

# *Champion Mike Bass*

**M**ike Bass captured the Cape Trainers Championship once again last season and also became the first non-Gauteng trainer this decade to finish in the top two in the National Trainer's Championship. He finished second on the National log to runaway winner, Charles Laird.

Bass's top earner was once again Pocket Power, who captured the Horse Of The Year Award for the third time running at the Equus Awards last Thursday. Pocket Power completed a famous J&B Met and Queen's Plate treble, the first ever horse to achieve this feat.

He also won the Grade 1 Gold Challenge and the Grade 2 Green Point Stakes. Bass won 15 stakes races during the season with eleven different horses. He reportedly counted his win with the seven-year-old Diamond Quest in the Grade 2 Gold Vase over 3000m at Greyville as one of his best ever training feats. This horse sustained a serious leg injury at Ascot in June 2007 and only ran one place in six subsequent overseas starts.

The Bass yard sent him to Durban earlier than the rest of the Champions Season string and he was looked after initially by Clairwod trainer Tyrone Norton before Bass's assistant, Robert Fayd'herbe, and, later, Bass himself arrived.

They bought him slowly to his peak starting with a 1400 race, then an 1800m race followed by a 2500m and 2400m race.

After this well planned preparation, Diamond Quest showed his well-being at the July gallops, putting up one of the most eye-catching gallops of the morning.

He consequently started as 9-2 bookmaker's favourite in the Gold Vase and won in confident fashion by 1,75 lengths.

Bass's chief owner, Marsh Shirliff, was often lost for words in his praise of Bass, referring to him once as "Gandalf the Wizard" and on another occasion as the country's best trainer.

Glen Kotzen had his best season ever and, by winning the Vodacom Durban July, ensured that the trophy for the country's premier race was taken home to the Cape for the sixth time this decade.

Kotzen only finished sixth on the Cape log but finished fifth on the Na-



tional log.

He had the notable feat of training both the Equus Champion three-year-old colt, Big City Life, and Equus Champion three-year-old filly, Lady Windermere.

Kotzen had won two Grade 1 races before this season, but thanks to this pair his tally now stands at seven.

Big City Life repeated the feat of the great Dynasty by winning the Grade 1 Cape Derby, the Grade 2 KRA Guineas, the Grade 1 Daily News 2000 and the July. He also won a Listed race over 1600m at Fairview.

Lady Windermere won the Grade 1 SA Fillies Sprint over 1200m, the Grade 1 Garden Province Stakes over 1600m as well as the Grade 2 Southern Cross Stakes over 1000m and the Grade 2 Sceptre Stakes

over 1200m.

Kotzen formed a fine partnership with jockey Greg Cheyne in the second half of the season, while the hiring of assistant Frikkie Greyling for his Summerveld satellite yard also proved to be a major coup.

Pirate's Gold, a disappointing one-time winner before this season, was given a complete change in daily routine by Greyling and then won five in a row, including the Grade 3 King's Cup.

The Kotzen yard's other stakes winners of the season were the three-year-old colt Robinson Crusoe (Listed) and the two-year filly, Captain's Call (Grade 2).

Joey Ramsden, who finished second on the Cape log and eighth on the National log, had two Grade 1 winners.

His best performer was the three-year-old filly Mother Russia, who won the Grade 1 Majorca Stakes over 1600m as well as a Grade 2, Grade 3 and Listed race all over 1400m. She showed her versatility by finishing a running on second to Zirconium in the Woolavington 2000 and has already won another Grade 2 over 2000m this season.

Mother Russia was sold after the latter Grade 2 win and is now with Mike de Kock. Ramsden's other Grade 1 winner was Ivory Trail, who narrowly defeated Pocket Power in the Grade 1 Champions Cup over 1800m at Clairwood. Ivory Trail also won a Listed and a Grade 2 race.

All in all the Ramsden yard won 12 stakes races with seven different horses and the most satisfying of them could well have been with the seven-year-old Something Else, who won the Grade 2 Merchants over 1160m at Turffontein under British jockey, Darryl Holland.

The newly crowned Champion jockey, Andrew Fortune, had high words of praise for the support Ramsden had given him over the last two seasons.

