

On Track



Greyville will be closed for one month to allow for a minor spring treatment on the turf track and the extension of the Polytrack at the pull-up area by another 100 metres. Work will start on Monday, 21 August and is expected to be completed by Thursday, 21 September. "Friday, 22 September kicks off the popular Friday Night Racing Series and the extension of the pull-up area will alleviate previous issues experienced during inclement weather," said Gold Circle Racing Executive Raf Sheik.

Ja Well, No Fine

The 'wrong horse' who won a race at Yarmouth on 27 July at odds of 50-1 has not unexpectedly been disqualified by the British Horseracing Authority and her trainer fined £1,500. Two-year-old Mandarin Princess, trained by Charlie McBride, was declared the winner on 27 July after beating Fyre Cay. But a scan afterwards identified the horse as three-year-old stablemate Millie's Kiss, who had been due to run in a later race at the same course. McBride said it was an "honest error" but has bizarrely reportedly said he will use £600 he won backing Mandarin Princess each way at Yarmouth towards the fine!

Stand In The Q!

The Maine Chance Farms bred Querari filly Pomona shed her maiden in good style at Scottsville on Sunday in a well-timed advert for her Silvano half-brother (#98) on this week's National 2yo Sale. She was the third winner on a good weekend for her sire. Querari's Listed Epol Dahlia Plate winner daughter Joking was the first of the 'Q treble' when winning at Fairview on Friday. Stakes placed Spring Wonder, now in the care of trainer Paul Peter, beat Gr1 performer Myfunnyvalentine at Turffontein on Saturday to make it three winners.



Eye On The Prize

Jockey Gavin Lerena will be back in the saddle on 24 August after having a growth removed from his left eye at the Johannesburg Eye Hospital last week. His Dad Tex told us on Tuesday that he is progressing well.

CHECKING OUT CHINA

42 year old Gauteng based jockey Sherman Brown rode a winner at Flamingo Park on Monday before jetting out to ride in the 2017 China Equine Cultural Festival at the Yiqi Racecourse in Ordos, Inner Mongolia, which will be held this weekend. He follows in the footsteps of Kevin Shea, S'manga Khumalo and Gavin Lerena. The CECF is China's largest horseracing event and the only one in that country to be recognised by the International Horseracing Federation. The Zimbabwe-born Brown has ridden internationally previously but this is his first trip to China. He told us he was looking forward to the 22 hour trip.

Big Five

The Syndicate Manager of five Gr1 winning sire sons of champions will host a stallion parade at Wilgerbosdrift on Sunday 3 September, where a unique event will be held to introduce the illustrious quintet. More information (by 21 August) is available from Amanda Carey on mobile: 082 465 4020 or email to events@stallionday.co.za



Wilgerbosdrift



Welcome Back Muzi

Venice In May no doubt beats the breeches off Mauritius in July for Winning Form sponsored Muzi Yen! Jokes aside, Venice In May was the Northern Cape champion jockey's first ride back after his reluctant recent island holiday, but he bounced back like a true professional – winning on the Corrie Lensley trained gelding and scoring a double at Flamingo Park on Monday at his first local meet in two months.

FRANKELY RELIEVED!

Chris Waller, trainer of superstar Winx, was relieved after the yard's \$1.6m Frankel colt Merovee won his maiden at Newcastle's Beaumont track on Tuesday. Merovee, sent out favourite, fought off a strong challenge by Legendofoz to win at his second start to become the first winner for Frankel in Australia. Out of More Strawberries, Merovee was purchased for \$1.6m at the 2016 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale.