

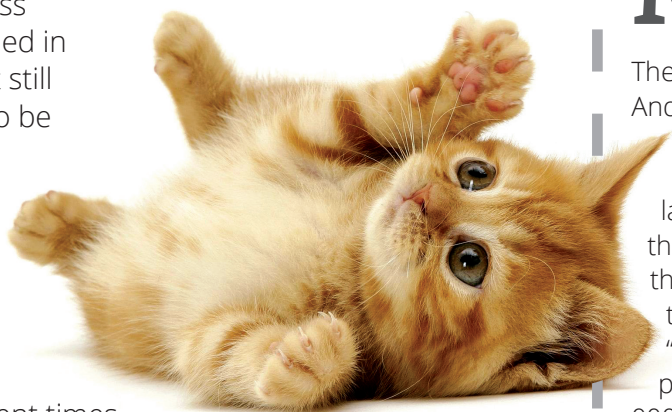
Go Gavin

We wish outgoing SA champion jockey Gavin Lerena well for this weekend. Lerena will be off to the UK to ride in the Shergar Cup at Ascot and is a member of the Rest Of The World team. Britain's Champion Jockey of 2015, Silvestre de Sousa, who was born in Brazil, will captain the team. The third member is Japan Cup-winning jockey Kenichi Ikezoe.

Gingerly – Definitely!

The sixth at Louisiana Downs on Saturday was an interesting race. The rider of Crossbow Huntress either thought there was another lap to go or it was one of the 'quietest' rides we will ever see. Jockey Kevin Smith's mount did not appear to be hanging, or in any distress whatsoever, so his decision to treat the final 200m of the race as a practice gallop was questionable at best. Crossbow Hunter was sitting three-wide in third position turning for home in the 1000m sprint. She appeared to be travelling far more comfortably than the leading pair but Smith refused to shake the reins. He cruised to the line in first gear, making ground on the winner but never seriously threatening. The commentator seemed somewhat bewildered as the eight runners passed the winning post, declaring

"Crossbow Huntress was gingerly handled in the final 200m but still finished strongly to be second. "Gingerly handled" is surely the most polite way of describing what looked like one of the more blatant pull-up jobs in recent times.



MOODY EMPLOYED

Former Australian champion trainer Peter Moody will be a regular face at race meetings in coming months. Moody closed his stable in March after being handed a six-month suspension for an elevated cobalt level found in one of his horses. Rosemont Stud announced Moody as their racing manager while long-time stable client, Wylie Dalziel Roy Higgins Racing, said he had been appointed as its bloodstock advisor. Along with those two roles, which begin next month, Moody is also an ambassador for global wagering company Ladbrokes. In a press release on Monday, Dalziel said Moody's involvement would add another dimension to the business. "He will assist me and my team of champion trainers to identify and select yearlings in the years to come and in all bloodstock management of our horse stock and our outstanding 2015 crop of yearlings," Dalziel said. "This exclusive arrangement with Peter Moody in selecting yearlings with me for Wylie Dalziel Roy Higgins Racing will continue giving all new and current owners access to affordable and well-bred yearlings." Moody's suspension, which banned him from training but not from working within the racing industry, finishes on September 24.

Looking For 3000

Frankie Dettori is a matter of a few winners short of his 3000th British winner after the three-time British Champion Jockey registered his first success of the 2016 Qatar Goodwood Festival aboard the Richard Hannon-trained Mehmas in the Group Two Qatar Richmond Stakes in the second race on day three of the meeting. An early declared ambition for this year was getting to 3000 winners in Britain. He has already passed that figure in winners partnered all around the world but that appears not to matter quite so much. He will join such luminaries as Sir Gordon Richards, Pat Eddery, Lester Piggott, Willie Carson, Doug Smith.

DUKE'S BIG ORANGE

The connections of Drakenstein stallion Duke Of Marmalade's 5yo son Big Orange will not make a decision on a Melbourne Cup start until weights are released. Glorious Goodwood winner Big Orange, fifth with 55.5kg in last year's Cup, is likely to have his next start in the Irish St Leger with trainer Michael Bell and owner Bill Gredley ruling the dual Goodwood Cup winner out of a trip to North America. "We will be waiting for the weights for the Melbourne Cup. Mr Gredley is lukewarm about making that long trip if Big Orange gets a prohibitive weight," Bell told the Racing Post. "The bottom weight won the race last year and it is difficult to give weight away in such a tough race - look at Snow



Sky last year." Snow Sky, who carried 58kg in the Cup, finished 23rd of the 24 runners behind Prince Of Penzance (53kg). Weights for the Melbourne Cup will be released on 13 September.

A Blaze Of Modesty

The resurgent Zimbabwe champion Andrew Fortune is reported to be determined to go all out to win the championship he previously landed eight seasons ago - even though he parried questions on this at Kenilworth on Saturday with typical joking quick-fire repartee. "I'm coloured and when they start paying coloureds more than R200 000 a month for working hard I will have a go," he insisted in a chat with Michael Clower after winning the last on Waning Crescent for the globe-trotting Neil Bruss who shortly returns to Saudi Arabia. Fortune also told Tellytrack's Stan Elley: "I've had a phenomenal season for a man who was sitting on a couch a year ago. I've ridden 196 winners including Zimbabwe, I'm a bit fitter and a bit lighter these days and if I was a trainer I would probably pick myself!"

169?

Joao Moreira has set his sights on another record after setting new benchmark of 168 wins in a season. Every year, Moreira has threatened to improve himself for the next season and, scarily, has carried out that threat in full - but he issued the same warning after a five-win haul on the final day at Sha Tin left him at a high water mark of 168 wins for the 2015-16 term.



Race Name Changes

The race previously known as the August Stakes, a Gr3 event run annually over 1200m on the Vaal Sand, will now be known as the Spring Spree Stakes and will be run over the same distance on the Turffontein Inside track. The handicap, offering a stake of R250 000, will be held on Saturday 3 September. The race previously known as the Sandy Beach Stakes for fillies and mares, the supporting feature over the same course and distance, will now be known as the For The Ladies Stakes and be run for a stake of R125 000 on the same day as the August Stakes.

