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TRC

He's right behind you

Frankie Dettori looks set to take over from Ryan Moore as the world's #1 jockey



Also inside: International owners are succumbing to the charms of South Africa / How to bring out the best in older horses / We have a great deal to thank Marylou Whitney for / America's youngest track announcer / What They're Thinking: Mark Johnston



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Moore's top spot under threat as irrepressible *Dettori* looms in his rear-view mirror

James Willoughby | July 11, 2019

Could Frankie Dettori be heading towards his first #1 world ranking since TRC Global Rankings began in 2014? James Willoughby assesses the evidence.

Frankie Dettori with the Queen at the Royal Ascot presentation after the Gold Cup, which the rider won on Stradivarius (who has since also won the G1 Goodwood Cup). This and the cover photo: focusonracing.com



TRC JOCKEY OF THE WEEK

It has long seemed unthinkable that any rider could depose the great Ryan Moore (-1pt, stays #1), but Dettori (+4pts, stays #2) is now only 17pts behind. This week, the Italian gains a net +5pts on Moore, last week it was +4pts Dettori and the week before +13pts in his favour; that's a gain of 22pts on Moore in three weeks.

Dettori has never been ranked ahead of Moore in the entire 288-week evolution of our rankings. The biggest gap between them was 74pts in July of last year, while the smallest gap was just 4pts in October 2015.

The trajectories of Moore and Dettori's TRC Performance Index (points) is shown by the time series plot below. The graphs are in step with each other because of the seasonality of opportunities in Group races in Europe.

Note, however, that the gradient of Dettori's line is generally steeper in sections than Moore's. This may reflect the belief widely held among racing experts in Britain that Dettori's

success includes a stronger momentum effect than other riders.

Can Dettori do it before Moore's exceptional retainer Aidan O'Brien finds his form again? The former world #1 trainer is on a streak of just 5-85 in Group races since late May, but surely this nadir in terms of strike rate won't last forever (Moore is 4-32 in the same epoch).

This a remarkable season for 48-year-old Dettori, who now leads the world in 2019 in overall Group/Graded wins (jointly with Javier Castellano), G1 wins and G2 wins following a G1 double last weekend.

Once again, Dettori was terrific on Eclipse heroine Enable at Sandown Park in Britain on Saturday, and the following day in France he enjoyed an easy victory in the Prix Jean Prat at Deauville on the reinvigorated Too Darn Hot. Both these horses are trained by John Gosden, but Dettori is getting bookings from an increasing array of trainers as his hot streak continues.

We have decided to award TRC Jockey of the Week jointly to Dettori and another rider of remarkable exploits, the highly promising 21-year-old South African LYLE HEWITSON (+13pts, #75 from #102), who is also this week's top climber in any category.

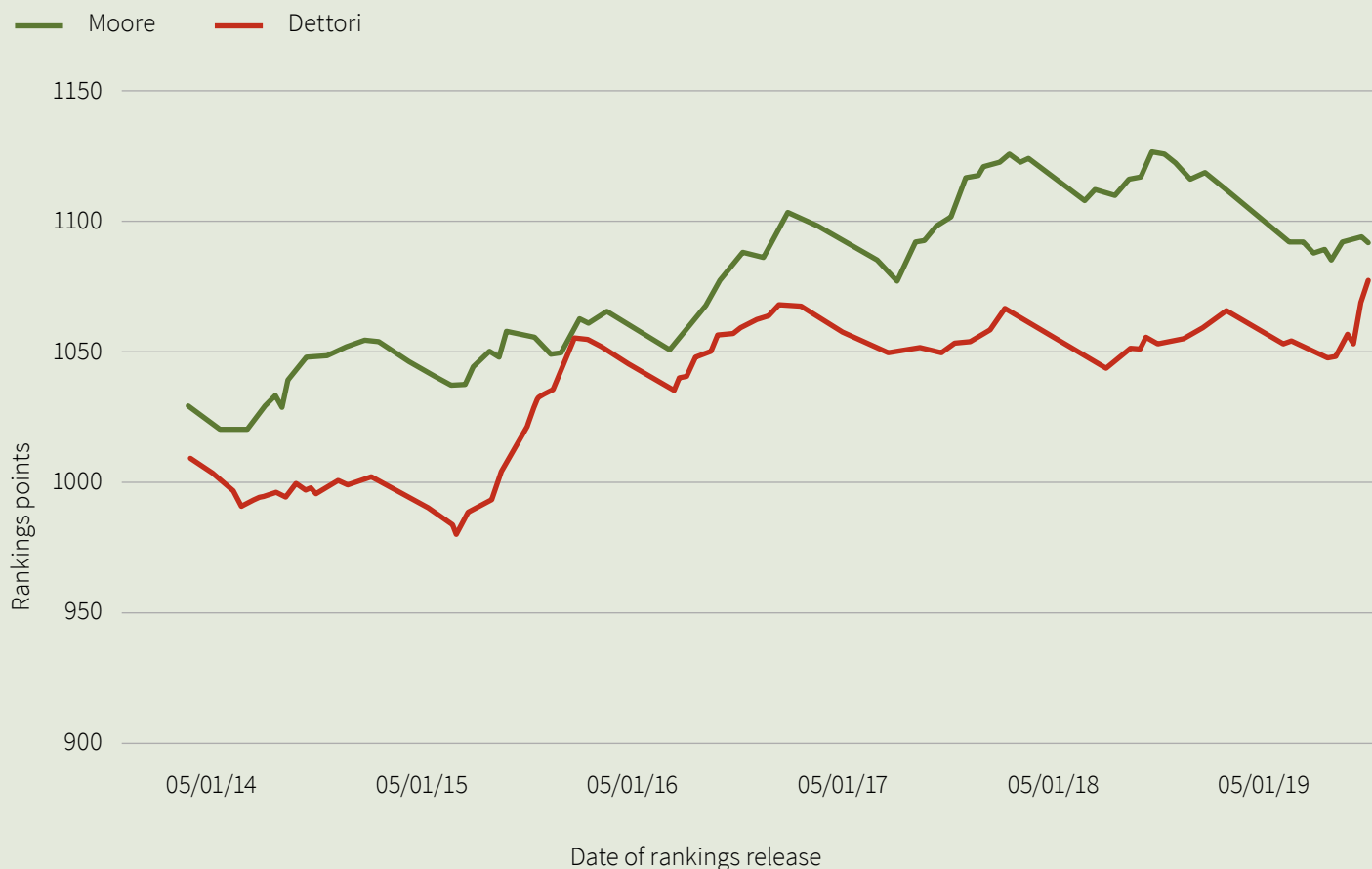
Five of Hewitson's rides at Greyville counted towards the rankings this week. He was well beaten on Legal Eagle in the G1 Durban July, but won the G1 Garden Province and the G3 Betting World 2200, both for trainer Sean Tarry.

Hewitson, son of former jockey Carl, is potentially a global star in the making. He was champion jockey in his country in 2017-18 while still an apprentice, in which sphere he passed current world #142 Gavin Lerena's 2007 record of 284 wins.

Last month, it was announced that Hewitson has received a license to ride in the highly competitive colony of Hong Kong. This will be the acid test of his potential to take his tack to a higher stage.

As of July 28, the gap between Moore and Dettori was down to just six points.

