

Lucky 13

The 'Beast From The East' continues to wreak weather havoc in Britain, with the sole meeting of the day last Friday at Southwell witnessed by just 13 spectators. It featured just 27 runners in seven races, with three of the races having just three runners and 16 raceday scratchings due to the conditions. Now they know how we feel most of the year round.

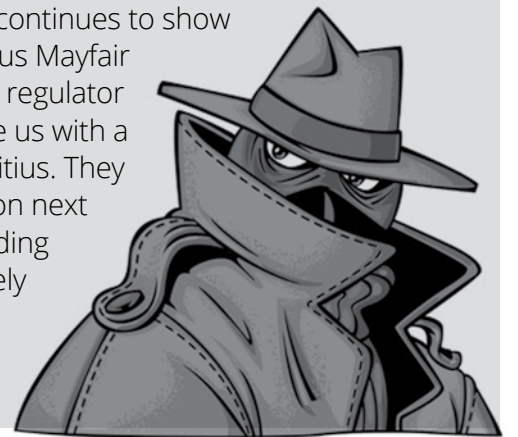
Snow Fun

Cheltenham clerk of the course Simon Claisse has estimated that there may be more than 200 tons of snow to remove manually from the course, in advance of the popular Festival which runs next week from Tuesday 13 March to Friday 16 March. Tuesday is Champions Day, Wednesday is Ladies Day, Thursday is St Patrick's Day and the meeting ends with Gold Cup Day.



Cover Up

The latest NHA calendar (117/32) continues to show the changes of ownership of various Mayfair Speculators horses. Yet the racing regulator has continued to refuse to provide us with a list of the Mayfair exports to Mauritius. They cite the ABSA liquidation application next month as their reason for withholding this information. It makes absolutely no sense and one can only make conspiratorial deductions from their action.



Sheikh's Trainer Guilty

Salem Bin Ghadayer, who trains for Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, the son of Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum, has been found guilty of administering ketamine to a horse in his care. His one-year ban has been suspended pending an appeal. Ketamine is a banned substance and powerful anaesthetic which is used to prevent humans and animals from feeling pain. Ghadayer saddled Mailshot to win a 1600m turf handicap at Meydan on Saturday.

Emotional

Mike de Kock watched Saturday's Gr2 Gauteng Fillies Guineas win by Takingthepeace from an hotel room in Australia, where he is attending the Inglis Sale. Calling it one of the most emotional races he had experienced, he said the 'laaitjies' (youngsters) 'bring it out in one'. "Mat and young Mike Shea have been mates since they were kids, Mat found the horse and now they own her together. It really touched me, and I'm very proud."

SNITZEL'S RECORD

After thirty one weeks of the 2017-18 racing season, Arrowfield Stud's incumbent Champion Australian Sire Snitzel has surged to another all-time record for Australian progeny earnings of over A\$18 million. Occupying second position is Coolmore's ill-fated High Chaparral, who made a major move up the leader board after the wins of Rekindling in the Melbourne Cup and Ace High in the Victoria Derby in the spring, with A\$10 million, while Yarraman Park's high-profile sire I Am Invincible rounds out the top three. Lonhro moved back into the top 10 after the weekend's racing.

World On Fire

Mauritzfontein sire Ideal World (Kingmambo) has a 20 strong draft on the 2018 National Yearling Sale next month and buyers would have sat up again after his hat-trick of winners at Greyville on Sunday. The sire of Met winner Smart Call and Champion stayer Hermoso Mundo's three winners were Gareth van Zyl-trained Ideal Winter, the Paul Lafferty trained Dark Moon Rising and Brett Crawford's Hero Quest, who went all the way to win over 2200m.

SALES REMINDER

Breeders are reminded that the entry forms for the Bloodstock South Africa Cape Mare, Weanling & Fillies For Stud Sale, to be held at Mistico on 24 May, are available on www.bsa.co.za.

Entries close 12 March.

Entry forms for the BSA KZN Yearling Sale to be held on 5 and 6 July at Sibaya are also available. **Entries close 23 March.**



Up Your Alley

Buyers will have an opportunity at both yearling sales next month to bid on the progeny of Wilgerbosdrift's stallion Flower Alley (Distorted Humor), who enjoyed a pair of US winners this past weekend and also had some notable success as a broodmare sire.

Liza Jane broke her maiden at Turfway Park, while stakes placed Ms Wakaya picked up her third career victory at Santa Anita. Flower Alley son Nussy, a full brother to Gr1 Pattison Canadian International winner Bullards Alley, ran third in the Gr2 Mac Diarmida Stakes at Gulfstream Park. Flower Alley, whose Gr3 Tempted Stakes winning granddaughter Daisy (by Blame) has been nominated for the 2018 Kentucky Oaks, is also broodmare sire of Japanese champion Lucky Lilac, who won the Gr2 Tulip Sho at Hanshin racecourse on Saturday. She is likely to be favourite for the classic Gr1 Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas) later in the season.

