

Panache!

Thirteen-time Hong Kong Champion Doug Whyte shot down rumours of his retirement and a possible second career as an assistant trainer, by following Grant van Niekerk and winning the second race at Sha Tin on Sunday aboard Le Panache. Whyte says he is in a good space and committed. There was talk last term that his heart wasn't in it anymore.



Klawervlei Stud bred Captain Lars scored the 20th victory of his career at Ffos Las on Monday afternoon. The evergreen 9yo made all to win the Interbet.com Handicap over 1000m for trainer Archie Watson and rider Edward Greatrex. He is by Klawervlei's late champion sire Captain Al, out of the Polar Falcon mare Polar Charge, runner up in the Gr1 2000 Italian Oaks. Captain Lars is a full brother to Klipdrif Stud's new sire for 2019, Always In Charge.

Towering

While Markus Jooste originally paid A\$280 000 - almost R2.8 million - for impressive Saturday debut winner Crown Towers at the 2017 Melbourne Premier Sale, the present owners look to have done well at R1.7 million for the colt at the Central Route Trading sale in July. The eyecatching youngster is by triple classic winner Camelot out of a five-time winning Galileo mare. Trainer Justin Snaith and jockey Richard Fourie were suitably impressed.

Loving The Good News!

Former Dean Kannemeyer-trained Silvano gelding Balance Sheet is living the retired life of a king with Ridgemont Highland's Amanda Carey and the smart stayer was amongst the awards again at his second career recently. He won the Prelim Dressage Victor Ludorum under Kim Bray for the 6 highest scores achieved at the Europa Dressage Show.



STILL TURNING!

Dynasty, whose son It's My Turn recently won the Equus, KZN, and Cape awards, is also the sire of the talented grey Ascot bred Stormy Eclipse, who was named the East Cape Champion Older Gelding for 2017/18 at the East Cape Awards evening which took place at Fairview on Saturday night. Dynasty also produced another big weekend with three winners.

Good Buy... Back!

The Piemonte-bred son of Crusade, Alfeo, has won the award for the Eastern Cape's Champion 2YO Colt. Out of Singapura Cat (Black Minnaloushe), Alfeo was one of four Stakes Winners for Crusade last season. He has had three wins and two places from six starts - including the Listed Dahlia Plate from Madame Speaker and finished second in the East Cape Nursery. Alfeo is trained by Alan Greeff. Bought back for R20 000 from the 2017 KZN Yearling Sale, he has earned over R200 000 in stakes, excluding the R40 000 BSA Maiden Juvenile Stakes Bonus he earned when winning his Maiden Juvenile Plate.

Island Star

Past SA champion stayer Enaad won the Gr1 Air Mauritius Maiden Cup over the weekend to give jockey Daniel Stackhouse and the Gujadhur stable their second classic win and third Gr1 score of the season. Enaad nabbed stable companion and pacesetter The Great One (Swapneel Rama), in the final strides. The Gilbert Rousset-trained duo of Ten Gun Salute (Robbie Fradd) and Dawn Raid (Nishal Teeha) were third and fourth respectively. It was a fifth Maiden Cup victory for Ramapatee Gujadhur and his 21st Mauritian classic win. Enaad was trained here by Mike de Kock and achieved the Gold Vase-Gold Cup double in 2016.



Mission Possible

The successful De Kock stable's Onamission Syndicate's first ever runner, Puget Sound, made it 4 wins from 13 starts at the Vaal last Thursday. The son of Sail From Seattle has won over 1000m, 1450m, 2000m and added a mile victory to his versatile record. When Mike de Kock signed for Puget Sound at the 2016 CTS Ready To Run Sale it was a wet, rainy night - one to remember as Mike commented to friends around his table, 'I've found a real plum here for R120,000!' The syndicate includes owners from the USA, Dubai, the UK and Mauritius, and a number of the top stable's grooms - a great advert for SA racing!