

tt TURF TALK

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Bloodstock Expertise - at home & abroad -

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The David Allan Column

What there is to see and hear (Part 2)



Cheveley Park Stud Avenue Entrance.

LAST week, readers of this column joined our special guests on Part 1 of their tour of "HQ" - Newmarket, UK.

No sales were "on" which is the best time for meeting senior people who run the various institutions. It was during the week before Goffs Foals and Mares over in Kildare with – as it turned out – at least one of the 7 selling days running for a full-on 12 hours. Then more of the same for 12 days at Tattersalls where seemingly the whole bloodstock world or its UK representatives gather.

A good chat and a laugh or two in Wavertree House at The National Stud was a perfect example, followed by a tour of the sprawling, autumnal property. The unusual history was brought to life, showing off the 60s working buildings and the statue of most-famous-resident-MILL REEF.

We were introduced to a smart example of the INVINCIBLE SPIRIT line, newly retired Gr1 2yo (Racing Post Trophy) winner MARCEL by LAWMAN. "Vince" has been right at the top of the tree for many years and stands for €120,000 over at The Irish National Stud. South Africa would benefit from a lot more of that line which has lashings of speed plus class.

On Duchess Drive, Sheikh Mohammed owns everything on the right for miles but David and Patricia Thompson own much of what is on the left. Cheveley Park Stud, is another gorgeous property whose star and very senior resident PIVOTAL was there to greet us as we had a close look at his grandson, new boy TWILIGHT SON (by Kyllachy).

Although PIVOTAL did some southern time covering, nowadays Cheveley neither covers southern time nor do their stallions shuttle. But we could still benefit from more of their families in South Africa.

KYLLACHY could be as good a broodmare sire as PIVOTAL or better. Some of his fillies are already in SA through ourselves. MEDICEAN is knocking on but this writer happily bought a mare by him at the CTS Elite Mare Sale – from a top end family, in foal to VISIONAIRE. Anything that brings MACHIAVELLIAN backed up with a(nother) cracking female line goes on the list!

We also saw LETHAL FORCE a double Gr1 winning sprinter by the fabulously successful DARK ANGEL who retired at 2 and went to stud at 3. That stallion dynasty is centred on ACCLAMATION (€30,000 previously €50,000 at Rathbarry) and now DARK ANGEL (started at 12,500 now full at 60,000 at Mor-

-ristown Lattin) is loaded with speed. LETHAL FORCE is in Newmarket at £8,000. Is he next?



Lethal Force.

Then, as our gracious guests said: “The best until last” amongst the grander stud farms. Juddmonte – Banstead Manor Stud - the UK headquarters of the great owner/breeding operation.

The approach to the stallion area is through a lovely garden, walking past the ducks enjoying the little lake in quintessentially English surroundings. Orange leaves falling onto the bright green lawns. Privet hedges. Soon the impressive stallion boxes are ble, arranged around the far side of the area. The new pair, one of which now houses FRANKEL, cost £500,000 to build. The gleaming brass door furniture

could be gold.

Here, only one stallion stands at a working man’s price – and a cracker he is too. BATED BREATH might take over from his ageing dad DANSILI who nevertheless still looks good. And if FRANKEL were not there, there would be almost as much excitement in seeing KINGMAN after the first season of this brilliant miler.



Frankel at Banstead Manor.

Juddmonte does a great job of accommodating visitors who beg to see him yet would never use any of the stallions there, let alone FRANKEL. Showing times are heavily restricted and operated to the minute. Don’t be late!

But of course many breeders will use the other stallions and have every right to see “the lot”.



OASIS DREAM is eye-catching as one of the world's top sires now down to £50,000 from £75,000 after quieter year than usual.

Hard bitten professional or not, you have to smile seeing these brilliant horses – who never shuttle - in beautiful surroundings, dealt with by a squad of expert handlers happy to engage in conversation with professionals and Frankel-fans alike.



Tattersalls Mares: The 'scrum at the acorns'.

We had a quick stop off in twilight at Tattersalls for a chat in the arena under lights, standing below the rostrum discussing bidding spots, techniques, auctioneering styles and the extraordinary scrum at the acorns through which most horses march unblinking. Most of the 44 acres can be seen from high up "that bloody hill" which forms much of the 10 miles or 16 km a day some of us walk. The vets walk farther.

The tour ended with a relaxed evening at Abington Place on the Bury Road only half a mile from the Clock Tower. The South African owned training and spelling base which is larger than most in the town has been remodelled and improved extensively. Presently, only a few horses are there. One of them is SMART CALL whose story will be well known to most readers. She is such a well made individual that one can only hope for a big comeback. Late that night, wrapped up in a rug up to her ears, with soft, warming lights on, she looked very content, half buried in straw.

Her visitors had, in the meantime, checked out the wine cellar courtesy of mine hosts and – guess what – had a braai in about 25 degrees cooler temperatures than when that word is used most often! - tt.

Bragging rights, thank you!

THE best thing about our tipping of Safe Harbour (20-1 on Friday and Saturday morning) in this letter as that we will find you more like her in weeks to come. Promise. Tell your mates to subscribe. Who wants to miss out on so much quality editorial and information? Thank you for your mails!

FROM TT NEWSLETTER, FRIDAY MORNING 18 NOVEMBER:

"Lanzerac R2R is no Safe Harbour for Favourites!"

And so, in a race that's not so clear-cut after all, **our advice is an Eachway bet on No 14, Safe Harbour**, who races for Chris Van Niekerk and Kuda Insurance boss Wehann Smith. -tt.



