Good Company

Sheikh Fahad's Qatar Racing enjoyed their first South African winner at Kenilworth on Saturday when the Donovan Dillon ridden Tarsus became the first 2yo to beat the older horses in the Cape this season. Joey Ramsden's son of Var, who races in a partnership with his breeders Maine Chance Farms, was only receiving 3kgs from his elders but won like a horse with a promising future. Qatar Racing have over 90 horses in training in the UK.

ON HIS BACK

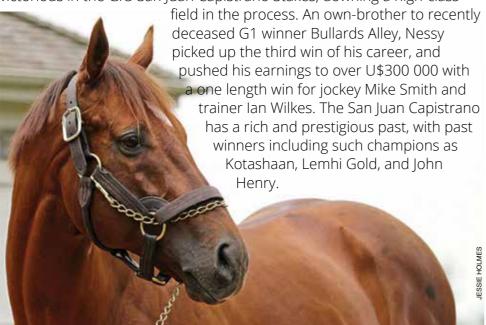
Former KZN jockey Glyn Schofield will have some time to get over a back injury which resulted in him being hospitalised. Schofield was suspended at Saturday's Randwick meeting for an incident in the Gr3 J H B Carr Stakes after which he was forced to forfeit his remaining rides because of the recurrence of the back problem. He was taken from the course on a stretcher and given pain relief in hospital to help with his back spasms. His Saturday wasn't a complete wipeout though - he rode Queensland Derby-bound Higher Ground to a narrow victory in the Gr3 Frank Packer Plate.

Composed

Aidan O'Brien has confirmed that stable jockey Ryan Moore is set to miss the Qipco 2000 Guineas to ride Mendelssohn in the Kentucky Derby on 5 May. Ever since Mendelssohn produced a brilliant performance under Moore to win the UAE Derby at Meydan last month, there has been speculation that O'Brien's son of Scat Daddy would bid to become the first Europeantrained winner of the 2000m Classic.

In Full Bloom

Wilgerbosdrift sire Flower Alley, who had 31 yearlings catalogued on this week's National Yearling Sale, enjoyed a major turf success at Santa Anita on Sunday. Nessy landed the first graded win of his career when victorious in the Gr3 San Juan Capistrano Stakes, downing a high-class



HAVE A BITE

Duke Of Marmalade's icebreaking first winner from his first SA crop at Kenilworth on Saturday would have added further impetus to the interest in his son The Sandwich Man (#467) who comes up in the Summerhill draft on Thursday at the National Yearling Sale. He is a half-brother to Triple Tiara hopeful Takingthepeace (Visionaire), whose earnings already exceed R1,4 million.

Rock Solid

Klawervlei's Seventh Rock has been enjoying a run of winners and the son of Rock Of Gibraltar enjoyed a memorable treble, from only four runners, at the Vaal last Thursday, with his runners Cassini, Colour Of Light and Seven Lives all winning. Seventh Rock has two yearlings on the final day of the National Yearling Sale this week.

Delayed

A delayed flight with passengers Yeni, Penny and Munger on board to Kimberley on Monday created opportunities for jockeys who don't always get the better chances. It was good to see Shadlee Fortune ride a double - he has 17 wins on the board in the Northern Cape this season. Lucas Bester didn't have words to describe the pleasure of his winning ride aboard Roquebrune. "I just sat there" said the jockey, whose sixth winner it was this term. Muzi Yeni wasted no time – winning on his first ride Kultwanoslove for Corrie Lensley in the eighth.

Wet, Wet, Wet

Mauritius lost its scheduled 4th meeting on Saturday due to heavy ground. The MTC reported as we went to print that the Island was under the influence of the moderate tropical depression Fakir and a Class 1 cyclone warning was issued on Monday. This has affected training schedules and the form may be erratic – that's if they race on Saturday.

Timeless

Nadeson Park stallion Time Thief's Australian Gr1 winning daughter In Her Time's progress is being closely followed here. She could head for The Everest during the spring and a trip to Hong Kong is also on the cards at the end of the year. In the short-term, In Her Time is likely to have an exhibition gallop at Newcastle on Saturday week before heading to Brisbane for the Doomben 10,000 on 12 May.

