

tt TURF TALK

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Bloodstock Expertise - at home & abroad -

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The David Allan Column

Monumental Sales—The Brexit Factor *... and what's next?*



David Allan (right) and a close associate buying a nice colt at Tattersalls last week. (Tattersalls.com).

SITTING at a laptop at the weekend is blessed relief from six days at one of the most intense sales in recent experience.

Selling sessions of 11 hours or more with all the *befores*, *afters* and *durings* mean walking about 10 miles a day (16km) with a bag of reference material over the shoulder. It takes a day or two to feel human again.

Thank Heavens for 32% withdrawals as discussed last Monday. This – the Tattersalls Autumn Horses in Training Sale - was a monumental event. The average was up 35%. Median up by the same 35%.

Plus a clearance rate of 92% which is excellent and

can be taken to being very close to reality, unlike some.

At the end of last week, Chairman Edmond Mahony's post-sale statement included, "Every year we reflect on the extraordinary diversity of buyers, both domestic and overseas, who attend the Autumn Horses in Training, but the sheer number of people here this week has been almost overwhelming".

Last year five lots made more than 200,000 guineas. This year there were twelve. Some of the overseas spending on good (but not that good) racehorses was eye-watering. "Scary" was the comment of hardened Tatts professionals who support the

auctioneers on the rostrum and can identify every bid from every country.

At AllanBloodlines we had a productive sale. In the local language we “got six bought” at several levels which gets nods of approval in a market where “getting anything bought” is an achievement if working to proper valuations and not getting “sucked upwards”. That being said, we are still short of one six figure colt. Another day....

Later in the sale, the extraordinary “Juddmonte Effect”, very valuable to Tattersalls, persisted - held back until the Wednesday when in some weaker markets enthusiasm is waning before the traditional drop-off on Thursday.

The Juddmonte draft is awaited by many buyers. The ring fills as dusk falls. It is a spectator sport. Valuations that should be strict are thrown to the four winds. “Chuck on a green sheet and add 50% to the price” is a regular observation.

Nearly 40 Juddmonte colts and geldings go through continuously, with just a few fillies of lesser pedigree but can be described as “In Training” whether in full or light work.

The description on the page “In Training” is part of the Conditions of Sale and is ubiquitous in the Horses in Training Sale. Wind-testing is permitted. “Out of Training” (as is the case for most but certainly not all fillies in the breeding stock sale), means no wind testing.

To put it another way, “Out of Training” means “Don’t spin this round a sound-proofed lunge ring” or

“Don’t gallop this up a hill”.

We should look to the Breeding Stock sales for... well....breeding stock. But how will prices be?

Some of the massive spending might be attributable to the change in sterling following the Brexit vote. Contrary to the dire “Project Fear” predictions of the “Remain” campaigners, now known as Remoaners”, every economic indicator has risen since that vote and many grant funding assurances are made or in the pipeline.

The Nissan decision on Friday to increase its investment in new models at the Sunderland plant – not quit altogether as constantly predicted -saluted the bravery of the voters of Sunderland who anyway voted 61% to Leave.

But the currency has reduced. Some say corrected. Some say dropped. What may this mean for the price in Rand of UK-sourced bloodstock?

Today it should be 25% lower than it was not long ago. But that was not the case at the Horses in Training Sales because sterling prices were 35% up.

Will sterling rise again? Surely it was previously too strong and is now heavily affected by the factor that financial markets most hate: uncertainty. Whereas the leaders of all the relevant nations (excluding the EU lawmakers) are now mostly being careful what they say, the posturing and uncertainty will reduce once negotiations start in the European Spring.



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There may be a bit of inflation in the meantime (small as opposed to tiny now), but once the button is pressed, sterling should rise somewhat. The time in between may prove to be the best time to buy.

We are already looking ahead to the imminent breeding stock sales. Last week was for racehorses, not broodmares or fillies for stud. Soon we shall be looking at the effect of a return to potential overproduction at the coal face of the foal and breeding stock markets.

It is with great anticipation that we study the Goffs and Tattersalls breeding stock catalogues in search of pedigrees and conformation in which to invest "At Home and Abroad".

South Africa may be "Home" for most readers. Or "Abroad" for a few. For a small number of us, it is both. - **tt**.



Table Bay, top prospect this season. (Wayne Marks).

Table Bay's a true bargain

DEREK Brugman, Racing Manager of Mayfair Speculators, said that he and Joey Ramsden expected Table Bay (AUS) to be one of the sales-toppers at the 2015 Melbourne Premier Yearling Sale.

The progressive Table Bay (Anton Marcus) scored a fluent victory under top weight in Saturday's R250 000 Gr3 Cape Classic and his \$AUS120,000 purchase already looks like a "bargain" in horse buyers terms. He's won four of 6 starts, including two Gr3's, with stakes approaching R400,00, and the world's his oyster.

