



The twelve strike crop rule introduced by the NHRA in May last year continues to puzzle any regular reader of the daily Stipes reports. The penalty parameters are unclear and differ from centre to centre. Take Gareth Wright's fine of R3000 for striking Waiting For Change more than 12 times in the Flamboyant Stakes at Hollywoodbets Greyville on Boxing Day. In determining the penalty, the Stipes 'considered Wright's poor recent record in relation to the rule'. Wright was advised that should he appear before the Board for a similar contravention in future, 'a more severe penalty may be imposed'. The NHRA need to go back to the drawing board rather and analyse the impact of the exercise.

ROYAL HONOURS

Two horseracing heroes feature as OBE recipients on the Queen's New Year Honours list. Paul Nicholls, 11-time British jump racing champion trainer and Nicky Henderson, five-time British jump racing champion trainer, have both been acknowledged for services to the sport of kings. An OBE is an order of the British Empire award. It is the second highest ranking Order of the British Empire award, behind the CBE, but ahead of the MBE.

Born To Run

Avontuur celebrated a home-bred double at Hollywoodbets Greyville on Sunday when Legal Eagle's Var half-brother Collabro and the Oratorio gelding Caesura produced a R206 tote double. The pair have won 8 races between them. Pippa Mickleburgh says their ten strong Cape Premier Yearling Sale draft is loaded with class.

Captain, Our Captain



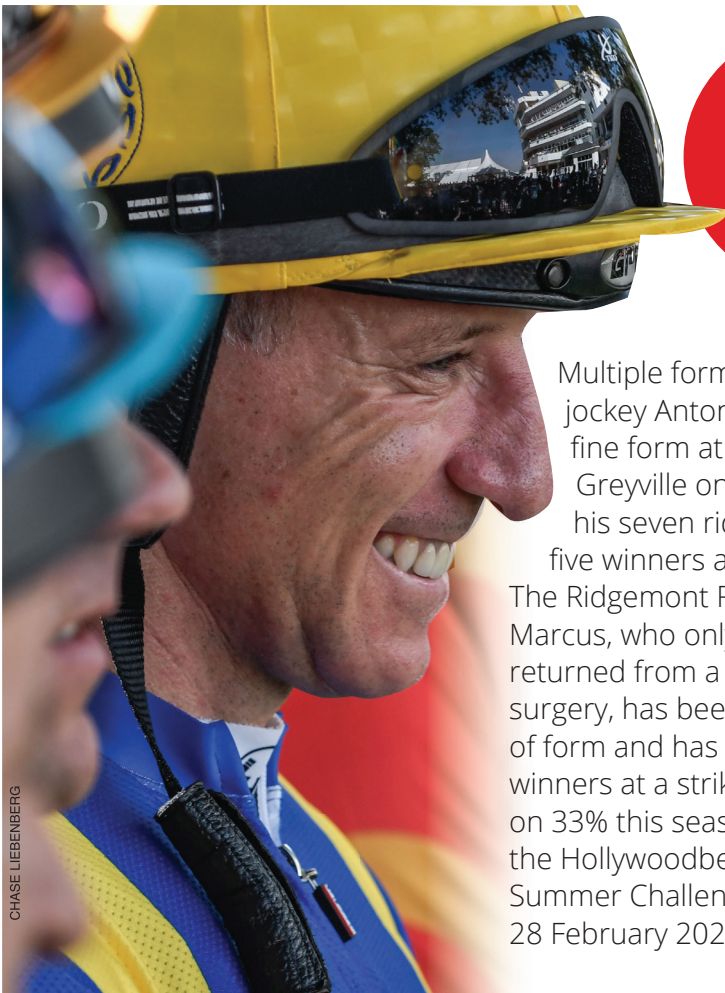
Captain Of All, a triple Gr1 winning son of multiple champion sire Captain Al has nine lots on offer at the 2020 Cape Premier Yearling Sale later this month and continues to catch the eye. The former Equus Champion enjoyed a notable double on Saturday. Captain Of All sons Cartel Captain and Golden Tractor finished first and second in the Need For Speed Sprint and another son, Sullenberger, romped to a good win at Turffontein on the same day. South Africa's Leading First Crop Sire of 2018-2019, Captain Of All made a stunning start to his stud career with his early winners headed by Gr2 Dingaans winner Shango and fellow stakes winners Captain Anne Bonny and What You Are.

No Bull

Passionate Blue Bulls fan MJ Byleveld rode the jackpot at Kenilworth on Saturday. The exotic paid R24 286 for R1 - a minimum bet outlay of R6 would have paid a cool R145 716 to MJ supporters. Only 22% of the Pick 6 was won. The jackpot included both feature winners on the day.

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Mike Smith became North America's most successful Gr1 jockey after riding two top-level winners on a record-breaking day at Santa Anita on Saturday. Smith, 54, equalled the record set by Jerry Bailey when riding outsider Hard Not to Love to win the La Brea Stakes, then guiding Omaha Beach to land the Malibu Stakes, a historic 217th top-level victory.



Multiple former SA champion jockey Anton Marcus was in fine form at Hollywoodbets Greyville on Sunday where his seven rides produced five winners and two seconds. The Ridgemont Racing-sponsored Marcus, who only two months ago returned from a break following surgery, has been in a rich vein of form and has now ridden 43 winners at a strike rate of close on 33% this season. He leads the Hollywoodbets KZN Sizzling Summer Challenge, which ends on 28 February 2020.

Mumm Out

Champagne brand G.H. Mumm has confirmed that it will no longer continue its sponsorship of the Sun Met which was previously named the Sun Met Celebrated with G.H. Mumm. The Champagne house will not be the title sponsor of the feature in 2020 and said in a press release that they believed this is the right decision for the brand.



REMEMBERING JIMMY

Gold Circle are planning to honour the memory later this month of 1981 Durban July winning jockey Jimmy Anderson who passed away in the King Edward Hospital on Sunday 22 December at the age of 71. Jimmy was born in Durban on 18 August 1948. He won the July on Big Charles for Dr Louis Naude.

