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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

Stating the bleedin' obvious



READERS who know of the TV series Fawly Towers may recall Basil Fawly risking blowing his frequently threatened personal gasket when reacting to his wife's opinion and growling, "Can we get you on *Mastermind*, *Sybil*? Next contestant *Sybil Fawly from Torquay!* Specialist subject: *Stating The Bleeding Obvious*".

I wish someone in South Africa would produce a paper telling us the bleeding obvious about bleeding in our racehorses.

That someone will not be me. I am not a clinician. But – having difficulty over many years getting my head around SA authorities issuing bans for bleeding - I am keen to learn.

I can recall only one bleeder in our teams in the UK in 30-odd years, in the sense of a proper haemor-

rhage. We bred him (by Night Shift out of a Shirley Heights mare) then ran him until he was seven years old.

His general demeanour was based apparently on the fear that the sky might fall on his head, but he was a little lion on course winning four and placing in loads.

When he ran for our Racing Group, members flocked to see him win, lose or draw such was his personality. Cynics might say that harder training than our patient approach to this fellow might have produced more bleeding.

Starting favourite for a decent handicap at Newmarket, he bled badly when improving into the Dip having done no such thing ever before. His rider Seb Sanders, a friend to horses as well as a UK Champion Jockey, dropped his hands immediately he felt the bleed, nursing him back shakily along the July



Course. I stayed up with him until the early hours – the horse not Seb - sitting on a hay bale in his box, discussing his retirement with him.

To complete this little tale, we gave TONIGHT'S PRIZE four months off to clear the dried blood then evented him to CIC 2-Star until he was 15 years old. At the age of 23, he still competes in veteran competitions ridden by someone younger than himself.

Newmarket trainers reckon that for every 50 horses in training they would have two, maybe three that would bleed to the extent that it is a problem. That is not to say that others do not have blood in the trachea after racing, but we are excluding a scope revealing a few spots of blood after coughing or being struck by a virus.

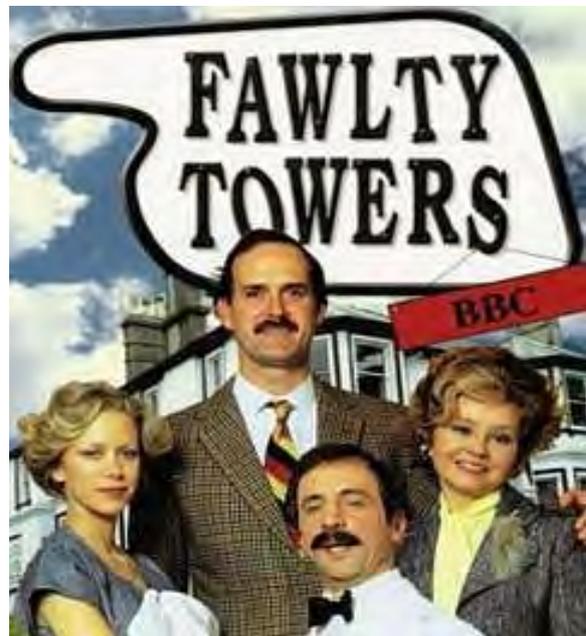
Of course some viruses directly cause bleeding. Newmarket was heavily afflicted by a bug in the summer altering the racing patterns across the country. It made horses bleed at home. Permanently? Don't know until next year when they come back into training after winter breaks. Then we'll find out.

What about genetics? Do some horses have a predisposition to haemorrhage? To put it another way, when asked to undertake lung-busting exercise, will those particular lungs bust? Some do. This is no more or less surprising that finding other inherent defects.

In the opinion of one Newmarket trainer, most light bleeding is just as likely to go away through rest and self-cure as through medication. Homeopathic supplements may well help and there are trainers in countries where bleeding is more prevalent who manage their strings professionally with all that in mind.

In South Africa, if epistaxis (bleeding from one or both nostrils) is "seen", there are mandatory bans from racing. When queried, the authorities say amongst other things "They do it in Australia" or ditto "in Hong Kong". I, for one, do not know what is right. I'm asking.

But I do know that on bringing UK new owners into racing in South Africa, the reaction to being told that a horse has been banned for bleeding (and thus devalued) is "You're kidding"! We have a case in point now. He wants to know the clinical diagnosis leading to a ban.



The writer feels like John Cleese's legendary TV character Basil Fawlty, before he "blows a gasket"!

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There are no bans for bleeding in Europe and North America. There, it is up to the owners who are the responsible parties to manage their horse in consultation with managers, trainers and vets - 60/90 days may or may not be the right time to be "off". Factors of care, morality, practicality, prognosis, budget, value and, if retiring, the future of the horse, as well as regulation play a part.

It could be argued – those cynics again - that there are no bans in the UK because there is such a liquid trade in second hand race horses for home and abroad that the “one size fits all” approach would foul up the process too much.

In the Far East, we might observe that the whole exercise is so gambling driven that allowing a horse known to be flawed onto the racecourse is somehow corrupting the process. What would the difference be between an announcement (as in Europe in some cases) and a ban? Why particularly bleeding? What about loss of action when racing, for example?

In some places, *two bleedin' strikes and you're out*. Australia will have endless alternative pursuits for retired racehorses (as does South Africa), but perhaps less so in city states. That second ban and resultant devaluation would surely have to be based on rock solid veterinary grounds.

The unique legality of the drug *Lasix* in the USA heightens the global debate. A couple of years ago, the Hong Kong horse RICH TAPESTRY ran in USA. He was not permitted to run on medication overseas. When he won a Grade 1 in California, the anti-drugs brigade celebrated. Then he allegedly bled badly in the Breeders' Cup Sprint. Pick the bones out of that. - tt



'Bleeder' Rich Tapestry (yellow cap), winning the 2016 Al Shindaga Sprint.

