

Suncoast Casino

Incentive for Shongweni Sale

The annual migration to the Shongweni Polo Grounds takes place this year on Wednesday 25th February, when the Michael Holmes Bloodstock mixed sale kicks off at 11 a.m.

This sale has produced plenty of shrewd buys down the years and 2009 promises to be no different, with 154 horses (incl. 34 unraced 2yos) catalogued, writes MATTHEW LIPS.

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SHONGWENI FEBRUARY SALE
Wednesday, 25 February
starting 11am

For the first time, Michael Holmes Bloodstock has entered into a sponsorship deal with Suncoast Casino and Entertainment world. "It's an exciting new development," says Holmes, "and one which I hope will continue and grow in the future." This sponsorship seems to reflect the growing relationship between casinos and the thoroughbred industry. GrandWest in Cape Town and Sibaya to the north of Durban already host horse sales on their properties, with the former having recently backed two races at Durbanville restricted to horses bought at GrandWest in 2007, and of course there is the Golden Horse Casino on-site at Scottsville racecourse, where it sponsors the track's flagship event over 1200m every winter.

To try and sweeten the pot for prospective buyers at Shongweni, a total of R20k worth of Suncoast "spend" is being offered in various incentive schemes to the owner/s and trainer of both the first horse-in-training and unraced 2yo acquired from this sale to win a race and one hopes that this association between Holmes and Durban's beachfront casino/entertainment complex will thrive in years to come.

The 2009 Shongweni

catalogue contains the usual mixed bag of racing prospects, a handful of broodmares, and horses that will be suitable for enthusiasts of other equine pursuits. Let's take a look at some of the more promising lots, in catalogue order, with the usual apology to the hopeful vendors of those entries which don't get a mention!

#1 NAPOLEON DYNAMITE is a lightly raced 3yo maiden who has not been far off winning a race in recent starts and who was beaten less than a neck when 3rd in a Clairwood event 3 runs back.

#2 NIGHT WIND is an Aus-bred gelding with 1 win and 3 places from only 4 starts. Breeders should make note of

#3 NO EXCUSES, a broodmare by Hard Up whose two foals to race have both won. She is from the family of horse-of-the-year Winter Solstice and current Gr 1 performer Mother Russia, and was covered in 2008 by Gr 1 winner producing sire Mogok.

#4 NOBLE PARK is a consistent 3yo maiden filly with no shortage of early speed and is capable of a win at any moment.

#7 ORIENTAL FASHION is a daughter of National Emblem and a granddaughter of J & B Met winner Imperious Sue. She has yet to place, but is lightly raced and has the pedigree of a future broodmare prospect.

#8 PACIFIC JEWEL is another 3yo maiden filly. This

daughter of very successful broodmare sire Al Mufti has been placed twice already and is the full sister to Gr2 winner and Gr1 runner-up Hawaiian Wahoo. She should win at least one race, and has obvious paddock potential.

#12 PRINCE OF BURMA is an unraced 3yo being offered by the Scott Bros. He's a son of Mogok and is the half brother to 5 winners out of a half sister to Canadian champion older horse Cozzene's Prince.

#13 QUEENS FLIGHT is an Aus-bred daughter of top flight sprinter and emerging sire Choisir with one win to her name already. She can win more, and with plenty of black type in her pedigree she makes obvious appeal from a breeder's perspective as well.

#14 RED CAVIAR is a lightly raced 3yo maiden filly from the family of Wolf Whistle and Wolf Power. She looks capable of winning.

#17 RIGHT NUMBER has been placed many times in KZN and is a filly who surely can pick up at least a maiden race somewhere.

#19 ROAD TO HEAVEN has shown signs on several recent occasions that his second lifetime win may not be far away.

#20 ROYAL BOUQUET is a four-times winning daughter of National Emblem from a solid black type family.

#23 SAND DOLLAR is a lightly raced 3yo maiden filly by Jallad out of a Gr3 placed mare. She is the full sister to a dual winner and a close up fourth at Greyville a couple of starts ago would suggest she can open her account soon.

#26 SECRET HERO is a hard knocking gelding with 6 wins to his name and a steadily dropping merit rating. He could soon be handicapped to win again.

#27 SEVEN NETWORK is a 2yo colt by Gr1 winning sprinter Malhub who finished runner-up in his 2nd start and then won his 3rd start at Clairwood on February 15th. He is eligible for the valuable Equimark sales race at Kenilworth on March 7th, but as nominations for the race close at the precise moment that the

Shongweni sale starts it would be best for interested parties to confer with the vendor. Either way, though, this is an improving young colt and should be able to win more races.