The pair's lethal partnership looks set to continue.

Justin Snaith didn't have as successful a season as the previous season, but finished third on the Cape log and sixth on the National log and had two Grade 1 winners.

His champion mare, Dancer's Daughter, won the Grade 1 Empress Club Stakes at Turffontein, while the three-year-old filly Sparkling Gem won the Grade 1 Cape Fillies Guineas.

Snaith won 10 stakes races with seven different horses.

Dean Kannemeyer was next on the Cape log.

He won the Grade 1 Cape Guineas with Le Drakkar and, unusually, had three stakes-winning juvenile.

In all he won seven stakes races with five different horses.

Basil Marcus won the Grade 1 Canon Gold Cup with Desert Links and won five stakes races with five different horses.

Marcus is due to leave our shores in December this year to train in Singapore.

Vaughan Marshall won the Grade 1 Gold Medallion over 1200m at Scottsville with his Var two-year-old gelding, Villandry.

Villandry also won a Grade 3 and a Listed event, while the Marshall-trained Wethreekings won a Listed race.

Stephen Page won the Grade 2 J&B Reserve Stayers over 2800m with Mokaro and started this season in fantastic fashion by training the one-two in the Grade 1 Canon Gold Cup, Mokaro and Nobelwood.

The other successful stakes-winning Cape trainers from last season were Stan Elley, who won two Grade 3s, Brett Crawford, also with two Grade 3s, Darryl Hodgson, with a Grade 3 and a Listed race, Greg Ennion, with a Grade 3, Andries Steyn, with a Grade 3, and Bill Prestage, with a Listed race.

# Avontuur Estate Cape Fillies Guineas

The stake for this year's Grade 1 Avontuur Estate Cape Fillies Guineas has been increased to R750 000, up from R500 000 last year.

This follows an increase in sponsorship from Avontuur Estate, a leading wine estate and thoroughbred stud farm in the Stellenbosch region of the Western Cape.

Avontuur general manager, Pippa Mickleburgh, said the increased stake was an incentive for visiting fillies to contest the Avontuur Estate Cape Fillies Guineas.

"The race is one of the most important races on the calendar," said Mickleburgh. "Through this increase in sponsorship we hope to attract a bigger and better quality field this year, especially from up-country, so that the race gets the recognition it deserves.

Gold Circle's Chief Operating Officer, Graeme Hawkins, said the stake increase was significant as it came against the backdrop of a recessionary economic climate.

"The adverse economic conditions and decreased revenue streams have forced Gold Circle to keep stakes flat this year in order to protect

the long-term sustainability of the company, and to ensure that horseracing within our two operating regions remains viable," said Hawkins.

"We are therefore extremely grateful to Avontuur for increasing their sponsorship of this important race. We would not have been able to increase the stake without this additional sponsorship from Avontuur.

"This indicates Avontuur's commitment to thoroughbred horseracing, and we are proud to be associated with such a prestigious and successful brand."

The R750 000 Grade 1 Avontuur Estate Cape Fillies Guineas will be run on Saturday, December 5, at Kenilworth Racecourse in Cape Town.

# Dancer's Daughter

Dancer's Daughter is virtually certain to be retired from the racetrack and will shortly be sent to the new Graham Beck-owned stallion Antonius Pius, who has just begun his first season at Highlands.

Dancer's Daughter, trained by Justin Snaith, is one of the best fillies to ever race in this country, winning five Grade 1 races including the country's premier race, the Vodacom Durban July, in which she dead-heated with the three-times South African Horse Of the Year, Pocket Power.

Unfortunately the powerful grey, whose love of galloping was evident whenever she ran, attained an injury in training during her Johannesburg campaign earlier this year, having just won the Grade 1 Empress Club Stakes at Turffontein when being cared for by the Geoff Woodruff yard.

She subsequently missed the whole of the Kwazulu-Natal Champion's Season, although an effort was made to overcome her injury and get her to peak fitness from Snaith's winter satellite yard at Clairwood.

Dancer's Daughter was bred in Great Britain and was a daughter of the unfashionable sire, Act One.

Owner, Graham Beck, brought her over to South Africa with his overseas draught and Chris Snaith selected her to be trained by his son, Justin.

