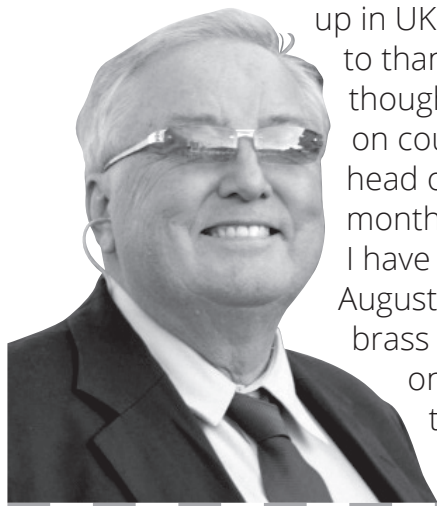


#BringMollyBack

Tellytrack appear to have made a winning move in appointing Dave Mollett as their evening UK analyst. We asked Molly if he was enjoying his new role. "Yes, indeed, although I was brought up in UK racing. I have Dieter Wohlberg to thank as it was his idea." One worry, though. Molly hasn't been seen presenting on course since Neil Andrews was made head of Presenters at the beginning of the month. "I'm in the dark about this because I have a presenters contract which runs till August next year," said Molly. Tellytrack top brass must surely realise Molly remains one of the most popular presenters in the country and his opinion and tips can only boost turnover.



Ego's & Agendas?

There have been whisperings for years that there is no love lost between the two racing operators in this country and the scrapping of the Winning Ways Show broadcast for the second consecutive week, without even the courtesy of a public notice, once again showed that all is not well. There was no explanation offered other than a comment that Tellytrack refused to air the popular show. We accept that schedules and priorities change – but the arrogant disdain shown towards the customer and stakeholder is a poor show indeed.

A REAL HIT

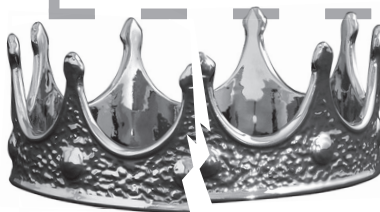
A half-brother to Rathmor stallion Noble Tune, who will sell his first yearlings in 2017, sold for \$1.05 million during last Thursday's session of the Keeneland November breeding stock sale. The Tapit colt was the highest-priced weanling up to that point of the auction. Consigned by Hill 'n' Dale Sales, the dark bay colt is out of the top-producing Storm Cat mare, Serena's Cat, whose offspring have been extremely popular in recent years. A half sibling to the Tapit colt sold for \$2.6 million at last year's Keeneland November sale with a full sibling bringing a then-North American record weanling price of \$3 million at the 2014 exercise. Noble Tune's acquisition was a major boon for SA breeding and he is the only son of sire-of-sires Unbridled's Song at stud in this country.

Versatility

The Alchemy's young sire Gitano Hernando caught the eye with an impressive 1200m and 2400m double at Fairview on Friday. The consistent Maine Chance Farms-bred Villanelle scored an emphatic win, while her paternal half brother Megabucks came with a late run to break his maiden for owner-breeder Dr Ian Heyns over 2400m. Gitano Hernando's small first crop has now yielded six winners, including the talented stakes filly Whose That Girl. Seventeen of Gitano Hernando's first crop have won or finished in the money, and, given their sire's own improvement with age, this total should grow significantly over the seasons to come. A top class racehorse who earned over \$2 million, Gitano Hernando won or placed in six major graded races.

Royal Split

Sheikh Hamdan of Dubai has parted company with Paul Hanagan, his first-choice rider since 2012. The alliance came to an end at Wolverhampton last Friday evening. The 36yo Hanagan was crowned champion jockey in 2010 and 2011 before he was appointed by Sheikh Hamdan, for whom he rode Taghrooda to victory in both the Investec Oaks at Epsom and the King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot two years ago. Mukhadram, Muhaarar and Muarrab also provided Hanagan further Group One victories in the famous blue and white silks. Rumours have it that Godolphin's second-string rider James Doyle may take over.



Suspended

Gr1 Daily News 2000 winner Rabada was suspended indefinitely in terms of rule 93.1 when pulling up lame after the Charity Mile. The original favourite for the Sansui Summer Cup will now be rested for at least three months. Owned by Mayfair Speculators, the son of Brave Tin Soldier was having his first run there for trainer Brett Crawford after relocating from Mike Azzie. He is a dual Gr1 winner and still a colt – so there may be other options if he cannot race again.



Hard Spin

Darley Danzig sire Hard Spun, sire of Mike de Kock's well-performed Gr1 Cape Derby winner Ertijaal, recorded a stakes double at Sandown Hillside on Saturday to take his total stakes winners tally to 54. Hard Spun, a versatile top-level performer, raced only on dirt and the Polytrack, winning seven of 13 starts from 1100m to 1800m, including the Gr1 King's Bishop over 1400m on dirt at Saratoga. His versatility has carried to his offspring – 2yo filly Arctic Angel winning over 1000m and then 6yo gelding Turnitaround scoring over 1800m on Saturday. Hard Spun, who shuttled to Australia for six seasons between 2008 and 2013, stands at Jonabell Farm in Kentucky where his fee for 2017 will be US\$45,000. He has one lot on next week's Joburg Ready To Run Sale – check #179.

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Owner's Call

Mauritian Magician Karis Teetan retains the ride on former horse of the year and past Hong Kong Cup winner, Designs On Rome at the expense of Aussie Tommy Berry for the HK\$25 million Hong Kong Cup on December 11. Teetan was seat warming for Berry when he produced a tactical tour de force to win the Sha Tin Trophy on Designs On Rome last month. Now owner Cheng Keung Fai has said he will stay aboard. Trainer John Moore wasn't happy – as he had already indicated to Berry that he would ride the horse on which he has won four Gr1's, including a Derby.

Clockwork

The results of the 26th annual Cartier Racing Awards were published last week and maybe it is time for the Equus 2017 organisers to take a leaf out of their book – in terms of setting credibility grabbing clearly defined judging parameters. Channel 4 Racing, The Daily Telegraph and Racing Post are media partners of the Cartier Racing Awards, which are arrived at through three established strands. Points are earned by horses in Pattern races (30% of the total) and these are combined at the end of season with the opinions of a panel of racing journalists (35%) and votes from readers of Racing Post and The Daily Telegraph, plus Channel 4 Racing viewers (35%). Everybody has a say – and everybody knows where they stand. Refreshing!



Confidence and balance from promising rider

Lyle Keeps SA Flag Flying

Avontuur-sponsored Lyle Hewitson scored a terrific win from his only ride in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

SOUTH Africa's leading apprentice rider rode a powerful finish on the purebred Arabian Ibn Harmany Al Zobair for former SA trainer and multiple UAE champion Ernst Oertel. He outgunned the flying Extra Hope in the hands of Richard Mullen to win the 1200m contest by a head. Fourteen runners contested the Wathba Stud Farm Cup and after hitting the front 100m from home, Hewitson rode a beautifully judged finish to win an exciting race. Another SA Jockey Academy graduate in Mauritian born Kersley Ramsamy finished third in the HH Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak (IFHRA) Apprentice Jockey Championship raced over 1600m. Representing Mauritius, Ramsamy rode the Eric Lemartinel trained Snaffly into third, after overcoming a wide draw. Both young riders were participants in the HH Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak (IFHRA) Apprentice Jockey Championship.