



BLOODSTOCK consultant David Allan of AllanBloodlines, who writes a Monday column in the [Turf Talk Newsletter](#), took a few weeks off recently because of travelling and other commitments over the festive season.

David is due back with his popular column next Monday – if we're lucky, because he'll be celebrating the holiday success of Elusive Fort, one of his managed stallions, and may need another week to recover!

Seriously, however, proper Welshmen like David don't need recovery time from overdoses of tea and scones – some relaxing croquet at his holiday home in Cape Town will suffice.

Mrs Allan will be hanging new, framed winning photos on the wall and they may include Elusive Fort's daughter Fort Ember, who won Sunday's Gr3 Flamboyant Stakes over 1600m at Greyville for trainer Paul Peter and hot apprentice Lyle Hewitson.



[Elusive Fort, upgrades his mares.](#)

“Elusive Fort is a great achiever from modest crops at a low fee,” wrote David recently about the multiple Gr1 winner by Fort Wood, whose good recent run of success started with Safe Harbour, winner of the 2016 CTS Lanzerac Ready To Run Stakes (R2,5-million) over 1400m on 19 November.

There were three more winners by Elusive Fort and a Listed place on 23 December and Christmas Eve and David wrote in an e-mail: “Who is the next sire of quality runners to buy at the sales when our wonderful but ageing top stallions’ production slows? Elusive Fort is now amongst the top sires overall and by AEPR and for Average Merit Rating of Runners. He’s a remarkable improver of mares to the highest level.”

Elusive Fort, who stands at Bennie Marais’ Klipdrift Stud, will be represented by three foals at the CTS Cape Premier Yearling Sale on 21 and 22 January, including Lot 54, a filly from the famous “E-family”.



Fort Ember (Lyle Hewitson), strides clear to win the Gr3 Flamboyant Stakes.

Sunday’s feature winner Fort Ember was a shrewd R60,000 purchase for Peter at the CTS Ready To Run Sale. She’s won 5 of 9 starts and over R455,000 in prize money for the partnership of Peter, Dr Kevin and Mrs Emmy Backos, and Ian Levitan.

“I’m going to give Fort Ember a break now and we’ll be aiming her at the Gr1 Empress Club Stakes over 1600 during the Highveld Autumn Season in April,” said Peter.

In-form Hewitson booted home two other winners on the day and with 52 winners is now firmly in 9th spot on the 2016/17 SA Jockeys Log, chasing a Top Five position.

Headline photo: Fort Ember (Hewitson), with a host of happy connections at Greyville.

Find this article on the TurfTalk Website here: <http://www.turftalk.co.za/a-happy-new-year-from-elusive-fort/>