

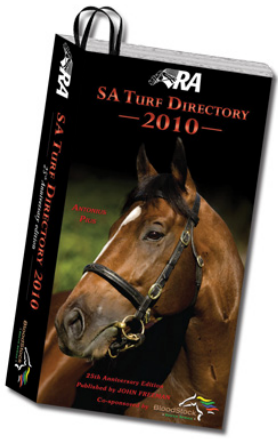


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SA TURF DIRECTORY

My office looks like a warehouse this morning – what we are calling our 25th Anniversary Edition of the SA Turf Directory for 2010 has arrived – thankfully the orders are making them fly off the shelves. As in past years, we have printed several hundred more than we needed for the many orders placed and copies destined for important contacts around the world. So if you have not ordered yet, now is the time to call! The SA Turf Directory is SA's longest running horse publication – this new edition for 2010 is jam-packed with information and we are truly proud of it.



LONDON NEWS

Tellytrack will show the 2nd part of the tribute to London News on Monday night – please take a look.

Robert Germanos has kindly linked a YouTube video of London News winning the Daily News 2000 to London News' Facebook profile so please look him up or click the link below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h10Xwy1iyI>



A truly phenomenal race – he broke the Southern Hemisphere track record in that race. Under Striker Strydom, it was not just that he led the field from start to finish, but it was his acceleration at the top of the straight that was so awesome. He dictated the pace a length clear all the way around the back stretch and then as he sighted the winning post from the top of the straight he bolted and gained at least 4 lengths in no more than 10 strides – he must have been a dozen lengths clear 100m from home and even

though he was easing up to win by 6 lengths he still smashed that record. Please take a look at the race – he was a remarkable horse!

Though he has been described as a “bread and butter stallion” like the other “Big Red” (both from the Bold Ruler sire line) he had so much ability and was so well bred that I am confident that his daughters will do for him what Secretariat's daughters did for him.

OUR WEBSITE BLOG

For those of you that are “*blog inclined*”, please take a look at our updated website – we have added a new “blog” feature – I am told that this is the new way to communicate.

The nerds in our “family” tell me that whenever we send out an eNews the “hit-rate” on our website increases, so it is very clear to me that we make an impact with these letters and they say that some may be inclined to leave a “footprint” by leaving a blog.

I should also add that if ever you feel that you'd prefer to opt out of receiving our newsletters – please just say so or simply click on the “unsubscribe” link at the bottom of every eNews. We don't want to send you unwelcome mail. Equally if you know anyone that would like to join, please do let us know – always happy to extend. Our email address group has grown to over 2500.

UK INVESTEC DERBY

A huge thank you to all our eNews fans that wrote or called to say how much they enjoyed my report on the Breeders Cup. In that item, I mentioned how privileged I felt at having been a guest at both the Breeders Cup and the Investec Derby in England (they also sponsor SA's premier Derby in the Cape) this year. I have since had requests for a report & visuals of the Investec Derby in UK in retrospect. So many of the South African team that attended the Derby as Investec's guests have rapped me on the knuckles for not having written about it before – my apologies. It was not that I did not want to write – it's just that timing did not work out for me – you will note that our eNews were concentrated on promoting the stallion season in July and August.

I got back from that UK racing trip in buoyant spirit with the best intentions. No sooner was I home, then I had to fly to Durban for the Yearling sales and Vodacom July and came back to Cape Town with the most crippling bout of food poisoning – quite a few of our pals suffered the same affliction this year – a few even went to hospital. The effect was doubly bad for me as the breeding season was about to start. We had three new stallions being syndicated – no sooner was that done, then we had to go to Jhb for the 2yo sales and I came back to prepare a power point presentation for a promo trip to Korea. Time just simply ran out!



See The Stars in the winner's enclosure

Late or not, it is entirely appropriate that we report on the most incredible Derby experience. Investec pulled off a major sponsorship coup in getting this event after Vodafone took fright during the economic downturn and went on a cost cutting exercise. Just imagine a company with a licence to print money as big as Vodafone giving up the single most significant and longest running

sporting event in the world? What were they thinking? Vodafone's lapse however meant good fortune for the very astute Investec chaps who clearly have their ear to the ground in all the right places.