Race for World #1: TRC Global Rankings Performance Index for Jockeys Ryan Moore and Frankie Dettori



World's top 15 riders by Group wins for the year

Jockey	Wins	Places	Rides	SR	G1	G2	G3
Frankie Dettori	19	3	10	61	31	8	4
Javier Castellano	19	23	80	24	5	5	9
Irad Ortiz Jr	18	27	86	21	3	7	8
James McDonald	17	29	109	16	4	6	7
Jose L Ortiz	17	36	99	17	2	7	8
Ryan Moore	15	24	84	18	3	3	9
Blake Shinn	14	16	70	20	1	4	9
Flavien Prat	13	23	62	21	3	7	3
Damien Lane	13	21	72	18	3	5	5
Kerrin McEvoy	11	24	100	11	5	2	4
William Buick	11	6	27	41	2	6	3
James Doyle	11	12	69	16	2	5	4
John R Velazquez	11	20	85	13	1	3	7
Mike E Smith	10	16	49	20	4	4	2
Pierre-Charles Boudot	10	14	40	25	4	1	5
Mickael Barzalona	10	14	54	19	2	3	5
Ricardo Santana Jr	10	5	40	25	4	0	6
Hugh Bowman	9	14	55	16	6	3	0
Richard Fourie	9	8	34	27	6	2	1
Anton Marcus	9	10	32	28	4	3	2
Damien Oliver	8	11	58	14	2	1	5
Andrea Atzeni	8	10	45	18	2	1	5
Tyler Gaffalione	8	11	63	13	1	4	3
Luis Saez	8	16	68	12	1	2	5
Yuga Kawada	8	7	33	24	0	4	4



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No wonder so many top international owners are succumbing to the charms of South Africa

Michele MacDonald | July 23, 2019

Forget, for a moment, about the history. Forget about the money and forget about the limelight. For trainer Justin Snaith, sending Do It Again out for an emphatic triumph in South Africa's premier race, the Durban July, was mostly about proving to any doubters just how formidable this once recalcitrant gelding has become on a racecourse.

Riding high: Justin Snaith has found plenty of ways to celebrate the accomplishments of his remarkable dual Durban July winner Do It Again. Photo: Michele MacDonald

Giving as much as eight kilograms (around 18 pounds) in weight to 15 adversaries while carrying 60kg (about 132 pounds), the white-splashed bay ran them down with a cyclonic rush, his strides lengthening freely without provocation from jockey Richard Fourie's whip.

"I didn't care about anything else. I just wanted everyone to walk away from the Durban July saying that Do It Again is a champion. That's all I was worried about," Snaith declared in the immediate aftermath. "I wanted to be proud for him."

Yet, in the achievement of saddling only the fifth horse to win back-to-back editions of the grueling 2200m handicap, and one who appears likely to be his second consecutive South African Horse of the Year following Oh Susanna, Snaith continued to artfully illustrate why he is becoming a Renaissance man among 21st century trainers.



Not only has Snaith cajoled Do It Again and Oh Susanna out of difficult temperamental quirks that hampered their ability to perform, he has at times personally ridden them — along with many others in his care — through their problems.

He works on multiple levels on any given morning. If not in the saddle, Snaith can be spotted recording videos of his horses to send to clients or post on social media. All the while, he is actively collaborating with his brother, Jonathan, in cultivating an international client network extending across six continents.

With his boyish shock of blond air, camera-ready smile and electric intensity, Snaith is equally at ease in jeans, patting his stable stars in his barn, as he is wearing smart fashion and toasting some of the world's wealthiest owners at chic after-race parties.

Based in Cape Town with about 140 horses overall, he regularly takes his charges to area beaches for relaxation, joining his staff in riding them through ocean waves. He has offered even his superstars for racing promotions, leading out G1 winners to pose with the

likes of Miss South Africa to enhance racing's public appeal.

Fueled by a self-described fiery nature that drives him to “go 110 percent in anything I’ve ever done,” Snaith also flashes an appealing puckishness, a *joie de vivre* he displayed while zooming off on his red motorcycle emblazoned with a back plate proclaiming “Do It Again” just hours before the Durban July.

In his spare time, he racks up goals on the polo field, and he helped his team win a local championship just before Do It Again's big race.

With his spritely Jack Russell Terrier, Charles, often at his side to help supervise horses, greet guests or share sausage at breakfast, Snaith is living the ultimate life in racing while steadily advancing upward in a career arc that could take him anywhere in the world.

As a now-regular fixture among the top 20 in TRC's global ranking of trainers (he is currently #19), Snaith is poised for international prime time. Yet, just as his prime concern was to showcase Do It Again's talents in the Durban July, he places his horses' interests first.

Champion once more: Do It Again and a jubilant Richard Fourie take the Durban July under top weight. Photo: Michele MacDonald

Until export restrictions on South African horses are eased to reflect the country's stringent safeguards against the spread of African Horse Sickness, Snaith said he does not plan to send his runners abroad since they would be subjected to stressful quarantine procedures unlike those required elsewhere.

“I’ve always wished to do the international thing,” Snaith said in an interview, but “we’re not willing to take that risk” with the horses.

“If [the quarantine situation] opens up, yes,” he explained of his global aspirations just prior to Do It Again's historic victory at Greyville Racecourse. “If it doesn't open up, no.

“I think it's ridiculous — to take up to six months to get to somewhere to run in a race is ludicrous,” Snaith elaborated on the hardships of the current export scenario.

*“I was 19,” Snaith recalled with still glowing reverie,
“and I got to hold the Melbourne Cup.”*

“Can you imagine if Bob Baffert was sitting there saying I want to go do Dubai and it’s going to take us six months? Can you imagine saying to Bob Baffert, come to the World Cup but you must go from the U.S. to Ireland, stay there for three months, then fly to the UK, and then if they are okay and everything clears, you can go to Dubai six months later.

“It’s crazy,” he said in sketching out a hypothetical comparison of the lengthy procedures South African horses have had to follow in order to compete internationally, often traveling through Mauritius, where there is little high-level veterinary care available, and Europe.

Suffocated horse business

Some South African officials and racing leaders believe changes will be forthcoming soon as work continues on a proposed new policy that is advancing in discussions with the European Union. In the future, only a 14-day lockdown quarantine in South Africa could be required prior to direct shipment to Europe, but Snaith isn’t making any plans just yet.

“I don’t know. I’ll wait to see that day,” he said of his tempered expectations while noting how the longstanding export restrictions have suffocated South Africa’s horse business.

“What it’s costing our industry and how many people have fallen by the wayside to get this right, I don’t think we could ever get that money back. We’ve lost millions in our industry here in South Africa — millions, millions, to try to get this to work. We’re in for so much, I don’t think we can ever gain back what we’ve lost. Remember, this is a process that’s taken us 15 years to get to this point. Let’s just hope that someone decides to put a stamp on it.”

Snaith works on multiple levels. If not in the saddle, he is often seen, as in this picture, recording videos of his horses to send to clients or post on social media. Photo: Michele MacDonald





Snaith's career and life goals do not depend on international racing, even if it is alluring to ponder sending out runners at Royal Ascot or Breeders' Cup meetings, thoughts he acknowledged flit across his dreams. He is more than content with where he is now, at the pinnacle of racing in his homeland, and, at age 43, able to see the potential of even more in the landscape ahead.

The scion of a merger of South African families with ties to racing, Snaith always knew he would be involved in the sport, although he couldn't have predicted how high his fortunes have crested.

As the eldest son of trainer Chris Snaith, who notably sent out his own Durban July winner, Flaming Rock, in 1991, and showjumper and assistant trainer Sue Snaith, Justin grew up riding in amateur races and applied at age 16 to be a professional jockey. Rejected because of his size, he leapt into training as soon as he finished high school, working first as a student in Australia with trainer David Hayes, who would become the youngest ever inducted into

Australia's Racing Hall of Fame.

In what proved to be a magic time, Snaith was assigned to ride Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum's British-bred Jeune in his regular morning exercise. The son of Kalaglow thrived in his training and dramatically prevailed in the 1994 Melbourne Cup on his way to earning Australia's Horse of the Year title.

"I was 19," Snaith recalled with still glowing reverie, "and I got to hold the Melbourne Cup."

Returning to South Africa, Snaith worked with his father, who he reveres as a quintessential horseman and who set an example of how trainers must endeavor to understand the myriad strengths and flaws of their horses while also placing the utmost priority on integrity.

