

Charles!

The Brett Crawford-trained Charles, a R6 million Cape Premier Yearling Sale graduate, made a winning debut in the Mayfair Speculators silks in partnership with Coolmore's John Magnier at Kenilworth on Tuesday. Bred by Drakenstein from their champion Trippi (End Sweep), Charles is the first foal of Ipi Tombe Challenge winner Demanding Lady (Dynasty). Bought by John and Sue Magnier, he equalled the record for a yearling sold at auction in South Africa – in 2016 the Silvano colt, Silver Coin also sold for R6 million.



ROYAL CONNECTIONS

SA-based stallions have connections to Royal Ascot runners this week. Drakenstein's Duke Of Marmalade is broodmare sire of Gr1 St James's Palace Stakes runner Chilean, while Avontuur's Gr1 sire Oratorio is damsire of leading Queen Mary Stakes entrant Servalan. Black Minnaloushe is broodmare sire of Tangled in Wednesday's Gr3 Jersey Stakes. Moutonshoek's The United States is a full-brother to multiple Gr1 winner Rhododendron, a runner in Wednesday's Gr2 Duke Of Cambridge Fillies Stakes. Leading St James's Palace Stakes hope Romanised is from the same family as Sandown Stud based National Stakes winner Pathfork. Wolferton entry Sharja Bridge (by Oasis Dream) is a full-brother to Maine Chance Farms' boom sire Querari and a half-brother to Gr3 Bavarian Classic winner Quasillo.

KZN CHALLENGE



The winners of the KZN Jockeys and Trainers Challenge will be announced on the R2,7 million KZN Breeders Race Day on 30 June at Greyville. Frank Robinson has caught up to Duncan Howells, whilst Warren Kennedy rode three winners on Friday night at Greyville, two of them KZN-bred. Lyle Hewitson rode two KZN-bred winners to victory at Scottsville on Sunday. The leading trainer at the end of the period will receive a R30 000 voucher to be used towards the purchase of any KZN-bred yearling at the 2018 KZN Yearling Sale. Jockeys will compete for a cash prize pool of R50 000.

Out The Park!

Avontuur super-sire Var (Forest Wildcat) enjoyed a six winner blast over this past weekend, including a pair of smart juvenile winners. Always in demand, Var, whose progeny have made up to R5 million in the sales ring, has four yearlings on offer at the 2018 KZN Yearling Sale. His offspring include a half-brother to Joey Ramsden trained Gr1 Champions Cup winner Ivory Trail (#192).

Eye On The Cup

Trainer Ed Dunlop is hoping Red Verdon can be the horse to finally deliver a first British-trained winner of the Melbourne Cup. Dunlop prepared Red Cadeaux to finished second in the Cup three times and the trainer will look to run Red Verdon in the Hardwicke Stakes at Royal Ascot on Saturday as a stepping stone to Flemington.



Royal Bet



Australian jockey James McDonald, who has just returned to riding after an 18 month holiday for a betting offence, will don the royal silks when he rides Elector for The Queen in the King Edward VII Stakes on Friday at Royal Ascot. He also rides Gr1 Commonwealth Cup favourite Equilateral on the same afternoon. "Obviously the Queen turns up, and it's basically her meeting. It's just an incredible feeling. I think it's one of the best (carnivals) in the world, apart from a couple of ours," he told the local media.

CLEAN SHEET

The burgeoning second career in the showing arena of the former Dean Kannemeyer – trained Gr2 winner Balance Sheet continued on Saturday when the son of Silvano won both of his Graded Prelim Classes at Europa. Owner and Groom Amanda Carey plaited, trucked and turned Balance Sheet out. Kim Bray did the riding and the Victor Ludorum on 25 August is the target!

Replays

After a few hiccoughs along the way, Tellytrack's free race replay facility is now up and running. Go to www.tellytrack.com and register to watch the day's replays from 18h00 at your leisure - and no cost.