

# Bet On Brett

Brett Crawford's win in the Post Merchants on Friday night at Greyville took his SA Champions Season tally to seven wins and he has earned more than any other trainer during this year's festival of racing. Crawford's total earnings in KZN from the Champions Season's opening night on May 7 until the end of Friday Night's Post Merchant's meeting was R3,171,575. Another statistic where Crawford is top, according to Gold Circle's David Thiselton, is the betting profit per runner. A R1 stake on all 27 of his runners would have returned a profit of R41.



Champion mare Winx has returned to the Sydney stable of trainer Chris Waller. Winx, who was recently inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame, is preparing for an historic spring campaign in which she will attempt to join the legendary Kingston Town as the only horse to win three Cox Plates. Currently the second highest rated horse in the world behind champion US galloper Arrogate, she posted her 17th consecutive victory and her 12th at Gr1 level when winning the Queen Elizabeth Stakes in April to advance her incredible record to 21 wins from 27 starts.

# Doing The Splits

Scottsville 18 June

	st bs	end bs	FR	Fin	stbs-endbs	endbs-FR	FR-Fin
<b>1400m</b>							
Pinnacle S.		15.20	50.18	81.48	-----	34.98	31.30
<b>2400m</b>							
Oaks	46.38	80.97	119.02	151.12	34.59	38.05	32.10
Derby	46.43	79.88	118.43	149.46	33.45	38.55	31.03
Maiden	44.68	79.91	120.88	153.04	35.23	40.97	32.16

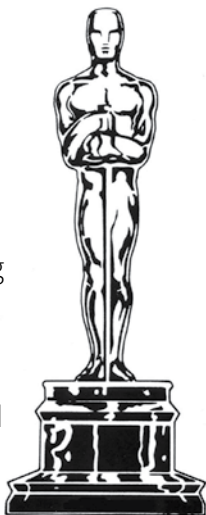
They were visibly steady early in the Oaks, and it was a similar story in the Derby where it took a while for Sun On Africa (who had broken well) to get someone to pass it.

In the maiden on the other hand, Dragonwood took a hold early. The pace was visibly slowed up from the back straight and then turned into a sprint. A glance at the time of the Pinnacle Stakes over 1400m, between the end of the back straight and the false rail, speaks volumes.

**St BS = Start back straight; End BS = End back straight; FR = False rail**

# Balls Up

A Tellytrack presenter who had obviously never heard of the KZN Derby and Oaks sponsors Track & Ball and referred to them as 'Track and whatever' deserves an Oscar for a new level of amateur arrogance on the racing channel. When a former top jockey gets roasted for an, admittedly ill-conceived analogy, to describe a sweating horse, there are seemingly one set of rules for one group and a different lot for the other. Tellytrack is rated R18 – so the odd adult chirp can surely be excused. But incompetence – that's another story entirely.



# TRACKER

Veteran champion jockey Pieter Strydom, after winning at Turffontein on Saturday: "The track is in beautiful condition and we can take our hats off to the course manager. I unfortunately can't say the same for the guys at Fairview and Greyville though."

# O Goodness!

It was a happy last week for the Oratorio fan club! The Avontuur Danehill stallion, who boasts six individual first SA crop winners from small numbers, celebrated three winners – Opera Royal, Mrs O, who came from the clouds on debut, and the impressive stakes placed Ancestry, who hacked up at Scottsville on Sunday. Oratorio, whose previous crops produced seven GR1 winners worldwide, has 5 lots on next week's KZN Yearling Sale.



Oratorio

# Ready To Run!

Thai billionaire Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, who has been the owner of Leicester City FC since 2010, bought five Royal Ascot runners for a total of £1 750 000 at an auction of racehorses in Britain at Goffs' London Sale on Monday.

# 6

Silvano is well clear on the general sires list and the Maine Chance star produced an impressive 6 winners this weekend. Topping the list was Sunday's Gr3 Track & Ball Derby winner Mr Winsome, who now heads for the July. A service to Silvano topped the annual Cape Breeders' Club Stallion Service Auction last Friday when knocked down to Mayfair Speculators for R425 000. The sire of 20 Gr1 winners has 1 lot on next week's KZN Yearling Sale.



# Lyle's Back

Log leading apprentice Lyle Hewitson is due back in the saddle as soon as this Friday. Lyle suffered a broken collar bone and mild concussion following a fall at Fairview on Saturday, 13 May. He rides French Navy in the July.

# Start Studying!

The Sporting Post July day racecard will be up on [www.sportingpost.co.za](http://www.sportingpost.co.za) from Wednesday afternoon. With massive pools expected, this is a must-play programme for every self respecting form expert and punter. Follow the big race build-up right here.

## 2017 VODACOM DURBAN JULY

