



Newsletter

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Bloodstock Expertise - at home & abroad -

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The David Allan Column

Diary Notes: After January in the Cape, Feb at Newmarket Sales and a winner at Scottsville



BEING in (at least) two places at once makes for high mileage in the physical and mental departments, so the priority after landing in London earlier this week was a day at a desk piled high and a night's sleep.

January in the Cape had consisted of two days at the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate, the ITBF Congress, taking visitors to farms, seeing foals I hadn't seen here and there, clapping eyes on seven stallions, inspecting a complete catalogue of CPYS yearlings before the sale spread over the weekend. Five days of meetings then filled in the time until that thirteen race extravaganza of excellence on the track at Kenilworth on 28 January.

The Tattersalls February (Mixed) Sale has long been a small but happy hunting ground for us for horses in training to win loads of races in non-mainstream jurisdictions. It doesn't do much for the pension but the same people spend strong money at other times. In February, well made but unfashionable horses can be bought for small money to on-sell for profit after sending them overseas.

Last year, Tatts had pushed the limits of a one day sale with 387 catalogued but 80+ withdrawals (as anticipated in such sales) brought it to an easy 306 in the day. This time, 488 were catalogued (111 withdrawn) and of course were spread (for the first



The Tattersalls Rotunda at Newmarket, UK.

Newmarket is an hour and a half from my Surrey base or three hours if the M25 doesn't play ball but on the day after flying north, the M25 gave me a birthday present of an easy drive. Before long I was inspecting at Park Paddocks in dazzling sunshine, wearing my latest SpecSavers Melkbosstrand prescription shades, albeit 20 degrees cooler than Cape Town and with my long johns on.

time) over two days.

Such a flood of surplus horses would surely bring about a decline in prices wouldn't it? Not a bit of it.

The average rose 57% year on year and the median was up by exactly 60%. The clearance rate was 94%. **(cont on p 2)**

DAVID ALLAN

Park Paddocks teemed with many forms of human life in a Pentecostal gathering where irrespective of nationality all can understand each other by speaking “horse”. Our Kazakhs, Russians and Poles had a blast at “HQ”, each considering Newmarket to be positively balmy after arriving from daytime highs of minus 20 degrees.

The other widespread form of communication that takes place at Tattersalls in the northern hemisphere winter is the transfer of diseases. The near-certainty of picking up a cough/cold/flu from Scandinavia, France, the Balkans, the Steppes or Newmarket itself makes one contemplate making all the humans spend 90 days in quarantine. Where? Not Mauritius but perhaps Guernsey?

It is very satisfying to buy 3 year olds (since 1st January) with little or no form at 2. It is dead easy to buy the highest rated horse if you have the budget. Pedigree barely came into the 500,000 guineas paid for the 4 year old Listed winning Dark Angel filly rated about 110 and certainly not in the case of a winning Dandy Man filly rated 90+ bringing nearly 80,000.

But for 4,500 guineas we bought a stunning 3yo Hard Spun daughter of a Slew City Slew Grade 1 winner, and half sister to more black type. She had run moderately in France a month or two ago at 2 but was probably “lost” in the vast Godolphin empire and may become a bright little fish in a small pond, then a respectable mare.

For reasonable sums we bought big colts with stallions’ pedigrees, I kid you not. They had cost hundreds of thousands a year ago but at 2, showed themselves to be “slow” by the standards of such vendors as Juddmonte and John Gosden clients. They will get two months R&R to let niggles subside so as to assess them properly for their next careers.



Concentrating on the auctioneer.

Otherwise we bought a small truck full of yearlings for buttons. Doing so for commission would be a disappointing way to work hard, but unless we have “lost it” these unfashionably bred babies will be sold for profit overseas where there is no regard for the stud book or concept of pinhooking.

The Sales Company and vendors always appreciate that kind of “hoovering up” which of course contributes to the 94% clearance rate. Bearing in mind that everyone pays for all their food and drink on the sale ground, dinner on Tatts for the team doing the “hoovering” is a generous thank you in context.

