

Of bets and beauties

Guests at SIA Cup gala dinner take opportunity to 'talk shop'

By Mindy Tan

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WHILE I was more interested in Mrs Sharel Ho's orange dress from Hong Kong, the mother of two, who owns a jewellery shop, was more interested in horses.

She mounted them in her Ipoh hometown but stopped when she came to Singapore 16 years ago.

Now, she's interested in owning a few of her own horses.

At the Singapore Airlines \$3 million International Cup Gala Dinner at the Oriental Hotel last night, the horse-racing industry gathered.

The women did not talk about their favourite dresses. Nor were they concerned with the men in suits.

HORSE WHISPERERS

Instead, they were saddling as horse whisperers, noddlingly discussing their equine obsessions.

Mrs Emily Yong, poised in white, explained that such dinners are a time when horse owners, trainers and jockeys mingle without stress.

Because, at the Singapore Turf Club, they are simply too busy rooting for their horses.

The homemaker owns a stable with her father-in-law and visits the stable 'to see the whole team work'. She said: 'To train a horse and get it to run past the finishing post is hard work.'

Ms Julia Ho, a spunky property investor, reckons she owns 'six or seven horses'. A petite woman, she confessed that she rode horses when she lived in Sydney. So don't trifle with her.

Well, the men are probably reconsidering their attendance at the Crazy Horse show at Clarke Quay because Kranji is the place to be this weekend (the \$500,000 Lion City Cup will be held today, and the SIA Cup tomorrow.)

With horses there baring their guts, you might want to place a bet and score on a profitable visit to the races.



--Kua Chee Siong