



# TODAY

February  
2021

# NEWSLETTER



Dear Members

Welcome to the February edition of RA Today.

The first two months of 2021 has seen some competitive feature racing, both in the Western Cape and on the Highveld.

On the 2nd of February we were delighted to announce that Owners were able to attend race meetings once again and we look forward to the time when all supporters of the sport will be allowed to enjoy the racing live and in person at our various centres around the country.

The Western Cape Summer season culminates with the running of the Jonsson Workwear Cape Derby (G1) at Kenilworth on Saturday 27 February. This day sees the running of the Khaya Stables Diadem Stakes (G2), the Cape of Good Hope Nursery (G3), Kenilworth Fillies Nursery (G3), Vasco Prix Du Cap (G3), Kenilworth Cup (L), New Turf Carriers Jet Master Stakes (L), and the Bloodstock South Africa Cape Yearling Sale Cup (NBT). It also sees the inaugural running of the Khaya Stables Jockeys vs Work Riders Maiden Plate. Seven jockeys will go head-to-head against seven work riders in the first race of its kind. To keep up to date with all the Derby Day racing action please tune into channel 249 on DSTV or stream it live in HD on [www.caperacing.co.za](http://www.caperacing.co.za)

## From the desk of the CEO

On the Highveld, we move further into the Autumn Feature Season with Classics Day on Saturday March the 6th. This day features the running of the WSB SA Classic (G1), the Wilgerbosdrift SA Fillies Classic (G1), the Hawaii Stakes (G2) and the Aquanaut Hcp (L). We are pleased to announce that Market Caterers will be providing Turffontein Racecourse with catering services for the remainder of the season and they, as well as the staff of the RA, look forward to welcoming you back to the Elevation Room.

We would also like to welcome new caterers to the Vaal Racecourse. The Vaal Haystack as it will now be known has also been revamped with a new menu and great country atmosphere. For race day hospitality bookings at Turffontein or the Vaal Racecourse please email [angie@racingassociation.co.za](mailto:angie@racingassociation.co.za)



During the month of February, the RA was very proud to announce a new grooms' initiative on the Highveld sponsored by Studio 88. I take this opportunity to announce a similar programme in the Eastern Cape, where Epol has kindly offered to add a cash prize to the winning groom for all Listed Races in Port Elizabeth until the end of July. We are very thankful

to all sponsors for their contributions and these initiatives are small steps to a much bigger objective to highlight and recognize the very important role of grooms in the racing industry. We take a closer look at these programmes as well as feature our winning grooms on pages 2 and 3

In conclusion, I would like to encourage all members utilizing social media to "follow" or "like" the new social media platforms for Cape Racing, Highveld Racing and Fairview Racing. These platforms present updated information, interesting stories and high-quality pictures for all race days as well as provide an interactive experience for the user. The handles for each region appear on page 6 for your information.

Until next time, please continue to stay safe.

Natalie Turner, CEO

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# New Grooms' Initiatives on the Highveld and in the Eastern Cape

Guineas Day at Turffontein saw the launch of a wonderful new initiative for grooms. Trainers regard the grooms as an integral part of their operation and in keeping with the plans of the industry to empower and promote grooms, we were able to secure a sponsorship from prominent owner and Chair of Studio-88, Laurence Wernars.

The Studio 88 Golden Grooms Programme will run until Champions Day on May 1st and prizes will be awarded to each groom for each feature race on the calendar as follows:

**1st place:**  
R2500 and a  
winning trophy

**2nd place:**  
R1000

**3rd place:**  
R 750

**4th place:**  
R 500

**5th place:**  
R 250



**studio** 88  
PRESENTS  
**GOLDEN GROOMS**

**THE HORSES BEST FRIEND**

"IN THE QUIET LIGHT OF THE STABLE, YOU HEAR A MUFFLED SNORT, A STAMP OF A HOOF, FRIENDLY SNICKER. GENTLE EYES ENQUIRE "HOW ARE YOU OLD FRIEND?" AND SUDDENLY, ALL YOUR TROUBLES FADE AWAY."



Nico Kritsiotis talks to Natalie Turner on  
Clocking the Gallop.

Click on the link to view the interview.

<https://youtu.be/puGH5ezeNEU>

## Epol have kindly agreed to reward winning grooms in the Eastern Cape starting from Friday 26 February.

A cash prize of R1000 as well as a trophy will be awarded to the groom of the winning horse for each Listed Race on the calendar until the end of July 2021.

We are extremely grateful to Epol for stepping forward and contributing to this worthy project.



## Highveld Golden Grooms – February 2021

Any seasoned participant in the horseracing industry will be aware that passion and hard work are integral features of any successful stable. It is a most rewarding profession to be a part of and getting out in the early morning with beautiful thoroughbreds, may just be the perfect way to start the day. The hard-working grooms are the early risers

who attend to all of the basic needs of their charges. This includes cleaning the stables and feeding, watering and grooming the horses. The next step is taking them to the training tracks to put them through their exercise regime. And on race days, the grooms accompany their horses to the racecourses and ensure their safe return.

