

Jockeys – We Love Them

Whip Swapper – Lester Piggott

A pioneer of sorts when it comes to ‘borrowing’ a rival’s whip mid-race. Piggott dropped his persuader in the early stages of a race at Deauville in 1979 but with victory still a possibility with 200m to run, he decided to improvise. As he passed the horse in second, he reached out and snatched rider Alain Lequeux’s whip. Piggott was able to give his mount a few cracks with his newly-acquired shillelagh but he couldn’t reel in the leader. When questioned by stewards, Piggott noted that Lequeux “didn’t need it”. That excuse didn’t exactly wash with officials who relegated Piggott and his steed to third.

Bad, Bad Day – Tshepiso Moagi

Work-rider Moagi had a dreadful day at Turffontein on 14 May. In the first race he was charged with a contravention of Rule 58.10.2 in that he struck the horse Freely Forever more than three times in consecutive strides in the closing stages. Then in the fifth race he was charged with a contravention of Rule 62.2.7 in that as the rider of Zoo Alley he failed to ensure that he did not cause interference to Game Plan when he shifted in at approximately the 1400m. He was suspended from riding in two Work Riders’ races. In the sixth race he was charged with Rule 62.2.3 – for failing to ride the horse Wall Of Ice out to the end of the race. He was again suspended from riding in one

Work Riders’ race. In the eighth was charged with the offence for failing to ride the horse Nasmyth out to the end of the race. He got a further ban of one Work Riders’ race.

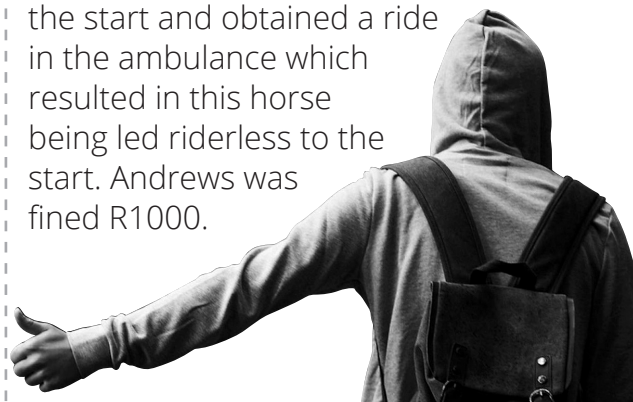


Noisemaker – Wayne Agrella

The strong PE rider was charged at Fairview on 6 May with a contravention of Rule 61.5.7 - In that he committed a misdemeanour at the start by making unnecessary noise whilst complaining to the Assistant. He was given a warning.

HITCHING A RIDE – ANTHONY ANDREWS

The Cape jockey was charged at Scottsville on 1 May with a contravention of Rule 61.3.6 - In that he dismounted Princess Royal en route to the start and obtained a ride in the ambulance which resulted in this horse being led riderless to the start. Andrews was fined R1000.



Downing A Lion – Craig Zackey & Raymond Danielson

The two promising riders were both stood down at Turffontein on Sunday after undergoing breathalyser tests. The Equus Award winning Zackey was replaced on his first ride after travel complications. The two had ridden at Fairview on Friday and Greyville on Saturday. Inquiries will be held. Hopefully they will ensure that they don’t do that again.



Cape Workriders

We realise they don’t get much race practice but anybody who punts on anything involving these guys needs nerves of steel and a sense of humour! The first race at Kenilworth on Saturday was a comedy of errors and somehow the odds-on favourite Peonie Rock (Ndlele) landed up winning. This was despite his jockey taking things ridiculously easily in the last 50m – to win by a neck! Workrider Gwampa lost his stirrups on second favourite Trippvilia without any bumps at the start and as he was under starters orders, punters did their cash in cold blood.

STRAIGHTSHOOTER – ANTON MARCUS

In an industry where most are fearful of speaking out and from the heart it is encouraging to see that Anton Marcus expressed his reservations about the Greyville turf surface on Daily News day. Looking both disappointed and irritated, Marcus said it was not an ideal surface for Gr1 racing. In the end it worked out well with him winning the Daily News 2000 on Rabada. But given the slow pace and hard luck stories, we will watch the form closely in the weeks ahead.

Pan – Not Plan

While on the subject of jockeys, it may be worth noting that the correct way to express that tactics or plans worked out in a particular or successful way is to say that ‘they panned out’. Listen to how many guys in the post-race interviews say ‘things planned out’ the way we thought.

Out Shaw Rants

Full marks to charismatic Tellytrack presenter Shaheen Shaw for risking his professional reputation by standing in as racecaller at short notice for the second race at Kenilworth on Saturday after technical gremlins denied viewers any sound for the first few races. Shaw did well to a point – but gave his age away when he kept calling the 1974 Gordon Kirkpatrick Memorial winner Flower Power. The top-class son of Royal Affair retired from racing 40 years ago.

No Exaggeration!

Preakness winner Exaggerator, who is heading to Belmont Park for the 148th running of the Gr1 \$1.5 million Belmont Stakes on Saturday 11 June, is related to a local mare. His dam is half sister to Highlands mare Glowing Amber (by Deputy Minister), whose 2014 filly by Dynasty sold earlier this year at the CTS January sale to China Horse Club for R800 000. Exaggerator is by Curlin, whose dam is by Deputy Minister.

Name And Shame

The National Horseracing Authority have finally taken the long overdue step of publishing names of owners that have been blocked in terms of Rule 97.7 at the National Racing Bureau from nominating, accepting or declaring their horses. The list is: Prof S A B De Curtis, Ms L Futeran, Mr J Reddy, Adv S Reddy and Mr K Steinberg.