I was back at base on Saturday, courtesy of the M25 again), in time to follow my beloved-since-birth (more or less) West Bromwich Albion in their victory over Stoke City.

Scotland v Ireland was a cracking Six Nations Opener but today (I am writing on Sunday) is my rugby day: Wales’s first match which may reconfirm that coaches and some legendary players should make way for something new. Nevertheless *Cymru am Byth!*



DAVID ALLAN

To cap the day, a couple of hours ago, we had a juvenile debut winner at Scottsville with Anton Marcus riding a filly we bred in *The Alado Project*. She and other Alados were selected, bought and trained by Bass Racing, two of them in a five horse syndicate in which we took a share to reciprocate the support. AWESOMENESS might be one to follow along with a bunch of other of our latest Alados.

BENOIT PHOTOS



Unique Bella: Tapit's grey daughter is a star on the rise

UNIQUE Bella, the latest boom filly in the United States, romped home by 8.75-lengths in the Grade 2 Las Virgenes over a mile on dirt at Santa Anita, California on Saturday. Previous winners include Songbird and Beholder.

Horseracingnation.com described the grey by US super stallion Tapit's victory as "breathtaking, with complete and total superiority."

Eerily similar to the way her older stablemate, Songbird, was winning races last year, Unique Bella looks to the world to be the second filly of extraordinary ability to grace the barn of Jerry Hollendorfer in as many years. While Bob Baffert had his back-to-back boys in American Pharoah and Arrogate, Hollendorfer has cornered the market in sensational fillies. It's an embarrassment of riches for both fine horsemen.

"She's very talented. She created that move down the backside until about the quarter pole and she was well within herself from that point on," said winning jockey Mike Smith of Unique Bella.

**Tapit's only son at stud in SA is Coup De Grace. Click on the advert banner on your right for more info.*

A reminder that the KZN Breeders Club Annual General Meeting will be taking place tomorrow, Tuesday 7 February 2017, 11am, at the Nottingham Road Hotel.



KLAWERVLEI  STUD



GLOBAL VIEW (USA)

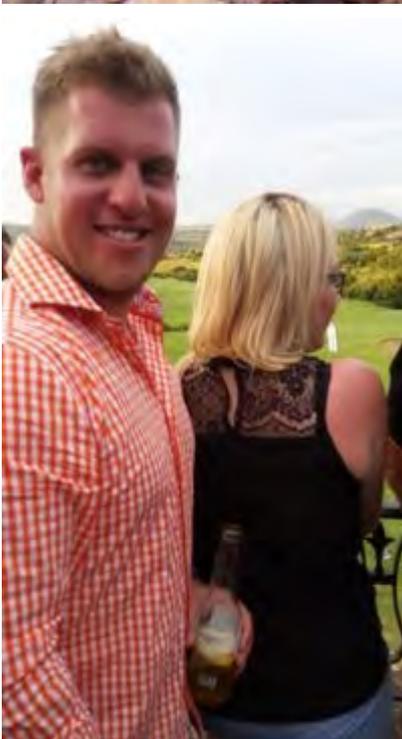


Golfers raise near 300k for Alistair Cohen



GOLFERS playing in the Alistair Cohen Support Day at Blair Atholl Northwest of Johannesburg last Friday raised near R300,000 for young race caller Cohen, who was diagnosed with cancer just over a month ago and is undergoing extensive chemo therapy. “I’m fighting, I’m strong, and I hate being stuck to a doctors’ seat in treatment every day,” said Alistair on Friday.

Anthony Destombes of Execusports, who organised the day with Justin Vermaak of Green Street Bloodstock, said: “We did very well arranging this golf day in just a few weeks, due to kind contributions. Thanks to all who attended and contributed, especially Alan Rahme and Paul Marks of Blair Atholl, Chris van Niekerk, WSB, Andrew Bon and Neil Andrews for their time and efforts off busy schedules. We haven’t tallied everything up yet but we hope to get to R300,000 raised, which will hep a lot. - tt



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Photos: Top left is James Goodman; middle is Alistair Cohen with Dee Dyanand and Grant Knowles, left is Anthony Destombes and bottom right Andrew Bon with Justin Vermaak.