

**PAST THE POST
10 AUGUST 2005**

The news that Perth Racing has made the decision to change breweries in exchange for increased sponsorship and marketing opportunities is unlikely to occur in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Financial controller at the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing Club is committeeman David Prance. No person understands the purse strings better than the immediate-past-chairman of the club.

“There is no way that the club will be walking away from the Swan Brewery,” Prance stated. “We have a contract with them until the end of 2007 and the cross-marketing of XXXX Gold with the club is beneficial to both parties.”

The association between the KBRC and the Swan Brewery is indeed steep.

Swan’s contribution to racing in this State has been outstanding. Travel throughout most of Western Australia to a country cup meeting, and it would be the exception where their brand does not carry sponsorship of that region’s major race.

“Our association between the club and the Swan Brewery continues to be a very strong and fruitful one,” Prance added.

“In fact if they were to come to us now and wanted to renew their contract beyond 2007 we would be very willing to talk.”

The XXXX Gold Kalgoorlie Cup will be run on Saturday, 17 September 2005.

The stake for the time-honoured event increased by \$15,000 this season. That brings the cup to \$125,000 – the richest race conducted in country WA.

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As promised in last week’s PTP, the KBRC has revealed their bonuses for the upcoming Round.

Once again a \$100,000 bounty will be given to any horse that can win the \$100,000 Aon Coolgardie Cup (1600m), the \$90,000 NRW Civil and Mining Boulder Cup (1760m) and the XXXX Gold Kalgoorlie Cup (2300m).

National Hire – The Cat Rental Store, supports the Triple Nugget Bonus.

Lawmaker was the last horse to claim the loot earlier this decade. Prior to that it was the mighty Signpost who completed the treble back in 1992. Top Villain also achieved the feat a year later but was stripped of the award after returning a positive swab in the Kalgoorlie Cup.

Also returning is the very achievable \$35,000 Golden City Motors Trainers' Bonus. Trainers including Neville Parnham, Sharon Miller and Dennis Ramsay have all claimed a brand new Holden Commodore over the years.

In order to join the star-studded list, the first trainer to prepare six winners over the three-day carnival is the winner. Well not really – there are a few extra hoops to jump through including that one of the winners must be in the Boulder Cup, the \$120,000 WesTrac Hannan's Handicap (1400m) or Kalgoorlie Cup.

The riders are not forgotten with \$5,000 Goldfields Furniture/Goldfields Betta Electrical Jockeys' Bonus.

To collect the \$5,000, a jockey simply has to ride at all three meetings over the carnival and win the most races. A few events are excluded including those with less than eight starters.

These attractive bonuses continue to shine on the KBRC and its annual racing spectacular. They, along with the amazing stakes being offered over the Round will be showcased to owners and trainers closer to Perth this weekend. The annual promotion of racing in Kalgoorlie-Boulder will be conducted at Belmont Park on Saturday.

It will also coincide with the Perth launch of the club's annual Round Magazine.

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Speaking of the Round, there is plenty to suggest that nominations should be healthy. Record stakes will hopefully see to that.

Scattered between the Aon Coolgardie Cup on Saturday, 28 August and the final meeting of the season on Kalgoorlie Cup day, are a couple of interesting meetings.

The annual Goldfields Toyota race day will be conducted on Sunday, 21 August. Andrew Inglis and his team always prove to be fine hosts and this year should be no exception.

Dewson's O'Connor Gold Cup (1400m) is a race worth \$30,000 to be conducted on Sunday, 4 September, a week before the commencement of Round week.

The local supermarket replace long-term sponsor in Alu Glass in the perfect lead-up race for the WesTrac Hannan's Handicap.

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Now for Clayton Finger watch.

The fledgling young hoop is still waiting for that illusive first winner at the historic Kalgoorlie-Boulder circuit.

At Sunday's meeting he attracted three rides on the six-event card.

The first was on San Sarina in the maiden. After leading, the fledgling five-year-old failed to beat a runner home. Sun Tan was his next mount in the 1600m class three. Little improvement here with Finger's mount finishing second last.

In the last race he was aboard the John Lugg-trained Saylo Qualo. With three consecutive thirds under his belt, Saylo Qualo had better credentials to win.

Finger secured a dream run through the field to hit a clear lead inside the final 200m. Unfortunately, Calmbeforethestorm was to wreck the celebration with a determined finished to grab an impressive half-length win.

Nevertheless, it was a good ride by Finger and hopefully it was a sign that victory is just around the corner. It could be a matter of the calm before a storm of winners for Clayton.

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Speaking of Calmbeforethestorm, his trainer Paul Smythe is enjoying himself again this season.

After an initial slow start to the year, the emerging trainer has continued to notch-up winner after winner in recent weeks.

Last year he prepared fifteen winners and Sunday's success took this season's tally to twelve.

With seven meetings to travel – and without putting the kiss of death on him, which many believe is possible with my predictions – Smythe should smash that record.

Calmbeforethestorm appears more than handy and looks capable of winning his fair share in that time.

Another of Smythe's charges in Wicked As has a good lead in the horse of the year award. The mare has 23 points, seven clear of her nearest rivals in Spanish Lady and Mahawangsa (a very impressive winner on the weekend).

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