



The Thoroughbred Group - eNews

In this edition:-

- **Jay Peg** joins our portfolio – in the process of syndication.
- **Captain AI** leads the 2yo sires list again in an exciting duel with new speed sire VAR – a host of feature horses this month. Only one nomination up for grabs at the Highlands Stallion show on 19th June.
- **Dynasty** is the second leading freshman sire - dual feature winner **Squashy Joy**
- **Dupont** – 3 runners all placed and now 6 length winner **Gav's Mission**
- **Jallad** – this ever green top 5 sire is at it again: **Sweet Sanette, Zirconium, Kapil** and **Russian Sage**
- **Tamburlaine** forges ahead – more stakes horses – Three Troika's winner **Sharp Mission** also placed 2nd in the Gr2 Fillies Guineas and Jasmine Stakes third **Too Special**.

New Sire! JAY PEG - The most exciting thing to happen in our portfolio for some time is that the globe trotting superstar **Jay Peg** has joined our portfolio. **Jay Peg** is set to have his last start on the 17th May in the Singapore Cup before he returns to take up stud duties at Klawervlei. It's a treat for us to be working with John Koster and his professional team at Klawervlei again. **Jay Peg** is being syndicated and we expect that the final 2 shares currently on option will be confirmed soon. His fee is R30 000 and his book is almost full – if you want to book a mare please let us know soon – access is to be limited to about 80 mares in his first season. The partnership that raced him are massive investors in our industry and we are extremely grateful that they have once again demonstrated their commitment to SA breeding by sending Jay Peg home for stud duties instead of being lured by the attractive offers they had from overseas. We welcome the opportunity to send you more information about this grand horse – just ask.



BADGER'S DRIFT – has a Big Game Hunter in the Gr2 Drill Hall Stakes on Friday night. This is what Sporting Post has to say about **Badger's Drift's** son **Ivory Trail** chances *"made big improvement at the tail end of last year, before perhaps failing to stay the trip in the Met. He had won the Gr2 Peninsula Handicap impressively under 60 kg prior to that, and should go well here reunited with regular pilot Andrew Fortune. Well drawn, he seems likely to race close to the pace, and the 4yo probably still has his best days ahead of him. A major player"*.

Badger's Drift has had 5 winners from his 16 runners in the past 5 weeks – **Badger's Bite, Catchadrift** (she has won 2 in a row), **Hospitality, Memorable** and **Nolita**. His fee remains the same this year.

Left: Ivory Trail

CAPTAIN AL is involved in another exciting duel for sire supremacy this year. Having successfully warded off the multiple champion sire **Jet Master** with his freshman crop in 2005 for the highest number of 2yo winners in SA history, this gallant young sire with 16 winners of 18 juvenile races is again ahead of 2yo affairs this year, 6 winners clear of his nearest rival **Var**, the sensational new speed sire. **Captain AI** not only leads by number of wins and individual winners but is also R250 000 ahead after last weekend. He is presently 3rd leading sire overall and we are keeping a beady eye on the 3yo sires list as he was in the lead until the big day at Turffontein on 25th April and has been overtaken by the massive stakes won that day. However with a number of quality runners heading for the classics season in Durban we are keeping our fingers crossed that he can retake the lead. An interesting aspect of the current stallion log is that he is 3rd on the main sire log without a single horse accounting for more than 5% of his total. Generally stallions that make it into the top 5 are heavily reliant on the performance of one top horse. Captain AI has his options wide open in this regard; he has shot into the top 3 with a fantastic balance with several good horses who have each contributed 5% or less to his tally - any one of these can push him to the top. He has another chance to do that with **Dance With AI** in the Gr2 Fillies Guineas on Sunday and two colts in the Gr2 KRA Guineas – **Captain's Table** and **Space Captain**. **Dance With AI** ran on strongly when beaten half-a-length by speedy **Royal Extravagance** in a Listed event over 1200m in March and could enjoy being tried over 1600m for the first time. Sires that rely on one horse for more than 25% of their overall stakes on the championship log (especially when not significantly in the lead) are vulnerable if that horse does not carry on winning till the season is over.

