

Retiring Hogg calls for fair go for young spinners

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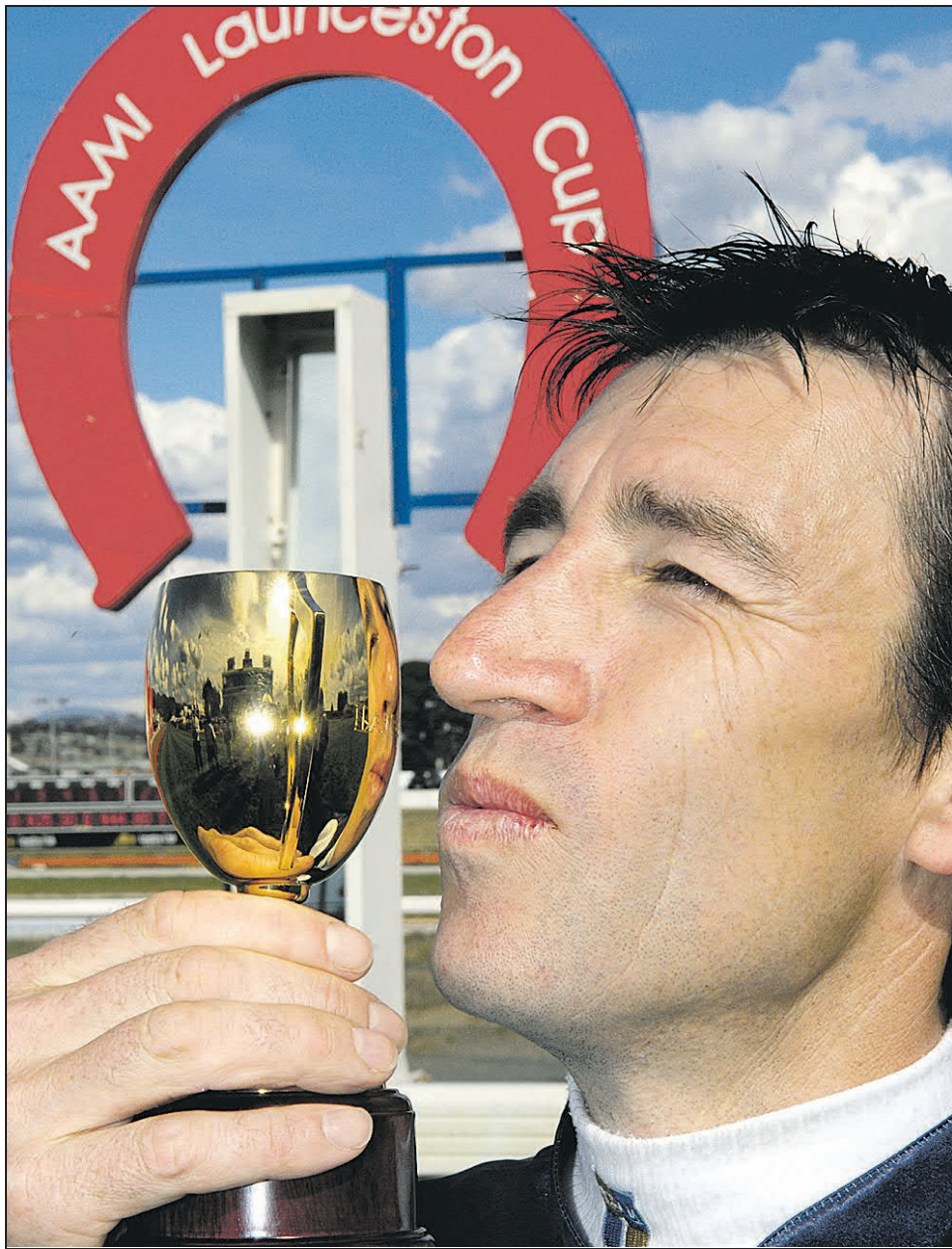
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ACROSS THE LINE: Ista Kareem wins from Lady Atire and Our Dashing Dane.



Launceston Cup winning jockey Danny Breton gives his trophy a kiss after yesterday's runaway win at Mowbray.
Picture: PAUL SCAMBLER

Cup canter

Victorian Ista Kareem gets local inside running

By GREG MANSFIELD

TWO Tasmanians played "backroom" roles in Victorian stayer Ista Kareem's runaway win in yesterday's \$300,000 AAMI Launceston Cup at Mowbray.

Winning Melbourne jockey Danny Breton said that the advice he received from leading local rider Stephen Maskiell had helped him work out the quirks of the track.

And, winning trainer Colin Little said that being able to leave Ista Kareem at David Brunton's idyllic Seven Mile Beach property had helped the horse get over the heat stress that had been troubling him in Melbourne.

Breton and Maskiell's friendship goes back to the early 1980s when they both served their apprenticeships at Caulfield.

Maskiell, who has won three Launceston Cups, didn't have a ride yesterday following the scratching of Conquering.

"Stephen gave me some advice on how to



ride this track — when to come out and get going," Breton said. "I owe him one."

Little said that Ista Kareem had been troubled by the humidity all summer.

"I sent him over for the Hobart Cup but he walked the fence for three or four days and took a while to settle down," the trainer said.

"I was pleased with his Hobart Cup run (a third) because he got caught up in traffic but being able to leave him in Tasmania in such a perfect environment has helped him get back to his peak.

"The horse has had a ball down on the beach."

Breton gave Ista Kareem a perfect run, one-out and one-back, and the gelding proved too strong for fellow Victorian Lady

Atire, ridden by Craig Newitt, and local hope Our Dashing Dane who ran an exceptional race after being caught wide.

Rather than take Ista Kareem straight back to Melbourne, as originally planned, Little is likely to leave him at Brunton's stables before putting him on a direct flight to South Australia for the Adelaide Cup on Monday week.

He ran third in the Adelaide Cup in 2006.

Little said that, given the small Launceston Cup field — further reduced by the late scratching of Britomart — he was hoping Ista Kareem would not receive too harsh a penalty.

Britomart, who had displaced Saratime as favourite on SuperTAB, was withdrawn at the barriers.

The Rick Hore-Lacy-trained mare became unsettled after being loaded into her stall and lashed out with her hind legs, dislodging both barrier gates.

She sustained a cut that required stitching.

Little took over the training of Ista Kareem last year following the retirement of Adelaide trainer Jeremy Gask.

South Australian part-owner Phillip Nehmy said that Little had "turned the horse around".

"He's been a wonderful horse — you couldn't ask for better," the owner said.

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