

## Another Pioneer



At Oaklawn Park in the US, 3yo colt Classic Empire (Pioneer of the Nile-Sambuca Classica, by Cat Thief) assured himself of a start in the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on 6 May when capturing the third top-flight win of his career in the \$1 million Gr1 Arkansas Derby, defeating Conquest

Mo Money and Malagacy. Crowned champion US 2YO of last year, Classic Empire improved his record to 5 wins (including the Gr1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile & Gr1 Breeders' Futurity) from 7 starts for US\$2,120,220 earnings.

## Tangled...



SA born jockey Glyn Schofield found himself ranked at 8th position on the Longines World's best jockey

rankings published last week but was in the news for all the wrong reasons on Easter Monday. Schofield is at the centre of an on-going stewards' inquiry over his handling of beaten favourite Up 'n' Rolling at Canterbury on Monday. Stewards questioned the experienced jockey at length over the tactics he adopted between the 600m and the finish of the Ranvet Benchmark 70 Handicap, focusing on a lack of whip use in the straight. "The whip was stuck and he was lengthening pretty quickly for me anyway," Schofield told stewards as reported by AAP. "I was trying to get it out, but it doesn't come out."

## Back For Baguettes?



Andrew Fortune could soon be winging his way to Mauritius if the MTC approve trainer Ricky Maingard's request to have his stable jockey Rye Joorawon replaced by the veteran South African rider. Fortune did well in 2013 when riding at the Champ de Mars. From 42 rides he rode 7 winners with 10 seconds, 9 thirds and 4 fourths. His win strike rate was a healthy 16.7 percent. And although he was given a send off of a Rs 25 000 fine at the time, he wrote on Facebook: "I just want to thank you all for a great experience in your wonderful country. I loved your racing, the passion and the crowd that comes with it, and loved the friendliness of your people too, the beaches and the warm baguettes. I loved that I could bring smiles to some of your faces."

## Sha-Boom Sha-Boom!



Up-and-coming rider Craig Zackey celebrated his 100th winner of the season at Turffontein on Monday when booting home Sha-Boom Sha-Boom for Gary Alexander. The Lateral filly, who was Sporting Post's Best Handicapped, started at 30-1. Zackey won the Apprentice Championship in 2014/15 with 58 winners and rode 70 winners last term.

## Good Timing



The NHA have amended the weighing out specifics to state that sectional timing devices need not be placed on the scale. Rule 59.3 states: *With the exception of the saddle cloth, skull cap, goggles, blinkers, pacifiers, tongue tie, tongue strap, crop, neck strap, bridle including pricker and noseband, rings, muzzle, sectional timing device and anything worn on the HORSE'S legs or hooves, everything carried or worn by the RIDER and by the HORSE in a RACE shall be included in the RIDER'S weight and shall be put onto the scales by the RIDER when weighing out and when weighing in, and recorded by the clerk of the scales.*

Now all we are waiting for is the sectional timing...

## Bigger Dividends



In a move designed to build the confidence of new players while emphasizing that racing offers a different form of gambling from random gaming like the lottery, Oaklawn Park Racecourse in Arkansas is paying higher dividends for winning on-track place wagers this year. Playing to its strength of large on-track crowds, Oaklawn executives thought place betting would be the best way to introduce handicapping to the casual, often young, people who show up at the Hot Springs, Ark. track. As a wager that's not too difficult to hit, it's a bet that allows new players to learn that selecting horses is more fun than lotteries or pressing a slot machine button. They will achieve the increased payouts by reducing take-out. Now that's an idea!

## A Woman's World

After lady trainer Lucinda Russell's great win in the Grand National a fortnight ago, her colleague Jessica Harrington has struck again for the fairer sex. She celebrated her first success in the Irish Grand National when favourite Our Duke won Easter Monday's big race at Fairyhouse. Last month Harrington won the Cheltenham Gold Cup with Sizing John. "These are all firsts for me - it's not bad for a 70-year-old," said Harrington.



## Summerhill Sale

A reminder that the Summerhill Sale of Broodmares and Weanlings will be held at the School of Excellence, Summerhill Stud on 14 May 2017.

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