Quite apart from his great “spread” of earnings amongst his stock this young sire also has an incredibly high win strike rate: - he has 198 runners (with more than one start) and 139 (just over 70%) of these are winners – 15 stakes winners – 11%. He has 43 stakes horses – 22% of his runners (of more than one start) have either won a stakes race or been stakes placed and 31% of his winners are stakes horses - incredible! He is in ascendancy – the crop that he had on sale this year was his best ever and what he has to come in future is even better. His book gets stronger each year and his progeny have caught the attention of the top trainers as well now. Very exciting times ahead for this horse. Of course, apart from the fact that he has clawed his way up the log the hard way, the one single factor that makes him so easy to promote is that he has such a low wastage factor – both physically and on the track. All sires get wastage, even the top ones – that’s the nature of the thoroughbred; a meticulously engineered animal, whether inbred or out-crossed, nature will always interfere with man’s intentions in the design of the horses we breed. **Captain AI** gets great looking stock and this is a major key in the role that he will play in the shape of our industry and its horses in future. Thank goodness for horses like **The Captain** – please find more – this is what we desperately need.

Four of his best runners were exported – the most recent of these, **Captains Lover**, was one of 5 horses scratched from the Elizabeth Bay Stakes over 1400m at Belmont Park this week. This Gr1 winner in SA has not run since being moved from Europe where she won a Gr3 and was placed in a Gr1. We are hoping that her American conditioner Todd Pletcher will get her to the winner’s box soon.



Clockwise from left: Cool Zone, Galahad and Captain's Call

We watch each feature race day like a bunch of hawks over a meerkat burrow for runners that could change the stallion log. It’s as fascinating this year as it was when **Jet Master** and **Captain AI** fought a ding-dong battle over the 2yo sire log with their first runners in 2005. That epic battle earned these two great sires legions of fans earned from that historic record breaking performance. There has been only one other stallion contest ever to come as close as that: - when **Western Winter** beat Jallad by just R40 000 in that same year. The all important general sires log presents another interesting contest this year. The magical **Jet Master** boasting the R2.5m

earnings (33%) of his champion son **Pocket Power** is within strike range this season – just one big win for either 2nd placed **National Emblem** or 3rd placed **Captain AI** could turn the tables unless **Pocket Power** wins the July or a very strong new contender comes to the rescue. **Captain AI** is just R22 000 out of 2nd place and we have a bet that he will pose a decent threat to the current king this year.

Captain AI had a sensational month of feature runners and capped it with a superb weekend including the Glen Kotzen trained Gr2 Debutante Stakes winner **Captain's Call**, Gr3 Cape Fillies Nursery **Flower's Angel** (bred, trained and part owned by Basil and Debbie Marcus). He also got 1st, 2nd and 4th in the Nursery and 3rd with our own partnership colt **Cool Zone** in the colt's Nursery. **Cool Zone** won the Somerset Plate (L) just 3 weeks earlier and this amazing sire also got the winner of the R200 000 Vaal Sand feature on the 21st April, **Galahad** was one of Charles Laird's 4 winners that day.

Captain AI is currently 4th on the overall sires list and was leading sire of 3yos until Forest Path shot Fort Wood to the lead on Champions Day at Turffontein.

The **Captain AI** syndicate has donated one service to the Western Cape Breeders fundraising auction. Anyone that has missed out on a service this season is encouraged to attend the auction. In past years services offered by syndicates at this auction, even the oversubscribed stallions, have sold for less than their service fee. This is an amazing omission on the part of those breeders wait-listed for services. Please be warned this time – the Cape Breeders stallion auction will be held at the Highlands Stallion extravaganza on the 19th June. Captain AI's book is full again this year, it was full before the last season ended – if you want a nomination this is your chance to get it - if you snooze you lose.

COUNT DUBOIS – had 25 runners in the past 5 weeks – 4 wins, 6 seconds, 2 thirds and 1 fourth place. His paucity of runners has been analysed and reported fully in our post yearling sale coverage. The Count Dubois filly that St John Gray bought from Maine Chance at the National Yearling Sales in 2007 **Sandy Beach** has been to the race-course 10 times and won 3 and been placed 3 times – most recently in the Listed Queen of the Sand Hcap at the Vaal. Her last 4 starts have resulted in 2 wins and a second and St John's support of this stallion's progeny has been rewarded again. His winners in the past month are Frankie de Wheels, Karuba, and the 2yo Prive du Bois.

