

Lyle *in Style*

Gavin Lerena's record of 284 apprentice winners looks to be under serious threat from the talented Lyle Hewitson who was on 276 winners going into Tuesday's Vaal meeting. Hewitson is currently second on the national jockey log - 28 winners behind reigning champion Anthony Delpach, as we went to print.



Turf Is Tops

Nothing beats top-class turf. So says Mike de Kock, who added that he was not in favour of polytrack surfaces in major racing centres. "Gold Circle were warned in advance before installing their track. They deteriorate in the sun. They are for wet and cold climates. For basically cheap racing and the cheaper horses. They have been used to good effect in England for their bad horses in the wet season. Thank goodness sanity prevailed at Durbanville when they went the turf route. That was a good decision!" he added.

THREE FOR DYNASTY

Highlands four-times Equus Outstanding Stallion Dynasty enjoyed three winners over the past weekend. The Tara Laing trained Trees Of Green kicked the weekend off when running out a courageous winner over 1400m at Fairview. Two eye catching three-year-old winners at Kenilworth and Turffontein on Saturday rounded off the treble, with Dynasty's Blossom making it two wins from her last three races when she outclassed some smart older rivals to win over 2000m. At Turffontein Dynasty son Noble Secret booked his Gauteng Guineas berth with a smart win for Mike de Kock.



For Luck's Sake

New PE trainer Emmanuel Kaknis made a flying start when he saddled a winner from his first five runners at Fairview last Friday. The longshot For Luck's Sake flew home under Bryan Claassen. "He was working well and his earlier form suggested he had a shout," said an elated Emmanuel, who has just been granted another 28 boxes at Fairview. "We are open for business - any owner or breeder with a horse in a major centre looking for a change of scenery. We are happy to talk leases, shares and syndications," said Emmanuel. His contact number is 072 644 4494 or email cargotorquesales@me.com

MOLLY LUNCH A WINNER

Several racing personalities including Chris van Niekerk, Chris Gerber, Marsh Shirliff, Michael Javett, Barry Irwin, Pat Shaw, Ian Longmore, Peter White, Colin Gordon, Lindsay Ralph, John Bescoby and Dave Scott backed Dave Mollett's 'Testimonial Lunch' at Turffontein last Sunday. Gary Player kindly donated a picture of his Major wins for auction which was bought by Chris Gerber. "I've been a journo for 45 years, but I'm almost lost for words with the affection and support I was shown at the party," said Molly.

Have Your Say

The People's Choice Award finalists for 2017 have been announced by the Dubai Racing Club and will be presented at the HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Horseracing Excellence Awards ceremony, days before the World Cup on 31 March. The finalists are Christophe Soumillon's European winners record, Lady Eli's amazing comeback, Arrogate's Dubai World Cup win and Aidan O'Brien's record run. Voting will take place up to Super Saturday on 10 March. Go to www.hhracingawards.com/vote to have your say.

VAR Treble VAR Treble VAR Treble

Avontuur super sire Var enjoyed a trio of winners at Kenilworth on Saturday. Dean Kannemeyer Var first-timer Savea was the fourth 2yo winner for his sire this season. The consistent Star Evolution for Glen Kotzen, and Red Mars for Justin Snaith, were overdue maiden winners later in the day.



A Dare Show Us Your Tips!

A flash of genius? Sporting Post readers can now share their selections for every-day racing in a fun way. Go to the 'Show Us Your Tips' image on www.sportingpost.co.za and with a few clicks you can make yourself heard, then see what everyone else thinks. It's meant to be fun - and who knows what nuggets you'll pick up.

The Series

Plans are afoot to launch a multimillion-pound team series staged at some of the UK's leading racecourses in 2019. It's a unique new racing competition in which 12 branded teams compete over eight consecutive Thursdays at different Gr1 racecourses around the country, in an early summer evening televised slot. Each team has a squad of 30 horses under the direction of leading trainers with four jockeys. Each raceday will have six handicaps, with all 48 races having prize money in excess of £100,000. The competition will operate on a points system, similar to F1 motor racing to determine the winners of the team and jockeys' championships. Can it work?