In 2000, Justin Snaith took out his own trainer's license and, with a string of 22 horses, began to build what has evolved into a burgeoning family enterprise.

In storybook fashion, the first runner he saddled, the Elliodor filly Park Lane,

Do It Again with Justin Snaith. The horse's rise from an unruly colt who was "very difficult" into an elite runner after being gelded is perhaps the trainer's greatest achievement to date. Photo: Michele MacDonald

romped home to record his initial victory, and about a month later, she earned his first big score by winning the G2 Odessa Stud Fillies Championship. Snaith recalls her fondly, along with his gratitude to owners Laurie and Jean Jaffee.

Talent in the family

As the horses progressed, Snaith called on the talent within his own family to multiply his chances of more success.

Jonathan Snaith, who had attained a degree in commerce with an initial goal of becoming a movie producer, began directing the stable's financial business, allowing Justin freedom to focus on steering the horses. Their parents have provided horsemanship insights to the endeavor, and John Freeman joined them, adding bloodstock selection and management expertise.



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"It's a team effort," Justin Snaith said in a special video produced by Gold Circle, the racing and wagering entity that annually presents the Durban July, which it bills as "Africa's greatest horse racing event".

"I don't think I could ever be as successful as we've been without the team we've put together. I thought when I took out my trainer's license that this is going to be easy, give me a couple of years and I'll be champion trainer. But it's a long process," Snaith said.

His brother's marketing work, which has included efforts with major racing programs such as the G1 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate, earns effusive praise from Snaith. Jonathan Snaith helped forge the ties that connected the January event with the Breeders' Cup's challenge series and thus undoubtedly also fostered the stable's relationship with Gaynor Rupert, who owns Oh Susanna and is the driving force behind the Queen's Plate festivities at Kenilworth racecourse.

"I handle the horses and my brother handles all the clientele. He is phenomenal. We certainly wouldn't be where we are without my brother. He's

probably more important than I am," Justin Snaith said.

"He's very, very talented ... he's also a socialite," Snaith added jovially but with a serious understanding of how critical connections can be solidified. "We're very trusted in the industry, which I think is one of our biggest things. When you say how do you get people to come to South Africa, our reputation is probably the most important thing."

The Snaith brothers also have created their own kind of marketing alchemy, learning to turn South Africa's tedious isolation by export restrictions and a relatively weak local currency, the rand, into advantages in recruiting international owners.

The beauty of Cape Town, a jewel of a city lying at the base of picturesque mountains and caressed by the converging waters of the Indian and Atlantic oceans at the southwestern tip of Africa, also is a powerful elixir in drawing owners from abroad. Justin Snaith said that up to 80 percent of his current clients are based in other countries but love to compete in Africa.

Brothers in arms: Jonathan (left) and Justin Snaith after the Durban July. "My brother is brilliant about showing what Cape Town is about and our racing," says Justin. Photo: Michele MacDonald

"There's something special about Cape Town, and it's still one of the best value-for-money places in the world," Snaith said. "We do a lot of work in Cape Town on the beaches and everyone just loves that. They come down and watch the horses work and then go for breakfast afterwards.

"You can race for minimal amounts compared to say Hong Kong or Singapore or England — we are a lot, lot cheaper," he elaborated. "But, in saying that, the quality is still here — our stock is good. Because of our problems with exporting, we've kept a lot of our stock in South Africa, whereas, like you saw in South America, their best horses are [sold and] exported and all of a sudden the quality diminishes a little bit. While [the export restrictions have] been against us, it's also been an advantage for our racing."

“I ride most days, but more so the difficult horses. Jockeys are only 50 kilos (about 110 pounds), so when a horse gets really difficult, he can throw a jockey around really easily. You need someone a little bit heavier, a little bit stronger, [who can get] just a little more respect from the horse.”

Cheering for Stradivarius

Prize money in South Africa is robust enough that owners find it easier to fund their stables, particularly with the reasonable training costs, than in some other countries.

One of the Snaiths' newest clients is British-based, South African-born owner Bjorn Neilsen, who ventured to the Queen's Plate earlier this year at Rupert's invitation and was introduced to Jonathan Snaith, who helped “really look after me”, he told South Africa's Sporting Post.

Nielsen went on to buy several South African-bred yearlings, some in partnership with Do It Again's co-owner, Nic Jonsson, which are set to be trained in the Snaith yard. In turn, the Snaiths journeyed to Royal Ascot to cheer on Neilsen's homebred Stradivarius to win his second straight Ascot Gold Cup under John Gosden's tutelage.

Other international Snaith clients include Antony Beck, owner of Gainesway Farm in Kentucky and son of the late South African business magnate Graham Beck; Andreas Jacobs, of Germany, who holds bloodstock interests around the world, including South Africa; Team Valor International, which also races in Europe and America; David and Diane Nagle, of Barronstown Stud in Ireland; Coolmore's Magnier family, and owners from Hong Kong, Australia and South America, Snaith said.

Akin to how other major trainers, such as Australia's Gai Waterhouse,

travel to high-quality racing venues around the world to promote their programs, the Snaiths visit some major events to establish their presence.

“We are now part of all that, showcasing and trying to encourage some people there to maybe come to South Africa,” Justin Snaith said. “We enjoy the day with whoever is there and put our name down as an option. My brother is brilliant about showing what Cape Town is about and our racing. The platform is already set — Cape Town is a beautiful city. It's not a hard sell. All we really do is say, ‘If you are coming to Cape Town, come see us.’

“You need international clients,” he continued. “Our rand is quite weak and it's a big advantage to come with pounds and dollars, without a doubt. I wouldn't be where I am without my international clients.

“But, in saying that, I'm very fortunate in having some of the biggest South African clients, like the Ruperts [Gaynor and entrepreneur husband Johann] and [Do It Again's late co-owner] Jack Mitchell, who sadly passed away but his family is still very involved, and Nic Jonsson [whose great grandfather was a founding member of the Durban Turf Club]. I'm very, very lucky to have the right local clients.”

When it comes to performance, the Snaiths have amassed some spectacular records and trophies to display for possible local or foreign-based owners.

Achievements galore

Over the past decade, Justin Snaith has ranked first or second by wins nine times among South African trainers, including the 2017-'18 season, in which he topped all with 162 victories. He also led by wins in 2012-13; 2013-14, a year in which he also led by stable earnings, and in 2014-15.

With the 2018-19 season nearly complete through mid-July, he ranked second to Sean Tarry, 154 wins to 160, although his stable had 281 fewer starts. In TRC's training rankings through July 21, he was rated internationally above the likes of Todd Pletcher, Roger Varian, Bill Mott, Waterhouse, Kazuo Fujisawa and Peter and Paul Snowden, as well as above Tarry, while virtually equal with South African stalwart Mike de Kock.

During the previous year, Snaith was honored at South Africa's Equus Awards with his second champion trainer title after recording seven G1 wins during the season in which Oh Susanna and Do It Again reigned over the sport.

He also earned the Exceptional Achievement Award from the Cape Racing and Breeders Awards in honor of Oh Susanna becoming the first filly in over 100 years to win the G1 Sun Met in 2018 and for sending out not only Do It Again but also the second- and third-place finishers, Made To Conquer and Elusive Silva, in the 2018 Durban July.

Snaith won his first Durban July in 2008, when Graham Beck's Dancer's Daughter dead-heated with superstar

“His trust has just gone to another level now. He loves the environment he is in. He’s a relaxed horse now. Even before the [2019 Durban July], he was just like, ‘whatever’.”

Pocket Power, and the trainer added another Durban July title with Legislate in 2014. With Do It Again’s victories, he now has four wins in a race that is particularly meaningful to him since, in addition to his father’s win, his grandmother’s brother won the race not long after the turn of the 20th century.

