

19

It seems a move of the race date by a week to accommodate royalty has not impacted unduly on interest in the R1

million HSH Princess Charlene Of Monaco Gr1 Empress Club Stakes to be run on 22 April. 19 entries were received – with Mike de Kock and Sean Tarry dominating numbers

with a total of 8 possibles between them. Justin Snaith is the only out-of-province entrant with Star Express. Declarations are due on Tuesday 18 April.



4

Maintaining the great run in Mauritius by SA jockeys, KZN rider Brandon Lerena rode four winners for the Gilbert Rousset yard at the Champ de Mars on Saturday. But their fourth victory on Scotsnog in the T-Printers 25th Anniversary Cup almost never happened when the former Mike de Kock-trained gelding stumbled badly at the start. How Lerena stayed in the saddle is a mystery!



## Toss The Boss

Starcraft, sire of Paul Peter's Turffontein Saturday winner Seventh Of June, has moved from Arrowfield to Rosemont Stud and breeders have been given a unique chance to breed to him for free. Mare owners who book swiftly get the chance to 'toss the boss' and nominate whether they would prefer to breed a colt or a filly. "Basically we are saying you will only pay for what you want. If you nominate you want a colt and get a colt you will pay the service fee. But if you get a filly, you don't pay a cent," said Rosemont's Anthony Mithen. The service fee is \$8800. "We all only want to pay for what we want, rather than what you get," Mithen added.



## A Real Gem

Leading South African owner-breeder Mary Slack enjoyed her biggest win in the UK to date when her Fastnet Rock filly Diamond Fields powered home to win the €60000 Gr3 Gladness Stakes at Naas in Ireland on Sunday. Purchased for €55 000 by Cape Town-based Form Bloodstock at the 2014 Goffs Yearling Sale, the 4yo was ridden in the 1400m turf race by jockey Chris Hayes for trainer Fozzy Stack – who has his eye on Royal Ascot.

## Going To Hollywood...

**Do sponsors get bang for their buck?** Sometimes the planets align to ensure that happens! Take top SA bookmakers Hollywoodbets, who sponsored the main race at Greyville last Friday evening. The race was won by Mr Roy, ridden by Winning Form sponsored – Muzi Yeni and trained by Kevin & Alyson Wright – Hollywoodbets sponsored trainers, and conditioners of the Hollywood horses in KZN. Mr Roy was their only runner on the night. And to add to the package, the 7-1 winner was

tipped by Magic Tips in Winning Form as their Value Bet for the day. The cherry on top was that Hollywood supremo Owen Heffer's son Devin held his bulls party at Greyville on the evening. He gets married on 13 May.



## Chaos Down Under

The 150 year old \$2 million Gr1 Sydney Cup at Randwick on Saturday was labelled a farce by some of Australia's leading jockeys after a horse broke down in the early stages of the race. Racing NSW stewards made the call to abandon the race at around the 1600m mark as the Sydney Cup field swung into the back straight, almost a minute after Almoonqith was injured. Stipes radioed the starter to scream at the riders. There are no sirens at Randwick. Godolphin's European duo Polarisation and Penglai Pavilion, who had been shipped from the northern hemisphere just for this race, were ridden out to the finish. The race has been rescheduled for Saturday 22 April.



## Spot The Cot

Cot Campbell seemingly remains the real deal despite managing only sixth of nine when odds-on for his debut at Kenilworth on Saturday. Chris Snaith warned Gold Circle writer Michael Clower that the R3.3 million colt would need the run. Clower writes - he ambled out of the pens with about as much urgency as a pensioner going to the post office. In no time he was six lengths last and, although he made up the leeway, he was a spent force by the time he met with interference almost on the line. "You can put a line through that," said Jonathan Snaith. "This is a horse to follow and you can expect major improvement next time."

## Swift ACTION

Jockey Dale Swift, who missed his only intended ride at Lingfield on Saturday in unexplained circumstances, is understood to have had his licence suspended for a month.

## Grand PR

They do things properly in England. Grand National winning trainer Lucinda Russell will host a media day on Sunday at her Kinross stable north of Edinburgh, and the celebrations will continue at Kelso on Monday when One For Arthur will parade before racing.



## Backworth

The dispersal sale held at boutique KZN stud Backworth on Monday delivered good results. Lots were also included from Janet Baker Properties, Spring Valley Stud and Summerhill Stud. The sale grossed R4 658 000 with a total of 82 lots sold at an average of R56 804. Highest price was the R650 000 paid for #6, Cupid's Daughter – dam of impressive recent winner Cuvara and in foal to the high-class Oratorio. She is a half-sister to Australian Gr3 winner Generalife who ran third in the Gr1 Doomben 10 000.