



Trainer Mike de Kock is just 7 winners away from the magical 3000 winner milestone. His last local winner was Belle Rose at Turffontein on Sun Met Day, while Sanshaawes won last Thursday at Meydan. Like all countdowns, things seem to drag in the home stretch!

Tough Times

A flat domestic racing industry had a disappointing effect on the New Zealand Bloodstock Select Sale and the overall negative impact was even more evident when looking at the Premier and Select sessions from last week combined. So said NZB Managing Director Andrew Seabrook after over \$6.5 million less had been spent by domestic buyers who have historically underpinned the middle market. The median price of \$40,000 was a 16% drop on last year's figure of \$47,500. In the Select Sale international buyers accounted for 42% of the horses bought, spending \$10.8 million (52% of the sale's aggregate) while domestic buyers secured 252 horses for \$9.86 million (48% of the sale's aggregate).



\$40 000

That is what you will have to dock up if your mare meets muster to be covered by dual Horse Of The Year California Chrome. Lucky Pulpit's son retired to Taylor Made Farm in Kentucky after the Pegasus World Cup as the leading North American-based horse by earnings with more than \$14,752,650 with 10 graded stakes wins, including 7 at Gr1 level, two of those being classics.

Bus(t) Up!



After the bus no-show debacle which led to last Monday's Flamingo Park meet being abandoned, there was more stress for the hard-hit locals when Sunday's substitute meeting was washed out. In an unprecedented move, entries for coming Monday's 13 February programme were re-opened only for those who were due to run in Sunday's wash-out. This showed enterprise and a softening by the racing operator - but sadly no apologies or explanations have ever been tendered for the bus.

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Ready To Run

The catalogue for the Emperors Palace Summer Ready To Run Sale to be held at Summerhill on **Tuesday 21 February** is now available online www.summerhill.co.za or www.mhbloodstock.co.za. Please contact info@summerhill.co.za to book your seat. Horses are available for viewing from Saturday, 18 February by appointment. Contact Tarryn 083 787 1982 (tarryn@summerhill.co.za) or Amorette 079 278 9449 (info@summerhill.co.za)

Blowing Hard

Racing Association CEO Larry Wainstein has pointed out that it is the RA that governs all stake money paid to owners and it is them that foot the bill. When the decision was made to double the stakes for the Sun Met from R2.5 million to R5 million and to boost the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate from R1-million to R1.5 million it was the RA that had to find the money. "That money does not come from the sponsors. When a request was made to up the stakes on those races the guys came to me to see if we could afford it. I'm not trying to blow our own trumpet but I regularly get questioned by RA members who feel we don't do enough for them. I just believe there is a need to set the record straight."

March Yearling Sale

The catalogue for the 2017 CTS March Yearling Sale is now available for viewing online at www.capethoroughbredsales.com. The sale will take place at Durbanville racecourse on **18-19 March**.

Sex Claim



A new rule in France allowing horses with female jockeys to carry less weight has been labelled 'unfair', 'offensive' and 'patronising'. Governing body France Galop will allow 2kg (4.4lbs) less in the saddle to encourage the use of female riders. Gr1-winning jockey Hayley Turner wants 'more subtle' help, adding: "It seems a bit unfair on the lads."

62

Sue Martin is living proof that 'age is but a number', as the 62-year-old great-grandmother rode a winner at Tampa Bay Downs last Sunday. Martin, who will turn 63 soon, is married to trainer Wayne Martin, who saddled 5yo Blue Haze Of Fire who scored for the first time in a claimer. The winner was Martin's first success since 2014. However she rode her first winner over 40 years ago in 1974, having started riding a year earlier. She has 7 children, 18 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, and as a devout Christian, credits her longevity to God. She added: "I've broken every bone in my body, I have a titanium leg and I have a plate and screws in my arm. I just follow the lead of the Lord and try to be obedient."

Shongweni Mixed Sale

The 2017 Shongweni Mixed Sale will be held Wednesday **22 February** at 11h00 at the Shongweni Polo Grounds, in KZN. The catalogue is available on-line at www.tba.co.za