Justin said that it had been decided by the connections that it was too risky for Dancer's Daughter to continue with her racing career.

However, if there are any complications in her stud career, she could still return to the racetrack.

In all Dancer's Daughter raced 18 times for eleven wins.

Her only unplaced run came in the Grade 1 SA Fillies Sprint, but she followed that up with the two races that stamped her greatness, winning the Grade 1 Weight For Age Gold Challenge over 1600m at Clairwood, defeating Pocket Power, before dead-heating with him in the July over 2200m.

Antonius Pius formerly stood at the world's leading stud, Coolmore of Ireland. The son of Danzig was retired to stud in 2006 and is currently among the leading freshman sires in Britain, having had eleven individual winners of 13 races.

In his racing career he won a Group 2 as a two-year-old over six furlongs before becoming a high-class miler, placing in three Group 1's over that distance.



# KZN AWARDS

Zirconium was named Horse of the Year at the Kwazulu Natal Racing Awards which were held at Greyville Racecourse.

Zirconium, trained by Mike de Kock, won the Grade 2 Gauteng Fillies Guineas and the Grade 1 Woolavington 2000 and finished second in the country's premier race, the Vodacom Durban July.

Zirconium is owned by Chris Haynes, together with his brothers Andrew, Doug and their mother Helen, and also by Gary Grant and De Kock himself.

Zirconium's dam, Sweet Sheila(Kenmare(FR)), was imported by Robin Bruss from Australia and, interestingly, Gary Grant helped sell a share in her to Mark Geyser and Sean Drummond-Hay, who still own her.

She was sent to Alistair Gordon's yard, but proved to be more than a handful.

"She was dilly and just untrainable," recalled Gordon from Clairwood yesterday.

After about five unplaced starts Drummond-Hay and Geyser and the other connections sent her to Warwick and Karin Render's Bush Hill Stud, where she has bred two Grade 1 winners, Stellite(Fard) and Zirconium(Jallad).

All of Zirconium's connections were at the awards on Thursday to receive the award, while her groom, Daniel Xabenblini, was there to receive the Groom Of The Year award.

The De Kock yard swept the two-year-old and three-year-old categories.

The Grade 1 1600m winners Laverna and Musir won the KZN Champion two-year-old filly and colt respectively, while the dual Grade 1 winner, Forest Path, won the KZN Champion three-year-old colt award and Zirconium won the three-year-old filly award.

Laverna is owned by Warne and Wendy Rippon of Sun Classique fame, the popular Johannesburg radio presenter Graham Joffe, together with Andrew Poole, Ali Al Qam and de Kock himself.

Andrew Poole made the trip from Port Elizabeth to accept the prize.

Musir is owned by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum.

Forest Path is owned by Bridget Oppenheimer, who could not make it to the awards due to a prior engagement.

The KZN Champion Older Filly/Mare Award was won by the Gavin van Zyl-trained Prestic, who won the Grade 3 Yellowwood Handicap over 1800m at Turffontein and also finished second in a Grade 2 and a Grade 1 race over 1450m and 1600m respectively.

She is also owned by Bridget Oppenheimer.

The KZN Older Colt/Gelding Award was won by the Duncan Howells-trained Tropical Empire, who won the Grade 2 Greyville 1900.

He also won the Listed Michael Roberts Handicap over 1800m when trained by Michael Roberts himself.

Tropical Empire is owned by "Chips" Pennells, Gary Westwater and Johan Meyer.

Pennells, who won the same award with Silver Empire two years ago, was present to accept the award.

The Sprinter Of The Year category was won by the Dennis Drier-trained

Sharks Bay, who won the Grade 2 Post merchants over 1200m at Greyville.

Steve Sturlese, who owns the Australian-bred three-year-old in partnership with Greg Blank, accepted the trophy.

The Stayer of the Year was won by another three-year-old, the Paul Lafferty-trained Labeeb filly, Goat. She won the Grade 2 Gold Circle Oaks. Her entourage of owners, all wearing at least one item of pink in fitting with Goats' colours, were present to accept the award.

They are Cliff and Fiona Lines, Neil and Lizette Loudon, Gary Fourie, Trevor Fourie, Phil Georgiou, Keith Hughes, Derek Martin and Clive Napier.

