

No Bull From MJ



Avontuur sponsored jockey MJ Byleveld is a shining example to his colleagues countrywide, who don't always promote their sponsors with any vigour. The mobile advertising and promotional medium was fined R1000 at Scottsville on the Golden Horse raceday ito Rule 72.1.40 - for refusing to comply with an order by the Racing Operator Representative that sponsors caps could not be worn during interviews at the race meeting. An Avontuur man to the last – gotta take a cap off to that loyalty!

Retired In Style

July fancy Solid Speed suffered a bilateral epistaxis during the running on Saturday. Dean Kannemeyer says that the top –class gelding will retire as a lead horse at his Summerveld base. "Thanks to the kindness of Lady Christine Laidlaw, Solid Speed will remain part of our lives. He is a lovable character of a horse," he said.



A Smart Call

Met winner Smart Call is to take on some of the best fillies in Europe before leaving for America for the Breeders' Cup meeting. Alec Laird told Michael Clower:

"She arrived in Newmarket last Wednesday and doesn't have to do any further quarantine in Britain as the European authorities accepted that what she did in Mauritius was enough. The place she stayed at was half an hour from any other horse.

"She is based at Abington Place (Mary's Slack's establishment) and you couldn't find a better place to train from. We are aiming to run her in the Group 1 Sun Chariot Stakes over a mile at Newmarket on October 1. She will probably need that run – all the quarantine has put us under a bit of pressure."

Phumelela Go Racing

We note in the NHA calendar that the Phumelela International Syndicate (Nom: Mr J A Stuart) have registered their Purple & Old Gold Checked Diamonds, Old Gold Sleeves & Cap.

Who will train their horses, will they join the Racing Association, like any good owner – and is this just a subtle attempt to boost field sizes?

It's Their Turn

The handicappers have used the fourth-placed It's My Turn as the line horse to assess Saturday's Vodacom Durban July and this has spared the winner and placed horses from receiving big raises in their merit ratings. The Conglomerate, who was in the race 2,5kg under sufferance, has been raised from 101 to 106 for his victory, the impressive runner up Marinaresco, who was 4,5kg under sufferance, has been raised from 101 to 109, and fifth-placed Saratoga Dancer, who was 5,5kg under sufferance, has been raised from 95 to 101. It's My Turn, who was 2,5kg under sufferance, remains on 105.



JR Is Smiling

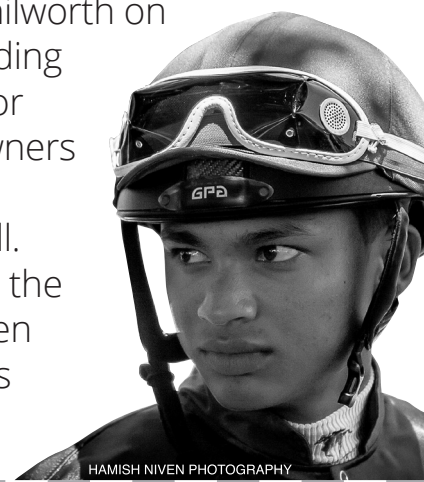
Trainer Joey Ramsden kept the faith in July hero The Conglomerate and for him the big win was satisfying in any number of ways. "The Conglomerate pulled up better than me after his brilliant win in the the July," joked Ramsden on Twitter. He also conveyed his thanks to owners Markus and Ingrid Jooste, Racing Manager Derek Brugman and jockey Piere Strydom. He told about messages of thanks from many friends and supporters, and being stopped in the street by racing fans with good wishes. As for pulling up with a niggles or two, Ramsden may be referring to the after-effects of a Sunday luncheon with the likes of Mike de Kock, "Curly" Grant and Chris Haynes, in close proximity at his long celebration table.



Bouncing Back

Jockey Grant van Niekerk rode a great Gr1 winner on July day to add to his impressive CV, but may have had his regrets after watching the replays of his Marinaresco ride.

The Bass horse flew late from way off to get second. To Van Niekerk's credit he bounced right back to ride four winners at a rainswept Kenilworth on Tuesday – including a 50 to 1 shot for Marinaresco owners Marsh Shirliff and Bryn Ressel. Nobody backed the winner – but then nobody said this game was easy.



Messy Race

Silverwave bagged his first Gr1 when springing a minor surprise to win the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud on Sunday under an astute ride from jockey Maxime Guyon.

In a messy race, the Pascal Bary-trained Silverwave was always well placed not far off the pace and ultimately ran out a decisive winner at 14-1. Erupt stayed on strongly to come home in second, while Siljan's Saga just grabbed third in a blanket finish for the places. The big disappointment of the race was hot favourite Vazirabad, who had established himself as a star stayer and won his last seven starts but failed to prove as effective over this shorter trip. British raiders Eagle Top and Dylan Mouth, trained by John Gosden and Marco Botti respectively, failed to run up to their best and came home towards the rear.