

## Title Odds

Reigning champion Anthony Delpech reached his century mark of winners at Turfontein on Saturday and is now over 30 winners ahead of his nearest rival on the national jockey table. He is hot favourite on Hollywoodbets to lift the title for the second consecutive year. S'manga Khumalo, who was champion in 2013/14 and 2015/16, is as much as 100-1 on the Hollywood betting boards – but some patriotic Capetonians may prefer the in-form Grant Van Niekerk at 75-1.



## So Noble!

Rathmor Stud stallion Noble Tune got off the mark at Scottsville last Wednesday when the Kumaran Naidoo-trained Awesomely Tuned won at her third start. The good looking filly was bred by S Bunwarie and is out of the three-time winning Cataloochee mare, Awesome Beauty. The first son of Undbridled's Song to stand here, Noble Tune a half-brother to dual Gr1 winner Honor Code, and stood his first season in 2014. His first crop are now 2yo's. Bred on the cross of Fappiano x Storm Cat that produced 2015 Triple Crown winner, American Pharoah, Noble Tune's sire-line is unique to the South African studbook as Fappiano is now considered a new branch of the Mr Prospector sire-line. He stands at Rathmor for a fee of R25 000.



New Highlands stallion Canford Cliffs smart son Cliff's Edge is the new favourite for the Gr1 Australian Guineas after an emphatic win in the Gr3 Manfred Stakes over 1200m at Caulfield on Saturday. On a great stakes winning day for Highlands new stallion, Cliff's Edge's victory came hours ahead of the facile win by his daughter Fish River for Mike de Kock at Turfontein in the Gr3 Three Troikas Stakes. His trainer Darren Weir has the Sydney carnival in his sights with Cliff's Edge, who he believes is best at 2000m.

Poor Frankie Dettori has become the latest casualty of the financial problems engulfing Al Shaqab Racing, with his six-figure contract with the Qatari conglomerate being halved in value. It was revealed last month that the operation - run by Sheikh Joaan al-Thani, the brother of the emir of Qatar — owed more than £1 million in unpaid fees to a number of Britain's leading Flat racing trainers. Peter Burrell, Dettori's agent, confirmed that the contract has been amended to reflect Al Shaqab's shift in emphasis to France.

## No Dole Yet



## Bakkies Scrum Down

Aggressive riding in an effort to obtain a clear run in the fourth race at Durbanville on Saturday landed a caution from the Stipes for jockey MJ 'Bakkies' Byleveld. At about the 500m Byleveld's mount The Silva Fox shifted out to obtain a clear run on the outside of Black Pimpinel and in the process brushed So It Begins. The knock-on effects of that drew the Stipes attention.

## Heads Up?

The Stipes don't miss anything. They fined SA's most senior trainer Ormond Ferraris R2000 on 24 January under rule 58.9.2 - for failing to ensure that six individuals, whilst riding horses in his care, wore a serviceable skull cap of a type approved by the Chief Executive.



## GIVE IN THE GROUND?

A New Zealand racetrack has been flooded by a super tide described by witnesses as a 'tsunami'. The Westport Trotting track, which is due to stage a meeting next month, was completely flooded by water from a nearby lagoon after a combination of a super moon king tide and a huge storm. And while 95% of the facility was submerged, there are no plans to cancel the upcoming meeting.

## Dream Team

A big January has the partnership of Joao Moreira and John Size on target for their best return ever. The original Hong Kong Dream Team jockey trainer combo of Douglas Whyte and Size set the current record for most wins when they racked up 54 wins together in 2009-10.

## Not Funny Anymore

They say 'it's about the rush!' And where to find all the latest news about horseracing. The Racing It's a Rush website – itsarush.co.za - must know something we don't. The Sun Met hasn't happened yet and Usain Bolt is still daring South Africans to celebrate their next victory. Roll on 1 April!