

Now For Equus?



There was plenty of emotion as super mare Carry On Alice made it a winning swansong at Scottsville on Saturday to win the SA Fillies Sprint. The final item on her racing bucket list must be an Equus Award. She was overshadowed by Majmu, Alboran Sea and Smart Call, in respective champion age group awards over the years, and by Captain Of All and Talktothestars, in the Champion Sprinter category. She must be odds-on to lift the Champion Sprinter and Champion Older Female award this season.

GINA WHO?

There has been some critical reaction to the participation in the Investec Derby this Saturday of 25 year old Gina Mangan, the apprentice who has ridden only one winner. On Saturday she lines up against Ryan Moore and Frankie Dettori on 1000-1 outsider Diore Lia and insists she has every right to be there. "I'll be donating my riding fee, plus any prize-money that comes our way. The hype I want around my ride in the Derby is the charity, but I am licenced and do feel I deserve a chance like any other jockey," she said.

Riverton's Record

Riverton Stud's only three previous runners in the Gr1 Gold Medallion – Captain Of All, Potent Power and Link Man – all won. So there was some pressure on Brett Crawford on Saturday to win the 2yo Gr1 race with Al Mariachi. After looking dangerous, he eventually ran a not disgraced 2,50 lengths third behind Sand And Sea and Varallo. Duncan Barry and his team won't be complaining.

007

Summerveld trainer Dennis Drier equalled a feat achieved by his Uncle Syd Laird on Saturday at Scottsville, by winning the same Gr 1 race for the seventh time. Sand And Sea notched a seventh Gold Medallion to give Drier the honour. Uncle Syd achieved his super seven in the Vodacom Durban July.

Cape Jawl

On Saturday, Andile Ndlebe rode Mark's Glory to victory in the Kenilworth Workriders Maiden Plate over 1200m. He clocked a time of 72,67 secs to win at his ninth outing. A few hours later, Magical Wonderland won the Listed Kenilworth Fillies Nursery in 73,91 secs, while her stablemate Dutch Philip won the Gr3 Cape Of Good Hope Nursery a half hour later in 73,92 secs. What exactly do we read out of that?



Captain Of Speed

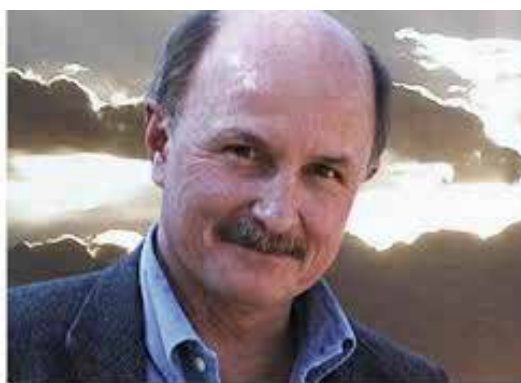
Progeny of former champion sire Captain Al have a superb record in Scottsville's Gr1 sprint jackpot day. His sons and daughters have won each of the four G1 races on at least one occasion, and Carry On Alice carried the flag in the SA Fillies Sprint on Saturday. Captain Al also went close in the G1 Tsogo Sun Sprint, where his sons Search Party and Barbosa finished second and third respectively, for a generous swinger dividend of R95-20!

Hall Of Fame

With some big name locals away riding at Scottsville, Jason Smitsdorff broke a drought at Kenilworth on Saturday, riding his first winner of the season on debutante Hall Of Fame for Andre Nel. A scrap, which led to an expediently wrapped successful objection, between Karl Zechner(the offender) and Aldo Domeyer on the top two – Ostinato and Time To Think – probably played into Smitsdorff's hands. But fortune favours the brave!

HONOURED

Former TBA and NHA Chairman Advocate Altus Joubert had the honorary degree of Doctor Legum conferred on him at the Potchefstroom campus of the North-West University last Wednesday. He is best known as the breeder of recent newsmaker National Colour, South Africa's Horse of the Year in 2006. He also won the Equus Award as South Africa's International Breeder of the Year in 2004 for breeding Crimson Palace, the first South African bred filly to win a Gr1 race in the USA.



OUCH!

Joey Ramsden wasn't a happy man after Saturday. He tweeted -'Group 1 racing at its finest at Scottsville, 2 black eyes and 1 knee chip from 5 runners. Not a bad strike rate!'

Calendar Calls

KZN Breeders Golf Day – 15 June, Royal Durban Golf Course

KZN Breeders Race Day – 25 June, Greyville

KZN Yearling Sale – 29, 30 June, Sibaya Casino

Noble Tune Stallion Day – 2 July, Rathmor Stud

KZN Breeders Awards – 2 December, Fordoun