



The Di ...Dossier

“Mortal, but not mere”

It was 27 July 2010– an early Tuesday Morning when we heard the news.

Graham Beck had passed away during the night. An icon of SA racing was no more.

Our deepest sympathies to his wife Rhona, son Antony and all at Highlands farm. Mr Beck, who turned 80 last year, had been unwell for some time, after a long battle with lung cancer.

Mr Beck was a self made man and left an impression on any sector he delved into– be it coal mining, horse racing or wine making! Interesting that he saw as one of his greatest achievements the ability to have created employment and better the lives of thousands of people.

He was described in a leading wine magazine, most aptly “Mortal, but not mere, neither in size nor inspiration”.

Mr Beck, as anyone who ever met him would testify, was no shrinking violet and he loved life and the

odd good party! He was introduced to racing by the Jaffees and made his first racing acquisition in 1974.

Mr Beck did nothing in small measures and by the late 70’s he had ventured into Breeding with Regent Stud in Mooiriver.

This venture into Breeding would eventually end with the establishment of Gainesway in faraway Kentucky– the world’s largest stallion station!

On the ownership front, the Beck’s colours have never been far from the limelight and most feature races would not be complete without the famous brown, white V bib and spotted cap.

Just on two years ago, the filly Dancer’s Daughter carried these silks to a dead heat victory in the Vodacom Durban July.

It was a privilege for this yard, that in the wake of the news, his filly Prismatic Fire– carried his colours to victory a few hours later at the Vaal.



Prismatic Fire

says goodbye in her own way, only hours after the news is received that owner Graham Beck has passed away.....

Prismatic Fire, is a filly by the Highlands farm stallion Spectrum. She is out of the Jallad mare Minski– who in turn is out of the very good race mare Muscovy.

She had placed twice before shedding her maiden, with an emphatic 5 length victory.



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The winning team



National 2 year old sale

My favourite sale– the National two year old sale is to be held at the Thoroughbred Breeders Association’s Germiston Sales Complex on 14 and 15 August 2010.



So why is it my favourite sale- and more importantly- why should it be yours?

The two year old sale is probably the best value for money sale around.

Firstly, it comes around, nearly 6 months after the National Yearling Sales. That means the breeders have picked up 6 months additional keep on behalf of the soon to be new owner.

Secondly, the horses have not been rushed to make the yearling sales and many horses just need this additional time to mature.

Thirdly it does not have the hype of the ready to run sale and as a result average prices appear to offer better value.

With regards to the sale itself, 91 stallions combine to offer us 486 different lots. Truly a sale for every taste and every budget.

Please contact me should you have an interest in acquiring a horse or a share.

Winner's Wall



Peter White's

Esterel
Vaal
1 July



Mr Lomaz and Ms Stenger's

Trapeze Artist
Vaal
8 July



Peter White's

Let the river run
Vaal
22 July

Racing Terms

Overreaching:

Technically speaking "overreach" refers to the horse's hind foot striking or stepping on the heel of the front foot. This can be a serious problem because the horse will continually cut his front heel, pull shoes and/or stumble.

Colt:

A male horse under 4 years old that has not been gelded.

Cribbing–

when a horse chews on wood (stable door's, wooden fencing etc) on a regular basis