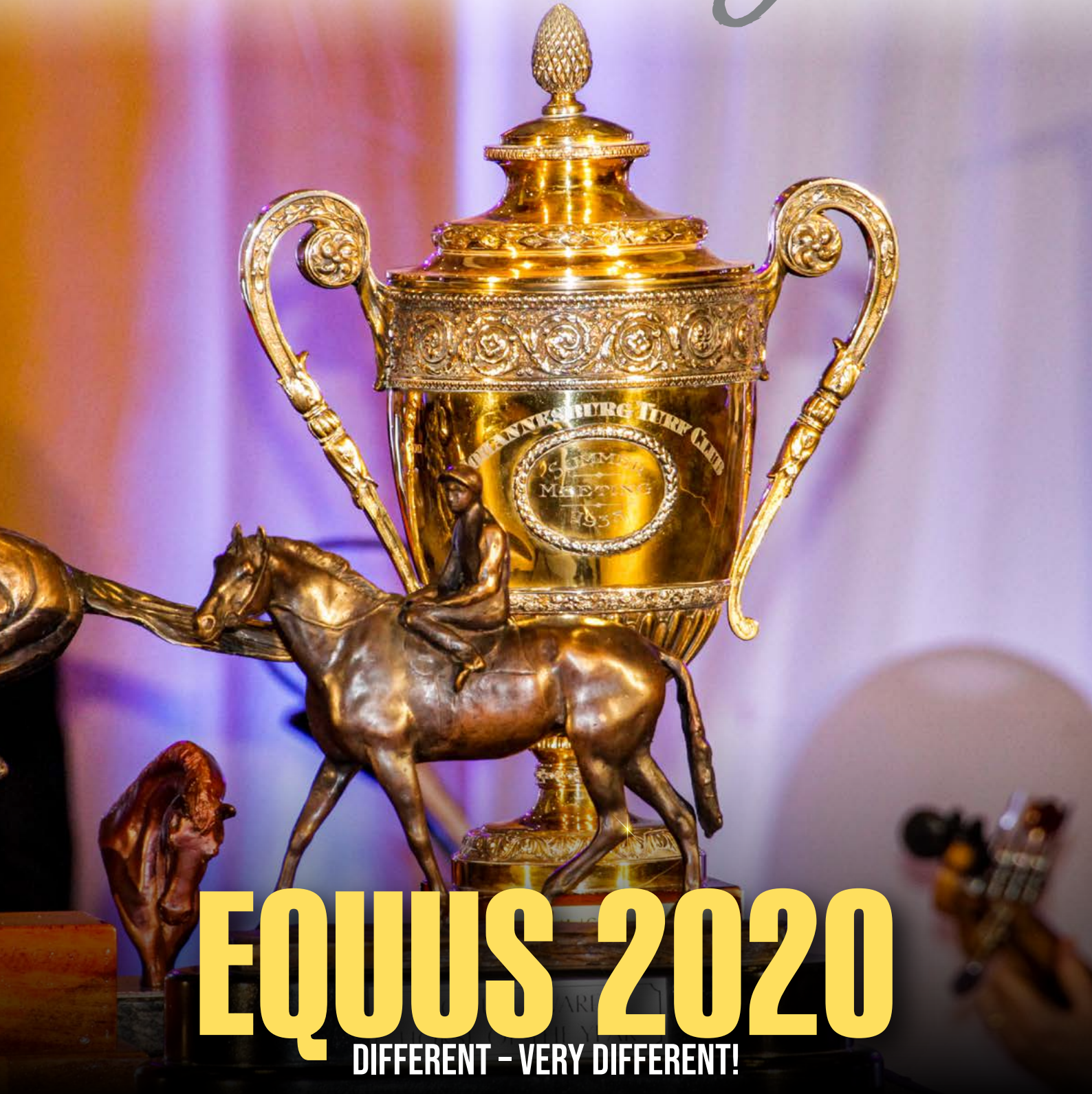


Wednesday 09 September 2020

sportingpost

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Sprint



EQUUS 2020

DIFFERENT - VERY DIFFERENT!

RIDGEMONT

HIGHLANDS

FOAL ALERT

Canford Cliffs x Takingthepeace

“For a first foal this colt has some of the highest quality attributes I have ever seen. He is outstandingly classy, with lovely size and strength, and already stands strong over good ground. However, the most exciting attribute for me regarding the progeny of Canford Cliffs is how athletic they are, and this foal out of Grade 1 winner Takingthepeace is no exception – he moves beautifully!”

– Craig Carey



Craig Kieswetter

RIDGEMONT

Craig Carey

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HIGHLANDS

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No Jacket REQUIRED

It's old news that it's been a very different year so far. Between Covid-19 and Phumelela's business rescue, amongst other happenings, Equus was a 50-1 shot in the latter part of May. But this Sunday our annual accolades to the achievers will actually be broadcast at 19h30 on Tellytrack, DStv 249.

While it may lack a bit of the razzmatazz of the Montecasino show that we have become so accustomed to – even in the professionally capable hands of refreshing new hosts Neil Andrews and Nico Kritsiotis – there are a few upsides in this format. Think about it - no need for those ridiculous air kisses and fake smiles. What a pleasure!

The show will be available to view FREE on www.tellytrack.com – [just register online](#)

While racing is not racing if there isn't a minor aspect mired in controversy of some sorts, the hundred percent 'Cape free' Equus judging panel of Alistair Cohen, Andrew Harrison, Jack Milner,

Equus candidates Golden Ducat & Rainbow Bridge

Candiese Lenferna



Cover Image
'Equus' - by kind courtesy,
Candiese Lenferna

Ken Nicol and David Thiselton have hopefully applied their minds in optimal fashion – even though we have our thoughts on their bizarre scrapping of the stayers category.

And a word to the organisers. Instead of offering to relaunch the media award in 2021 for the game’s dwindling news brigade, rather open your hearts and minds and talk to us and your stakeholders in a proactive and transparent vein. That beats never saying anything, and then responding defensively in fifth amendment mode when somebody asks a perfectly sane and logical question.

But we digress – let’s look at the various categories and the illustrious nominees:

Equine categories:

Champion Two-year-old Colt
 Erik the Red, Mount Pleasant, Nourbese, Tempting Fate

Champion Two-year-old Filly
 Anything Goes, Sentbydestiny, Vernichey

Champion Three-year-old Colt
 Golden Ducat, Got The Greenlight

Champion Three-year-old Filly
 Mississippi Burning, Summer Pudding

Champion Older Male
 Belgarion, Hawwaam, One World, Rainbow Bridge, Vardy

Champion Older Filly/Mare
 Celtic Sea, Clouds Unfold, Queen Supreme, Ronnie’s Candy, Temple Grafín

Champion Sprinter
 Celtic Sea, Rivarine, Russet Air, Van Halen, Warrior’s Rest

Champion Miler
 Hawwaam, Rainbow Bridge, Vardy

Champion Middle Distance
 Belgarion, Gold Ducat, Got the Greenlight, Hawwaam, One World, Rainbow Bridge, Summer Pudding

The Horse of the Year will be selected from any of the winners in the equine categories. The groom of the Horse of the Year will be acknowledged for his contribution to the success of the winner.

