



Belts Tighten

Racing around the world is bracing for the outcome of a major review of marketing spend by Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin empire that has already resulted in the termination of at least one sponsorship and high-profile redundancies. Officials at the Curragh have been told Darley will no longer back the Irish Oaks, while the launch of this year's Irish Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards has been deferred pending a decision on the sponsorship. York is believed to have lost Darley funding for the Yorkshire Oaks, while Darley deals in France, principally for Deauville Gr1 prizes the Prix Morny and Prix Jean Romanet, could be under threat. Race sponsorship in Germany is also set to be impacted.

Exports

What's happening on the export protocol front? "I'm shooting at trying to get this all sorted out by June," says SAEHP MD Adrian Todd in a chat with James Goodman on the Winning Ways show on Monday. Overall, the SAEHP is responsible for the establishment of long-term sustainable equine exports and internal movement control. Visit www.sportingpost.co.za to watch what James Goodman calls the most important interview of the year - and make your own mind up.

FRUSTRATIONS

Multiple SA champion trainer Mike de Kock has a knack of weaving humour into his frustrations. Talking after his Guineas win on Saturday, he chirped about his Dubai headache: "We are up against an eight-ball. Our opposition are getting attendance certificates already and our horses only came out of quarantine two or three days ago. Surcharge is not even there yet. You can't do it without fresh horses," he added.

Super Stallions

The Varsfontein stallions enjoyed a memorable weekend. Besides Gimmethegreenlight sons National Park and Barahin running 1-3 in the Gr2 Gauteng Guineas, Master Of My Fate's son Silverstone Air romped home in the Britam Kenya Guineas on Sunday. Now unbeaten in four outings, the colt looks a potential standout and is an excellent representative for his well performed young sire in Kenya.



KANTOR'S PENNYWISE

An all-South African team were victorious at Kranji on Sunday when Bernard Kantor's Pennywise won the SG\$70,000 Class 3 race over 1200m. Trained by Ricardo Le Grange and ridden by Barend Vorster, Pennywise stayed on to beat Revolution by a half length. The son of Pure Prize has now taken his record to five wins and two thirds from nine starts for prizemoney around the SG\$240,000 mark. Vorster leaves soon for Australia. Interestingly, Pennywise races in what appears to be the original Kantor silks of blue, silver, red and pink.

Breakfast With A Star

Winx will be on show for her Sydney fans at a special public event on Saturday ahead of her highly-anticipated return to racing in The Star Apollo Stakes at Royal Randwick a week later. According to racingnsw.com.au, the Australian Turf Club and Chris Waller Racing will host the breakfast event and exhibition gallop at Royal Randwick. Waller, jockey Hugh Bowman and the champion mare's owners will be on hand before Winx goes on to the track for an exhibition gallop. She is chasing a 30th consecutive victory on Saturday 16 Feb!

Big Go For Green



Varsfontein Stud's More Than Ready stallion Gimmethegreenlight dominated the finish of Saturday's Gr2 Gauteng Guineas at Turffontein this past weekend. Gimmethegreenlight sons National Park and Barahin - both previous graded stakes winners - ran first and third in Saturday's R1 000 000 3yo classic to confirm themselves as among the leaders of their generation. Gimmethegreenlight had no fewer than four runners in Saturday's classic - the smart stakes performers Stream Ahead and Green Haze being the others - and National Park and Barahin picked up a cool R725 000 between them.

Shocker

After an 11-hour hearing on Monday in Melbourne, AAP reports that trainer Darren Weir will plead guilty to charges in relation to the banned devices known as jiggers. Weir will have his case heard as early as this week by the Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board where Stewards will ask for a four year disqualification. Jiggers are electronic devices that can be used to shock horses.