#29 SHALAKO is a 3-times winning 5yo who has always been held in considerable regard by his trainer. His form is consistent, his merit rating is coming down fast, and he has never been raced on sand. Many of his sire Lecture's progeny do well on the sand tracks, so there is plenty to work with here for those who like this sort of handicap performer.

#30 SHE BRIDE is a young Braashee mare who was covered in 2008 by Breeder's Cup Mile winner Miesque's Approval. Her first foal is only a yearling.

#31 SILVER BROOK is a hard working handicapper who has won on both sand and turf. He's almost always in the shake-up and looks a suitable prospect for just about any province.

#32 SILVER KNIGHT was beaten little more than one length first time out of the maidens and looks capable of earning money in low-key handicaps.

#33 SIYA VANA has won once and is showing every indication that he won't leave it at that. He is very stoutly bred (Silvano x Zabeel mare) and could still have his best days ahead of him even though already four years of age. He has been placed since the catalogue was printed.

#34 SNUGLER is a well known handicapper who may be 7 years old but who probably hasn't quite finished winning just yet.

#35 SOLIDARITY was the recent winner of a novice plate off a very modest merit rating and can be placed to advantage in handicaps.

#37 STEEL OF APPROVAL has won two and some consistent recent form suggests that another win could be imminent.

#40 SULLA has won 3 times and can yet reward somebody who knows how to work the merit rated handicap system to

their advantage.

#42 SWEET VOODOO is a daughter of Tara's Halls with one win to her name. Two places from her last 3 starts tell us she clearly can win again.

#43 TANGLEWOOD is a maiden who has been placed in all 5 starts. Admittedly he hasn't raced for a year, but he could be worth a look after somebody else has paid his bills while he recuperated from whatever the setback was.

#44 TEST STRIPE is a very consistent staying type who can win again at any moment. The PE crowd should like this guy, with all the long distance events they have access to, but he is capable of winning again anywhere.

#48 WELSH PARADE is a winning 3yo half sister by Parade Leader to smart sprinter Lightning Lecture and has considerable paddock appeal.

#51 WHAT ME WORRY is a winning daughter of Modern Day who now looks handicapped to win again soon.

#53 WINDKEEPER is a winning daughter of National Assembly from a good family and is closely related to recent Cape Listed winner Wethreekings.

#55 AL XAAR, a regular visitor to this sale, shows enough to suggest he could win another race at least. He stays well and is another who could be ideally suited to the Eastern Cape with its solid programme for stayers.

#56 AL'S JOY is an honest winning daughter of Alami who can win again, especially at a smaller venue. She is pretty nippy and could be worth a bash at Flamingo Park especially.

#57 AVALANCHE WAY is now 6, but a cracking good 3rd (not reflected in the catalogue) in a competitive hcp at this year's J&B Met meeting shows he has plenty left in the tank. His merit rating is very enticing these days, to say the least, and while you may have to fight off the Mauritians to get this one he is worth making a play for.

#58 BEND THE BOUGH has been placed one from 3 starts and is the three-quarters sister to Jet Master – enough

said.

#59 BIT OF BIZET is a very consistent maiden filly who is bound to win one of these days and who is backed up by the family of Gr1 winner Surveyor and Argentine champion Lord At War.

#60 BLUE BLOOD is an unraced 3yo daughter of Caesour, sire of Graded Stakes winning females on four continents.

#64 BROADWAY DUDE is a 3yo winning son of Western Winter who was placed in his last start and who looks handicapped to potentially win again soon.

#68 CASHMERE is a 3yo maiden filly by Rich Man's Gold. She has been placed three times already.

#78 EPUSSIMUOVE is a consistent maiden son of Galileo who gives every indication of needing an extended distance on a galloping course – Vaal or Turffontein standside could fit the bill very nicely.

#79 ERROLL is a dual winning 4yo who can win again in handicaps.

#81 FASHION PRINCESS is a once-winning daughter of Kahal who has been placed in all of her last three KZN starts.

#84 FIRE KING ran Le Drakkar to a (controversial) short head at Clairwood early this season and won a maiden by 9.25 lengths when he was tried on the Vaal sand for the first and only time. Somebody can have plenty of fun with this fellow.

#87 GATE TO FREEDOM has won once and is not far off winning again. A merit rating of 58 suggests he is well worth campaigning in low-end handicaps somewhere.

#89 GLAMOUR SCENE is one of the fastest horses in KZN. He loves turning courses and could go well on the Turffontein inner circuit during the winter.

#94 GREAT ACLEA is a three-times winning daughter of Jallad who can win again before entering stud.

