

Keeping A Breast

We couldn't have a bet without the information tools provided by our favourite racing channel! Tellytrack presenter Paul Lafferty, while analysing likely race tactics in a race preview last week, said: "This one could lead from the front. Which is probably the best place to lead from..."

Easy Rider

Interesting quip from Gavin Lerena after spending a few weeks in the UK travelling the long miles between his riding engagements: "After this experience, I'd have no problem driving to Flamingo Park on a Monday. And I would even be happy to drive the float back afterwards if they need me!" Lerena flew back to the UK after riding 2 winners from 12 rides over the weekend in a fleeting visit back home. He returns for the July.

Doing The Splits

Greyville sectionals, Saturday 10 June

With the false rail out wider than normal, and jockeys shunning the inside rail on occasion, times should not be compared to other days at the same track. In the absence of proper on-screen distance markers, we are forced to make up our own check points.

	1000m	600m	FRail	Finish	1000-600m	FRail-Fin
1400m						
Devon Air S.	23.17	43.74	58.74	85.06	20.57	26.32
Gatecrasher S.	22.83	43.71	59.43	84.59	20.88	25.16
Tibouchina S.	22.36	42.86	58.61	83.71	20.50	25.10
1600m						
Pinnacle S.	35.33	57.27	72.89	96.93	21.94	24.04
Gold Challenge	33.47	54.65	69.63	95.34	21.18	25.71
Winter Challenge	34.21	55.49	70.46	96.03	21.28	25.57
1800m						
Cup Trial	49.41	71.30	85.99	111.19	21.89	25.20
2000m						
Winter Challenge	60.74	84.36	99.58	124.84	23.62	25.26

Mike de Kock's dual Guineas winner Janoobi went very quickly early on under Piere Strydom in the Gold Challenge, as the splits show. The son of Silvano only knows one way to run, and probably paid the price in this company. He finished tailed off, but Striker reported that he felt something amiss and did not persevere with him over the final 300m. The fast pace made this race a true test.

Well Spotted

Sporting Post Digest's horses to follow proved good value at Greyville on Saturday. Harbour Watch had been noted on 20 April, has had two runs since – both wins. His Gatecrasher victory came at 20/1!

Here's the 20 April original (the colt ran to AR 88 on Saturday)

HARBOUR WATCH

Rated **AR 82 Trojan Harbour** (2c Salma by Encosta de Lago) Maiden Plate, Scottsville (1000m straight) (19/4)

Slow out of the gate and involved in scrimmaging close to the finish, this Aussie-bred newcomer finished third, beaten two short heads. As a 2yo in open company his AR 82 rating looks promising, suggesting he can be followed when racing against his own age. Trojan Harbour's Irish-bred sire Harbour Watch raced just three times, all as a 2yo, and remained unbeaten, winning Gr2 Richmond Stakes and rated 121p with Timeform, where he topped the 2yo ratings for 2011 (Timeform gave him a 2-page essay and made him a serious Guineas candidate – sadly, after a screw had been inserted in an injured hindleg and he appeared to be sound again early at 3, he did not race again). Note to pedigree buffs: Trojan Harbour is from the direct female line of Redoute's Choice, and is inbred to that female line through his sire's male line (going to Try My Best). His sire Harbour Watch is from the direct female line of Fort Wood. Food for thought!

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Drakenstein stallion What A Winter sired his 8th first crop winner when the Tony Nassif trained Snow Boarding won at Turffontein on Sunday. What A Winter has 9 yearlings on offer at the KZN Sale, 29 & 30 June.

Getting The Kash

Mauritian jockey Akash Aucharuz, another graduate of the SA Jockey Academy to achieve success, rode his 15th win of the season in Macau on Saturday. Aucharuz is in 9th place in the Jockeys' Premiership, 29 wins behind W L Ho. The 26 year old Guru Dev Aucharuz once rode 5 winners on an afternoon at Flamingo Park. He left SA in early 2015.

7 Year Itch

Comeback kid Piet Botha rode his colleagues to sleep at Kenilworth on Saturday when he booted home a 3500-1 double in the wet. The 40 year old Botha, who returned to riding with his colleague Jannie Bekker in April, was registering his first win in 7 years when he got no-hoper Jay Rock up to win. A few races later he steered another roughie in Dreaming Big home. Both winners were for Glen Puller.



Caution

Bernard Fayd'herbe's report that that he felt something amiss with July fancy Marinaresco during the running of the Gold Challenge on Saturday will be a red light for backers of the Silvano gelding. A Vet examination revealed nothing obvious and the stable played down the performance suggesting he was 'out of his comfort zone' in a fast run race.



ON SHAKY GROUND

The diplomatic crisis in the Gulf, where a coalition of states including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates announced that it was cutting all economic and diplomatic ties with Qatar, could have a knock on effect on British flagship racemeetings. The Festival meeting at Goodwood in August, Champions Day at Ascot, and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe meeting in France, all have Qatar as their principal sponsor. Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai, is the UAE's vice-president, prime minister and minister of defence. His Godolphin racing operation has 375 horses in training in Britain, and a total of 750 worldwide.

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Captain America made it a fourth Gr1 success this season for super sire Captain Al, who has eight lots on this Saturday's Klawervlei Farm Sale –including a filly bred on the same cross as Captain America and William Longsword.