Breeder Awards:

- Champion Stallion
- Champion Breeder
- Champion Broodmare

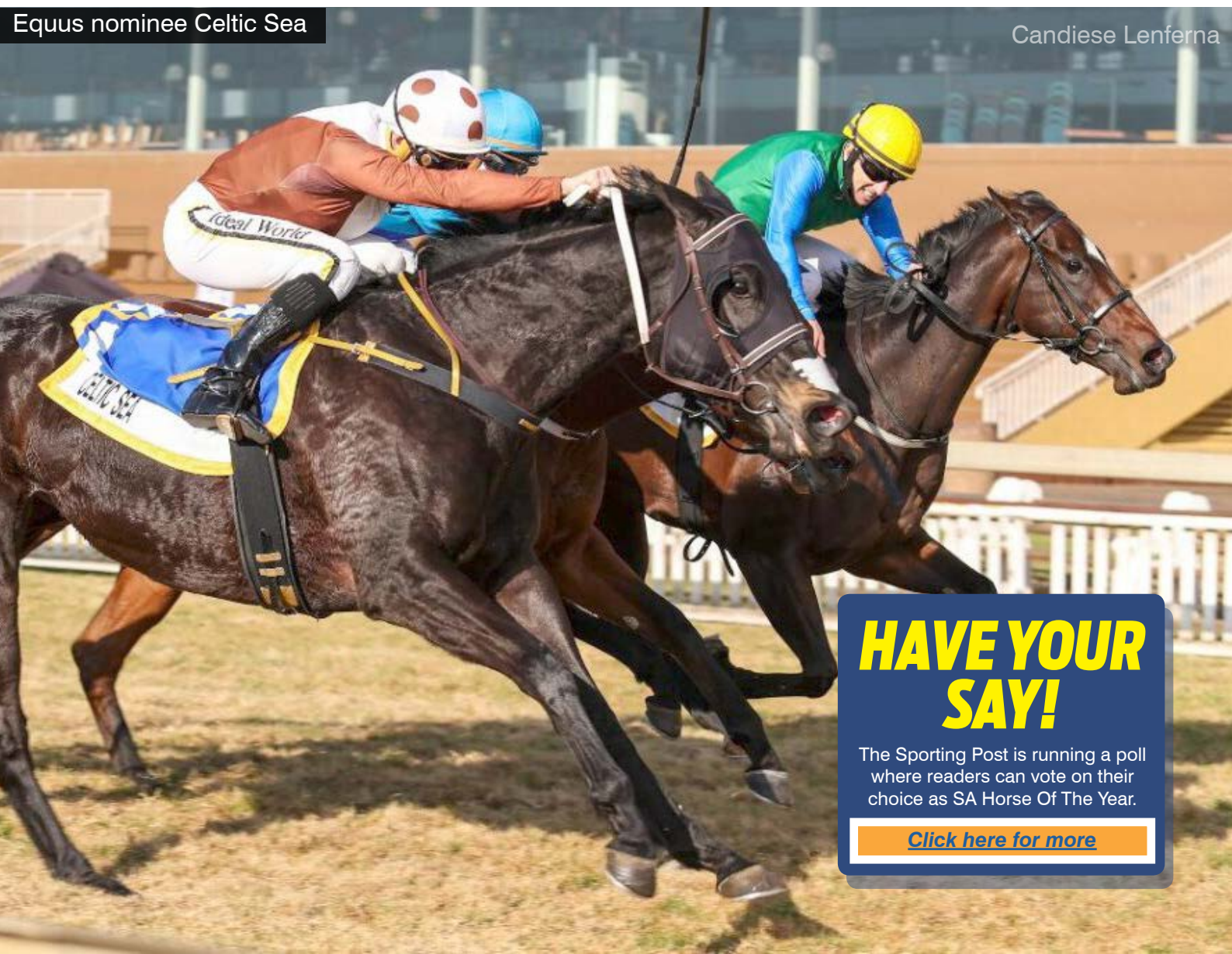
TBA will, in addition, be honouring the outstanding South African breeder

Individual Awards:

- Champion Apprentice
- Champion Jockey
- Champion Trainer
- Champion Owner 

Equus nominee Celtic Sea

Candiese Lenferna



HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Sporting Post is running a poll where readers can vote on their choice as SA Horse Of The Year.

[Click here for more](#)



STAYERS TOLD TO GO

The decision by the Equus panel to drop the Champion Stayers award for the past season is another body blow to the head of the poor cousin of the SA racing ranks, the longhaulers.

Earlier this century, the stayers award was split between the sexes, but we cannot recall a time when a category was summararily dropped just because it was felt that there was no outright deserving winner. That's a cop out.

By implication, the decision then surely suggests that every other category clearly displays an 'outright deserving winner'? We all know the answer to that.

It goes without saying that while some years are naturally more vintage than others, this has been a topsy turvy season to beat all others and even if the traditional unofficial stayers triple crown of the Gold Bowl, the

Gold Vase and the Gold Cup was won by three different horses, surely the panel could have found a standout in the collective of the 25 odd staying features within the period under review?

There is only one staying Gr1 on the programme – the SA Derby, and that is restricted to 3yo's.

It was won by longshot Out Of Your League who beat stakes winner Shango and subsequent Durban July runner-up, and a horse fancied by many to be crowned SA Horse Of The Year, Got The Greenlight.

Then the Gold Cup is another good starting point to find more nominees.

Our 21st century history shows that 45% of Gold Cup winners go on to become Champion Stayer.

The centennial running was won

by Noble Tune's son Paths Of Victory with an heroic front-running performance.

Surely that deserved at the very least, a nomination to the stayers category?

His owner Mario Ferreira is one of our biggest patrons. Be lovely to hear what he said when his Racing Manager Des Gonsalves told him that Paths Of Victory is not even an Equus nominee.

Because the category has been dumped.