#95 HALAB finished 2nd at Scottsville after the catalogue went to print and is obviously threatening to register his second career win.

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#97 HIGHLAND RULE has been called a few names in his time, but has vastly more ability than his record suggests. In all fairness you need considerable forbearance with this one, but if you like a challenge and can unlock the secret to what makes him tick...

#99 JACK'S CENTURY is a maiden who has been placed twice from her last 3 KZN starts.

#100 JOE FLYING BY is a dual winner with buckets of stamina and a steadily dropping handicap mark. He can win again over ground, and is another who may have PE stamped all over him.

#101 JUPITER'S JEWEL is a once-winning gelding with some decent post maiden form. He can win again.

#105 KINGDOM has been placed once from 2 starts since he departed the maiden ranks and can win again.

#108 LLOYD AFRICA is a winning half sister to Gr3 winner Thekkady and can win again before she enters stud.

#109 MANIKIN is a maiden half sister to very useful Gliding High and is capable of winning a race.

#111 MARKET SHARE is capable of winning again in low-level handicaps. Much the same could be true as well of **#118 MUITO AMOR**.

#119 CLEAN SHEET is an unraced 3yo son of Model Man and is the half brother to a Listed winner.

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The unraced 2yo section contains the usual big entry from Chris Saunders' Invermooi Stud, which is represented by 19 youngsters. Let's have a quick look at some of them.

#120 is a daughter of The Sheik, sire of several useful fillies, out of a 5-times winning Personal Hope.

#121 is a colt by Albarahin out of a winner producing Rakeen mare.

#124 is a half brother by The Sheik to 2 winners of 5 races.

#126 is a filly by The Sheik out of Stakes winner Raise The Ransom and is the half sister to a dual winner. The mare's only other runner has been placed.

#129 is a half brother by The Sheik to 3 winners and is out of a daughter of champion Point With Pride.

#130 is a colt by emerging sire Announce out of a 3-times winning half sister to Gr2 winner Beacon Beauty.

#135 is a colt by Albarahin and is the first foal of a winning Fort Wood mare. The 2nd dam won 6 races.

#139 is a colt by What A Prospect and is the full brother to a winner.

#140 is a half brother by Albarahin to one winner.

#145 is a colt by international sire Second Empire and is the 1st foal of a winning half sister to Imbongi, from an excellent family.

#153 is a filly by Albarahin out of a Gr3 pl mare who won 5 races and who has produced one winner.

Finally, a look at some of the unraced 2yos from other vendors.

#122 is a filly by Mogok consigned by the Scott Bros. She's the half sister to a 5 time winner and the full sister to a lightly raced winner.

#125 is a Slew The Red half brother to 2 winners with SW Melly Maloy as the second dam.

#128 is a Muhtafal filly sent to the sale by Clarkin Th'breds. She's the half sister to 3 winners out of a half sister to Gr1 winning sprinter Speak No Evil.

#131 is being offered by champion breeders Summerhill, as agent. A daughter of The Sheik out of Gr3 winner and Gr1 pl Slek Braashee, she's the full sister to dual scorer Lady Pizzazz and the half sister to two other winners.

From the Scott Bros comes **#132**, a Mogok half sister to 5 winners incl. a winner of 5 and a winner of 4 races.

#133 is a daughter of young sire Requiem from Barton Hall, out of a half sister to Gr1 winner Ravishing and Gr2 winner Red Badge.

#136 is a daughter of hot sire Captain Al, consigned by Steve Sturlese. She is the half sister to one winner.

#137 is a Doowaley half sister to 2 winners with champion Cerulean Blue as her 2nd dam.

#138 is one of the last opportunities to buy an unraced youngster by deceased Labeeb. This colt is a half brother to 3 winners.

#142 is a colt by Gold Press, well known as a sire of sand horses but capable of

getting very good grass performers, notable ace PE sprinter Hear The Drums. This youngster is the half brother to Gr3 East Cape Derby winner Enjoy The Show. Also by Gold Press is **#148**. This colt is out of a full sister to Enjoy The Show and is the full brother to a dual winner on sand. Also by defunct Labeeb is

#150, a half sister to one winner.

#151 is a Mogok half brother to Gr 3 pl Johnny B Goode from the family of champion Up The Creek. Last horse in the catalogue is another son of Mogok. This colt, **#154**, is out of a Northern Guest mare and is the grandson of Gr1 winner Bombarda, from a smart Argentine family.

For catalogues and further information, Michael Holmes Bloodstock can be contacted on (031) 309 5522 (telephone) or (031) 309 8048 (fax).