Oh Susanna’s antics

But Snaith doesn’t dwell much on statistics or the past. He prefers to concentrate on the present, living in the moment with the horses he speaks about with a palpable fondness, and the future, which he anticipates in terms of the next great runners that might flourish in his stable.

“I ride most days, but more so the difficult horses. Jockeys are only 50 kilos (about 110 pounds), so when a horse gets really difficult, he can throw a jockey around really easily. You need someone a little bit heavier, a little bit stronger, [who can get] just a little more respect from the horse. And if someone is going to get injured, I’d rather it be me than the horse getting injured,” Snaith said.

With Oh Susanna, he endured quite a few antics. Even when just accompanying her on a pony, she would often turn to bite him, but their relationship has softened as she has matured.

“There is no end to her abilities,” Snaith declared passionately on Twitter, which he and his brother utilize as an inviting window for the public to see into the stable. “She is spectacular.”

Do It Again’s rise from an unruly colt who was “very difficult” and who

“wouldn’t go into trucks, wouldn’t go into starting gates” into an elite runner after being gelded is perhaps Snaith’s greatest achievement to date.

“He can really, really run like the wind,” Snaith said, adding that he has every confidence the son of Twice Over would now be competitive in major international races.

“He just didn’t have any trust in anybody,” Snaith said of Do It Again’s younger years. “His trust has just gone to another level now. He loves the environment he is in. He’s a relaxed horse now. Even before the [2019 Durban July], he was just like, ‘whatever’.”

‘The best horse in the country’

Putting even more perspective on Do It Again’s most recent triumph, his fourth at the G1 level, is the fact that the weight he carried is the most that any Durban July winner has shouldered since the race’s distance was set at 2200m in 1970, according to Gold Circle. Only one other winner, Marinaresco in 2017, carried as much.

The last horse to win back-to-back editions of the Durban July was El Picha in 1999 and 2000, and, before him, the most recent to perform the feat was Milesia Pride in 1949 and 1950. The handicap conditions and generally big fields are tough enough to overcome once, let alone twice, so much so that earlier this year Snaith indicated he probably would not even try with Do It Again.

However, Do It Again’s physical prowess and the urge to prove his

ability led Snaith and the gelding’s owners to take another shot at glory, and thus gain a magnificent result. Snaith pointed out that jockey Fourie guided Do It Again home “with hands and heels . . . literally, this horse did it on his own”.

“I was just so happy for [Do It Again]. I’m glad he showcased what he is about. It wasn’t about us, it was about him, and I wanted everyone to have the respect for him that he deserves,” Snaith said. “He’s the best horse in the country at weight for age and now he’s shown that he’s the best horse in the country whichever way you look at it.”

Since they are bound together, horse and trainer, one relying on the other to achieve, Do It Again’s impressive Durban July inevitably raised the spotlight on Snaith, whose stable is so strong that he was able to send out three other runners in the championship race.

What the future holds is unclear, as Snaith is willing to compete around the world if the export restrictions are changed, if his owners want to pursue the challenge and if his horses are healthy.

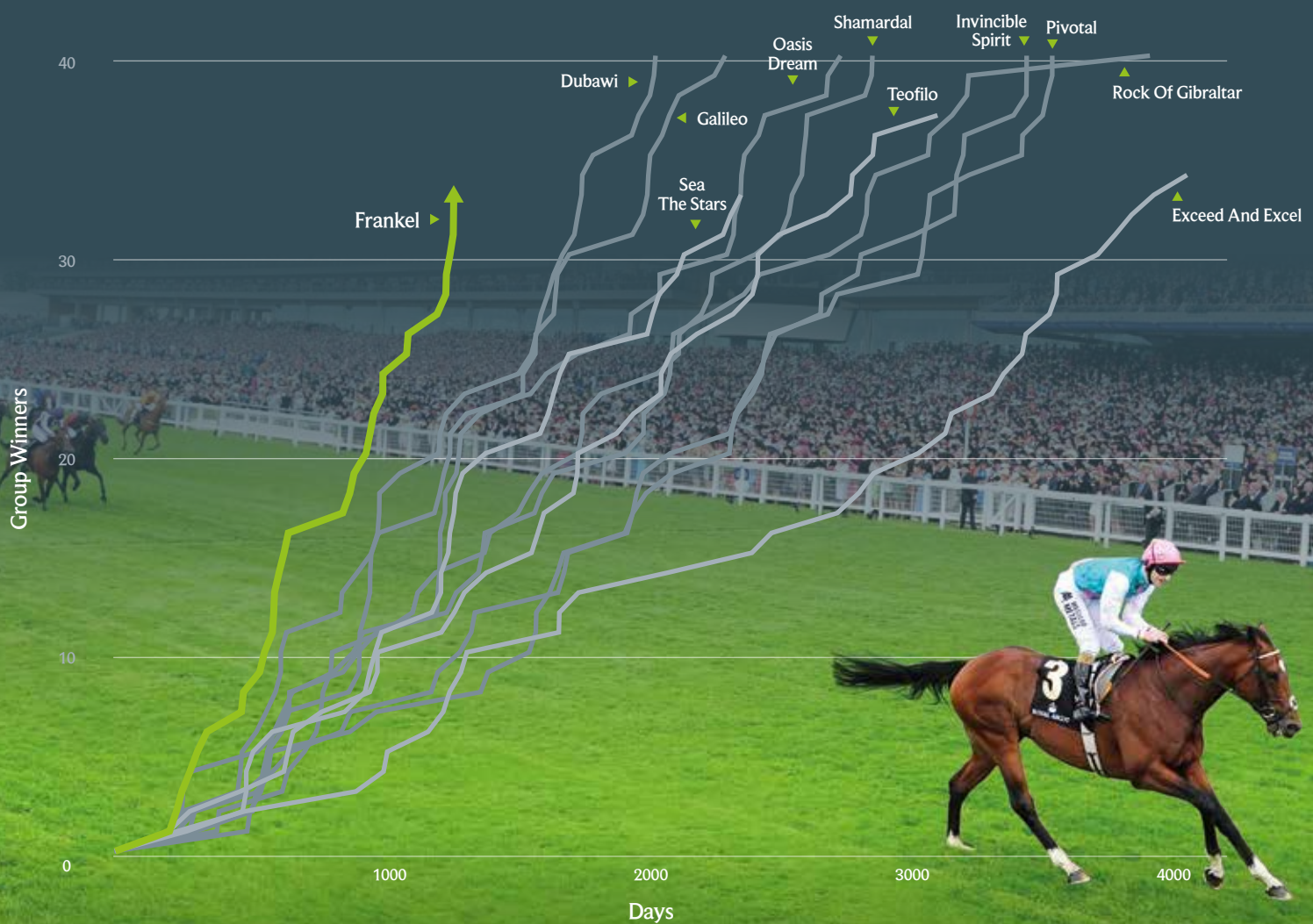
“But, unless it opens up, we would never consider it. If it opens up, that changes everything,” Snaith said.

For now, one of his social media posts probably best represents his view of how far he has come and what working with racehorses means to him.

“We wake up each morning in the hope to find that special horse, the horse who has the ability to change lives and create dreams and beautiful memories,” reflected a post on Twitter from the Snaith Racing account. “To train Do It Again and Oh Susanna is nothing less than a privilege.”

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JUDDMONTE

How to bring out the best in older horses: *five trainers on the secrets of their success*

Daniel Ross | July 10, 2019

When the 7-year-old gelding Bolo crossed the wire first in the G1 Shoemaker Mile at Santa Anita in May, he struck a blow for the golden oldies in a world where the delinquencies of youth are still held firmly in its thrall.

That a 7-year-old is still performing at the highest level is a feat worth sitting up and taking notice of. In most cases, connections have admirably resisted the sire's call of the breeding shed. Injury, too, has been staved. Then comes the more elusive element of the equation – maintaining their competitive spirit.