The Gr2 Cape Summer Stayers on Met day was won by Oratorio's tough as teak daughter Snapscan. She deserved a nomination. There are no cheques being dished out, but the acknowledgement makes a difference to the breeders and the owners, for a start. 🐾



Taubin Grove

JUST CHILLING

Leading owner Mario Ferreira's recent WSB Gold Cup winner Paths Of Victory is seen enjoying his well-deserved break at a farm near Summerveld under the caring eye of Bonga

Ngozi. The end-to-end winner of South Africa's premier staying race sadly won't enjoy the honour of seeing his name on the Equus Awards nomination lists as the powers-that-be have

scrapped the category. But there is nothing that motivates a fighter like a kick of sand in the face. So watch this space! 🐎



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Gr1 Daily News 2000 winner & Vodacom Durban July runner-up
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Miss Florida (Luke Ferraris) is led in by Justin Snaith and Nic Jonsson after her Gr1 victory

Candiese Lenferna



MISS FLORIDA TO RIDGEMONT HIGHLANDS

Miss Florida on the farm



The beautifully-bred 2019 Gr1 Allan Robertson Championship winner and Cape Champion Juvenile filly of her year, Miss Florida has joined the powerful Ridgemont Highlands broodmare band and will visit the top farm's multiple Gr1 winner Canford Cliffs this season.

Raced by leading owner Nic Jonsson under the Snaith Racing banner, Miss Florida's acquisition by the Ridgemont Highlands team will further bolster the champion nursery's elite broodmare band, and the daughter of champion sire Captain Al joins an illustrious list of ladies to visit the international stakes producing Canford Cliffs, whose highly anticipated first SA-bred yearlings will go through the ring in 2021.

An extraordinarily talented winner of five Gr1 races in a row, Canford Cliffs'

progeny have already earned over \$22 million in stakes.

Miss Florida became the 20th Gr1 winner sired by deceased multiple champion Captain Al (Al Mufti) when she maintained her unbeaten status to clinch the spoils in a rousing finish to the prestigious 2019 Gr1 Alan Robertson Championship during the SA Champions Season on the East Coast.

Her dual SA champion trainer Justin Snaith told the Sporting Post on Wednesday that Miss Florida had shown 'huge potential' early on in her career.

"As it has proven in the case of many exciting young fillies, the merit rating penalty that she was lumbered with when winning that Gr1 early on at Hollywoodbets Scottsville put her on the back foot. But she always ran her heart

out giving weight away in a variety of features against the best.

She has the blood and the character, and brings that time proven Captain Al x Trippi cross to the table. I have no doubt that if she imparts half her heart to her offspring, then the Ridgemont Highlands team have some exciting times to look forward to. We will be following her progress with interest and we wish them well. She is genuine class," added Snaith.

Miss Florida is the first foal of the five time winning, and stakes placed Trippi mare, Diva's Daughter. Miss Florida's fourth dam, Lover's Rose, also ranks as the fourth dam of outstanding racemare Atlantic Jewel, a winner of 10 of only 11 starts, and also Gr1 MRC Thousand Guineas winner Commanding Jewel.

Sabina's Dynasty first foal by Canford Cliffs - exceptional!



"As an established stakes winner producing sire in both hemispheres, Canford Cliffs is getting the quality of mare support in South Africa that befits his status and he stamps his progeny with athleticism and quality. We have been extremely progressive as a farm at improving our broodmare band and the acquisition of Miss Florida among others shows the intent we have at breeding the best with the best. A Gr1 winning Captain AI mare is gold dust for any farm in this country and she will visit Canford Cliffs this season," said

Ridgmont Highlands' Craig Kieswetter.

He confirmed that they have been very active in supporting Canford Cliffs with black type mares since his arrival in South Africa and this season was no different.

"Just some of the big names include Front And Centre (Gr1 Cape Fillies Guineas winner), Nastergal (Gr3 Kenilworth Champagne Stakes winner), Dancer's Daughter (multiple Gr1 winner and Champion Older Female

2008-2009), Takingthepeace (Gr1 South African Fillies Classic winner), Sabina's Dynasty (Gr2 Gerald Rosenberg Stakes winner), and Crimson Blossom (Gr3 Kenilworth Final Fling Stakes winner plus the mother of Dynasty's Blossom) will visit Canford Cliffs this season, along with forty other black type mares. We are very excited with the progeny he is throwing and we will continue to support him with high-class blood and thank breeders for their support," added Craig Kieswetter. 🐎



FIZZ EARN'S HER 100

Multiple Champion Trainer Mike de Kock spared no daggers in his disdain for the NHRA handicappers after his smart Soft Falling Rain filly Gin Fizz held on to win the non black-type R80 000 The Lady's Stakes on the Turffontein inside track on Saturday.

The 4yo was given a confident and uncomplicated ride over the 1200m from the front by Ridgemont-Highlands jockey Callan Murray, who kept his mount going to thwart a determined challenge from Gavin Lerena on Dancing Queen.

While De Kock, who saddled three winners to that point, thought Callan Murray rode a good race, he was emphatic that Gin Vizz (highest lifetime MR 110) who runs off a 98, had been badly treated.

"She is another example of a victim of the handicappers being overzealous. She was given a 9 pound penalty for being beaten last season and she has taken nine runs to catch up. The trainers are left to answer to the owners every time.

The handicappers have no idea of the pressure they are putting us under. Thank goodness Mary Slack is a patient owner,"

said De Kock, who added that his charge would no doubt be stopped in her tracks again by the NHRA suits.

Gin Fizz was bred by Wilgerbosdrift/Mauritzfontein, and is a daughter of the late National Assembly stallion Soft Falling Rain out of the graded stakes winner Espumanti.

She has won 3 races with 8 places from 15 starts for stakes of R416 375.

The handicapper gave Gin Fizz a rating of 100. 🐎

BRAVE TIN SOLDIER (USA)

Storm Cat - Bless by Mr Prospector

New owner The Fort Stud



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Notable Progeny

RABADA

Won Gr1 Daily News 2000, Gr1 Premier Champions S, Gatecrasher S (L), 2nd Gr2 SA Guineas, (sire)

BRAVE MARY

Won Gr1 Allan Robertson Fillies (exported to France)

RUNNING BRAVE

Won Gold Bracelet Gr2, 2nd Three Troikas Stakes Gr3, 2nd Gauteng Fillies Guineas Gr2, 2nd Empress Club Stakes Gr1, KZN Breeders Mile (NBT)

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Bradley Ralph



***CAPE OPERATOR'S NEW
CHAIRMAN***

The racing communication attitude machine needs a radical upgrade if we are going to get through the next five years. When a racing operator proudly allocates the new Chairman's parking bay but simply fails to say a word to stakeholders or Joe Public for weeks on end about the new man, then something is very wrong.

A few weeks ago, the remaining half of the Kenilworth Racing Chairmen duo, Mr Mark Currie resigned - or whatever Chairmen do.

It's a small factual thing, with big implications. Interesting, but then no news anywhere.

One gets a sense of deja vu – like when the first half of the Kenilworth Chair, Mr Robert Bloomberg, also resigned, and he had to practically pen his own 'goodbye and thanks for coming' press release.

