

3rd Generation

Margot Steyn, daughter of Cape Town trainer Piet Steyn, and niece of Andries, saddled her first runners at Kenilworth on Wednesday, reports Michael Clower. She is the third generation of her family to train. The 28 year old Margot was previously assistant to her father and then Yogas Govender and Michael Miller. She has a string of 13 at her yard in the old barns at Milneron and her main patrons are Spencer Cook and Tutti Hansen. We wish her best of luck in her venture.



Personality Of The Year

Popular Summerveld trainer Paul Lafferty was named Personality Of The Year at the KZN Racing Awards on Friday night. He is certainly a man of many talents. Not only is he a trainer, but is also a director of Gold Circle, Chairman Of The KZN Trainer's association, the South African ambassador for Australian sales company Magic Millions, he co-hosts two Tellytrack shows, Winning Ways and a new one about football, and he is also an on course racing presenter. Well done Laff.

Mystery Man

An Australian jockey has been detained by immigration officials in Malaysia after attempting to leave the country using a different passport, reports the Malay Mail. The 41-year-old remains in custody pending a decision by investigators. "We have viewed the CCTV footage and based on our investigations concluded the case be referred to Immigration authorities for their perusal as the passenger was found with two Australian passports," said Sepang police chief Assistant



Commissioner, Aziz Ali. "There are also aviation regulations which need to be adhered to regarding intoxicated passengers boarding a flight." The jockey, who hails from Melbourne, has been riding in Malaysia for the past 10 years.

Aba Eyes Met

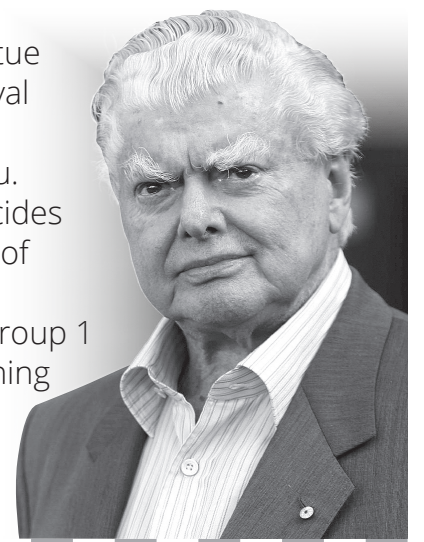
Abashiri, South Africa's third Triple Crown winner, is still resting after a hectic three-year-old season and his annual vaccinations, but will be brought back into training in time to do himself justice in the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate on 7 January and then go for the Met on 28 January. His trainer Mike Azzie intends to prep his charge at home and fly in for the two big races.

TAB APOLOGY

TAB inadvertently posted the incorrect result for the opener at Fairview last Friday. The provisional result was initially posted as 1-6-18-11. This was incorrect and the provisional result was then altered to 6-18-11-3, which was the correct official result. Unfortunately, the corrected provisional result did not reflect on all digital platforms and the correct result was only displayed when the official result was declared. This was apparently due to software issues, which will be rectified soonest.

Bart Honoured

The Australian Turf Club (ATC) will honour the achievements of legendary late trainer Bart Cummings with a special commemoration and statue inside the grounds of Royal Randwick racecourse, reports racingnsw.com.au. The announcement coincides with the first anniversary of Cummings' passing. Cummings trained 266 Group 1 winners in a career spanning more than 50 years, with a record 12 Melbourne Cups.



Not Festive

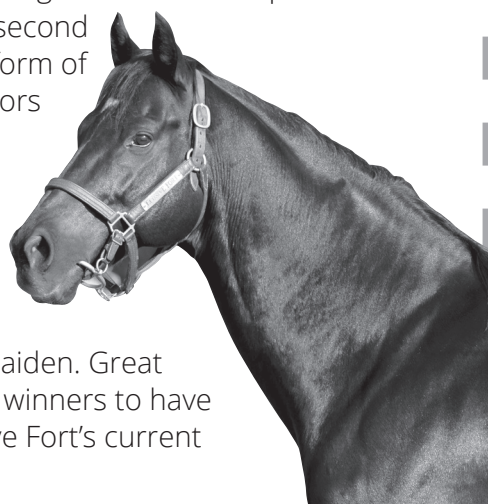
Any Currency has been stripped of his win in the Glenfarclas Chase at March's Cheltenham Festival, but his trainer Martin Keighley has not been fined. Traces of the prohibited substance Triamcinolone Acetonide (TCA) were in the horse's urine following the race. The cortisone substance can be used legally to treat horses, but must have cleared their system by racedays.

Captain Of The Island

The former Cape-based Captain Al gelding Captain Magpie made it five wins on the trot at the Champ de Mars on Saturday when clinching the honours to win the City Of Port Louis 50th Anniversary Cup – Draper's Mile. Trained in his South African racing days by Brett Crawford, Captain Magpie justified his status as the hot favourite in the feature.

Elusive Double

Sire Elusive Fort made headlines this weekend, when his only two runners at Scottsville on Sunday both won. Elusive Fort's beautifully bred son Exclusively Trendy broke his maiden in smart style when scoring over 1000m for trainer Dennis Bosch. A R120 000 buy from last year's National Two Year Old Sale, the lightly raced colt is out of the winning Silvano mare September Morn. Elusive Fort's second winner came in the form of the Mayfair Speculators owned Great Value. Making just his second racetrack appearance, the Wickensburg Stud bred gelding ran on nicely to break his maiden. Great Value is one of eight winners to have emerged from Elusive Fort's current crop of 3yos.



Fortune Flying

Veteran jockey Andrew Fortune is well clear at the top of the national jockeys log with just one relatively quiet month gone of the new season. A former SA champion, Fortune is riding at the top of his game and it will be interesting to see how much of a break he grabs on the suspended current title holder, S'manga Khumalo. Dennis Drier leads the national trainer log, marginally ahead of Justin Snaith.