

Title Race

Reigning SA champion Anthony Delpech's sad accident on Classic Day and the chances that he will be off for an extended time has thrown the SA jockey title race wide open. Apprentice Lyle Hewitson was on 103 winners with Muzi Yeni on 93 as we went to print. With Gavin Lerena also sidelined, there are probably a further ten riders with an outside chance at least of making up the leeway to challenge for the prestigious title over the next four months.

Baby Boom

There is nothing like the price of nappies to lift a jockey's game and after the birth of a bonny son recently, Sean Veale's two winning rides for Dennis Drier at Greyville on Sunday were out of the top drawer. The veteran trainer admitted to having just about given up on the Gimmethegreenlight gelding Hack Green – until a set of blinkers and an inspired Veale broke the one-time boom galloper's 20 month losing run.



O On A High

Avontuur sire Oratorio enjoyed winners both at home and in Ireland this weekend, and he is also broodmare sire of a promising Australian based 2yo. His son Have A Nice Day scored the 10th win of his career when landing the D Hotel Handicap at Dundalk on Friday.



On Friday evening another well-bred son Cue The Music romped to an impressive win on debut as the sixth juvenile winner for his sire this season. Earlier in the afternoon Oratorio daughter Our Fair Lady won at Fairview. On Saturday another daughter Cloud Break ran 3rd in the Gr3 Pretty Polly Stakes at Turffontein. O is also damsire of 2yo Paquirri, who won Saturday's Gr3 Kindergarten Stakes at Randwick. Recently represented by his 50th individual stakes winner, Oratorio has 13 lots at this week's April Yearling Sale, and a further 22 lots at the 2018 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale.

Chart Topper

Former Joey Ramsden galloper Hard Day's Night, bred by Tim Bootsma, was a first stakes winner for his sire Warm White Night when winning the 2015 Gr2 Selangor Cup here. The gelding won his third race in Mauritius at the weather delayed second meet on Sunday, when scoring an easy feature win in the 50th Anniversary Of Independence of Mauritius Cup under Sunil Bussunt. He was saddled by Rameshwar Gujadhur.

MARCUS' MILERS

Anton Marcus has been associated with some top milers in his illustrious career in the saddle. Who would be remembered as the best? Legal Eagle won his sixth Gr1 mile on Saturday. Variety Club and Empress Club won five Gr1 miles apiece. The great Jet Master won four.



Time Will Tell

Nadeson Park's Redoute's Choice stallion Time Thief has ten lots on this week's CTS April Yearling Sale and enjoyed a pleasing update courtesy of his Gr1 winning daughter In Her Time who was the casualty of a self-admitted badly judged ride by her replacement rider when being left with too much to do as she stayed on for third in the Gr1 \$2.5 million Darley T.J. Smith Stakes at Randwick on Saturday.

Snitzel Soars

After thirty six weeks of the 2017-18 Australian racing season, Arrowfield Stud's reigning Champion Sire Snitzel has boosted his all-time Australian record progeny earnings to over \$24.9 million following the brilliant win of his son Trapeze Artist in last weekend's \$2.5 million Gr1 TJ Smith Stakes in Sydney.

ON TOP OF THINGS?

Our 2015 Gr2 Charity Mile winner Bouclette Top had his twelfth start in Mauritius in November 2017, yet is reflected in the latest NHA racing calendar 117/37 as having retired from racing on 10 February 2016. In March 2016, in the face of growing welfare concerns, the National Horseracing Authority of South Africa took decisive action in the matter of racehorse retirement. The admin is not backing the talk, it seems.

Swansong?

Champion Winx lines up to defend her title in Saturday's Gr1 A\$4-million Longines Queen Elizabeth Stakes run over 2000m at Randwick. If she wins on Saturday, Winx extends her world record haul of Gr1 flat-race wins to 18, she equals the winning sequence of Black Caviar of 25-straight races and she moves to A\$18.9 million in prizemoney. Rising 7 and having her 35th start, will this be a champion curtain call?