The idea of sponsoring sport in general and a Derby is not new to Investec – the UK bank's Managing Director, Bernard Kantor, is a very well known patron of racing and breeding both in SA and Europe – his strike rate as an owner and breeder of stakes winners in UK is well known and his record in SA stretches over many years.

Investec have been sponsors of the Investec Cape Derby for the past 5 years so it's no surprise that they would look at the best race in the world. Their marketing man in the UK, Raymond van Niekerk, and the Epsom on-course team did a truly phenomenal job branding the event in a very short time. Investec's name was everywhere from flags and Zeppelins in the sky to every tread in the stair-case and on every available surface – they even had a glass wall in the main foyer with Investec's name sandblasted onto it.



Over those 2 days their name was shown to countless millions of TV viewers around the world – no

question that they got fantastic value for their money. Makes it so good for racing – well done Investec and thanks for a great day from me and all of the SA team!



Bernard, Jonine, myself & Vaughan



Peter Deale & Raymond van Niekerk

It was an honour to assist Investec by putting a team of South Africans together to attend the 2 day Derby Festival as their guests and boy, oh, boy were we ever entertained!

The boardroom hosted a full field of dignitaries – Muis Roberts flew in with us and I managed to get a photo of him with Lester Piggott and his grandson who was there with his father, William Haggas.



Muis Roberts with Lester Piggott & grandson

Team SA included Vaughan Koster and his fiancé Jonine, Veronica Foulkes, Alec and Gillian Foster (long time owners and breeders here, so they do qualify as South Africans!) and Georgina Jaffee, who went to discover her parents love of the event.



Phumelela boss, Rian du Plessis and Mike de Kock, joined the Friday team with Clyde Basel top hatted to do the interviews.



Rodney & Joy Dunn were there with Peter and Libby Mills and so many others – a significant SA contingent!



I have written about how fantastic the Breeders Cup was and how I was so privileged to be with Gary. To be at the Investec Derby was in a league of its own! I first attended the Derby at Epsom with Gary Player when the horse he bred in USA, Broadway Flyer (out of his SA Oaks winner Serena) was the firm favourite. We were hosted in the Chairman's Suite by Tim Elligan right next door to the Royal Box.



At about the 4th race I made the mistake of getting into the private lift which the Queen uses through the weighing room. This was on my way back from the pre-parade ring, only problem was that The Queen and Prince Philip were in it and I stumbled in blissfully unaware. Talk about a security breach – no-one stopped me! I guess it may have been that they'd seen me come and go a few times before and I had the right badge on for the floor I was going to and walked with head down totally engrossed in my race card – got into the lift, looked up and there they were. Said I, with a nervous grin; *"Oh, forgive me I'm in the wrong place"*. Racing is an amazing game – if not for horses I guess I would have been in trouble.



Investec's brilliant organisation of the event ensured that we dined in that same suite again. I did not gaff again and missed Her Majesty's company. They've also put a wall up in the foyer now and given the Royal Suite its own lift to stop idiots like me from bumping around in there.

Bernard was invited to tea as the Queen's guest. He returned suitably impressed. She knew about his racing and breeding interests – evidently they were not lost for conversation – amazing what our passion for horses does to us.



There is nothing in the world of sport to match the history and sense of pride associated with the Derby – its traditions, pomp and splendour. The sheer class of its record in testing real racehorses make that winning post the quintessential mark of achievement. Sir Mordaunt Milner always said that there is only one Derby in the world – all others are pretenders.

There have been years when the Derby has underperformed, but like all great races it returns to best when presented with a field like the one we saw this year. It remains the most testing event that any Champion can aspire to. To win the Derby requires speed and stamina – sounds like a contradiction. You have to be there, see and walk the course to understand this.



