

# The Team



**Brian Riley** is Chairman and investor of the newly established Marquis Finance Pty Ltd, specialising in motor dealer introduced vehicle finance. Having spent most of his career in Banking and Insurance Brian was CEO of the highly successful WesBank, a division of FirstRand between 2007 and 2013. During that time he served on the FirstRand Strategic Executive Committee. In May 2015 he was approached by the curator of African Bank to formulate a new strategy to diversify the business and to exit curatorship. Having accomplished the transition and returned the company to profitability Brian stepped down as contracted in 2018 and remains on the African Bank Board as a non-independent non-executive director. Brian is also a lifelong racing enthusiast and joined the Racing Association Board in February 2020 primarily to offer his “turnaround” experience and general business acumen to significantly improve the well being of the industry.

**Charles Savage** is CEO of the JSE listed Purple Group - a fintech group democratising access to all things trading & investing. Actively involved in Fintech for +17 years, He is the founder & CEO of EasyEquities, a multi award winning fintech platform that has won everything from most innovative company to best fintech both locally and abroad. Charles is a passionate small scale owner and breeder and has developed trusted relationships within the industry with prominent stakeholders

**David Abery** is a Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and the senior non executive director of Capital Drilling. In the past David occupied the position of Finance Director of Mission Testing Plc, Tradepoint Financial Networks Plc, and most recently Finance Director at Petra Diamonds Ltd. David is also a significant owner and breeder with a deep desire to see racing through to safe ground.



**Wehann Smith** is an Actuary by profession and is founder & CEO of Kuda Holdings – a diversified financial services business with a strong focus on niche markets including Bloodstock Insurance. He has developed strong industry relationships in his 11 years at the helm of Kuda; and is committed to actively shaping this industry. Wehann has become a significant owner and small-scale breeder and has taken on several industry roles, including that of CEO of Cape Thoroughbred Sales.



**Mike de Kock** started training in South Africa 1987 and since then he has been champion trainer 8 times. Mike has campaigned successfully all over the world, to November 2019, he’s racked up an incredible 123 grade ones, 147 Grade 2 and 96 grade 3 from 3400 worldwide winners. Mikes passion and commitment to South African racing is unrivaled and he has single handedly put our thoroughbreds on the map internationally. His experience and knowledge of successful international horse racing operating models and incredible network of influential stakeholders is an asset to the future of the industry.