The apprentice of the Year was Karis Teetan, Jockey of the Year was Anthony Delpach and Mike de Kock clinched the training championship for the second year running.

The Scott brothers, Des and Robin Scott, won the Breeders Championship, while the Owners of the Year were Markus and Ingrid Jooste.

The Anita Akal award went to George Rowles, who has made a huge contribution to horseracing, As well as being a breeder, who often supports the underdog, he has served on many horseracing boards.

He almost single-handedly saved Clairwood from being sold about three years ago, a sale which many believe would have been disastrous to South Africa's racing fortunes.

The awards evening was brightened up by the comedian, Aaron McIlroy, who helped make it one of the most enjoyable Awards evenings in recent memory.

Paul Lafferty and James Goodman have become an excellent talk show team on Tellytrack and gave another polished performance as Masters Of Ceremony.



# Kotzen And Teetan Join Forces

Glen Kotzen Racing were proud to announce that leading apprentice jockey Karis Teetan, had joined up with the yard for the forthcoming season. In announcing the partnership, a delighted Kotzen said that he believed the services of an up and coming rider like Teetan would prove invaluable to the success and aspirations which his team would hold for the season ahead. "It is great to have a young jockey with his mature mannerisms taking over from a true professional rider, in Greg Cheyne. Greg has, in no uncertain terms, set the bar that all aspiring jockeys should try to live up to and he was an influential party in the decision making process of engaging Karis as stable jockey. Greg has been offered a great opportunity in Hong Kong and we will most certainly be following his career with interest."

The Mauritian born Teetan finished a narrow second to Derreck David in the past season's apprentice championship and has set his goals on

achieving even greater heights this season.

"We are grateful to the Mauritian Racing Authority for allowing Karis to stay on in South Africa, as under normal circumstances, he would have been expected to return home on completing his apprenticeship here in South Africa," said a Kotzen yard press release.

The 2008/2009 season proved to be Glen Kotzen's best season ever with 105 winners, including 5 Group 1 victories in the form of the Vodacom Durban July, Investec Cape Derby, Daily News 2000, Sa Fillies Sprint and Garden Province.

With the existing fire power and superb crop of young 2 year olds and 3 year olds coming through the ranks, Kotzen said that his team was fired up and looking forward to the Western Cape's Sizzling Summer Season that lay ahead.

# Equus Awards 2009

POCKET Power won a third consecutive Horse of the Year title on at the 2008/09 Equus Awards, which honour outstanding performances in South African horse racing.

At an emotional ceremony at Emperors Palace, there were standing ovations for Andrew Fortune, who overcame drug addiction to become Champion Jockey, and Bridget Oppenheimer, the doyenne of South African racing who was honoured for her Champion Stayer, Mokaro, and for the achievements of her Mauritzfontein Stud.

Veteran racing writer and presenter David Mollett won the inaugural Journalist of the Year prize.

In his award acceptance speech, Pocket Power's part-owner Arthur Webber said that the seven-year-old gelding would not travel to Dubai for a tilt at the World Cup next year, as many racing fans had expected. Webber said trainer Mike Bass had decided to race the horse in Cape Town in the coming feature season – making a bid to win both the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate and the J&B Met for a fourth consecutive time.

In 2008/09, in addition to his unprecedented third consecutive Queen's Plate-Met double, Pocket Power also won the Grade 1 Gold Challenge and the Grade 2 Green Point Stakes, was second in the Grade 2 Diadem Stakes and fifth in the 2009 Vodacom Durban July, South Africa's premier race which he won the previous year.

