

# 20 No Laughing Matter!

Joey Ramsden's fun and games at the Vodacom Durban July draw on Tuesday saw Gold Circle Marketing Executive Graeme Hawkins warning him that the Stipes were present. The charismatic JR suffers no fools and loves some fun. After drawing a nauseating 20 draw for The Conglomerate – for the second year running - he playfully stuck the number back in the envelope. When he drew 11 for St Tropez, he covered the second digit and jokingly called it a 1 draw. Maybe we are guilty of taking life – and ourselves - too seriously at times!

# Hometown Decision?

Champion trainer, Sean Tarry, was not laughing after the July final field announcement. He lambasted the Durban July panel as making "hometown decisions" after his filly, Trophy Wife, failed to make the final field for the big race.

"They should rename Gold Circle as Gold Circus - their decision to omit a horse with her group form is bad for racing," Tarry told leading journo Dave Mollett. He said the case to include Trophy Wife was substantial. "Not only was she beaten only two lengths by Met winner Smart Call at Turffontein in November, she was third behind the same horse in last season's Woolavington and, more recently, won the Gr 2 Gerald Rosenberg Stakes - tell me how they can leave her out?"



## R15 Million

That is the projection of the TAB Pick 6 pool at the Vodacom Durban July race meeting at Greyville on Saturday 2 July. The pool will start with a carryover of R4 million which looks sure to trigger a betting spree on the popular exotic bet. On the same day TAB Pick 6 pool at Turffontein will be boosted by a R250 000 carryover and the final pool looks set to reach R1.2 million.

## Back In Favour?



The exclusion order banning jockey Danny Nikolic from Victorian racetracks has been overturned in the Supreme Court. The order, originally imposed by the Victorian Police force in August last year, has been deemed 'invalid', paving the way for Nikolic to further pursue a return to the saddle. It is understood Nikolic will now attempt to regain his riding license at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). Nikolic's disqualification expired in September last year but Racing Victoria rejected his application to ride again on the grounds that he was not a fit and proper person.

## Bad Boy Buick

Jockey William Buick's behaviour in a stewards' inquiry after the French Oaks has cost him a double penalty. Buick, on Highlands Queen, was judged to have caused the fall of Pierre-Charles Boudet's mount Armande in Sunday's Prix de Diane at Chantilly. Highlands Queen was disqualified from ninth place and Buick outed for the mandatory 15 days for causing a fall. Godolphin's retained rider was then handed an extra 15 days for being offensive to the officials.

If he is unsuccessful in his appeal, Buick will miss the Irish Oaks and King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot.



## Aussie Breeders Boost



Thoroughbred Breeders Australia (TBA) President Basil Nolan has welcomed the announcement by Federal Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce that, if re-elected, he would grant a Research and Development Levy for the thoroughbred industry. The Levy will see the Department of Agriculture match funds raised by the thoroughbred industry in a dollar for dollar scheme for research projects that will be spent safeguarding and improving equine health and production. "We are grateful to Mr Joyce for making matched funding available for research, this scheme will give our industry real certainty that we will have government support into the future for vital projects in areas like bio-security and disease control," said Mr Nolan.

## Nothing's Ever Free

Online betting agency Bet365 has been fined \$2.75 million in the Australian Federal Court for misleading and deceptive practices over a "free bets" promotion. Bet365 ran a "free bets" promotion where customers were required to bet \$200 of their own money before accessing their free bet. The Federal Court found their conduct involved recklessness and affected many consumers.

The action was brought by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and argued there were numerous restrictions and limitations that applied to the offer that were not brought to customers' attention.



## Fists Fly

Police are appealing for witnesses after arresting two men following a mass brawl at Lingfield on Saturday night. One man in his 30s was taken to the East Surrey Hospital with a suspected fractured eye socket. Two others, aged 21 and 24, were arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm and released on bail until Tuesday, August 9. Susannah Gill, Arena's director of external affairs, said: "The incident was quickly dealt with by our security team who called the police."

## Red Ray Blue Eye

Jooste Racing Manager Derek Brugman, on hand to see Epona score for Joey Ramsden at Kenilworth on Saturday told Michael Clower – "She is a half-sister to Jay Peg and she will be worth her weight in gold as a broodmare." Brugman also indicated that Western Winter's son Red Ray had one eye closed and puss coming out of it following his disappointing run when favourite for the Post Merchants the previous evening at Greyville.