Some trainers appear to be better than others at teasing out, year after year, the more sublime qualities of their ageing proteges. I spoke with a handful of such trainers on the U.S. West Coast. The following lightly edited remarks are from typically much longer conversations.

Two common themes emerged from their various recipes for success: Don't over-cook the turkey, and lashings of patience, patience, patience.

RICHARD MANDELLA

Yes, his resume lists champion 2- and 3-year-olds, but Mandella's name will forever be synonymous with a phalanx as long as your arm of Rip Van Winkle-like runners. Indeed, eight out of ten of his top-earning horses won G1 races at five and older. One of the them won a G1 at the age of nine - The Tin Man in the 2007 G1 Shoemaker Mile.

Flexibility ...

RM: Horses change - just because something goes one way the first six months of their life, doesn't mean it'll be that way forever. They'll change, grow up. Their minds will be different, and you'd better change with them.

Sweat the details ...

My main people have been here a long time. They know what I'm looking for: problems before they begin. That's the most important thing. Fix it before it starts, because when it gets out of hand, you can't fix it.

Some of the toughest ones are hardest to read because they won't show you they're tired, something's wrong, so you'd better look close. When you walk down the shed-row, sometimes they're holding a hand up saying 'I need to talk to you.' In horse terms, there are things you always look at - their hair, coat, if they're holding their weight good, eating good. Just watch if they're changing their personality. A horse that rests all day, suddenly not resting. Not yelling for his feed.

Spells ...

Send them out for a spell? Oh yeah. Resting them here at the track doesn't always work. You can walk them, pony them, think you're being easy on them, but mentally they're not easy on themselves. So, you get them away from here where it's quiet, and they tend to let down and rest. A lot of the fillies, especially. Geldings too. I have luck getting them out of here after they run, like I used to do with Beholder.

[But with the likes of Gentleman, Siphon and Sandpit], they didn't need rest. Those were tough dudes. They ate good. Big healthy things. Those horses didn't need spelling, freshening. They were strong. Their minds were strong. Just a matter of having them right. But, you can still overdo it with any of them, no matter how tough they are.

JOHN SHIRREFFS

Tina Turner, Dame Maggie Smith, Zenyatta - three divas who have shown longevity and excellence in their respective fields far beyond the norm. At distilling those rarer qualities of his barn's older brigade, Shirreffs has proven more



G1 Shoemaker Mile winner Bolo is still performing at the highest level at the age of seven. Benoit photo

than adept, not just with the four-time Eclipse Award winner, but similarly with the likes of G1 winners Manistique, After Market and Starrer.

Don't over-train ...

JS: With older horses you don't have to just keep them mentally in the game, you have to keep them physically in the game, so they want to do it. Everything's a biorhythm, so you have to know where you are with them. Are you on a down slope, are you on the up slope? Are you in a trough or are you in a peak? So, mostly it's just figuring your horse out, and how you can get their energies together at the same time a race comes.

There's a general outline you have in your mind, but then you have to tailor it to the specific needs of the horse. I always think back to people who are competing on the track, and they train really hard in the pre-season to get fit enough to run on the track. And then, after they're fit enough, the secret is to not over-train. If you over-train, then they become dull. And when the horse is dull, you have to start all over again.

Physical problems ...

I think we underestimate how horses handle pain, and we as trainers need to be able to pick up on how horses are handling it. It could be muscle soreness. It could be the stress of training. We really have to be careful, in those regards, because a horse won't always point the foot for you. You really have to watch things.

Foundational work for later ...

Because I worked so long on a Thoroughbred farm before I even started training, I realize horses generally like to get out and they like to move around. Hopefully, with the training you've given them when they're young, and the routine you've taught them, they'll also be okay with maybe jogging a little more when you need them to. Not routine. You know, maybe you say one day, 'I'll take them for a walk around the track, around the barn area,' just to do something different.

LEONARD POWELL

Age may be a fine conduit for improvement when it comes to extracts of the grape, but with athletes, the opposite is typically true, youth being the standard benchmark for excellence.

Powell's Soi Phet bucks that trend, winning his first stakes race at the ripe old age of seven, and winning his last at the age of ten. Having just run his last race at 11, Soi Phet will head to Old Friends in Kentucky.

Spend time with them ...

LP: Trying to learn from experience, that's the main thing. Experience teaches you to not make the same mistake twice, but that's rarely the case. Older horses are horses that overcame all our mistakes. Hopefully, we learn from the mistakes we make from them and we don't repeat them. That's why I spend a lot of time at the barn. Monitoring their weight. Seeing them in their stall. Seeing their demeanor – that's the main thing. You just have to be there to watch them.

Don't over-train ...

One of the worst mistakes with older horses is to over-train them. That's when they get hurt. You've got to know where the tipping point is – that's the secret. The same with when you campaign them – you get to know how much you can race them in a campaign.

Give them time off ...

That's one of the problems in the U.S., we have year-round racing. There's always another race. And there's never a proper time to give a break to your horse until it's too late. And that's one of the things I love about Australia. There's a spring campaign and the autumn campaign, and the horses, no matter what, even if a horse wins by five lengths, they go on a spell for six weeks after that.

Six weeks is the right time [for a break]. They don't lose that much fitness. When you bring them back, you don't have to be as hard on them. And it's enough time for them to let down physically and mentally. Every-time you train and race, you cause microfractures, and if you don't take a small step back, then the body doesn't have time to catch up. And if they're turned out, you might not think they're doing anything, but they're still exercising quite a bit.

CARLA GAINES

In bringing Bolo back into training for one last hurrah, Gaines had her work cut out. His last run was back in August of 2017, after which he'd suffered a tendon injury which, though relatively minor, as Gaines puts it, 'you're never just a little bit pregnant.'

On top of that, he's a big long strapping horse, not far off 1,200 pounds. The sort of horse that needs treating with kid gloves. Despite this, it was Bolo and not any of his younger, race-fit competitors standing in the winner's circle after this May's G1 Shoemaker Mile.

Slow and steady ...

CG: We had already developed a program in case we were going to bring him back. Once we got through his rehabilitation program, we waited, we scanned, we re-scanned. We went through so many weeks of a break-over walk. We would increase it for a while, then we would stop and not do anything for 30 days. It was his program – I had nothing to do with it. I just went by him.

It's hard to get a horse of that size with that type of injury fit over this type of deep, deep dirt surface. He's a big flat-footed horse, he likes a firm grass course. It was frustrating to say the least. So, we just did a lot of long slow exercises. Consistent long slow works. We did a lot of jogging – miles and miles and miles. But he's a good jogger, and he's a brilliant horse.

The unknown ...

Watching him work, I was hoping he was wanting to run when the time came. You just can't really get a good true reading. Actually, any horse that you've had off for a year at least, and they get to a certain age, male or female, it's questionable if they're going to have the want anymore. But, I'm probably careful. We don't tend to train hard in the morning – that's just my style. I'd rather get them to the races.

Time, time, time ...

The key in this business, you have to give them time when they need time. We have a horse shortage. We have an owner shortage. People now, they don't want to give the horses the time. But I've had owners who understand that over the years – they understand horse racing. They understand that horses need time off. I train a lot for breeders who have their own facilities. Their own farms. For someone who doesn't, it's costly.

JOHN SADLER

Accelerate's career was a masterclass in the art of the slow-burn. For four seasons, Sadler brought about incremental improvement in the son of Lookin At Lucky before his barnstorming performance in last year's Breeders' Cup Classic. With Catalina Cruiser, who ran away with his 5-year-old debut the G2 True North Stakes, could Sadler be at it again?

Plot out a campaign ...