The full list of Equus Award winners:  
Horse of the Year: POCKET POWER

Champion Two-Year-Old Filly: LAVERNA

Champion Two-Year-Old Colt: MUSIR

Champion Three-Year-Old Filly: LADY WINDERMERE

Champion Three-Year-Old Colt: BIG CITY LIFE

Champion Older Male: POCKET POWER

Champion Older Filly / Mare: DANCER'S DAUGHTER

Champion Sprinter (1000-1200m): REBEL KING

Champion Middle Distance Horse (1400-2200m): POCKET POWER

Champion Stayer (2400m and up): MOKARO

Special Award for International Achievement: CAPTAIN'S LOVER, DANE

JULIA, J J THE JET PLANE, NATIONAL COLOUR, IMBONGI

Exceptional International Achievement (equine): DANE JULIA

Champion Stallion: JET MASTER

Outstanding Stallion Achievement: CAPTAIN AL

Champion Broodmare: TRADE ENQUIRY

Champion Stud: SUMMERHILL

Breeder of the Year: MAURITZFONTEIN STUD

Outstanding International Achievement (human): DOUG WHYTE

Champion Apprentice Jockey: DERRICK DAVID

Work Riders of the Year: JACKSON FENI (Phumelela), ANDILE NZOGO (Gold Circle)

Champion Jockey: ANDREW FORTUNE

Champion Trainer: CHARLES LAIRD

Owners of the Year: MARKUS & INGRID JOOSTE

Journalist of the Year: DAVID MOLLETT

# Northern Dancer Breeder Windfields Farm Closing

Windfields Farm, the legendary Canadian breeding operation that bred 48 champions including 1964 Gr1 Kentucky Derby winner Northern Dancer, "will close its doors following a dispersal of its remaining bloodstock at the Keeneland November breeding stock sale," reported thoroughbredtimes.com. E.P.Taylor founded Windfields in Ontario in 1936, but a statement from the surviving members of the Taylor family announced that "due to the nature of ownership, their ages & their interests, they reached the emotional decision to discontinue the thoroughbred operation". E.P.Taylor bred Northern Dancer in his own name & the Nearctic colt was voted US Champion 3YO of 1964, before "going on to become one of the most influential sires in history". Taylor won US

Eclipse Awards as Outstanding Breeder in 1977 & 1983, while Windfields has been North America's leading breeder by purse-money 9 times, by stakes-wins 13 times & by wins 19 times. In addition, Windfields has been Canada's leading racing stable 15 times & runners bred there have won Canada's prestigious Queen's Plate a record 21 times. Windfield-bred star gallopers include: Northern Dancer's 3 Gr1 English Derby-winning sons Nijinsky II, The Minstrel & Secreto; US Eclipse champions Devil's Bag & Glorious Song; European champions Storm Bird, El Gran Senor, Shareef Dancer, Awaasif, Danzatore & Try My Best; leading Canadian sires Vice Regent & Archers Bay; & influential sires Saint Ballado & Northern Taste.

## Charles Laird



Charles Laird dominated the Gauteng trainer's championship last season and won his first ever national trainer's title by a wide margin.

The colours of Markus and Ingrid Jooste have become synonymous with the Laird yard and were seen relentlessly powering to victory throughout the season.

The Joostes had over 100 winners during the season, which could well be a record.

The Laird yard had no dips in form and had a strike rate of over 20% for seven months of the season.

Stable jockey Anton Marcus proved to be "the best horse in the yard", as the old adage goes, and gets better and better.

The highlights of the Laird season were the Grade 1 wins of Our Giant, Smart Banker and Rebel King.

Our Giant gained some footage overseas after his young three-year-old half-brother, Rocket Man, set the racetracks alight in Singapore, breaking record after record over sprint distances.

Our Giant's highlight also came over a sprint trip, when he won the Grade 1 Mercury Sprint by a facile 4,25 lengths at Clairwood over 1200m to remain unbeaten in two starts over that trip.

Our Giant also won the Grade 2 Hawaii Stakes over 1400m at Turffontein.

At the end of the season he was moved to the Mike de Kock yard where he has been earmarked for an overseas campaign.

Smart Banker won the Grade 1 Horse Chestnut Stakes over 1600m, beating his odds-on stable companion, Our Giant, and then won the Grade 1 Champions Challenge over 2000m, both races at Turffontein.

Rebel King won the Grade 1 Cape Flying Championship over 1000m and finished a short-head second in the Grade 1 Computaform Sprint. He also won the Grade 2 Senor Santa Handicap.

In all the Laird yard won 14 stakes races, all of them Graded, with 10 different horses.

Geoff Woodruff finished fourth on the National log and won three Grade 1 races.

