Inside back with David White

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Ya gotta get to Alite

IT has been a sad week following the passing of Australian sporting icons Tom Hafey, Reg Gasser, Bob Hoysted and Zimbabwean caddie Ian McGregor.

Hopefully the following will cheer you up and brighten up your Sunday.

The fairer sex combined to win racing identities made the Alice Springs Cup roll. As mentioned, Dom Tourneur has enjoyed unqualified success in the Alice Springs Cup, but the tactics that he employed aboard Chieftain Jack had its down side.

But that’s the quagmire the punter making life difficult for the bookies. The biggest mystery of all is how on earth did your author fluke the quinella for the punter in question it wasn’t his finest hour.

The speed was good and although Chieftain Jack put me off I was confident I would get him in the home straight,” Potter said.

That was my eighth win on Pretty Blonde and after most wins I have had aboard any horse.”

It capped off a great day for Potter following his win earlier in the day aboard the Port Lincoln-trained Artie’s Angel in the Queen Of The Desert Stakes (2010m).

Plenty of punters celebrated after the running of the Cup, and of course there were others who looked down and out as they headed for the exit. There was rumour circulating that was Pioneer Park that a punter had allegedly plonked $100,000 on Chieftain Jack in the Cup, so that individual - if the rumour is true - won’t forget the 2014 Alice Springs Cup in a hurry.

As mentioned, Dom Tourneur has enjoyed unqualified success in the Alice Springs Cup, but the tactics that he employed aboard Chieftain Jack had its down side.

With the racing out of the way, local band Late Scratchings provided further entertainment and it was appropriate that their opening song was Collective Soul’s “Shine.”

Alice Springs Turf Club’s chief executive officer Des Friedrich and his staff certainly did Shine.

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The Alice Springs Cup is back on Saturday May 5. In the end, it was Sarah who walked away with first prize, was making her debut on Pioneer Park back on May 5. In the end, it was Sarah who walked away with first prize.”

Young Mark Matthews from Adelaide, who dreams of being a professional race caller one day, was behind the scenes with the binoculars and microphone for the other four races, including the Cup.

Shane Green, the former race caller at Pioneer Park, was back in town and he, along with Sky Channel’s Matthew Hill, got to call two races each on the eight-event program.

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The Leanne Gilbert-trained Purple Passage from Alice Springs, with apprentice Kayla Cross aboard, was an emphatic winner of the Inglis Red Centre 2YO Classic over 1200m. The fact there were only four starters for such a big race for two-year-olds was alarming.

The Alice Springs Cup is raced over 2000m, and earlier in the day there was another race scheduled over 2000m. Adelaide raider Idatrace got the cash and it wasn’t hard to see why all starters didn’t get a run in the Cup as they fair dinkum laboured over the final 400m.

It came as no surprise when Walkingaroundmoney – now there’s a great name for a racehorse - saluted in the race for apprentices over 1100m. Kate Brooks, who made the trip from Adelaide, was the winning jockey in her first ride on the track.

“I won’t come back here because I have a 100 per cent record,” a buoyant Brooks said after the race.

The fairer sex combined to land the trifecta in the apprentices race with NSWR rider Claire Nutman finishing second on So Real and Darwin’s Melanie Tyndall coming third on Blue Shore.

It was another win for the girls in The Soldier Lightning Stakes (1000m) when local jockey Jan Cameron guided Tudor Glen to victory for Alice Springs trainer Mark Nyhan. Memorable Moment, who followed the other runners home, kicked out and connected with an attendant as he was loaded into the barriers.

With 60kg on his back, I Am Magic flew home to record a memorable win in the seventh race over 1400lm for Darwin trainer Kerry Petrick and jockey Paul Denton.

According to Denton, I Am Magic has had his leg problems in the past and was on the verge of retirement before Petrick nursed him back to health. “He only runs now and again, but perseverance certainly pays off,” said Denton.

The start of the race had patrons gasping for breath when Adelaide jockey Dom Tourneur, who had won six of the past seven Alice Springs Cups, fell from his mount Adynata – trained by Dick Leech in Darwin.

Happily, both horse and rider escaped injury.

More importantly, Tourneur was free to ride hot pot Chieftain Jack in the Cup. So the Cup finally rolled around as the shadows began to lengthen at the track located adjacent to the magnificent MacDonnell Ranges.

Assessing various markets in the betting ring, Doug Booth walked by and suggested that five-year-old mare Pretty Blonde, trained by Kym Healy from Strathalbyn, was the one to beat. Found it hard to split Pretty Blonde and the Adelaide-trained Chieftain Jack, so yours truly settled on both.

Head to the tote to make a few bets and there’s a fellow punter making life difficult for the young lady behind the counter.

The Cup is looming as the quagmire continues to grow.

Order is finally restored, but for the punter as question it wasn’t his finest hour.

For the third straight year, your author fluked the quinella in the Cup as Pretty Blonde followed Chieftain Jack, who ran out of gas in the home straight for home at the 700m, across the line.

Waggabilla gave the locals something to cheer about when he finished third as he is trained by Terry Hush in Alice Springs.

Winning jockey Justin Potter, yet another Adelaide hoop to taste success in Alice Springs premier race never felt he was in any danger.

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