

Six Shooter

Miner turned Hollywood-sponsored racehorse trainer Cliffie Miller was just about unstoppable at Flamingo Park on Monday, winning six of the eight races in which he had runners. The 61 year old has saddled 31 winners at a 12 % win strike -rate this term. 28% of his runners earn place money. Cliffie started in 1979 with just 6 horses.



Tact Or Fact?

Former Phumelela Executive and CEO of Tellytrack, and recently appointed Mauritius Turf Club CEO Mike Rishworth has told the local media that there were more people present at training at the Champ de Mars, than at races in South Africa.

CONGHUA OPENER

It was cold, wet and there was next to no atmosphere – the absence of betting will do that – but there was enough customary Jockey Club efficiency and positivity from the key players to label Saturday's trailblazing Conghua meeting on the Chinese Mainland a success. While the novelty of the occasion no doubt played a part in everyone remaining relatively chipper despite the weather, there was enough substance to suggest an event that was more than a little manufactured won't always be that way. Chief executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor was on hand to hail the Conghua Racecourse as an inspiration to further Greater Bay Area developments.



Highs 'n Lows

The Mauritius racing season opened at the Champ de Mars on Saturday with former Brett Crawford runners filling the exacta in the Gr2 Vocalcom Duchess Of York Cup , the first classic of the season. Both 2017 Cape Guineas runner-up White River and dual Algoa Cup winner Nebula race out of the Ramesh Gujadhur Stable. The winner was ridden by South Africa's Mauritius Hall Of Famer, Derreck David – who had his licence suspended 48 hours later after the Gambling Authority pointed out that he required a permit to work.

CONDESCENDING

The 12-time champion jump jockey Ruby Walsh has described the daily briefings conducted by officials before racing at the Cheltenham Festival as 'condescending'. All riders attended daily meetings with the clerk of the course, starter and BHA officials half an hour before racing began, with Walsh left unimpressed by what he saw and heard. "They spoke to us a little like we were kids, and that's not the way that you should speak to anybody, let alone very experienced people," he said.

High Five

The red hot Gavin Lerena made it a happy Human Rights Day at Turffontein on Thursday when he booted home five favourites in front of an enthusiastic public holiday crowd. The 33 year old Lerena is currently riding at an impressive 27,43% win strike-rate and is lying in fourth spot on the SA National log. He won the SA champion title in 2014/15 and is riding at peak performance.



Heading North?

It's good to see Cape trainers Joey Ramsden (Fresnaye) and Justin Snaith (Oh Susanna) considering the R1 million Gr1 HSH Princess Charlene Empress Club Stakes to be run over 1600m on the Royal Raceday at Turffontein on 13 April. 17 entries were received this week.

Rules Of Engagement?



Australian stipendiary stewards took revenue raising to new extremes at Ardlethan racecourse in New South Wales on Saturday, sanctioning jockey Jody Hughes for an indiscretion in a one-horse race. Hughes gave the crowd something to cheer about inside the final 100m when she rose out of the saddle and raised her hand in a victory wave. Officials took umbrage at the gesture, slapping the 23-year-old with the A\$100 fine, which equated to her 5% share in the winning prizemoney. Hughes had the last laugh, ending the day with a treble.

SNITZEL ON TOP

After 34 weeks of the 2018-19 Australian racing season, Arrowfield Stud's incumbent record-breaking two-time Champion Australian Sire Snitzel, whose sire Redoute's Choice died earlier this week, retains a lead of more than A\$6 million over Yarraman Park's I Am Invincible. In third position, and breaching the A\$10 million mark, is Darley's deceased shuttler & Gr1 Dubai World Cup winner Street Cry.

