

Chrome

There will be plenty of interest added as 2014 USA Horse Of The Year California Chrome looks likely to run in a 2000m handicap at Meydan this coming Thursday. It will be his first start in Dubai this year and serve as his prep for the \$10 million Gr1 Dubai World Cup to be run on 26 March. – in which race California Chrome was runner up to Prince Bishop last year.



Tiger On Top

The Alchemy's resident sire Where's That Tiger got on the winners board in Singapore on Sunday when his son Singsurat picked up the Kranji Stakes. A four-year-old gelding, Singsurat was making it win number four, when running on strongly to land the 1800m contest at Kranji –and provided apprentice Mohd Firdaus with one leg of a hatrick.

STRAIGHT TALKER

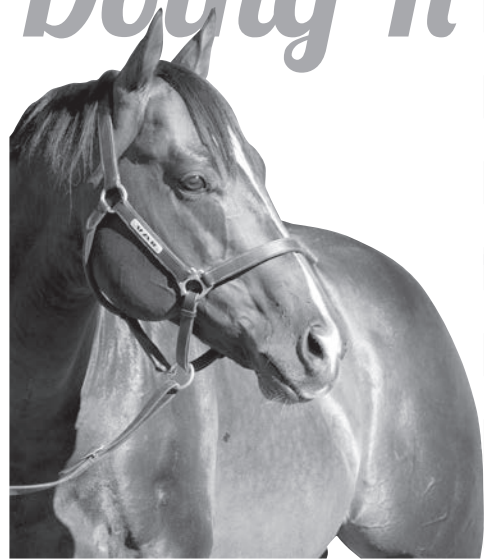
The Peter Gelagotis-trained Mourinho was allowed to run in the CF Orr Stakes despite being kicked behind the barriers before the Caulfield event but the post-race comments by racing manager Manny Gelagotis will see him appear before the stewards this week. "Integrity is about all facets of racing and the Mourinho scratching lacked integrity from all angles in our mind," he said. "I'm looking forward to getting to the hearing to hear what concerns the Stewards have with my commentary of the dissatisfaction of their roles on race day which led Mourinho to be allowed to run when kicked."

PRIME STAKES

A million pounds will be on offer this year for the QIPCO 1000 Guineas and QIPCO 2000 Guineas – the initial two legs in the QIPCO British Champions Series – will each be worth

£500,000. This represents a £50,000 (or 11 %) rise on last year's value for the QIPCO 2000 Guineas and a massive £90,000 (or 22 per %) increase for the QIPCO 1000 Guineas.

Boland Vars Doing It



A pair of Var daughters, both bred by the Boland Stud, caught the eye over the weekend.

Cup Cake won the Breeders Guineas Plate over 1400m at Fairview on Friday. The filly, who was a R350 000 buy at the 2014 National Yearling Sale, has now won or placed in all eight of her career outings.

Second of the Var/Boland Stud bred fillies to win was the speedy Miss Varlicious who scored her fifth win over 1200m at Greyville on Sunday. She is bred on the same cross as sprint star Via Africa.

A Brazillian Any Day!

In less than three years, Joao Moreira is already chasing his own extraordinary riding records in Hong Kong and now his countryman Silvestre de Sousa has delivered one of the more memorable short-term stints of recent times - a standard day at Sha Tin has quickly become Brazil versus the world. Is it some sort of special South American style or physical trait that makes them better suited to life in the saddle? In fact, both sum it up in one word – 'hunger'.



Extravagance

Star New Zealand colt Xtravagant is set to pass up the Sydney autumn carnival in favour of an historic assault on Royal Ascot in June. Sydney's loss will be the Royal meeting's gain as the outstanding 3yo would become the first New Zealand-trained horse to race at Royal Ascot since the world famous carnival started attracting horses from the southern hemisphere more than a decade ago.



Big Fish

Jockey Ian 'Fish' Sturgeon rode a career first-time four winners at the Vaal last Thursday and is hoping that this is the next step towards getting better rides – the key to riding more winners. He indicated that his riding has improved since his move to Gauteng and he is assisted by jockey agent Bradley McHardy. Sturgeon is lying in 12th place on the log with 51 winners.

IN THE WARS

It is good to hear that Mick Goss is out of hospital and back on his feet again after falling ill while away at the Asian Racing Conference. Dave Mollett has also been discharged after his knee replacement surgery, while another scribe in Andrew Harrison goes in for his knees on Wednesday. What is it about these racing journos and knees? Too much grovelling – or maybe it's the pub crawling...

Punters Not Chicken But Who is Bantam?

Should the racing operators not be introducing new name trainers and jockeys to the media, prior to the punting public opening a racecard and seeing the name? A few weeks ago trainer D Devos appeared and on Saturday we found a trainer S Naidoo in the first at Turffontein. Then there is this young apprentice Bantam – whose name is nowhere to be found on the list of race-riding appies on the SAJA website.

