

A Wee Problem

The bizarre alleged theft of the July Day equine urine specimens has led to some comic banter amongst seasoned racing folk on social media. But it's no joke and has exposed a control flaw in the process. The samples are only separated on arrival at the Lab in Joburg. The news made the UK press, where it was compared to a Dick Francis novel plot.



LIFE OF O'BRIEN

US Navy Flag is set to spearhead a potentially substantial Ballydoyle assault on the Darley July Cup after Aidan O'Brien was responsible for no fewer than ten of the 19 acceptors for Saturday's sprint showdown. Last year's winner Harry Angel will not defend his title after his recent injury at the start of the Diamond Jubilee Stakes at Ascot.

Calling Khathi

Using a mobile phone is expensive on most days. But more so for Jockey Robert Khathi after he was fined R10 000 for using his mobile in the Jockey quarters at Fairview on 8 June. While half was suspended, the NHA's fines don't always seem in sync with reality – or with each other.



Big Gun

Phipps-bred Gr3 winner Fire Away (War Front) is headed to stud in the Cape sometime in the future after selling to bloodstock agent Joe Brocklebank, agent for Form Bloodstock, for \$450,000 at Newtown Paddocks on Monday. He is to continue racing and the name of the Stud where he will stand is yet to be announced.

Gr1 Icebreaker

New Zealand jockey Daniel Stackhouse celebrated a career first Gr1 win at the Champ de Mars last Saturday. He won the Indian Oil Barbé Cup on former Joey Ramsden runner Table Bay for trainer Soun Gujadhur.

England Dreams

The possibility of England reaching the World Cup Final on Sunday has had the English Jump racing authorities ready to make way and clear the decks. The Scots have taken a different view and the racing show will go on across the border, hand in hand with the football – if they get there!



Phil Up

Drakenstein Stud's Philanthropist has had 8 2yo winners this term. The son of Kris S' Turffontein Sunday double included a very impressive 2yo winner, who maintained her unbeaten record in style. The Moutonshoek bred Heaven's Reward made it two wins from two starts when scoring a gutsy victory over 1200m. Philanthropist's other winner was Sweet Trial, who won his maiden over 1000m. Philanthropist hails from the same family as National Assembly, Sovereign Dancer and What A Pleasure.



Tough Market

The KZN Mare & Weanling Sale took place on Monday at Yellow Star Stud in Mooi River. The top priced lots were two fillies consigned for stud – #51 Eurythmics was bought by Boland Stud for R150 000. She is from the family of Dubai winner Heavy Metal (GB) and Cue The Music. The multiple winner Mulher De Branco, a Visionaire half-sister to No Worries, sold for the sales-topping sum of R160 000 to Riethuiskraal Stud. In a very challenging market, 53 lots sold for an average of R16 320. See the prices on www.sportingpost.co.za