

Blackout Blues

Sound familiar? Punters visiting Coral, Ladbrokes and Betfred shops on Monday were not able to enjoy any live racing from Britain as the dispute over media rights between the bookmakers and The Racing Partnership rumbles on. TRP, which comprises all 15 Arena Racing Company tracks as well as seven independent racecourses,



is yet to reach an agreement with Ladbrokes-Coral plc or Betfred over a deal that would allow racing from the courses in question to be broadcast in their shops.

Four For Forbes

We keep suggesting he is underrated. But other than the fact that he doesn't travel to other provinces, he can ride with the best of them. Jockey Alec Forbes' four winners at the rescheduled Greyville polytrack meeting on Monday were out of the top drawer.

Yogas' Double Roy

Former Sabine Plattner private trainer Yogas Govender celebrated the first double of his solo career when Roy's Stormer and Roy's Roll's Royce won the third and fourth respectively at Greyville on Monday. Roy's Stormer was also a first winner as a professional jockey for Tristan Godden.



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Horses with Gr1 wins to their credit in the past 12 months have been allotted 60kg in the Gr1 R5-million Sun Met weights. None of the four – Legal Eagle,

Mac De Lago, Master Sabina and The Conglomerate – are Cape based and two of them were bred in Australia. The Met is run over 2000m at Kenilworth on Saturday 28 January.

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3yo's have been entered in the Sun Met and are set to carry 52 kgs. Gold Standard (Trippi) and Bold Rex (Bold Silvano) are locally bred, while the balance of Heavenly Blue, Zodiac Ruler and Al Fahad were bred in Australia.

Bob's Baby

The world's highest rated horse, Arrogate (Unbridled's Song-Bubbler, by Distorted Humor), continued his preparation for the Pegasus World Cup with an easy 3 length win over workmate Uninvited in a 1200m gallop at Santa Anita Park on Sunday under the educated eye of trainer Bob Baffert. Arrogate and California Chrome are likely to clash in the inaugural running of the US\$12 million Gr1 Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park on 28 January.



They go forever! After an 8yo feature winner in New Zealand a fortnight back, Avontuur stallion Oratorio has another golden oldie in the news. The Peter Gelagotis trained Gr1 winning 9yo Mourinho makes a comeback from injury in the Gr2 Australia Stakes over 1200m at Moonee Valley on 27 January. It's a race he won fresh in 2015! Mourinho also won the Gr2 P B Lawrence Stakes first up that year. Oratorio has ten yearlings on the Cape Premier Yearling Sale next weekend.

Grassed off?

Joey Ramsden's post-race chirp on Friday on the lines of 'some of us don't get the grass at Kenilworth' passed unnoticed by most. With Durbanville being upgraded and out of action, we wonder whether he is hinting at favouritism when it comes to the Kenilworth grass gallops?

CONNECTED...

He certainly isn't! Jockey Eldin Webber was fined R1500 in terms of rule 56.2.4 for having a communication device in his possession in the jockey room at Fairview on 23 December. Apparently it wasn't a loudhailer.



Valued Veterans

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The d-day in this month of January when the final field for the Sun Met will be declared. It's a busy time as the public gallops and barrier draw for the big one will be held on Thursday 19th at 07h00. Then we have the Cape Premier Yearling Sale over the weekend of 21 and 22 January.

Whip Synching?

The apparent disparity in fines dished out for various whip offences is interesting. At the Vaal on 22 December, S'manga Khumalo was whacked R3000 for a transgression of rule 58.10.2 in that he used his crop with excessive frequency whilst riding My Cherry. At Turffontein on 17 December, Muzi Yeni was fined R1000 in terms of the same rule for striking Light House Lady unnecessarily when out of contention for a place. At Kenilworth on 20 December, Corne Orffer was fined R750 under the same general rule, in that he struck Al Danza more than three times on consecutive strides shortly before the finish.