When I was younger and fitter I did this and had the blisters to prove it. No question that Sea The Stars' victory this year would have met with Sir Mordaunt's high standards. He won like a star and some have expressed the view that he is right up there with any of the past greats: Nijinsky II, Mill Reef, Shirley Heights and his half brother Galileo. He is a grand looking animal and showed a wonderful calm disposition in the winners circle – with people milling all around (and so close behind) him, he took it all in his stride enjoying every minute. I can't wait to visit the Aga Khan's Stud in Ireland to see him. Bet you didn't know that the stud farm where Sea The Stars is to stand used to be owned by Pat O'Neill's mother Lady Kenmare?

The less formal of the two day festival is Ladies Day. This includes the Gr1 Investec Oaks and the Gr1 Investec Coronation Cup on the Friday – we saw ASK, an entire son of Sadler's Wells win the Coronation and Lady Bamford's smart Pivotal filly SARISKA bring home the honours in the Oaks. Pivotal also got the winner of the listed Surrey Stakes later that day – Ocean's

Minstrel. I'd love to have a son of Pivotal at stud in SA – perfect type for our conditions. Oasis Dream also featured on the Friday. He is a wonderful young stallion with an extremely bright future.



Veronica Foulkes & Muis Roberts

Derby day was packed – the infield was full by the time we arrived. Double-decker busses lined the inside rail with a fun fare, marquees and thousands of picnic sites infield. The grandstand was nearly bursting. Without any doubt this was the biggest crowd I have ever seen on a racecourse. The Brits love their racing and they had come to see the Guineas winner take on the Irish six from Ballydoyle which included no less than Rip van Winkle and the more fancied Fame and Glory. There was plenty of support for Aidan's other fancied runner Black Bear Island – what a line up!

History in the making – Sea The Stars taking on no less than 5 sons of his half brother Galileo. 10 of the 12 runners were by Sadler's Wells or by sons of Coolmore's most famous stallion, the winner of 15 Sire Championships. 12 incredible horses and the best jocks in Europe – Frankie Dettori was on Kitewood, Johnny Murtagh on Rip can Winkle and all eyes were on Sea the Stars with Mick Kinane - he had won the Derby twice before on Commander in Chief and Sea The Stars' half brother Galileo – another reason why this event was so historically significant.



See The Stars winning the Investec Derby

The headlines the next day said it all "UNTOUCHABLE STARS" and that was what he was. What a fantastic training achievement by John Ox. Horse of the Year, Sea the Stars, won the Guineas and the Derby and went on to win the Juddmonte in course record time and then went to Paris to win the Arc – that's' five Gr1's in a row. Winning the Guineas and the Derby is a rare enough achievement on its own – but to add the Arc as well – well that makes him a superstar! I have already covered the subject of how sad it is for racing that we don't see these great 3yo's race as older horses. I wonder what I would do if I was rich enough to afford not to be tempted to send the horse to stud for fear of losing commercial value. If that is the primary motivation; why not partly syndicate him and let others take the risk with you? Am I missing something here? Racing needs more equine hero's and very badly needs them to train on. Our stud book needs it more than anything. Increasingly, we are breeding with horses that have not proved that they can train on. This is a sad indictment on the soundness and true ability of our breed. That said; take nothing away from him – he is the best 3yo I have ever seen race and I consider it a great honour to have been able to do that live at Epsom courtesy of Investec. I hope that they have a long and happy association with the Derby.



See The Stars

I don't know if it is going to be possible to get to the 2010 renewal of this magnificent event – we are bound to have trouble with flights – travel being as restricted as it is going to be with the 2010 World Cup. Investec, with time to plan next year, are bound to be under pressure from many more would be race-goers anyway. But if you are interested please let us know so that

we can keep you in mind when the occasion arises.



Our host with his wife Dayle and son Greg

MAURITIUS – LAUREATES OF THE 2009 SEASON

We are delighted to report that we have notched up another **Horse of the Year** award – our 3rd in Mauritius and our 6th overall, and this adds to our endeavours to try and emulate the feats of master horseman Wilfred Koster, who produced the best progeny of most of the stallions he supported. In our own modest way, we aspire to account for the best progeny of each of the stallions whose progeny we select. The Cardinal may not be as good as Free My Heart, Dynasty or Enchanted Garden, but a Horse of the Year is as good as it gets.