Emblem Of Liberty won the Grade 1 Paddock Stakes, Earl of Surrey won the Grade 1 Golden Horse Casino Sprint and Private Jet won the Grade 1 Computaform Sprint.

These were ridden by Greg Cheyne, Johnny Geroudis and Piere Stridom respectively as the Woodruff stable jockey, Mark Khan, had a season plagued by injury.

Woodruff won eleven stakes races with seven different horses.

Sean Tarry finished seventh on the National log and won one Grade 1

race.

Give Me Five's win in the Grade 1 Allan Robertson Fillies Championship over 1200m gave Tarry his first ever two-year-old Grade 1 winner.

The Tarry yard won six stakes races with six different horses, a lower return than their last couple of seasons.

However, they made up for it by sending out 123 winners.

Trade Enquiry, the dam of Tarry's Grade 2 SA Oaks winner, Bedloe's Island, and his older campaigner, Buy And Sell, was made broodmare of the year at the Equus Awards last Thursday.

Paul Matchett and Dominic Zaki finished just outside of the top 10 on the national log.

Matchett won seven stakes races with six different horses.

His three-year-old Cerise Cherry, a perennial bridesmaid, finally won a stakes race, when taking the Grade 3 Graham Beck Stakes over 1400m. He finished second five times this season, including in the Grade 1 SA Derby, the Grade 2 Gauteng Guineas and two other stakes races. His record now registers 10 second places in 15 starts.

Zaki ended the season on a high when his Captain Al two-year-old colt, Exhilaration, won the Grade 1 Premier's Champion Stakes over 1600m at Clairwood.

Exhilaration had earlier finished second to Villandry in the Grade 1 Medallion over 1200m at Scottsville.

Zaki's other stakes winner of the season, Surabi, won a Listed race.

Ormond Ferraris bounced back with a good season and won eight stakes races with six different horses.

His biggest success was with Gypsy's Warning, who won the Grade 1

SA Fillies Classic over 1800m.

Alec Laird won the Grade 1 Golden Slipper on July day with All Afire and had two other stakes winners in the season.

Mike Azzie reaped the dividends of having bought from the first crop of Var.

He won the Grade 2 Nursery with one of them, Vacherin.

His three-year-old Western Winter filly On Her Toes won two stakes races in KZN, including the Grade 2 KRA Fillies Guineas, while his four-year-old filly, Mochachino, won the Grade 2 Camellia Stakes over 1160m at Turffontein.

St. John Gray, often referred to as the "sand king", trained one of the wonder horses of the season, Alimony.

This six-year-old gelding was converted from a merit-rated 69 battler into the country's most exciting sand horse. The son of Alami won the Grade 2 Emerald Cup on the sand over 1450m just two months after first being tried on the surface.

John Vos had the best day of his career on SA Derby day when landing both the Grade 2 Fillies Nursery with Spring Clover and the Grade 2 Gold Bowl with Western Walk.

Greg Anthony had three stakes wins, two of them courtesy of Battlestar Express.

Weiho Marwing also had two Grade 3 winners and also a Listed winner. Gary Alexander won the Grade 2 Gerald Rosenberg Stakes with Spring Garland and had a Listed winner too.

Roy Magner Dianne Stenger, Andre Kirsten and Grant Maroun all had a Grade 3 winner each, while Stuart Pettigrew had a Listed winner.

## Andre Kirsten passes

**P**OPULAR Vaal trainer Andre Kirsten died in a Klerksdorp hospital after a severe heart attack.

Kirsten (52) was diagnosed with swine flu which brought him down with such a force that doctors in a Potchefstroom clinic, where he was first admitted, had to fight for his life. They managed to break his fever and things were looking up, but the heart attack followed and he was transferred to a facility in Klerksdorp, where his situation deteriorated.

Kirsten's good friend and fellow-trainer Wallace Tolmay said, "Andre had moved his entire yard to Bette Haze's old establishment near the Vaal recently and he was stressed about the move. He was physically and emotionally exhausted. He had the flu, on and off, for the last few weeks so we told him after the Kimberley meeting to have himself tested for swine flu.

"The test came back positive and he felt so bad he asked his wife to take him to hospital, where he fell deeply ill with a high fever."