KLAWERVLEI  STUD



Lanzerac Ready To Run Stakes Day, Kenilworth: Photo Album



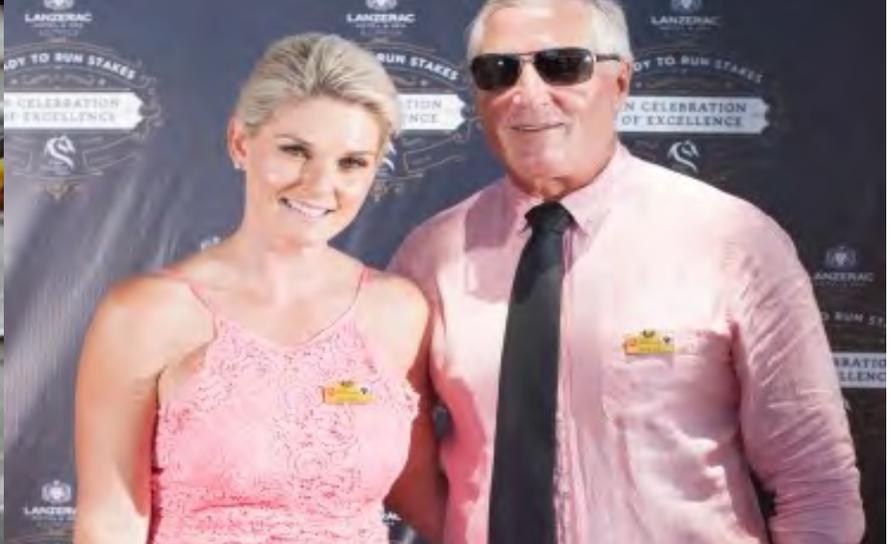
A great day at Lanzerac and CTS' Ready To Run Stakes, Kenilworth. Photos, from top right (clockwise): Amanda Carey and Bellinda Kieswetter lead in Quick Brown Fox; Violin Lady Veronica, couple on Lanzerac deck; table setting, Kathy and Brian Finch, Brett Crawford and Gwen McGregor; Joanna Looms and Fiona Ramsden.



Photos supplied by Brent Abrahams (Wempic Photography) and Wayne Marks.



Clockwise (from left): Many Kannemeyer and Clyde Basel; Nadia Blumer and Morne van Tonder; Karen Norman and Marsh Shirliff; Michelle and Will Rix; Steak Tartare with creamy sauce; entertaining Piano Man!





Few things compare with a hammer-and-tongs battle between good horses and good jockeys. Here's Safe Harbour (Weichong Marwing, blue and red silks), getting the better of Sergeant Hardy (Anthony Delpech) in a close finish to the Lanzerac Ready To Run Stakes at Kenilworth on Saturday. (Wayne Marks)

Gr1 Fillies Guineas could be next for Safe Harbour

SAFE Harbour is likely to be aimed at the Gr1 Betting World Cape Fillies Guineas on 3 December, where she will bump the likes of Ektifaa, She's A Giver, Querari Falcon, Smokey Affair and Quick Brown Fox, but trainer Sean Tarry and owners Chris van Niekerk and Wehann Smith won't be going to the race low on confidence.

Three-year-old Safe Harbour defeated any number of very capable, Graded-quality male runners in Saturday's Lanzerac Ready To Run Stakes, a "Non Black Type" race that may have well have been classed "All Black Type" for the standard of the runners it contained. That she beat them so well means that Safe Harbour won't be taking a huge step up in class at all. She will be the one her female rivals will have to come and beat on Guineas day!

"She is still improving and there is more to come," said Tarry about Safe Harbour. "This was no surprise!"

Safe Harbour was bred by Dr Jim Antrobus. Her sire Elusive Fort is now amongst the top sires overall and by AEPR and for Average Merit Rating of Runners. -tt

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THE blue blooded, Bloodstock South Africa purchase, Need To Know (Western Winter) picked up his fifth Dubai win on Thursday. Need To Know (Tadhg O'Shea) ran on strongly to claim a 1600m conditions race by two lengths from former G2 Richmond Stakes winner Heavy Metal (Exceed And Excel).

Among the beaten field were last season's dual Dubai classic winner Polar River (Congrats), who was having her first outing since finishing second to Lani (Tapit) in the G2 UAE Derby.

Bred by Varsfontein Stud, Need To Know was a R950 000 purchase from the 2010 Emperors Palace National 2YO Sale. he looks sure to add further to his wins in Dubai. - BSA.



Who is the happiest on this photo?: On the left is the incomparable Richard Fourie, who rode Gold Standard to victory in the Gr2 Selangor Cup at Kenilworth, Saturday. In the middle is Susan Rowett of Varsfontein Stud, who bred the winner and on the right is trainer Glen Kotzen, a man you wouldn't say has an extensive tie collection at home.



Frankie: Telling It Like It Is

YOU've got to love Frankie Dettori for so many things other than his tremendous riding ability and his showmanship. His refreshing candour is right up there among his best skills.

"They say it's lucky, a bird shit on me. I will let you know later after racing if it's true!" tweeted Frankie from his hotel on Sunday morning before the second leg of the Air Mauritius Jockeys International at Turffontein.

Well, decide for yourself: Frankie was last of 12 riders going into the Turffontein leg, but ended up winning two races and scooped the day's Victor Loderum and the All-Round Victor Loderum for the contest!

After the meeting, Frankie's riding silks for the 2016 Challenge was auctioned off and went for R25,000— the donation will be made to the fund established for his friend, Freddy Tylicki, recently paralysed in a fall at Kempton Racecourse in the UK.

"Shot guys, we had a blast!" greeted Frankie. **-tt**