

Lion To Roar?

John Gosden's courageous Queen Elizabeth 11 Stakes winner Roaring Lion – by US sire Kitten's Joy - may celebrate his swansong on 3 November in the Breeders' Cup Classic at Churchill Downs. He won his fourth consecutive Gr1 on Saturday. At his first try on the dirt, he could take on the likes of Thunder Snow, Mendelssohn, Catholic Boy and Yoshida. Or he could take on Enable in the BC Turf.



Top Guns

Reigning champion Justin Snaith (40 winners and R3,1 million in stakes) holds a R400 000 lead over Sean Tarry (28 winners) on the SA Trainers log. Luke Ferraris has surpassed his last season total of 26 and has a comfortable lead on the national apprentice log on 28 winners. Jockey log-leader Muzi Yeni (53 winners) has ridden in 100 more races than his nearest opponent Ryan Munger and holds a lead of 10 winners on the national table per Tuesday. Interestingly, Muzi has ridden in three times as many races as Anton Marcus.

POWER PEG

The Hemel 'n Aarde Stud based Equus Champion Jay Peg enjoyed another good weekend, when responsible for a trio of winners. Jay Peg's winning treble was made up of two local South African winners and one winner in Mauritius. Royal Armour made it win number eight when he scored over 1200m at Greyville on Friday night. Jay Peg's second South African winner over the weekend came when daughter Missy J shed her maiden over 1000m at Greyville on Sunday. Jay Peg also enjoyed success in Mauritius on Saturday when his son Royal Resolution romped home over 1600m. Jay Peg has a single lot (# 91) on offer at the 2018 CTS Ready To Run Sale on 23 November.



Big & Best

Mike de Kock will have 21 horses at his disposal for the 15th Dubai World Cup Carnival, which kicks off on 3 January 2019. Referring on his website to unrealistic expectations since Ipi Tombe's massive win, he said: "The burden of being expected to win every single year adds pressure for sure. It's tougher now because the big stakes entice the best horses the world has to offer." The now gelded Majestic Mambo, Yulong Prince (formerly Surcharge), Sun Met runner-up Last Winter, Equus Champion Stayer Hermoso Mundo and July winner Marinaresco look to be his chief hopes.

Winx – Again?

Superstar Winx will face seven rivals in Saturday's A\$5 million Ladbrokes Cox Plate (2040m). Those standing in the way of an unprecedented fourth victory in the weight-for-age classic for the star mare are the quietly fancied Benbatl (Saeed bin Suroor), Avilius (James Cummings), Humidor (Darren Weir), Kings Will Dream (Darren Weir), Rostropovich (Aidan O'Brien), Savvy Coup (Michael and Matthew Pitman) and D'Argento (Chris Waller).

Set For Battle

One punter believes Gr1 Dubai Turf winner Benbatl can upset Winx in her quest for a fourth straight Cox Plate victory on Saturday and has placed a bet of A\$45 000 (that's about R456 000) at 10-1 on the Saeed bin Suroor-trained galloper. While Winx is all the rage, Benbatl is coming for steady support. The Godolphin five-year-old nosed out Blair House to claim victory in the Gr1 Caulfield Stakes on 13 October.

PAT ON THE RACK

Caulfield Cup-winning jockey Pat Cosgrave now heads to the Melbourne Cup full of confidence he can help break Godolphin's curse in the race. This was after declaring that everything went wrong for his winning mount Best Solution during Saturday's A\$5 million feature. Cosgrave had his great day soured when stewards suspended him for 11 meetings for a careless riding charge. He misses the Cox Plate on Saturday.

Tough Game

After close on three months of the racing season completed, there are 22 trainers of the 148 listed and 13 of the 69 jockeys who are yet to register a winner. 7 of the 24 apprentices are yet to win a race.



On The Draw

A little like fax machines and good manners, excuses about bad draws at the New Durbanville are oh so yesterday. On Saturday longshot Tippu Tip (drawn 12) beat Retro Effect (drawn 16). Captain's Choice won the second from a 16 draw, with Ruby Two Shoes running third from a 13 gate. Meraki won the third race drawn 11. On 6 October, Dynamite Jack was drawn 14/14 and beat All In Line drawn 13. Love To Boogie won the Diana drawn 11/11. Rainbow Bridge won the Matchem drawn 10/11 and Quest won the last on the same afternoon - drawn 11/11.



Retail Odds

British Bookmaking giant William Hill have quit the betting rinselling 82 racecourse pitches for £2 million to the company which bets under the Sid Hooper banner. Hills, who have been part of the fabric of betting rings in Britain for more than 80 years, will instead put their on-course focus on maximising returns from a 41-strong stable of racecourse shops.