

Tara The Lionheart

The latest NHA calendar shows some creative new snazzy colours registered to our patriotic Fairview-based Scotswoman, Tara Laing. The Royal Banner of the Royal Arms of Scotland will leave no commentator puzzled as to their origin! Yellow, Red Rampant Lion of Scotland, Armbands & Cap is the official racecard description for the new silks. Full marks to the NHA for allowing some creative initiative to be expressed.



Mighty Mice

When the big cats are away, the smart mice will play! The Harold Crawford yard enjoyed a nice double at Kenilworth on Saturday with Ready Steady Go rounding off a 12-1 double with Alfie's Girl. This was the Milnerton yard's 13th winner of the season. Another low-profile performer to enjoy a good day was jockey Robert Khathi who registered a treble – including a powerful ride on the Glen Puller trained Fire Walker who went off at 10-1 to win the last.

EVERGREEN VAR

Avontuur's perennial leading sire Var – our Leading Sire of 2yo's the past two seasons running - made headlines on Saturday when his promising sons Eden Roc and Vardy won the Gr1 Tsogo Sun Gold Medallion and Gr3 Winter Classic respectively. They were Var's 46th and 47th stakes winners, with Eden Roc the ninth individual Gr1 winner sired by Var – who is currently responsible for 23 individual Gr1 performers in total.

Victorious Vercingetorix

Maine Chance Farms' multiple Gr1 winning Silvano son Vercingetorix has made an explosive start to his stud career and the former Equus Champion was responsible for a third first crop stakes winner when Hooves Of Troy won the Listed Dahlia Plate at Fairview on Friday. His G1 Jebel Hatta winning sire Vercingetorix - who interestingly never raced at two - has now produced nine first crop winners, with his tally including Gr3 Godolphin Barb Stakes winner African Warrior and the Nursery winner Viking Moon. South Africa's current Leading First Crop Sire by both individual winners and prize money. Vercingetorix has eight lots on the 2019 KZN Yearling Sale.



Not Disgraced

While Hong Kong raider Southern Legend is the toast of Singapore again with another effortless victory in the Gr1 Kranji Mile under superstar Zac Purton on Saturday, the South African contingent were not disgraced. Southern Legend beat Lee Freedman-trained Blizzard, who was ridden by Aldo Domeyer, currently licenced in Hong Kong. The Tony Millard-trained and Drakenstein-bred Singapore Sling, ridden by SA-trained Karis Teetan, finished third. Purton continued his exceptional form at Kranji – he's ridden there five times and secured five Singapore Gr1's!



A BIT OF ALRIGHT

Trainer Adam Marcus told Gold Circle's Michael Clower after Saturday's Winter Classic success that he felt that Vardy would also have beaten One World in the Winter Guineas if he had settled. "Vardy has a severe parrot mouth and a very soft palate – anything with a link presses on that and is uncomfortable for him so he doesn't settle," Marcus explained. The young trainer searched the dressage world and found a flexible plastic bit in Italy. He then had to get it passed by the NHA, who gave him the go-ahead three days before the race. The Winter Derby is next.



Legend

An old Cape racing family enjoyed a sentimental moment at Kenilworth on Saturday. The late Alfie Heyns was a legend on Cape racecourses for decades and his wife Gwen was on hand to lead in Horse Chestnut's daughter Alfred's Girl, who was one of the last two horses Alfie owned and bred. Trained by Harold Crawford, the aptly named Alfred's Girl got it right in the famous black and white silks at her 19th try under Ossie Noach. Harold's son-in-law and co-owner Will Rix was there to lead the 4yo in.

