

2009 VODACOM DURBAN FINAL FIELD

NO	HORSE NAME	DR	WT	Trainer					
1	POCKET POWER	12	58.0	Mike Bass	11	ALUMINIUM	18	51.0	Geoff Woodruff
2	OUR GIANT	2	55.0	Charles Laird	12	CATMANDU	8	51.0	Andre Kirsten
3	BUY AND SELL	13	53.0	Sean Tarry	13	THANDOLWAMI	7	51.0	Craig Eudey
4	KAPIL	5	52.5	Stan Elley	14	BOUQUET-GARNI	14	51.0	Mike de Kock
5	SMART BANKER	17	52.5	Charles Laird	15	METEOR SHOWER	6	51.0	Mike Bass
6	RIVER JETEZ	15	51.5	Mike Bass	16	THUNDERING JET	3	51.0	Mike Bass
7	BIG CITY LIFE	10	51.0	Glen Kotzen	17	CAPE TOWN	4	51.0	Gavin van Zyl
8	TROPICAL EMPIRE	1	51.0	Duncan Howells	18	LONDON GUEST	11	51.0	Tony Rivalland
9	FOREST PATH	20	51.0	Mike de Kock	19	OUTCOME	9	50.0	Michael Miller
10	LIKEITHOT	16	51.0	Charles Laird	20	ZIRCONIUM	19	50.0	Mike de Kock



DANCER'S DAUGHTER - POSTED A DOUBLE DUR- BAN JULY STARTER



Dancer's Daughter will be withdrawn from the conditions race carded for this Wednesday, May 27, where she was due to take on River Jetez as part of her Durban July preparation.

The injury she sustained during her Gauteng campaign has not yet fully recovered according to a scan taken yesterday. Veterinary advice strongly recommends not persevering as there is a chance of permanent damage if she is not allowed the recommended recovery period of 3 months.

With the strenuous work needed in order to prepare Dancer's Daughter to peak fitness for the 2009 Vodacom Durban July, trainer Justin Snaith was concerned this injury could reappear and jeopardize her entire racing career.

Graham Beck and Mike Sharkey have decided not to retire her to stud this year but rather give her another racing season on the track as she is only four and a half years old and has been lightly raced with only 18 starts to date.

Justin was utterly disappointed but at the same time very excited that he had his Champion race Mare for another season.

Justin sounding surprisingly upbeat this morning at his Durban satellite yard and had the following to say: "Dancer's Daughter has too much stud value to take any chances regardless of how small the risk involved. I plan on giving Mike Sharkey and Highlands a sound Mare once she has completed her racing season and I feel she has some unfinished business to attend to in Cape Town. She has not yet run in the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate and has only had one attempt at the J & B Metropolitan when running a close second to Pocket Power earlier this year. I truly believe South Africa has not yet seen her full potential"

Dancer's Daughter will most likely return to Cape Town soon where she will begin her recovery and rehabilitation.

AVONTUUR SPONSORS TOP SA JOCKEY

Champion jockey Greg Cheyne has landed a sponsorship with Avontuur Estate.

Avontuur general manager, Pippa Mickleburgh, said that the decision was made to further enhance Avontuur's standing in the racing fraternity locally and internationally.

"Greg was chosen for the sponsorship due to his incredible track record in South African racing where he is currently third on the National Jockey log. He twice been champion jockey in the Eastern Cape and is one of the hardest-working jockeys in the country. He is the first jockey in history to own and ride a Group 1 winner, Emblem of Liberty, in the Gr1 Paddock Stakes in January 2009, which proves his commitment to the business of racing!" Mickleburgh said.

Cheyne will sport the Avontuur branding for the first time on Saturday, May 30 at the Golden Horse Sprint day at Scottsville in Pietermaritzburg.

The day is auspicious for Avontuur's VAR-bred progeny as some of this year's juvenile stars like top colt Vacherin, multiple winner Villandry and speedster Valiant might be up against each other in the Gr 1 Gold Medallion. On the same day the fillies are competing in the Allan Robertson Fillies Championship Gr 1 where Avontuur-bred My Kazzie by Western Winter is tipped to run a good race and Var's daughter, Valeta is a talented challenger.

Cheyne is enthusiastic about his involvement with the Estate and said that this would give him the opportunity to increase his profile and enable him to do even more of what he loves. "I got into racing because I love sport in general and wanted to make my living in it as a professional. Racing has given me all of that and with this sponsorship I hope to continue doing what I love and give Avontuur Estate the exposure and support the company deserves at the same time. I look forward to a successful partnership and will do everything in my power to promote

the brand, both on the stud and wine side," he said.

"We are hoping that this sponsorship, will provide us an even higher profile in racing circles, especially leading up to the Avontuur Fillies Guineas which takes place on Saturday, December 5 this year," Pippa says.

