



"Young horses are being persecuted by the handicappers and it really irks me," chirped Mike Azzie about his MR 91 rated 3yo Varimax before the colt ran in a Novice Handicap at Turffontein on Saturday. "Must we trainers run them no good? It's not what we do," added Azzie. Varimax ran 18 lengths behind.

## SHORT CHANGED

Almost 12% of the runners at Fairview on Friday were found to be not striding out post-race. While it is a secondary centre for sometimes problematic horses, we should not be surprised if the form book looks a bit dodgy at times.



We called it that Joey Ramsden and Morne Winnaar would be back to winning ways in no time and the A\$ 80 000 Melbourne buy Still I Rise (ex Costa Mesa by Encosta de Lago) was a good debut winner for the old combination at Kenilworth on Saturday. An accident in her box, that almost proved fatal, has not stopped the daughter of Street Cry from showing her ability. Interestingly her sire produced his 114th stakes winner on the same afternoon at Veliefendi in Turkey.

## Billy's Genes

The presence of the undefeated Dennis Bosch-trained Billy Silver (Silvano – Evening Attire) at Scottsville on Sunday turned it into a Pick 5 for exotic backers. The very smart looking 3yo made it two from two when he beat three opponents to win the 1200m unextended in 68,72 secs – the fastest of the five 1200m's on the afternoon.

## MAGIC

Joao 'Magic' Moreira started the new Hong Kong season at Sha Tin in style on Sunday by riding the first five winners on the card. Last season's first meeting record turnover of HK\$1.208 billion was surpassed when they got to a new record of HK\$1.29 billion. Taking the Happy Valley cross-betting crowd attendance into account, there were 66 000 people at the races.



## Big Hit

Geoff Woodruff's Trippi filly Guns And Roses (ex Western Hour by Gone West) made it five wins on the bounce – from just six starts – when hacking up at Turffontein on Saturday. A winner from 1475m to 1800m, she was a R160 000 buy from the 2015 CTS Johannesburg Ready To Run Sale. She races off a rating of 83. What would the Azzman say about that?

## China Flying

While racing was banned there in 1949, the sport in Mainland China is coming along in leaps and bounds. Their richest race, the A\$ 200 000 China Australia Cup was run on Saturday and won by the Purrealist 3yo Striking Eagle, who is trained by expat Aussie, Brian Lawrence. A former high school teacher and hobby trotting trainer in Western NSW, Lawrence trained in China from 2003 to 2005 and returned in March of this year. He has 16 horses in training.

## No Half Penny

After their giant-killing act at Fairview on Friday Fairview trainer Duncan McKenzie and jockey Jarryd Penny reeled off a magic hat-trick at Flamingo Park on Monday. Duncan tells Short Heads that his assistant and nephew Jarrett Rugg will be taking over the Northern Cape yard in the next few months.

## Gimme The Cup

Varsfontein Stud's young stallion Gimmethegreenlight, whose first crop produced six stakes winners, lifted three awards at Saturday night's East Cape Racing Awards ceremony. Queen Forever was named the East Cape's Champion 2yo Filly, Beataboutthebush was Champion 3yo Filly and Gimme The Stars galloped away with the Champion 3yo Colt/Gelding title.



## NEW START

Five-time Melbourne Cup winning Hall Of Fame trainer Lee Freedman is set to start training in Singapore. He has been granted boxes at Kranji and sends out his first runners on Friday.

## Hugh The Best

Good horses need good jockeys. Trainer Chris Waller was very complimentary about Hugh Bowman's 'masterpiece ride' after Winx won her 19th on the trot on Saturday at Randwick in the Gr2 Chelmsford Stakes.