Over the next few months RA Today will feature all of the winning grooms and tell you a little more about them. This month we have four winners in the Studio 88 Golden Grooms Programme and we chatted to their trainers to learn a little more.

## Avumile Ngendle

Stone Cold

Egoli Mile (NBT)

21 year old Avumile Ngendle was one of the winners in the Golden Groom promotion sponsored by Studio 88 and the prize could not have gone to a more deserving winner. Candice Dawson tells us that Avumile comes from an extremely disadvantaged background. His mother who was the family breadwinner passed away some three years ago and he took up employment at CK Racing around about this time so that he would be able to support his siblings. Avumile is conscientious and takes his job very seriously, he loves horses and aspires to become a jockey one day. Candice was extremely proud of Stone Cold's win in the Egoli Mile as well as the exciting win by Avumile.



## Sipwiwo Feni

True To Life

Wilgerbosdrift Tommy Hotspur Handicap (G3)

SIPWIWO and SETHU are identical twins which I can assure you, sometimes means double trouble. They are both work riders and on most days lately, with COVID and the wearing of masks, the only way I can recognise them is by the colour of the caps that they wear. These two comedians on occasions swop their skullcaps between strings to confuse me. Fortunately I do have a sense of humour most of the time.

- Johan Janse van Vuuren



## Xumani Mangaliso

Malmoos

World Sports Betting Gauteng Guineas (G2)

Xumani Mangaliso followed in his late father's footsteps. He has been involved in the de Kock stable for about four years. His father Sikelele was an integral part of our team and had some top horses in his care before he passed away. Xumani is a very quiet young man and a very good groom who does us proud. - Diane de Kock



## Jack Landile

War Of Athena

Wilgerbosdrift Gauteng Fillies Guineas (G2)

It took the love of a beautiful female to change the life of Jack Landile from the Paul Matchett stable. Jack was footloose and fancy free until he was charged with taking care of War of Athena. His life changed dramatically and he now can't wait to get to the stables to serve this winner of the Grade 1 Wilgerbosdrift Gauteng Fillies Guineas. Jack picked up the Studio 88 Award thanks to Athena's fabulous achievement.



Photos courtesy of JC Photos



Peter Charinga receiving his parcel from Mike Wittstock

## RA member gives generously at Randjesfontein

Long time RA member, Mike Wittstock recently celebrated his 75th birthday in fine style by doing what he thoroughly enjoys, that is, donating to those less fortunate. His good friend Gavin Varejes wanted to gift him R75 000 (R1 000 for each year of his life) but he was reluctant to receive such a generous gift. Gavin then suggested that this amount be donated to a good cause of Mike's choice. Mike and his daughter HSH Princess Charlene of Monaco have horses stabled at Randjesfontein with Stuart Pettigrew and he felt that to give out hampers to all the grooms at the training facility would be an ideal birthday gift. The Racing Association wishes to thank Mike for his generosity.

# Competition Time



All RA Members in good standing are invited to enter a competition to win a TAB betting voucher to the value of R1000.

In order to enter, kindly send an email through to [natalie@racingassociation.co.za](mailto:natalie@racingassociation.co.za) with your name and contact

details by midnight on the 29th of March 2021. All eligible entries will be entered in to a random draw and the winner will be announced in the March edition of RA Today.

T's & C's apply



Elevation Room hospitality bookings email:  
[angie@racingassociation.co.za](mailto:angie@racingassociation.co.za) & [khanyal@phumelela.com](mailto:khanyal@phumelela.com)



# Feature Race Winners

Photo courtesy of Chase Liebenberg



## 30 January 2021 – Kenilworth Racecourse

### Summer Juvenile Stakes (L)

#### Ambiorix

*Jockey:* Luke Ferraris  
*Trainer:* Vaughan Marshall  
*Owner:* Burns Racing  
(Nom: Mr David Allan)

### Cape Flying Championship (G1)

#### Run Fox Run (AUS)

*Jockey:* Anton Marcus  
*Trainer:* Brett Crawford  
*Owner:* Ridgemont  
(Nom: Mr Wayne Kieswetter)

### Cape Town Met (G1)

#### Rainbow Bridge

*Jockey:* Luke Ferraris  
*Trainer:* Eric Sands  
*Owner:* Mr & Mrs MLP Rattray

### Politician Stakes (G3)

#### Kommetdieding

*Jockey:* Cihle Cele  
*Trainer:* H/M Crawford  
*Owner:* Mr A Reynolds

### Majorca Stakes (G1)

#### Captains Ransom

*Jockey:* Richard Fourie  
*Trainer:* Justin Snaith  
*Owner:* Mr S Viljoen

### New Turf Carriers Western

#### Cape Stayers (G2)

#### Atyaab (Aus)

*Jockey:* Warren Kennedy  
*Trainer:* Ziets Oosthuizen  
*Owner:* Mrs S Viljoen

## 13 February 2021 – Turffontein Racecourse

### Wilgerbosdrift Gauteng Fillies Guineas (G2)

#### War Of Athena

*Jockey:* Muzi Yeni  
*Trainer:* Paul Matchett  
*Owner:* Mr RS Wentzel & Dr RE Waterman-Wentzel