JS: You look at what's out there and look at the number of starts you want to make. You put a couple of different plans together. Know if you're going to run a certain amount of times, the key races you should point for. But you probably shouldn't run such a campaign that you try to do everything, so, all of a sudden, your horse is over the top. If you say your year ends at the Breeders' Cup, there's some built-in time off before you begin your campaign the next year.

If you look at what we did in California a long time ago, we used to look north to Seattle. Those horses that would run well there would be running eight, nine, ten-years-old, because they always had the winter off. They didn't race in the winter. Those horses would be in great form as older horses. You can't go non-stop forever.

Knowing when to stop ...

There was a famous surgeon, and he was asked once, 'what makes you a great surgeon?' He said, 'I pick the right cases.' Meaning, he didn't take the guy who needed five stents, rather, he took the guy with a little blockage in his heart. That comes through experience - no question.

Good old fashioned horsemanship ...

It's basically good management, good horsemanship – all of the time-old sayings are very true. You're going to be way more successful if you're proactive versus being reactive. If you see a little problem with a horse, stop on him early, it's going to pay you back on the other end. If you go on with a horse, it'll get to be a bigger problem, they may not come back as well. So, we try to look at them closely.

Train them as individuals ...

Some horses aren't capable of going early, and if you force them to run before they're ready, you'll just get a bad result – probably not going to get an older horse. So, a lot of these older horses that I have, I was also patient with them at two and also into their 3-year-old year, depending on their needs.

RICK ARTHUR

With the topic of animal welfare and injury prevention such a hot-button issue in California at the moment, I posed the following question to the California Horse Racing Board equine medical director: how do trainers know when to call it a day?

RA: There are two major issues. One, is the horse physically sound and able to perform? And the other, is he still at a reasonable level of performance? Some of it is horsemanship and horse management. How much respect do you have for the horse? An 8-year-old is not an old horse. It's an old racehorse, but it's not an old horse.

The bottom line is, the longer a horse is with an individual trainer, the lower the risk of things like catastrophic injury. They know the horse better. They can evaluate the horse better. With all horses, you have to know when to woe and when to go. And, sometimes, horses are at the top of their game, sometimes they need a little rest, and sometimes you need to say stop. But at the end of the day, it boils down to horsemanship and patience.



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We have a great deal to thank *Marylou Whitney* for

Charles Hayward | July 23, 2019

Marylou Whitney with John Henrickson: we can learn many important lessons from them. Photo: Erica Miller

On Friday afternoon (July 19), I was sitting in the Saratoga Clubhouse seats when Larry Collmus, the track announcer, stated that Marylou Whitney had passed away earlier that day.



There was an elegant photograph of Marylou and John Hendrickson on all of the infield screens and televisions throughout the track. Larry spoke briefly about how important Marylou's legacy had been for the Saratoga community and throughout the Thoroughbred racing industry.

He then asked all patrons to observe a moment's silence, and after that most people in the stands stood and applauded in recognition of how beloved and important Marylou Whitney was to the Saratoga and Thoroughbred racing communities. This was a true, heartfelt recognition of their collective appreciation for Marylou's many contributions.

As one would imagine, a tremendous outpouring of appreciation of Marylou's long and fascinating life appeared across the media: television, radio, newspapers and social media. Click here to read Enid Nemy's obituary in the New York Times on July 19.

Marylou's husband of many years, CV Whitney, was one of the leading owners of his generation. Not wanting to burden his wife, he dispersed his racing and breeding stock in the late 1980s in advance of his death in 1992. Marylou had played a role in the Thoroughbred racing and breeding operation, and after Whitney's death she spent a substantial amount of time and money trying to buy back a number of the 'Whitney Mares'.

Fortuitous timing

During the time that she was buying a broodmare band to start a new racing operation, she met and fell in love with John Hendrickson, a young tennis champion and a former aide to Governor Walter Hickel of Alaska. Hendrickson proposed to Marylou at Buckingham Palace, and they were married in October 1997.

The timing of the wedding was fortuitous for the racing industry as Marylou was in the process of assembling a broodmare band of 14 mares and retained the services of Nick Zito, a top-notch New York trainer who would subsequently be elected to the Hall of Fame in 2005.

While Hendrickson did not have a background in Thoroughbred racing and breeding, he worked very closely with

Zito, who researched the pedigrees and matched stallions to the 'new' Whitney broodmare band. The operation runs under the name Marylou Whitney Stables.

But make no mistake, Marylou was actively involved in the racing operation. She had remembered a race mare named Hush Dear, who had been successful as a runner and a broodmare for CV Whitney. Marylou went in search of a daughter of Hush Dear, Dear Birdie, who happened to reside at a farm near the Whitney farm in Lexington, and they were able to purchase Dear Birdie for \$50,000.

In 1999, the team bred Dear Birdie to first-year sire Cape Town, who produced a filly in 2000, which they named Birdtown. She went on at three to be a multiple G1 winner - of the Kentucky Oaks at Churchill Downs and the Acorn Stakes at Belmont Park.

As remarkable as this achievement was, even more impressive things were to come.

In 2000, the team bred Dear Birdie to the Kentucky Derby winner, Grindstone, who produced a colt in 2001. This was Birdstone, who captured the prestigious G1 Champagne Stakes as a 2-year-old in the fall of 2003. He came back as a 3-year-old to win the Belmont Stakes at 36/1, beating Smarty Jones, who was trying to sweep the Triple Crown.

Here is an excerpt from an article that Tom Pedulla did for NYRA to promote the 150th anniversary of the Belmont Stakes. This is Marylou speaking ...

"Birdstone was always special to me. I used to go to the foaling barn every night. It was one of my favorite things to do. There is nothing like seeing a new life come into the world. You feel so alive. I was there when Birdstone was born ..."

Later in describing the race, Marylou said, "Everyone was cheering for Smarty Jones when he led turning for home. I never heard so much noise. Birdstone was the only horse with a chance to catch him. He was gaining on him all the time - and then he swept past him. It was a wonderful race. You get into racing for races like that.

"I almost fainted. I couldn't believe it ... I apologized to Mrs [Patricia] Chapman [owner of homebred Smarty Jones with her husband, Roy]. She

was a wonderful lady. "I'm sorry we beat you," I told her. Edgar Prado apologized and told reporters that he was just doing his job. Mrs Chapman was very gracious. "You had the best horse," she said. "You deserved to win."

Sweet Travers victory

As good as the Belmont Stakes win was, I have to believe that the subsequent win in the Travers was even sweeter. It was, after all, the Travers Stakes, the Summertime Derby on the home track, Saratoga Race Course. Once again, Birdstone was not the betting favorite and went off as the fourth choice at 5/1. These wins were both the first wins for Nick Zito of the Travers and the Belmont Stakes, although Nick had finished second in the Belmont Stakes a remarkable five times. Marylou Whitney Stables remains active as it had 47 starters in 2017 and 50 starters in 2018.

For decades, one of the highlights of the Saratoga Springs social calendar was the black-tie Whitney Gala Ball held the night before the Whitney Stakes. In 2011, John and Marylou made the decision to discontinue the gala and to direct their efforts and resources to a more charitable cause, the Backstretch Appreciation, run in cooperation with the Backstretch Employee Services Team (BEST).

The Backstretch Appreciation Program was started in 2008 by John Hendrickson and Marylou Whitney with support from BEST and their executive director, Paul Ruchames. I was working at NYRA at the time, and I can tell you that there is no other program at a racetrack in America that provides these amenities and services for the backstretch workers.

The couple funded this all along with their own significant contributions, as well as donations from a group of breeding farms and horse owners. As Hendrickson told Lenny Schulman of The Blood-Horse in July 2017, "We are honored to be involved with this.

