

'Chrome Turns To Fold'

One had to feel for veteran Aussie commentator Terry Spargo who was thrown in the deep end at Greyville on Super Saturday. His identifying the wrong horse in the Gold Cup and the 'World' Champions Cup can happen to anybody – especially in a foreign country. Even our jockeys took on aliases – Richard Fury, Corn Offer, Mezi Yarnee and MJ Bileveld to mention a few. But what was actually the point of replacing our local racecallers? Surely these days are the career high-points for our locals? We can't see the Aussies inviting Bumpie Schoeman to call the Cox Plate!



Andy Cap

Why does racing seem to have an obsession with hiring outsiders on major days? Supersport's Andy Capastanio was another import that found the going tough. On Vodacom Durban July day he announced the jockey introductions and mispronounced horse and rider names in a presentation that smacked of a lack of preparation and gross unfamiliarity with his subject matter.



We salute multiple champion trainer Mike de Kock - a 'relatively young' man still - for equalling the legend Terrance Millard's 117 Gr1 winners record with Soqrat winning the Premiers Champion Stakes at Greyville on Saturday. And what price Soqrat for Equus Champion 2yo colt?

Cracking On

John Gosden has put future plans for Cracksman on hold following his late withdrawal from Saturday's King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot on account of the firm ground. The Newmarket trainer indicated that the Gr1 Juddmonte International Stakes over 2000m at York on 22 August was a potential next target.

Cliff Tops!

Highlands Stud- Ridgemont's new stallion Canford Cliffs was responsible for a trio of European winners on Saturday. The son of Tagula's treble kicked off with his 4yo daughter Vue Du Ciel, who scored in a handicap at Deauville early Saturday afternoon. His second European winner came when his Cliffs Of Capri caused an upset to win the Longines Handicap, on the King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Stakes card at Ascot. The treble was completed when his 3yo gelded son Praecept romped to a facile three and a quarter length win for Sir Mark Prescott and jockey Luke Morris at Salisbury's evening meeting. Canford Cliffs, whose son Salouen ran fourth in Saturday's G1 King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Stakes, won seven of just 11 outings and just a shade under £1 000 000 in stakes. He is the sire of 20 stakes horses to date and stands his first season here.

Chasing Rainbows



Aldo Domeyer booked his place in the PGI Jockeys Challenge in Singapore on 25 September when he upped his work-rate in the final week of the season to pip Greg Cheyne for third spot on the SA log. Domeyer joins a very representative SA team of Lyle Hewitson and Muzi Yeni for the international.

On The Shoulder

Soqrat's victory in Saturday's Gr1 Premiers Champion Stakes was a first Gr1 winner for Darley's young dual Gr1-winning sire Epaulette (Commands-Accessories, by Singspiel). Soqrat is a homebred for Sheikh Hamdan's Shadwell Stud, who purchased his dam Elzeeza (Hussonet) for A\$650,000 from the draft of Arrowfield Stud at the 2008 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale. Elzeeza is closely related to dual stakes winner Lunaspur and hails from the family of Gr1 French 2,000 Guineas winner and successful sire Linamix.



Leading Men

Our newly crowned champion trainer Justin Snaith trained 7 Gr1 winners (162 winners in total) this term in his second season at the top of the tree – he won the title in 2013/14 with 194 winners. While comparisons are largely academic, 'Mr Winx' Chris Waller was the most successful Gr1 trainer in Australia preparing 13 Gr1 winners during the past season. He enjoyed his most successful season as a trainer with his eighth Sydney Trainers Premiership. Waller saddled a record 189 metropolitan winners for the season, surpassing his previous benchmark of 169 winners set in 2015/16.

EVEREST

The Sydney Spring Carnival has been rebranded the Everest Carnival to highlight the importance of the world's richest race on turf. The Australian Turf Club has announced the renaming of the six-week carnival which begins on September 8 and culminates in the \$13 million Everest on October 13.