

Night Racing Is A No-No!

UK trainer Richard Hughes has slammed the expansion of the evening racing programme. "It seems to me when fixture lists are put together the last people thought of are those responsible for the horses who provide the entertainment," he says. Hughes added that trainers don't like evening racing, particularly on a Friday and Saturday, for a number of reasons. "Owners have to pay staff additional expenses if their horse runs at night. If lads get back late they can't ride out first or second lot the next morning. Crucially, as well, most of my staff who travel with horses at the weekends are the ones who, in theory, should be enjoying their weekend off. That would apply to most yards," he mused. He advised owners not to run on Friday evenings.

Patriot Games

Three-year-old Fastnet Rock colt South Africa was the top seller at Friday's Inglis Winter Thoroughbred Sale in Sydney when selling to trainer John Thompson for \$100,000. South Africa is out of Gr2-winning Testa Rossa mare Vormista and was offered for sale having trialled behind the likes of stakes-winning juveniles Astern and Winning Rupert last season. Thompson signed for the colt after outlasting Bill Mitchell of Segenhoe Thoroughbreds and multiple other under bidders.



Khan Do

Mongolian Khan (Holy Roman Emperor-Centafit, by Centaine) was crowned New Zealand Horse of the Year for the second year running at a ceremony at the Langham Hotel in Auckland this past weekend, reports theinformant.co.nz. The triple Gr1 winner, who will commence stud duties at Windsor Park Stud this spring, became the first back-to-back winner of the title since champion mare Seachange in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Smart Money

Champion South African mare Smart Call leads a huge international contingent among a top class entry of 36 fillies and mares for the Group 1 Kingdom of Bahrain Sun Chariot Stakes run at Newmarket's Rowley Mile Racecourse on Saturday, October 1. Unraced since thrashing many of the best South African horses by three and a half lengths in the J & B Met at Kenilworth in Cape Town back in January, Smart Call is one of 21 foreign-trained entries for this £250,000 one mile contest, which will be the sixth of seven races in the Mile category of the QIPCO British Champions Series.

The Last Parade

We were saddened to learn recently of the passing of Lammerskraal Stud stalwart Parade Leader. The then 6yo Gr2 winner was purchased in 2003 from William S. Farish and E. J. Hudson Jr. Bred by Farish and Hudson's irrevocable trust, Parade Leader won seven of 30 starts and earned \$712,507 for trainer Neil Howard. His big win came in the 2002 Gr2 New Orleans Handicap.

A son of Kingmambo, who produced a multitude of stakes winners, Parade Leader was out of the His Majesty mare Battle Creek Girl. His Majesty is broodmare sire of Danehill Dancer.

Parade Leader's offspring earned over R24 000 000 in prize money, and include the likes of Summer Cup winning mare Rudra, champion filly Laverna, millionaire Pierre Jourdan and the classy Gr2 winner Senor Versace.



Mountain Goat Missing

We have asked but with sadly typical unaccountable 'we owe you no explanations' arrogance, there has been no response from the powers-that-be. Why is there no Cape domiciled individual on the Equus voting panel? The prestige and weight carried by South Africa's annual national horseracing awards is unquestioned. But while we are not doubting the capabilities and qualifications of the current panel, credibility and transparency can only be real when a national awards has a fully representative voice. It is, after all, a democratic country and it is the 21st century!



JAY PEG

David Hepburn-Brown of Hemel 'n Aarde Stud's wish to have star Jay Peg return to stand at the place of his birth has been realised. The former globetrotting superstar, a four time Gr1 winner in three different countries who broke three track records, arrived at Hemel 'n Aarde on Tuesday 2nd August. Jay Peg has just had another cracking season and finds himself as the youngest of the top ten sires on both the overall log and the 3yo sires log. His statistics last season were the best they have ever been. There is more to come because Jay Peg covered two good follow-up books of mares in 2014 and 2015.

Average Gr1

Silvano gelding Marinaresco has been accorded a 110 merit rating by the handicappers after winning the Gr 1 Mike and Carol Bass Champions Cup over 1800m at Greyville in impressive style on Sunday 31 July. Durban-based handicapper Mathew Lipps was quoted on www.goldcircle.co.za about the decision to raise the classy colt by just one point, "It was not the strongest Gr 1. In time he will probably be running to a lot higher, but for now he is running to a 110."

83 Up

Cape hall of fame trainer Peter Kannemeyer turned 83 on Sunday and was full of his usual quips when we phoned to wish him. "I don't recommend my age to anybody," he laughed, saying that his bedside table resembled 'a pharmacy'. "Thank heavens there isn't much a pill can't sort out," he said. Peekay retired in 1999 after 30 years of training out of Barn 1 in Milnerton. He rode for close on 30 years – which he says 'buggered up my knees'.

Delpech Retained By Top Owner

Four-time Vodacom Durban July champion jockey, Anthony Delpech, is joining Mary Slack as a retained jockey, after a successful seven year partnership with one of the country's top stud farms and wine estates, Avontuur Estate.

Avontuur GM Pippa Mickleburgh said that the team wished Delpech well. "We are happy for Anthony as he starts a new part of his career and sad for Avontuur Estate who has benefitted so much over the years from his incredible successes. We would have loved to continue the relationship. However this new position is such a positive for Anthony's further career that we were happy to negotiate an earlier release from our contract and we wish him everything of the best."

Delpech expressed his immense gratitude to Avontuur for their loyal support over the years and is looking forward to the next chapter in his racing career.

"I have been extremely lucky to have been sponsored by Avontuur for the last 7 years and have shared some memorable moments

with them during this time. It has been a great ride, mainly due to Pippa (Mickleburgh) and the Taberer family, who have been incredibly supportive over these past years and I owe them a special thanks and appreciation for the consistent kindness shown to me. I wish them all the success in the future.

"Despite the happy partnership, I will now be moving on as I have been given an opportunity to be Mary Slack's retained jockey and will have first call on all the Wilgerbosdrift – owned horses in addition to riding for Mauritzfontein.

Mike Makaab, CEO of ProSport International, the sports management company that brokered the Avontuur deal, was full of praise for the way in which Avontuur conducted their relationship with Delpech and wished both Avontuur and Delpech success in the future.