The new man at the helm is Bradley Ralph,

Having served on the Racing Trust and the Council of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of South Africa, the new KR Chairman is well known in racing and breeding circles.

He is Standard Bank's Head of Retail Banking Enablement and is a seasoned banker having been in Retail Banking for 20 years.

Mr Ralph may be somewhat puzzled by an extreme lack of acknowledgement – bar the allocation of his parking bay – for a rather prestigious post to anyone who is in racing. How many Chairmen of racing clubs can there be after all?

Is this the way for an entity to behave that inspires trust – or is this the normal, cavalier and non accountable behaviour we should just call 'the racing way'?

How can there be a changing of leader-

ship at this level, with no apparent concern for those being led? How is this a secret? Is there anyone at the top who doesn't know, and is there anyone at the bottom that anyone has bothered to tell. It speaks volumes, and not any of it good.

It doesn't seem right to treat all the people who have invested their money, interest, passion and time into a sport that is teetering as if they know nothing and that the 'board rooms' know it all.

Hindsight shows clearly that a lack of accountability and communication is a fail for us.

We welcome Mr Ralph and hope that he can engineer a change of mindset from the shoddy 'racing way' – and inspires the transparency and passion that is so desperately needed. 🐎



CANDIESE LENFERNA
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Future star - Vercingetorix x Bambina Stripes filly



STARS AND STRIPES!

The foaling season is well under way at the scenic Avontuur Estate on the R44 outside of Somerset West and General Manager Pippa Mickleburgh tells us that they will be planning their ever popular 'Mares & Foals Walk' soon.

Just follow @AvontuurEstate on their social media platforms for news of upcoming events.

The exciting addition of Talk Of The Town (Var) to their time-proven stallion roster of Var and Oratorio, has meant that the covering season got off to a flyer on 1 September.

Pippa also sent us this pic of a beautiful filly born at Avontuur on 22 August to their Gr1 winning Argentinian-bred daughter of Equal Stripes, Bambina Stripes. The chestnut is by Maine Chance's exciting Silvano sire Vercingetorix, leading freshman sire in SA in 2019 and an international winning Equus Champion.



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J C Photos

Plenty Of Merit

The Mike and Adam Azzies-trained Bohica has had his rating raised from 105 to 109 after he overcame a wide draw and being carried wide on the turn to win the Listed Spring Spree Stakes over 1200m on the Turffontein inside track on Saturday. The NHRA Handicappers felt that 3rd placed Rebel's Champ was the best line horse to use and accordingly his rating remains unchanged on 118.



Winter Five

Drakenstein stallion What A Winter, who sired a trio of Gr1 winners last season, enjoyed another fine weekend when the triple Equus Champion produced five individual winners. South Africa's Leading First Season Sire Of 2016-2017, What A Winter could also be set for Equus Awards success on Sunday, with his daughter Clouds Unfold nominated for the Champion Older Filly/Mare Award, and sons Russet Air and Warrior's Rest both nominated for the Champion Sprinter award.



Chase Liebenberg

Purrrring!

Greg Cheyne was clearly impressed with his sponsors Ridgemont Highlands' home-bred Kitty Kat Chat, who won easily on debut at Durbanville on Tuesday. Trained by Brett Crawford, Kitty Kat Chat ran out an easy winner of the 1250m fillies and mares maiden. She was foaled in Australia and is the first born of New Zealand bred Singapore stakes-winner Whats New Pussycat, a half-sister by Fast 'n' Famous to stakes-winner Seaway. Whats New Pussycat was exported to Ireland last year along with her second foal, a filly by Maurice (Jpn). Kitty Kat Chat is the first winner in South Africa for Vinery Stud's young sire Press Statement, who stands this spring at a fee of A\$13,750.



Aussies Review Crop

Racing Victoria has announced that it is seeking national action on whip reform in Australian racing prior to the end of 2020. They are of the view that a new framework is required to transition the industry to an ultimate prohibition on the use of the whip for purposes other than to protect the safety of horses and jockeys. The current Australian Rules of Racing permit the use of the whip a maximum of five times in non-consecutive strides prior to the 100m mark, and at the rider's discretion in the final 100m of a race where its use in consecutive strides is permitted.



Two Different Worlds

Separated by about 12 hours in time, and 12958km in distance, both Churchill Downs racecourse in Louisville and Sha Tin racecourse in Hong Kong had significant reasons to celebrate over the weekend. The Kentucky Derby meeting, like the Melbourne Cup in Australia – a sure-fire big betting day – saw gambling turnover plummet by half. The 49.8% drop for ‘all-sources wagering’, according to bloodhorse.com, amounted to \$126 million vs \$252 million for last year’s race meeting, and was the lowest figure since 2002. The main race itself dropped 52%, and followed similarly lack-lustre turnover for Kentucky Oaks Day, 24-hours earlier. Meanwhile, in Hong Kong, scmp.com reports that punters smashed the season’s opening day turnover record by spending HK\$1.376 billion on the meeting for an almost 7% increase over the previous record.

Princess Perfect

The Sorrento Stud based Louis The King looks to have come up with another promising winner in his first crop in the form of Louis Gem. The latter, his first-born filly, made a winning debut at Turffontein last Thursday afternoon, when scoring for trainer Mike de Kock and owner-breeder LTK Racing & Breeding. Out of the Fort Wood mare Hope Downs, Louis Gem is the second winner for Louis The King, following Somerset 1200 runner up Matthew The King. Louis The King won the South African Triple Crown at three and the Gr1 Summer Cup the following year.



J C Photos

TRUE BLUE!

HEAVENLY BLUE (Aus)

Gr1 winning son of Snitzel
ex El Prado mare, Simply Carina

Fee – R8000 live foal



PRINCESS PERFECT

Sograta

EPAULETTE - ELZEEZA (HUSSONET) 2015



PHOTO: CHASE HEBENBERGER

First season
at stud in 2020
FEE: R20.000 live foal

Champion 2yo

in a career of 3 Seasons of Excellence

Tough - 15 of 18 lifetime starts in Black type races

TRIPLE Gr1 winner

Sire - EPAULETTE

- multiple Gr1 winner, grandson of DANEHILL
- half brother to Gr1 winner & Gr1 producing sire HELMET
- dam by SINGSPIEL, grandam by MILL REEF, out of German Champion 2yo & 3yo ANNA PAOLA

Dam - winning mare from female line of French Champion Sire & sire-of-sires LINAMIX

WON Gr1 Cape Guineas

beating One World, Twist Of Fate

As 3yo ran head 2nd

in Gr1 Queen's Plate (WFA)

to Horse of the Year Do It Again

beating 3rd Rainbow Bridge by 3 l

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James Armitage | M: 072 680 3549 | E: james@sandownstud.co.za



WELCOME TO
CAPETOWN!

