



Duke Rules

The European Champion Older Horse of 2008, Cartier Champion and five time Gr1 winner Duke Of Marmalade added to his growing tally of over 50 stakes horses at Chantilly on Sunday. His 4yo son Marmelo won the Gr3 Prix de Barbeville, a 3000m stamina test, in the hands of Christophe Soumillon, by over 2 lengths. There will be plenty of interest in the international stakes producing Drakenstein stallion's 21 yearlings offered for the first time on the BSA National Yearling Sale which commenced at 11h00 on Wednesday.

Animal Instinct

Animal Kingdom's first Northern Hemisphere starter Sunny Skies got

Darley's freshman sire off to a strong start when she won her first start by nine lengths at Keeneland last Thursday. Animal Kingdom now has winners in both hemispheres. The chestnut filly out of the unraced Marquetry daughter Skyscape is a homebred racing for Nancy Polk's Normandy Farm and is trained by Ken McPeck. Sunny Skies was purchased for \$50,000 from the 2003 Keeneland November breeding stock sale. Polk tried to sell Sunny Skies at the 2016 Keeneland September yearling sale but bought her back for \$47,000. The 9yo Animal Kingdom, a son of Leroidesanimaux has three Australian-bred winners to date. His 2017 fee is \$30,000.

Magic Is Real



Joao Moreira won his first Gr1 Audemars Piguet Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Sha Tin last Sunday when Neorealism repelled Pakistan Star's late rally to ensure a fourth Japanese victory in the HK\$20 million feature.

"It's so special to win such a race, and a race that I haven't won before. The first is always very special!" said Moreira after crossing the line a fist-pumping neck ahead of the Hong Kong Derby runner-up Pakistan Star, with last year's APQEII Cup victor, Werther, a further short-head away in third.

DAZZLING Dozen

A field of 12 colts have been left in the Gr1 QIPCO 2000 Guineas at Newmarket on Saturday headed by the long term ante-post favourite Churchill (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}). The dual Gr1 winning juvenile is one of four potential Ballydoyle challengers along with Peace Envoy (Fr) (Power {GB}), Lancaster Bomber (War Front) and Spirit Of Valour (War Front).

Starting Over?

Either the system and process is an issue, the skills and management are lacking, or our horses are simply badly schooled.

The KZN start woes continued for the second weekend running with a false start marring the Gr3 Strelitzia Stakes at Scottsville on Sunday. The combination of angry jockeys and inexperienced 2yo fillies is a toxic cocktail and the KZN starter really did not look to be in control of matters at the 1100m. "You come and sit on the (expletive deleted) horse" and "Why can't we load more than one horse at a time?", were just two comments from the jockeys directed at the hapless starter, who may want to take a leaf out of the way the Champ de Mars team do things. Horses are not loaded like snails with long intervals between them in Mauritius.

With a long season ahead, it may be time for Gold Circle to meet with the jockeys, trainers and the NHA to sort out a simmering problem.

Zechner's Zim Derby

Fencing Master filly Solinski won the Zimbabwe Derby on Sunday, leading from start to finish over 2400m. Karl Zechner rode for trainer Kirk Swanson. The winning margin was 4 lengths. SA jockeys also filled the minor places with Life Is Good (Bronkhorst/Simons) second, Flasher On The Run (Brown/Swanson) in third and fourth cheque to Crystalline (Chambers/Stidolph). Solinski is owned by the Dixie Chick Syndicate, Dubbles Draper, Jackie and Duncan Cocksedge, Ursula Malan and C. John Smith. Solinski is out of a Sobieski (USA) mare and was bred in Zimbabwe at Sarahdane Stud.



Snow Good?

Godolphin's 2017 UAE Derby winner Thunder Snow will line up in Saturday's Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs in Louisville. Sunny weather is forecast and we are thus unlikely to see Thundersnow - this phenomenon occurs when a thunderstorm produces snow instead of rain.

Past Kentucky Derby winners with weather-related names include Thunder Gulch in 1995 and Typhoon II in 1897. Other winners with less 'weatherish' names include Sunny's Halo, Whirlaway and Wintergreen. "Thunder Snow is a colt of the highest class and I hope that he can step up in the Kentucky Derby" trainer Saeed bin Suroor said.



Straight Shooting Jooste

South African owner Markus Jooste's global hoofprint extended further on Monday with Frankel's 3yo son Straight Shooter's easy debut win in a mile maiden for unraced three-year-old

colts and geldings at Saint-Cloud. The colt, trained by Andre Fabre, eased clear of his rivals under Pierre-Charles Boudot with Zaryio, a gelding by Rio De La Plata, seven lengths back in second.

Straight Shooter, who holds entries in the Prix du Jockey Club and Grand Prix de Paris, was bred by Serge Boucheron out of the unraced Machiavellian mare Straight Lass. *Started 2/5 favourite (ie 1.40 for a win on the French Tote - there are no bookies), rated RPR 94.*

little Promise

Odds-on favourite Hernando's Promise has always been the Bookies best buddy but his shares dropped to new lows with punters at Kenilworth on Saturday. He appeared to go to start striding short and was never in the hunt - finishing stone last 7 lengths back in a weak field of maidens. The 7-10 shot was reported by the Vet to have returned striding short. Seems punters were done a dirty - as he came back the way he went down.

Save The Dates

The Cape Breeders Club has requested members to diarise the following dates:

- 14 June - AGM at Golden Valley Casino
- 16 June - Stallion Auction at Highlands Stud
- 12 Aug - Awards Evening at the Lanzerac Hotel