

Island Styling

Trainer Dean Kannemeyer made a fleeting visit to Post Lafayette in the North East of Mauritius last week to visit his Sun Met runner-up and new globetrotter, Last Winter. Kannemeyer reported that he was impressed with the facilities and his charge. "He looks well. He has a nice light work-rider looking after him. He is enjoying South African food. It's hot, but the boxes are well ventilated," he said. Khaya Stables' Last Winter will spend 70 days in the pre-Europe export facility. Cape-based Margot Steyn is looking after the Hong Kong Jockey Club SA purchases at the same facility.



GOLD CIRCLE

Viva l'Italia!

Friday was a red-letter day for KZN-based Piemonte Stud, who produced three winners at Fairview, including feature star Carlita (Oratorio), Alfeo (Crusade) and Romano (Irish Flame). The stud is named after the province of Piemonte in Italy where the Scribante's family home remains. The father and son duo of Lee and Dino Scribante share a common love of speed and competition in a variety of sports and disciplines – besides horses, they race cars and pigeons, and show Koi at the highest level.

BUYING MONEY

While Winx made history on Saturday it was not a very relaxing race to watch for a certain guy! A punter who was sweating through Winx's George Ryder success was the man who staked A\$114 000 (more than R1 million) to make a profit of A\$11 400 (just over R100 000). It was the biggest bet Australian TAB have taken on Winx through her brilliant career.



Mauritius Launch

The Gr2 Duchess Of York Cup highlights the start of the 2018 Mauritius racing season on Saturday. Some familiar ex-local gallopers who showed up well in preparatory work this week include Gavin van Zyl's big earner Budapest, Joey Ramsden's Table Bay and the former Justin Snaith charge Captain Swarovski.

Sock You Too

Racegoers who like to flaunt their bare ankles at the races will have to cover up at Royal Ascot this summer, with a banning of the 'no-sock' look. The move will no doubt anger sports stars, models, wannabe models, reality stars, C, D and E-grade celebrities, and of course those who suffer from FOWS syndrome – or fear of wearing socks. The Royal Ascot carnival is renowned for its formal dress code and this year the powers that be have declared, 'socks on, or jog on'.

Another Master

Jet Master stallion Master Of My Fate has 16 yearlings on the April Yearling Sale and 25 lots on the 2018 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale. Varsfontein Stud's young producer registered his fifth first crop winner on Sunday when Goliath Heron romped home by four lengths at Greyville. The winner was trained by Dennis Drier, who also trained the stallion. Bred by Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein, Goliath Heron was a R150 000 buy from the 2017 National Yearling Sale and is out of the Silvano mare Water Bird – a full-sister to Bauhinia Handicap winner Animated. Master Of My Fate is currently our Leading First Crop Sire by both earnings and winners.

Solvent!



GOLD CIRCLE

The 2016 Lonsdale Stirrup Cup winner Balance Sheet, who retired in 2017, has made an instant impact in his second career, coming second in his debut dressage event on Saturday. Kim Bray rode the smart gelding, who was turned out by 'Bally's new Mom, Amanda Carey. A runner-up to Wild One in the 2015 Gold Cup, the son of Silvano was trained in his track days by Dean Kannemeyer for Marsh Shirliff and Bryn Ressel.

Steeplechasers Sought

Zhang Haitao has contacted us from China and says that in terms of the development of their sports academy, they need to purchase more than 20 'excellent horses' for steeplechasing. Email him: ynknhaitao@vip.sina.com. The Sporting Post does not offer any underwriting or verification of this offer, which is published as received and in good faith.

BITTER BLOW

Gauteng-based Heversham Park Farm were dealt a blow recently when their imported stallion Lord Of The Land died of a suspected reaction to the African Horse Sickness (AHS) vaccine. The Irish-bred was the only son of Sharmadal at stud here. The 30 day restriction of movement have meant that the farm also have had to withdraw their yearling draft from the CTS April Sale.