

Bloodstock Expertise - at home & abroad -

SA +27(0)21 828 9288 | SA mobile +27(0)72 740 9061  
 UK +44(0)1252 646611 | UK mobile +44(0)7774 697640  
 davidallan@allanbloodlines.com | www.allanbloodlines.com



*The David Allan Column*

## 'Sales Rats' - and yearlings by the thousand



RIGHT now, South Africa's sales companies are pondering decisions that have us holding our collective breath. The opportunity is to boost the industry, be thanked then turn to the next chapter.

If so, sales with 90-120 lots will be brief entries – in every sense - in the history books. In 2017, the key will be to embrace and revel in fewer, bigger catalogues and longer working days of selling.

Copying other countries for the sake of it would be nonsense. But bloodstock is global, so let's have a look at the Western European Sales Schedules - happening now.

650 yearlings went through the Doncaster ring re-

cently. Arqana was earlier. The emerging Baden-Baden sale saw Markus Jooste describing it as a Best Kept Secret.

But the real intensity starts soon. 3,877 catalogued yearlings will go through the rings of three Irish and UK sales companies across only 24 days of which 17 will be selling: from 10 am into evening at 250 lots daily.

Only the three days at Tattersalls Book 1 will start at 11am (around 180 per day), most spending more time in the ring than your average yearling.

There is no selling on Saturdays and Sundays.

These are busy travelling and inspecting days as yearlings arrive only a couple of days – or less - in advance of their selling slot. Inspecting and working the lists continues as yearlings rotate in and out.

**You only go into the ring when you need to, remaining aware through screens everywhere and with help. It's a long way from the far side of Tatts' 44 acres to the ring!**

Trainers may attend sales. Some hate them and leave it to the owners and their professionals to select what they can train. Some come in after morning work, probably returning for evening stables. Some fly over to look at short lists sourced for them by *their* agents or agents/managers for their owners. Some love it and look extensively, but not at all sales.

They couldn't could they? On the five selling days of Tattersalls Books 2,3,4 alone there are 14 UK race meetings followed by Champions Day at Ascot, all accessible from everywhere.

We kick off on 20 September at Tattersalls Ireland ("Fairhouse") a "smaller" affair which has doubled to 996 catalogued. We have had wonderful success there but The Secret is Out.

After Parts 1&2, the circus scoots round the M50 and N7 to where Goffs – near Naas - offers the Orby (Ireland's best) and Sportsman's Sales (998 total) for a week on another excellent campus. Goffs has a brilliant arena with impressive young bid spotters and busy protagonists on their feet all day, moving in and out to their favourite standing spots.

Then to England for two October weeks of Tatts Books 1,2,3,4. Here, the bid spotters are mute, callow youths allowed only to point as a back-up to the rostrum to which all bidding must be directed.

On it, deeply experienced bloodstock people pick up on the nearly invisible techniques of bidders: the tiniest flicker in the scrum at the chute, in "the Bidders", outside in the distance or down the back stairs hiding from being run by vendors.

Consignment management through the ring is nerve wracking, intense and exciting. Over 30% of yearlings are sold through consignment companies

and many more by boarding and consignment farms acting as agent.

Over 30% are sold by foal traders (pinhookers) with foal prices published before each sale. 50% or more at some sales.



*The Tattersalls Rotunda.*

There is no free food. No free booze. Other than by private invitation if have time. Buy it at multiple restaurants and bars elsewhere on site but don't bring it near the sales ring. The restaurants are used to keeping a plate hot as someone has to rush off to the ring.

With daylight gone and the sales days approaching their end, the food and beverage rooms at Tatts, Goffs or Fairhouse teem with tired-legged consultants/agents also racing and syndicate managers who are basically the same animal.

Spotters join. Catalogues remain open and lists remain under review. Some trainers mix in. Vendors and their showing people swell the numbers.

These, for several months on the circuit, are the Sales Rats. Not with the heroism of Desert Rats, but similarly affectionately named here, and with a remarkable form of dedication. 24/7 minus some sleep. –**TT**.