The Scribantes of Piemonte Stud will be smiling following Bohica's sterling victory in last weekend's Listed Spring Spree Stakes at Turffontein, after all, the gelding is a timely first stakes winner for their new stallion acquisition Capetown Noir.

The Azzie-trained four-year-old, who claimed the notable scalp of multiple Gr3 winner Mr Flood in his previous outing, underlined his ability and overcame a wide draw to register a hat-trick of wins while scoring in the fashion of a horse capable of going on to bigger and better things.

Bred at Summerhill Stud, he hails from his sire's first crop and is out of unraced Wysiwyg, a Mullins Bay half-sister to the stakes winning Kahal mare Mannequin.

Significantly, Capetown Noir has now joined What A Winter, Argonaut and Warm White as a stakes-producing son of Western Winter. The country's champion juvenile sire with his first crop, the late Lammerskraal powerhouse carried all before him early in the new millennium and was the country's leading sire on three occasions. His death in 2013 was a sad loss, not just to the country's stallion ranks but to Lammerskraal as well.

From the farm's famed broodmare

band, the son of Gone West sired Horse of the Year Yard-Arm, champion Ice Cube, as well as the Gr1 winners Surveyor, Set Afire, Fair Maiden, Solo Traveller, Red Ray, Redberry Lane and of course Capetown Noir.

Foaled in 2009 and a virtual ringer for his sire, the dark bay is out of homebred Broodmare of the Year Akinfeet. Twice a winner in Dubai and third in the UAE 1000 Guineas, the daughter of Fort Wood scored once more at home before returning to the Lammerskraal paddocks and by the time she dropped Capetown Noir, had already produced four foals to Western Winter, including Across The Ice, who became a Gr2-placed Gr3 winner of 11 races and the filly Maxixe, who would join her dam at Lammerskraal as a stakes-placed winner of five.

Purchased for R1-million at the National Yearling Sale by Lady Laidlaw, Capetown Noir joined the stable of Dean Kannemeyer stable in whose capable hands he scored eight times from 1200m to 2000m.

At his brilliant best over a mile, a blend of class and durability saw him complete the Cape Guineas/Derby/Queen's Plate treble, while only the bob of a head stood between him and victory in all of the Gr1 HF Oppenheimer Horse Chestnut, Gr1 Daily News 2000 and Gr2 KRA Guineas.

His comprehensive defeat of

Jackson in the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate no doubt clinched him the title of Champion Miler, and deservedly so. Kannemeyer rated him as "the best miler I have trained, a magnificent mover with character and a terrific temperament."

Capetown Noir's retirement to Summerhill Stud in 2015 was more than fitting, as his grandam, the Gr1 Cape Fillies Guineas winner Dance Every Dance, is a daughter of the mighty Northern Guest, who was the cornerstone of the stud's rise to fame.

Capetown Noir struck with his very first runner when the filly Brandina scored on debut. She also became her sire's first stakes performer, going down by a neck in the East Cape Fillies Nursery after running third in the Summer Juvenile Stakes at Kenilworth.

Capetown Noir's more than respectable seven first-crop juvenile winners also included Scarborough Fair, the first filly home when runner-up in the Listed Champion Juvenile Cup.

With the changing of the guard at Summerhill, Capetown Noir has relocated to Bush Hill Stud, where he will stand under the Piemonte banner and as a blue-blooded champion, offers KZN breeders access to a stallion who ticked all the boxes. 🐎



Champion Capetown Noir in action



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Golden Sword, Global View, Great Britain,
Greys Inn, Ideal World, Jackson, Louis The King,
Legislate, Master Of My Fate, Rafeef, Pathfork,
Smart Missile, Soft Falling Rain, The Apache,
The United States, Trippi, Twice Over, Vercingetorix,
Wylie Hall, What A Winter.*

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MJ ODENDAAL SIGNS ONTO TRAINER SPONSORSHIP WITH HOLLYWOODBETS

Former champion jockey and current trainer, MJ Odendaal, has signed on as an official Hollywoodbets sponsored trainer. Odendaal's career in horse racing started as a jockey, and after some 33 years, he was forced to hang up the reins due to injuries. With horses as his passion, he decided to continue his career in the industry by becoming a trainer.

"I am very proud to come on board with the Hollywoodbets team! The company has grown immensely, and they are doing amazing and wonderful things for the horse racing industry. I got my trainer's licence in February 2019, but only started training in April that year. At first it was Uncle Braam, three horses and myself. Our stable has now grown to accommodate 45 horses, of which 20 are unraced but we will be introducing them to the track from this month. We now have a team of 25 people, and there is a great spirit among us. My grooms are extremely special to me, while Uncle Braam is the cornerstone of our stable with his extensive wisdom and experience," Odendaal explained.



During his time as a jockey, Odendaal broke 19 bones resulting in him having to undergo 24 operations. "I had many doctors telling me that I wouldn't be able to race again but I always powered through. Unfortunately, it is now physically impossible for me to ride a race. As a

jockey, you endure a very high pain threshold because of how many times you fall, but with sheer motivation, integrity and courage, a jockey always manages to push through! I am extremely grateful that I can continue my work in the industry as a trainer," he explained.

Brand and Communications Manager for Hollywoodbets, Devin Heffer, explained how excited the company is to have Odendaal on as a Hollywoodbets sponsored trainer. "Earlier on in the year, we welcomed former multiple champion jockey, Anthony Delpuch into our team as a brand ambassador. We are now super excited to be extending our trainer sponsorship to include MJ. We are thrilled to have this charismatic character in our 'stable' and we look forward to supporting his new career," said Heffer.



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SAREL CELEBRATES **KZN ICEBREAKER**



Candiese Lenferna

Summerveld-based Sarel von Willingh Smit became the latest Kimberley expat to win in a major centre when Countess Helen delivered a knockout blow at Sunday's Hollywoodbets Scottsville meeting.

The daughter of Count Dubois, a Klawervlei Farm Sale graduate racing in the silks of longstanding owner Paul Barrett and the trainer, was having just her third start when winning the third race at 45-1 under Luke Ferraris.

Speaking to the Sporting Post on Sunday evening the 76 year old conditioner, a former apprentice to Stanley Gorton and Syd Laird, said that he was thrilled with the win but under no illusions about the uphill task that Northern Cape trainers faced in the big regions.

Former Flamingo Parkers Cliffie Miller, Tienie Prinsloo and Zietsman Oosthuizen are already off the mark, after the much loved

centre closed down in Kimberley at the end of last term.

"I have eleven horses. Sadly most are KZN 'rejects'. So they didn't make it here in the first place, but I have to win races with them now that we are back here," he said soberly.

