

Marcus Milestone

While it may have gone largely unnoticed on the big day, Ridgemont-Highlands jockey Anton Marcus' terrific Met win on Rainbow Bridge was the champion rider's 100th Gr1 victory on African soil. It was his third Met winner – his first was in 1993 on Empress Club.

1200 FOR CRUZ

Last month's Gr1 Longines Hong Kong Vase Exultant won the G3 Centenary Vase Handicap to give trainer Tony Cruz a 1200th Hong Kong win at Sha Tin on Sunday. "It's always good to get a big number like this," said Cruz. "Exultant will go for the Hong Kong Gold Cup next month and he's entered for Dubai - whether or not he goes there is up to the owner but to win like this at a distance short of his best only gives me more confidence in the horse."

Gimme Four

Varsfontein's Gimmethegreenlight, South Africa's Leading First Crop Sire of 2015/16, produced four minor race winners over the past weekend, with his promising 2yo son Emerald Band also catching the eye when a close up second in Saturday's Listed Tattersalls Summer Juvenile Stakes. The Lammerskraal Stud bred gelding is one of three juvenile winners, from just four 2yo runners, for Gimmethegreenlight this season thus far. Gimmethegreenlight will be represented by National Park, Barahin, Green Haze and Stream Ahead in Saturday's Gr2 Gauteng Guineas at Turffontein.

Blue Blood

A 6yo multiple Gr1 winning champion daughter of Medaglia d'Oro, Songbird delivered an Arrogate filly at Wayne and Cathy Sweezey's Timber Town Farm near Lexington shortly after midnight on Monday. The new Songbird filly is part of the first crop by Arrogate, North America's all-time leading earner at more than \$17.4 million. Arrogate, by Unbridled's Song, stands for \$75,000 at Juddmonte Farms in Lexington.



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New Direction

The 5yo Quality Road colt City Of Light withstood a late challenge from the 2018 Eclipse champion older dirt male and Gr1 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Accelerate (eventual third) and put distance between himself and the rest of the pack to win the \$9 million Pegasus World Cup Invitational at Gulfstream Park on Saturday. The first and third placed gallopers arrived at their new home at Lane's End Farm on Sunday to take up stud duties alongside multiple Gr1 winner West Coast.

Big Bucks

There can't be many jockeys who have won three R5 million races on one raceday anywhere and we have granted Anton Marcus the credit of a new SA record for his efforts on Saturday. He won R7,85 million in stakes for his wins in the two CTS races aboard Cirillo and One World – and then, of course, on Rainbow Bridge in the Met.



Focus

The horse has sadly taken a complete back seat both on the day and in the mainstream media reporting of the Met. The focus is on the party, the beautiful people, what they wore and who designed it - and the champagne. It's high time for real racing people to somehow take back the big days.



SUN MET TWITTER

Horsemen?

Sir Anthony McCoy and Nicky Henderson led a storm of protest over the weekend sparked by the decision of stewards at Uttoxeter to fine trainer Henry Oliver £140 for waving his arms at chaser Burrenbridge Hotel before a race to encourage it to start. The 20-time champion jockey tweeted his disgust at the fine for misconduct, labelling it "embarrassing rubbish". A statement by the BHA stoked the controversy by affirming that "we do not force horses to race and . . . they do so of their own free will" - a stance that five-time champion trainer Henderson said left him "in despair".

A Done Deal

Arrowfield Stud's six-time Gr1 winner Dundee (High Chaparral-Stareel, by Zabeel) sired his first Gr1 winner when his Australian-bred colt Atyaab (Dundee-Sylvaner, by Danasinga) won the Gr1 Cape Derby on Sun Met Day. Atyaab is out of the three-time Gr2-winning Danasinga mare Sylvaner, already the dam of five winners from five runners, highlighted by the Listed Gold Cup winner Vesper (Zabeel). His win capped a stellar weekend for Champion Miller Dundee ahead of this year's NZB National Yearling Sale Series at Karaka, after Yourdeel placed in the Karaka Million 2YO and Cutadeel made it three on the trot last Friday en-route to the Gr1 NZ Derby.



CHASE LIEBERBERG

THE MOLSTER

Last week punters who took Dave Mollett's UK jackpot on Tellytrack hit a hat-trick of wins from 23rd to 25th January and made a nice profit. The buoyant Molly told Short Heads: "It was Dieter Wohlberg who came up with the idea, so he takes the credit. Having been brought up in UK racing, I like to think I know a little about the sport there. I'm in SA now but will return to the UK for 2-3 months in May."

