town of Franschhoek. The hospital, sponsored by industry leaders Mary Slack, Gaynor Rupert, Graham Beck, Markus Jooste and Andreas Jakobz is the brainchild of leading former KwaZulu-Natal based veterinary surgeon Dr Ian Heyns, and for the first time offers owners and breeders of horses the opportunity to utilize their own vets who are able to operate on the premises using the state of the art technology and equipment.

An excited Dr Ian Heyns said that the concept would give everybody the opportunity to benefit from the facilities: "Thanks to the unbelievable generosity and foresight of our donors, we are now able to offer young professionals the opportunity to train with and utilize world-class technology right on our doorstep. It has long been a concern of mine that we are just not attracting enough young professionals into the industry. We are also offering clients the opportunity of using their own preferred practitioner to perform operations and procedures in a hospital that is conveniently located. I should also mention that the all important aspect of post-operative care is also well catered for with excellent facilities. I invite all fellow veterinarians as well as owners, breeders and trainers to visit us and to see it for themselves." Heyns, who

visited facilities all over the world while designing and planning the facility, said that the hospital was a leader in the Southern Hemisphere and 'as good as anything available in the Northern Hemisphere.'

The large crowd attending the opening launch applauded as Wilgerbosdrift Stud's Mary Slack cut the ribbon to declare the facility open and our top trainers and breeders were unanimous in their praise of what they generally described as a long overdue and much needed international quality facility in the Cape. Paarl-based trainer Glen Kotzen, whose Woodhill Racing Estate is only a stone's throw down the road, said that he was thrilled to have the hospital available, and paid tribute to Heyns and the sponsors for their energy and enthusiasm. Former Cape champion trainer Joey Ramsden said that he had already made use of the facility and was impressed: "I have already experienced the benefits first-hand of what can be achieved here, as evidenced by my horse Sporting Lad who shed his maiden ticket in open company on Friday evening at Durbanville. The entire South African horseracing industry owe a huge debt of gratitude to people like Gaynor(Rupert), Mary(Slack) and Markus (Jooste) who put so much into the sport for what ultimately amounts to everybody's benefit and pleasure. We are extremely fortunate to have people of their calibre in the game," he said