

Top Jock Out

Gavin Lerena will be out of action for at least six weeks. He came out of surgery on Friday after being operated on the scaphoid and had a screw inserted. The scaphoid is a large carpal bone articulating with the radius below the thumb. It is in Gavin's left hand. Lerena finished fourth on the national log last season with his 172 winners achieved at a win strike-rate of 24%. He joins Bernard Fayd'herbe and Anton Marcus on the sidelines.



Brown Treble

US trainer Chad Brown completed a dream meeting at Arlington, winning all three of the Gr1 races held at the Chicago track over the weekend. Bricks and Mortar, whose future breeding rights were secured last week by Japan's Yoshida family, proved too strong for the Aidan O'Brien-trained Magic Wand in the Arlington Million to earn himself a guaranteed spot in the Gr1 Breeders' Cup Turf later this year. It was a similar result in the Gr1 Secretariat Stakes with Ballydoyle's Van Beethoven finishing runner-up to Valid Point. To cap the day, Sistercharlie made it back-to-back triumphs in the Beverly D.

Jolly Good Fellow

Richard Fourie is in 10th position with 30 points on the Longines World's Best Jockey rankings. It is highly unlikely that he will earn any more points as all three of the South African Gr1's on the Longines list have been run – the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate, the Sun Met and the Rising Sun Gold Challenge. Zac Purton still tops the rankings on 88 points, having ridden seven winners and recording one third place in the world's top 100 races.

Never A Dull Moment

In a tale befitting a Dick Francis thriller, Flamingo Park trainer Stephanie Miller told Michael Clower that she was framed by a rival trainer when Bongo Dance tested positive to testosterone when he ran second at Flamingo Park last November and when needles with traces of the same prohibited substance were seized by National Horseracing Authority officials at her stables a month later. The Kimberley trainer also maintains that the cattle prodder found at her training premises in June was there innocently and that she would never use it on a horse. Read more on www.sportingpost.co.za.

Save The Date

The KZN Racing Awards and End-of-Season celebrations will be held in Gold Circle's flagship venue, the Silver Ring at Hollywoodbets Greyville, on Friday 23 August. Guests can look forward to another spectacular evening as Gold Circle officially brings the curtain down on Champions Season.

20/20 Vision

Lammerskraal Stud's Gr1 winning and Gr1 producing sire Visionaire (Grand Slam) received another update to his pedigree when his half-brother Fireball Shot romped home to a four length maiden win at Saratoga on Sunday. A son of Street Cry, Fireball Shot is the tenth winner produced by the stakes placed French Deputy mare Scarlet Tango. The Gr1 King's Bishop Stakes winner, Visionaire has nine lots on the 2yo Sale this week.



TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE?

It seems to not be the last we have heard of PE trainer Yvette Bremner's R175 000 fine for a positive relating to the presence of Ractopamine, a forbidden substance. The matter could end up in the High Court. Cape-based Attorney Robert Bloomberg, who represented Mrs Bremner in the matter, told the Sporting Post that in his professional opinion, the judgment given 'defies logic' and that the fine meted out is 'shameful and induces a sense of disbelief and shock'. Watch this space.



Dispersal

Hartley SA (Pty) Ltd, the foreign based company owned by Chinese mainlander, Mr Guo Hui, will be dispersing their entire stock in two separate Sales in conjunction with Bloodstock South Africa. The first will be a combined breeding stock sale comprising 23 broodmares and 14 yearlings held in Robertson on Wednesday 28 August, time and venue to be confirmed. The second sale is a mixed sale of 5 unraced 2yo's and 13 horses in training, scheduled to take place in early September in Johannesburg - the final details to follow by next week. For all enquiries, please contact Peter Gibson on 083 406 4881 or pgbloodstock63@gmail.com