He tells that his winning co-owner Paul Barrett is also 'not getting any younger' and cutting down. "He is not expanding his racing interests. His grandson is with Mike Stewart in the Cape. I'm sure Paul will support him. I would do the same."

Sarel says that he himself is not a trainer – he is 'a conditioner'.

"I don't train my horses – I look after them and prepare them with care to try and win races."

He says he operates by a simple principle that Stanley Gorton preached – "you don't win your races on the training track."

Sarel mentions names like the late Peter Miller and Johan Myburgh when he reflects back on a 64 year career amongst horses punctuated by great memories.

"In 1984 I trained for six months. Two of my horses won five in a row. I can do it with the right horses. Snaith, Tarry, De Kock and the rest of the big guys – give me their horses and they can train mine. Let's see who is in the winner's box then," he laughs.

Sarel says he feels there is 'too much blowing smoke' in racing. There are also double standards that get his goat.

"I'm not a snake. I don't speak with two tongues. If I think you're an idiot, I will tell you. We need to be more real. I appreciate the call. I sincerely hope that racing prospers going ahead," he concludes. 🐾

Luke Ferraris guides Countess Helen to victory





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***DREAMING
BIG - IT'S THE
ONLY WAY!***

Despite the prevailing climate of dire uncertainty, Gr1 winning veteran Joey Soma has never stopped dreaming big – even at the age of 61. While nothing is cast in stone, he has his sights set on a possible tilt at the HK\$ 25 Million FWD Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Sha Tin on 25 April 2021 with his smashing colt and SA Horse Of The Year candidate, Got The Greenlight.

Diplomacy has never really been Joey Soma's middle name.

But talking to the Turffontein trainer, one gets a genuine sense of dyed in the wool racing wisdom and mel-low maturity, that only comes with decades of hard earned voyager miles in what has to be one of the toughest games on earth.

Joey owns last season's rising star Got The Greenlight in a partnership with Dayalan Chinsammy and Hassen Adams. He concedes that the Nadeson Park bred CTS

April Yearling Sale bargain buy, with whom he won two Gr1's last term, has been something of a lifechanger in recent times.

"Shew, this horse has been good to us. He is a star – loaded with ability and he has the heart of a lion. One only had to look at him and subsequent winner Belgarion in the Vodacom Durban July parade ring.

The Snaith horse looked like a top-flight rugby international. Our boy was the Currie Cup B-section player. A year makes a helluva physical – and mental - difference in the life of a racehorse. Belgarion has a year on us. He came in as the right horse on the day. We didn't go down without a fight. There was less than a length in it at the end."

Joey sent his flagbearer into Sue and Jodi Peters' care at Precentor Place after the July. The horsey paradise is situated in the heart of Drummond and has offered a professional service since opening their gates 35

years ago.

"Got The Greenlight deserved the break. And he looks terrific since his return to home base ten days ago. His condition is a testimony to the dedication and outstanding care during his well deserved vacation with the Peters. It is support services like theirs that make us trainers look good! The regular photo's and updates – they are simply professional and caring people who love what they are doing. I cannot thank them enough and Got The Greenlight is back in light work and loving life."

Got The Greenlight was crowned the 2018/19 Equus SA Champion colt, amidst a mild outcry in certain quarters on behalf of the more high-profile Eden Roc. History has shown that the panel may just have got that call right.

The delayed Equus Awards under lockdown is just over a week away. While there are a host of



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Bernard Fayd'herbe with Joey after the Daily News 2000



Candiese Lenferna

candidates or pretenders to the SA Horse Of The Year title, we asked Joey how he felt about his charge's chances of lifting the prestigious title.

"I have said that racing is a sport and the wheel turns. You have your good days and bad days – good calls and bad calls. We all have our moment in the sun. I have my own thoughts, partisan or not, and will accept whichever way the panel votes.

I am not going to sling off – it's not going to change the fact that we are privileged to own a world-class horse that, excitingly, can only improve to even greater heights into his 4yo season." And the R54 million Hong Kong dream?

"That's a lot of money in any man's language and the trip to the East for the QE2 Cup would be a career first prize right now for me personally and a just reward for my staunch co-owners. But we would need some urgent progress on the export protocols front. I take my hat off to Mike de Kock and his clients who set off again recently to endure the onerous quarantine restrictions.

We have neither the patience nor the money to subject ourselves to

that and we simply cannot afford to waste a really smart horse's career in transit," he added.

Joey says that he has spoken to SAEHP's Adrian Todd, who remains hopeful of progress on the EU audit.

"The industry desperately needs tangible re-assurance and direction more than ever right now. And we need to focus on using our resources effectively and in the right direction. Maybe it's time to draw a line in the sand and reconsider using the cash for stakes rather than chasing what could be an unattainable goal?"

While he is very positive about MOD gaining the ascendancy in the Phumelela Business Rescue race, the veteran feels that industry leadership urgently needs to talk to the folk on the ground, and, where possible, provide a road map of sorts.

He points out that in the reduced stakes climate, that very item – stakes – is the only aspect that has actually been reduced.

"Rent, wages, feed, nominations and declarations – the costs never stop for the trainer and the owner. Time is not on anybody's side."

He also hopes that some direction will be given with regards to feature race programmes ahead.


"As a personal example, I would normally plan my race programmes some time in advance. But right now everything is pretty fluid. We are waiting to see what happens in the Cape season and what the level of stakes are going to be for their Summer Season feature races. In today's high cost climate, it can set owners and trainers back a small fortune to travel across the country from Gauteng to the Cape and set up a satellite base there. I'd like to target the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate and the Met if we do head that way.

Then if Hong Kong doesn't unravel as we would like it too, I'd go for the Horse Chestnut, the Premiers Champions Challenge and then try and complete some unfinished Vodacom Durban July business!"

A racing man to the tips of his shoes, Joey Soma stresses that he is not being negative or critical of anybody.

"The situation is what it is. We can blame, point fingers and fight, while dilly dallying all day on what should have been – what could have been. We have MOD at the wheel and like many people, I don't know or pretend to understand what the processes entail as to resolving issues of business and organisational structure and getting life back to something remotely near normal. But time frames are key!

The pressure on owners and trainers today is greater than I can ever recall. Many are just operating on raw passion right now. It's more difficult than ever making any kind of a money case for horse ownership. But we love our horses.

We love racing. It will take quite a bit more to get rid of some of us yet. Let's just make this work!" 