"We wanted to change the way we interact with backstretch workers. It's had a great impact, and it couldn't

There would be no betting without betting customers, mutuel clerks, technicians, IT experts, etc. There would be no racing without a properly run track management team and operations staff.

be done without all the donors and hundreds of volunteers. Everyone wants to contribute. It takes hundreds of thousands of dollars to put it on each year, and not one penny has ever been paid for administration or salaries. It's all for food and fun."

Subtle lessons

Marylou was very direct in a separate statement: "I would rather take the money it cost me to have the gala and spend it on the backstretch."

The program is truly remarkable. For example, every Sunday evening during the race meet, there is a catered sit-down dinner from some of the best restaurants in the Saratoga region that serves in excess of 1,000 backstretch workers.

Monday is normally a sponsored soccer game in cooperation with the Race Track Chaplaincy of America. Tuesday is reserved for bingo games with great prizes that have often been called by former NYRA announcer Tom Durkin. During the rest of the week, there are movies in both Spanish and English, language classes in English and Spanish, a Karaoke singing contest and bowling night, plus basketball and billiards tournaments and more.

There are more subtle lessons we can learn from John and Marylou. Perhaps, the most important thing I have learned about operating a racetrack is that there are a tremendous number of inter-dependencies that must be in place and working for the enterprise to thrive. For example, there are no races if there are no horses to run, which requires jockeys, veterinarians,

stewards, trainers, owners, breeders, backstretch workers and track employees.

There would be no betting without betting customers, mutuel clerks, technicians, IT experts, etc. There would be no racing without a properly run track management team and operations staff. There needs to be communication and respect between all the participating racing and community constituents.

One event that Marylou and now Hendrickson hosts is the Saratoga Race Course Opening Day Luncheon, which was unable to take place this year due to the early opening of the meet. As a NYRA executive, I was always invited to attend this celebratory event, along with people invited on behalf of local businesses, Saratoga city county and state officials, breeders, owners, media members and racetrack customers.

Of course, the food is always good and the venue aesthetically appealing. However, I have come to understand that, in an industry with so much complexity and so many moving parts, the development of trust, communication and respect is essential. Events such as this luncheon truly help develop collaboration, respect and goodwill among stakeholders.

Clearly the couple were way ahead of me in comprehending these important points.

Finally, we are all going to miss Marylou. We should be thankful for all of the good things she brought into so many lives.

The good news is that we have John Hendrickson taking part in our industry and contributing leadership for our community and the racing industry. I

had the great pleasure of working with Hendrickson as a NYRA executive and fellow board member. He was forceful, fair and sincere. However, we did lose a strong advocate for the community and the racing industry in June, 2016, when he resigned his post as Governor Andrew Cuomo's Advisor to the New York Racing Association Board of Directors.

Justified resignation

As Maureen Lewi, Chair of the Concerned Citizens for Saratoga Racing stated at that time:

"His resignation leaves a significant void. John is one of only a few notable figures who speaks the truth despite any personal consequences. He is one of the most vocal advocates for Saratoga and our state's Thoroughbred racing industry. He has certainly not been shy about publicly stating his differences with NYRA, the administration or anyone else."

Hendrickson was completely justified in his decision to resign for at least two reasons. If your boss was not listening to any of your advice and if your boss had not visited a NYRA racetrack to watch a NYRA race in the five-plus years he had held his position, there would be no reason to stay in your position.

Fortunately, Hendrickson still has an active, high-profile management position in Thoroughbred racing and breeding. In August 2017, he was elected as President of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs. He has undertaken a number of new initiatives there, the most significant of which is a \$20 million capital campaign for a new multi-screen theater in the round.

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America's youngest track announcer and a message of optimism about the future of the sport

Emily Shields | July 29, 2019

“Wanting to be a racehorse announcer isn’t something a Kindergarten teacher hears their student say every day,” noted Matt Dinerman, the affable and relentlessly upbeat track announcer at Golden Gate Fields in Northern California. “But I was taught to go for my dreams.”

Horse lover: “There are so many positive things about our sport that it would be a disservice to focus only on the negative,” says Matt Dinerman. Photo: Emily Shields

So he did. The San Diego native wanted a job at the racetrack, so he made it happen.

First, he helped with odd jobs around a yearling consignment in 2004, then hotwalked Graded stakes winners for trainer John Sadler at just 16. He used his position as Del Mar’s press box steward in 2012 to start practicing calling races live into a tape recorder. In 2015, he made headlines as the youngest announcer in the United States when hired to call at Emerald Downs, outside Seattle, Washington. He was just 22.

“I recognized right away that it was a neat artform,” Dinerman said of race calling. “I fell in love with watching a race, identifying how it was unfolding, and putting my own spice and flavor in it. When the Emerald Downs job opened, I knew I wasn’t experienced enough, but I had practiced a lot. I was really lucky.”

Dinerman, who is active on Twitter under the handle @3coltshandicap, is known for being remarkably positive; he even signs off the microphone each day with the phrase, “Keep living the dream!”

Dinerman fell in love with the close-knit Washington community. “Those are people with real pride in their racetrack,” he said. He had an array of surreal experiences, from riding a camel in an exhibition race to climbing aboard local champion and Longacres Mile winner Wasserman, but the Emerald Downs meet only runs from April through September. A new opportunity arose to call races and spend time on air during the simulcast show at Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley, California. Although the decision was difficult, Dinerman ultimately chose to move tack.

“It was easier in regards to my personal life with less travel,” Dinerman said. “Emerald had a lot of good, supportive people, and it was an honor to be part of that track with how progressive it is. But I’m a glass half-full type of guy.”

That’s an understatement. Dinerman, who is active on Twitter under the handle @3coltshandicap, is known for being remarkably positive; he even signs off the microphone each day with the phrase, “Keep living the dream!”

“We need it, especially in the state of California,” Dinerman said of his enthusiasm. “There are a lot of different sports and industries that have issues right now; I hope that, in our current climate while things are awry, that they can only be used for the betterment of our sport in the future. I have to believe that, given the opportunity, people in our industry are trying to do the right thing.”

Dinerman noted that, while he cannot personally solve the problems with injuries or declining field sizes in Southern California, he can instead point to a rash of recent boosts in Golden Gate’s product that show racing in the West Coast is still vibrant.

Field size rose from 6.74 per race in 2017 to 6.93 last year, and handle has increased

significantly at the quiet Bay Area track, thanks largely to coordinated post times.

“We were able to debunk field size being the number one issue contributing to wagering,” Dinerman explained. “I have seen time and time again that it’s all about where you place your races. You can get more handle with a six-horse field than you can with a full field on the grass if you aren’t up against anybody else.”

One 14-horse stakes race drew only \$80,639 in the win pool, versus an eight-horse allowance that pulled \$134,711. The latter was not up against wagering competition from another track.

Every morning track officials have a meeting to make adjustments to the post times while giving Golden Gate bettors the best opportunity to watch and wager on their product. Dinerman (photo right: Shane Michelli/Vassar Photography) joked that, if he was the “racing czar”, coordinated post times for all tracks is the first thing he would implement. “I want to make it so customers would never have to watch a split screen.”

Another recent positive at Golden Gate was the inaugural Gold Rush on April 27 and 28, which had a usefully staggered race date rather than post time.

“It was something we’ve never done before here,” he said. “It was carefully put in a spot where not a lot was going on in the calendar.” The event took place the week before the Kentucky Derby, but after all the Derby prep races had been completed.

“Dermot Weld even ran a horse here that weekend,” Dinerman said of the renowned Irish trainer. “It was a tremendous success, handling more than any event in the history of the track. There was good quality racing with top jockeys and trainers traveling here. Everyone at Golden Gate is really proud of that.”

New management at Golden Gate has led to the turnaround.

Patrick Mackey took over as racing secretary in 2014, and David Duggan was named the new general manager in 2018. “The horsemen didn’t feel like anyone cared about them before,” Dinerman said. “Now there is a new feel. There is a purpose to training, a purpose in looking towards the future. It goes to show that hard-working people thinking outside the box and working together can improve a racetrack.”