DYNASTY is the 2nd leading freshman sire having produced the sensational dual feature winner **Squashy Joy** amongst his 4 juvenile winners so far this season.

His most recent winner was the smart grey colt bred by Hyjo Stud, **Ancestral Fore** who trainer Alan Higgins says is going to be a super horse. Despite proving that he is worthy of an increase in price Dynasty's fee remains as it was for 2009 – R12 000.



From Left: Squashy Joy and Ancestral Fore

DUPONT – dual European Guineas winner **DUPONT** is our newest freshman sire – and he has given notice with his first 3 runners to date, all placed over sprints. His first runner over 1400m, **Gav's Mission** led them home by 6 lengths for Gavin Smith last week – lots more to come from this boy and though he, like the other son of Zafonic in this string, started his career with a smallish first crop, he has lots more to follow. His fee for 2009 is as it was last year – a heavily subsidised R5000.

GOLDKEEPER – is the leading sire of 3yo's (at 3rd May) by AEPR with a phenomenal R84 179. His son **Tiza** won yet another Graded Race in France last week. This stallion is always in the news and has the likes of **Cerise Cherry**, **Gee Pee S** and promising 2yo **Runaway Man** who has won 3 (incl. Gr3 and Listed) and placed twice from all his starts. He is sadly not taking outside mares this year.

JALLAD – this evergreen sire has produced the winners of over 1220 races and until this year he was for many years the leading sire of Gr1 winners in SA. The 1st stallion to get R1m for a yearling and set an SA Auction record for a filly at R2.2m in 2007. He won the sire championship several years ago and was pipped the following year twice after that by **Western Winter** and was 3rd last season. He is (at 3rd May) second to **Fort Wood** on the 3yo sire log and 4th on the overall log (ahead of the sire that leads the 3yo log). As pointed out in our piece on Captain Al there is not much separating the top 5 at the moment so anything is possible this year. Jallad's chief earners this year are **Zirconium and Kapil** and he has another very smart filly in **Sweet Sanette**, she has won 5 of her 8 starts including The Sycamore Stakes Gr3.

Zirconium won the Gr2 Fillies Guineas and was 2nd in the Gr1 Fillies Classic. She has won 3 of her 13 starts and been placed second 6 times – five of these have been in feature races. She is an entrant in the Gr1 Durban July for the de Kock stable. What a coup it would be for her sire if she triumphed there!

Kapil boasts the highest MR in the Gr2 Drill Hall Stakes on Friday night, The Sporting Post reports that he “was most impressive on his only previous Greyville appearance. He came from stone last turning for home to win the KZN Guineas of 2006 going away, leaving subsequent July winner Hunting Tower floundering in his wake. He has seemed as well as ever since returning to these shores following Dubai and UK campaigns, and finished very strongly to snatch 4th in the Met. Rested since, he has a wide draw to overcome, but will be closing quickly in the stretch if somewhere near peak”. Jallad's fee has been reduced to R60 000 this year to give breeders a chance to use one of this country's top 5 at an affordable fee – his book will be limited to 48 mares this year and there are only a few nominations available.

LONDON NEWS has another graded stakes winner to add to his list.

London Guest won the Listed Sledgehammer over 1800m last Sunday. She has 6 wins and 8 places from 15 starts for Tony Rivalland.



Right: London Guest

MANSHOOD – always under-rated and one of the few direct links to the fantastic Mr Prospector alive. An update of his recent form is best revealed in the following table which shows how cost effective this progeny are:-

