

## Happy Wife - Happy Life

Splash of Ginge is a step closer to realising a £1 million payoff for his owner should he win next year's Grand National. Before Splash of Ginge had even started in a race, owner John Neild had £1000 on him to win a Grand National at any time of his career at odds of 1000-1. There was plenty to celebrate when Splash of Ginge took a step closer and won the BetVictor Gold Cup at Cheltenham over the weekend. "He cost us £20,000, but won us about £280,000. I own him but, for me, this horse belongs to people who can't afford to have a horse. But don't tell the wife, she'll divorce me."

## Sensitive

A number of horses are understood to have tested positive for caffeine in Kwazulu Natal, including some normally based in Cape Town. Caffeine is a stimulant and therefore prohibited. However its use this time is believed to be wholly innocent. Contaminated feedstuffs are the most likely cause. NHA Racing Control boss Arnold Hyde told journalist Michael Clower at the weekend: "We are carrying out investigations but it is quite sensitive. We will put out a press release when we have all our ducks in a row."



## Weekend Winners

Klipdrif Stud's triple Gr1 winning sire Elusive Fort enjoyed a good weekend – the Equus Champion was represented by a treble of winners. Fort Viva got the ball rolling when romping home to break his maiden over 2200m, at Fairview on Friday for trainer Vaughan Marshall. Saturday saw Elusive Fort son Asian Star provide trainer Mark Dixon with one of three wins at Greyville, when winning over 1200 metres. Then the son of Fort Wood's daughter Secret Potion won the first leg of the International Jockeys Challenge at Turffontein on Sunday for Irish jockey PJ McDonald. She won going away over a mile.

## WELL RELATED

A half-sister to Melbourne Cup winner Rekindling is set to be one of the highlight offerings at this week's Goffs November Breeding Stock Sale (23-24 November). Consigned as Lot 1164 by Jockey Hall Stud in County Kildare for owner Mrs Tsui, Bitoo (Diktat-Sitara, by Salse) headlines a number of impressive lots that should appeal to the Australian market.

## No Bull

A fanatical Blue Bulls fan, Avontuur sponsored MJ 'Bakkies' Byleveld celebrated his maiden quintet of winners at Fairview on Friday. Born in Warmbaths, the 36 year old rides mainly for Vaughan Marshall – and 3 of the 5 were for his Milnerton boss.



## 100%

In last weekend's Short Heads we pointed out that jockey Aldo Domeyer had recently been granted owner privileges by the NHA. On Monday Greg Cheyne booted home Domeyer's first ever runner, Mini Loushe. Owning horses is almost as easy as riding winners, it would seem!

## Home

Rosedene Stud's stallion Grey's Inn is back home serving mares with Graeme Koster in Beaufort West after he'd spent the first part of the breeding season at Highlands in the Western Cape. South Africa's Equus Champion Classic Male of 2003, Greys Inn is best known as the sire of dual Horse Of The Year, and six time Equus Award winner, Legal Eagle.



## Cup Next

The Tony Millard trained Dynasty entire Nassa now looks a real contender for the Hong Kong Cup in December after his third under Chad Schofield in Sunday's Gr2 Bochik Jockey Cup behind champion Werther at Sha Tin. Nassa ran third behind Noah From Goa in the Cape Guineas and was a good winner of the recent Gr3 SA SA Ladies' Purse.



The Highlands – Ridgemont Racing sponsored Greg Cheyne was in prime form at Fairview on Monday. He rode the first 4 winners on the card for regular PE boss Alan Greeff.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"We couldn't do this without the media."*

That quip goes to Phumelela Racing Executive Clyde Basel at the Summer Cup Draw function last Wednesday. The event – let's just say Joburgers do things very differently – took up an inordinate amount of valuable Tellytrack air-time.