

# X Rated?

Justin Snaith's quip after the Workriders Maiden Plate at Kenilworth on Saturday, where he saddled Tweak The Wind (S. Boo) for Eddie Powell on the veteran owner's 70th birthday: "These guys (the Grooms) work so hard and put in really long hours. They deserve the acknowledgement. The jockeys are lying on the beach or playing X-box..."

## Business As Unusual

Trainer Dean Kannemeyer, who declared his Cape yard in the grips of a low-grade virus on 6 February, was full of the joys of late summer on Monday when announcing his horses all back in full work. "These things happen in racing yards and one has to take a transparent stance and play open cards with the owners and Joe Public. I'm glad to say we are through it and I should send out my first runners within 10 days," he said.

## Theatre Of Dreams



The most expensive yearling ever sold in Victoria, the most expensive yearling sold in the world this year and the most expensive yearling ever by star stallion I Am Invincible. A record-breaking Day 2 of the Melbourne Premier Yearling Sale on Monday saw Lot 259 sold for \$1.4million to Ciaran Maher Bloodstock. The I Am Invincible x Soorena colt from the Gilgai Farm draft was the centrepiece of one of the greatest bidding duels ever witnessed at an Australian yearling sale. Maher outbid fellow Victorian trainer Robbie Griffiths, who ironically trains the colt's Group 1-winning half-brother The Quarterback.

## Going To Hollywood?

Other than taxes and death, they say there are no guarantees in life. Beyond the fact maybe that Joey Ramsden's first-timers will improve lengths at their second outing – if they are good enough! The Querari filly Made In Hollywood, a half-sister to Joey Soma's superfast Graduation Day, spreadeagled her



field to win the Maiden 1200m by 6,25 lengths at Kenilworth on Saturday under Anton Marcus. Bred by Ian Heyns, the R450k buy races in a partnership of Brian & Kathy Finch, with Mayfair Speculators.

## OUTSIDERS By Nature?

Why are the Cape jockeys so determined to hug the outside rail, with metres of lush turf available on their inside?

Greg Cheyne and his mount Nebula were thankfully up on their feet shortly after a nasty incident in the Cape Mile at Kenilworth on Saturday. The Stipes have opened an inquiry and reported that Victorious Jay (Aldo Domeyer) was hanging out in the straight. They also say that approaching the 200m Nebula (who was full of running) was bumped outwards by Milton (M J Byleveld). Nebula made contact with the outside running rail, became unbalanced and took an awkward stride, in so doing dislodging Cheyne.

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Trainer Stef Miller's yard hit top form at the right time at Flamingo Park on Monday, winning 5 of the 10 races on the card. It was Stef's best day ever – and made happier by the fact that 4 of the winners are owned by her brother, Francois du Toit.



The TBA Council have announced that Catherine Hartley will be joining the team at The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association with responsibility for Breed Affairs. Catherine initiated the Beyond Racing programme to promote the thoroughbred to the equestrian field, and through Imagine Racing she has brought in new owners to racing. Earlier this year, Catherine took a leading role in the organisation of the ITBF Conference. Catherine's responsibilities at the TBA will cover breeders' seminars, transformation, industry liaison, stud book, awards, public relations etc. She took up duties on 1 March.

## O – Me, Oh My

He may already be an established international sire of 47 stakes winners – including 7 Gr1 winners – but there is nothing like plain good news on the eve of a sale. Oratorio's smart son Secret Oration – the first winner from the Danehill sire's first SA crop – maintained his unbeaten record with an eye-catching win at Fairview on Friday. The Grant Paddock-trained R125 000 Cape Premier Yearling Sale buy looks to have a bright future. There are 7 Oratorio's on the CTS March Yearling Sale – and 1 on the BSA Cape Yearling Sale.

## Ali's Okay!

Racecaller Alistair Cohen, who was diagnosed with cancer late last year, was in good spirits this week after a scan revealed an improved positive health picture. The 26 year old has had a torrid time of it after his illness forced him to take a sabbatical while he undergoes treatment. "It's obviously no fun doing this chemotherapy but besides a few nasty side effects it is not as bad as what some people have experienced. And after my scan last Tuesday, I feel a lot stronger." Ali hopes to be back behind the mic in early April.

## Super Saturday

The prep for Dubai World Cup day is the \$1.8m Super Saturday meeting, held this Saturday March 4 at Meydan. As the official dress rehearsal for the Dubai World Cup it is a major social event. Mike de Kock has 3 entries in the \$300 000 Gr1 Jebel Hatta – an 1800m turf race. Ertijaal, Light The Lights and Sanshaawes could line up there. Get your SP Digest on Thursday for the preview and racecards.