"However, Greg wasn't only chosen for his prowess on the track! He is also a serious wine lover with a better-than-average knowledge of the fruits of the vine and will be an ambassador for that side of the business as well. When visiting the winery last week for a formal tasting of our wines, he demonstrated a passion for the product which really impressed our wine marketing consultant Cobie van Oort. Greg will be representing Avontuur at many of the winery events as he loves to talk about, taste and enjoy wine," Mickleburgh concluded.



Champion jockey, Greg Cheyne with Avontuur's stallion, VAR in the stables at the Stud farm near Somerset West in the Western Cape.



Summerhill and co acquire a top son of A.P. Indy

CHAMPION breeders, Summerhill Stud, along with Drakenstein Stud and a European investor have teamed up in acquiring A.P. Arrow, considered the best son of sire-of-sires A.P. Indy worldwide in 2008.

A millionaire racehorse, A.P. Arrow carried the celebrated silks of Cigar's owner, Allen Paulson, through several Graded Stakes victories and five Grade One performances.

Anyone in the United States last week with the running of the Preakness Stakes would've been reminded how big the Triple Crown is in the American psyche. Given the turmoil in that country, the result of the first two legs were a tonic to a nation crying out for some good news.

If you were in the self-proclaimed "Thoroughbred Capital of the World", Kentucky, you'd have been struck by another phenomenon: the pervasive influence of the reigning "emperor" of American stallions, A.P. Indy. Every major farm stands at least one son or grandson, and while his fame rested initially on classic types, these days the tribe are running short and long, on the grass or on the dirt, and they're flying on the polytrack as well.

The earner of close to \$1,5 million in his own right, A.P. Arrow is a brother to fellow millionaire and multiple Grade One winner, Geri, and one other Stakes winner. His dam is a daughter of

Mr. Prospector, winningmost Broodmare sire in American history, and she's a three-quarter sister to many times Champion South American stallion, Hussonet.

Mick Goss, speaking from Summerhill's base in Mooi River, said that the now deceased Camden Park's instant success with two Grade One winners in his first two crops in South Africa, makes a compelling case for A.P. Indy in South Africa.

Goss opined: "We've been waiting for an opportunity like this for several years. Knowing that Barry Irwin, for whom I have the highest regard, had valued him at several million dollars (and then some) a short while back, when A.P. Arrow came into range, it was a chance we had to take.

"It was only the current financial crunch in the U.S. that made him reachable, and while we still had to "mortgage the farm" to get him, we wouldn't have fired so much as a shot for a horse of his class in normal times. We're just so grateful to have him, and especially for the help of old friends in making it possible. Good people never fail you, especially when the chips are down."

For enquiries phone Mick Goss at Summerhil Stud: +27 (33) 2631 314.

NEW MANAGER

Ralph Smout has been appointed manager in charge of all of the Gold Circle racecourses and training centres in Kwazulu-Natal.

The track managers at Greyville, Clairwood, Scottsville, Summerveld and Ashburton will now all report to him.

Smout has many years experience of track management, having worked at Summerveld under the legendary Danie Du Toit from 1986 until being appointed as Greyville racecourse manager on January 1, 2000.

He swapped posts from Greyville to Clairwood on September 1, 2008.

Smout has vast knowledge of state of the art trends in racecourse management and, with his intimate knowledge of local environments, has an innovative ability to best apply it to suit the peculiarities of the surface in question.

Smout is a man who takes immense pride in his work and is much respected by his staff despite being a hard taskmaster.

Like his mentor, Du Toit, he is known for his attention to detail in not only maintaining racing and training surfaces, but also in keeping stables, buildings, walkways and other facilities in immaculate condition.

He also has a fine horticultural eye and his beautification of racecourses, especially for big days like the Vodacom Durban July, has been inspired by visits to French and other international racecourses.



MAY 2009 - Anant and Vanashree Singh

The owner award for the month of May has been bestowed on Anant and Vanashree Singh

Film maker extraordinaire Anant and his wife Vanashree love the sport of racing with Anant having first become interested while at high school. From his small beginning having his first horse with Alistair Gordon which won first time out, the couple now race horses in partnership with racing personality Barry Irwin who heads the international Team Valor and have interests in 28 horses in South Africa as well as horses overseas.

Speaking before boarding a plane to London, Anant said the racing experience had been fun and exciting and they were very proud of their three-year-old Western Winter filly, On Her Toes, who has done them proud having won the Grade 1 Allan Robertson Fillies Champion as a two-year-old and, in her most recent race, beat a useful field to win the Grade 2 KRA Fillies Guineas at Greyville. He praised trainer Mike Azzie for the work he has done with the filly.

The couple have not confined their support to one trainer but have horses with stables in Gauteng, the Cape and KwaZulu-Natal including a some of the smaller yards. His belief is that the smaller trainers should also be given a chance.

Well done Anant and Vanashree