

Need To Know...

Our lead editorial in last week's SP Digest (2489) regarding a bizarre omission of a smart 2yo from the nominee list for the East Cape Awards, which will be held on Saturday evening, has elicited no form of explanation from the powers-that-be to either the racing public or the aggrieved owners and breeders. It's sad that stonewalling and denial is a communication policy adopted by certain industry leaders – who have the industry to thank for their livelihood. Shame on you.

BUSY MAN!

The covering season starts on Saturday and many breeders will be in the starting blocks this week. What's the maximum book of mares for our local men - 120 ladies? A stallion who many breeders and pedigree enthusiasts could be forgiven for not having heard of broke the record for number of mares covered in France this year. Cokoriko (Robin Des Champs) was visited by 234 mares at Haras de Cercy, surpassing the previous high of 226 set by Rajsaman at Haras de la Cauviniere – now Montfort et Preaux – in 2015. Last year's busiest stallion in France was Dabirsim, with a book of 198.



What A Boykie

The Belmont Derby winner Catholic Boy (More Than Ready) denied the Aidan O'Brien-trained Mendelssohn a first top-level victory on dirt in a tactical renewal of the Gr1 Runhappy Travers Stakes at Saratoga on Saturday.

JR's Back

Joey Ramsden celebrated his 50th birthday on Monday and celebrated the milestone by accepting with two runners for Kenilworth on Saturday. The old man's yard has been under a post vaccination cloud since he took the unusual step of scratching his runners at Kenilworth just over a week ago. He runs Made In Hollywood in a Conditions Plate and Fours A Crowd in a Fillies Handicap on Saturday.

Admiral Moves

David Southey of Southford Stud in the Karoo will be standing Kitten's Joy's Gr1 winner Admiral Kitten this season on transfer from Moutonshoek Stud. There was nominal support in the Cape for him and his reduced R7500 service fee should prove attractive to a wider range of breeders.

Piet Botha

A recent SP Personality of the Week, former jockey Piet Botha saddles his first runner at Kenilworth on Saturday. The maiden Head Of The Pack runs in the well subscribed third race and Grant Behr will do the riding honours on the Gary Player Stud-bred son of Noordhoek Flyer. We wish Piet every success with his new venture.



CHASE LIEBENBERG

Heritage Update

The smart Avontuur-bred Oratorio galloper Mardi Gras, a winner of 2 of his 6 starts, has been priced up ante-post favourite for the R750 000 Grand Heritage to be run at the Vaal on 29 September. South Africa's biggest race – in pure field size – can host 28 runners. 58 have been entered.



GOLD CIRCLE

Turn, Turn, Turn!

Ridgmont Highlands four times Equus Outstanding Stallion Dynasty (Fort Wood) celebrated another memorable weekend with Dynasty offspring shining both at the KZN Racing Awards and on the racetrack. Dynasty's champion son It's My Turn, South Africa's Equus Champion Stayer for 2017-2018, picked up his fourth and fifth awards respectively for the past season when he was crowned KZN Racing's Champion Stayer and Champion Older Male on Friday evening. Dynasty was also the sire of three very impressive local winners.

Ridgmont Highlands four times Equus Outstanding Stallion Dynasty (Fort Wood) celebrated another memorable weekend with Dynasty offspring shining both at the KZN Racing Awards and on the racetrack. Dynasty's champion son It's My Turn, South Africa's Equus Champion Stayer for 2017-2018, picked up his fourth and fifth awards respectively for the past season when he was crowned KZN Racing's Champion Stayer and Champion Older Male on Friday evening. Dynasty was also the sire of three very impressive local winners.

82

Bad Boy's Last Chance

Maine Chance Farms' outstanding sire Silvano (Lomitas), South Africa's Champion Sire for the past two seasons, was represented by 4 winners over the weekend – including his 82nd stakes winner, courtesy of Konkola's success in the Listed Jockey Club Stakes at Fairview.

Racing NSW stewards will give star sprinter Chatauqua one last chance to turn around his barrier manners after hearing submissions from connections of the gelding on Tuesday. Stewards had made a preliminary decision on Monday to refuse any further nominations for Chatauqua to trial or race after once again failing to jump from the stalls satisfactorily in a trial at Rosehill on Saturday. He has earned a reprieve, with stewards deciding to give a thoroughbred behaviourist a month to work his magic on the gelding.