

Mo On The Go

With a Kentucky Derby winner in Nyquist from his first crop, it's hardly surprising that Coolmore Kentucky's Uncle Mo takes the award for the biggest climber of the year in the Sires category in the TRC Global Rankings. Uncle Mo, Arrowfield Stud NSW's Not A Single Doubt and Soldier Hollow, who stands at Gestut Auenquelle in Germany, are the 3 stallions who gained the most rankings points over the past 12 months. There is no doubt that the now 9-year-old Uncle Mo profiles as one of the top six sires on the planet, and he should reach a commensurate position in TRC Global Rankings within two years.

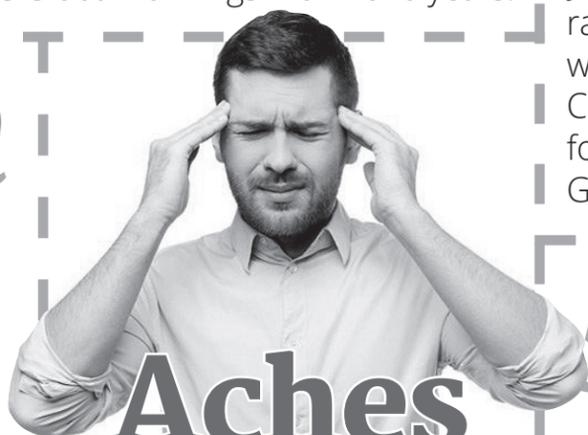
Captain Again

Our former champion sire Captain Al had a British winner on Thursday when his son Captain Lars scored his fourth British victory. Bred by Klawervlei, and racing for Chris Hamilton, Captain Lars won the 1000m race at Southwell by a neck. Captain Lars, who had also previously raced in Dubai, was a top class performer here where his five victories included the Listed Drum Star Handicap. He is a full brother to last season's Equus Champion 2yo Colt Always In Charge. The gelding was a R1 400 000 buy from the inaugural Cape Premier Yearling Sale.

218

That's the number of horses that have registered – up 16% up on last year – for the Dubai World Cup Carnival that starts at Meydan on Thursday 5 January. Two seasons ago the entries came from just 13 countries, which jumped to 16 last year

and now stands at 18. Britain remains top of the international class with 100 horses. But it is South Korea who have beefed up their challenge the most, after Cheongu made history in January when he became the first horse from there to compete at the Carnival. Prize-money across the 10 Carnival meetings up to Super Saturday has gone up by nearly \$500,000 (Dh1.8 million). That means that each of the 61 thoroughbred races that comprise the Carnival will be run for a minimum of \$100,000 (Dh367,000).



Aches & Pains

That is all the 36 year old Morne Winnaar had to report after a horrifying fall from Miss Minver in Sunday's Gr3 Flamboyant Stakes at Greyville. In a shocking sight, the talented Dynasty filly appeared to step awkwardly and injured herself badly, throwing Winnaar to the turf. The former Cape-based rider has grabbed the opportunity created at the Dean Kannemeyer yard by Anthony Delpech's injury enforced absence with both hands. His eight winners in December far outstrip anything he has done in the past decade plus, since his apprenticeship with Joey Ramsden. Winnaar hopes to be back in the saddle on Friday.

Scorched Earth

The Greyville Sunday Stipes Report states that 'the start of the 1st race was delayed to allow grass cuttings to be placed on the discoloured strip at the 400 metre mark'. Gold Circle Racing Executive Raf Sheik has advised that the turf was in fact burnt when hot oil leaked from an hydraulic pipe on a lawnmower. An attempt at solving the discolouration through dyeing did not succeed fully. In view of the intense heat on Sunday, the track manager waited for the horses to canter down before scattering grass shavings to mask the strip. Raf says in view of wind on the day of cutting the turf, the driver of the tractor had only realised after some time that his machine had a major oil leak. Gold Circle are awaiting a quote from John Deere for the installation of sensors that would alert staff to a leak in future.

Trainers Be Warned

When it comes to trainers, Hong Kong owners are renowned for putting recent results ahead of loyalty. Tony Cruz's typically to-the-point quote regarding stable transfers, after billionaire Pan Sutong pulled four horses from Richard Gibson's yard recently, describes perfectly the 'what have you done for me lately?' culture of Hong Kong racing. "Owners around here change stables like we change our shirts and underwear - every day," Cruz said, as he was about to take delivery of all four of Gibson's horses owned by Pan, including Gr1 winner Giant Treasure.

54,96

That's the Turffontein 1000m course record time set by Sean Tarry's Mythical Flight under Brett Smith in the Gr1 Computaform Sprint in May 2007. The son of Jet Master carried 56.5kgs. Var's progressive son Rivarine set an in a hurry 55,85 secs under 53,5kgs in Saturday's Lebelo Sprint. That despite not being pushed and drifting in dramatically late.

76

The number of winners led in by leading SA owners Mayfair Speculators according to the official NHA stats to 29 December 2016. That equates to a winner every other day this season so far. They are R6 million ahead of second placed Sabine Plattner in stakes earned.

Silver Bullets

With the prospects of a big weekend ahead at Kenilworth this Friday and Saturday, Maine Chance Farms' former champion stallion Silvano ended the 2016 midweek racing fare on a high at the Vaal last Thursday with three winners. Isolde, Malinga and Wind Chime all won but the features this weekend will be a major target. Marinaresco, Nebula, St Tropez, Ollivander, Strathdon and Gothic are carrying the Silvano flag, while the son of Lomitas' high-class daughters Silver Mountain, Nightingale, Star Express and Tahini will vie for top honours in the Paddock Stakes. Silvano has 19 yearlings on offer at the Cape Premier Yearling Sale, including a three parts sister to Gr1 Fillies Guineas winner Silver Mountain.

Sun Met – Last Chance

A reminder that the final supplementary entries for the R5 million Gr1 Sun Met close at 11h00 on Monday 9 January 2017. Weights will be published the same day.