Kirsten trained at the Vaal for roughly 15 years and had several top horses including Hidcote Ridge, dual Jubilee Handicap winner E-Fuel, CT Brand Handicap winning sprinter Pure Hokum and the stalwart Catmandu. Tributes and sympathies are pouring in for a quiet man who left his mark on the industry. He was a progressive trainer, enjoyed raiding Durban's tracks and the stable's owners liked to have the occasional flutter. They included Dave Raper, Kenny Mansoor and Kiep van der Westhuizen.

Kirsten will be sorely missed and leaves his wife Cecile. - Racingweb



# Archipenko Retired To Stud At UK Lanwades

Gr1-winning 5YO Archipenko (Kingmambo-Bound, by Nijinsky) "has been retired to stand at Lanwades Stud in Newmarket" in the UK, reported racingpost.com. Lanwades owner Kirsten Rausing declared: "He is a marvellously well-bred horse with great performance, being a winner every year from 2YO to 5YO & with lovely looks & temperament. I shall certainly be breeding my very best mares to him, including dual Gr1 Champion Stakes winner & world top-rated 3YO filly Alborada, as well as her multiple Gr1-producing dam Alouette." Kentucky-bred Archipenko (a group/graded-stakes performer in 5 different countries) retires with 6 wins from 17 starts (including victory in Hong Kong's Gr1 The Audemars Piguet Queen Elizabeth II Cup, Ireland's Gr2 Derrinstown Stud Derby Trial & the UK Gr2 Summer Mile Stakes, plus placings in the US Gr1 Arlington Million & Gr1 Dubai Duty Free) for US\$2,399,395 earnings.



# Sea The Stars Wins UK Gr1 Juddmonte International

In the UK overnight, former Darley shuttler Cape Cross (Green Desert-Park Appeal, by Ahonoora) added a Gr1 triumph when Irish-bred 3YO colt Sea The Stars (Cape Cross-Urban Sea, by Miswaki) notched his 4th successive Gr1 victory of the season with a 1-length victory in the £600,000 (A\$1.177m) Gr1 Juddmonte International (10.5 furlongs) at York. In the process Sea The Stars both "smashed York's track record" & confirmed his rating as "the world's best racehorse", declared racingpost.com. Favourite Sea The Stars (ridden by Mick Kinane for trainer John Oxx) defeated Ballydoyle-trained fellow Irish-bred 3YO colts Mas-

tercraftsman (Danehill Dancer-Starlight Dreams, by Black Tie Affair) & Set Sail (Danehill Dancer-Ahdaab, by Rahy). In his 3 previous starts this season, Sea The Stars (a half-brother to Gr1-winners Galileo, Black Sam Bellamy & My Typhoon) returned from a 7-months spell to win England's Gr1 2000 Guineas (8 furlongs) at Newmarket in early May, then followed-up with victories in both June's Gr1 English Derby (12 furlongs) for 3YOs at Epsom Downs & July's Gr1 Coral-Eclipse Stakes (10 furlongs) at Newmarket. Overall Sea The Stars now has 6 wins (also including 2008's Irish Gr2 Beresford Stakes over 8 furlongs at The Curragh) from 7 starts.

# Top South African Sire Strike Smartly Dies Aged 12

In South Africa, 12-year-old stallion Strike Smartly (Mr Prospector-Classy 'n Smart, by Smarten) "has died after suffering a heart attack" at owner Bridget Oppenheimer's Mauritzfontein Stud at Kimberley (where he stood alongside 1993 Gr1 Grand Prix de Paris winner Fort Wood) reported racingpost.com. Strike Smartly (a full-brother to leading US sire Smart Strike & half-brother to Gr1 Breeder's Cup Distaff winner Dance Smartly) finished 8th in the recently-completed 2008-09 season South

African leading sires' list. From his initial 2 crops of racing age, Strike Smartly sired Gr1-winners Smart Banker (winner of the Horse Chestnut Stakes & Champion Challenge for Charles Laird) & Bouquet-Garni (winner of the South African Derby for Mike de Kock). He was set to cover a full book in the current season. On the track himself, Strike Smartly won 5 races in the US (including the Gr2 Chinese Cultural Centre Stakes over 11 furlongs on turf).