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The David Allan Column

The Dewhurst Diaries and a Coronation Derby



Churchill (nearest camera), winning Saturday's Gr1 Dewhurst Stakes.

AFTER the launch party for new Cape stallion *Fencing Master*, feedback told us that two aspects of the event were particularly well received. One was of course the stallion and his stock that we paraded.

The other was the story of *Fencing Master's* part in an Aidan O'Brien 1-2 in the Group 1 Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket, last Saturday.

The 2016 renewal of the race, sponsored by Dubai, was run two days ago, 141 years after the first. The race is billed as Britain's premier event for juveniles, run over 7 furlongs (1400 metres) of the Rowley

Mile at Newmarket. The leading finishers will not be sprinters but will be aimed at Classics, starting with the 2,000 Guineas then The Derby. Mostly.

Not always. One rather good Dewhurst winner - Frankel - did not get up to the Derby distance. Without ever racing outside England, he established his peerless reputation in Group 1 Mile races, only stepping up to 2,000 metres in his last two contests.

One of those, the Juddmonte International at York is a leader in world rankings in terms of quality of winner and Frankel was no exception, bounding home by 7 lengths. He confirmed a pre-eminence to be matched only conceptually by those who argue that

Sea The Stars “did it” at *all* the distances, including the Derby.

Other Dewhurst winners in recent years include Teofilio, New Approach and Dawn Approach and also War Command, an early son of War Front at stud.

Teofilio did not run at all at 3 and War Command did not really train on – much like Fencing Master – but the Dewhurst is enough to make a stallion.

Fencing Master’s Dewhurst effort – a neck second - was one year before Frankel. But going back farther, we see that the Dewhurst roll of honour includes Nijinsky, Mill Reef, Grundy, The Minstrel, Storm Bird, Diesis, Generous, Grand Lodge and Rock Of Gibraltar.

And much farther back: Ormonde and Hyperion stand out, plus Pinza whose subsequent Coronation Derby was very special, attended by a crowd of over half a million.

The Derby used to be a London holiday with Parliament adjourned and hundreds of thousands trooping out of town to the Epsom Downs to enjoy the Fair on the Hill and to be part of the great occasion.

Originally run on a Thursday, the race took place on the first Wednesday in June 1900-1994 after which it was switched to Saturday. It also took place on Saturday in some war and post-war years – and in the special Coronation Year of 1953.

Post-war food rationing did not end entirely until 1954, but the country was in ironic celebratory mood when confectionary rationing ended in February 1953 with sugar soon to be freed up in September.



Hyperion at Stanley House.

The new Queen had ascended in 1952 on the death of her popular father and on 2nd June 1953 was crowned for a country eager for joy.

The young monarch had deepened the Royal bond with Londoners created by her parents refusing to leave London in the Blitz, and being seen out and about in bombed out areas. She had enlisted – as Subaltern Elizabeth Windsor - into army uniform and drove a First Aid truck during hostilities.

To cap all this, Her Majesty’s own colt Aureole (by Hyperion) was a Coronation Derby runner and joint favourite with Dewhurst Winner Pinza. No less than 27 runners started.

Aureole messed about awfully in the preliminaries and in one sense, the Royal Party was spoiled, with Aureole finishing second.

But actually there was more national rejoicing at *Pinza’s* win. The soon-to-be-knighted Gordon Rich-





HMH The Queen and soon-to-be Sir Gordon Richards.

Richards had – amazingly – not won the Derby in 27 attempts. On Sir Victor Sassoon's Pinza, he did so at the 28th time of asking and the crowd went bonkers anyway. A dead-heat would have been perfect.

The day before yesterday, new stories were born.

William Haggas sent out Rivet, part owned by his father-in-law Lester Piggott who won the Dewhurst 10 times over a period of 27 years. Better than winning 1 in 3.

Seven Heavens (Frankel) resembled his Dad, pulling Frankie Dettori's arms out of their sockets but without the same end product. Gimcrack winner and Middle Park 2nd Blue Point (Shamardal) finished 3rd, probably not quite staying the 7 furlongs.

The main story now is the winner: Churchill– along with his pacemaker Lancaster Bomber (War Front) who stayed on again to finish 2nd. Not only does this pair of names evoke memories of the circumstances of the Blitz and the war effort, but also they combined for yet another in a rush of Aidan O'Brien/Coolmore 1-2 Group 1 finishes, with Churchill rushing to Guineas favouritism.

Ascot Stud will be celebrating as a Galileo out of a Storm Cat mare, just like their new stallion Global View.

