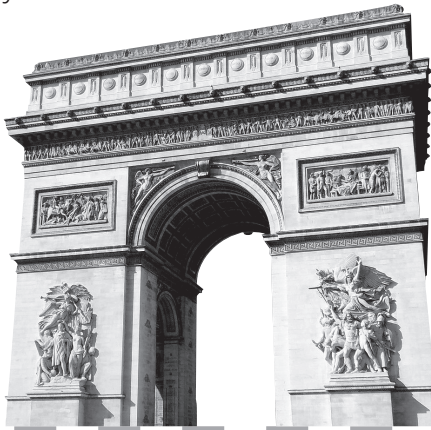


# Name & Blame

Watching the 10 year old gelding Jet Master running at Perth on Sunday had us wondering what happened to protection of names for top performing horses. Our own champion racehorse Jet Master, a four-time leading sire, was born in 1994 and died in 2011 at age 17. His Irish-bred namesake (He is by Brian Boru out of the Strong Gale mare, Whats The Reason) was foaled on 22 April 2006 and is still going half strong. He is definitely not in the same league though - having won 4 races from his 38 starts.

# French Hospitality

The raiders were forced to eat humble pie in Sunday's 2500m Gr1 French Derby at Chantilly. The six British or Irish-trained challengers could not make an impression as the domestic runners dominated with the overseas raiders filling 6 of the last 7 places. Jean-Claude Rouget won the race for the second time as Almanzor produced a 20-1 shock to run out an authoritative winner. Bred in France by Haras d'Etream, Almanzor is from the first crop of French Gr1-winning juvenile Wootton Bassett and is his sire's first black-type winner. Almanzor has been installed as a 16-1 shot for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in October.



# 50

That's the age reached by our multiple champion jockey Piere Strydom, who celebrated his birthday on Tuesday this week. He picked himself up to win the third race at Turffontein on Sunday - after falling in the first. He steered the Chris Erasmus-trained Cranberry Crush home at 14-10 by a head - and, quite bemused, said: "She couldn't win a workriders race and she really needed everything to go her way - like if they hadn't gone a decent pace she may have been in trouble. Despite that - the guys who took the 14-10 must think they are heroes, right now!" said the no nonsense top jock.

# Molly Off Course

The word is out that Equus Award winning veteran Dave Mollett's on-course presenting days are sadly over. "The grapevine is correct. I have been informed via email that I won't be required for any more on-course shifts. Fairly ironic when you consider that exactly 12 months ago I was voted "top presenter" in a survey commissioned by Tellytrack. I presume the decision is because of my age, but I've got dodgy knees not alzheimer's and felt I had at least another 18 months of on-course work in me. But I'm enjoying my new role as a UK analyst and simply want to thank all those owners, trainers and jockeys who - over the past 14 years - have contributed to some lively on-course interviews."

# WHO RIDES WHAT?

With July fever reaching hysterical levels, the debate over who will ride what is livening up. Last year Chad Schofield was the only 'foreign' jockey in the race - he rode The Conglomerate for Joey Ramsden. Unconfirmed word on the ground is that Dougie Whyte may ride Abashiri - while Karis Teetan or Joao Moreira could be aboard Rabada. SA champion Gavin Lerena, who has failed to fire in Hong Kong, is also apparently in the market for a ride.



# Boland Beauty

Boland Stud enjoy something of a scoop in that they are offering the only Captain Al yearling at the 2016 Sibaya KZN Yearling Sale, which commences on 30 June. The breeders of Captain Al's top class stakes winners Captain Aldo and The Merry Widow are looking forward to the sale - she is a quality sort and Captain Al fillies are much sought after in the ring, and have fetched up to as high as R5 250 000.

# Green Means Go!

Varsfontein Stud's exciting young sire Gimmethgreenlight's first crop continues to make waves. The blue blooded son of More Than Ready was represented by his fifth first crop winner this weekend, while another first crop runner, Whispering Light, ran a cracker on debut to finish a close second over 1000m at Kenilworth on Saturday. Gimmethgreenlight's fifth first crop juvenile winner came in the form of the Old Oak Tree, who scored at Turffontein on Sunday.



# Cape Breeders: Key Dates

Put these dates in your diary! The popular Stallion Auction will take place this Friday at Highland Stud. The Cape Breeders Club Race day will take place on 25 June 2016 - invites to be sent out shortly. The Cape Breeders Club AGM is being held on 28 July. The annual Cape Breeders Club/Racing Association awards evening will be held on 8 August.

# Turnaround

The British Horseracing Authority managed to turn a seven-figure deficit in 2014 into a six-figure surplus in 2015 according to their annual report which was published on Monday. As late as December last year the governing body was forecasting it would post a deficit again in 2015 after going from surplus in 2013 to a £1.363 million deficit a year later!

# HEAD OF WHITE

A striking white-headed foal was born on Sunday at Southern Equine Farm near Midway, Kentucky. The colt is by Bodemeister out of Out for Revenge, a daughter of Bernardini. He is from the family of Gr2 winner and stallion Tale of the Cat and European champion Minardi. "In 35 years in the industry I've never seen a Thoroughbred like this," said trainer Eric Guillot. "The mare hasn't thrown anything unusual before, but Bodemeister throws a lot of white. I've got a few by him with stockings and other markings, but this one's unique. It looks like he dunked his head into a five-gallon bucket of white paint. There are no jagged edges to the colour; it came out straight. And he has got a white tail and a white streak on his belly like a Paint horse."