**JOIN US ON TWITTER**  
**@turftalk1**





*Yearling inspections at Fairyhouse.*

KLAWERVLEI  STUD

**betting WORLD**  
HORSERACING & SPORTS BETTING

Proud of our 2016  
**EQUUS GRADUATES**  
  
BloodStock  
SOUTH AFRICA

  
Cape  
Thoroughbred  
Sales

  
Kuda  
WWW.KUDA.CO.ZA

## Dubai form franked in US

FORM from the 2016 Dubai Racing Carnival is working out well in the United States, and with collateral lines across the waters showing encouraging facts, more American trainers are likely to visit the 2017 Carnival – while we may even see more Dubai Carnival horses from other countries taking on the Americans on home soil.

Among the big names, Frosted (USA), fifth in the 2016 Dubai World Cup to California Chrome, has won the Gr1 Metropolitan Handicap and the Gr1 Whitney Stakes since, and on Saturday he finished third in the Gr1 Woodward at Saratoga.

California Chrome (USA) himself has raced only twice since his spectacular Dubai victory. He won the Gr2 San Diego Handicap in July and followed that with another roaring win in the Gr1 Pacific Classic.

The interesting horse is former Mike de Kock-trained Mubtaahij, who was transferred to Kiaran McLaughlin after his second to California Chrome in the Dubai World Cup. He stepped out in July to finish third in the Gr2 Suburban Handicap and then failed by a head only to win Saturday's Gr1 Woodward, racing from the widest of draws.

Mubtaahij has beaten the higher-rated Frosted, a Top 5 horse on the Logines World Rankings, on both occasions they have met, and his first US win can't be far off. Mubtaahij is likely to have one more engagement, the Jockey Club Gold Cup at Belmont (8 October), before he returns to the UEA.

Meanwhile Vale Dori (ARG), fourth in the UAE Derby for De Kock on Dubai World Cup night, won the Listed Tranquility Lake Stakes at Del Mar last Wednesday. The daughter of Asiatic Boy now races for Bob Baffert. –**TT**

  
COOP  
DE  
GRACE  
(USA)

**TO ADVERTISE WITH US  
PLEASE CONTACT JO ON  
083 399 6353;  
OR JUSTINE ON**

# Bloomberg's opinion on controversial objection at Turffontein

PROMINENT attorney and racing expert Robert Bloomberg has reacted strongly to a decision made by Stipendiary Stewards at Turffontein on Saturday – they upheld what looked like an optimistic objection in Race 1, won by the Ormond Ferraris-trained Querari Warrior, who finished 1,10-lengths clear of Mike Azzie's first-timer, Nordic Storm.

In a letter to [Sporting Post](#), Bloomberg commended NHA CEO Lyndon Barends for promptly launching an investigation into the objection, and its outcome, and said: "The explanation tendered by (Stipendiary Steward) Mr Thulani Khanyile in substantiation of his (and whoever it was who concurred with him) ludicrous, preposterous and diabolical decision is nothing short of mind boggling.

My take on the matter is that in regard to the start, Querari Viking jumps inwards, but Nordic Storm had no gate speed in any event so this movement is wholly irrelevant to proceedings other than to comment that incidents like this continually happen at the start.

As for the alleged incident up the straight, Sherman Brown is clear when he shifts slightly to the rail which he is perfectly entitled to do. It's called race riding. This is not a 400m athletics race where you have to stick to your lane! Once Nordic Storm shifts out for a run, he makes in reality no significant ground on Querari Viking as he wins with quite a bit in hand the 1.1 length winning margin belying his authority.

The most important issue here and which is the telling factor, is that the objection rule states in a nutshell that an objection shall NOT be upheld unless the placed horse (Nordic Storm) but for the interference – I would dispute in any event that here was any interference – WOULD have beaten the horse which caused the interference (Querari Viking). Would means DEFINITIVE CERTAINTY i.e. 100%! There isn't a 1% chance that Nordic Storm would have won let alone 100%.

**This is an ailing multi-million rand industry that can ill-afford blunders of this magnitude and what is in my professional opinion incompetence of the highest order. The damage that has been done to punters (the initial winner was backed from 3/1 – 14/10) is immeasurable. There must now be repercussions. -TT**

WATCH LIVE RACING AND REPLAYS  
LIVE ...AS IT HAPPENS.

ON ANY DEVICE  
DAILY AND MONTHLY PACKAGES AVAILABLE

REGISTER NOW ON [TELLYTRACK.COM](http://TELLYTRACK.COM)