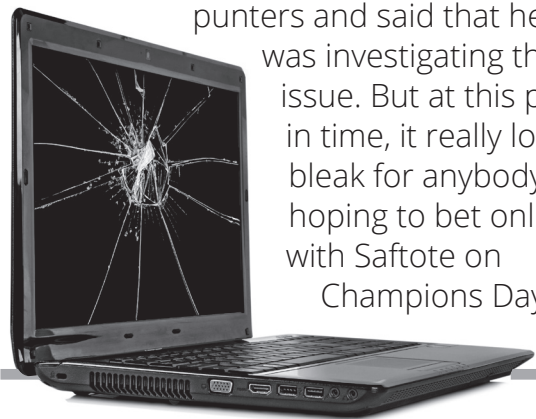


Not Funny

The issues with the Saftote website are reaching comical proportions and a day does not pass without a complaint being received about the on-line betting platform. Over six months we have religiously reported problems – on Sunday we were again inundated by angry punters who had missed exotic bets. Consider the time and effort expended by punters, buying publications and spending hours studying form – only to see their hopes go up in smoke. Phumelela

Executive Vee Moodley, apologised to punters and said that he

was investigating the issue. But at this point in time, it really looks bleak for anybody hoping to bet online with Saftote on Champions Day.



Hugh Is The One

Tactically aware and showing supreme confidence in his decision-making, Hugh Bowman's display on Werther in Sunday's Audemars Piguet QE II Cup was just the latest in a series of brilliant big race rides by the 35-year-old this season. The Australian rider is at his best currently - confident, tactically smart and fearless. However you want to describe it, Bowman seems a jockey at the peak of his powers right now and has a knack of producing his best on the biggest stages. He is off to do a stint in Japan.

Cox On A Plate

Trainer John Moore's thirst for a major in Australia remains unquenched and he placed the Cox Plate in Melbourne on Werther's agenda after the Derby winner dismantled an outstanding Audemars Piguet QE II Cup field on Sunday. Once the annual graveyard of Hong Kong Derby winners, the QE II has been the running double only for the best of the classic winners - Vengeance Of Rain, Ambitious Dragon and Designs On Rome - but none of them won it like Werther.



THE BARE MINIMUM

From the 25 April – 30 April, Hollywoodbets customers get the chance to maximise their open bet winnings! The minimum open bet dividend payable, for either single win or single place bets, during the promotion shall be R1.10.

The maximum winning amount on a single win or place bet where the minimum dividend is applied will be limited to R5000.

Where open win and / or open place bets only include winners who are paying the minimum dividend of R1.10, then the maximum winning amount will be limited to R10 000.00.

For terms and conditions go to hollywoodbets.net/Menu/Promotion/Promotion2.aspx

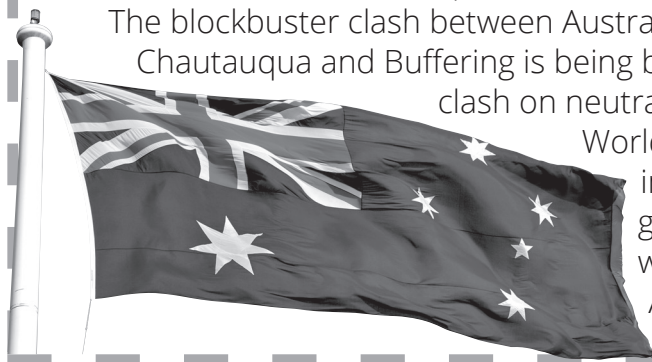
Long Wait Is Over

Richard Johnson has become the first man to be crowned jump racing's champion jockey after the AP McCoy era, ending a 20-year wait for the title. Johnson, 38, rode Menorah to victory in the Oaksey Chase at Sandown, his 235th win of the season. Closest rival Aidan Coleman finished second on 130 wins. "It's always been my dream," said Johnson. "There's no feeling like it." McCoy was champion jockey for 20 years in a row from 1996 to 2015, with Johnson runner-up 16 times.

Speed On Sunday

The "Aussies breed the world's best sprinters" crowing probably started in 2003 when Choisir took Royal Ascot apart with back-to-back feature sprint wins on the first and last day of the world's premier race meeting. Buffering beats some of the world's best sprinters in the Al Quoz Sprint in Dubai last start. He lines up in the Chairman's Sprint Prize on Sunday.

The blockbuster clash between Australian-trained stars Chautauqua and Buffering is being billed as a head-to-head clash on neutral ground for the title of World's Best Sprinter (#WBS), an imaginary title belt that usually gets passed around between winners of the 350 or so Australian black-type sprints.



DEPUTY DOING IT

The arrival of former Summerhill stallion Visionaire at Lammerskraal has happened in a big week for his new neighbour, the red hot sire Go Deputy, who added yet another feature win to his growing tally when his son Welsh Emperor justified favouritism in Friday's Derby Plate. The Ascot Stud bred gelding, a R340 000 buy from the 2014 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale, stamped his East Cape Derby claims. Go Deputy stands on the brink of two Triple Crown triumphs – Abashiri on Saturday and then Gogetthesheriff in the E Cape Poly equivalent. That must be something of a record.

Lucky Escape

We were thrilled to hear that jockey Craig Zackey was only bruised after his accident on Friday evening. He was driving home to Brakpan from OR Tambo Airport after flying back from Port Elizabeth, when a truck turned into his lane.

"I tried missing him but caught him and, yeah, rolled for 0.5km. Lord, thank you so much for giving me another chance in life," he said on his Facebook page. The distance of the roll and the pic of the destroyed once shiny BMW that he received on his 21st birthday a fortnight earlier spoke of high speed. We hope he learns a lesson.

60 UP?

There are few secrets in racing and our scouts report that Mary and Jessica Slack hosted a birthday bash in Joburg on Monday evening for the older of the two Cape commentators. Our process of elimination (Rouvaun Smit is a youngster) suggests it was Jehan Malherbe who has been the senior commentator at all Cape racetracks for 30 years. A figure of 60 was being bandied about - but it could be much higher we are told.

Try Again

Mike de Kock's attempt to win the Gr1 Audemars Piguet QEII Cup for the third time – he won with Irridescence (2006) and Archipenko (2008) - came unstuck with Investec Cape Derby winner Ertijaal failing to fire when it counted. The chestnut had progressed into fourth with about 300m to run, but he faded out late after having to "do a ton of work early", in the words of the race caller. Ertijaal was slow away and was pushed into contention from a wide draw. Besides that, he appeared uncomfortable on the wet track. "Not much went right for Ertijaal and he didn't quite handle the going," reported jockey Douglas Whyte.