

Ratray sells Lammerskraal Stud

MICHAEL CLOWER

Mercury 19/11/14

MIKE Ratray (pictured) has sold his famous Lammerskraal Stud near Ceres to farmer and landowner Peter Graaff.

Ratray, speaking from his Durban office, said: "I still work but I am 83 and I don't want to have to worry about the running of a stud farm any more.

"However I am not going out of racing - far from it. I have 27 horses in training as well as a further ten on the stud. These will also go into training.

"Sally Jourdan is staying on as manager as she has been for the past 28 years so there will be no change for her. But it's a win-win situation for racing because in Peter and his wife it has acquired two very good people who weren't involved before."

Ratray bought the 3 500 hectare-property in 1983 and turned it from an ordinary farm into one of the most successful studs in the country, breeding a string of Grade 1 winners including the Queen's Plate and J & B Met winner Yard-Arm.

But Lammerskraal is even more renowned for its stallions, in particular Western Winter who Ratray bought off the race-course in America for US \$ 1.2 million and became champion sire of South Africa three times.

The present incumbent is Go Deputy, an American Grade 1 winner, and Sally Jourdan said: "We are going to carry on just as before with me running everything."