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Race 6 - Vuyani Gwalase - QUEEN'S PLAIN



Race 7 - Sifiso Jojo - WINTER CHILL



Race 8 - Siphatho Masizana - BACKPACKER



Race 9 - Asafika Gwaxa - BLUE WINTER

HOLLYWOODBETS GREYVILLE – MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020



Race 1 - Nkoosxolo Nunu - MAGICALLEE



Race 2 - Phumzile Mpuma - THE SNOW WAR



Race 3 - Amos Pikini - ULTERIOR MOTIVE



Race 4 - Sandile Jack - MS ROSA PARKS



Race 5 - Luvanda Mantifza - TO THE MAX



Race 6 - Sandile Mkhondwana - GALWAY



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1 TO FOLLOW

Looking beyond the obvious in a race is a knack. Sometimes we see things that suggest a particular horse may be worth including in the next few runs. Our team of expert analysts have pencilled these in as blackbookers – or potential horses to follow.

QUEEN NIYABAH Glen Kotzen

Showed good speed and challenged all the way to the line on debut over 1200m at Kenilworth on 30 August. Looks to have ability and is worth following next time.

RUN APRIL RUN Gary Alexander

She was very green on debut over 1200m on the Turffontein Inside course on 20 August. She produced a powerful finish that day and should go close to winning why stepping up in distance.

SYMBOLISE Gavin Smith

Finished 6.2 lengths behind the winner on debut over 1200m on the Fairview polytrack on 28 August. She lost two lengths at the start and made up some decent ground up the straight. She is definitely looking for further and could be at a decent price next time.

TEVYE John Nel

Caught the eye with a powerful late finish over the minimum trip on the polytrack at Fairview on 28 August. She would have come on from the run and when stepping up in distance, should find the winner's enclosure.

Follow the 1 To Follow on www.sportingpost.co.za updated every week!

FOALS

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Tiz The Law & Authentic go head to head



ABSOLUTELY AUTHENTIC

When Authentic held off favourite Tiz The Law (Constitution) to win Saturday's Gr1 Kentucky Derby, he became the first Kentucky Derby winner for his sire Into Mischief. A son of beaten Kentucky Derby favourite Harlan's Holiday, Into Mischief has enjoyed a meteoric rise

to sire stardom, with the Gr1 Cash Call Futurity winner having started his stud career at a fee of \$12 500.

His subsequent success can be gauged by the fact that Into Mischief, North America's Champion Sire and Leading Sire of 2YOs in 2019, now stands for a

stud fee of \$175 000.

Into Mischief, a half-brother to multiple champion Beholder (Henny Hughes) and Gr1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf hero Mendelssohn (Scat Daddy) went close to enjoying a notable Derby/Oaks double with his multiple Gr1 winning

Gamine finishing third in Friday's Gr1 Kentucky Oaks.

The bay, who ran first or second in each of his six starts, is currently responsible for more than 70 stakes winners with Into Mischief's seven G1 winners also including the Breeders' Cup winning champion Covfefe and dual Gr1 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile winner Goldencents.

The latter has made a pleasing start to his stud career, with Goldencents currently responsible for 19 black type horses headed by Friday's Gr2 Alysheba Stakes winner By My Standards (the latter has four graded wins to his name and was runner up in the Gr1 Whitney Stakes earlier this year). Into Mischief's fourth dam Last Bird (Sea-Bird) also ranks as the fourth dam of 2012 Kentucky Derby winner I'll Have Another (Flower Alley).

Authentic, now a winner of five of six starts, including the G1 Haskell Stakes, was one of three graded stakes winners for Into Mischief on Saturday,

with the sire also responsible for Saturday's Gr2 Prioress Stakes winner Frank's Rockette, and Gr3 Smile Sprint Stakes winner Cool Arrow. Another Into Mischief filly, Center Aisle, ran third in the Prioress.

Authentic, inbred to the 1973 Kentucky Derby winner Secretariat, is the second Storm Cat male line descendant in the past three years to have won the Kentucky Derby, with Justify (Scat Daddy) having captured the Derby in 2018 before he went on to capture the Triple Crown.

Remarkably, multiple champion sire Storm Cat appears in the pedigree of four of the first five home in the 2020 Kentucky Derby. Third home, Mr. Big News, is a son of Storm Cat's greatest son Giant's Causeway, while fourth, Honor A.P., and fifth, Max Player, home were both sired by Honor Code (a half-brother to Cape sire Noble Tune) -who was produced by the Storm Cat mare Serena's Cat.

The Storm Cat male line also made its mark on Friday's Kentucky Oaks, with the victorious Shedaresthedevil

(Daredevil)'s granddam a daughter of Storm Cat's Gr1 winning son Forestry, runner up Swiss Skydiver out of a daughter of Storm Cat's grandson Johannesburg, and third place finisher being the aforementioned Gamine. 🐎

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The #Jerusalema craze is sweeping South Africa. Here is the SA Jockey Academy team's contribution.

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STATS

NHRA LOG LEADERS

updated 07.09.2020

TRAINERS

Name	Runs	Wins	Win%	2nd	3rd	Other	Places	Place %	Win Stake (R)	Total Stakes (R)
Mr P A Peter	115	16	13.9	9	11	11	31	27	585,600	826,950
Mr S J Snaith	132	18	13.6	12	14	12	38	28.8	543,150	822,900
Mr P F Matchett	102	11	10.8	10	10	11	31	30.4	453,750	761,150
Mr St John D Gray	88	10	11.4	12	7	8	27	30.7	379,200	637,200
Mr A C Greeff	101	16	15.8	13	16	11	40	39.6	366,000	595,250

JOCKEYS

Name	Runs	Wins	Win%	2nd	3rd	Other	Places	Place %	Win Stake (R)	Total Stakes (R)
Mr S Khumalo	76	17	22.4	10	9	8	27	35.5	879,400	1,182,800
Mr G van Niekerk	47	13	27.7	4	8	4	16	34	346,200	490,000
Mr G M Cheyne	74	13	17.6	8	10	10	28	37.8	297,600	454,100
Mr C Zackey	82	11	13.4	11	8	8	27	32.9	625,625	868,975
Mr L Hewitson	99	11	11.1	8	12	18	38	38.4	505,100	795,475

BREEDERS

Name	Runrs	Runs	AEPR	Wnrs	Wins	Wins/Rnrs %	Places	B.T. Wins	B.T. Wins	Total Stakes (R)
Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	128	174	11,903	25	25	19.5	59	1	1	1,523,575
Klawervlei Stud	191	277	6,602	23	23	12	79	1	1	1,260,900
Summerhill Stud (Pty) Ltd	121	185	8,317	17	18	14	35	2	2	1,006,300
Varsfontein Stud	54	73	17,486	11	11	20.4	25	3	3	944,250
Drakenstein Stud	66	82	10,15	13	13	19.7	32	0	0	669,875

(Nom: Mrs G A Rupert)

SIRES

Name	Runrs	Runs	AEPR	Wnrs	Wins	Wins/Rnrs %	Places	B.T. Wins	B.T. Wins	Total Stakes (R)
Master Of My Fate	93	120	9,661	12	13	12.9	36	1	1	898,475
Gimmethgreenlight (AUS)	79	105	10,945	14	14	17.7	42	1	1	864,675
Var (USA)	66	93	12,912	13	14	19.7	32	1	1	852,175
What A Winter	75	95	9,535	12	12	16	32	0	0	715,150
Oratorio (IRE)	73	98	9,529	5	5	6.8	36	1	1	695,600

See all the detailed standings - [Click here](#)



PREMIER LEAGUE OUT OF THE GATES

A new chapter in the Premier League book begins this weekend as the 2020/21 season gets underway. Liverpool defend the Premier League title for the first time after the Reds ended their 30-year wait to lift England's top-flight trophy.