Dinerman himself had to step outside the box when asked to be the public address voice at the 2017 Breeders’ Cup at Del Mar, working alongside regular track announcer Trevor Denman where it all really began for him back in 2012. Dinerman announced post parades and various advertising on racing’s biggest stage in just his third year behind the mic.

“The Del Mar Breeders’ Cup was a blast; a wonderful and great experience that I will never forget,” he said. “It was amazing to be able to announce all of the world-class horses, jockeys and trainers both before and after the races. Getting to meet so many new people that I hadn’t met in person yet was a real treat.”

Although Dinerman is looking forward to someone else inheriting the title of ‘Country’s Youngest Announcer’, he is more than happy to continue being an optimistic diplomat for the sport.

“My job is to be the best announcer, analyst, and ambassador I can be,” he said. “The horsemen, bettors, and fans are all my customers, and it’s my job to treat them the best I possibly can. There are so many positive things about our sport that it would be a disservice to focus only on the negative. We don’t need to work on fixing our sport so that people think it is better, we need to fix it so that our sport is better, period.”

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Something to smile about: Mark Johnston with Poet's Society at York last August after the Poet's Voice gelding's victory made him the most successful British flat trainer of all time. Photo: Healy Racing

What They're Thinking: **Mark Johnston: the idea that Government should get involved in racing welfare is completely ridiculous**

Nicholas Godfrey | July 16, 2019

On August 23, 2018, Mark Johnston became the most successful British flat trainer of all time when Poet's Society won at York to provide him with the 4,194th winner of his career. Only two others, Richard Hannon Sr and Martin Pipe, have reached the 4,000-mark. The 59-year-old was already the first British flat trainer to send out more than 200 winners in a single season (2009), a feat he has now achieved eight times. With Classics and Group 1s among them, he has trained more than 100 winners for 26 consecutive seasons since 1994. A former director of the British Horseracing Authority, proud Scotsman Johnston is renowned for clear thinking and an outspoken demeanour that can ruffle feathers. He is also famed for his single-minded determination, as evinced by his stable motto: "Always trying."

1. Who do you believe is the most important figure in the history of racing around the world?

I had to think long and hard about this because you couldn't say there's one person in modern racing history, so I think it has to be Thomas Darley, the Yorkshireman who imported the Darley Arabian. Obviously there were others like him around the same time that brought Arabian blood into British breeding but, whether by luck or design, his one was the most successful. Without him, we probably wouldn't have the Thoroughbred as we know it.

In the post-war era, two other people sprung to mind: Federico Tesio, who we all know had a great influence on breeding the modern Thoroughbred, and Sheikh Mohammed, who stands out as the most influential person in current racing circles, and that applies worldwide.

2. Which is your favourite venue and race (anywhere in the world)?

Goodwood is the venue - and not just because we've been very successful there. I always say if you want to show someone from abroad all that's best and unique about British racing, I'd always take them to Goodwood.

As for the race, it's got to be the Japan Cup, which has much the greatest atmosphere of any race that I've been at.

I was so wonderfully taken with the attitude of Japanese racegoers. They're fanatical about the sport, fanatical

about the horses. Every horse has its own fan club in the parade ring, and one of the years we were there was just after El Condor Pasa had been retired and people were going mad just watching him canter a lap of the track. We've got nothing remotely like that.

3. What is your fondest memory in racing?

Probably Double Trigger's last Goodwood Cup, when he won for the third time in 1998. It's the only time I've been involved with a horse and, when they passed the line, people were running from the stands to get to the winner's enclosure to see him coming in. To see the enthusiasm of people for the horse was wonderful.

4. What do you see as the biggest challenge racing faces today?

The great challenge is the one all sporting and business activities involving domestic animals face and that's pressure from an ignorant public and politicians. The very idea that Government should get involved in racing welfare is completely ridiculous to me. Too many MPs are completely ignorant of the subject and driven by the quest for votes; the majority of the voting public are also totally ignorant.

We've got to this situation where we've got pressure from so-called animal-rights groups who simply cannot accept the simple facts of life and death.

For as long as we've been involved in racing, including when I was on the BHA board, they will say quite openly that the public perception of horse welfare is more important than horse welfare itself. I will never accept that we should approach it that way. We should be the experts in horse welfare and maintain the highest standards.

I see that as the biggest threat, and it's my biggest criticism of the racing authorities because I don't feel that the way we're dealing with it is right.

5. If you could change one thing in racing, what would it be?

If I could do one thing, I would replace the handicap system in British racing. It makes the whole sport more random and difficult to predict, increasing margins for the betting industry. Otherwise I cannot see any benefit at all: it is nonsense to say punters benefit from a handicap system and even more ridiculous to suggest owners and trainers benefit. They don't.

It is surely not beyond the wit of man for horses to be graded on what they've won and earned rather than a handicapper's opinion of how they might run next time. As it stands, a horse rated 50 might have won more than a horse rated 70. It has nothing to do with ability.

I think it's quite sad we've seemingly got no one in racing admin who is willing to think radically enough; in this day and age, no one is brave enough and bold enough to think with a blank sheet of paper.

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TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS



28 July 2019

Jockeys

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Ryan Moore	Great Britain	1090
2	Frankie Dettori	Great Britain	1084
3	Mike E Smith	USA	1059
4	Christophe-Patrice Lemaire	Japan	1058
5	Zac Purton	Hong Kong	1048
6	Hugh Bowman	Australia	1045
7	William Buick	Great Britain	1044
8	Javier Castellano	USA	1034
8	Jose L Ortiz	USA	1034
10	Joel Rosario	USA	1033
10	Mirco Demuro	Japan	1033
12	Irad Ortiz Jr	USA	1028
13	Flavien Prat	USA	1025
14	Anton Marcus	South Africa	1017
14	James Doyle	Great Britain	1017

Trainers

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Chad C Brown	USA	1074
1	Charlie Appleby	Great Britain	1074
3	John Gosden	Great Britain	1070
4	Aidan O'Brien	Ireland	1059
5	Bob Baffert	USA	1058
6	Andre Fabre	France	1026
7	Saeed bin Suroor	UAE	1025
8	James Cummings	Australia	1021
8	Sir Michael Stoute	Great Britain	1021
10	Chris Waller	Australia	1014
11	John Moore	Hong Kong	1009
12	Steven Asmussen	USA	1008
13	Darren Weir**	Australia	1007
14	John Size	Hong Kong	1005
15	Brad H Cox	USA	998

Owners

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Godolphin	Australia	1084
2	Coolmore Partners	Ireland	1070
3	Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum	Great Britain	1049
4	Juddmonte Farms / Prince Khalid Abdulla	USA	1039
5	Magic Bloodstock Et Al	Australia	1034
6	Sunday Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1019
7	Madaket Stables Et Al	USA	1016
8	China Horse Club Et Al	Australia	1015
8	WinStar Farm Et Al	USA	1015
10	Klaravich Stables Et Al	USA	1010
11	Michael Dubb Et Al	USA	1007
11	White Birch Farm / Peter Brant Et Al	USA	1007
13	U Carrot Farm	Japan	1006
14	Hronis Racing LLC	USA	1005
15	Silk Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1004

Sires

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Dubawi	Great Britain	1086
2	Galileo	Ireland	1061
3	Frankel	Great Britain	1051
4	Scat Daddy	USA	1036
5	Deep Impact	Japan	1035
6	I Am Invincible	Australia	1034
7	Sea The Stars	Great Britain	1033
8	Lord Kanaloa	Japan	1029
8	Street Cry	Australia	1029
10	Curlin	USA	1028
11	Teofilo	Australia	1027
12	Shamardal	France	1024
13	Quality Road	USA	1022
14	Kitten's Joy	USA	1021
15	Candy Ride	USA	1020