

£75 000

That is what owner Ronnie Arculli will have to pay to get last weekend's runaway Haydock Handicap winner Red Verdon into the Investec Derby. The connections are contemplating an audacious assault on the Epsom Classic after the Ed Dunlop-trained son of Lemon Drop Kid sauntered to a five-length victory off a mark of 88 on Saturday, leading most observers to note him down as a major contender for the King George V Stakes at Royal Ascot.

A Horror Fall...

Left six jockeys hurt and one horse fatally injured at New South Wales track Taree on Monday.

The incident was triggered when Bazza's Boy, partnered by top apprentice Samantha Clenton, fell turning for home and brought down Blinkin Rules and Casino Bride.

The carnage continued as Lady Lobban and Nonino were caught in the melee and both unseated their riders.

Clenton was left with the most severe injuries and will undergo surgery on a broken collarbone on Wednesday.



& More Payne...

Melbourne Cup winning jockey Michelle Payne is having further tests after a race fall at Mildura. Payne was conscious and moving all her limbs after Monday's fall but was taken to the local hospital with abdominal pain.

The scans appeared to be clear, but Payne tweeted just before 10 o'clock on Monday night that she would be tested further in Melbourne.

"Thank you for all the well wishes. Off to the Alfred tonight to check out Pancreas and liver. Through the vest."

Jobs – But No Staff

There was a stable staff shortage in Britain last year; there is a stable staff shortage this year. Not everyone calls it a crisis, but plenty do. Trainers place job advertisements; not all of them get answered. A survey carried out by the NTF found, at a conservative estimate, the industry was operating with 500 fewer grooms and work-riders than required. Trainers face difficulties in retaining existing staff and recruiting new ones. "Staff morale is dipping all the time because people are under so much pressure. Stable staff get into the job because they love horses. They understand the working practices but we're now having to ride more and more horses and look after more of them in the evenings. We're losing the connection with the horse, which is why we got into the job in the first place," said a source.

TECHNOLOGY THE KEY

Racing.com has announced that it has reached a multi-year agreement with the Hong Kong Jockey Club to broadcast all 83 meetings from Happy Valley and Sha Tin racecourses into Australia each season. A joint-venture partnership between Racing Victoria and Seven West Media, Racing.com is broadcast on free-to-air channels, along with a Foxtel channel and on the Racing.com digital platform. "Technology is now driving aggressive competition in wagering globally and here in Australia the way racing has been traditionally delivered and marketed is certainly not



immune from change," said a Seven West Media spokesman.

A Cunning Linguist

That's what the Mike de Kock website labelled their no-nonsense boss after James Goodman found Stout Michael in top interviewing form on last Monday's Winning Ways show, at the start of his annual Durban sojourn in which "all rooms face the sea" from his Umhlanga Mansion. James, the wily host, prompted thought-provoking comments on a variety of issues including AHS, handicapping, grooms fees, sand racing, his 2017 Dubai string, stipendiary stewards and golf.

Cattle Class

Marinaresco won the Winter Classic like a good horse on Saturday but jockey Grant van Niekerk's showboating theatrics cost him R1000. He was charged with a contravention of Rule 62.2.10, in that he saluted in a celebratory gesture prior to the finish line. After the talented rider had pointed out the cost of local air-travel at Greyville the previous evening, it was probably a silly thing to do in a non-pressured situation.



Save This Rhino?

The talented Run Rhino Run has been suspended indefinitely for causing interference.

At his last start at Scottsville, he was pulling hard in the early stages, was unable to be assisted and despite the efforts of his jock, he raced wide on the latter part of the first bend and on the outside in the back straight. Trainer Alyson Wright, for whom he was having only a second run, thought his erratic behaviour was due to his ring bit.

GREEN, GREEN, GRASS OF HOME

The old home town will look the same as he steps down from the plane...While the national focus will be on Greyville this Saturday, it is great to see Andrew Fortune back in his old home town after an absence of over four months. The former champion heavyweight has seven rides on the Kenilworth programme and stands out as the rider to follow. The evergreen legend is in great form and is riding like a guy half his age.