Athena Gold	3	f	J	11/04/2009	16000	1450	2	MP-F	
Breeze Eazy	5	f	F	01/05/2009	16000	1200	2	MR89F	80k Ns (SI 0.46)
Dancing Cherie	2	f	C	08/04/2009	6500	1000	3	MJP-F	15k Gw (SI 0.21)
Dr Vienna	4	f	J	11/04/2009	40000	1000	1	MR68F	40k Ty (SI 0.58)
Dr Vienna	4	f	V	02/04/2009	6400	1000	3	MR72	40k Ty (SI 0.58)
French Kiss	4	f	F	10/04/2009	13000	1600	2	AllPI	
French Kiss	4	f	F	27/03/2009	10400	1400	2	MR71F	
Love Parade	4	f	J	18/04/2009	3550	2600	4	MR68F	35k Ty (SI 0.51)
Major Champion	4	c	R	07/04/2009	4450	1800	4	MR90	280k Ns (SI 0.91)
Man Of Atlantis	4	c	D	10/04/2009	3750	1900	4	MR84	
Market Melody	3	f	A	03/04/2009	5000	1600	3	MP	100k Ty (SI 1.33)
Miss Cappy	2	f	V	21/04/2009	50000	1400	1	MJP-F	80k Gw (SI 1.13)
Miss Cappy	2	f	V	02/04/2009	4000	1400	4	MJP-F	80k Gw (SI 1.13)
Mount Hood	3	c	T	28/03/2009	100000	1800	4	SACIs	50k Ty (SI 0.55)
Pink West	3	f	F	01/05/2009	5200	1000	3	NP-F	130k Ty (SI 1.73)
Posh Boy	3	c	L	28/03/2009	12200	1400	2	MR78	50k Vint (SI 0.4)
Rare Silk	2	f	Q	04/05/2009	4000	1000	3	MJP	30k Gw (SI 0.42)
Silver Link	7	c	H	12/04/2009	0	1800	4	MR80	
Xtravaganza	4	f	E	05/04/2009	12000	1600	2	MP-F	45k Ty (SI 0.66)

TAMBURLAINE – had a runaway winner in KZN yesterday: Persepolis won by 6 lengths which could have been 10 as the Jockey eased him towards the post – he now has 5 starts – a win and 4 seconds. Basil Marcus stepped out Mr & Mrs Evans impressive 2yo colt **Trebes** a few weeks ago. A big beautiful colt, he went to post with a solid stayer's action but came back like he could win over any distance – graceful and very talented. Basil told us that he rates this colt as good as anything he has trained before. All this is great news for **Tamburlaine** who has not many runners. He has a smart filly in Geoff Woodruff's stable - **Sharp Mistress**. Sporting Post reports on her chances in the Gr2 Fillies Guineas this weekend: - *"Sharp Mistress will be better suited here. A Gr3 winner over 1450m on the Turffontein inner course in February, Sharp Mistress finished almost one length in front of On Her Toes in the Gr2 Gauteng Fillies Guineas won by Zirconium. That race was run on soggy ground and the bare form remains potentially a bit suspect, but Sharp Mistress is much better drawn than On Her Toes here and can finish in front of her fellow Johannesburg raider again."* She has won 2 incl the Gr3 Three Troikas and was 2nd in the Gr2 Fillies Guineas and placed in the Gr3 Hertz Fillies Mile. **Tamburlaine's** fee is R8000 this year.

They say that there is nothing more genuine in racing than a 2yo and we all love watching the new generation race in the hope that the next Champion will make its presence felt.

For us it's particularly exciting when the progeny of our stallions fill all the places in a race. **Captain AI** almost pulled off a trifecta in the *Betting World Fillies Nursery at Kenilworth* last weekend with **Flower's Angel** 1st, **Possible Dream** 2nd and another of his daughter's, **Sleek 'n Sassy**, narrowly beaten into fourth. The FreemanStallions pulled off a quartet at Turffontein on Saturday in the first race: **Give Me Five** (by Goldkeeper out of a Jallad mare) from a **Captain AI**, a **Goldkeeper** and then a **Qui Danzig**.

Needless to say we caught the quartet!

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STALLIONS FOR 2009:

BADGER'S DRIFT, CAPTAIN AL, COUNT DUBOIS (GB), DUPONT (GB), DYNASTY,
EYEOFTHETIGER (BRZ), GOLDKEEPER (USA), JALLAD (USA), JAY PEG, LITHUANIAN (AUS),
LONDON NEWS, MANSHOOD (USA), QUI DANZIG (USA), TAMBURLAINE (IRE)