



The Di...Dossier

Nicks and crosses...

One of the more compelling attractions of thoroughbred racing is how incredibly information driven the sport can actually be.

It is a huge advantage over the roulette wheel or the one arm bandit, to consider all the information to hand before a punter takes his bet.

But the information advantage can extend all the way back to the sales ring.

Whilst in previous editions we have discussed conformation and the amount of legwork we do at Sales to ensure the physical specimen gives us a fighting chance of information and statistics can play a vital role in pointing us to the right

lot.

Whilst pedigree aficionados like Robin Bruss, can turn this into an art-form, I know of many successful owners, who use a basic formula to identify potential purchases.

Simply put, they look at successful nicks/crosses. By taking note of how successful horses are bred, they look for a pattern that puts the odds in their favour.

By example, an owner will notice that a particular stallion's progeny, goes well when they are out of a certain broodmare sire.

Or, with a bit of knowledge, will begin to recognise a common element on either side of the pedigree.

Publications from Karel Miedema, like the annual

Stallion book, has through the keeping of records and statistics identified many of these successful nicks. Internationally there are a number of websites that identify complimentary nicks. And as one of these aptly describes it: Do more than just hope for the best!

So, whilst breeding, training and punting is everything but an exact science, it can be a great deal of fun to evaluate the information to help sway the odds in your favour!

If you have had success with a particular nick or identified what you believe to be a good mating, let me know and we can take a look at the physical specimen together.

Groom of the Month

January. Groom of the month is Hloniphile Livi.

Hloniphile has worked at the stable since 1993 and has looked after many good horses.

At the moment Challenger Quay is in his care, so the trend continues.

Hloniphile has been Head groom for 17 years and my right hand.

February's groom of the month is Kwanele Livi who has worked here from 1997. Kwanele is a very good work rider and has ridden in a few races.





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The winning team



Dates to Diarise

Mark off 15-17 April in your diaries, as the Emperorsø National Yearling Sales takes pride of place at the Gosforth Sales Complex in Germiston.

You can reach me at the above contact details if you need me to take a look at any prospect you may fancy.

As soon as catalogues are available pop past the yard to collect yours.

Photo Right

Peter White and Colin Gordon, on hand to celebrate Sapphire Ring's win. Fransie Naude did duty aboard the daughter of Spectrum.

Winner's Wall

Messrs R Claassens, E J Cook, W H Cook, R G E Humphrey and G L Odgers 5 year old mare, Laughing River, led in the new year with her 3rd visit to the winner's enclosure, winning a 1600m Vaal sand outing. After a come from behind win, she surprised all to win from the front under expert guidance from Felix Coetzee.

On the 25th of January, Sapphire Ring stormed home in her second visit to the track, winning an 1160m sprint at the Big T. Sapphire Ring races for Peter White and Colin Gordon. Peter raced the Mare Star Sapphire in partnership with Graham Beck and the family of this black type winning mare has been very lucky for Peter. I have always felt Spectrum will be a success and was very pleased for this Highlands Farm bred winner.

It was the same partnership of Peter and Colin that struck a few

days later, when their juvenile colt, Midnight Serenade made a winning debut by slamming his opposition by 4.5 lengths over the minimum trip.

On 9 February, the Makinsø home bred and owned, Calpurnius returned to the winner's box after a long absence winning a hotly contested standside sprint at a Turffontein night meeting.

Three days later, on 12 February Supasaro gave workrider Sean Patterson victory over the Vaal 1400m for Dr Prigge.

On 17 February, Prismatic Fire upset the two fancied runners, galloping strongly to win by 2.5 lengths.

It was a fantastic first run for Messrs Wolff and Rai and another Highlands farm Spectrum to win for the stable.