As luck had it, I found The Cardinal as a 4 month old foal in a paddock one morning on Gary Player's farm. By Grey Eminence, he is the 3rd foal of the Al Mufti mare Silken Treasure. He was raced by Fieldspring with Dean Kannemeyer and won a race before we sold him to our partner in AfroMauri, Khaleck Beharry, in Mauritius.

I was in the paddock with Gary and Guy Murdoch looking at mares and foals when a bunch of mares decided to take flight – the last mare to follow them up the hill was Silken Treasure and her foal – the colt took off at such a pace that he caught up with the front runners before they got to the top. I kept my eye on him and as we walked to the paddock gate I asked Guy who he was.

“Oh... that’s one of your Grey Eminence chaps” – the statement was sort of an apology as the grey stallion had not been doing too well. Discussion ensued about the stallion’s prospects and got matter-of-factly to a bottom line of “have to accept that the stallion looks like one of the 97% that won’t make it”. I offered to buy the colt on spec, right there and then. We settled a modest price on him.

I am absolutely delighted that he has done so well by winning not only the Horse of the Year title but Champion 4 Year Old and the Champion Sprinter Title on the island as well – it all goes into his dam’s catalogue page and is another accolade for the Gary Player Stud Farm and the fantastic broodmare sire Al Mufti. I believe that he has earned the equivalent of R1m there. Sadly stakes earned abroad are still denied by South African statistics – our horses disappear off our statistical radar when they leave this country.

Racing in Mauritius is a province of South African breeding and they spend a lot of money buying horses here each year. It’s been a fantastic year for Gary, he bred Equus Champion 3yo Filly, Lady Windermere, this Horse Of The Year and the Breeders Cup Committee bestowed a special award on him.

Here is an extract from the Mauritius Turf Club’s website report on the awards evening:

The 3rd edition of Equidors Night took place yesterday night at the Swami Vivekananda Convention

Centre at Pailles on the island of Mauritius in front of about 700 guests.

For the first time, the jockeys who were due to participate in the International Jockey’s Weekend, were present and the Draw Ceremony for the jockeys took place concurrently.

The different laureates of the season were rewarded in a lively atmosphere. The President of Mauritius Turf Club then recalled that in 2012, the MTC will celebrate its bicentenary and thus, the leaders have the task of ensuring that this grand occasion coincides with the new dimensions that the MTC has been working on.

2009 LAUREATES:

Four Year Old Champion:

The Cardinal

Best Sprinter/ Miler:

The Cardinal

Horse of The Year:

The Cardinal



The Cardinal - Mauritian Horse of the Year, Champion 4yo and Champion Sprinter

STALLION UPDATES

Last week I reported that **Dynasty** was the leading first crop sire; i.e. 3yo’s this season. He had the winners of 11 races (as at last week) and had his 12th winner over the weekend (Irish Flame at Turffontein on Summer Cup day) as well as a place (Ancestral Fore) in the Gr2 Selangor at Kenilworth last Sunday.

Captain Al’s son Captain Scott was placed in the Gr1 Summer Cup in a very close finish where a neck separated the first four past the post – we were delighted with that run! The colt we bred at Gary Player’s farm with Guy Murdoch, Echohawk, won well again over a mile and has been entered to the Cape Guineas – 19th December. We live in hope.

Dupont has had only 10 runners from his first crop. For those that have asked this question so many times I must place on record that his first season was not under our management. He only moved to Normandy Stud the following year and covered a full book of nearly 80 mares – so there are lots more to come from this chap! Keep watching this space.

The point is that the 10 runners from his first crop have produced 3 winners and all but one of them has earned a cheque. Another was short headed into 2nd place in Jhb – Mabrook is with Alec Laird and he has been placed 3rd, 2nd and 2nd in his last 3 starts.

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2009 STALLIONS:

ARGONAUT, BADGER’S DRIFT, CAPTAIN AL, COUNT DUBOIS (GB), DUPONT (GB), DYNASTY, JALLAD (USA), JAY PEG, LITHUANIAN (AUS), REBEL KING, TAMBURLAINE (IRE)