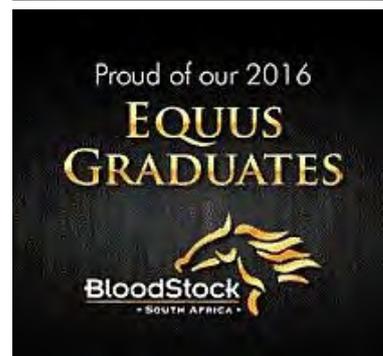
"We had Table Bay vetted, did all our homework and we were bracing ourselves for a big price, \$500 – 600,000, so we were pleasantly surprised, quite baffled when he went for so much less," Brugman told.

"Table Bay is a big horse that stands over ground, a classic type. The Australians seem to prefer the offspring of Redoute's Choice to be more compact, closely coupled, so perhaps that's why they looked beyond him. We're not complaining!" - **tt**.

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KLAWERVLEI  STUD





Ridgemont Stud has a new HQ

"THIS is a special day—our new HQ," enthused Craig Carey of Ridgemont Stud on Friday.

Ridgemont is developing a newly acquired farm in the Wellington area, to be a private, state of the art breaking in and spelling facility. - **tt**

Fourie tops on Nebula

JOCKEY Richard Fourie was seen at his best in Sunday's Gr3 Algoa Cup over 2000m, booting home four-year-old Nebula for Brett Crawford's yard in a well-timed finish.

Nebula was well-backed on course, starting favourite at 4-1 after an opening call of 6-1.

"He finished close to Black Arthur in the Politician Stakes and that was good enough to win this race," said Fourie.

"He's only just maturing and the more he matures, the better he will be. At the 600m I knew he had the race won. He was just doing it on his own."

Bred by Wilgerbosdrift Stud, Nebula is a gelding by Silvano from Seek The Wind, by Jallad. He has won 3 of 12 starts for owner Edmund Stud. - **tt**.

Equine School intake

The Summerhill School Of Equine Management Excellence is now accepting graduates for the 2017 intake.

The School of Equine Management one of the most sought after Equine Colleges of its kind in South Africa. It is situated on the grounds of the magnificent Summerhill Stud in Mooi River, KwaZulu-Natal.

Graduating students have excelled and proven themselves again and again, not only here in South Africa, but in Australia, England, New Zealand, America and even as far as Japan.

Phone: +27 33 263 1081 for mor details. -**tt**

Keeping Up With The Dettori's



NOW that Frankie Dettori has opened a Twitter account, his fans can follow him almost night and day. Frankie thanked his 12,000 plus Twitter followers (acquired in 48 hours) at the weekend and tweeted about a Halloween party he hosted before leaving for Australia - coinciding with the 13th birthday of his daughter Tallua. "I can't wait to ride Wicklow Brave in the Melbourne Cup," he said. - **tt**

More for Ryan Moore

JOCKEY Ryan Moore claimed yet more top-level honours when he guided Maurice to victory in the Gr 1 Autumn Tenno Sho at Tokyo racecourse.

Moore said of trainer Noriyuki Hori's runner: "He's a very good horse, he's strong at a mile and very hard to beat. He's very strong, he's got a good turn of foot and he was dominant. - **tt**.

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Some good draws for UK, Irish raiders in Tuesday's Melbourne Cup

THERE were mixed results for British and Irish challengers overall, at the draws for Tuesday's Gr1 Melbourne Cup at Flemington.

Charlie Appleby's **Oceanographer** (7-1) will break from stall 11, with Geelong Cup-winning stable companion **Qewy** (25-1) in stall 15.'

On Tuesday, TAB customers in SA can bet on the 156th running of the Melbourne Cup, run for prize money of 62-million. TAB will operate Win, Place, Exacta and Double bets on Race 6—10 with pools commingled directly into the huge Australian tote pools. The action starts at 5.30am, the Cup is off at 6am.

A formidable Godolphin squad also includes the Saeed bin Suroor-trained pair of **Beautiful Romance** (stall one; 50-1) and **Secret Number** (stall 10; 40-1) and John O'Shea's ante-post favourite **Hartnell** (stall 12; 4-1).

Dual Goodwood Cup hero **Big Orange** finished fifth in the Flemington showpiece last year from stall 23

and the Newmarket handler admitted to being thrilled after receiving a far more favourable starting berth this time around in stall seven.

Trainer Michael Bell said: "We're absolutely delighted. It's obviously a much better position than last year and we think the horse is in better shape than he was 12 months ago."

Aidan O'Brien's **Bondi Beach** (9-1) fared best of the Irish contingent, with connections drawing stall five.

However, Tony Martin's Ebor winner **Heartbreak City** (14-1) and the Willie Mullins-trained Irish St Leger hero **Wicklow Brave** (16-1) are widest of all in stalls 23 and 24 respectively."

Ciaran Maher's Caulfield Cup heroine **Jameka** appears well positioned in stall three.

Oceanographer confirmed his place in the race after claiming a last-gasp victory in the Lexus Stakes at Flemington on Saturday. —*Racing UK.*



A proud Glyn Schofield (left), the former Kwa-Zulu Natal jockey, with young trainer James Cummings, the fourth-generation trainer from Australia's greatest racing family, posing with Gr1 Victoria Derby winner Prized Icon, Saturday at Flemington in Melbourne. James' grandfather Bart won the race five times.



TWICE OVER (GB)