

Top Secret

First-timer comments can be risky. Ask Philippi trainer Mike Robinson after his Elusive Fort Filly Secret Depths won the 1200m second race on debut at Kenilworth on Saturday paying R107.10 for a tote win. "They say horses can make fools of you and this one was a complete surprise," declared the surprised trainer to Michael Clower. "I told the owners she would need the run. She hadn't shown much at home, she wasn't tuned up at all and she is bred to get 2000m."

328

Galileo has claimed the all-time record for progeny earnings by a sire in European stakes races, reports Racing Post. Galileo brought up the milestone when Sizzling won the Gr3 Give Thanks Stakes at Cork on Saturday to provide him with win number 328 - one more than his own legendary sire Sadler's Wells. Read more on page 23...



BIG IN JAPAN

France Galop declared itself happy with Sunday's Prix du Haras de Fresnay-le-Buffard Jacques le Marois with Japanese pari-mutuel players, who were offered the contest for the first time. Off at 23h20 in Japan, the race took €5.1 million, as opposed to an average of €7m for a foreign race with a Japanese runner, and €4m for a race at the Breeders' Cup meeting with no Japanese interest.

BRIGHT STAR

Alpha Centauri B

Alpha Centauri A

Alpha Centauri, whose second dam is a half-sister to Varsfontein Stud's Judpot, made it four Gr1 wins on the trot when she won Sunday's Prix du Haras de Fresnay-le-Buffard Jacques le Marois at Deauville. She is officially the best 3yo Irish filly since Ridgewood Pearl 23 years ago after her rating was upped 2lb to 124 on Monday. Alpha Centauri's new mark is the same as the rating given to Found after she won the Arc as a 4yo in 2016.

Feature Lull

The next feature of consequence on the national programme is the R150 000 Listed Jockey Club Stakes run over 2000m at Fairview on Friday 24 August. It is the 3rd Leg of the Eastern Cape Fillies and Mares Challenge. Entries close at 09h00 on Monday 27 August for the Gr3 Spring Spree Stakes to be run over 1200m at Turffontein on 'Spring Day', 1 September.

4493

Eleven times British jockey Lester Piggott, now a sprightly 82, was honoured at Haydock Park on Saturday. The Smarkets Lester Piggott 70th Anniversary Handicap marked the occasion when, aged 12, Piggott rode the first of his 4493 winners in Britain at the track. His final victory, on Palacegate Jack, also came at Haydock, 24 years ago.

SMILES ON TRIALS

While KZN is the only province in SA offering Barrier Trials, the concept, is catching on in the UK since launched in 2015. Chelmsford is looking into the feasibility of holding barrier trials, with Newmarket trainers keen to take advantage of the practice races which have proved increasingly popular this year on the all-weather at Lingfield.

Racecourse manager Fraser Garrity revealed that the associated costs 'aren't inconsiderable'.



Phil It Up

A colt from the same family as Drakenstein sire Philanthropist (Kris S) made history when becoming the most expensive yearling ever sold at the New York Bred Yearling Sale over the weekend. Sired by Pioneer of The Nile, he was knocked down to Shortleaf Stable for \$600 000. The exciting sire has 8 lots on the National 2yo Sale this week.

26

Champion mare Winx heads a 14-horse list of nominations as we went to press for Saturday's Gr1 Winx Stakes to be run over 1400m at Randwick. The race, which was previously a Gr2 known as the Warwick Stakes, was won by Winx in both 2016 and 2017. When the brilliant seven-year-old returns on Saturday she will be chasing her 26th straight victory.

Maine Chance Farms' Gr1 winning sire Querari enjoyed a magnificent weekend when the son of red hot stallion Oasis Dream was represented by five individual winners - 4 local and 1 in Mauritius. Querari, whose best last season included the likes of Monks Hood, Wonderwall and Pinnacle Peak, has 11 lots on offer at this week's National 2yo Sale.



Save The Date

The KZN Racing Awards will be held on Friday 24 August. Details to follow.