

Select Success

Australians have discovered the power of 'Select' at yearling sales, a mightily successful concept long abandoned by South African sale companies for reasons unknown. The thing is, it works!

Down Under an inaugural select session that exceeded all expectations has led to a remarkable start to the 2017 Inglis Classic Yearling Sale. Named the Gold Riband, it saw 57 horses offered in a frenzied two-hours of selling, averaging A\$130k with a clearance rate of 88%. The top lot went for A\$400k.

Not that the Australian approach could have worked in SA. The Gold Riband Sale consists of yearlings selected by sales company Inglis, for the express purpose of being competitive in the Australian elite 2yo races, which culminate in the prestigious Golden Slipper. South Africa just doesn't have such juvenile power.

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The legal minimum age for racehorse ownership in South Africa is 18, but it works differently elsewhere. Twelve-year-old Hannah Schlenk

registered her first win as an owner last Friday when her 6-year-old gelding Rous got up in a photo finish in Turfway Park's third race. Schlenk inherited Rous from her mother who died on 1 September. A sixth grader in Granite City, Illinois, she has grown up around horses - her Dad is a groom for Rous' trainer Vernon Obermeier.

Number One

Jockey Aldo Domeyer, who recently rode 6 winners on an afternoon at Kenilworth, will replace Grant van Niekerk as Number One jockey to Candice Bass-Robinson. Domeyer will no longer be driving up the West Coast to the Plattner Racing establishment at Rondeberg, and so ends his successful association with the Plattner stable's trainer Andre Nel.

Hatt's Off

There isn't a jockey in the Cape riding with more confidence than Richard Fourie, who booted home a hat-trick at Kenilworth on Saturday. He is currently 20 winners behind Greg Cheyne on the SA log - but does not have the benefit of a good 'away' job. The middle leg of the Fourie treble was the Adam Marcus-trained Quippi, who gave Glen Hatt his first winner as Maine Chance Farm's new Racing Manager. Not that Hatt will be taking any credit - yet!

Evergreen

Jeff Lloyd continued his dream season with a treble. Lloyd has the Brisbane and Queensland riding records firmly in his sights little more than halfway through the season. He is leading the Australian jockeys' premiership with 113 winners, the Queensland title with 112 winners and the Brisbane metropolitan race with 89. Watch this space!



The provisional calendar for the 2017 Mauritius racing season has been released and the first classic of the season - The Gr2 Duchess Of York Cup - is back in its traditional place as the main event of the inaugural meeting scheduled for Saturday 25 March. The three remaining classic races - all Gr1's at weight-for-age have been scheduled as The Barbe Cup Saturday 1 July, the Maiden Cup Sunday 3 September and the Duke Of York Cup Saturday 28 October .

Fly Us To The Moon



The Singapore Turf Club has renamed the Gr3 Kranji Sprint to Rocket Man Sprint. Run as the second Leg of the Singapore Sprint Series, the 1200m event will be run on 26 March.

Widely considered as the greatest horse to have raced in Singapore, Rocket Man was the most famous local racing brand to have been exported overseas as well. With regular jockey Felix Coetzee, he won the Gr1 Golden Shaheen in Dubai and ran 2nd in the Hong Kong Sprint to JJ The Jet Plane. Trained by Pat Shaw and owned by Fred Crabbia Rocket Man retired with a record of 20 wins, five seconds and one fourth from 27 starts for stakes earnings in excess of \$6.7 million, the highest ever amassed by a Singapore racehorse. He was unbeaten in 17 domestic races - 9 at Group level. The now 12yo gelding retired

Bold & Beautiful

Ascot Stud sire Bold Silvano's current crop of 2yos continue to catch the eye. The 2010 Vodacom Durban July winner's daughter Hot N Hazy made a stylish winning debut over 1000m. Trained by Alan Greeff, and ridden by Greg Cheyne, Hot N Hazy put a length between herself and favourite Joking to win on debut. Bred by the Ascot Stud, she is out of the Way West mare Hot Girl, a four-time winning stakes placed winner. Bold Silvano has been represented by just 6 2yo runners this season. 4 have won or finished in the money and include R1 million Kuda Sprint winner Bold Respect and debut winner Pure Fiction.

Nudge Nudge



Winx made it 14 wins in succession with a typically dominant effort to win the Gr2 A\$250,000 Apollo Stakes at Royal Randwick. In the process the mare equalled the longest winning sequence of Phar Lap, and is now ready to nudge the legend out of the record. Over the course of her successive run of victories, Winx picked up nine Gr1 wins, highlighted by a Cox Plate double. The unbeaten record run of 25 wins by the brilliant sprinter Black Caviar, who never looked like losing on Australian soil, should stand for a long time yet, though.