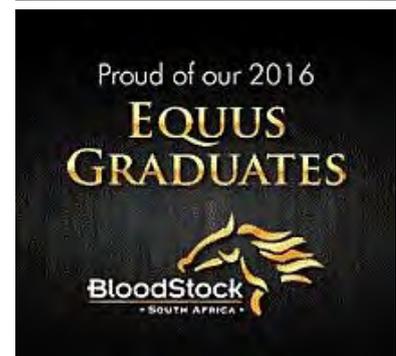
Fund started for paralysed Tylicki

Matt Chapman has started a fundraiser for UK jockey Freddy Tylicki, who was declared paralysed from the waist down after an accident at Kempton last week. Go to <https://www.gofundme.com/freddie-tylicki> if you'd like to contribute. -tt

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KLAWERVLEI  STUD



‘Chrome’ beaten, but trainer Sherman is keen for a rematch with younger Arrogate

CALIFORNIA Chrome lost Saturday’s Gr1 Breeders’ Cup Classic by a half-length, but the five-year-old remains the favourite to win Horse of the Year honours despite his lone defeat in seven races this year.

Had he won, California Chrome likely would have been a unanimous choice for the same title he won in 2014, when he captured the Kentucky Derby and Preakness as a three-year-old.

Arrogate’s upset victory Saturday in the \$6 million race inserted the late-developing colt into consideration for 3-year-old honours, proving that his 13.50-length win in the Gr1 Travers at Saratoga in August wasn’t a fluke.

Besides California Chrome, Arrogate beat fellow Grade 1 winners Effinex, Frosted, Hoppertunity, Keen Ice and Melatonin in the Classic.

“(Arrogate) wasn’t even blowing when he came back,” trainer Bob Baffert said Sunday. “It was like, ‘When are we going to do this again?’”

Garrett O’Rourke, racing manager for Juddmonte Farms, said Arrogate “will definitely race next year.” But no future plans were announced.

California Chrome is likely to run once more before being retired. Trainer Art Sherman has indicated that would be in the inaugural Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park in Miami, Florida on 28 January 2017.

“Maybe we’ll get another chance (against Arrogate) before Chrome retires,” Sherman said. “I hope we’d be able to run him at least one more time before then. We’ll have to wait and see.”

When California Chrome goes to stud, it will be three years after his first season in the breeding shed at Taylor Made Farm that his first 2-year-olds would race.

“I just hope I’m around. I’d like to stick around and train his babies,” said Sherman, 79. “That would be something else for me.” - *from Associated Press.*



Art Sherman with California Chrome.

Top of the mornin’, Seamie!

AIDAN O’Brien’s second-string jockey Seamus Heffernan produced a masterclass from the front as Highland Reel struck in the Gr 1 Breeders’ Cup Turf at Santa Anita on Saturday. Stablemate Found (Ryan Moore) finished third.

The race caller enthused: “That must be one of the best rides ever seen in the Breeders’ Cup!”



Heffernan, bagging his first Breeders’ Cup success, said: “I was on a horse that handled the conditions well, the tight track and the fast ground. He is straightforward and is very sound.”

O’Brien said: “Seamie has given this horse a star ride. - **tt.**

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Millard's CTS 'cheapie' wins Gr3 in Hong Kong

HORSE Of Fortune is eyeing more riches after winning the Gr3 Sa Sa Ladies Purse at Sha Tin on Sunday night. The Tony Millard-trained six-year-old was having its third run of the season after two underwhelming performances, but the son of Stronghold produced a stellar effort to win

Horse Of Fortune, a R150,000 purchase from the 2012 CTS Book One Sale, could now face a meeting with Gr1 Autumn Tenno Sho winner Maurice in the Hong Kong Cup on December 11.



Horse Of Fortune wins.

"We can look at the Internationals in December, and, if the owner's happy to go, we'd have to look at that route," Millard said. "But if Maurice shows up, well that might be tough.

"We tried him in the Gr1 QEII Cup at the end of last season, but he wasn't at his best that day, so we'll see."

"Today we had a beautiful position, they were going nice and easy and he had his head down, travelling easily," winning jockey Karis Teetan said. "He ran a good race last time, I knew this time it was a slightly weaker race and going out there Tony said 'just be confident on him and he's going to give you a kick'. - *Horsebetting.com.au*



HH Queen Elizabeth visited Newmarket, UK, on Friday, for the unveiling of a statue erected in her honour for service and dedication to the British racing industry. -tt.



Johan Janse Van Vuuren.

"I'm a nightmare on the big days!"

BOOM trainer Johan Janse Van Vuuren, who won four Graded feature races on Charity Mile Day at Turffontein on Saturday, described himself as being "a nightmare on big days"!

"When my staff see me in the morning, they scatter," Janse Van Vuuren told Andrew Bon after winning the Gr3 Graham Beck Stakes with smart three-year-old Doosra.

His patrons, of course, will tell you that Johan's success is due to his being a meticulous taskmaster. His greatest attribute is his attention to detail.

"I am privileged to have owners like I have and to be able to work with top runners. My patrons buy me the horses that I like. When you train top horses like these, training is easy," said a modest Janse Van Rensburg.

The Vaal trainer also won the Gr2 Charity Mile with New Predator, the Gr3 Yellowwood Handicap with Girl On The Run and the Gr 3 Stirling Stakes with She's A Giver. Gavin Lerena rode three, Randall Simons was on Girl On The Run. - tt