



Say It As It Is

Tellytrack presenter Stan Elley's chirp to trainer Corrie Lensley in the post-race interview after the 36-1 Abbotsford came up to win the Pick 6 opener at Flamingo Park on Monday – "that's his first cheque in 11 runs." Corrie's retort: "Ja, and it's probably his last too." No airs and graces or delusions of grandeur in the Northern Cape!

Ato Boy!

Millstream Farm's Gr1 winning sire Ato (Royal Academy) has made a pleasing start to his stud career, despite being represented by a relatively small first crop - now three-year-olds. To date, Ato has been represented by just 19 runners, but of these, eight have won and they include Chijmes – who beat subsequent Gr1 Cape Derby winner Atyaab when he won the Listed Sea Cottage Stakes back in January. Ato was back in the news this weekend, when his three-year-old son Sygone romped home to a 3.5 length win in the Gr3 Zimbabwe Guineas at Borrowdale Park on Sunday. Bred by Maine Chance Farms - who also bred Ato - the Bridget Stidolph trained Sygone took his tally of wins to three as he drew clear under Collen Storey to win Sunday's 1600m contest as he liked.

What A Pity

Dean Kannemeyer's 2018 Sun Met runner up Last Winter has had another injury setback and will not race during the 2019 Dubai World Cup Carnival. "He jarred himself on the off fore while in quarantine in Mauritius. Dr John McVeigh saw to him there, and he was good to go in 3 or 4 weeks. After arriving in Dubai last November all seemed to be going well. But he then jarred himself on the near fore at the beginning of January. It isn't a career threatening injury by any means, but our preparation has been set back too far," said the disappointed trainer.

Vengeance

Wide awake SP reader Malcolm Draper points out the irony of the name of the thundershower delayed seventh race at Greyville on Sunday – the Vengeance Of Rain Handicap, named in honour of the Hong Kong Horse Of The Year ridden by Anthony Delpech. All the races on the day were named by Delpech. The meeting was delayed following a jockey protest – after a burst drainpipe at the pull-up area was aggravated by rain.

Fransie's Flying

Jockey Francois Herholdt is booting home the winners in South Korea and on Saturday landed an important victory on 45-1 chance Jet Sky at Busan. Jet Sky broke the 1300m track record. Herholdt recently had his trial contract in Busan extended for six months until August.



IN THE FAMILY

Sandown Stud's stalwart sire Ashaawes reached a notable milestone over the weekend, when his maternal granddaughter See You Tyger (Where's That Tiger) won the Listed Bauhinia Handicap at Turffontein. In the process, the filly, whose dam is Ashaawes's Gr3 Pretty Polly third place-getter Sioux She, became the first stakes winner produced by a daughter of Ashaawes.

GO CALLAN GO

After enduring a tough run during his six months in Hong Kong, it is terrific to see the earnest South African Callan Murray hit the ground running in his new home, lifting Ganassi to victory on Sunday a week ago.

"I'm rapt. I'm really happy I've got a winner on the board," Murray said. "It didn't work out in Hong Kong. It was a difficult time for me. First I broke my nose and then I got suspended. It just went a bit ugly, but I was riding 100-1 chances every week. There was nothing I could do to make them win, but it was, without a doubt, still a good learning experience."



Ferrari's All

Maine Chance Farms' form stallion Querari (Oasis Dream) had three of his daughters find the winners enclosure over the weekend. The Querari treble started when his two-year-old daughter Luna Wish made a winning debut at Fairview on Friday. The Bruce le Roux bred Luna Wish stayed on smartly to score a convincing one and a quarter length win first time out over 1000m. Luna Wish was one of two juvenile Querari fillies to win over the weekend, with the Oasis Dream sire also responsible for Saturday's Durbanville impressive winner, the Narrow Creek Stud-bred Ferrari Red. The latter, making just her second start, made all the running to shed her maiden by 3.25 lengths over 1400m for trainer Justin Snaith and jockey Richard Fourie. Querari, who has now produced four 2yo winners this season, is also the sire of the Lammerskraal Stud bred and owned 3yo filly Lana Belle, who made a stunning winning debut at Durbanville on Saturday.