

# Classic Squib?

A Gr1 for a R2 million stake and nobody is biting! The entry cut off time for the R2 million Gr 1 SA Classic – the second leg of the SA Triple Crown - to be run over 1800m on April 1 at Turffontein was extended to Tuesday 14

March after only eight horses had been entered initially - with Mike de Kock and Sean Tarry holding 6 of the 8 entries. Cape trainer Andre Nel took advantage and has entered Kampala Campari and Loadshedder, to boost the entry to 10. Last year 14 ran. Declarations Close at 11h00 on Thursday 23 March.

# HISTORY

Former Bookie turned owner and punter JP McManus and trainer Nicky Henderson made history by winning the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham last Tuesday with 6yo Buveur D'Air. It was McManus' 50th Festival success and Henderson's sixth victory in the great race. It was jockey Noel Fehily's Champion Hurdle victory. Henderson is now the most successful trainer in the history of the Champion Hurdle, as well as being the Festival's most successful trainer overall.



# Muzi's Flying



Muzi Yeni was the face of South African racing at Markopoulo Racecourse in Athens last Sunday and did us proud – booting home a winner in the feature event from five rides. Since January Greek punters have been betting into South African pools in the over 1,000

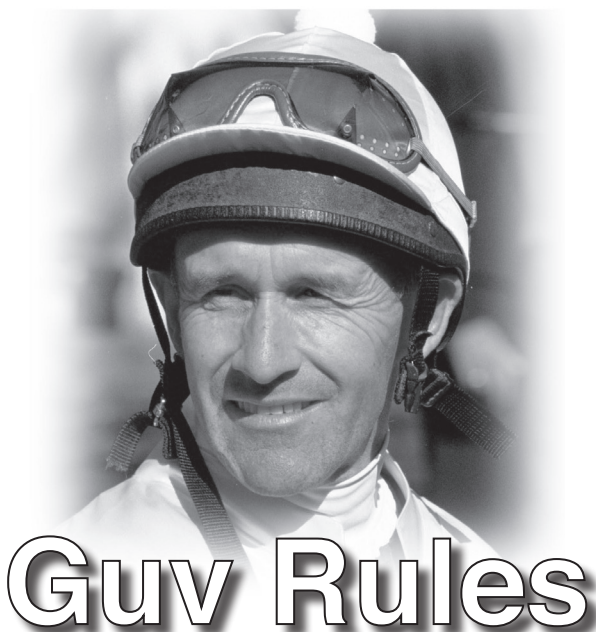
OPAP agencies that offer horseracing betting. Muzi was part of a Phumelela delegation. With bailouts and debt restructuring, Greece has teetered on the brink of economic destruction for years.

# Tough Cookie

On Friday 23yo Lizzie Kelly became the first woman rider to take part in the famous Cheltenham Gold Cup for 33 years — although it ended in disappointment when her mount Tea for Two crashed out early. This is the same horse on which she made history in 2015 when she became the first woman to win a top-level chase in Britain. Tea For Two is owned by her Mom and trained by her Stepdad.

# DODGING Bullets

While bookmakers are looking back on a very successful Cheltenham Festival, one punter was jumping for joy – literally! The 67 year old Dad of three won more than £250,000 with a £1 bet called a Lucky 31. backed five horses in an each-way selection . If the fifth – ironically named Dodging Bullets - had won he would have got £1 million. The factory worker hit the jackpot on the last day of the Festival.



# Guv Rules

Six times SA champion jockey Jeff Lloyd made history when becoming just the second jockey in 160 years of Queensland Racing to ride 100 metropolitan winners in a Brisbane season. Lloyd currently leads the Australian jockeys log and achieved the notable milestone when booting home Medieval to win on Wednesday. Lloyd, who suffered what was thought to be a career ending stroke in 2014, is riding better than ever.



# NO MORE

Five times Cape champion jockey Gerrit Schlechter turns 52 on Friday and has finally called time on his 35 year career in the saddle. The crack lightweight won the 2006 Vodacom Durban July aboard Dean Kannemeyer charge Eyeofthetiger as well as the 2011 J & B Met on Past Master for the Darryl Hodgson yard. He has suffered from back issues as well as osteoporosis and arthritis and had his last ride on 5 September 2015. Here's a man whose wealth of experience would be of great value in the Stipes boardroom.

# Island FIX

SA punters will be excited to welcome back their morning fix of island racing from this Saturday again. The Mauritius Racing Season kicks off on 25 March with the running of the Gr2 Duchess Of York Cup over 1400m.

# Dick Takes Over

Colchester based Richard Melia, a 56 year old professional gate-crasher, led Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Sizing John into the winner's enclosure on Friday to add the occasion to his past 'leads' of amongst others, Frankel, Camelot and Auroras Encore. A keen gambler and racing fan, he makes major sporting moments his own. So much for tight security...