Jesse Nagel writes that Jurgen Klopp's

men have a tricky test against Marcelo Bielsa's Leeds United in their opener, while Jose Mourinho and Carlo Ancelotti lock horns in what looks to be the most mouth-watering fixture of the bunch as Tottenham host Everton.

Elsewhere, Europa League hopefuls Sheffield United and Wolves battle it out

on Monday, the same time Chelsea visit Brighton. First up, though, Fulham and Arsenal kick-start proceedings in the first London derby of the new season.

Saturday 12 September

9/2 Fulham | Draw 3210 | Arsenal 11/20 (13:30)

Fulham have been welcomed back to the top flight with a stern test against Arsenal at Craven Cottage. The last time the Cottagers were in the Premier League, they were trounced 5-1 and 4-1 by the Gunners. Arsenal seem to have a spring in their step lately. Under Mikel Arteta, they've won the FA Cup and recently lifted the FA Community Shield, beating Liverpool on penalties. The Gunners seem to have a fully fit squad to start off the new campaign, while the likes of Willian and William Saliba could make their first competitive appearance for the club.

The Away Totals – Over 1.5 Goals looks the way to go at 6/10.

23/20 West Ham | 49/20 | Newcastle United 24/10 (16:00)

After a great push at the end from West Ham, David Moyes' men maintained their top-flight status and weren't sucked into any late drama regarding relegation. This time around, the Hammers will want to get their season off on a positive note. Newcastle have done great business ahead of the upcoming season. The Magpies are closing in on Callum Wilson and Ryan Fraser from Bournemouth, while Jamal Lewis could be on his way to Tyneside as well. With the natural improvement being made by both clubs, you get the feeling that they both could be safe this season. **As for this tie, my money is on Both Teams to Score at 15/20.**

19/10 Crystal Palace | 22/10 | Southampton 31/20 (16:00)

Known for their strong starts to the season, Crystal Palace get their campaign underway at Selhurst Park against one of the most exciting teams in the league, Southampton. The Eagles have kept hold of Wilfried Zaha, while they've also added highly-rated Eberechi Eze from Queens Park Rangers. Roy Hodgson's men are still short in defence with Patrick van Aanholt, Gary Cahill, James Tomkins and Mamadou Sakho all out.

Southampton were one of the best teams on the road last season, winning nine of their 19 trips. The tough test for Ralph Hasenhuttl this term will be to see how his charges perform without Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg in midfield after the 25-year-old Dane completed his move to Tottenham. **With this being the first game into the new season and players not yet at full match**

fitness, I expect these sides to cancel each other out.

3/10 Liverpool | 47/10 | Leeds United 17/2 (18:30)

The Premier League champions, Liverpool, give new boys on the block, Leeds United, a taste of what the top flight is all about when the two English giants do battle at Anfield on Saturday evening. Jurgen Klopp's men have the most impressive home record across all of Europe, last losing on their ground back in 2017. Leeds have made the necessary signings to challenge in the top half of the league, bringing in Spanish and German internationals, Rodrigo and Robin Koch. They also have one of the most respected coaches in football, Marcelo Bielsa. Sadly, though, as much as I see them giving Liverpool a scare, there's usually only one winner at Anfield. **Take the Reds to Win & Both Teams to Score at 31/20.**

Sunday 13 September

11/4 West Brom | 51/20 | Leicester City 1/1 (15:00)

Sunday's action kicks off with last season's surprise package, Leicester City, travelling to the Hawthorns to take on newly-promoted West Brom. The Foxes look a bit depleted for numbers at the moment, with the likes of Ricardo Pereira, Jonny Evans, Christian Fuchs and James Maddison all out. Leicester City will also have to do without Ben Chilwell after he made the move to the blue side of London to join up with Chelsea. West Brom have kept most of the squad that earned promotion with the club, while they also haven't been in a rush to spend big and unsettle their current players. **The Baggies on the Win/Draw Double Chance looks the way to go for me at 15/20.**

17/20 Tottenham | 26/10 | Everton 33/10 (17:30)

There'll be high hopes for Tottenham and Everton this season with both Jose Mourinho and Carlo Ancelotti given a fresh start from the beginning of the campaign. With Spurs completing deals for Hojbjerg and Matt Doherty from Southampton and Wolves, you get the feeling that we could see a new-look Tottenham under Mourinho this campaign. Everton have done some superb business so far, snapping up

Allan from Napoli, while the Toffees are also closing in on James Rodriguez and Abdoulaye Doucoure. Ancelotti's side is almost close to completion, while Spurs look to be a few weeks ahead of them. They also have a fully-fit squad to choose from. **My money is on Tottenham to Win or Draw & Both Teams to Score at 23/20.**

Monday 14 September

24/10 Sheffield United | 2/1 | Wolves 13/10 (21:00)

Monday night's showdown begins at Bramall Lane with Sheffield United and Wolves looking to continue from their emphatic display last season, where the pair finished ninth and seventh respectively. Consistency will be the name of the game for Sheffield as they can look to Wolves as inspiration after what Nuno Espirito Santo has done with the West Midlands side. It's usually a tight contest between these two sides whenever they meet, with more of the same expected in Monday night's encounter. **I'll back a draw at 2/1.**

39/10 Brighton | 3/1 | Chelsea 13/20 (21:00)

It promises to be a big season for Chelsea with high expectations put on the shoulders of Frank Lampard after the Blues spent over £200m during this transfer window. Unfortunately, not all of their big-money signings could feature on Monday with Chilwell and Hakim Ziyech unlikely to be given their debuts, while Thiago Silva is a doubt due to a lack of match fitness. Brighton have added some experience to their squad in the shape of Joel Veltman from Ajax and Adam Lallana from Liverpool, however, they lost one of their best players in Aaron Mooy as the Australian has opted to continue his playing career in China. **Without knowing what you going to get from Chelsea in their first game, Over 2.5 Goals looks more of a certainty than anything at 7/10.**

TREBLE @ 8/1

West Ham vs Newcastle BTTS 15/20
Liverpool Win & BTTS 31/20
Tottenham Win/Draw & BTTS 23/20





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