And hey! Fencing Master in a 1-2 for Aidan O'Brien in the Dewhurst Stakes Group 1 the year before Frankel. Not too shabby either! - tt



Fencing Master (purple silks), pipped in Dewhurst Stakes.

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Make a date with Fairview - 30 October 2016



It's regarded as one of the best race days in Port Elizabeth and this year's Betting World Algoa Cup (Gr 3) will be more of the same with Fairview gearing up to host the event on 30 October.

The 2000m contest caps off what should be a fantastic weekend's racing in the Eastern Cape and the focus remains on providing a fun day out for the whole family with a number of fun things to do as part of the festivities. Entrance to the course is free and gates open at 11am.

As far as the entertainment offering goes, there will be a dedicated children's activity zone along with pony rides and Algoa FM will be broadcasting live from the course in the build-up to the racing.

Georgie's Corner will transform into a rustic area with tickets available at R125 per person and includes a cheese platter, a glass of wine or a craft beer as well as a Computaform.

Those wanting to race inside the building can book in the HB Christian room with the R300 per head price tag allowing access to a scrumptious buffet, a racecard, gifts as well as an entry into the venue's lucky draw competitions on the afternoons.

This event will cap a jam-packed weekend of racing in the Eastern Cape with the curtain-raiser meeting on 28 October including the Listed Racing Association Stakes, run over 1600m with a stake of R150,000.

"With Betting World laying down roots in the Eastern Cape we feel it's important to continue supporting racing in this part of South Africa.

"We're fully behind the Algoa Cup which remains one of the great racedays in Port Elizabeth," said Nico Kritsiotis, marketing and brand manager for Betting World, said of their involvement. -tt

The Durbanville Summer



A fun crowd enjoyed a wonderful day in the Cape sunshine at Durbanville, Sunday, for the Matchem Stakes, Diana Stakes and Jockeys Chase. (Racing Guru).

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Big pointer to Klawervlei's newly arrived stallion



Coup De Grace, exciting blood.

EXCITING two-year-old Dancing Rags provided Klawervlei's exciting new sire Coup De Grace with a massive update when she won G1 Darley Alciabiades Stakes at Keeneland on Friday.

The daughter of Union Rags, who has now won two of three outings, is out of the G3 Storm Cat mare Court, and is thus a half sister to Coup De Grace himself!

Campaigned by the Chadds Ford Stable, Dancing Rags improved position through the turn and challenged for the lead after six furlongs. The Graham Motion trained filly ran on strongly to record a one length at the expense of Daddys Lil Darling with Fun back in third place.

A trip to the G1 Breeders' Cup could now be on the cards for Dancing Rags, who also earned points to qualify for the 2017 Longines Kentucky Oaks with Friday's big race win.

She is one of seven winners for her dam Home Court, whose brilliant son Coup De Grace won both the G2 Amsterdam and G3 Bay Shore Stakes.

The blue blooded Home Court is by champion sire/broodmare sire Storm Cat and is out of US champion, and G1 Breeders' Cup Distaff winner Jewel Princess.

Coup De Grace, the only son of champion US sire Tapit at stud in South Africa, is standing his first season at stud this year for a fee of R50 000. **-tt**

...but The Captain is still in charge

Klawervlei's resident champion Captain AI sired the winners of both Gr3 races at Durbanville Saturday.

Brett Crawford's Captain America won the Gr3 Matchem Stakes over 1400m after a layoff and Crawford said: "He'll go for Green Point on December 3 followed by the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate and the Sun Met."

Captain's Flame won the Gr3 Diana Stakes over 1400m for Andre Nel, who commented: "I have always thought she was way above average. She needed this a bit and we will see how she is before deciding on where she goes before the Paddock Stakes." - **tt**

Cheap Aussie purchase wins Gr 2

IMPORTED four-year-old filly Mella Maria (AUS), caused a 33-1 upset when winning Saturday's Gr2 Joburg Spring Fillies and Mares Challenge over 1450m for Mike Azzie and Karl Zechner.

Zechner said that Mella Maria, who'd led virtually from gun to tape, had surprised him.



Mike Azzie (right), receives trophy from Larry Wainstein.

"She is not a filly that likes to be bullied so I tried and be as kind as I could. I battled early to find a position so I took her forward. She enjoyed it there. I gave her a breather for 100m at the top of the straight and she ran her heart out all the way to the line," he said.

Azzie, who owns Mella Maria along with his long-time patron Tinus Gericke, said: "She deserved a win at this level and is a nice mare for stud now."

The trainer purchased Mella Maria, a daughter of dual Gr1 winner Star Witness, for just A\$2500 from the Widden Stud draft at the 2014 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale. **-tt**

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