



## Only 8

The Gr1 Daily News 2000 to be run at Greyville on Saturday 1 June attracted a high quality entry of only eight 3yo's when first stage entry closed on Monday. The prestigious R2 million feature looks likely to be dominated by Mike de Kock, who last won the race in 2013 with present day exciting sire Vercingetorix, and who holds three of the eight tickets.

The De Kock pair of recent Premier's Champions Challenge runaway winner Hawwaam and Horse Chestnut Stakes victor Soqrat head the tables off a 121 rating.

## R115 000

That's the fine dished out by the NHA to trainer Gert Theron who was charged with a contravention of Rule 73.2.2, as read with Rule 73.4.4 and Rule 74.1. This arose when a specimen that was taken from the horse Chestnut Troop on 12 November 2018 was found to contain testosterone at a level of 174.59 picograms per millilitre of plasma, which is in excess of the accepted threshold of 100 picograms per millilitre of plasma. Testosterone is a forbidden substance and also a prohibited substance. Theron pleaded not guilty to the charge, but was found guilty of the charge.

## Island Strike

Multiple SA Champion jockey Piere Strydom flew out on Monday to ride for trainer Rameshwar Gujadhur in Mauritius. The good news for 'Striker' fans is that he will be available to ride at the Vodacom Durban July meeting at Greyville on 6 July. His progress on the island will be followed closely by his legion of fans here.

## DOUBLE O

Avontuur's treble Gr1 winning stallion Oratorio, whose son Mardi Gras graces our weekend cover, enjoyed a nice weekend double that included an eye-catching debut winner at Greyville on Saturday. Mary O, a two-year-old filly bred by the Connemara Stud, stormed home to win on debut under jockey Mark Khan. The Lezeanne Forbes trained filly was produced by the Second Empire mare Mary Hinge, and was a R300 000 buy from the 2018 National Two Year Old Sale. Oratorio, whose useful daughter Snapsan ran fourth in Saturday's Listed East Coast Cup, also made waves this weekend as a broodmare sire in Italy. Already damsire of group winners Dolce Strega and Paquirri, Oratorio is also the broodmare sire of Sunday's Gr3 Premio Tudini winner Buonasera.

## Senior Ranks

The 22 year old Mpumelelo 'Mpumi' Mjoka, who goes to scale at 48kg, enjoyed his first meeting as a fully fledged jockey at the Vaal on Tuesday. Mpumi, who dead-heated with Ryan Munger to win his first race, took all of nine months and 91 rides to break his duck. His biggest career success came in the 2017 Longines Future Racing Stars in France. He has only ridden 1 winner this term.

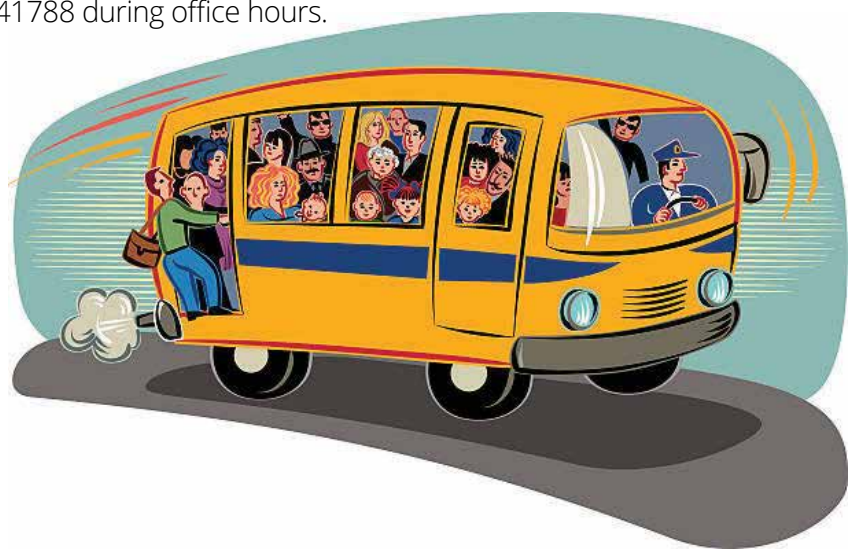
## At Last

Khaya Stables 2018 Sun Met runner up Last Winter is now in England and has joined the yard of champion trainer Sir Michael Stoute. Previously based with Dean Kannemeyer, the entire son of Western Winter failed to race during an intended Dubai campaign this year, due to injury.



## Hop On The Bus

A novel idea in times of high petrol costs and dwindling on-course crowds. That's the Scottsville Shuttle that leaves Greyville at 10h30 on Saturday for Pietermaritzburg and the Festival Of Speed. Graeme Hawkins provides the en route entertainment – and hopefully a few winners, too. Cost is R100, which includes a R50 betting voucher and a racecard. Seats will be limited to 60 persons and bookings can be made through Zain Adams on 031-3141788 during office hours.



## IN THE COURTS

Phumelela has confirmed having received the Public Protector's report regarding the corporatisation of the thoroughbred horseracing industry and has been advised to apply to the High Court to have the report reviewed and set aside. This application is being prepared by Phumelela's legal representatives and will be instituted within the next few weeks.

## Save The Date

The KZN Breeders Raceday will be held at Greyville on Saturday 29 June. Spot Prizes are up for grabs, there is a 'Win If You Lose' competition for 20 pairs of Vodacom Durban July tickets to be won, along with the #BraaiZone and #KidZone. A luncheon is available in the Durban View Room at R350pp. Contact candiese@kznbreeders.co.za.