



Does It Make Sense?

That jockeys Anton Marcus and JP van der Merwe only get issued warnings for failing to ride second placed Tracy's Legacy and fifth placed Thewaywemakem out to the end of their respective races at the Vaal last Tuesday...

- Jockey Marco Van Rensburg gets fined R1500 for having the cheek to salute in the adrenaline rush of a celebratory gesture before the post when WINNING easily on Bondiblu at Turffontein on the previous Saturday.

What contravention of the rules was the greater of the two evils - and where exactly was more damage done to the game's image - and to punters?

YET



Angry Owners

Milnerton trainer Paul Reeves is narked about the loss of the Durbanville Tuesday meeting.

"I am a small trainer with 30 horses and 19 of them are two-year-olds. My clients have paid training fees and they were expecting to race. I'm angry," he told Michael Clower.

VERY FAST

Despite references to 'sticky going' Muscatt broke the Scottsville 1000m course record on Sunday held by champion Captain Of All. Trained by Michael Roberts, he won the Pinnacle Stakes in a time of 55,8 secs, in the process breaking the previous record of 55,96 secs set up in March 2015. The 6yo Victory Moon gelding was ridden by apprentice Calvin Habib and carried a nett 54,5 kgs.

Wines & Winners

Two 8yo sons of Avontuur stallion Oratorio performed like spring chickens over the weekend and are aging like the fine wines on the magnificent estate where their illustrious Dad currently resides.

Mourinho ran third in the Gr2 St Charles at Caulfield on Saturday, while Military Attack ran a cracker to run close up third to Designs On Rome in the Gr1 HK Gold Cup on Sunday.



But Winona's A Rider...

Apprentice jockey Winona Costin has made allegations that she was thrown out of Randwick Racecourse on Saturday by security guards that believed she was under age and without a guardian. The 21-year-old attended the meeting with her two nieces, aged 18 and 14, and was on the sidelines due to a concussion she suffered in a fall at Canberra last Sunday.

Best Wishes Jarred

We hear that jockey Jarred Samuel is recuperating well after a horror accident at Greyville on 4 December 2015. He posted this note on his Facebook page on Monday: 'Thank god the doctor has said all is looking great. I just have to wait for my fractured spine to heal. So I am 'A ok' and will be ready to be back in action once the spine heals'.

FOR FLAG'S SAKE!

With the final race at Flamingo Park on Monday being declared null and void after a botched false start call, the attention has once again fallen on the simple idea of the employment of a flag man. If the jockeys cannot hear the signal due to wind conditions, then the present system simply doesn't work. This is not the first time - it won't be the last either.



Looking For Trouble?

Olympic Cycling champion Victoria Pendleton is a great advert for racing, says the owner of the horse she hopes to ride in the Foxhunter Chase at the Cheltenham Festival.

But the 35 year old has been criticised by some ex-jockeys, who feel she is putting herself in danger. She was unseated from favourite Pacha Du Polder at Fakenham on her National Hunt Rules debut. This was her second fall.

Pendleton only had her first riding lesson a year ago!

Bold & The Beautiful

Ascot Stud's Equus Champion young sire Bold Silvano became the first of the first crop sires to have a first winner and he has since become the first of the young sires to have his second first crop winner. His latest success came with the Mike de Kock trained colt Bold Rex making a smart winning debut at Scottsville on Sunday.

Bred by Ascot Stud, Bold Rex justified his even money favouritism by romping to victory by three and a half lengths.

Another Trainer Calls Time

The latest NHA racing calendar confirms that trainer Bradley Maroun has relinquished his licence.

This follows on the heels of Dominic Zaki's sudden move to throw in the towel in December. We left messages for Maroun to attempt to ascertain his reasons, but these were not returned.