### World Sports Betting Gauteng Guineas (G2)

#### Malmoos

*Jockey:* Luke Ferraris  
*Trainer:* Mike de Kock  
*Owner:* Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum

### Wilgerbosdrift Tommy Hotspur Handicap (G3)

#### True To Life

*Jockey:* Gavin Lerena  
*Trainer:* Johan Janse van Vuuren  
*Owner:* Messrs JF & LMF Wernars & Mrs TJ Wernars



Photos courtesy of JC Photos

# Feature Races - March 2021

DATE	W Cape	Gauteng	E Cape	KZN
Mar, 5			Breeders Guineas LR	
Mar, 6		World Sports Betting S A Classic G1 Wilgerbosdrift S A Fillies Classic G1 Hawaii Stakes G2 Aquanaut Hcp LR		
Mar, 12			World Sports Betting East Cape Poly Challenge NB	
Mar, 13		Senor Santa Stakes G2 Drum Star Handicap LR Derby Trial LR Oaks Trial LR Sun Chariot Handicap NB Gold Rush Sprint NB		
Mar, 19			East Cape Fillies Nursery LR	
Mar, 20		Sycamore Sprint G3 Jacaranda Handicap LR		
Mar, 21	Klawervlei Farm Sale Stakes NB			
Mar, 26			East Cape Sprint Cup LR East Cape Guineas LR	
Mar, 27		Colorado King Stakes G2 Protea Stakes G3 Pretty Polly Stakes G3		
Mar, 28				Kings Cup LR KwaZulu-Natal Stakes LR



## Social Media Handles

### Cape Racing

Facebook - @CapeRacing1

Twitter- @CapeRacing1

Instagram - @cape\_racing

### Highveld Racing

Facebook - @HighveldRacing

Twitter - @highveld\_racing

Instagram - @highveld\_racing

### Fairview Racing

Facebook - @FairviewRacecourse

Twitter - @FairviewRacing

Instagram - @fairview\_racing

## Meet the RA Team



Meet Angie Basel, who joined the RA 10 years ago. Angie grew up in a racing family where her father, Philip Sofianos, never missed a race meeting and her two brothers enjoyed betting and also owned some shares in a few horses. She married into a racing family and enjoys all aspects of the sport. Angie works from our office at Turffontein and looks after members and their guests in the popular Elevation room. She has now been given the responsibility of attending to new members. She has a great rapport with owners who come to the races and thoroughly enjoys overseeing hospitality and customer care in the members' facility. "I've been privileged to have met so many different characters in the game from a few owners with hundreds of horses in their keep, to owners with a 10% share, and each of them brings great value to our sport. Through my husband Clyde, I've been honoured to have been in the company of dignitaries locally and abroad. I have learnt much over the years about the various challenges that role players are faced with. Horseracing is entrenched in our blood and I want to thank all the members for their continued support".

Angie has three children, Keith, Tamia and Keanu. Her greatest wish is that racing can overcome the Covid challenges and allow all members and punters back onto the racecourse to once again enjoy the popular family day outings at the races!

### Welcome to new RA Members

Mr L Clark, Mr BE Furcy,  
Mr J Moller, Mr E Scheepers,  
Mr C Liebenberg, Mrs JA Wintle

Please remember that we invite all registered racehorse owners to join the RA free of charge for the duration of the racing season.

### Competition Winner



**AVONTUUR ESTATE**  
*Stellenbosch ♦ South Africa*

The winner of a case of Legal Eagle Cabernet Franc Reserve 2015 and a case of Talk of the Town Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2017 courtesy of Avontuur Estate is Mr John Kinsley. **Congratulations on your win.**

## THE RACING ASSOCIATION CONTACT DETAILS: Head Office | (011) 683-3220

### Race Day Bookings:

Turffontein Racecourse	Elevation Room (RA Members) Contact Angie (011) 683 3220 or <a href="mailto:angie@racingassociation.co.za">angie@racingassociation.co.za</a> Furious Room Contact Patience (011) 681 1702 or <a href="mailto:reservationsp@phumelela.com">reservationsp@phumelela.com</a>
Vaal Racecourse	Contact Angie (011) 683 3220 or <a href="mailto:angie@racingassociation.co.za">angie@racingassociation.co.za</a>
Fairview Racecourse	HB Christian Room Contact Gail on (041) 372 1859 or email <a href="mailto:gailr@phumelela.com">gailr@phumelela.com</a>
Kenilworth & Durbanville Racecourse	Contact Shihaam (021) 700 1625 or (081) 092 2068 or <a href="mailto:shihaamh@kenilworthracing.com">shihaamh@kenilworthracing.com</a>